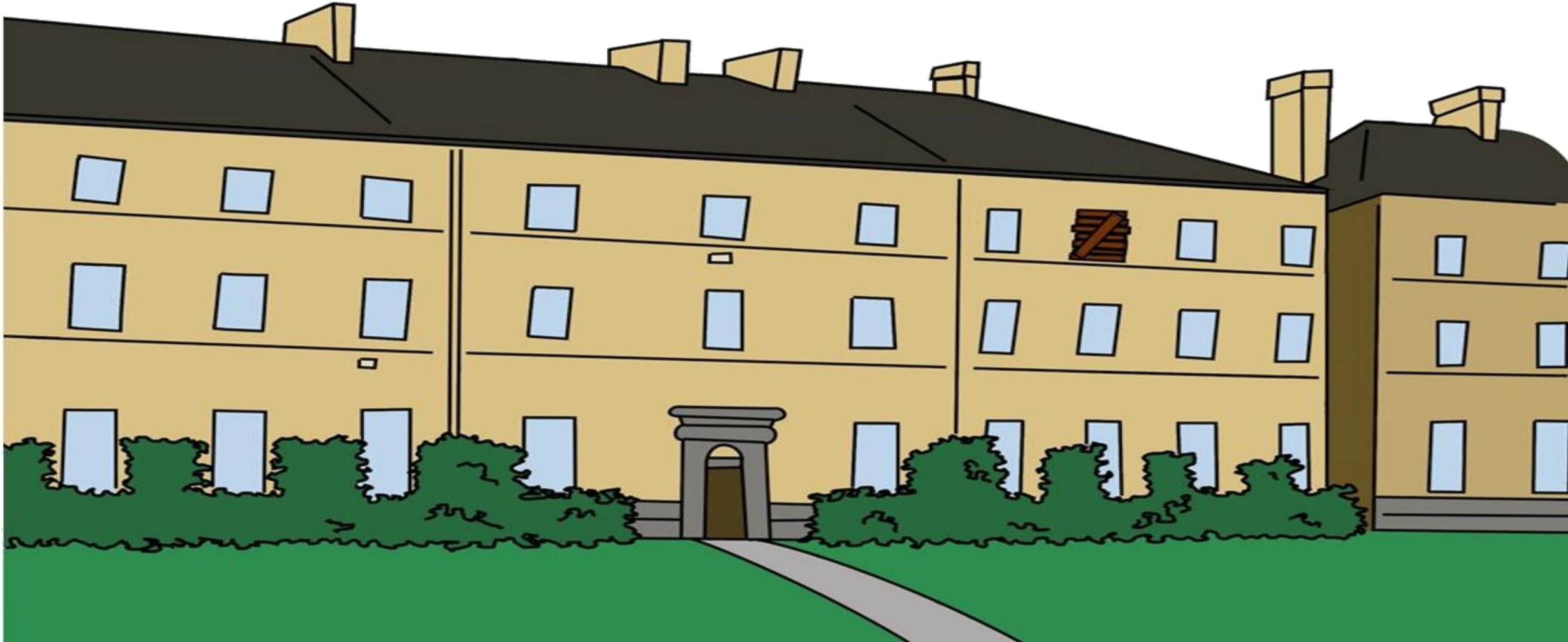


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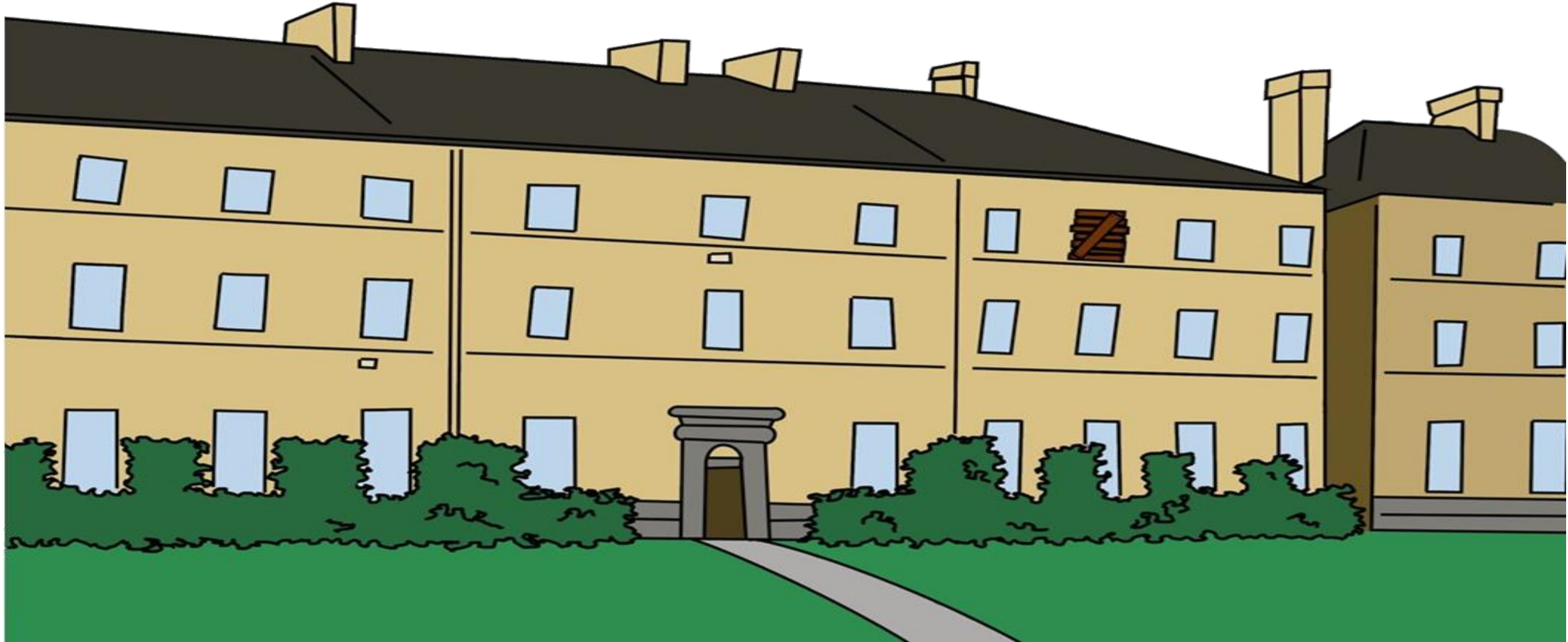
*Presents*

