

we were astonished to discover that they could, they really could. The men learned a haka in half an hour. The poi was mastered almost as fast, and one woman even had the double long poi off perfectly in an hour and a half! It wasn't just hard practice. Somehow they understood the feel of the thing."

Performance was not the only area in which Maori and Chinese established warm and immediate rapport. Though the Maori party could never have coped in formal situations without the assistance of interpreters, it was noticed by the Chinese that of all the foreign guests ever to visit China, none had been so accurate in their pronunciation of Chinese words and phrases as the Maori.

Arohanui

There were opportunities to relax and meet the Chinese informally — whether shopping, strolling through the city streets or playing basketball. It was in these situations that members of the group came to know the Chinese best and to appreciate the warmth and natural friendliness of their hosts. One member said, "I find their attitude unreal. Their absolute honesty is remarkable. We claim to have come from a Christian country, yet I have found in China more demonstration of arohanui than anywhere else."

And Puti Tukukino spoke warmly of the glimpses she had of rural life. "Apart from the fact that they were growing rice, it might have been an old-fashioned Maori rural community. People working *together* in the fields with their friends and children."

In fact, little time was spent out of the cities, an aspect most members regretted. Although they visited three great cities and were struck even there by China's teeming population, there was obviously so much more to be seen.

Was it worth it?

But the Maori performers saw enough of China to learn a great deal about themselves and their own country. They returned to New Zealand full of enthusiasm not only for what they had seen of China but also for what can be applied to their situation here. As a diplomatic exercise the tour was a success, acknowledged as such by both governments. As a tour of instruction and entertainment for the benefit of the Chinese people it was a success also. It is to be hoped that it heralded a new period of cultural exchange, and there is a possibility of a similar Chinese group visiting New Zealand next year. But if the ideas which arose are taken further, and if the challenges offered are taken up, then the greatest benefit of the Chinese visit will be a thorough re-evaluation of our music and performing arts. We can do a great deal more, and we can do it before wider audiences than ever before.



Above In front, Lo Fan Chung, Vice-Chairman of the Kuangchow Municipal Revolutionary Committee Foreign Affairs Office, shakes hands with George Brennan. Behind them Hine Poa meets Cheng Da, deputy head of the Cultural Bureau of Kuantung Province.

Tremendous warmth and friendship developed between the Maori and the Chinese everywhere. "Wherever we have been", says Archdeacon Ihaka, "we have been met with friendship and lavish hospitality." In return, he continues: "The facility of the Maori people to break through protocol in a warm and purposeful way was received with eagerness by the Chinese."

Below Some of Foshan's 2,500 porcelain workers crowd to watch an impromptu concert given by the group in a courtyard of the factory.

In the front are Puti Tukukino and Ramiri Brennan. At the left of the front row of spectators is Bill Kerekere, who covered the tour for Radio New Zealand.

Several such impromptu concerts were given, in addition to the seven scheduled concerts which were held in Nanning, Canton and Peking. All were enthusiastically received. The scheduled concerts all played to packed houses, and there were even occasions when Chinese people stopped members of the group on the street to demand an item!

