

THE TATTOO

*It's Social Prevalence and
Psychological Significance*

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Why Review Tattooing?

- .fascination
- .people collecting
- .useful in evaluation
- .HIV (AIDS)
- .Hepatitis *

definition of: Tattoo

.English word "*tattoo*", is an Anglicized version of the Tahitian word "*tatu*" or ("*to mark*").

History of Tattooing

- .different cultures
- .arose spontaneously
- .inherent in all humans
- .Stone Age, 12,000 BC
- .2988 to 4888 BC, on Egyptian mummies. *

History - Biblical Ref.

- .Genesis - Cain and Abel.
- .Leviticus 19:28, Moses *prohibiting tattooing*
- . Mohammed, the Koran
- .Ecumenical Council at Nicaea in 787 A.D.
- .Decalogue: *no graven image* *

Attitudes on Tattooing

.non-Christian cultures, *protection, bravery, and love*

.enhancement of *beauty*

.Hebrews: *undereducated, criminals sailors, soldiers, and [prostitutes]* *

Japan-females chins, upper lips: *power*

Attitudes On Tattooing

- .Greece: *nobility or bravery*
- .to identify criminals or slaves
- .Early Romans: *barbaric*
- . Japan, criminal syndicate: *head to foot*

Early Tattoo Themes

- .Burma & Japan
- .animals, birds, butterflies
- . dragons, snakes
- . religious, sensuous, or patriotic themes

Tattooing In the Western World

- .mainland Asia to the South Sea islands.
- .Capt. Cook
- .sailors from South Pacific 18th Century
- .badge of adventure. challenges of the sea.

Who Gets Tattooed?

- .Associated with venereal disease
- . Study in Sweden: 69 jobs
- .Chimney sweeps: highest – writers: least

Who Gets Tattooed?

- risk takers
- a delinquent
- divorced, divorced parents
- jail record
- drug addiction
- Federal felony charges.

Who Gets Tattooed?

heroin addicts: most had more than one tattoo

· *antecubital fossae* - needle tracks

· personalities - *anti-social characteristics*.

RE
SEARCH

MODERN PRIMITIVES

TATTOO ■
PIERCING ■
SCARIFICATION ■



An Investigation of Contemporary Adornment & Ritual

Modern Primitives

- rediscovery of an OLD STORY
- one leads to another
- WHAT'S WITH MY KIDS?
- You pierced your WHAT?

Psychiatric Aspects

Psychiatric Aspects

- .Canvas of the Soul
- .tribal identification
- .totems

Gang
or
Tribal affiliation

Communication

- .conscious
- .as an emblem, “ I belong!”
- .a clear unspoken message

Communication (2)

- passive message
- passive but... aggressive
- cryptic
- unconscious message

Dynamics of Skin

.infancy

.childhood

.adolescence

Rebellion

- against external control
- defense mechanisms
- usually an unconscious motives

Sexuality and Exhibitionism

- .dynamics of the skin
- .The First Tattoo
- .Homosexual theory
- .sexuality

Tattoo Analysis

- .Patient's emotional reaction to the tattoos*
- .Number and sequences of tattoos*
- .Circumstance of tattoo acquisitions*
- .Age*
- .Alone or with peer group*
- .Incarcerated*
- .Intoxicated*

Tattoo Analysis

.Location of tattoos

.Visible in normal clothing

.Visible when partially clothed

.Visible only on unexposed areas

Tattoo Analysis

.Quality, symmetry and size

.“Jailhouse” or amateur

.Professional

Tattoo Analysis

.Tattoo Content

.Objective meaning for viewer

.Private meaning for patient

.The “love/hate” ratio

What do they mean?

- .simple self mutilation
- .expression of violence
- .Expression of LOVE
- .as a totem for protection
- .location, location, location !!

Subconscious Aspects

.emotional pain and joy

.IDENTITY

.WARNING

Ambivalence

- .then and NOW !!
- .undercover...hide it !!
- .swords into plow shares
- .removal
- .what to do with the fantasy??

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General Facts About Tattoos

- upper/lower socioeconomic background
- the poor man's coat of arms.
- An excellent source of psychodynamic info
- patterns, the number, and locations have profound psychological meaning
- ***BUT, not*** every tattoo has a ***deep psychological significance*** *

Summary

.Identity

.It hurts sooooo good

.Hey, read my pics !!

.It's deeper than you think!!

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