

Contents

Foreword

Sources and acknowledgements

Introduction

- 1 France's history and its people
- 2 From circumnavigation to settlement
- 3 The gold rush
- 4 Communards
- 5 The wool buyers
- 6 Australia's only French village
- 7 Craftsmen and business people
- 8 French language torchbearers
- 9 Publishing
- 10 Food and wine
- 11 Arts and sciences
- 12 Sports
- 13 Anyone else ?
- 14 Dark clouds over the South Pacific

Demographic data

Bibliography

Index

FOREWORD

In the all too brief years of what was never more than a half-retirement from his busy life as a bookseller and publisher Jean Rosemberg was able to find the time to pursue the tertiary studies he had had to interrupt as a young man in France. Like many people who return to research and writing after decades of absorption in other activities he knew exactly what he wanted to do and what he needed to achieve. However, universities - in Australia as elsewhere - are rather inflexible institutions, suspicious of qualifications they have not themselves awarded. The path through a Diploma of Migrant Studies to a Master of Arts in French conferred by Monash University in 1985 was quite long and arduous, but it was followed with determination and without complaint, even when course requirements of various kinds seemed altogether extraneous to the goal of a thesis on the French presence in Australia. In the end, too, the proliferation of essays and articles on a field that is increasingly attractive to historians meant that the academic exercise itself had to be somewhat narrow in focus, or apparently so, since in fact detailed case studies on figures like F.F. Baillière and F.I. Maurice-Carton led right to the heart of what was involved in being an agent and ambassador of French culture in a remote English-speaking country.

The candidate's supervisor hoped that the results of these precise investigations would be revised quickly for publication in an appropriate journal like Explorations. This was not to be. A commission to produce a general account of the subject for a wider audience had been accepted, and this work was destined to occupy all its author's available time. Once a cruel and inexorable disease had been diagnosed, Jean Rosemberg - with exemplary support from family and friends - devoted the whole of his energy to completing the task he had undertaken. The present book is a testimony to his success in this endeavour and to his exceptional courage.

More important, the reader is not being offered a simple résumé of the research that has been done by several scholars over the last ten years or so. Despite the inevitable limitations of an imposed formula, Jean Rosemberg gives us insights into lived experience. He does not hesitate to recall impressions gathered over three and a half decades in our country or to confront head on the undeniable malaise in Franco-Australian relations since the early 1970s. At the same time he demonstrates effectively the strength, the solidity and the importance of a link that goes back as far as 1788 and that has accompanied us throughout the period of European settlement. Beyond the already extensive secondary literature this presentation of the French role in our civilization draws generously on primary sources, including those that were unusually accessible - in written or in oral form - to a key participant in French community activities. There is thus a wealth of information from which even the specialist can learn and simultaneously a document for future historians. In the fullest sense of the word this is the testament of a Franco-Australian who was a privileged observer of the interaction of two cultures and who shared our taste for meditation on what it means to be embarked on the Antipodean adventure.

A C K N O W L E D G E M E N T S.

I am most grateful to the many people who helped with advice both as to form and content, with typing, research, reading the text, and so on.

First to my dear wife CATHERINE (Kitty); my daughters CLAIRE, who devoted much of her annual leave to help with typing and interviewing, and ISABELLE, who worked so hard, ALEX SHEPPARD, who completed research in SYDNEY; JEAN-JACQUES PORTAIL, who wrote the section on contemporary winemakers; JANET HALL, WALLACE KIRSOP, MAX HICKS, WILLIAM BOSTOCK, ROSEMARY MARTIN, EDDY VAN ROOSENDAEL, GEORGETTE VAUZELLE and ALAN^M CAMPBELL.

I would also like to thank my editor, MICHAEL CIGLER.

Once I had become seriously ill, I received great moral support from many friends, and moral and physical support from medical and nursing people who wanted to see me finish the book : in particular, Dr. MARIE KEMP and those at Ward 4^E of the ALFRED HOSPITAL.

