

Minutes of the Council Meeting of the Meteoritical Society

July 12, 1967

Pheiffer Hall, Tilton School, Tilton, New Hampshire

The meeting was convened at 2:15 p.m., with President Carleton B. Moore presiding. Councilors present were Peter M. Millman, John A. O'Keefe, Ursula B. Marvin, Edward Anders, Richard M. Barringer, Klaus Keil, Gerald S. Hawkins, and Roy S. Clarke, Jr. John T. Wasson was present as a visitor.

Notice of this meeting was distributed by the Secretary, June 16, 1967, at the request of President Moore. Several councilors had requested that advantage be taken of the presence of many of our members at the Gordon Research Conference on the Chemistry and Physics of Space to have a formal meeting.

The minutes of two previous meetings, November 2, 1966 and November 4, 1966, had been distributed by mail to the Council. These minutes were discussed briefly and on motion were approved as circulated.

Secretary's Report

The secretary discussed with the Council a number of routine operations of the Society. The months following the last Council meeting have been a period of transition and reorganization.

Membership in the Society is increasing at a satisfactory rate. The Secretary read the names of 42 new members that had been admitted to the Society by the Executive Committee (the President and the Secretary) since the last Council meeting. The applications of six additional individuals were presented to the Council and approved on motion. Those elected are:

J. Zahringer	George W. Wetherill
Richard A. Schmidt	Rodney E. Hanneman
Robert M. Walker	Michael B. Duke

The Secretary announced the resignation of three members:

Kenneth Rose - Ronald. B. Ingalls - George Caron

The Society's membership is now approximately 280.

The distribution of Meteoritics, both back and current issues, has been a problem to the Society in recent years. Some back issues were in storage in Albuquerque, and others were being distributed partially by Gerald Rowland and partially by John Russell. The billing was done by the

Secretary (Rowland) and the money collected by the Treasurer (Zimmerman). Confusion and dissatisfaction was the rule. The Executive Committee, with the approval of the

Treasurer and Editor, created a new position in an attempt to overcome many of these difficulties. Charles F. Lewis accepted an appointment as Circulation Manager for the Society. All of the Society's back issues are now in Tempe, and Lewis will take care of distributing both back and current issues of Meteoritics and will take charge of billing operations.

A general discussion of the problems related to the distribution of Meteoritics followed. It was pointed out that the Library of Congress should have a complete set, and that an effort should be made to get Meteoritics into major libraries. A motion carried as follows:

Charles Lewis is requested to prepare, in the near future, an audit of available copies of Meteoritics and Contributions of the Society for Research on Meteorites. This audit is to serve as the basis for a new policy of distribution and pricing to be prepared cooperatively with the Secretary and the Treasurer. This policy may go into effect without further Council action, but the group is admonished to keep the future needs of an expanding technical culture in mind.

The Secretary presented receipted bills totaling \$150.61 for expenses of his office. They had been paid out of a \$200.00 advance given to the Secretary. A motion carried approving these expenditures.

The previous Secretary, Gerald Rowland, had presented bills in the amount of \$36.07 for payment. This expenditure had been approved at the Council meeting of November 2, 1966, but Rowland had not been paid. On motion the Secretary was instructed to pay Rowland \$36.07 from remaining advance funds.

A discussion of expenses of operating the Society followed. A motion carried to authorize the Secretary and Treasurer to spend up-to \$500.00 necessary expenses prior to the next Council meeting. The \$500.00 amount was neither requested nor suggested by the Treasurer or Secretary, although they both agreed that the present constitutional limit of \$50.00 is unrealistic.

The Secretary read a letter from Charles P. Olivier, Director of the Meteor Section, dated 6 July 1967 (copy attached). Dr. Olivier expressed concern over the usefulness of the Meteor Section and the lack of cooperation he is receiving from the Society's membership. The problems posed were discussed in some detail by the Council. The Secretary was instructed to prepare a reply to Dr. Olivier in consultation with Peter Millman.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer presented two financial statements, one for the year ending 31 December 1966, and one for the half year ending 30 June 1967 (copies attached). The financial picture of the Society is generally good, due largely to collecting dues and arrears. Problems related to financial matters and billing procedures were discussed in a general way. The Treasurer's report was received with pleasure by the Council.

The Leonard Medal Committee Report

Peter Millman, Chairman, reported that several suggestions had been made for future Leonard Medal recipients but that no formal proposals had been received. Requirements for the Leonard Medal and procedures for nomination are given in Meteoritics 2, No. 3, p. 291 (1964). A general discussion of the role of the committee in seeking nominations followed. There was divided opinion as to whether its role should be active or passive. It was agreed that Councilors and the membership at large should take this responsibility seriously, and it was hoped that a selection could be made before the 30th annual meeting.

