

FOREWORD

With the appearance of *Explorations* n° 46 during the winter of 2009, the journal has returned to its regular publication schedule.

Explorations 46 features an unpublished translation by the late Dennis Davison of a one-act comedy, *En Australie*, by Céleste de Chabrillan. The translation is preceded by an article by Patricia Clancy on the play and its author. Dr Clancy, a distinguished French scholar and translator, has also provided the translation of the songs in the play. The readers of *Explorations* will be aware that she is the author, with Jeanne Allen, of *The French Consul's Wife: Memoirs of Céleste de Chabrillan in Gold-rush Australia* (Melbourne, MUP, 1998). Although *En Australie* is not a major dramatic work—it was mainly created to serve as a vehicle for Chabrillan's vaudeville acting—it represents an interesting contemporary French perspective on gold-rush Australia.

The Melbourne bookseller Anthony Marshall provides a personal perspective on recent Australian publications dealing with cross-cultural (French-Australian) experiences. His contribution contains both a lighthearted survey of books reflecting the fascination of Australians with things French, and an entertaining account of aspects of his twenty year marriage to a Frenchwoman and his interaction with her family.

Explorations n° 46 also features a report on the Australian book collection at the University of Toulouse (*Université de Toulouse Le Mirail*), the biggest collection of its kind in France. Fionnuala Bhreathnach, the Librarian in charge of the *Bibliothèque Études du Monde Anglophone & Sciences du Langage*, not only tells the history of these holdings but also provides an insight into the development of Australian studies in French universities, and the problems the study of Australian literature and civilisation faces in the current institutional climate. Her report foreshadows the growing involvement of French specialists of Australian studies in the work of *Explorations*, one of the channels through which the editorial team hopes to broaden the scope as well as the reach of the journal in the months and years ahead. Amongst other initiatives we also plan to publish a survey of Australian studies in French universities in a forthcoming issue.

Finally, readers of *Explorations* will be interested to know that the digitisation of the journal, and on-line access to back issues, are currently being explored.