

## FOREWORD

Thanks to the diligence of the two contributors, Emeritus Professor Kenneth R. Dutton and Dr Edward Duyker, the present number of *Explorations*, originally planned as number 33, has been brought forward and is now appearing as number 32.

This issue illustrates once more the broadening of the scope of material published by *Explorations* and the growing involvement of interstate contributors, especially from New South Wales: although the Victorian roots of ISFAR remain untouched, *Explorations* has become the main national outlet for the publication of work on French-Australian relations.

Apart from two book reviews by Ed Duyker (who has recently been appointed an Honorary Associate in French Studies at the University of Sydney), the entirety of number 32 is devoted to a substantial article by Ken Dutton on Henri Rochefort. (Professor Dutton has just published a major biography of Ian Henning, the second McCaughey Professor of French in the University of Sydney, who held the Chair between 1946 and 1970. The Henning volume will be reviewed in a forthcoming issue of *Explorations*.) In this number Professor Dutton's study deals with Henri Rochefort's and his companions' short but notable visit to Newcastle and Sydney in March and April 1874 after their escape from New Caledonia, where they had been held as political detainees for their participation in the Paris *Commune*. Whilst later in the century Australian public opinion became increasingly impatient of the steady flow of French convict escapees reaching the shores of Queensland and New South Wales, Ken Dutton's study shows that Rochefort and his friends were well received and generously treated by most Australians who came into contact with them. Despite the French Consul's objections and the reservations of some sections of the Conservative press, their status as political refugees was generally accepted by an open-minded and sympathetic public—their story obviously appealed to its collective imagination.

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