

94-2 Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society

held at the National Museum, Prague at Noon on Sunday 24th. July, 1994.

Present: H. Wänke (President), H. McSween (Vice-President), R. Hewins (Treasurer), M. M. Grady (Secretary), E. Anders (Past-president), C. Chapman, M. Ebihara, J. Goswami, G. MacPherson, D. Papanastassiou, D. Stöffler, T. Swindle.

Apologies: G. Manhès.

Guests: J. Goldstein, G. Herzog (Council members-elect); M. Lipschutz (item 3); P. Jakeš, C. Koeberl, U. Reimold (item 4); F. Podosek (item 5); R. Brett (item 6).

Prior to commencement of Agenda items, discussion took place regarding problems which had arisen before the Annual Meeting started (theft of baggage, etc.). No English-speaking contact was available to help in case of emergency. It was suggested that for future meetings, an emergency contact number should be available several days before the meeting. The meetings guidelines might also be up-dated, to include warnings about safety, and to suggest the provision of emergency telephone numbers. The meetings "file" should be passed to future Organising Committees via the Secretary.

Action: Anders, McSween and Grady will up-date the guidelines.

1. President's Report

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending, and added that he had no specific items to report, but would address each issue as it arose.

2. Secretary's Report

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated; only one minor correction was required.

Motion: that the amended minutes of the previous meeting be approved (Swindle, seconded by McSween; carried unanimously).

Matters arising: Anders wrote to Wänke (letter dated 12th May), regarding item 3.1 (i) of the *Minutes* (payment of $\frac{1}{3}$ of the salary of a part-time secretary in the GCA office). Anders recommended that the Meteoritical Society (MS) should write to Pergamon, drawing attention to the terms of the current contract. McSween pointed out that the request was still unofficial, and we had not had any further communication on this matter.

Action: Anders will update his letter, which will be attached to these minutes.

3. Financial Report

3.1. Hewins reported that the Society's finances are in a healthy state, and that there is no need to raise the individual subscription rate. However, it is still necessary to set-up a small "Financial Committee" to investigate investment possibilities, bearing in mind the fact that moneys might be required in two years time, when the current Pergamon contract ends.

Action: Hewins and Goldstein will form a committee to investigate possible investment options.

Action: Goldstein will nominate a member of his institution to act as Deputy Treasurer, should the need arise.

3.2. The journal's finances are also in a fairly healthy state, see sheet appended to minutes.

4. Society Meetings

4.1. 1994: Prague (Jakeš). Approximately 285 delegates registered, accompanied by 95 guests. Grants were awarded to 16 students. In all, ca. 200 papers will be given in two parallel sessions, plus ca. 35 posters. The banquet will be held in the Spanish Hall of the Presidential Palace. There had been some problems with hotels, which had been solved by up-grading the accommodation of several guests, at no increase in cost. It was agreed that, in case of local difficulties, there would be a phone at the hospitality desk staffed during the meeting hours by English and Czech-speaking people. The number of this phone will be widely circulated at the conference. Petr Jakeš was warmly thanked for his organisation of the meeting.

4.2. 1995: Washington, D.C. (MacPherson). Organisation of the 1995 meeting continues to gather momentum. The annual banquet will be held in the History of Flight Gallery at the National Air and Space Museum. The registration fee is currently estimated at around \$150, based on an attendance figure of 400. It is hoped to have an evening plenary session, at which a NASA administrator, such as Dan Goldin, would speak, followed by senior member of the MS, who would talk about the highlights and achievements of the Society. The letter of invitation to Goldin should come from the President.

Action: MacPherson and Brett will draft a letter of invitation to Goldin, which will stress the international nature of the Society.

4.3. 1996: Berlin (Stöffler). The venue of the 1996 meeting has been changed, from Münster to Berlin. It will now be based at the Humboldt University, on the famous main avenue “Unter den Linden”, Berlin. The welcome party and the annual banquet will be held in the Dinosaur Hall of the Museum für Naturkunde. Pre- and post-meeting field trips are planned to impact craters in Southern Sweden and Finland, and Nördlinger Ries and Steinheimer Becken in Germany.

Motion: Council moves to accept the dates of the 1996 Meteoritical Society Meeting as 22 - 26th July 1996 (McSween, seconded Anders; carried unanimously).

4.4. Future Meetings:

(i) 1997: The President had received a letter from Professor Klaus Keil of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, inviting the Society to hold its annual meeting in Hawaii in 1997. The dates of the meeting and its exact venue (Main Island, or the Garden Island) will be determined if Council accepts the invitation.

Motion: that Council accepts the invitation from Keil to hold the 1997 meeting in Hawaii (McSween, seconded Hewins; carried unanimously).

