

## Editor's Note

Marc Serge Rivière

Welcome to this issue of the *Journal of Mauritian Studies* online. It aims at exploring the past and present connections between Mauritius and its region, with special emphasis on demographic, socio-economic and cultural exchanges. One article analyses meticulously the importance of hired labour, notably sewing machinists and bricklayers, to the economic development of the island from the 1970s onwards.

Mauritius was a privileged stepping stone in the search for *Terra Australis* or New Holland and in the settlement of Australia. Explorers, cartographers, botanists, and adventurers connected the two lands, such as the unfortunate Matthew Flinders. British Mauritius contributed to the peopling of the continent-island, where the migrants brought their language, culture and sugar cane. In fact, a significant stream of student-migration is still active while commodities and cultural artefacts travel between the two settler societies. In the Indian Ocean, Mauritius has a considerable geo-political status, but it also relies on incoming labour for further development. This issue of *JMS* will hopefully have raised as many questions as it has attempted to answer in an analysis of links and counterpoints between Mauritius and its region that range from the 1770s to the present day.

Historical links between Mauritius and Australia are explored through two articles on Matthew Flinders and monuments to this great navigator imprisoned in Isle de France from 1803 to 1810, and monuments erected to Flinders and Lapérouse in Mauritius and Australia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. 2014 was a very important year for scholars who study the career of Matthew Flinders as it marked the bi-centenary of the publication of *A Voyage to Terra Australis*, with the first detailed map of the Australian East and South Coast (London: Nicol, 1814). We have tried to pay homage to this ground-breaking work in this issue.

### Articles

In a meticulously researched and insightful article, **Sewing machinists and bricklayers abroad: Migrant Labour and development in Mauritius**, Dr. David Lincoln explores recent trends of migration and development in Mauritius. The first part deals with conceptions of the migration and development relationship; the second part introduces current patterns of migration into and out of Mauritius; the third examines labour migration to Mauritius, and the final part offers some conceptual and policy-related generalisations arising from the study of the migration-development relationship in Mauritius. Concentrating on contractual labour migration in the period 2005 to 2013, when the majority of migrants to Mauritius were employed as clothing and textile factory workers and

the next largest group worked on construction sites, the study relies primarily on official statistics and media reports for its empirical content, although it also draws on published and organisational sources.

Professor Emerita Margaret Sankey's **Flinders imprisonment on Mauritius: "What mixed sensations will the remembrance of the Isle of France excite?"** gives a detailed and meticulously researched narrative of Matthew Flinders' imprisonment in Isle de France from December 1803, when he landed at Baie du Cap in the leaking *Cumberland*, until he was released in 1810. The article relies justifiably on the personal diary which Flinders kept on the Ile de France; it remains a valuable record of how he spent his time there. Flinders usually begins his entries by describing the weather and listing shipping movements and then lists his correspondence. He also notes the progress of his work on his charts, logbooks and other projects, as well as British military activity on the island. Likewise, Flinders documents his meetings and social engagements with an increasing number of French-speaking acquaintances.

Professor Emeritus Marc Serge Rivière's **'Our Business was discovery': Matthew Flinders' and Hyacinthe de Bougainville's Monuments to Lapérouse in Mauritius and at Botany Bay, New South Wales, Australia**, explores the links and connections between Mauritius and Australia by way of monuments still standing, erected in both countries to two celebrated navigators, the tragic figure of Lapérouse and his devoted disciples, including Flinders. We seek here to highlight the 'camaraderie' between navigators and the reasons for Flinders' respect for Lapérouse: his passion for discovery, his 'honest ambition', his quest for glory, his professionalism, his humanism and his promise cut short by death. Hyacinthe de Bougainville's motivation tribute for erecting a lasting monument to Laperouse is summed up in the Baron's statements in his manuscript notebooks referred to: he felt that any nation had a duty to honour its 'great men', a philosophy very much in keeping with the authorities' decision to erect a Panthéon in Paris to honour the great men of the Revolution in 1791, when the inscription "*Aux grands hommes la patrie reconnaissante*" was carved above its portals.

**Book Review:** Amenah Jahangeer-Chojoo's thoughtful and balanced analysis of *Settled Strangers. Asian Business Elites in East Africa (1800-2000)* by Gijbert Oonk, published by Sage, 2013, beautifully complements the above articles by adding to the theoretical dimension on migration and Diasporas.