



CURSO: JUNIO 2006

MATERIA: INGLÉS

Skin Art

Prehistoric man was thought to have practised tattooing, that is, puncturing the skin with tools dipped in pigment that left a permanent mark. And mummies with decorative tattoos have been discovered in many parts of the world. Yet for nearly as long as there has been tattooing, there has been condemnation. The Romans considered decorative tattooing barbaric, which is still evident in the Latin word for tattoo, *stigma*, and used tattoos to mark slaves and criminals. Despite its deep roots in ancient cultures, tattooing had fallen out of practice in Europe by the time Captain Cook set sail for the Polynesian Island in 1768.

Though Cook and his men were not the first Europeans to encounter Oceanic tattooing, they were the first to record the practice systematically. Cook also introduced to the English language the word tattoo, taken from the Tahitian. Cook's men did not fully understand the significance of tattooing among the Oceanic people, for whom the designs were symbolic protection against earthly enemies. Yet the sailors were fascinated and eager to be marked themselves. They adopted the practice with gusto, designing mariner motifs of their own. A turtle meant a sailor had crossed the equator, and an anchor that he had sailed the Atlantic. Crucifixion scene were also popular motifs – a vain attempt to avoid being beaten, as it was hoped no one would dare hit the image of Christ.

Today, all types of people get tattooed. Though the art was adopted from distant cultures and adapted to suit Western tastes, the attraction of tattooing has changed very little.

QUESTIONS

1. Are the following statements TRUE or FALSE? Copy the evidence from the text. No marks are given for only TRUE or FALSE.

- Fashionable people in the Roman world had tattoos.
- The origin of the word tattoo in English is unknown.

2. In your own words and based on the ideas in the text, answer the following questions.

- Why did the Polynesian Islanders get tattooed?
- Why did the sailors choose to have crosses tattooed?

3. Find the words in the text that mean:

- embalmed human bodies (paragraph 1)
- almost (paragraph 1)
- profound (paragraph 1)
- completely (paragraph 2)

4. Complete the following sentences. Used appropriate form of the word in brackets when given.

- Before _____ (become) King of England George V had a dragon tattooed on _____ arm.
- “ _____ does the word “stigma” mean?” It means _____ mark or sign of shame”.
- Winston Churchill's mother, _____ wrist was tattooed with a serpent, tried to cover _____ with a bracelet when in public.
- In the past, tattoos _____ (link) to criminals, but today the tattoo _____ (wear) proudly by celebrities.

5. Write about 100 or 150 words on ONE of the following topics.

- Why do many young people get tattooed today? Give reasons.
- Are tattooed people fully accepted in our present society? Discuss.