

## A HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND LITERATURE

A History of New Zealand Literature traces the genealogy of New Zealand literature from its first imaginings by colonial Europeans to the development of a national canon in the twentieth century. Beginning with a comprehensive introduction that charts the growth of a national literary tradition, this History includes extensive essays that illuminate the cultural and political intricacies of New Zealand literature. Organized thematically, these essays survey the multilayered verse, fiction, and drama of such diverse writers as Katherine Mansfield, Allen Curnow, Frank Sargeson, Janet Frame, Keri Hulme, Witi Ihimaera, and Patricia Grace. Written by a host of leading scholars, this History devotes special attention to the lasting significance of colonialism, the Māori Renaissance, and multiculturalism in New Zealand literature. This book is of pivotal importance to the development of New Zealand writing and will serve as an invaluable reference for specialists and students alike.

MARK WILLIAMS is Professor of English at Victoria University in Wellington, New Zealand. He is the author of *Leaving the Highway: Six Contemporary New Zealand Novelists, Patrick White*, and with Jane Stafford, *Maoriland: New Zealand Literature* 1872–1914. Williams has also coedited *The Auckland University Press Anthology of New Zealand Literature* with Jane Stafford.





# A HISTORY OF NEW ZEALAND LITERATURE

MARK WILLIAMS

Victoria University of Wellington





## **CAMBRIDGE**UNIVERSITY PRESS

32 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10013-2473, USA

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.

It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of education, learning, and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781107085350

© Mark Williams 2016

This publication is in copyright. Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press.

First published 2016

Printed in the United States of America

A catalog record for this publication is available from the British Library.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
Names: Williams, Mark, 1951– editor.

Title: A history of New Zealand literature / edited by Mark Williams.
Description: New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016. |
Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2015039862 | ISBN 9781107085350 (hardback)
Subjects: LCSH: New Zealand literature—History and criticism. |
New Zealand—In literature. | BISAC: LITERARY CRITICISM /
European / English, Irish, Scottish, Welsh.
Classification: LCC PR9624.6.H57 2016 | DDC 820.9—dc23
LC record available at http://lccn.loc.gov/2015039862

ISBN 978-1-107-08535-0 Hardback

Cambridge University Press has no responsibility for the persistence or accuracy of URLs for external or third-party Internet Web sites referred to in this publication and does not guarantee that any content on such Web sites is, or will remain, accurate or appropriate.



## Contents

Notes on Contributors		page 1x
Acknowledgments		XV
	Introduction Mark Williams	I
	PART I 1760-1920	
I.	A World of Waters: Imagining, Voyaging, Entanglement <i>Ingrid Horrocks</i>	17
2.	Early Māori Literature: The Writing of Hakaraia Kiharoa <i>Arini Loader</i>	31
3.	Samuel Butler's Influence Simon During	44
4.	Maoriland Reservations  Jane Stafford	56
5.	Katherine Mansfield: Colonial Modernist  Bridget Orr	71
	PART II 1920-1950	
6.	Colonial Ecologies: Guthrie-Smith's <i>Tutira</i> and Writing in the Settled Environment <i>Philip Steer</i>	85
7.	Defiance and Melodrama: Fiction in the Period of National 'Invention', 1920–1950  Alex Calder	98

v



vi	Contents	
8.	Journalism and High Culture: Robin Hyde among the Cultural Nationalists Nikki Hessell	II2
9.	'Simply by Sailing in a New Direction': The Poetics of Distance Stuart Murray	125
IO.	'Rough Architects': New Zealand Literature and Its Institutions from <i>Phoenix</i> to <i>Landfall</i> <i>Christopher Hilliard</i>	138
	PART III 1950-1972	
II.	Against the Social Pattern: New Zealand Fiction, 1950–1970 <i>Timothy Jones</i>	153
12.	Janet Frame: Myths of Authorship, 1950–1990 Marc Delrez	167
13.	Te Ao Hou: Te Pataka Alice Te Punga Somerville	182
14.	Out of the Drawing Room and onto the Beach: Drama, 1950–1970 <i>Mark Houlahan</i>	195
15.	'Physician of Society': The Poet in the 1950s and 1960s Alan Riach	208
	PART IV 1972-1990	
16.	From Hiruharama to Hataitai: The Domestication of New Zealand Poetry, 1972–1990 <i>Harry Ricketts and Mark Williams</i>	227
17.	The Novel, the Short Story, and the Rise of a New Reading Public, 1972–1990 <i>Lydia Wevers</i>	246
18.	'DBed and chocolate wheaten beaten': Drama Defining the Nation, 1972–1990 David O'Donnell	262
19.	The Māori Renaissance from 1972  Melissa Kennedy	277



