



# STOUT • CENTRE Review

MARCH 1995 VOLUME FIVE NUMBER ONE

VÁCLAV HAVEL

Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa*

Citation 3

The Chancellor's Lecture 4

Vote of thanks 7

LAWRENCE JONES

Towards 'Until the walls fall down'

*An intended history of*

*New Zealand Literature*

1932-1963

8

FRANK ROGERS

Ranulph Dacre  
and Patuone's topknot

*The vicissitudes of a 19th-century*

*Royal Navy officer who became a*

*Pacific trader and timber merchant in*

*Australia and New Zealand*

13

CHRISTOPHER PUGSLEY

'Who is Sanders?'

*New Zealand's Official Cameraman*

*on the Western Front 1917-1919*

19

Stout Centre notes

23



Above: Hone Heke and Patuone. Hand-coloured lithograph. W Hawkins after G.F. Angas. Plate 1, *The New Zealanders Illustrated*, London 1847. Alexander Turnbull Library.

Cover: Václav Havel, President of the Czech Republic, receiving the degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa*, at Victoria University of Wellington, 31 March 1995. Photo Les Maiden.

## Stout Centre Review

ISSN No. 1170-4616

### Editor

J.M. Thomson

### Assistant

Lisa Larkindale

### Design and production

Roger Joyce

### Secretary

Valerie Jacobs

The *Stout Centre Review* is published by the Stout Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington.

The *Stout Centre Review* is distributed free to members of the Stout Research Centre.

Membership is \$35, entitling participation in the activities and seminars of the Stout Research Centre and a reduced enrolment fee at the annual conference.

### Address all inquiries to:

The Secretary  
Stout Research Centre  
PO Box 600, Wellington,  
New Zealand.  
Telephone (04) 471 5305

Printed by  
Information and Publications Section  
Victoria University of Wellington

## STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE

FOR THE STUDY OF  
NEW ZEALAND SOCIETY,  
HISTORY AND CULTURE

### Director

Allan Thomas

### Secretary

Valerie Jacobs

### Advisory board

Bill Renwick (Convener)

John Andrews

Margaret Calder

Jim Collinge

Charlotte Macdonald

David Mackay

Elizabeth McLeay

Hugo Manson

Joan Metge

Claudia Orange

Tony Simpson

J. M. Thomson

## A great occasion

Some years ago the Stout Research Centre held a seminar given by Kenneth Quinn on the influence of European refugees on many aspects of New Zealand culture from art, architecture and commerce to music and photography. The personalities presented included the outstanding figure of Karl Popper, who had taught philosophy at Canterbury University College from 1937 to 1945, during which years he had written his classic text *The Open Society*, a defence of democratic systems against the kind of totalitarianism then devastating Europe through the Fascist and Nazi dictatorships. These regimes eventually destroyed themselves in their suicidal onslaught against another closed system, that of Communist Russia, coupled with the magnitude of the direct assault of the Allies on Fortress Europe in 1944, preceded by the invasion of Italy. In 1942 Japan had thrown in her lot with the aggressors, thus unleashing another style of tyranny derived from different roots throughout Asia and the Pacific until the atomic bomb brought this war to an end some three months after VE Day in August 1945. Popper saw his books as his 'war effort': 'I thought that freedom might become a central problem again especially under the renewed influence of Marxism ... and so these books were meant as a defence of freedom against totalitarian and authoritarian ideas, and as a warning against the dangers of historicist superstitions'.

Two participants in that Stout Centre seminar had special reasons to remember Karl Popper. Both Peter Munz, Emeritus Professor of History at Victoria University of Wellington and Robin Williams, a former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Otago, had studied under him and he had deeply influenced their thinking. It is therefore appropriate that on the occasion of this historic visit to Victoria University of Wellington to receive an Honorary Doctorate of Literature, the President of the Czech Republic Václav Havel, should have chosen Karl Popper as the subject of his Chancellor's Lecture, it being the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *The Open Society*. He has also greatly honoured the Stout Research Centre by granting permission for us to publish his Lecture, preceded by the Citation and followed by the Vote of thanks given by Peter Munz.

In his autobiography *Unended Quest*, Popper commented that *The Open Society* 'had been written in trying circumstances; libraries were severely limited, and I had had to adjust myself to whatever books were available'. He had 'a desperately heavy teaching load' and the University authorities 'not only were unhelpful, but tried actively to make difficulties for me'. He was advised not to publish anything while in New Zealand and 'that any time spent on research was a theft from working time as a lecturer for which I was being paid. The situation was such that without the moral support of my friends in New Zealand I could scarcely have survived...'

Nevertheless Popper wrote that he 'liked New Zealand very much, in spite of the hostility shown by some of the University authorities to my work, and I was ready to stay there for good'. But an invitation arrived for him to take up a readership at the London School of Economics. The Poppers left for England where the publication of *The Open Society* quickly won him international acclaim.

The existence of the Stout Research Centre is a living refutation of the doctrines that encumbered Popper. Research is its *raison-d'être*.

J.M.Thomson