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www.afran.org.au
Australian French Association for

Science and Technology
https://afas.org.au

nttps://aras.org.au

Australian Historical Association www.theaha.org.au

Bastille Day French Festival Melbourne www.bastilledaymelbourne.com

Bleu Blanc Rouge (Consular newsletter) www.bbrvic.com/en

French Assist Melbourne

 $\underline{www.frenchassistmelbourne.org.au}$

French Australian Chamber of Commerce <u>www.facci.com.au</u>

ISFAR resources

ISFAR provides resources to researchers in the field of French-Australian studies, with the support of the authors or contributors who give their approval to publish this material. Access all ISFAR resources www.isfar.org.au/resources



Image: courtesy of Juliana De Nooy, Melbourne Salon 14 September 2020

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Message from the president

Dear ISFAR members and friends,

Welcome to this second issue of the ISFAR quarterly newsletter. Thank you to everyone who sent in feedback on our inaugural issue and to those who made a donation to our research fund. We are very grateful for your support for our projects.

In this issue we are proud to highlight our seven life members, who have all made outstanding contributions to ISFAR, either as founders of the institute or the journal itself, or as founding committee members. You can read abridged versions of their work below, with links to relevant articles they have written, and you can read their full profiles on our website

www.isfar.org.au/about.

Thank you to everyone who attended one or both of our online Melbourne Salons in September and November. The Melbourne Salon turned 10 this year, and we were delighted to be able to celebrate in some way. Nothing can replace the beautiful Alliance Française de Melbourne in St. Kilda, where we usually hold our Salons, but holding them virtually meant that many more people could attend than are usually able to – including the speakers! We would particularly like to acknowledge one loyal Melbourne Salon member who has attended every single one! You can read more about the Salons later in the newsletter.

Preparations are underway for the 35th Anniversary Symposium of ISFAR, Australia and France in a Regional and Global Context: Past Engagements and Future Research Directions, to be held at RMIT University in Melbourne 8–9 April 2021. We anticipate a hybrid event, with some face-to-face events and an online component – see below for an update from the conference convenors. Keep your diary free and your eye on www.isfar.org.au/events.

We trust you will enjoy reading this issue of the newsletter. As always, if you have any feedback or suggestions for future topics or items for inclusion, please contact us at isfarinc@gmail.com.

Look out for the next issue of *The French Australian Review* in your mailboxes early next year. In the meantime, we wish everyone the very best for the forthcoming festive season, wherever and however you will be spending it.

Kerry Mullan President

Thanks to Robyn Stern and Graham Neilson for the coordination and layout of this newsletter and to all the contributors.

ISFAR Life Members

ISFAR recognises the following life members for their longstanding and invaluable contributions. Please see www.isfar.org.au/about for the full biographies.

Emeritus Professor Colin Nettelbeck founded ISFAR in 1985. With Wallace Kirsop and Dennis Davison, he co-founded Explorations (now The French Australian Review). He served in various roles (including president) in ISFAR from 1985 to 2000, and returned as president from 2011 to 2018. During the latter period, his policies emphasised the research profile of the Institute, including upgrading the review, and creating a dedicated Research Committee and the French Australian Dictionary of Biography, to which he has contributed several entries. Prof. Nettelbeck recalls the circumstances of the establishment of the Institute for the Study of French-Australian Relations at Monash University in 1985 and the publication of the first issue in ISFAR: A Recollection www.isfar.org.au/category/explorations/no-40.

Adjunct Professor Wallace Kirsop is one of Australia's most eminent scholars in French Studies and in book-trade history. He was founding editor of the ISFAR journal *Explorations*, which, with occasional short breaks, he edited from its first number in 1985 until his retirement from the position in 2008. He made numerous personal contributions to *Explorations*, and continues to work in the field of French-Australian relations, including contributing to the French Australian Dictionary of Biography. In this article, Prof. Nettelbeck interviews Prof. Kirsop about his interest in French-Australian relations and his association with *Explorations*: A Conversation with Wallace Kirsop. *Explorations* No. 45, Dec 2008 www.isfar.org.au/explorations-no-45-dec-2008.

