

Dance

As dancing is an inherent instinct of human being, every tribe or race has its representative dance. To speak of dance, the Chinese should trace up to the Emperor Ke Tien's "Trio play with the tail of an ox and kick and sing in chorus" for the first dance in China (3,852 B. C.). Later, when Emperor Cheng Wang of the Chou Dynasty reigned, his prime minister Choukung assigned the etiquette and composed the music to match the dance, the system was perfect. It turned out to be the required course for the scholars. It has been more than three thousand years that dance as well as music have played the same important role at the solemn ceremony held.

The dance of China is not only for amusement purpose, but also aims at making the dancer's physique better and making the dancer form a good habit. In ancient China, dance could be separated into several kinds: 1. Single dance vs. Mass dance, 2. Fine dance vs. Rough dance, and 3. Elegant dance vs. unelegant dance. But modern experts on dance classify our ancient dance into five categories by their respective contents: 1. Fighting dance, 2. Laboring dance, 3. Good Manner dance, 4. Joint Happiness dance, and 5. Enjoyment dance. Since the Republic of China comprises seven races such as Hans, Manchus, Mongnlians, Mohammedans, Tibetans, Miaos and Yaos, the dance of either the bordering race or central race is called the Chinese dance.

The Association for promotion of the National Dance, a nation-wide civilian dance-organization, was created in December, 1952. Recently supported by various local governments, it has established its branches far and wide. In 1955, our Government approved that the Fifth of May be the Dancing Festival. Every year on this happy occasion, a 7-day dancing contest is to be held at the National Capital.

For the moment, there is no public dancing school in Taiwan. But 37 private dancing studios have been registered with the competent authorities of the government. So far, there are 677 school dancing groups in the whole province, conducted by more than nine hundred instructors.

Since September, 1960, the dancing meeting has been held every month under the auspices of the National Arts Center, the Association for Promotion of the Folk Dance and the Chinese Literary Association. The dancing studios take turns at presenting the dance. Besides, in 1960, the National Arts Center sponsored 30 dancing performances.

