A Comparison of Japanese and American Tattoos

Zachary Martin

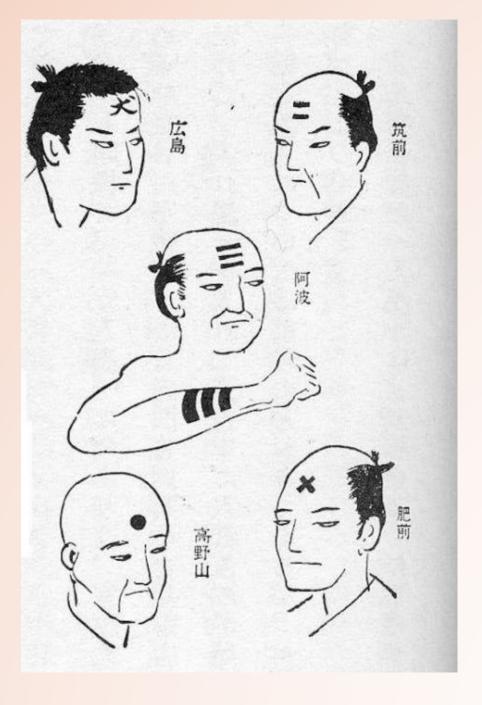
Department of Psychology, Sociology, and Public Health

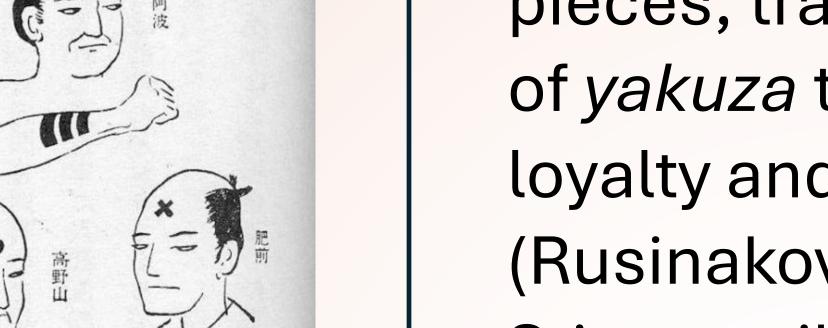
History of Tattoos

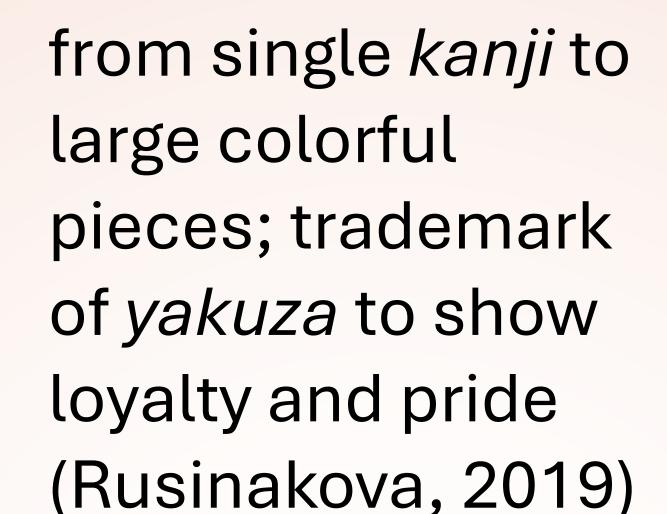
Changes in Tattoos

Symbolism & Meaning

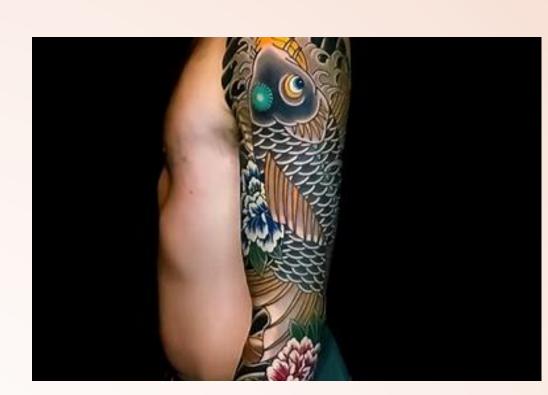
- Form of punishment for criminals (Rusinakova, 2019)
- Crimes were tattooed on the criminal for society to see (Rusinakova, 2019)







Tattoos shifted



Japanese Tattoos: History, Meanings
Symbolism & Designs (tattmag.com)

Stigma still present, but more positive and fashion-oriented (Rusinakova, 2019)

- Gods and mythical creatures involving nature and color (Ashcraft & Benny, 2016)
- Large pieces that incorporate many aspects (Ashcraft & Benny, 2016)



https://www.compulsivecontents.com/detail-event/tattoos-and-the-yakuza/

- Introduced via trade vessels and piracy; source of pride among sailors (Bell, 2004)
- Associated with low and working class (Bell, 2004)



https://www.historynet.com/sailor-tattoos-through-the-ages/

- Invention of tattoo gun led to more popularity among middle and upper class
- Became a show of rebellion (Bell, 2004), fashion statement (Owens et al., 2023), reflection of personality (Rusinakova, 2019)



30 Different Popular Kinds of Tattoo Guns for Artists (2019) (tattoo-journal.com)

- Nature and love are a major symbol of American tattoos (Owens et al., 2023)
- Some have negative meaning (Ryan, 2023)
- Tattoos are more specific, subjective, and singular



11+ American Traditional Eagle Tattoo

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