That Douglas Stewart (1913-1985) ranks among the greatest Australian poets is beyond doubt. He came on the Australian literary scene when creative writers were uncertain about their choices and their attitudes towards Australian themes. Douglas Stewart with his writings and his leadership of the Bulletin affirmed the importance of being Australian. He gave the clarion call for freedom from colonial hangover and love for the indigenous and the local. He discovered the beauty of Australia not only for himself and for others as well. Another important contribution of Stewart consists in his discovering talent for poetry in a number of writers.

I have tried to respond to Stewart's poems in my own way without depending on criticism of his works. In fact, there is very little material available in Indian libraries on this writer. What has motivated me, in spite of the paucity of material, is my interest in Australian literature which is hardly the subject for research in India. I may, therefore, be pardoned for not quoting critics during the course of discussion. Needless to say, the bibliography is thin.

The dissertation has five chapters. Chapter - I Introduction deals with Douglas Stewart and his poetic career. Chapter - II deals with Stewart's New Zealand poetry. Australian poetry of Stewart is discussed in Chapter - III. Men who had achieved distinction by their heroic deeds are discussed in Chapter - IV. The last chapter summarizes Stewart's claim to be "maker of Australian history". All the textual quotations are taken from Selected Poems (London; Angus and Robertson Publishers, 1973).
I profusely thank Professor. C.D. Narasimhalah for permitting me to make use of the facilities at Dhvanyaloka, Mysore.

I lavishly thank the authorities of C.I.E.F.L. Hyderabad for permitting me to use their library. I abundantly thank S.V. University for providing me facilities to carry out my research.

I am very grateful to my supervisor Prof. M. Kumaraswamy Raju for guiding me.

I am thankful to Prof. P. Bayapa Reddy, Head of the Department of English & Comparative Literature, Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Anantapur and all other members of the staff for their kind co-operation.

I am thankful to Sri C. Narasimha Reddy, Principal K.S.R. Govt. Jr. College for Girls, Sri B.Krupakar, Lecturer in English Govt. Degree College for Women and Smt L.K. Bhavani, J.L. in Botany for helping me to carry out my research work.

(PUSHPNAVATHAMMA)