

Readers Speak

This is a column where the readers of TOPICS can express their views, ask questions, and add information to previously published articles.

Sir;

I would like to modify some of my comments on Mr. Binner's cover, reported in last quarter's *BNA Topics*. His cover was on page 81, and my response on the next page.

While I still believe the evidence is strong that the cover in question was carried from Cartwright to Montreal in one of the Balbo squadron's SM. 55Xs, in a sealed packet, I don't believe the cover is from the group referred to in C.H.C. Harmer's book, since it was postmarked on the *S.S. Nascopie* and not "Cartwright".

The evidence presented by Mr. Binner does suggest to me that someone from the Hudson's Bay Company carried covers aboard the ship at Cartwright on July 13, 1933, where they were franked with Canadian postage. Someone from the ship arranged to have a Balbo plane carry this mail informally. The 3¢ rate was the correct one to London at that time, and the cover is backstamped when Balbo arrived at Montreal. I have a hard time believing the *S.S. Nascopie* postmaster's document was created out of whole cloth. What I should have done before, however, and will do now, is ask for assistance from a Canadian collector specializing in this area, as I am certain similar covers must have been analyzed before.

Norris R. Dyer

Sir;

In their article "United Nations Stamps Valid Only in Canada" (*BNA Topics*, Vol. 56, #2, pp. 50-51) John Arn and John Hillmer state that official first day cover cancellations could only be obtained at Ottawa until 1967, when the first day cancel was used at Winnipeg for the Pan American Games stamp.

Probably the first "official" non-Ottawa cancel should be considered the Royal Train cancel used on many, many first day covers of the 1939 Royal Visit issue. Official first day cancels were available at Brantford for the 1947 Alexander Graham Bell stamp, though at that time the cancel didn't read "Day of Issue". In 1949, a machine cancel reading "First Day of Issue" was used in St. John's for the Newfoundland stamp and a similar cancel appeared in Halifax for the Halifax Bicentenary stamp. The 1951 CAPEX stamps were cancelled in Toronto with the "Day of Issue/Jour d'emission" cancel. In 1962 the tagged Wilding issue was cancelled at Ottawa and Winnipeg with special cancels marking the first day of the tagged stamps.

Jerome C. Jarnick
