

FOREWORD

The present number of *Explorations* is disgracefully late, and the Editor offers his apologies to subscribers and to members of ISFAR. Production of *Explorations* is linked to the resources made available to the *Australian Journal of French Studies*, which means that it depends on there being some relief from the pressures of normal work for the secretarial staff of the Monash University Department of Romance Languages and for the Editor himself. Unfortunately 1989 proved to be an exceptionally busy and difficult year for a series of reasons it would be boring to set out in detail. *AJFS* is badly behind, and *Explorations* has suffered similar delays. We shall try to do better in future.

For the Institute and indeed for everyone in Australia concerned with things French, 1989 was the year of the Bicentenary of the Revolution. In view of local sulkiness about France, and especially about nuclear tests, in recent decades, it was amazing to see the impact of the 14 July celebrations all over the country. At some future time it may be appropriate to review all the relevant events in some detail and to study in addition what happened here in 1889.

Many members of the Institute will have been able to attend the splendid launching of the exhibition held in the Queen's Hall of the State Library of Victoria. For those who missed that occasion and did not obtain a copy of the catalogue, we reprint the essential pages of the latter in a reduced form. To them we add the catalogue of a much more modest exhibition held at Monash University. At the same time we should like to draw attention to the fine exhibition held at the Baillieu Library of the University of Melbourne. Margaret Murphy's "Liberty or Death! Voices from a Stormy Decade. The French Revolution 1789-1799" showed just how strong the Baillieu collections are in Revolutionary history. It would be good to think that we could—even in these hard times—go on acquiring primary sources.

The Editor owes to the expert eye of Bill Murray a correction in the press section of "Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité". Item n° 24 is A.-F. Lemaire's imitation of Hébert, and the reference should be to n^{os} 1031 and 1035 of Martin & Walter V.

W.K.