

BOOK REVIEWS

Robert Nash (ed.), *The Hidden Thread: Huguenot Families in Australia*, Newtown, NSW, Huguenot Society of Australia Inc. with the assistance of the Royal Australian Historical Society, 2010, 262 p., rrp AU\$ 40, ISBN 978-0-9806-5090-7. Available at www.huguenotsaustralia.org.au.

A brief note in number 42 of *Explorations* (pp. 37–38) drew attention to the creation early this century of the Huguenot Society of Australia and to its newsletter *Huguenot Times*, launched in August 2003. The Society, which has the input of several enthusiastic volunteers, especially in Sydney, has now gone a step further and produced a substantial volume on the Huguenot presence in Australia from 1788. Like *Huguenot Times* this is edited by Robert Nash, the Society's seemingly tireless Secretary.

The main thrust of the volume is genealogical. This is about the Huguenot descendants and families who started arriving in Australia from the time of the First Fleet. Its core (pp. 104–201) is therefore a 'Table of Families', carefully vetted for authentic French Protestant origins. As a separate section, 'A Question of Identity' (pp. 240–244), makes it clear that determining Huguenot descent requires a level of documentation many families no longer possess, after several generations in Australia. The archival and printed sources used in compiling and annotating the table are set out in detail (pp. 104–110) and referred to throughout in abbreviated form. In addition a list of 'Suggested Reading' (pp. 245–248) offers users the opportunity of extending their studies in an area that is now much cultivated in English, not to mention French and other languages. The preface virtually promises 'future editions' (p. 6), and it is obvious that a work of this kind is never complete. The temptation may well be to do the updating online, but this reader at least is grateful to have the information in hard copy. Although this is a provisional account, it is much more than a beginning and gives us a lot of solid data on which to build. If it reaches its intended audience it should encourage others to provide the wherewithal to expand the number of entries.

Alongside the central element of the book are several studies by a variety of authors on families and individuals of note. Thus we have Robert Nash himself on 'Jacob Bellett of Tasmania' (pp. 53–59) and 'Augustine Soubeiran 1858–1933' (pp. 223–228), then, in collaboration with Robert Lefroy, on 'A Brief History of the Lefroy Family of Western Australia' (pp. 93–103). Judith Staveley treats 'The Barniers of Dauphiné, Dublin and New South Wales' (pp.

60–66) and Beverley Carter writes about ‘The Lansell Family of Flanders, East Kent, and Bendigo’ (pp. 67–75), while Claire Wagner evokes ‘Jonquay to Junkaway in Frontier Queensland’ (pp. 76–83). The range of Australian colonies and States is extended again in Helen Ferber’s ‘From Spitalfields to South Australia—the History of the Ferry Family’ (pp. 84–92) and in Julia La Nauze Griffith’s ‘John La Nauze, the Historian of Federation, and the La Nauze family of Western Australia’ (pp. 209–222). Outside the family circle, so to speak, Dianne Reilly provides a summary of her longtime research in ‘Charles Joseph La Trobe, Superintendent of Port Phillip, 1839–1850, and First Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, 1851–1854’ (pp. 202–208). Two general sections at the beginning situate the Huguenots and their history—‘Introduction’ (pp. 9–14) and ‘The Huguenots—A People Apart’ (pp. 15–23)—as well as setting out the main lines of the Australian connection—‘Coming to Australia’ (pp. 24–32) and ‘The New Land’ (pp. 33–52). At the end Roger Juchau and Robert Nash, in ‘Eminent Australian Huguenots from the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*’ (pp. 229–239), summarise entries for people not dealt with in detail in earlier chapters. The maps of *ancien régime* provinces and of the places of origin of Australian Huguenot families (pp. 200–201) are a useful accompaniment. How many historical works produced in this country neglect to give their readers indispensable maps and plans?

In a book of this kind there is often a tension between celebration and information or analysis. Perhaps inevitably it is present here. There were sharp contrasts between convicts, victims of the decline of the silk trade in Spitalfields, and members of the official, landowning and merchant groups who came to Australia in the nineteenth century. That the former could be part of a notable success story on the other side of the world is consistent with many, but by no means all, colonial trajectories. In the last century, of course, people from the British Isles have been joined by Huguenot descendants from South Africa, Sri Lanka, The Netherlands and Germany. This diversity is well reflected in the volume, which is a genuine contribution to the study of multicultural Australia. In this case our country was a secondary destination, but it is salutary to remember that the late seventeenth-century and eighteenth-century Refuge in Europe was built amongst other things on documentable people-smuggling, as one can discover in the correspondence of Antoine Court (1695–1760). It behoves us to be cautious in denunciations of the behaviour of refugees... The undeniably distinguished contribution of Australians of French

Protestant heritage to all aspects of our achievements is one more argument in favour of receiving the persecuted charitably.

Robert Nash's preface (p. 6) welcomes corrections of errors. It would be tedious to set them out here, since they are essentially literals and examples of inconsistency in placing accents in French words. Perhaps a practising and professional *francisant* could be persuaded to run his or her eye over the next edition of a text that deserves to have a continuing life.

