

FOREWORD

As *Explorations* moves slowly towards the day when its cover date will correspond to reality, we bring our readers a substantial study of two interesting figures from the South of France who spent some time in Australia over a total period of several decades in the middle of the twentieth century. Although it is hardly necessary to justify the publication of a rich collection of new documents, a word of explanation is probably desirable.

Philip Anderson, who was one of Antoine Denat's students at the University of Melbourne in the late 1960s, eventually found himself teaching at the Université de Provence and embarking on research on the twentieth-century poets of that region, notably Francis Ponge. However, Louis Brauquier has developed as a side interest, one given some piquancy by that writer's sojourns in Australia and his connection with Denat. The latter needs no introduction to many subscribers to *Explorations*, although it is now almost seventeen years since he died. All who knew him—from Brisbane to Melbourne—will be grateful for the new insights and information Philip Anderson provides with the help of the access he was freely granted by Margaret Denat to her late husband's papers. The discovery of Louis Brauquier is a bonus for those concerned with the continuing literary interactions between France and Australia and a reminder of the importance of the link with New Caledonia. Given the nature of the documents, many of them in verse, they had to be reproduced in the original. Since they are being presented by a specialist in Ponge, that poets' poet, it is natural that the article should be more critically ambitious than those that usually appear in *Explorations'* pages.

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