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As a specialist group of the British Association for Canadian Studies, the Canada/UK Architecture Group endeavours to promote the exchange of architecture-related information that is of interest on both sides of the Atlantic. We would like to make the flow a two-directional one, and hope that our relationship with the SSAC is just the beginning of a mutually beneficial future.

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At last summer's SSAC conference in Victoria I chaired a session which explored some of the British connections to architecture in Canada. I titled the session "Canada and the British Umbilicum." I owe the reference to mid-body anatomy to Rudyard Kipling, who once wryly remarked that [English] Canadians of his day harboured "a certain crude faith in the Empire, of which they naturally conceive themselves to be the belly-button."¹ Accordingly, this session was designed to address a number of questions: Was Kipling right? If so, to what extent? How, where, and when do we see it in architecture? Have there been an ebb and flow? Has British cultural imperialism ever really died? How does it overlap, intersect or contradict pro-American sentiment and influence?

Over the past quarter-century or so, Canada and Québec have been so busy constructing independent identities for themselves—I exclude Brian Mulroney's government in the 1980s (and perhaps the present one)—that none of us has much wanted to have our roots in Old Blighty, or, for that matter, in America, pointed out to us, so darkly do we fear they are already sunk too deep.

Still, as historian Carl Berger argues, until the Second World War and perhaps later (decades later in some quarters, as the "VE-Day-Plus-Fifty" celebrations last year suggest), Britishness was so hitched to Canadianness in the minds of at least English Canadians that few considered being Canadian and being staunchly British imperialist a contradiction at all.² That is the point of several of the papers that follow. A striking sub-theme in them is the frequency with which Scotland is noted as a source, suggesting the degree to which in Canadian culture a second Auld Alliance (echoing that of Scotland and France) has been forged.

The thought-provoking papers delivered in the "British Umbilicum" session by Luc Noppen, Angela Carr, Georges Drolet, and Anne de Fort-Menares are here presented; David Monteyne's paper from the same session appeared in the last issue of the Bulletin (20:4).

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CORRECTION: The end of the last sentence on page 101 of the December 1995 Bulletin (20:4) was electronically deleted. It should read "... and kindred subjects?"²²

- 1 Quoted in Robert C. Brown and Ramsay Cook, *Canada 1896-1921: A Nation Transformed* (Toronto: McClelland & Stewart, 1974), 27.
- 2 See Carl Berger, ed., *Imperialism and Nationalism, 1884-1914: A Conflict in Canadian Thought* (Toronto: Copp Clark, 1969).