

*Letter to the Editors*

## Structural Aspects of Crown Complexes with Alkali and Alkaline Earth Cations – A Reply

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A sentence in the introduction of our review (*J. Incl. Phenom.* 4, 43–54, 1986) resulted in a letter to the editor from Professor E. G. Cox (*J. Incl. Phenom.* 4, 433, 1986). Professor E. G. Cox is one of those crystallographers of the first half of this century for whom I and my contemporaries have high regard. His wife, Mary R. Truter, has also been a pioneer regarding the crystallography of cation-crown systems. Her work at the Agriculture Research Council (ARC) unit was the first to appear in the chemical literature.

We were certainly in error about the dates relating to the establishment of the ARC Unit but even with the clarification provided by Professor Cox, it continues to be a fact that Professor R. S. Nyholm persuaded the Agriculture Research Council of the UK to establish the Unit. I also admit that the actual existence of the Unit was delayed until space in central London became available and the wife of Professor Cox (M. R. Truter) could take the chair of the Unit as Deputy Director in charge.

I am, however, very much satisfied that these learned crystallographers have not raised any point on the scientific content of our review. They have not only accepted our new approach to the understanding of cation-crown systems but have also taken sportingly our comments on the work of M. R. Truter at the ARC Unit. Again my regards for these two 'sons' of science.

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