

FOREWORD

If there is an overall theme of this number of *Explorations*, it is commemoration. On the one hand, we recognize two important stages in the history of university French teaching in Sydney. The fortieth anniversary of Judith Robinson-Valéry's appointment to the new Chair of French at the University of New South Wales in 1963 was a suitable moment to record both her own distinguished career and the development of a different tradition of training at Kensington. More than a decade earlier the celebration of seventy years of the McCaughey Chair of French at the University of Sydney was an opportunity to reflect, as Angus Martin was about to take over in succession to G. G. Nicholson, Ian Henning, Ross Chambers and Ivan Barko, on the idiosyncrasies and variations of a style first established at the beginning of the twentieth century. In the older institution one cannot forget, of course, that French has been part of the curriculum more or less continuously since the 1850s. *Explorations* will undoubtedly have occasion to return to these matters in future numbers.

On the other hand, the example of Edward Duyker is a reminder that French studies in Australia have never been the exclusive preserve of paid professionals working in schools and universities. The long interaction between the English and French domains has always been part of our cultural, intellectual and even political history. It is our magazine's business to be the chronicler and analyst of this dialogue, as is amply demonstrated in the book reviews that we choose to publish.

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