Emeritus Professor Ivan Barko joined the editorial team of *Explorations*, later re-named *The French Australian Review* in 1990. He was co-editor of the journal from 2008 to 2016, and has also contributed several entries to the French Australian Dictionary of Biography. The annual ISFAR Ivan Barko Award www.isfar.org.au/news is awarded by the Committee on the recommendation of the editors of the *French Australian Review* to the author of the best article published during the preceding year. Named after Professor Barko to mark his long and distinguished service to ISFAR, this prize is intended to stimulate research in all areas of French Australian relations.

Dr Patricia Clancy taught for almost thirty years in the French Department of Melbourne University before taking early retirement to pursue her interest in French writing on colonial Australia while taking up a second career as a literary translator. Dr Clancy and her colleague Dr Colin Thornton-Smith were committee members of ISFAR from the beginning and collaborated to produce an *Analytical Checklist of French Fiction and Pseudo-Memoirs Set in Colonial Australia* in www.isfar.org.au/resources/analytical-checklists. At present she is working on several entries for the French Australian Dictionary of Biography.

John Drury OAM was a founding member of ISFAR from the time it was established at Monash University in 1985. He was a committee member from 1985 to 2017 when he was made an Honorary Life Member. John was ISFAR Committee liaison with the French Consul to arrange for a grant from the Ministère des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre to restore the grave at the Melbourne General Cemetery of Nicolas Emile Mouchette, Chancelier and Acting Consul in Melbourne from 1881–84. Read more on Nicolas Emile Mouchette in the article by John Drury: www.isfar.org.au/category/explorations/no-20.

Tom Rado was one of ISFAR's founding members in 1985 representing the French-Australian sector being the then president of AFAS (Australian French Association for Science & Technology). He was an Executive Committee member from 1985 to 2012, Honorary Treasurer from 1998 to 2012, Membership Officer from 2000 to 2012, and also acting Secretary from time to time during this period. On his retirement from the Committee, Tom was elected as a Life Member.

Dr Dianne Reilly AM FRHSV was a founding member of ISFAR from the time it was established at Monash University in 1985, and a committee member until 2017. President from 1991 to 1997, she was made an Honorary Life Member in 2017. From the mid-1980s, the ISFAR Committee, in liaison with the French Consuls, arranged for a grant from the Ministère des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre to restore the grave at the Melbourne General Cemetery in 1994 of Lionel Comte de Chabrillan, first French Consul in Melbourne (1852–58). Dr Reilly provides the history of the consul in her article: www.isfar.org.au/category/explorations/no-20.



Colin Nettelbeck



Ivan Barko



The 2020 Melbourne Salons

This year ISFAR held two Melbourne Salons, both online, and both extremely well attended. As always, the topics were diverse and the virtual environment meant that we were able to welcome speakers based in Brisbane, Paris, and regional Victoria.

The first Salon for 2020 was held on 14 September and entitled What's France got to do with it? Contemporary memoirs of Australians in France. Author Juliana De Nooy spoke about her new book



to Barbara Hanna, and discussed why it is that memoirs recounting sojourns in France have gained such traction among Australian women and what is at stake in their fascination with France. Conversation flowed and many interesting aspects and theories were put forward. The Melbourne Salon was delighted and honoured to be able to launch Juliana's book online, which can be purchased or downloaded for free at this link:

https://press.anu.edu.au/publications/whats-france-got-to-do-with-it.

This Salon marked the 10-year anniversary almost to the day of the very first, held at the Alliance Française de Melbourne on 10 September 2010. The Melbourne Salon was modelled (with permission) on the LC Salon in Sydney where I (Kerry Mullan) was invited to speak in late 2009 on French and Australian interactional styles – as it happens alongside Sarah Turnbull, the author of Almost French, probably the most well-known memoir of this kind in recent times. In another delightful coincidence, our very first Melbourne Salon in 2010 featured New Caledonian author Jean-François Vernay in conversation with Elaine Lewis (co-editor of The French Australian Review), herself author of a memoir of her time in France, Left Bank Waltz: The Australian Bookshop in Paris (Vintage, Random House Australia, 2006).

