

FOREWORD

This present number of *Explorations* continues our effort to bring the journal's schedule up to date. It should be followed reasonably quickly by the second of the promised issues for 1991, leaving the second half of the year free for 1992 initiatives. Our backlog includes a few texts that have been with the Editor a considerable time and that treat a variety of subjects, as will be evident here. All of them should be a stimulus for further research in similar directions or for the collection of other testimonies about Franco-Australian contacts in the last half-century or so. The next fascicle of *Explorations* will also be a miscellaneous one and roughly parallel in character. On the other hand we intend later to give more concentrated attention to specific topics, for example some of the more notable consuls resident in Melbourne in the nineteenth century.

Dr Edward Duyker has continued to contribute reviews of books that should interest our readers in various ways. It is part of our task, as we see it, to draw attention to the growing literature relevant to relations between France and Australia since 1788. One of the paradoxes of an age that is looking - uncomfortably for some of us - towards future paperless libraries is the flood of publications from all sorts of sources that have access to the means of "desk-top" production. As a modest part of the effort to control this flood of information *Explorations* seeks to notice as many of these new titles as possible.

W.K.
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