

## FOREWORD

With No. 25, we reach what we hope will be the last of our delayed issues, except for Nos. 20 and 21 (June and December 1996) which should appear shortly as a listing of their contents is already to hand. Thus we think now is a suitable moment for a stocktaking both material and bibliographical, like a backward look to review the ground we have covered in our explorations.

The first issue in May 1985 was largely inspired by Victoria's sesquicentenary celebrations and in particular by the exhibition of late 1984 and its accompanying catalogue, both entitled *The French Presence in Victoria 1800-1901*. Although it was prepared for a two-day meeting (31 May/1 June 1985) on the France-Victoria Connection while planning for ISFAR was still under way, one of its important purposes was to illustrate the sorts of material that the bulletin of such a body could carry.

The Foreword of No. 1 by our Founding Editor, Wallace Kirsop, to whose untiring efforts *Explorations* owes most of its continued existence and much of its content over the years, stated that "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." The variety and scope of material published amply met that aim, but our next issue (June 1999) will even more decisively indicate the strength of our interstate commitment.

By the same token we stress that our pages are open to all, members or non-members, who have relevant material to contribute.

As well as a detailed listing of the contents of all numbers from May 1985 to the present issue, we offer members, libraries and other interested bodies the opportunity of purchasing any back issues in which they are interested.

The editors will be grateful for any comment on the content of this issue. For any short comment or minor correction you are welcome to ring one of Pat Clancy on (03) 9889 2414, Jacques de Saint-Ferjeux on (03) 9509 5895 or Colin Thornton-Smith on (03) 9857 9938, but we would prefer to have any substantial suggestions in writing, either by mail to ISFAR (address inside front cover) by fax to J. St-F.: (03) 9509 7457, or P. A. C.: (03) 9889 2414 or by E-mail to one of:

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