The second Melbourne Salon of 2020 was held on 5 November and featured Professor Frédéric Thomas of the CNRS (France) and Associate Professor Beata Ujvari from Deakin University on the topic of *Unravelling the cancer puzzle from an ecological and evolutionary perspective – an Australian and French International Associated Laboratory*. The presenters gave a fascinating talk on the ecological and evolutionary consequences of cancer in ecosystems and how applying evolutionary principles to cancer revolutionises treatment strategies and approaches, and how this can have consequences for the facial tumours currently afflicting the iconic Tasmanian Devils. This collaborative laboratory



project is supported by the CNRS, the University of Montpellier, the French Embassy, the Australian French Research Association (AFRAN), Deakin University and the University of Tasmania, and is a wonderful demonstration of what can be achieved when international teams of researchers come together, in this case French and Australian.

Details of both of these (and previous) Melbourne Salons can be found here www.rmit.edu.au/about/schools-colleges/global-urban-and-social-studies/our-teaching-areas/language-studies/french/melbourne-salon.

Kerry Mullan

Alliance Française de Melbourne Berthe Mouchette Competition

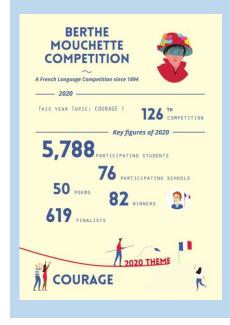
ISFAR was delighted to continue its longstanding sponsorship of the 126th annual Alliance Française de Melbourne Berthe Mouchette Competition this year. The theme for this year's poem was very apt: *Courage*.

This year 5,788 students from 76 schools across Victoria braved a new adventure and, in the face of the pandemic and enforced remote learning conditions, this longstanding French poetry competition went on-line.

ISFAR congratulates all of the 82 young winners (selected from 619 finalists) who will be rewarded for their resilience and outstanding poetry delivery. Unfortunately, the usual award ceremony cannot be held this year, but the winners will receive their prizes at home.

For more information on the competition and for the names of this year's winners, see

https://www.afmelbourne.com.au/berthe-mouchette-competition.



Translations of Early French Historical Works on Australia

Geoffrey de Q. Walker

The studies of early Australia written by 19th century French authors contain useful insights into the nation's beginnings from an outside perspective. They are not widely known by non-French speakers. In September 2020, the State Library of New South Wales finished accessioning five translations of French historical works, which are now freely available to the public online under the Creative Commons system. Making these works readily accessible to students, researchers, and the general public may help to contribute new insights into the understanding of Australia's penal history.

ISFAR is very grateful to Geoffrey de Q. Walker and to the State Library of New South Wales for allowing us to publish a brief summary of each work with a link to the translations. (For more details, see the forthcoming issue of the *French Australian Review* 69 and the ISFAR Resources page www.isfar.org.au/resources.

Geoffrey de Q. Walker is Emeritus Professor of Law of the University of Queensland and is the author of several books and numerous articles on legal and related subjects. Currently he is a senior member of the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal.

Australia's first historian: Ernest de Blosseville

The work of Viscount (later Marquis) Bénigne-Ernest Poret de Blosseville (1799–1886), author, scholar and member of parliament, *Histoire des colonies pénales de l'Angleterre dans l'Australie* was first published in Paris in 1831. It opens with a description of the factors leading to the search for a new location for a penal settlement, following the loss of the American colonies. The author then sets out a comprehensive political, economic and social account of the development of New South Wales and Tasmania up to 1830. The treatise criticizes some aspects of the colony's record, including the heavy reliance on capital punishment, the convicts' sometimes violent treatment of the aboriginal population and the United Kingdom government's neglect of the nascent settlement, which led to near disaster by starvation on three occasions. In general, however, he saw the enterprise as a success, both from



the viewpoint of criminal reform, reduction of serious crime and efficient colonisation. While a comprehensive general history, the work also contributed to a long-running penological debate about transportation, as against the penitentiary system, that developed during the nineteenth century in France, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Ernest de Blosseville

https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110650988.