Fellowship

A long discussion of the meaning of the status of Fellow in the Society was undertaken. Arguments were presented for both an inclusive and an exclusive approach to the selection of Fellows. Constitutional requirements that must be considered are as follows:

Constitution, Article 2, Section 2. "Any member who is an active professional worker in meteoritics, astronomy, geology, or some cognate science or who has advanced any of these sciences by research may be elected a fellow of the Society."

Bylaws, Article 1, Section 2. "Any member who is eligible for election to fellowship may, on nomination by two fellows, be elected by the Council as a fellow of the Society. All nominations for fellowship shall be referred to the entire Council, if necessary by mail, and two adverse votes shall debar a nominee from election."

The following names were placed in nomination:

Robin Brett - Donald E. Gault - Peter Signer

They were approved by all Councilors in attendance. The Secretary will present these names to the absent Councilors by mail.

Planetary Geosciences Study Group

President Moore discussed in some detail with the Council recent contacts with Nicholas M. Short, spokesman for the Planetary Geosciences Study Group. The purpose of this group was summarized in a letter Dr. Short circulated dated February 8, 1967, one paragraph of which read:

The Planetary Geoscience Study Group is an informal organization of geologists working on various aspects of America's Space Program. We are, in effect, an "interim" committee whose prime purpose is to aid in developing some kind of society concerned mainly with planetary or "space" geoscience. Our first, and perhaps only, objective will be to determine whether there is a need for and interest in a space-oriented society to be composed largely of geologists, geophysicists, and geochemists. At present, no one existing society is specifically designed to bring together lunar mappers, lunar stratigraphers, lunar volcanologists, "impactors", meteorites specialists, cosmochemists, planetary geophysicists, etc. into a single organization devoted to the geoscientific

investigation of the planets."

The action taken by this group was to circulate a questionnaire. Dr. Short summarized the finding of the survey in a letter circulated 17 May 1967, which read in part:

"On the basis of the survey, the Study Group has initiated the following action: First, discussions were held with a representative of A.G.U. This organization is currently considering the feasibility of splitting its Planetary Sciences section into two sections, the Space Physics and the Planetology sections (suggested titles only). If this happens, the scope of a Planetology section may be sufficiently broadened to encompass some of the survey respondents who are not now A.G.U. members and/or who are not geophysics-oriented. -

"An alternative course is being considered. Several members of the Study Group, present at the A.G.U. Washington meeting, discussed the possibility of a) expanding the nature and scope of the Meteoritical Society to make it more attractive to workers in the Planetary Geosciences who do not specialize in meteorites or meteorite craters b) accordingly, changing the name of this society, c) exploring the feasibility of the newly named society meeting in conjunction with one or more senior organizations, e.g. the Geological Society of America, or the American Astronomical Society, and d) encouraging those survey respondents who wish to join a "new society" to select membership in the revised Meteoritical Society instead. These proposals have been submitted to the Council of the Meteoritical Society and may be discussed formally at their next October meeting at NASA's Ames Research Center in California."

President Moore also read a letter he had received from William C. Ackermann, President, American Geophysical Union, relating to this general matter. The important paragraph reads:

"The AGU is at this same time considering its structure to determine whether the Section of Planetary Sciences should be divided in some manner, for example, to give separate visibility to planetology separate from interplanetary space and solar-terrestrial relationships. A committee for this purpose has been established under Dr. Earl Droessler."

The issues involved were discussed at some length by the Council. It was- decided to ask Dr. Short to attend our next Council meeting and make a presentation in person.

Publications Committee Report

Klaus Keil, Chairman, Publications Committee reported on information gathering activities related to possible upgrading of Meteoritics. His letter of June 21, 1967, to members of the Publications Committee (copies were sent to all Councilors not on this committee) had evoked responses from five individuals

Keil expressed the opinion that the Society has two realistic choices at this time:

1. Make an all out effort with a commercial publisher.
2. Continue in our present pattern.

He pointed out that the needs of the Society in the future will undoubtedly be broader than they are

presently. He cited as an example the fact that most serious meteorite workers of today will be working on returned Lunar sample when that material becomes available. If this type of work does not fit comfortably within our purview at the time, the Society may undergo a serious loss of influence.

Keil's report was discussed at length. The difficulties involved in changing today's Meteoritics into a quality scientific publication were stressed by several speakers. The need for another quality publication accepting meteorite papers was questioned. The question was also raised as to where some of the material currently being published Meteoritics would find a home if this journal were seriously upgraded. Does the Society have an obligation to these authors? Several speakers doubted that the Society has the necessary resources to make a major change at this time. It was noted that this problem of publication policy relates to the problems posed by the Planetary Geosciences Study Group.

The publications committee and other interested Councilors will continue to gather information relating to this problem. It will be on the agenda for the annual meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned in haste shortly after 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Roy S^l. Clarke, Jr.
Secretary