	Contents	vii
	PART V 1990-2014	
20.	'While History Happens Elsewhere': Fiction and Political Quietism, 1990–2014 Dougal McNeill	291
21.	Anecdote in Post-1990 New Zealand Poetry Anna Smaill	311
22.	From Exploring Identity to Facing the World: Drama Since 1990 Stuart Young	330
23.	From Meadow to Paddock: Children's and Young Adult Literature Anna Jackson	347
24.	'Nafanua and the New World': Pasifika's Writing of Niu Zealand <i>Selina Tusitala Marsh</i>	359
25.	New Zealand Literature in the Program Era, or, the Spirit of Nationalism Past <i>Hugh Roberts</i>	374
Index		389





### Notes on Contributors

- ALEX CALDER is an Associate Professor and Head of English, Drama, and Writing Studies at the University of Auckland. His research focuses on processes of cultural contact and settlement, particularly with regard to writings from New Zealand and the United States. His most recent book is *The Settler's Plot: How Stories Take Place in New Zealand* (2011).
- MARC DELREZ is Professor of English at the University of Liège. His most recent editorial endeavour was the publication, in collaboration with Gordon Collier, Anne Fuchs, and Bénédicte Ledent, of a two-volume collection of essays in honour of Geoffrey V. Davis, entitled *Engaging with Literature of Commitment* (2012). His *Manifold Utopia: The Novels of Janet Frame* (2002) was also published in Rodopi's Cross/Cultures series. His next volume of criticism on Frame's work is now forthcoming from Kakapo Press.
- SIMON DURING, formerly Professor at Melbourne University and Johns Hopkins University, is a Research Professor at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Queensland. His books include Foucault and Literature (1991), Patrick White (1994), Modern Enchantments: The Cultural Power of Secular Magic (2002), Exit Capitalism: Literary Culture, Theory and Post-Secular Modernity (2009), and Against Democracy: Literary Experience in the Era of Emancipations (2012). He has also published articles on New Zealand literature.
- NIKKI HESSELL, Senior Lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington, is the author of *Literary Authors, Parliamentary Reporters: Johnson, Coleridge, Hazlitt, Dickens* (2012) and 'Riding the Rails with Robin Hyde: Literary Journalism in 1930s New Zealand', in John S. Bak and Bill Reynolds, eds., *Literary Journalism across the Globe: Journalistic Traditions and Transnational Influences* (2011). She has published widely on the relationship between literature and journalism.



x

Cambridge University Press 978-1-107-08535-0 - A History of New Zealand Literature Mark Williams Frontmatter More information

#### Notes on Contributors

of Sydney. His research has focused on literature and literary criticism in popular intellectual life, especially in Britain. He has also written on New Zealand history, especially on the place of literature, historical writing, and ethnography in colonial culture. Among his publications are English as a Vocation: The Scrutiny Movement (2012); The Bookmen's Dominion: Cultural Life in New Zealand 1920–1950 (2006); and To Exercise Our Talents: The Democratization of Writing in Britain (2006).

INGRID HORROCKS has a PhD from Princeton University, and now teaches English and Creative Writing at Massey University, Wellington. Her articles have appeared in *Studies in the Novel, Studies in Romanticism, ELH, Women's Writing,* and *Studies in Travel Writing.* She is also a poet and travel writer, and is the author of *Travelling with Augusta, 1835 and 1999* (2003) and the editor of the Broadview Press edition of Mary Wollstonecraft's *Letters Written during a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark* (2013).

MARK HOULAHAN is Senior Lecturer in the English programme at the University of Waikato and current President of the Australia and New Zealand Shakespeare Association. He has coedited *Twelfth Night* (with David Carnegie) for the Broadview Internet Shakespeare series (2014), and online for the Internet Shakespeare (ise.uvic.ca); and, with R. S. White and Katrina O'Loughlin, *Shakespeare and Emotions: Histories, Enactments, Legacies* (2015). He has been preoccupied by New Zealand drama since seeing his first New Zealand play, the musical *Mister King Hongi* at Auckland's Mercury Theatre in 1974.

ANNA JACKSON is a poet who lectures in English at Victoria University of Wellington. Her scholarly books include *Diary Poetics: Form and Style in Writers' Diaries 1915–1962* (2010) and *British Juvenile Fiction 1850–1950: The Age of Adolescence*, coauthored with Charles Ferrall (2009). Her books of poetry include *The Gas Leak* (2006), *Catullus for Children* (2003), and *The Pastoral Kitchen* (2001).

