

been formed, with a dramatic committee, at the Annual General Meeting of the Dramatic Club in 1930: 'one to control the dramatic side of our activities, and the other the literary side. The suggestion implies having a common chairman, two joint secretaries, and a joint treasurer.'¹³ Constitutionally, both the literary and dramatic committees were sub-committees of the Dramatic Club, and were responsible to the Vice President and President of that Club through their respective secretaries, joint treasurer and 'common' chairman.

The likelihood of confusion increased when in November 1931 a sub-committee of the literary sub-committee was set up 'to deal with the affairs of such a magazine' as Lowry offered to print.¹⁴ The 'magazine committee' or '*Phoenix* committee' as it came to be known comprised James Bertram as editor, Lowry as business manager, and Rilda Gorrie, Rona Munro, Jean Alison, D. H. Monro, Allen Curnow and Blackwood Paul, members. Lowry's plan at this stage seems to have been quite simple. Using his own press, he would print the magazine, 'a sort of junior *Adelphi*', and would sell it at a 'good and sufficient price' to defray Linotype expenses. He would also print material for other College clubs.¹⁵ At the end of the 1931 College year Lowry, printer and business manager to the magazine, and treasurer of the Dramatic Club, returned home to his parents at Paeroa. Editor Bertram was on holiday in the South Island with Charles Brasch, while Ian Milner solicited contributions and wrote for the as yet unnamed magazine. In a letter to R. A. K. Mason, Bertram gave an indication of its editorial direction:

Could [you] possibly let us have something for a literary club paper . . . [that] is ostensibly run for the benefit of the Lit Club & is intended, among other things, to preserve some of the best work done in the club . . . I'm afraid we can't offer to pay for anything . . . But at least I can promise anything you give us will be decently printed . . . you've *carte blanche* to write on James Joyce or Professor Anderson; but I expect there'll be some sort of censorship.¹⁶

The committee hoped that the first issue of the magazine, now named *The Phoenix* in preference to Bertram's *Farrago*, would be ready for 7 March, the beginning of the 1932 term. Lowry was sent manuscripts, and in an attempt to meet the March deadline he began work at a printery in Paeroa. But there were problems: many of his typographical 'etceteras' were still at his lodgings in Auckland, and he complained that Bertram was not sending sufficient copy to set. Furthermore the Paeroa printer was having troubles of his own, and Lowry feared that the printery would be shut down. By the time he left to return to Auckland, Lowry had managed to print fifteen pages. Two days before term commenced Bertram sent in a twenty page review, and his editorial was not completed until 8 March.

So the deadline passed, but this was hardly Lowry's fault. At the start of the term he still had some thirty-five pages to set, which, he