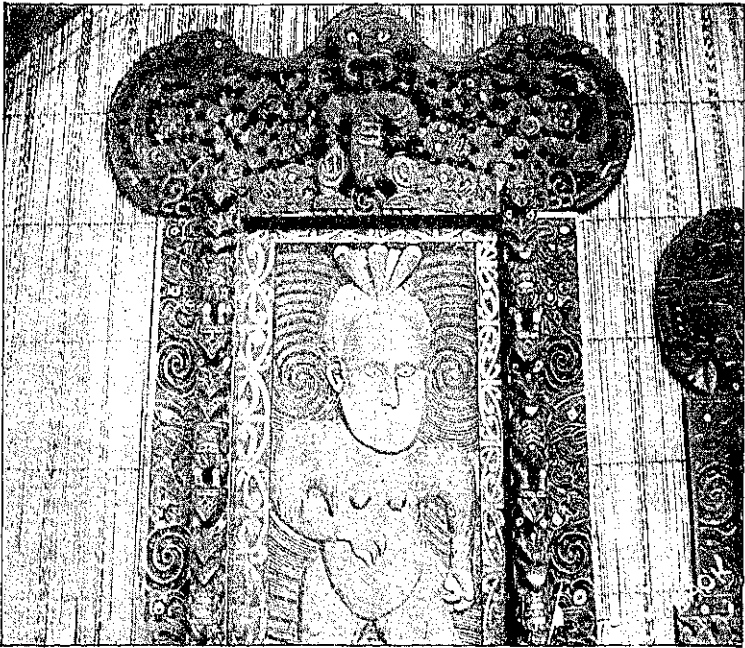


people. The first panel which I examined represented Tutanekei, the husband of Hinemoa, and the romantic love story of the feminine Leander was fully illustrated by the carving on the panel. The second post portrays Whakaturia, of whom my guides could tell me nothing, but the main pillar in the centre of the building is devoted to Potakatawhiti, the dog of Tamatekapua. A panel shows this dog issuing from the mouth of Toi, and the legend of Toi and the dog was fully represented. At the foot of the post is fastened the image of a human head,

The canoe Arawa is shown, together with the shark that swam before the craft and guided it to Aotearoa. There are also pictures of the Hangihangi trees brought from Hawaiiiki and planted at Maketu, where they are said to be yet growing. The three stone anchors of the Arawa, Takaturua, Takaparoa, Tutarangiharuru are shown, and the Maoris declare that these anchors had iron bands around them brought from beyond the seas. There are carvings to Tia, to Ngatoroirangi and to others, and until recently there were in the Wharepuni the



CARVED DOORWAY OF THE RAURU WHAREPUNI.

which the Arawas declare was brought from Hawaiiiki.

The panels to Tamatekapua suggest that this cunning hero was one of the most famous of the Arawas, although the Maoris of to-day can relate little about him save that he and his brother, Whakaturia, were in the habit of walking across Lake Rotorua to the island of Mokoia on stilts and robbing the plantations there.

There is a panel to the canoe Totarakaria, which arrived in New Zealand at the same time as the Arawa, but whose people, for some reason or other, settled at Kawhia and Aotea.

carved red porphyry images which are now to be found on Mokoia and in Auckland; but to give the history of all the panels in even one of these Wharepunis would fill a book, and this article is only intended to draw attention to the significance of the carvings. It is not impossible that the curious patterns and scrolls painted as well as carved on various parts of the Wharepuni may be the characters of a forgotten language, and from the frequent recurrence of characters of a similar size and form, I am inclined to think that this may be the case, and that besides the history of great