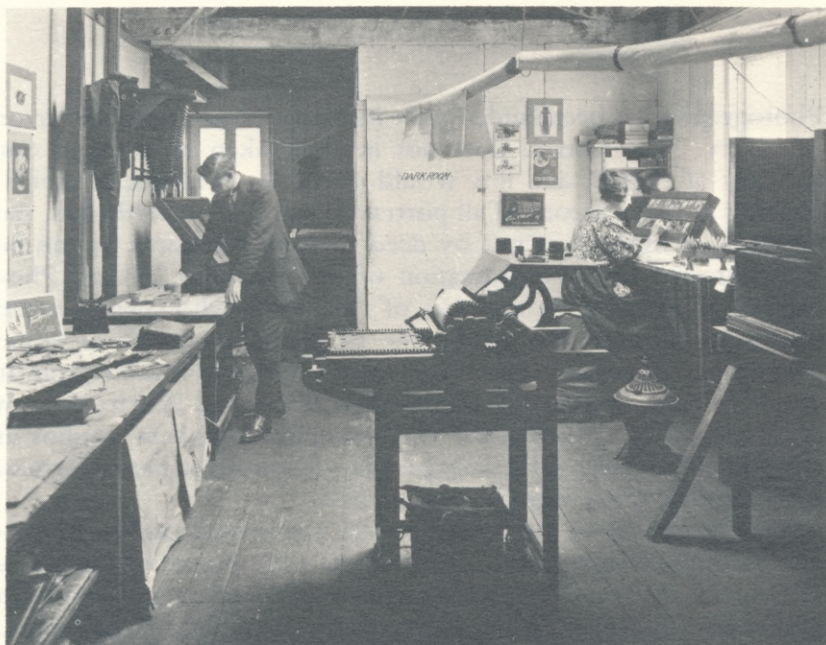


fessional photography from the earliest years of the art. In New Zealand women have played an important, if largely unrecognised, role in photography. From the establishment of the earliest studios they have worked as laboratory assistants and negative retouchers,



Gordon Burt's studio in Lambton Quay, Wellington, 1930s. Photographer, Gordon Burt. The woman on the right is examining plate negatives on a light box. Photo neg. 15886 1/1

and several went on to form their own businesses. One of the earliest was Elizabeth Pulman, who carried on the business of her husband, George, after his death in 1871, producing many notable Maori portraits from her Auckland studio in the 1870s.² Her output of carte-de-visite portraits was large, and examples are to be found in museums and libraries throughout the country. The Turnbull Library holds eleven, including well-known studies of Tamati Waka Nene and Rewi Manga Maniapoto. Her portrait of Ratene, a Maori man from Tauranga, became the basis of a painting by Gottfried Lindauer.³ Around the turn of the century, a quantity of Maori portrait negatives from the Pulman Studio passed into the hands of the Government Tourist Department and were copy-righted by them in 1903, with prints from the negatives being widely disseminated in the following years.⁴

In Wellington, women were also early in the field. A Mrs Hamilton is recorded as having a studio in Lambton Quay in the