On the other hand, this book is based not only on historical data, but also on personal inter^Views and letters. I would like to thank the following individuals, who either contributed their own experience or ~~on~~ that of their relatives and forbears, or made available to me their own research :

ANNE ABONNEL	JOHNNY FAMECHON
MICHEL ALCOUFFE	ETIENNETTE FENNELL
SILVAIN ATTALI	PAUL-HENRI FISHER
RAYMOND BALLOT	ELLIOTT FORSYTH
OLIVIER BARUCHE	COLETTE FOUBERT
DANIEL BELTRAN	EMILE GAILLET
LUC BESSIERE	LIZ GALLOIS
LUCIEN BOZ	ROGER GARIN-MICHAUD
ANDRE BRENAC	GABRIEL GATE
MARC CAILLOT	MICHELINE GIROUX
GERARD CASSEGRAIN	JACQUES-NOEL GENET
DANIEL CHAMBON	STANISLAS DE HAUTECLOQUE
JEAN CHAMOND	FRANCOIS HENRY
JEAN CHAUSSIVERT	JEAN HUON DE NAVRANCOURT
MARCEL CHICOTEAU	JACQUES HERAUDEAU
MICHAEL CLYNE	RAYMOND JANKO
JAMES CORNELL	PETER JOUBERT
RENE CRIVELLI	PETER NUMA JOUBERT
^{VI} SIL VE CROSSMANN	DANIELE KEMP
GABRIEL DELAGE	DAVID KNIGHT
JACQUES DELARUELLE	JEAN-LUC LAPENE
ROGER DUFAU	SAM LEBER
JEAN-MARC DUPRE	JACQUELINE LESAGE
CLAUDE DURAND	FOXIE LOUBERE
ALAIN DUVAL	ANDREE MACDONALD
EDWARD DUYKER	HELENE MC CALMAN
JACQUELINE DWYER	MALCOLM MACMILLAN
DENISE FAHRER	EMMANUEL MARGOLIN
	TONY MARION

CHRISTIANE MELCHIOR

JEAN-PIERRE MIGNON

ALAIN MONTEIL

MIRKA MORA

SUZANNE MOUROT

COLIN NETTLEBECK

ANNE-MARIE NISBETT

GUY PASCAL

ANDRE PEREZ

ROBERT PERRAULT

GILBERT PESENTI

ANDRE and CHRISTIANE PICHELIN

TONY PICO

JEAN-JACQUES PORTAIL

DANIEL RANSON

DANIELE RAY^{NAU}~~MOND~~

JEAN-MICHEL RAYNAUD

COLETTE REDDIN

DIANNE REILLY

JOSETTE RENAUX

MICHEL REYMOND

FRED ROBINS

ANNE-MARIE ROQUET

PIERRE ROUSSEL

ANDRE SALEMBIER

ALEX SHEPPARD

ANDRE SOLLIER

ALEC SOURDIN

JEAN-PIERRE SOURDIN

MARJORIE THEOBALD

COLIN THORNTON-SMITH

LUC TURSCHWELL

JACQUES VAUZELLE

MARY WELSH

SUZAN WHITELAW

DAVID WISHER

INTRODUCTION

Australian government statistics present figures on migrant groups according to their country of birth. But this is not an approach we propose to follow in this book. Instead, we consider a French^m migrant to be a person who held French nationality at the time of arrival in Australia or who considers himself/herself to be French, thus including most, but not all, people born in Australia to one French parent, or to both. Anyone meeting these criteria will be described in this book as a French-Australian.

Two further aspects of this book should be briefly underlined. The first is that ~~in line with the stated aim of the Heritage Series,~~ we have dealt only with people who actually settled in this country, irrespective of whether they stayed on for good or later changed their minds, as well as with a handful of temporary visitors who actually contributed to Australia's advancement, development or wealth of knowledge. This explains why, among the early explorers, we devoted a large place to Francois Peron but little to Laperouse, among others. It also explains why most French diplomats are absent from this book, along with business people who spent limited amounts of time here but who did not settle or emigrate.

The second aspect is the organisation of the chapters into areas of activity. This decision was taken after considerable research showed that a historical or geographical organisation of the material would have proved unsatisfactory. We did however ~~place in "Part One: The past that is past"~~ ^{first analyse, in chapters two to six} areas of activity and achievements discontinued or halted in contemporary times although their traces remain and some descendants of these "early achievers" ~~surface in later chapters.~~ ^{are still alive} Most French Australians are referred to in ~~Part Two,~~ ^{chapters seven to thirteen} that is in fields where French migrants may have been involved many years ago, but where others are still active today.

There are certainly many more migrants with interesting stories to recount, but most French people here make it almost a religion to "keep a low profile". So may we offer an apology, albeit a half-hearted one, to those who should be, but are not, in this book.

On the other hand, this book is especially directed at the hundreds of "old Australians" met in shops, on public transport or in parks, who greet the revelation that one is French with a "Really? There aren't many of you here!" May we hope they read this book and, as a consequence, change their opinion.