

FOREWORD

Although the immediate occasion of *Explorations* is a two-day meeting on the France-Victoria Connection to be held on 31 May and 1 June 1985, the bulletin we have created will not die with the end of the celebration of one hundred and fifty years of continuous European settlement in Victoria. At irregular intervals we propose to bring to our readers a selection of short articles, reminiscences, documents and research notes that will illustrate the many links between France and Australia. Naturally, our primary emphasis will be on Melbourne and Victoria, but we shall be happy to publish material on the Franco-Australian connection in general. We are not setting out to stake an exclusive claim in a field of expanding investigation. Indeed two journals with which our editorial team is involved, *Margin* and the *Australian Journal of French Studies*, have printed and will continue to print substantial articles on the interactions of French and Australian culture. The special function of *Explorations* will be somewhat analogous to that of *Notes and Queries*.

The extent of interest in the French influence on Australia and in Australian contacts with France can be gauged from a number of quite recent publications, conferences and exhibitions. From Anny Stuer's *The French in Australia* (Canberra, A.N.U., 1982) to *The French Presence in Victoria 1800-1901*, the imposing catalogue that accompanied the exhibition with the same title held at the end of 1984, there have been significant indications of a renewal of scholarly inquiry into our subject. Notable amongst them is the volume *The French-Australian Cultural Connection* published by the School of French of the University of New South Wales and CEEFA on the basis of a wide-ranging symposium held at Kensington on 16-17 September 1983. In due course *Explorations* will have more to say about these important parallel endeavours. In fact we shall attempt to list regularly what is appearing in and on the overall area of Franco-Australian links as well as providing a forum for the many persons now making active contributions. The present number is in its diversity a foretaste of what we hope to offer in future.

W.K.