

Time and Decay run in yoke to thy plough,
And Earth, from the sleep of her sorrow
Waked at thy will, with an eager delight rise, re-
quicken'd, and heartily help thee?

and ends the poem with questions apostrophizing him:

Ah little Thor!
Here in the night, face to face
With the Burnt Bush within and without thee,
Standing small and alone:
Bright Promise on Poverty's Threshold
What art thou? Where hast thou come from?
How far, how far! wilt thou go?

'Bright Promise on Poverty's Threshold' is an apt description of New Zealand, then as now. This poem is also a landmark. A shorter Baughan poem 'The Old Place' is also often anthologised. It ends:

Well, I'm leaving the poor old place,
and it cuts as keen as a knife,
The place that's broken my heart -
the place where I've lived my life.

When the new place has become the old place then

settlement has occurred. Blanche Baughan has caught the mood of those pioneer farmers - the effort, heartbreak, and pride. She does not stop to explain Maori names, no footnotes, they are just part of the language store. New Zealand had become home. The virgin land had become the old place.

Footnotes

¹ Kolodny, Annette. *The Lay of the Land: Metaphor as Experience and History in American Life and Letters*, University of North Carolina Press, Chapel Hill, 1975, p4.

² Schaffer, Kay. *Women and the Bush: Forces of Desire in the Australian Cultural Tradition*, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne, 1988, p107.

³ Kolodny, *ibid.* p7.

From a Stout Centre Seminar on 25 September 1991. Harvey McQueen was co-editor, with Ian Wedde, of the 1985 Penguin Book of New Zealand Verse and author of The Ninth Floor - inside the Prime Minister's Office (1991).

Notes

Reader's Digest - PEN Stout Research Centre Fellowships 1992

A committee consisting of Dr J.E.P. Thomson, Maurice Gee and Jim Collinge has selected the following writers as Fellows for 1992. Each writer will be in residence in the Stout Research Centre for a period of two months:

Dinah Hawken, a poet who will be working on her third volume of poetry. Her first collection won the first book section of the Commonwealth Poetry Prize.

Barbara Neale, who has published a great deal of fiction and radio drama. She is writing a novel.

Tony Simpson a much published historian and writer, author of *The Sugarbag Years*, among many other books, who is writing a study of the occupation of the city of Trieste by the New Zealand Division in 1945.

Lynn Davidson, a poet and fiction writer who is writing a collection of short stories.

Jackie Owens, a novelist whose *Bluest Moon* (1990) was extremely well reviewed. She is writing a second novel.

Gabrielle Muir, a short story writer who is putting together a new collection.

Acknowledgement

Gifts of books for the Stout Research Centre Library have been gratefully received from Douglas Lilburn, Jim Dakin, Peter Coleman, Allan Bell, Theresa Sawicka, Elizabeth Knox and PEN.

Recent publications

Stout Research Centre Occasional Papers No.1

Two Essays by Nelson Wattie

Nelson Wattie was the 1989 J.D. Stout Fellow. This publication contains two essays 'The New Zealand Goldfields in Literature', and 'Frank Sargeson's Encounter with Karl Wolfskehl'. The papers are profusely illustrated, and are available for \$5.00 (including postage and G.S.T.) from: Stout Research Centre

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Books for Life by Susan Price

In 1989, Susan Price offered her collection of children's books as a gift to the National Library of New Zealand. The collection of over 5000 books representing a fair selection of the best books written for children in the last fifty years, will remain in her care for as long as she wishes.

Books for Life tells the story of the origins of the collection and the reason for its growth. It is well illustrated and beautifully produced, and is available for \$12.00 from: Gondwanaland Press
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