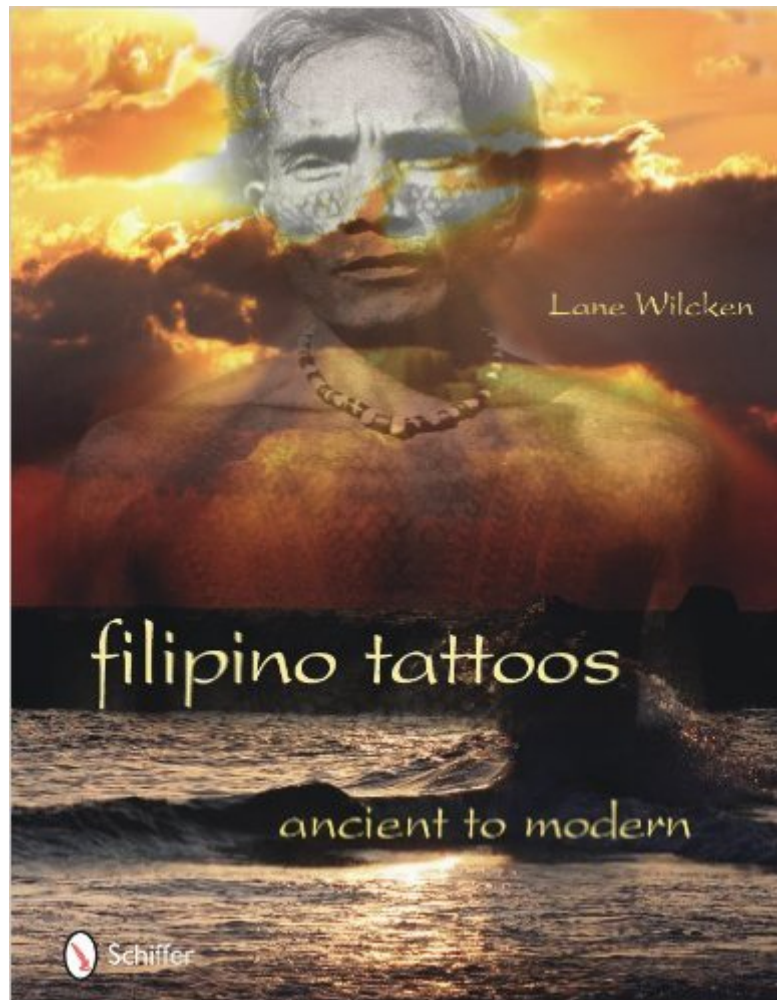


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# Filipino Tattoos Ancient To Modern



## Synopsis

Centuries ago, tattooing was so integral to the culture of the Philippines, that the islands were originally called by the Spanish, Las Islas de los Pintados, or "The Islands of Painted People" due to the abundance of tattooing seen by early Spanish explorers. However, after centuries of colonization, traditional tattooing in the Philippines now stands on the precipice of cultural extinction. In an effort to preserve this beautiful aspect of the Philippines' history, the author condenses almost 2 decades of research to profoundly examine the nearly extinct remnants of this art in its proper socio-cultural and spiritual context. This includes examining historical accounts, mythology, tools, the social importance of both sexes' tattoos, identification of individual symbols and designs of Filipino tattooing, and cross-referencing them to related designs from the Pacific Islands for a broader understanding of tattooing in both the Philippines and the rest of Oceania. In addition the author discusses the modern adaptation of tattooing from the Philippines. This is the first serious study of Filipino tattoos, and it considers early accounts from explorers and Spanish-speaking writers. The text presents Filipino cultural practices connected with ancestral and spiritual aspects of tattoo markings, and how they relate to the process and tools used to make the marks. In the Philippine Islands, tattoos were applied to men and women for many different reasons. It was considered a form of clothing. Certain designs recognized manhood and personal accomplishments as well as attractiveness, fertility, and continuity of the family or village. Facial tattoos occurred on the bravest warriors with designs that denoted particular honor. Through the fascinating text and over 200 images, including color photographs and design drawings, the deep meanings and importance of these symbols is revealed. This book will be enjoyed by both cultural scholars and tattoo enthusiasts.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Lane Wilcken's book *Filipino Tattoos: Ancient to Modern* is a result of around two decades of research, connecting with tattoo practitioners, masters and enthusiasts, and is also a result of a lifetime of experiencing Philippine traditions directly for him self via his family. The book of *Filipino Tattoos: Ancient to Modern* may cover a significant amount of information that hasn't been published before. It isn't just a book with photos and drawings of traditional and modern tattoos. This book also has a large amount of information about the history of Philippine tattoo culture, the tools and processes of the traditional Philippine practitioners, the different traditional and modern reasons for tattooing, and more. Both the traditional and modern reasons for tattooing, that are shared in this book can give people who have Filipino tattoos (and/or otherwise) or are planning to get Filipino tattoos, cause to consider more thoughtfully, even contemplatively, what their tattoos mean for them. Even non-Filipino tattoo enthusiasts can get something out of this book. Wilcken also dedicates a whole chapter to tattooing motifs and practices that are shared among the Pacific Isles. The two forewords are written by Su'a Suluape Alaiva'a Petel, a master tattoo expert who hails from the oldest tattooing family of Samoa, and by Keone Nunes, a Hawaiian master tattoo practitioner (tofuga). The work of Suluape and Nunes has perpetrated the ancient art of hand-tap tattooing today (Bob Baxter, 2010). (Side story: After this book was off to the press, Nunes and author Wilcken traveled together with friends to the Philippines to meet with the Filipino master tattoo artist Apo Wang-Od, who resides in the mountainous region of Buscalan.

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