

He immediately enlisted help: 'The Head of the *Herald* Jobbing Dept is immensely tickled and is going to do a lot of magnanimous and benevolent things for us'.⁵ Perhaps this benevolent printer showed Lowry the rudiments of Linotype which by July, he claimed was 'as easy as playing trains to work off'. He was helped too with the *Zip* prospectus: 'The eight heaviest lines were loaned by the *Sun*, and I pinched the initial W from Tech'.⁶

In 1931, when he was eighteen, Lowry enrolled in History, English, French and Philosophy at Auckland University College.⁷ He had been awarded a Lissie Rathbone scholarship for excellence in English and History, which provided £50 a year for three years and, as his headmaster reminded him, 'you now have the opportunity of taking up a university course under favourable circumstances. I trust that you will concentrate on your work and not allow undue time to be taken up by hobbies and amateur journalistic distractions'.⁸ Lowry was self-confident, opinionated, and seemed assured of success. He was soon involved in the life of the College and joined both the Debating Society—winning the Freshers Cup—and the Dramatic Club, and was part of the 1931 Carnival Committee. At the same time though, Lowry mulled over the possibilities of printing, and he toyed with the idea of teaming up with Glover in Christchurch to establish 'a decent publishing business'. He seemed all set to head south in August, but then got cold feet:

I should stay in Auckland because my parents say so, because I'll probably have a better chance of doing well academically, because I have no plausible reason for asking the Chancellor for a transfer, because I have recently met the most wonderful maiden in God's wide world, and because I am rapidly blossoming forth into Varsity's big fresher pea . . . I have just been elected Secretary of next year's Carnival Committee . . . I understand that I am to be elected to the Lit. Club Committee next week, and the Lit Club want me to get out a mag for them right at the beginning of next year.⁹

As early as May 1931, Lowry had offered to print Literary Club material, in particular, a 'magazine' which would contain critical articles about papers read before the Club as well as other 'minor papers'.¹⁰ This offer was made formal at the Annual General Meeting of the Dramatic Club in September when the Committee agreed to Lowry's plan 'whereby a small printing press might be put at the service of the Club and a Literary Club publication of some sort be produced'.¹¹ At the same meeting too, Lowry succeeded Blackwood Paul as Treasurer of the Dramatic Club, and as he wryly commented to Glover, 'I find myself as publisher, asking myself, as Treasurer, whether I can really permit the Literary Club to accede to my modest request'.¹² Lowry was tongue in cheek, but the situation was far from clear. Even at the time there was confusion about the authority of the Dramatic Club and the groups that devolved under it. A literary committee had earlier