

The medium affects the design

On "tattoo" designs

When you get Indians to do them on paper, they get more complicated - more like painting or engraving

The urge to collect 'tattoo' designs, in Boas' case at least, arose from wanting the simplest possible NWC drawings, to show how important the symbolism was.

1873 Swan had been the first (Swan 1873); actually copying designs tattooed on his visitors. He also got them to draw more, but some of these obviously became 'parades' rather than 'tattoos' designs.

1883 Swan in 1883 got Johnny Ket-Elewa to draw more designs, not specifically tattoos. See Reblack.

1888 Boas, 1888, at Fort Esington, saw and photographed some Hardas with tattooed designs (Kobus, 1969), and a few of these got into "Decorative Art" (Boas 1897)

1897 In 1897, Boas didn't try for tattoo designs, wanted face paintings and blanket borders instead. But CE did a couple of fairly simple designs (a lion, dogfish, ) which Swanton later called tattoo designs

1897 Dorsey photographed a tattooed Harda ("Cousin")

1901 Swanton got John Cross to do "tattoo designs" and included the ones Boas had given him of John Walker and CE. (1905 2 plates)

Newcombe took it from there. Got John Hobson to do a book full, and then Tom Ponce added a book. The latter were certainly not simple tattoos.