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Dear Reader,

With this Newsletter, I thought that I should enclose a letter to all of the participants of the Study Group to clarify one or two points. After BNAPS I received a letter asking that I be mindful that the Study Group should be concerned exclusively with British North American Trans-Atlantic material, and that some of the participants had expressed concern about my suggestion that more United States material be included in the future.

I am sensitive to those concerns, although I was unaware that the Study Group was intended to maintain research in such a narrow field, and had not been so briefed by Allan or Jack when I joined the Group, nor when I took on the Newsletter.

If that is indeed the wish of the majority, then so be it. Since I collect exclusively BNA <-> UK, it fits my particular interests. However, I had noticed that more than half of the subscribers reside in the United States (the remainder in Canada and the UK, with about 4 in other countries) and most material has been submitted by the British members (and observers). I believed that recognition of other aspects of Trans-Atlantic mail was necessary if the Newsletter (and more important, the research) was not to wilt on the vine. There must, after all be an optimum number of active participants in any such venture.

Until I hear the views of others, I shall:

Concentrate on BNA material.

Include the occasional British item (the enclosed Newsletter was inspired by a letter and question submitted by Jack Arnell, before I appreciated that the UK was technically outside the scope of the Newsletter).

Include pre-Independence United States material.

Include the occasional relevant piece from the United States and Bermuda.

It would be helpful if you would communicate your preferences, so that I can form an opinion of how I should proceed. I am not sensitive, far from it, and would encourage direct comment since I want only to provide support to a Newsletter which reflects your interests. Please keep in touch.

Yours aye,

Malcolm