

95-2 Minutes of the meeting of the Council of the Meteoritical Society

held at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC at 1.00 p.m. on Sunday 10th September, 1995.

Present: H. McSween (President), D. Stöffler (Vice-President), J. Goldstein (Treasurer), M. M. Grady (Secretary), H. Wänke (Past President), C. Chapman, G. Herzog, J. Goswami, G. MacPherson, D. Papanastassiou.

Apologies: A. Bevan, D. Bogard, M. Lipschutz, G. Manhès, H. Nagahara, D. Sears and E. Shoemaker

Guests: F. Podosek (item 5).

1. President's Report

1.1. The President thanked Council for attending.

1.2. The President reported that on 26th July 1995, Mrs Ardis Nier transferred 1087 shares of stock in Northern States Power to the Meteoritical Society (MS). This represented a donation of \$50,000. The President wished the membership to be aware of the Nier Prize, to which end an announcement of the prize will be made at the medal presentation ceremony, and an item will be placed in the Newsletter. The Secretary had prepared a certificate of appreciation for Mrs Nier, which will be presented to her at the medal ceremony. The design of the certificate was accepted by acclamation.

1.3. The President had received a letter from Mr Dick Pugh, asking the MS to request the US Post Office to issue a stamp depicting the Barringer Crater. McSween had contacted Mr Drew Barringer, who supported the initiative. The Barringer Crater is recognised as a National Monument.

Motion: Council moves that the President should write a letter of inquiry to the US Post Office, stressing the importance of craters (Chapman, seconded MacPherson; carried unanimously).

2. Secretary's Report

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

Motion: That the minutes of the previous meeting be approved (MacPherson, seconded Podosek; carried unanimously).

Matters arising: There were no matters arising from the Minutes

3. Treasurer's Report

3.1. Finances: The Treasurer circulated a report indicating that the finances of the MS were in good order (Annex I).

3.2. Investment of royalties: Approximately \$55,000 from Pergamon royalties has been invested in Treasury bonds, with due dates of February, May and November 1996. The rate of return is currently slightly more than 5%. The Treasurer is putting together an advisory committee to investigate and recommend suitable long-term investments.

3.3. Investment of Nier Prize money: The donation will remain invested in Northern States Power, which has produced a dividend every year since 1917, even though it means the investment is not diversified.

3.4. Meteoritics funding: *Meteoritics* funding is always on the edge of a \pm \$2000 profit or loss. The library subscription rate must be raised for 1997. It is also possible that Sears wishes to increase the journal to 12 issues per year. Council expressed concern that if that were the case, the journal would cost more than the membership was prepared to pay.

Action: McSween will convey the Council's concern to Podosek and Sears.

3.5. Fund-raising: The President does not want to lose the momentum gained from Mrs Nier's donation, and would like the Society to have an endowment fund of \sim \$100,000. The fund would be for general purposes, since we do not require any additional awards. A committee has been convened, to initiate the fund-raising exercise; members of the committee have had experience in raising funds in the past: R. Walker, G. J. Wasserburg, S. R. Taylor, D. Woollum, D. Stöffler, K. Keil, D. Barringer and J. Goldstein.. The President requires Council's approval to spend \sim \$2000 to cover the production of a small booklet advertising the scheme.

Motion: Council moves to allow the fund-raising committee \$2000 (Chapman, seconded Stöffler; carried unanimously).

It was noted that in the future, Council might have to debate the possibility of a donation for a scheme that the Council did not want to undertake.

4. Society Meetings

4.1. 1995: Washington DC (MacPherson): A report of the organisation of the meeting is attached (Annex II). As of 10th September, 326 participants had registered for the meeting.

4.2. 1996: Berlin (Stöffler): The first circular has been sent out. Support has been forthcoming from the German Science Foundation, the DLR and the Barringer Crater Company. It is intended that the registration fee will be ~ \$180, with \$90 for students. Two post-meeting field excursions are planned: one to Scandinavian impact crater sites and the second to the mineralogy and culture of Dresden. There will be a boat trip on the River Spray on the Wednesday afternoon, and the banquet will be in the Congress Hall of Berlin

4.3. 1997: Hawaii (McSween): A contract has been signed to hire the Maui Prince Hotel, in Makena on the island of Maui. The hotel has 300 rooms, and the projected 1997 price is ~ \$115 for a double room, with an additional \$25 for a third person sharing the room.

5. Publications Committee

Podosek submitted a report of the membership and recent activities of the Publications Committee (PC; report attached at Annex III).

