

Editorial Introduction

THIS COLLECTION OF ESSAYS is brought together in honour of M.P.K. Sorrenson. It was intended to mark the occasion of his retirement from the University of Auckland after more than 30 years' teaching and as the co-editor (with Judith Binney) of the *New Zealand Journal of History* since 1987. However, Keith out-manoeuvred these well laid — but discreet — plans by retiring one year early, in order to become a full-time historical consultant for the Waitangi Tribunal. If he has hared away, we, like the tortoise, follow after.

Unlike many festschriften, this volume is concerned with one over-arching theme: the struggle over land, law and resources which developed between Maori and Pakeha. The collection reflects Keith's major areas of interest: the alienation of Maori land, the impact of the colonial and post-colonial laws on colonized peoples, and the ways in which Europeans constructed myths about other peoples who were different from themselves. These issues remain central to the country's political dilemmas and they will continue to stimulate controversy. As an illustration of the extent of the debate over New Zealand's colonialist encounters it is worth noting the different and varied trajectories by which the contributors have come to their subjects. Between us we draw on knowledge gained as academics, researchers for the Waitangi Tribunal, officers of court, expert witnesses on behalf of iwi, members of iwi, as Pakeha learning to live here, and as New Zealand expatriates looking back 'home'. As Keith's own career aptly demonstrates, an interest in the history of the interaction between Maori and Pakeha draws scholars on to the shifting terrain of law, public policy, engaged citizenship and social justice. We hope these essays clarify some of the complexities of that terrain.

Every one of the authors has been influenced by Keith. Evelyn Stokes, who grew up a contemporary of his in the western Bay of Plenty, writes about the region in whose Maori history both have remained closely involved. Other of the authors have been his students or colleagues — and sometimes both. All have expressed their debt to him, directly or indirectly, in the essays they have contributed. Among his former Stage I students, as well as joint-teaching with him at master's level for a number of years, Judith Binney takes the opportunity

to acknowledge a dual debt: to Keith for the ways in which he helped her to understand how poverty may be manufactured by the state and how indigenous people may be marginalized by the operation of law, and to Tuhoe who were victims of this process but who have remained ever generous as a people. William H. Worger wrote his master's thesis on Te Puea Herangi, the earliest sustained biography of this chiefly Maori woman, under Keith's supervision; here Bill draws on his long involvement in South Africa's racial history, which he first studied as a student of Keith's, as well as his knowledge of Maori leadership in the twentieth century. Michael Belgrave, whose master's thesis Keith supervised and who was the first research manager for the Waitangi Tribunal, comments on the Crown's purchases under the authority of the Treaty of Waitangi. Giselle Byrnes' PhD thesis was supervised by Keith and a portion of her subsequent work was undertaken while an historical researcher for the Tribunal. Her essay extends her work on nineteenth-century land surveyors and their ambivalent relations with Maori. Two other Auckland students and former researchers for the Tribunal have also contributed essays. Deborah Montgomerie, who has co-edited this volume, explores the case for comparative perspectives on New Zealand's colonial history even as we develop better understandings of the particularity of Maori and Pakeha interaction. Aroha Harris's commitment to history was influenced by Keith's teaching at the University as well as his work for the Tribunal. Aroha writes of the ways in which Maori land title law after 1945 restricted but also benefited Maori families. When newly returned to New Zealand as a post-doctoral fellow, James Belich was a colleague of Keith's in the History Department at Auckland University; he returns as professor and Keith's successor in the study of race and imperial history. Here, Jamie introduces the themes which underly his part-published, new, two-volumed history of New Zealand. Jamie is the first historian since Sir Keith Sinclair, the founder of this journal, to undertake a one-authored reinterpretation of New Zealand's history, and in it he addresses ways in which we have constructed myths, including racial myths, about our society. Ann Parsonson writes as a colleague 'from a distance': she is among the first historians in the New Zealand universities who understood the importance of becoming equipped in *te reo* Maori as well as working with Maori in the construction of narratives of their *iwi*. In this essay she is joined by Tui Adams, a *kaumatua* of Tainui, and Ngahinaturae Te Uira, a *kuia* of Tainui: they are senior spokespeople for the history of the Kingitanga. Paul McHugh's contribution is a recognition by a legal historian of the importance of the work undertaken by Keith (and others) on the Treaty. Keith pioneered an undergraduate course on the Treaty at the same time as he began to work for the Tribunal. Paul's essay offers a major intellectual reassessment of the bases of the previous historical and legal approaches to the Treaty's significance. Finally, we asked Alan Ward to write the tribute to Keith because the two have shared so much. Both helped to lay the foundations on which others have built, and will continue to build; their careful work has challenged previous fixed understandings held in New Zealand about its nineteenth- and twentieth-century history. They have paved the way for a clearer recognition of the policies

and laws which impacted upon Maori society, to the serious disadvantage of its people. Aided by their research, many of the changes which our society is attempting to undertake as we come to understand our past have become possible.

No reira, Keith, anei he matou tohu aroha ki a koe.

JUDITH BINNEY
DEBORAH MONTGOMERIE

CALL FOR PAPERS

1998 IFRWH/FIRHF CONFERENCE

Women and Human Rights, Social Justice, and Citizenship: International Historical Perspectives

**Melbourne, Australia
30 June - 2 July 1998**

The International Federation for Research in Women's History/Federation Internationale pour la Recherche en Histoire des Femmes announces a conference on the theme 'Women and Human Rights, Social Justice and Citizenship: International Historical Perspectives', to be held in Melbourne, Australia from 30 June to 2 July 1998.

Proposals are invited for presentations on historical understandings, across time and place, of the experiences of women as they relate to issues of human rights, social justice, and citizenship. The programme will include sessions that analyse the origins of these terms and categories, contestations over their meaning and implementation, and their expression in a range of social and cultural contexts.

Proposals could either be in the form of individual papers or panels. Panels should consist of two or three presenters and a chair/commentator. Roundtables should consist of three to five speakers. Proposals should include the paper title, a short vitas and an abstract. Proposals can be sent to IFRWH Board members, to conveners of national committees, or directly to the conference co-ordinator, Professor Patricia Grimshaw, History Department, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Vic. 3052, Australia.

The closing date for proposals is **30 June 1997**.