De Tocqueville's doubts

In 1833 Alexis de Tocqueville, author of the classic *Democracy in America*, published *Des colonies pénales*, which was intended as a reply to Blosseville's generally favourable description of Australian penal settlement and its results. While conceding that the New South Wales and Tasmanian settlements showed that the penal colony system had definite advantages, he criticised several features of it, including that it enabled convicts, who commonly developed little attachment to the land of their exile, to return to the home country without necessarily having been reformed.

Further, as the colony had become more established, transportation lost its deterrent power and some offenders committed crimes in the United Kingdom with the aim of securing a free passage to Australia. He saw transportation more as a system of colonisation than as a penal system and thought the continued influx of criminals after the colony became established could encourage moves towards independence, as had occurred in America. Tocqueville strongly preferred the American penitentiary system to the Australian penal colony approach.

https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110650990.

A rival view from Pilorgerie

Published in Paris in 1836, Jules de la Pilorgerie's Histoire de Botany-Bay is the second French history of Australia. Professor Colin Forster in his valuable book France and Botany Bay (published 1992 by Melbourne University Press), notes that it is a substantial work (running to 394 pages in all) and is in some respects a general history, but in essence it is narrower than that, using Australian history in support of his advocacy of the penitentiary system as against convict transportation. Pilorgerie criticizes Blosseville's account, while acknowledging that, 'written with real talent [it] is a vigorous plea in favour of the punishment of deportation and of penal colonies'. He also disparages the favourable view of Sydney as a penal settlement expressed by François Péron, the most famous and influential of the early French observers. Pilorgerie's work was widely acknowledged in the penal debate as being one of the two authoritative studies (Blosseville's being the other), of Australia's historical experience as a penal colony. Until now, it has remained untranslated.

https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110650989.

The adventures of Thomas Muir and the Scottish Martyrs

Chapter IV of Pilorgerie's Histoire de Botany-Bay includes a reference to the remarkable history of Thomas Muir and the Scottish Martyrs. Following a grossly biased trial in Edinburgh, they were convicted of sedition for advocating a number of parliamentary reforms and sentenced to transportation. Arriving in Sydney in October 1795 aboard the Surprize, they were treated favourably by Lieutenant-Governor Grose and Governor Hunter. Two years later, however, Muir escaped aboard an American ship, the Otter, and made his way to the west coast of North America, then to Mexico, where he was at first imprisoned by the Spanish authorities and sent to Havana. Eventually arriving in Paris, he was fêted by the Directoire revolutionary government and assisted them with their plans to invade Scotland and establish a republic there, with Muir as intended president. An earlier translation of this work exists, The Transportation Exile and Escape of Thomas Muir translated by Jonathan Wantrup, Boroondara Press, Melbourne, 1990.

https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110650992.

A novelist's view of convict life

Paul Merruau presents his work Les convicts en Australie (1851-1852), published in 1853, as fiction, but seeks to base it on fact and supplies a bibliography of the non-fiction works he has consulted. The French original was reprinted in 2016 by ULAN Press of Middletown, Delaware. A 1986 review for the ISFAR journal Explorations by J H Pollet de Saint-Ferjeux asserts that despite the book's shortcomings, 'Merruau's talent as a journalist, his ability to evoke an atmosphere and the quality of his mind make this book worth reading'. He concludes that the book 'deserves survival in the context of Australian culture ... [because it] attempt[s] to analyze [sic] the convict mentality rather than merely retelling the story of the convict state [and] it attempts to analyze the mechanics of punishment rather than the philosophies/prejudices of the time about punishment' (Explorations nº 3 1986). Until the 2016 reprint appeared, it was thought that there were no more than half a dozen copies of the French original still in existence. It is therefore likely that few Australian scholars have had access to it. The addition of an English translation may help to bring it to the notice of a wider scholarly audience. https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110650991.

