

FOREWORD

This is the last of the numbers of *Explorations* to be produced—laboriously and tardily—by its old editorial team. The retiring Editor salutes his successors for their skill in bringing together contributions promptly. He admits that his still continuing prior commitment to the *Australian Journal of French Studies*, which prints somewhere between 350 and 450 pages each year in three numbers, has always tended to stand a little in the way of *Explorations*. At all events it is comforting to see that the magazine has a future and a measure of dynamism.

Few readers will be unaware that journal publication is a particularly difficult matter at the end of the 1990s. Apart from the perennial question of money for printing expenses, one has to take account of the pressures on academic writers. In the name of accountability people are expected to write in refereed publications. There is little encouragement to prepare book reviews or indeed to edit journals! In this way the functions of scholarly communication are narrowed and ultimately perverted. There is a place for little magazines without theoretical pretensions and dedicated to bringing carefully researched material to the general intelligent and cultivated reader in an accessible way. Fortunately *Explorations* can call on a growing number of people outside the strictly defined academic world to maintain old and good traditions of outreach, without condescension, to a wider public. Those interested in the French-Australian connection still deserve to be able to read accurate and informative articles and to have clear accounts of the growing number of books appearing in the field.

In its modest way the present number attempts to do just that. A little more light is shed on Mme Juliette Henry and her participation in the work of French "cultural evangelism" in the Australian colonies of the late nineteenth century. One of her rare publications is reprinted as well. Reviews of Etienne Bordier's diary and of Jim Davidson's major biography of Louise Hanson-Dyer remind us of the two-way traffic between Australia and francophone Europe that continues to be our business.

W. K.