

## Editorial

This year, the Journal takes on a very Australian feel whilst maintaining its international focus. The submissions for this edition come from institutions across Australia and engage with a wide range of subjects. Our articles this year look at Australian foreign policy, ASIO surveillance, the privatisation of government enterprises, and the role of national identity during the American Civil War. A key theme in this issue seems to be the need to look inward and understand current and past events in Australia as we consider the way Australia interacts with the world.

Our forum piece is a reflection of this theme. Bodie A. Ashton considers the ongoing issue of public versus academic history right here in Australia, encouraging us to think a little differently about the debate.

The articles published this year look at a variety of topics. Malcolm Abbott examines the process of privatising government-owned enterprises through the state-based example of New South Wales. Also taking a look inside Australia is Anna Kovac. Her world grounds us firmly here at Flinders University as she examines ASIO's surveillance of Brian Medlin, the Foundation Professor of Philosophy at Flinders. Honae H. Cuffe examines Australia's foreign and defence policies of the interwar period, highlighting Australia's growing independence and concern with its own region at this critical point in history. Lastly, Brodie Alyce Nugent takes us away

from Australia to look at the influence of identity on Irish Americans during the American Civil War.

Finally, our review for this issue is from Tets Kimura, who examines the Julie-Robinson-edited work *The World of Mortimer Menpes*, showcasing the Adelaide-born artist and his Japanese-inspired work. This book accompanied an exhibition that took place at the Art Gallery of South Australia between June and September 2014.

*The Flinders Journal of History and Politics* continues to bring together a diverse range of works from both aspiring and established academics.