

have brought to it has made Te Maori exhibition second to none.

They took the taonga to the top venues in the United States, alongside the treasures of ancient Rome and Egypt. The media coverage that we got could be measured as worth millions of dollars. The American media machine touches the world and certainly Te Maori has been requested by many countries."

The 174 tribal objects lived at four venues in the USA – New York, St Louis, San Francisco and Chicago. Sciascia attended the opening ceremony in 1984 in New York and travelled back for the openings at St Louis and San Francisco and the closing ceremony in Chicago.

Sciascia said within the USA the profile of the New Zealand Maori is much greater now than it ever was in the art world.

"I don't know how to measure the awareness of the Maori and their art pre-Te Maori, but I know there has been an upward-swing in the value of Maori art in the USA since Te Maori.

"Te Maori has created a bigger place for us to stand in the world – we can stand in the commercial world in a way we have never done before. Te Maori has created a focus of modern pieces of Maori art done in the traditional style and as well there is modern sculpture, weaving, painting, writing and pottery. All these forms of art will have greater commercial value. There are already some outlets."

Waikerepuru said Te Maori is generating quite a bit of interest among Maori people but he says he doesn't know if Te Maori has reached right across the board.

"Many of our people are unemployed and trying to survive and these people don't have time to participate in this level of interaction," he said.

"Certainly Te Maori has created a lot of interest in the USA and gained a lot of respect there, and of course the awareness that there are a group of people, the Maori people of Aotearoa."

Waikerepuru said because of Te Maori he would like to be optimistic on the gains for the Maori people and optimistic that many changes will come within New Zealand through the recognition of the Maori people and what they have to offer.

"If in fact the United States has given the idea that these treasures must not be lost, then at home the Maori language which is the expression of those treasures, must not be lost," he said.

"Only if Maori language can be recognised as an official language, able to be used anywhere, in any dealings with any State department, local and public bodies, and of course, Parliament, only then can I see that Te Maori has generated the respect it deserves."

Waikerepuru said there are non-Maori people who show respect and have respect for the Maori people and aspects of Maori culture, but this has not mate-