All five translations are available in full text on the website of the State Library of New South Wales and may be reproduced, subject only to acknowledgement of source, for any non-commercial purpose.

Geoffrey de Q. Walker translations of French publications on the history of the New South Wales penal colony, 1798–1853, (compiled 2015–2018).

https://archival.sl.nsw.gov.au/Details/archive/110637728? ga=2.14200 8757.644637245.1599558422-495808619.1528758056.

ISFAR@35 Symposium 8-9 April 2021 - update

We are pleased to announce that we have received around 20 proposals for papers to be given at the Symposium. They cover a broad range of political, cultural and historical topics, from the early history of French-Australian relations to the contemporary diplomatic *rapprochement* in the Pacific in the context of an encroaching China; music, film, photography and viticulture; student educational tours and language enrichment; and aspects of World War Two history in Europe and the Pacific.

Because of the continuing uncertainty over whether we will be able to gather in Melbourne in person, we have offered speakers the opportunity of giving their paper online. This has the added advantage of making the Symposium available to participants across Australia and in the French Pacific territories, where we have a number of university colleagues and ISFAR members.

There will be no registration fees for the conference, but, whether attending in person or online, we request that participants ensure they are ISFAR members for 2021. Details of membership can be found at: www.isfar.org.au/membership.

Further updates will be posted on the ISFAR website and in the February newsletter.

We look forward to welcoming you, whether virtually or in person, to what we are sure will be an exciting and collegial conference, offering a comprehensive overview of contemporary research in the field of French-Australian relations.

Alexis Bergantz & Elizabeth Rechniewski, co-chairs ISFAR Research Committee and conference convenors

The French-Australian Dictionary of Biography

Three new entries have been added to the *French-Australian Dictionary of Biography* since the publication of the last newsletter: on the French diplomats Paul Maistre (by Ivan Barko) and Jean Trémoulet (Margaret Barrett and Arnau Gonzàlez i Vilalta) and on the academic James Cornell (John West-Sooby). An entry on Dr Louis Laure (William Land) is in the final stages of redaction and many more entries are in the pipeline or have been commissioned.

We encourage readers to dip into the over 30 entries already posted on the site www.isfar.org.au/fadb. They not only provide detailed information, often unavailable elsewhere, on the life and work of the individual concerned but open a window onto the broader landscape of French-Australian relations at the time.

Alexis Bergantz & Elizabeth Rechniewski

Test your knowledge of some lesser-known byways of French-Australian history by trying your hand at our short **quiz** below. All the answers can be found within the entries in the Dictionary.

- 1. Which author published a novel under the pseudonym Noël Aimir, an anagram of their name?
- 2. Who wrote a virulent critique of Australia in John Bull & Co.?
- 3. What was 'the Balloon Affair'?
- 4. Who ran the Oberwyl school in Melbourne?
- 5. What did the Brown-Sequard tonic claim to cure?

Stuck for answers? The search function on the site might be of help.

Vale Meredith Sherlock

ISFAR was saddened to learn of the recent passing of Meredith Sherlock on 3 November 2020.

Longstanding members of ISFAR and past editors of *Explorations* (now *The French Australian Review*) will remember how instrumental Meredith was in preparing the journal for print, and how much time and energy she spent doing the layout for the journal and supporting the Editorial Committee. She worked very closely with Prof. Wallace Kirsop (see profile on life members, this issue) for many years, including handling all his correspondence and assisting him with the preparation of all the issues of *Explorations* which he edited, the last of which was number 43.

The editors of The French Australian Review would particularly like to pay tribute to Meredith for her work as Technical Editor of Explorations from June 1992 to December 1996 and again, during a period when the journal was edited by a group of committee members, from December 2001 to December 2007. Meredith contributed to the production of many other French-related works such as Études bibliographiques à la mémoire de Jeanne Veyrin-Forrer (Ancora Press, 2017); Censorship in the Ancien Regime (Ancora Press, 2018); Shorthand at the Sorbonne in the late 1820s, or Experiments in Publishing (The Chaskett Press, 2019); Stan Scott, Chis: The Life and Work of Alan Rowland Chisholm (1888-1981) (Ancora Press, 2019). Dozens of other volumes and monographs since the mid-1990s demonstrate her achievement.

