

Forthcoming numbers of *Explorations* for the calendar year 2004 will include *inter alia*: a personal tribute to Professor Judith Robinson-Valéry by Alastair Hurst, originally prepared to coincide with the fortieth anniversary of the foundation of the Chair of French at the University of New South Wales in 1963, and a discussion by Wallace Kirsop of the problems involved in producing a comprehensive biographical study of Francis de Castelnau, Consul-General for France in Melbourne in the 1860s and 1870s. There will be, of course, the usual complement of reviews of the now quite numerous books devoted to the French–Australian connection. Readers will note that our scope extends clearly and deliberately to the whole of Australia. Prospective writers should take this as an invitation to submit material on any State for consideration by the Editorial Committee.

W. K.

FOREWORD

On the joint initiative of the French Consul-General, Mr Marc Finaud, whose distinguished term in Australia has just concluded, and the State Librarian of New South Wales, Ms Dagmar Schmidmaier, an exhibition on French settlers in New South Wales opened at the State Library in Sydney on 7 June 2004.¹ It will close on Sunday 10 October.

Under the title *Vive la différence! The French in NSW*, this exhibition has brought together items with a French content from the Library's own rich multicultural collection as well as exhibits lent by local French-Australian families and the French Consulate-General. One such item is the first page of the Consulate's Register of Births, Marriages and Deaths, featuring the first birth recorded by any foreign consulate in Australia, the birth of Jules Joubert's daughter Louise in 1843. Hunters Hill, the "French Village", is strongly represented in the exhibition, with, among other items, a seldom seen photograph of the elder and less flamboyant Joubert brother, Didier.

Less well known but highly significant French personalities featured in the exhibition include Francis Rossi, Superintendent of the NSW Police Force in the 1820s and early 1830s, Eugène Nicolle, an inventor of refrigerating and ice-making machines, and jeweller and clockmaker Hippolyte Delarue. The contribution of French pioneers to rural New South Wales is illustrated through the rich material made available by the Reymonds of Forbes, whilst the photographic and other records donated to the Library by the Playoust family highlight the contribution of the wool-buying community to French-Australian commercial relations, to the life of the local French colony, and not least to the common cause the French Poilus and the Australian Diggers fought for in the First World War.

The exhibition also includes photographs showing the celebration of French National Day in Australia. Several Sydney French restaurants of bygone days are represented in the exhibition, one of the most culturally significant being Paris House in Phillip Street, a renowned eating place from the 1890s to the 1920s, run by the Liévain family.

Various aspects of French-Australian relations in the twentieth century, including the two World Wars, have been featured, as well as

¹ See the Guide published by the State Library of New South Wales, *Vive la différence! The French in NSW in the Picture Gallery*, Sydney, State Library of New South Wales, 2004.

France's contribution to Australian lifestyles through its culture, luxury products, food, fashions and technological achievements.

The current issue of *Explorations* has been put together to mark the exhibition on the French in New South Wales. It features a major article by Valerie Lhuedé on Francis Barrallier, a protégé of Governor Philip King and more importantly a man of many talents, whose three years in the Colony were extraordinarily productive. The author is the grand-daughter of a Breton sailor and an architect by profession. She part-owns and has a passionate interest in the old silver-mining village of Yerranderie in the area of the Blue Mountains first explored by Barrallier.

Another article deals with the little-known story of the young Louis d'Orléans's visit and death in Sydney in 1866. The prince, aged twenty, was almost certainly the first royal visitor to Australia; he was the last prince of the house of Condé.

The number concludes with an obituary for Frank Horner and two book reviews by Edward Duyker.

I. B.

The illustrations between pp. 20 and 21 are reproduced by courtesy of the Mitchell Library, State Library of New South Wales.