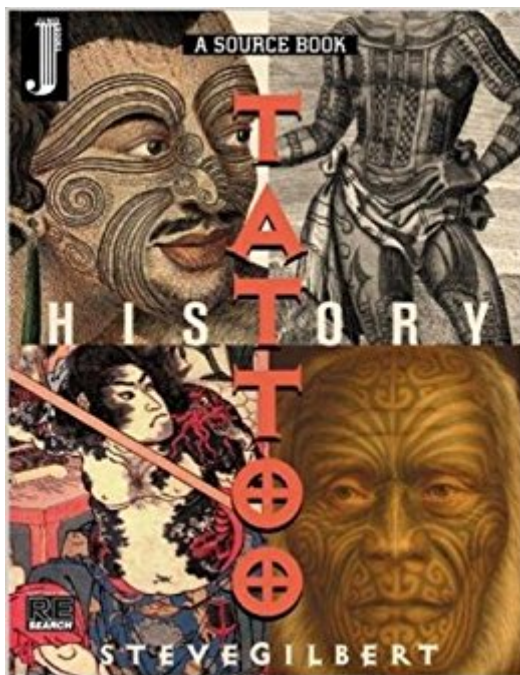


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# The Tattoo History Source Book



## Synopsis

The Tattoo History Source Book is an exhaustingly thorough, lavishly illustrated collection of historical records of tattooing throughout the world, from ancient times to the present. Collected together in one place, for the first time, are texts by explorers, journalists, physicians, psychiatrists, anthropologists, scholars, novelists, criminologists, and tattoo artists. A brief essay by Gilbert sets each chapter in an historical context. Topics covered include the first written records of tattooing by Greek and Roman authors; the dispersal of tattoo designs and techniques throughout Polynesia; the discovery of Polynesian tattooing by European explorers; Japanese tattooing; the first 19th-century European and American tattoo artists; tattooed British royalty; the invention of the tattooing machine; and tattooing in the circus. The anthology concludes with essays by four prominent contemporary tattoo artists: Tricia Allen, Chuck Eldridge, Lyle Tuttle, and Don Ed Hardy. The references at the end of each section will provide an introduction to the extensive literature that has been inspired by the ancient-but-neglected art of tattooing. Because of its broad historical context, The Tattoo History Source Book will be of interest to the general reader as well as art historians, tattoo fans, neurasthenics, hebephrenics, and cyclothemics.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Body piercing and tattooing have seen a resurgence in America in the last decade. Sometimes referred to as an aspect of the "new tribalism," body arts harkens to practices usually associated with so-called primitive societies. Medical illustrator, writer, and part-time tattoo artist Gilbert seeks

to explore the historical depth and aesthetic variations of tattoos as permanent body decoration. The text consists mostly of excerpts from the works of anthropologists, explorers, physicians, artists, and others and dates from Greek and Roman times to the present. The organization can be confusing, but Gilbert provides contextual essays for individual chapters, which are arranged primarily geographically, with the deepest coverage on Oceania, Japan, and Europe/America. The illustrations, ranging from crude line drawings to full-color photos, are perhaps the most fascinating element in the book. Unlike some books on tattooing, the images do not emphasize the salacious. While the text is not academic in tone, Gilbert supports his research with an extensive reference citation list and bibliography. Capable of entertaining and enlightening both young enthusiasts and anthropologists, this is recommended for both public and academic libraries. Eugene C. Burt, Seattle Copyright 2001 Reed Business Information, Inc.

As a sociologist with strong anthropological interests turned tattoo apprentice, this is exactly the book I was looking for! Much of the tattoo world only goes back a century for its history, then alludes to ancient cultures. Just by flipping through this book upon arrival I can see that this is not the case with this book. If there was ever a college class on the history of tattoos, this should be one of the required texts. The only thing that could make this better is if the book was actually divided into a series focusing on each area/timeframe and included more information. \*hint hint\*

I got this as a gift for my cousin and he loved it. Very nice and informative book.

I bought this for my sister who is a tattoo artist and she absolutely loved it. Specifically, she loved how the book flowed and did a great job of diving into the history of tattoos and how they evolved over different cultures.

Overall, the historical review is above average to excellent. However, the writing is exceedingly dry and I had some difficulty reading this for more than 15-30 minutes at a time without nodding off. Still, it is the most comprehensive single source that I'm aware of that covers this subject matter. I'm planning on picking up a second copy as a gift for my artist.

You know, I guess I was just looking for a little more current history. Most of what you'll find in this book deals with ancient tribal and oriental histories. It's kind of like that college history class we all took dealing with ancient civilizations. Tough to find relationships to today's world (for me at least).

Not a knock on the book itself, it is what it is, just my \$.02.

My boyfriend recently got his first two tattoos and is hooked. He is a history buff as well so I got him this book as a little gift and he LOVES it. Interesting if you are interested in history and or tattoos. Would be a great "coffee table book" for a tattoo parlor!

Great history lessons.

Part of a duo of tattoo books as a gift. Greatly appreciated.

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