TIMOTHY JONES teaches in the English programme at Victoria University of Wellington. He has published *The Gothic and the Carnivalesque in American Culture* (2015), and he is coeditor of the *Journal of New Zealand Literature*.

MELISSA KENNEDY lectures in English Literature, Culture, and Media Studies at the University of Vienna. She is the author of *Striding Both* 



#### Notes on Contributors

xi and

Worlds: Witi Ihimaera and New Zealand's Literary Tradition (2011), and articles in the Journal of Postcolonial Writing and the Journal of New Zealand Literature. She is currently preparing a habilitation and monograph on 'postcolonial economics'.

- ARINI LOADER is a lecturer in the History Programme at Victoria University of Wellington of Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Whakaue, and Te Whānau-a-Apanui descent. Her research is centred on nineteenth-century Māori writing. She is also known to suffer occasional bouts of cacoethes scribendi.
- SELINA TUSITALA MARSH teaches in the English Department at the University of Auckland and is a poet as well as a scholar. Her PhD thesis, 'Ancient Banyans, Flying Foxes and White Ginger: Five Pacific Women Writers', appeared in 2004. *Led By Line: Twelve First Wave Pacific Women Poets*, a book creating intergenerational, pan-Pacific conversations, is forthcoming from the University of Hawaii Press. Selina won the 'Literary Death Match' between Australia and New Zealand at King's College in London in 2015.
- DOUGAL MCNEILL teaches in the English programme, Victoria University of Wellington and is the New Zealand/Pacific contributor for the *Year's Work in English Studies*. He is the author, with Charles Ferrall, of *Writing the 1926 General Strike: Literature, Culture, Politics* (2015) and *Forecasts of the Past: Globalisation, History, Realism, Utopia* (2012). He is editing, with Charles Ferrall, the 1920–1940 volume of Cambridge's series British Literature in Transition.
- STUART MURRAY is Professor of Contemporary Literatures and Film in the School of English at the University of Leeds, where he is also the Director of the interdisciplinary Leeds Centre for Medical Humanities. He is the author of Never a Soul at Home: New Zealand Literary Nationalism and the 1930s (1998), Images of Dignity: Barry Barclay and Fourth Cinema (2008), Representing Autism: Culture, Narrative, Fascination (2008), and Autism (2011), while he has coedited two books on New Zealand cinema New Zealander Filmmakers (2007) and Contemporary New Zealand Cinema (2008).
- DAVID O'DONNELL is an Associate Professor at Victoria University of Wellington. He is a highly respected director and producer, and has written on New Zealand and Australian drama. With Marc Maufort he edited *Performing Aotearoa: New Zealand Theatre and Drama in an Age*



xii

Cambridge University Press 978-1-107-08535-0 - A History of New Zealand Literature Mark Williams Frontmatter More information

Notes on Contributors

of Transition (2007). He is also editor of the Playmarket New Zealand Play Series.

BRIDGET ORR is Professor of English at Vanderbilt University. Her research and teaching focus on New Zealand writing and film and Restoration and eighteenth-century British literature and theatre. She wrote *Empire on the English Stage*, 1660–1714 (2001). She has also published essays on the depiction of Polynesians in eighteenth-century poetry and on contemporary Māori writers, notably Robert Sullivan.

ALAN RIACH is the Professor of Scottish Literature at Glasgow University. In the late 1980s and 1990s he taught in New Zealand, becoming Associate Professor at the University of Waikato. He is the General Editor of the multivolume Carcanet Press Collected Works of Hugh MacDiarmid, including the Selected Poems (1993, 1994). He is the author of Hugh MacDiarmid's Epic Poetry (1991) and The Poetry of Hugh MacDiarmid (1999) and the coeditor (with Mark Williams) of The Radical Imagination: Lectures and Talks by Wilson Harris (1992), Scotlands: Poets and the Nation (2004), and The Edinburgh Companion to Twentieth-Century Scottish Literature (2009). His poetry has been published in numerous journals internationally and is collected in volumes from Auckland University Press/Oxford University Press, Untold Books, and Auckland University Press/Chapman.

HARRY RICKETTS is Professor of English at Victoria University of Wellington. A poet himself as well as a biographer of Rudyard Kipling, he has also edited anthologies and written criticism on a range of modern and contemporary poetry in the United Kingdom as well as New Zealand. His *Strange Meetings: The Poets of the Great War* was published in 2010. He also co-wrote, with Paula Green, *99 Ways into New Zealand Poetry* (2010).