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Christine Béal, *Les interactions quotidiennes en français et en anglais : de l'approche comparative à l'analyse des situations interculturelles*, Bern, New York, Peter Lang, Linguistic Insights: Studies in Language and Communication, vol. 99, French language, June 2010, 424 p., rrp PB £ 54.50, e-book £ 54.50, ISBN 978-3-03430-027-8 (paperback), ISBN 978-3-03510-000-6 (e-book).

Readers like myself, who have been following Christine Béal's work since the 1990s, will be very pleased to see this book finally in print. Readers who are new to Béal's work will be equally pleased with this discovery. *Les interactions quotidiennes en français et en anglais* is essentially a synthesis of Béal's earlier research carried out in a French company in Melbourne, expanded and updated with more recent examples taken from several different corpora including conversations recorded in the home, anecdotes, and interviews with French and Australian participants.

I must first disclose my connection with the author and this publication. When I first encountered Béal's research over a decade ago, her work resonated loudly with me. As a non-native speaker of French interested in intercultural communication, I found Béal's research fascinating; not only did it answer many questions for me, but it raised some new ones, and set me on the path of my own research. Discovering Béal's work not only influenced my own area of interest but ultimately led to collaboration. Of particular relevance to this publication are the data collections undertaken in Melbourne in 2000 (corpus Mullan) and 2003 (corpus Béal/Mullan), from which several examples of interaction are quoted and analysed.

As the title suggests, the book uses a comparative approach to analyse authentic examples of daily interactions in French and English, exploring the relationship between ways of speaking, context and cultural norms—or what Béal refers to as ‘communicative ethos’ (p. 14). The book highlights the cultural values behind certain aspects of the interactional styles of French and English speakers, and examines the ensuing intercultural misunderstandings. While this is an academic publication aimed principally at teachers and advanced students of English and French, and linguists interested in interaction and intercultural communication, it also offers French and English speakers a tool kit for dealing with each other.

The book consists of five main chapters: the methodological framework of the research; three analysis chapters dealing with turn-taking, rituals and routines, comparison of directive speech acts (such as giving instructions); and a description of French and English communicative values. The analysis chapters all contain examples of interactions in French, followed by interactions in English, then an analysis of intercultural misunderstandings (supported by post-interviews with the participants of the interactions).

One of the many areas addressed in the book is turn-taking. Béal suggests that, while largely universal, minor differences in turn-taking norms, such as acceptable length of pauses between turns or what constitutes an interruption, are sufficient to cause misunderstandings and feelings of resentment in conversations between French and English speakers. Typical French interactional strategies intended to display like-mindedness or to offer assistance, such as speaking simultaneously and adding to or finishing the interlocutor’s turn, are misinterpreted by English speakers as aggressive interruptions and an attempt to take the floor. The English speakers interviewed reported feeling rushed or interrupted by their French interlocutors, while the French speakers complained of a lack of *engagement* (‘commitment’ or ‘involvement’) in the conversation on the part of their Australian interlocutor.

This is an extremely thorough book; all claims are meticulously explained and argued for, and supported by the qualitative analysis of relevant authentic extracts from several corpora. The level of detail and explanation of certain linguistic concepts is at times more suited to the undergraduate linguistics student. However, non-specialists and non-native speakers of French will also find this book very readable and accessible, and the summaries in English at the beginning of each chapter are a welcome innovation. While some

non-specialist readers may find some of the theoretical explanations rather technical, they will find the authentic examples of interaction very interesting and revealing. This enlightening and methodical book admirably achieves its aim of providing French and English speakers with a tool kit for dealing with each other, and is indeed a useful reference point for anyone embarking on what Béal calls 'the adventure of interculturality' (p. 16).

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A longer version of this review appeared originally in the LINGUIST List at <http://linguistlist.org/issues/22/22-2914.html>.

BOOK NOTE

Jean-François Vernay, *The Great Australian Novel — A Panorama (Panorama du roman australien des origines à nos jours)*, translated by Marie Ramsland, Melbourne, Brolga Publishing Pty Ltd, December 2010, 288 p., rrp AU\$ 24.99, ISBN 978-1-9215-9639-1.

According to the author, the original version of this enterprising book was written ‘to inform the French reader of a literature that was still relatively unknown despite the efforts of a few publishing houses in France.’ Until its publication there had been nothing available in French for the general public and students wishing to learn about Australian writers and their novels. Both the cinematic layout and the conversational style of the book make it an accessible introduction to Australian literature.

The English version of the book could be a useful tool for teachers of Australian literature as well as for the general reader. Translator Marie Ramsland has updated the text and faithfully conveys the author’s passion and enthusiasm for Australian literature. One may not always agree with some of Vernay’s critical summations but, at the very least, they should lead to lively discussion and a desire to know more. As a bonus the book ends with a chronological list of important Australian literary events, a list of birth dates of most Australian authors, a useful bibliography and some internet sites.

Maurice Blackman’s detailed review of *Panorama du roman australien des origines à nos jours* may be read in *Explorations* 47.

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