

# Contents

Foreword

11

## I. The Place of Polynesian Literature in English in Post-colonial Studies

1. Delineating the Polynesian post-colonial literary area 15
2. The birth of Polynesian literature in English and its theoretical framework 23
3. The Polynesian diaspora 33

## II. Stages of the Development of Polynesian Literature in English

1. Polynesian oral tradition and the transition to the written word 41
2. The founding text of Polynesian literature in English: *Miss Ulysses from Puka-Puka* by Florence (Johnny) Frisbie 49
3. The Maori Renaissance and the first generation of Polynesian authors writing in English 69
4. The contemporary Polynesian literary scene 89

## III. Heritage and Innovation

1. The function of the creation myth of Rangi and Papa in *Tangi* by Witi Ihimaera 112
2. The function of the mythical demigod Maui in *Sons for the Return Home* by Albert Wendt 123
3. The function of Maori cultural symbols and beliefs, and of the mythical character of Rona in *Mutuwhenua. The Moon Sleeps* by Patricia Grace 137
4. The function of mythopoeia in *Where We Once Belonged* by Sia Figiel 150
5. Comparison of the analysed works 165

Afterword	170
Appendix (I-IX)	173
Bibliography	199
Name Index	206
Czech Summary	208