

FOREWORD

For the first time, in honour of a special occasion, we are producing two different issues of the same number. The special occasion is the centenary of the foundation in June 1899 of the *Alliance française* of Sydney, to which the whole of this number is devoted, in the present English version for members of ISFAR, then next month in a French version for the Sydney *Alliance*.

For ISFAR itself this number also has a special significance in that it marks a conscious commitment to make *Explorations* an organ of French-Australian studies on an Australia-wide basis.

The creation of this dual number is due entirely to the generous initiative and prestigious scholarship of Emeritus Professor Ivan Barko, who in the course of his professional career has served in the two principal universities of both Melbourne and Sydney, and occupied Chairs in three of them. His article is a truly remarkable illustration both of the wealth of material to be uncovered by a hard slog in libraries and archives, and of the wide-ranging conclusions to be drawn from it. Such a combination of breadth of perspective with scrupulous attention to detail makes it an object lesson in the genre.

On a more mundane level, we are also most grateful to him for having secured the photographed extracts from the *Courrier australien* on pp. 22 and 23, which are from copies made by the Mitchell Library in Sydney

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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