We remain very grateful to Meredith for all her work for ISFAR and offer our sincere condolences to her family and friends. She will be greatly missed.

The French Australian Review: Introduction of New Submissions Guide

Some general remarks

The French Australian Review (FAR), published by ISFAR, is the only academic journal exclusively dedicated to French-Australian relations and links. Its primary purpose is to publish the results of research on French-Australian connections, both historical and contemporary. In addition, it publishes notes and documents recording aspects of French-Australian relations. It was founded as *Explorations* in 1985 and since that time 68 issues have been published. With the exception of the more recent issues these can be accessed online at www.isfar.org.au/journal. The journal appears twice a year, during Australian winter and summer. The length of standard issues is normally up to 100 pages.

The Editors accept contributions at any time, on historical as well as contemporary subjects in a wide variety of fields relating to French-Australian connections.

Refereed articles are subject to the customary double-blind, peer-review process. *The French Australian Review* is committed to peer-review integrity and upholding the highest standards of review. Once a submitted paper has been assessed for suitability by the editor(s), it will then be double-blind peer-reviewed by independent, anonymous expert referees.

Documents and notes are assessed by the editors and/or the Editorial Committee .

Reviews are commissioned by the Book Review Editor who welcomes suggestions (email: french.australian.review@gmail.com).

Articles should include the author's name, institutional affiliation (if applicable) or place of residence (e.g. The University of New South Wales or simply Adelaide), placed at the end of the article.

New FAR Submissions Guide (19 August 2020)

The FAR Editorial Committee recently approved a change of style for submissions—the new style is based on the Chicago Manual of Style Online www.chicagomanualofstyle.org. Contributors should note particularly details of the changed reference style. We are now following the Chicago Style Manual's Notes and Bibliography (NB) system, see www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-1 (Eds: with footnotes, not endnotes).

'The Notes and Bibliography (NB) system is preferred by many working in the humanities—including literature, history, and the arts. In this system, sources are cited in numbered footnotes or endnotes. Each note corresponds to a raised (superscript) number in the text. Sources are also usually listed in a separate bibliography. The notes and bibliography system can accommodate a wide variety of sources, including unusual ones that don't fit neatly into the author-date system.'

Users of the Chicago Style Manual Online have access to a free 30-day trial subscription. Any further questions may be addressed to the editors at french.australian.review@gmail.com.

Jane Gilmour & Elaine Lewis

Second-hand (French) book initiative

ISFAR members may be interested in this new initiative.

<u>BabelBooks</u> promotes a circular economy as the books sold have been generously donated by individuals and organisations. When you choose Babelbooks, you also:

- reduce your carbon footprint as Sendle, Australia's first 100% carbon neutral shipping service, is our preferred shipping partner, and we use compostable and recyclable packaging
- support a significant literacy organisation in Australia: we donate 10% of our sales to Magabala Books, Australia's leading Indigenous publisher. This is our contribution to help preserve our unique and invaluable heritage, via the publication of bilingual books or books in First Nations' languages.

BabelBooks endeavours to provide collections in several languages as we know how expensive and complicated it can be to source books from overseas. In addition to the current ranges of books in French and English, we plan to add a Spanish collection next. If you are interested in donating books, please refer to our website.

Translation project

ISFAR was recently asked to find someone who would be willing to translate a book on a pro bono basis with the aim that this be subsequently published.

The book in question is *Les Batailles de Bullecourt en 1917: Les Diggers du 1er corps de l'ANZAC dans la Bataille d'Arras* by Philippe Duhamel (2013, Éditions des Régionalismes, 228 pages).

More information can be found here: https://editions-des-regionalismes.com/products/ra133-les-batailles-dalles-darras.

A translator has already been found, but if you are able to help us find a publisher for the finished product, please contact us at isfarinc@gmail.com.