

FOREWORD

Despite our best hopes, number 40 of *Explorations* is appearing much later than was predicted in June 2006. The convener of the Editorial Committee can blame neither his colleagues nor the magazine's authors. The problem lies in the increasing demands made on his time by Monash University's Centre for the Book and its publishing programme. The inevitable conclusion has been drawn from this lamentable state of affairs: *Explorations* needs a new organizer of its editorial team. The present issue and the three to follow—all to be produced in a period of weeks to catch up the years 2006 and 2007—will be the last to be signed off with the initials W. K. This, then, is a low-key farewell accompanied by much-needed apologies to patient authors, readers and subscribers.

For these last numbers of the regime that is ending the collaboration with Ivan Barko in Sydney has continued, with notable benefits for our audience, let it be added. Some long-planned innovations in presentation and layout will now begin with the first of the issues for 2008. The list of persons responsible for carrying through this project appears inside the front cover of the present number. However, credit must be given to those whose work, duly appreciated by the convener, lies behind the years 2006 and 2007. The future promises a greater emphasis on fully refereed articles of an academic character as well as a continuation of the news and notes that have traditionally been part of the magazine. In this way it is intended to reach out to the younger scholars whose research is leading them to Franco-Australian topics, but who need the recognition brought by publication in rated journals. In the world of the twenty-first century accountability appears to be inescapable. Quality—for which *Explorations* has always striven in its modest way—now has to be measured and to be seen to be measurable.

W. K.