

FOREWORD

As we begin our effort to make the cover dates of *Explorations* square with the calendar at last, we have to report the sudden death of our colleague Dennis Davison. Our next issue will contain an assessment of what he contributed to the discovery of French-Australian connections and, more generally, to Melbourne cultural and literary life over the last three decades. In the meantime we express our sympathy to Geneviève and her children in their great loss.

In a number of ways 1994 is inaugurating a series of changes for ISFAR and for *Explorations*. At the beginning of February Colin Nettelbeck left Monash University, where he had been for nearly a quarter of a century, to take up the A. R. Chisholm Chair of French at the University of Melbourne. It is likely that the Institute's official address will also become Parkville before the end of the year. In addition I have indicated to the Committee that my involvement in the major *History of the Book in Australia*, now in the active planning stage, will make it imperative for me to relinquish Editorship of ISFAR's magazine before the end of 1995.

Miscellaneous in character, the present number reflects once again the diversity of ISFAR's concerns with the Franco-Australian interaction. From governments to individuals nothing lies outside our field of inquiry. The fact that French universities have begun to take Australia seriously is a gratifying development. However, our own documentary tasks continue, and they must inevitably focus on special cases as much as on official exchanges. Ultimately the story is that of two peoples in fruitful contact and sometimes in conflict.

W. K.