

**DAN DAVIN**

**A BIBLIOGRAPHIC STUDY**

Presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of  
M.A. in English at Massey University.

by

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This project was inspired when I attended a memorial service, in Wellington, for Dan Davin. Many of those who came to celebrate Dan's life and mourn his passing spoke of his wit and wonderful generosity of spirit. His door was always open to New Zealand authors whom he encouraged and nurtured. A chance remark by Professor W.H. Oliver planted a seed which was to germinate over the next few days when I met a number of people who either had known Dan or owned extensive collections of his works.

Dr. John Ross from Massey University agreed to supervise this project and his enthusiastic support and encouragement have provided a strong base from which to explore Dan's works.

Ray Bailey has been most kind and generous with his great knowledge of New Zealand writers and extensive collection of books.

The Interloans Department staff at Massey University Library have been extremely patient and helpful and are an excellent example to their profession. I have also received great assistance from the staff at the Dunedin Public Library, the Hocken Library, the National Library of New Zealand and especially the Alexander Turnbull Memorial Library.

The moral support of Dan's family has been very important to me and I would especially like to thank his brothers, Matt, Pat and Tom, and his nieces, Rachael Davin and Donna Tunnicliffe.

My husband, Mike, always at hand when the computer developed a mind of its own, and willingly doing much more than his share of the chores, has offered the most loving support and encouragement.

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## INTRODUCTION

### SCOPE

I have aimed to include as many published works, both primary and secondary, including sound recordings and film, as I have been able to discover within the library resources of New Zealand. The Hocken Library, the Dunedin Public Library and the Alexander Turnbull Memorial Library all have important resources not available elsewhere.

The Alexander Turnbull Memorial Library has a small collection of Davin's papers and I understand negotiations are continuing to increase this collection. The Library also holds a considerable collection of letters from Davin to other major New Zealand writers such as Maurice Duggan and Frank Sargeson. The Archives of the British Broadcasting Corporation, the Oxford University Press and the libraries of Oxford University are sure to hold a great deal of material to which I did not have access and which is therefore outside the scope of this bibliography.

### ARRANGEMENT

There are two major divisions, primary and secondary materials and in each of them are a number of subdivisions that reflect the genres to which Davin contributed. The essential arrangement of the work is alphabetical by title. In order to reflect the development of Dan's writing and the interest in it shown by scholars and critics chronologies are provided.

As this work is primarily concerned with Dan Davin as a literary figure the arrangement of the subsections gives priority to his fictional works. These are followed by those works which are primarily responses, though often creative, to the works of others. The subsections are arranged as follows:-

#### **Novels**

Subsequent editions follow the entry for the first edition.

#### **Short stories**

Subsequent printings follow the entry for the first publication in chronological order.

#### **Collections**

These are collections of Davin's own stories. Their contents are listed alphabetically by title, followed by the page numbers.

### Poems

Where a poem has been published more than once the details of subsequent printings follow the main title entry in chronological order.

### History

Davin's involvement with the Second New Zealand Expeditionary Force during the Second World War, combined with his capacity for acute observation and sharp debate, made him an eminently suitable choice as official historian for the Battle of Crete.

### Biographies

Davin had an insatiable curiosity about human nature and a warm regard for many fellow writers. His biographical sketches range from wry accounts of some well-known writers who were his friends to intelligent, brief summaries of the lives and works of some of New Zealand's best-known writers. The arrangement is alphabetical.

### Anthologies

These are collections, edited by Davin, of short stories or poems by other writers.

The contents of each anthology are arranged alphabetically by author. Where more than one work by a particular author appears they are arranged alphabetically by title.

### Critical studies and reviews

Coverage of this area of activity is doubtless incomplete. One reason is that only relatively recently have reviews in the *Times literary supplement (TLS)* been signed. I am sure Davin submitted many unsigned reviews. While it is outside of the scope of this research project to trace these, I have, where the manuscript was available, included some unsigned reviews and also cited the manuscript number. Professor Vincent O'Sullivan of Victoria University is editing a collection of Davin's critical writing which should be published shortly.

### Interviews

Davin's visits to New Zealand were occasions of celebration especially amongst the literary fraternity. As talking was his favourite pastime he was a natural subject for interviews. The date references from *Radio New Zealand Archives* refer to the date the recording was made, not the date of broadcast, and the time reference is the length of the item. Radio New Zealand is unable to supply dates of broadcasts. Many New Zealanders of his generation seem to have had a fascination with expatriates and Davin's comments on various aspects of New Zealand literary life were of both local and national interest. These are arranged alphabetically by title.

### Miscellaneous prose

Included in this section are a small number of `letters to the editor' which reflect a keen loyalty both to his comrades in war and to the Oxford University Press. When he felt his integrity was being impugned he was quite able to bring wit and reason to defend his position.

#### **ABBREVIATIONS**

Ms = Manuscript. Where the manuscript was available the manuscript number given by the Alexander Turnbull Memorial Library has been given. If the manuscript includes date or location these are also noted.

*TLS* = *Times literary supplement*

*Listener* = *New Zealand listener* [Title varies].

\* = Not seen.    + = Reprint

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## BIOGRAPHY

Born in Invercargill, New Zealand, September 1 1913. Lived in Britain from 1945.

Educated at: Marist Brothers' School, Invercargill; Sacred Heart College, Auckland; and Otago University, Dunedin (M.A., 1936); Balliol College, Oxford (Rhodes Scholar), 1936-1939 (B.A., 1939, M.A., 1945.) Studied Classics and Philosophy.

Served in the Royal Warwickshire Regiment, 1939-1940, and in the New Zealand Division, 1940-1945; wounded on Crete. Major; mentioned in dispatches; M.B.E., 1945.

Married Winifred Gonley in 1939; three daughters.

Junior Assistant Secretary, 1946-48, and Assistant Secretary, 1948-1969, Clarendon Press, Oxford. 1970, Deputy Secretary to the Delegates; 1974, Director of the Academic Division, Oxford University Press. Fellow of Balliol College, 1965. Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. C.B.E., 1986, for services to New Zealand Literature.

Died September 28 1990.

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