

FOREWORD

This latest instalment in the process of bringing *Explorations* up to date reflects the diversity of the topics that interest ISFAR members. There is no need, of course, to apologize for its miscellaneous character. Special numbers, like the one projected for 1993 on some of the French consuls who served in Melbourne, will be exceptional in our programme. Nonetheless, what we have here exemplifies quite well the range of French-Australian interactions over four centuries at least.

Edward Duyker's work has moved in recent years from the history of the Mauritian connection to the not unrelated theme of French exploration around the Australian coast. We are waiting for the publication of his book-length biography of Marion Dufresne. In the meantime we have contributions on various aspects of the culture contact in the seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries as well as reviews of books that bear in one way or another on these questions. The lesson is that this sort of investigation can never be narrow in focus.

Colette Reddin's notes on the interview with J. G. Cornell published in our last issue provide—from her unrivalled knowledge of the French-Australian cultural scene—much interesting and important information. In particular we are reminded how significant a role French civilization played in the lives of many cultivated Melburnians in earlier generations.

On the other hand, it is useful to be reminded that the lives of expatriates were and are not always happy and fruitful. The sad case of Charles D'Aloustel is a glimpse of the underside of immigration and its sometimes traumatic problems.

W. K.