

A Note from the Editor

In this issue of the *Bulletin* we present two longer articles on the subject of frontier architecture in the Canadian west and north. These articles are based on presentations made by Heinz Pyszczyk and James De Jonge at the SSAC's annual conference in Edmonton in May 1990. Articles from this conference on the same topic previously published in the *Bulletin* include Lyle Dick's "The Fort Conger Shelters and Vernacular Adaptation to the High Arctic" (16:1, pp. 13-23) and Charles Arnold and Elisa Hart's "Winter Houses of the Mackenzie Inuit" (16:2, pp. 35-39). The Society's conferences provide an excellent introduction to current research on Canada's built environment — and, not incidentally, result in published papers with interest to scholars in Canada and beyond.

Dr. Heinz Pyszczyk has undertaken a survey of monumental scope in order to link fur trade architecture of the Canadian west with the economic and social conditions which gave it form and meaning. Pyszczyk brings together documentary records and archaeological data from the vast Saskatchewan and Athabasca fur trade districts for his regional comparative analysis. This analysis focuses on the broad connections between fur trade architecture and the underlying cultural processes at work in the Canadian hinterland. He demonstrates that fur trade architecture represented both a direct response to immediate economic needs and available resources *and* a means to express human affiliation and differentiation.

James De Jonge's portrait of Mounted Police buildings in the Canadian north reveals a paramilitary organization which found it difficult to respond effectively to the demands of a harsh environment. De Jonge describes the slow adaptation made by the police to the rigors of northern life, a problem rooted in a bureaucratic chain-of-command split between Regina and Ottawa. A sub-theme of De Jonge's article is design innovation in the North: he records early use of "Houseline" and "Salamander" building papers, "Insulex," rock wool, and other 20th-century innovations. Unfortunately for the Mounties working in the North, it wasn't until the late 1940s that the force began to benefit from many of these advances.

It's with a mixture of regret and happiness that I report the SSAC's able translator since 1988, **Dominique Michel**, has had to step down from her position. I regret losing such a talented and personable translator. But I'm happy for the reason: Dominique will marry and move to Dartmouth with her new husband, Sylvain, this summer. I'll miss her. I'm sure I speak on behalf of all *Bulletin* readers in saying *merci mille fois, au revoir et bonne continuation, Dominique!*