(ii) 1998: Two letters of invitation have been received to host the 1998 meeting, from Dublin and Johannesburg. Presentations were made to Council by Grady (for Dublin) and Reimold and Koeberl. Much discussion followed the presentations. It is clear that whilst travel to South Africa might be expensive, living costs in Johannesburg are currently extremely cheap, although that might change in the next four years. The two invitations will be presented to the Membership at the Business Meeting, and printed in this year’s Newsletter. A questionnaire will also be included in the Newsletter, to assess which site the Membership favours, however it will be stressed that it is not a “first past the post” ballot, and that either invitation could be held over to for a future year. The invitations should also be considered with the knowledge that the 1997 meeting will be held in Hawaii.

(iii) Post-1998: The President has received a letter from Dr Nakamura of Kobe University, to host a meeting in 1998 or 2000. Some discussion followed, highlighting concerns over possible lack of student accommodation and the high cost of hotels. No decision was taken regarding acceptance of this invitation, until a decision is reached regarding the site of the 1998 meeting is reached. It was noted, however, that Council has no invitations from North American institutions to host any meeting past 1997.

5. Report of Publications Committee

5.1. Podosek reported that he had attempted to form a Publications Committee (PC). Palme and Woollum had agreed to represent the MS, but no-one had yet agreed to represent the GS, despite Podosek approaching six individuals. Lasaga, the President of the GS, agreed to nominate three people from the GS to serve on the PC.

5.2. Wänke contacted Lasaga about the re-appointment of Faure (Minute 4.2 of previous meeting), but received no reply. The MS endorsed Faure’s re-appointment; it is believed that Lasaga is also in favour.

5.3. Podosek will visit Faure in October, and attend the directors’ meeting of the GS held during the autumn GSA meeting. Podosek will then start negotiating with Elsevier regarding the new contract which commences in 1997.

5.4. Podosek requested guidance on some issues which affected *Meteoritics* only:

(i) Who makes decisions whether or not the journal should publish meetings' abstracts (e.g. of the Asteroids, Comets and Meteors meeting)? Was it the Editorial Board, the PC or Council? Anders explained that the PC has authority over the Editorial board. Podosek will therefore attend the Editorial Board meeting, and inform Council of the PC's recommendation.

(ii) The PC should approve appointment of Associate Editors (AE). In practice, the Executive Editor (EE) has appointed AEs, then applied for retrospective approval from the PC. Podosek suggested that the guidelines be changed, so that the EE can appoint an AE. According to the Bylaws of the Society, the PC should review the performance of individual AEs on an annual basis. This is not practical. There is a big difference in the way that the EEs of *Meteoritics* and *GCA* appoint AEs. *Meteoritics* uses an Editorial board, with input from the PC, whilst *GCA* AEs are appointed by the EE. The PC must remind Faure how appointments should be made, and also that statistics for assessing the suitability of AEs must be kept: handling time of manuscript, etc. Podosek sought approval from Council to send a letter to Faure and Sears, reminding them to contact the PC before publishing Special Issues, etc.

Motion: Council supports the action of Podosek in sending a reminder to both Executive Editors that approval must be sought of the Publications Committee before appointment of Associate Editors and publishing Special Issues of the journals (taking note of Article 7 of the Bylaws) (Grady, seconded Anders; carried unanimously).

(iii) Regarding the *Meteoritics* contract with Allen Press: Hazel Sears has been negotiating a very favourable new draft contract with the publishers, retroactive to 1st March 1994. The contract should be signed by the President, on the recommendation of the PC and after ratification by Council. The PC is usually more involved in contract negotiations, but has not been in this instance, because of its recent disturbed history.

6. Report of Leonard Medal Committee

6.1. The report of the Leonard Medal Committee (LMC) was circulated to Council members prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the Committee had done a splendid job in preparing the nominations for Begemann and Brownlee for the Leonard Medal.

Motion: to accept the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee, that F. Begemann be awarded the Leonard Medal in 1995 (McSween, seconded Anders; carried unanimously).

6.2. The LMC also nominated nine members to become Fellows.

Motion: to accept the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee, that the following nine members of the Society be elected Fellows: Richard Becker, Andrew Graham, James Head, Gregory Herzog, Elmar Jessberger, Gregory Kallemeyn, Christian Koeberl, Michel Maurette and Ulrich Ott (Anders, seconded Chapman; carried unanimously).

7. Report of Barringer Medal Committee

The report of the Barringer Medal Committee was circulated to Council members prior to the meeting.

Motion: to accept the recommendation of the Barringer Medal Committee, that W. A. Cassidy be awarded the Barringer Medal in 1995 (Grady, seconded Swindle; carried unanimously).

8. Any Other Business

8.1. Compilation of the annual Newsletter of the MS will commence in early August. Items for the Newsletter should be forwarded to the Secretary as soon as possible.

8.2. A vote of thanks was given to Roger Hewins for acting as Treasurer for the last six years.

8.3. Goswami re-iterated his belief that members of the Society should be encouraged to submit papers to *Meteoritics* in preference to any other journal.

No further business. Meeting closed at 6.00 p.m.

Monica M. Grady
14th October 1994