5.1. Meteoritics: Two new Associate Editors were required for *Meteoritics*. Sears had suggested six names to the PC, who had approved the list. Sears must now select two of the six. Sears had also sent the PC a formal statement of policy concerning submission of papers from his group at Arkansas to *Meteoritics*.

5.2. Subscriptions: The proposed new contract with Elsevier, commencing in 1997, included an increase of 64% in the price of an individual subscription to *GCA* (from \$70 to \$115), which would then remain fixed for three years. It appears that the subscription increase might be implemented in steps. It was suggested that one way to reduce the proposed subscription increase would be to peg the number of pages in *GCA*. A more acceptable subscription rate would be ~ \$90 - \$100. It is still not known how the fees are calculated by Elsevier. It is believed that most of the subscription increase was a result of the increase in the number of pages of the journal. Podosek would like a mandate from Council with a suggested individual subscription rate, to negotiate with Elsevier. In addition, Podosek reported that Cambridge University Press had contacted Podosek, to express interest in publishing a new journal, if we do not sign a new contract with Elsevier. This has been an informal contact, and no formal proposal has been made.

Motion: Council endorses Podosek's suggestion that the PC negotiates a target subscription increase to \$90 - \$100 by setting the page count appropriately (Herzog, seconded Wänke; carried unanimously).

5.3. Subscriptions Manager: The Geochemical Society (GS) has requested a contribution to the salary of its Subscriptions Manager. McSween gave an account of the background to this problem (*see minutes to Council meetings 94/1 and 94/2*). Correspondence concerning this issue is attached at Annex IV. A letter from Faure, the Executive Editor of *GCA* outlined the duties of the post-holder:

1. Print mailing labels twice per month.
2. Handle the renewal of membership and subscriptions for GS members
3. Maintenance of the Meteoritical Society (MS) membership list
4. Handling complaints and address changes for *GCA*.
5. Secretarial assistance for preparation of the GS Newsletter.

The options open to Council are as follows:

- a). The manager does nothing for the MS, therefore the MS should pay nothing. (*This is not just, given that the MS gets $\frac{1}{3}$ of the GCA royalties*).
- b). The MS should pay a *pro rata* share (~14.4%), given that that is the number of members it has relative to the GS.

c). The MS pays $\frac{1}{3}$, as requested, but ask for more in return, *e.g.*, secretarial assistance in preparation of the MS Newsletter.

Council perceives the need to maintain good relations with the GS. But we should discuss with Faure what the Subscription Manager could do for the MS. Printing mailing labels, maintaining subscription lists and handling complaints should be a part of the editorial office. It should be possible to split the tasks of the Subscription Manager into those that are *GCA* based, and those that are *GS* based.

Action: McSween will discuss the problem with the incoming *GS* President (Alex Halliday). McSween will also write to the *GS*, expressing surprise at the request for payment, declining to pay the salary for 1994, and expressing a willingness to negotiate payment for 1995/96. Council indicated a preference for paying $\frac{1}{6}$ of the annual cost of the subscriptions manager, if that can be negotiated.

6. Leonard Medal

6.1. Leonard Medal: The Chair of the Leonard Medal Committee (LMC), Bogard, had submitted his report, which had been circulated to Council

Motion: Council moves to accept the recommendation of the Leonard Medal Committee, that the 1996 medal be awarded to Professor Don Brownlee (Goldstein, seconded Herzog; carried unanimously).

6.2. Nier Prize: Candidates for this new prize should be nominated to the Chair of the LMC. The Secretary had circulated a draft certificate to accompany the prize, and discussion followed on the wording of the certificate. It was agreed that each certificate should contain a sentence to describe the work for which the prize was being awarded, rather than a more general statement, and that the LMC would be requested to provide the statement when the prize-winner was confirmed. The amended certificate is attached as Annex V.

7. Barringer Medal

The Chair of the Barringer Medal Committee, Shoemaker, had submitted his report, which had been circulated to Council

Motion: Council moves to accept the recommendation of the Barringer Medal Committee, that the 1996 medal be awarded to Dr Fred Hörz (Goldstein, seconded Goswami; carried unanimously).

8. Any Other Business

8.1. The Secretary requested items for the Newsletter, as soon as possible.

8.2. The question of a certificate to accompany the Barringer Medal was raised. It is not certain whether or not one exists. The Secretary will investigate. If no certificate exists, then the possibility of producing one will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

No further business. Meeting closed at 4.30 p.m.

Monica M. Grady, 19th November 1995