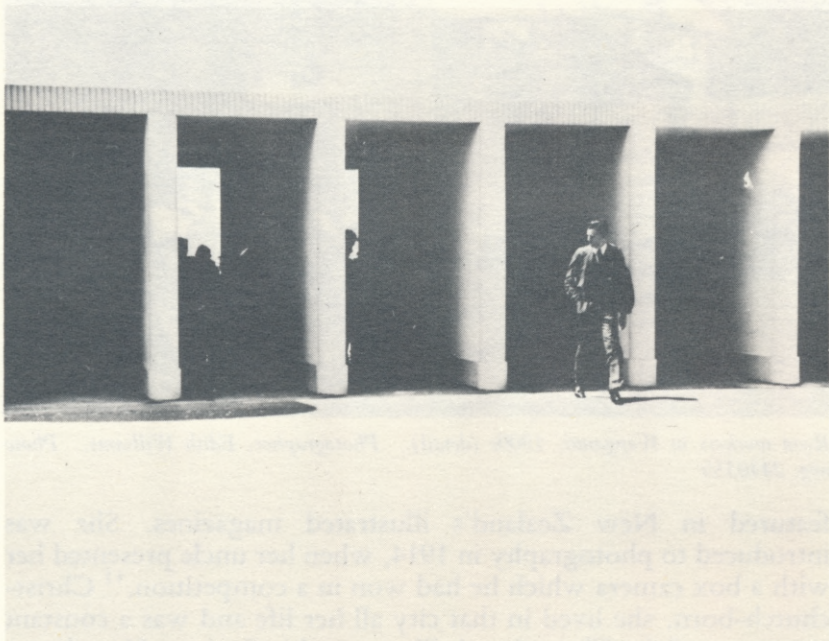


stored by the Library during the war years, but in 1946 they were sent to the photographer at the studio which she had established in London. Their current whereabouts is unknown, but the Library has copy negatives of 400 of the original plates.



*Scene at the New Zealand Centennial Exhibition, Wellington, 1940. Photographer, Eileen Deste. Photo neg. 36190 1/2*

The most important work by a woman photographer held in the collection is from the camera of Ans Westra, one of the most influential documentary photographers working in New Zealand today. Born in Leiden, Holland, in 1936, she studied art at teachers' college in Rotterdam where she developed an interest in photography. This intensified after her emigration to New Zealand in 1957, when she first came into contact with the Maori. In 1959 she joined the Wellington Camera Club (accumulating a hoard of trophies) and worked for Rembrandt Studios, but soon moved out on her own.<sup>15</sup> She became known for her work with Ngati Poneke, in *Te Ao Hou*, and on commission to the School Publications Branch of the Department of Education. Since then she has continued, at times controversially, to observe and record New Zealand society, directing special attention to minority groups. It is interesting to note that she eschews the almost universal single lens reflex 35mm camera in favour of a twin lens reflex Rolleiflex. Held at waist level, this camera presents a much less aggressive front to