HUGH ROBERTS is Associate Professor, English, at the University of California at Irvine. He is author of *Shelley and the Chaos of History: A New Politics of Poetry* (1997), with Harry Ricketts, *How You Doing? A Selection of New Zealand Comic and Satiric Verse* (1998), and numerous articles on New Zealand and Romantic poetry.

ANNA SMAILL has published widely on New Zealand literature, with a particular focus on contemporary New Zealand poetry, and the work of the novelist Janet Frame. She has published her first

© in this web service Cambridge University Press



#### Notes on Contributors

xiii

collection of poetry, *The Violinist in Spring* (2005), and her first novel, *The Chimes* (2015).

- JANE STAFFORD is Professor in the English Department at Victoria University. She is the coeditor of *Katherine Mansfield's Men* (2004), coauthor of *Maoriland: New Zealand Literature*, 1872–1914 (2006), coeditor of *Floating Worlds: Essays on Contemporary New Zealand Fiction* (2009), coeditor of *The Auckland University Press Anthology of New Zealand Literature* (2012), and coeditor of volume 9 of *The Oxford History of the Novel, The World Novel to 1950* (forthcoming, 2016).
- PHILIP STEER teaches English at Massey University, specialising in New Zealand and Victorian literature. His publications include essays on settler colonial literary culture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and a coedited issue of *International Journal of Scottish Literature* on 'The Scottish Pacific'. He is working on a book exploring the circulation and transformation of genre between New Zealand, Australia, and Britain in the nineteenth century. The research and writing of Philip's chapter was supported by a Marsden Fast-Start Grant, awarded by the Royal Society of New Zealand.
- ALICE TE PUNGA SOMERVILLE is Associate Professor at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Her extensive publications on Māori and Indigenous literature include the essay, 'Māori Cowboys, Māori Indians', which appeared in *American Quarterly* (2010), and the monograph, *Once Were Pacific: Māori Connections to Oceania* (2012).
- LYDIA WEVERS is Professor and Director of the Stout Research Centre at Victoria University of Wellington. The author of numerous essays and books, she has also edited anthologies of Australian and New Zealand literature. Recent publications include *Country of Writing: Travel Writing and New Zealand*, 1809–1900 (2002) and *Reading on the Farm: Victorian Fiction and the Colonial World* (2010).
- MARK WILLIAMS is Professor of English at Victoria University of Wellington. He is editor of *The Caxton Press Anthology: New Zealand Poetry 1972–1986*; coeditor of *An Anthology of New Zealand Poetry in English* (1997), *Zemlia Morei: Antologiia Poezii Novoi Zalandii* (2005), and *The Auckland University Press Anthology of New Zealand Literature* (2012); author of *Leaving the Highway: Six Contemporary New Zealand Novelists* (1990); and coauthor of *Maoriland: New Zealand Literature* 1872–1914 (2006).



xiv

#### Notes on Contributors

STUART YOUNG is Professor of Theatre Studies and Head of the Department of Music, Theatre, and Performing Arts at the University of Otago. He has published on Russian drama and its reception abroad, translation studies and translation for the theatre, modern British drama and theatre, and documentary/verbatim theatre, as well as on New Zealand drama. He is also a theatre maker and translator. In collaboration with others, he has developed a particular form of verbatim theatre, and created and produced a portfolio of innovative plays.



## Acknowledgments

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge all the work of Margot Schwass, Christine A. T. Dunn, and Nishanthini Vetrivel in preparing the text for publication. I would also like to thank the editorial board, Lydia Wevers, John Newton, and Selina Tusitala Marsh, who gave astute, helpful advice throughout the process of making this book. Special thanks also to Ray Ryan and Caitlin Gallagher at Cambridge University Press for their care and patience. The School of English, Film, Theatre, and Media Studies and the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Victoria University supported the book with much-appreciated grants. Thanks to authors, estates and publishers for permission to reproduce copyright material. Special thanks to Auckland University Press, Victoria University Press and to Tim Curnow, Sydney, for permission to reproduce extracts from poems and plays by Allen Curnow. Hone Tuwhare's poetry is now available in Small Holes in the Silence: Collected Works, Godwit Press, Random House NZ, 2011. Publishing rights for the poem are held by the Estate of Hone Tuwhare. All inquiries to honetuwharepoetry@gmail.com. Thanks also to the estates of James K. Baxter, Hone Tuwhare, Lauris Edmond, Denis Glover, David Mitchell, and Leigh Davis for permission to include pieces of their work. Thanks to Dylan Horrocks for permission to reproduce material from Hicksville (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2010). Finally, my colleagues in the Victoria University English Programme and others in the school have made this book possible.