

FOREWORD

Some months ago it was suggested to us that we should publish a BA Final Honours thesis which possibly lay within the field of French-Australian studies. Although this could not be done, we remained receptive to the idea of publishing research, recent or in progress, and it is thus that we offer the seminar paper of Helen Frank, candidate for PhD in the French Section of the Department of French and Italian Studies at the University of Melbourne, the first PhD thesis of which in 1948, less than fifty years ago, was that by Erica Wolff on 'Paul Wenz- French-Australian Novelist'.

As a continuation of what promises to be a series of studies of French consuls in Australia, the article of Ivan Barko relays a timely echo of unrealism when Federation was about to become a reality. As a Melbourne-based body, ISFAR naturally deplors the projected closure of the Melbourne consulate which has so much enlivened the city, and with which we have always enjoyed a cordial relationship. We particularly recall 'The Consul's Treasure' (see the article of Colin Nettelbeck in No. 8, Dec. 1988) and are grateful to the Consul General for France, M. Rollon Mouchel-Blaisot for his input to other issues (see Nos 24: June 1998 and 25: Dec.1998) and for his constant supportive interest in ISFAR. We wish him and Madame Mouchel-Blaisot for the very best.

In view of the centenary of Federation in 2001, Ivan Barko has kindly agreed to describe French responses to Federation. Instead of our usual mid-year issue (to be No. 30) we shall therefore produce this for the New Year.