

FOREWORD

Because of a change of printer, the present number of *Explorations* is appearing a few weeks later than was originally announced. Such accidents are, alas, normal for small journals, but they do not remove the obligation to apologize to our readers for the delay.

The approaching celebration/commemoration of two centuries of European settlement on the Australian continent is by no means neglecting the French presence. *Explorations* will undoubtedly have a part in publishing the fruits of research on this topic, but it is too soon for us to depart from our modest policy of offering relevant documents rather than elaborate syntheses. We hope that the two pieces of book trade ephemera reproduced here in facsimile will be seen as an appropriate accompaniment to the ambitious study entitled *Baudin in Australian Waters* edited by Jacqueline Bonnemains, Elliott Forsyth and Bernard Smith for Oxford University Press in association with the Australian Academy of the Humanities. At all events these texts are a reminder that we can never be sure that all records, even printed ones, were garnered in the course of highly sophisticated and painstaking investigations. The role of serendipity is thus manifest.

W.K.

Jean Rosemberg

At the moment of going to press we mourn the loss of one of our founder members and of a major contributor to the telling of the story of the French presence in Australia. It is our hope and wish that a future number of *Explorations* will contain an ample account of the life and work of a courageous man who was himself an important part of France's influence and cultural action in the Antipodes for more than three decades. We had expected that in due course our little journal would have had the privilege of publishing extracts from the M.A. thesis Jean Rosemberg completed in 1985 at Monash University. However, in the midst of a laborious semi-retirement from bookselling if not from publishing, the writing of *The French in Australia* for a developing series of histories of ethnic communities took precedence and was to consume the energies of its author's last heroic months. A way will be found to bring our readers and Jean Rosemberg's fellow explorers some of the fruits of his more specialized research. In the meantime we salute his achievement and extend all our sympathy to his widow and to his daughters.