



Foreword

The current issue features three refereed articles covering both historical and contemporary topics.

Thierry Vincent's study explores the fortunes of Aboriginal objects collected by Eugène Delessert during his travels in the South Pacific in the middle of the nineteenth century. They were acquired by the Museum of Natural History in Le Havre, an institution with numerous links to Australia.

Margaret Barrett, whose research focuses on the Free French during World War II, devotes a biographical essay to Charles Lancial, French Consul in Melbourne, loyal to Marshall Pétain's Vichy government, who was transferred to Sydney in an acting capacity when Consul-General Jean Trémoulet, also a champion of the Vichy French State, was expelled from Australia. The author, making use of hitherto unknown sources, demonstrates that both Lancial's motivation and his behaviour were more complex than was thought.

The major piece in this issue is Marilyne Brun's substantial review of the state of Australian studies in French universities. The article analyses both the present situation and the history of courses and research on Australian literature and culture in France since the final decades of the twentieth century, and, as a bonus, it provides valuable insight into the staffing structures and administrative procedures of French universities.

The issue also contains two obituaries, one of Keith Goesch, foundation Professor of French at Macquarie University, and the other of Philippe Beussant, a former French lecturer at Flinders University in Adelaide, who rose to become a member of the Académie française. These are followed by reviews of a Melbourne exhibition of a collection of Napoleonic objects and of a new Australian translation of Jules Verne's *Mikhail Strogoff* and *The French Australian Review's* traditional French-Australian Bibliography.

This issue is the first edited by our journal's new editorial team, enlarged by the appointments of Jane Gilmour and Phoebe Weston-Evans, and the last in which I will be actively involved. I have been co-editor of *Explorations* and subsequently *The French Australian Review* since 2008, first with Jana Verhoeven and then with Elaine Lewis and Henry Méra. Knowing that, together with the new appointees, Elaine Lewis will continue to participate in and watch over the destinies of the journal, I have no doubt that it is left in the best possible hands.

I. B.

