

committee debts; agreed to seek legal advice if need be; and suspended Lowry from membership of the Association.

Lowry, meantime had teamed up with Glover, and over Christmas they produced the undistinguished *Little Plays for Maori Legends* under the most appalling conditions. Because Lowry was proscribed from Auckland University College, he was also banned from the Canterbury campus. As Glover recalled, 'I, who was *persona grata*, would be machining busily in the basement [under the law students' lecture room], while Lowry, who had established himself in a 5s a week hutment down the road, would there set up the type and bring it down to me'.⁸⁷ At some stage though Lowry decided to face the music, and early in 1934 he returned to Auckland:

This is the position. When I got home I found that the Photo Engravers had me in Court and I had to buy myself out to save bankruptcy and all chance of ever getting back to Varsity. . . . Debts of one sort and another up to just over £100 have been reduced to about £54 by getting discounts and selling my type to Postlewaite and Co. And an extremely philanthropic ex-member of the *Phoenix* Committee has paid off the rest on long term loan. So I'm just out of the woods.⁸⁸

Lowry desperately wanted to return to University and throughout February and March lobbied both the Students' Executive, for readmittance to the Association, and the College authorities, for the lifting of his suspension. By the middle of March Lowry had convinced the Executive of his intentions, and he was readmitted. But there was no reciprocal move by the College authorities, and one professor, Horace Belshaw, accused O'Shea of victimising Lowry, citing 'undue influence' over the business dealings with the Executive. The matter came before the April Professorial Board meeting, where Belshaw was outgunned and O'Shea fully vindicated: 'The Registrar . . . was invited to comment . . . he pointed out that his system of keeping a diary made it easy to refute such charges as had been made; he suggested that Professors if confronted with similar charges, might not be in such a favourable position'.⁸⁹ The meeting also upheld the suspension until the year's end. Belshaw's amendment, that Lowry be readmitted, but fined, was lost. Lowry was devastated by the news: 'I've been bloody aimless most of the time since Xmas & down in the mouth occasionally. It's those bloody Black-handed swine of the College Conservative clique. They've suspended me till the end of the year'.⁹⁰

This suspension in effect closed the first chapter in Lowry's involvement in printing, as he was now forced to move outside the orbit of the College. Nevertheless, his endeavours continued. In May he established his first independent press, The Unicorn, and he worked alongside Mason who had set up The Spearhead Publishers. Indeed, Mason's own collection, *No New Thing: Poems 1924-1929*, was the first book Lowry printed when out on his own.⁹¹ His work on behalf of radical causes also continued with the printing of various broadsheets