

Lowry Family Archive

Sir George Grey Special Collections Auckland Libraries

Through Auckland poet and artist Vanya Lowry, Sir George Grey Special Collections recently acquired a culturally significant and often delightful archive of material relating to the Lowry family.

Vanya's father, Bob Lowry, was one of New Zealand's most gifted printers. It was through his meticulous labour, plucking out small pieces of type letter by letter, that key works by Allen Curnow, R A K Mason, A R D Fairburn, Frank Sargeson, Maurice Duggan and other new Zealand writers first reached readers. He was working on Hone Tuwhare's first volume of poetry, *No ordinary sun*, when he died in 1963.

One of Vanya's three sisters is the renowned author of young adult fiction, Brigid Lowry. Vanya herself has had a distinguished career as a book and magazine illustrator. All four siblings, she points out, had a creative streak which she attributes, at least in part, to "all that early scribbling on off-cuts of paper from the presses".

The archive contains both printed and manuscript works, as well as business records and correspondence. Some of Vanya's elegant drawings and Bob's comical but immaculately printed greeting cards are included in the Old & New exhibition, on display in Sir George Grey Special Collections until 28 February 2017.

*The reference for this collection is NZMS 2071, Lowry Family Archive.
Sir George Grey Special Collections, Auckland Libraries.*