

EDITORIAL

This year the Arts Association has staged two inaugural lectures. The first, on the Welfare State, was given by Professor Bettina Cass, Dean of Arts and Professor of Social Work and Social Policy. The second, on the relations between religion, politics and the academy, was given by Professor Garry Trompf, who holds a personal chair in the History of Ideas. Taken together, the two lectures approach the human condition from near opposite directions. Both attracted large audiences and considerable public interest. They are printed in this volume. There is also an essay on the past condition and the future direction of the Department of History. (This must call into question a remark by one of Sydney's most popular graduates, Dr Clive James, in *A Dreaming Swimmer*: 'A broad school of Australian writing has based itself on the assumption that Australia not only has a history worth bothering about, but that all the history worth bothering about happened in Australia'.) A companion essay cultivates the garden of the Department of French Studies. These follow earlier critical examinations of the teaching of English at Sydney, and of disillusion with History. Another contribution this year turns to Shakespeare, in the last of a major series of reflections on literary criticism. An end of year reception hosted by the Association held as centrepiece an address by Ros Pesman, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the College of the Arts and Humanities, on the future of the humanities.

In these wide ranging lectures and essays and through a social occasion, the Arts Association has pursued its active commitment to the Faculty and to its graduates. For 2000 we plan more inaugurals, more critical surveys of disciplines in the Humanities, and further social meetings. As always, new members, and old members renewing, are welcome. (Contact Dr Michael Nelson,

Department of Germanic Studies, tel. 9351 3313.)

We note with deep regret the death this year of Professor Wesley Milgate, sometime Challis Professor of English Literature. His fine scholarship, and his kindness and warmth towards colleagues and students, are widely remembered.

We thank the Pro-Vice Chancellor and the Research Institute for the Humanities and Social Sciences for administrative and financial support.

GLL