FOREWORD

The current issue of *Explorations* features two substantial papers by authors from Newcastle and Sydney respectively.

Kenneth R. Dutton's work is well known to readers of *Explorations*. On this occasion his contribution deals with a shipwreck in Newcastle Harbour at the beginning of the twentieth century, and its aftermath. Beyond the intrinsic interest of the event itself, Professor Dutton analyses the nature of the interaction between, on the one hand, the French group, victims of a regrettable accident brought about by a sudden change in the weather, and, on the other, the Newcastle community and the local authorities. The shipwreck of the *Adolphe* sheds new light on the dynamics of the relationship between the two nationalities, in this instance the "saved" and the "savers".

Jennifer Genion, a candidate for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy at the University of Sydney, offers *Explorations'* readers a foretaste of her thesis on aspects of nineteenth-century French fiction set in Australia—a half-real, half-imaginary Australia. Her work has been inspired largely by Pat Clancy's and Colin Thornton-Smith's 1991 bibliographical survey, their *Analytical Checklist of French Fiction and Pseudo-Memoirs set in Colonial Australia* (ISFAR and Australian Centre, University of Melbourne, 1991). In the article we publish here, Genion focuses mainly on early nineteenth-century popular novels and short stories with a moral lesson. These generally feature convicts and Aborigines. The penal-colony experience, the representation of the Australian landscape (or rather the authors' idea of the Australian landscape) and the missionary activity of the Catholic Church in the Pacific provide the backdrop to what Genion calls the "redemption narrative". The travel account is always accompanied by a spiritual journey and the story ends with the moral rebirth and social rehabilitation of the fallen hero.

Because of the length of these two papers, book reviews, of which there is now a considerable backlog, will appear in the next two issues.

I. B.