

FOREWORD

The current issue of *Explorations* is the first to be ‘perfect bound’, a binding that removes the previous 64-page length restriction. The editorial team is confident that this long-awaited innovation will facilitate the future growth of the journal.

Readers will be pleased to know that, in recognition of her substantial contribution to *Explorations*, Elaine Lewis has been appointed a co-editor of the journal, joining Ivan Barko and Jana Verhoeven. She remains Book Review Editor.

Explorations 52 features a substantial scholarly article by Nicole Starbuck of the University of Adelaide, discussing the scientific achievements of the Baudin expedition during its long stay at Port Jackson in 1802.

Another historical item is the text of a talk by Edward Duyker on French explorers in Tasmania, with some light-hearted speculation on what a French Tasmania would have looked like.

In the ‘Notes and Documents’ section we have two contributions on the study of French literature in Australian universities. Colin Nettelbeck examines the pattern of teaching and research in contemporary French literature in Australian universities, detailing in the process a number of serious concerns about the overall development of French studies. In a happier register, Richard Gunter, a former student of the University of Melbourne and now a London resident, recounts his reminiscences of the French Department between 1945 and 1948 under A.R. Chisholm. Readers will be impressed with the range of reading expected of students in those days and the contribution of the University French Club and the Alliance Française to their learning experience.

A note by Brian Nelson, editor of the *Australian Journal of French Studies*, on the recent agreement between *AJFS* and Liverpool University Press in the UK, provides readers with interesting information on the future of our sister publication.

We also have a note by Elaine Lewis on the State Library of Victoria’s acquisition of a collection of books previously owned by the poet and thinker Paul Valéry and purchased by the Library from the estate of the late Judith Robinson-Valéry, the Australian widow of Valéry’s son Claude.

The issue concludes with book reviews and the valuable French-Australian Bibliographical Notes.