"The Life and Times in Victorian London"



# Baker Street *Elementary*

The Life and Times in Victorian London  
# 079 -- Tattoos -- Got You Under My Skin -- February, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 079... TODAY WE WILL BE  
LOOKING AT TATTOOS DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.





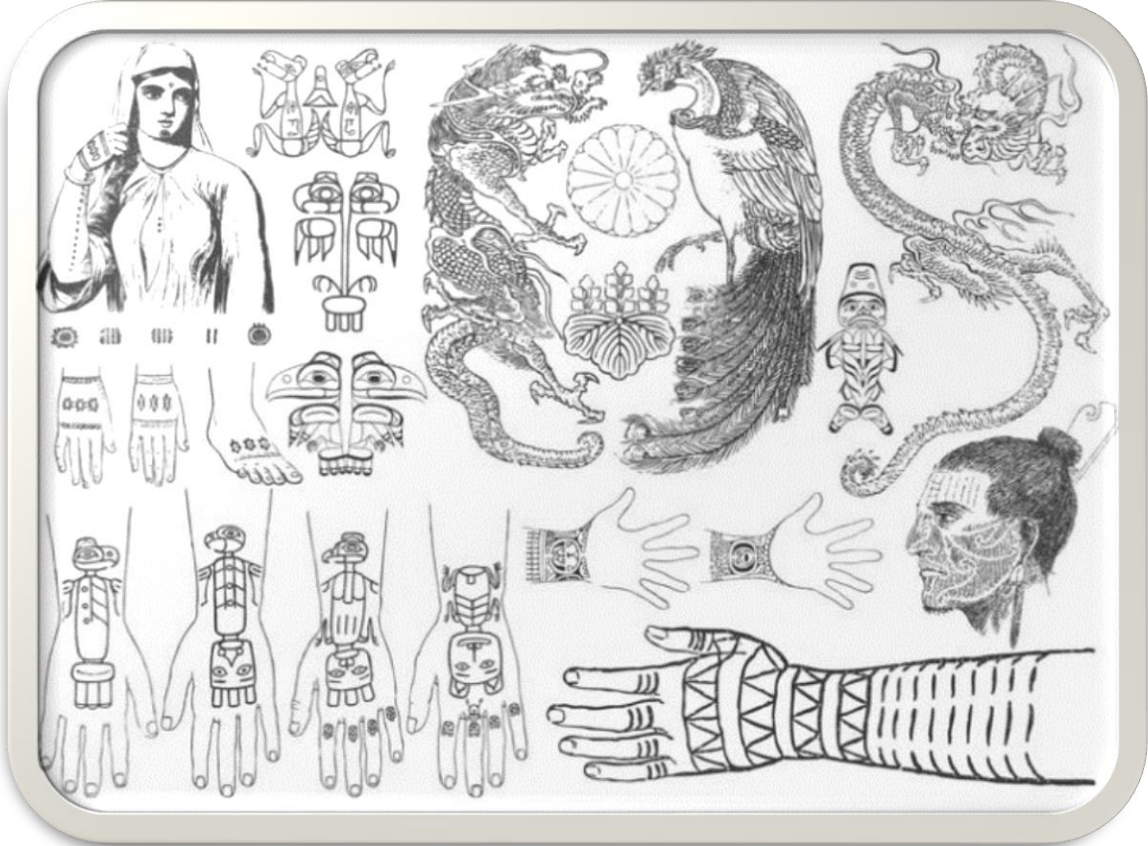
IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE,'  
A FISH TATTOO ABOVE THE RIGHT WRIST OF  
JABEZ WILSON TOLD YOU OUR GUEST HAD BEEN  
TO CHINA.



**YOUR STUDY AND WRITINGS ON TATTOOS  
INDICATED WILSON'S INKING COULD ONLY HAVE  
BEEN DONE IN THAT COUNTRY.**



THE PRACTICE OF TATTOOING CAN BE FOUND IN CULTURES ALL OVER THE WORLD FROM VERY ANCIENT TIMES.

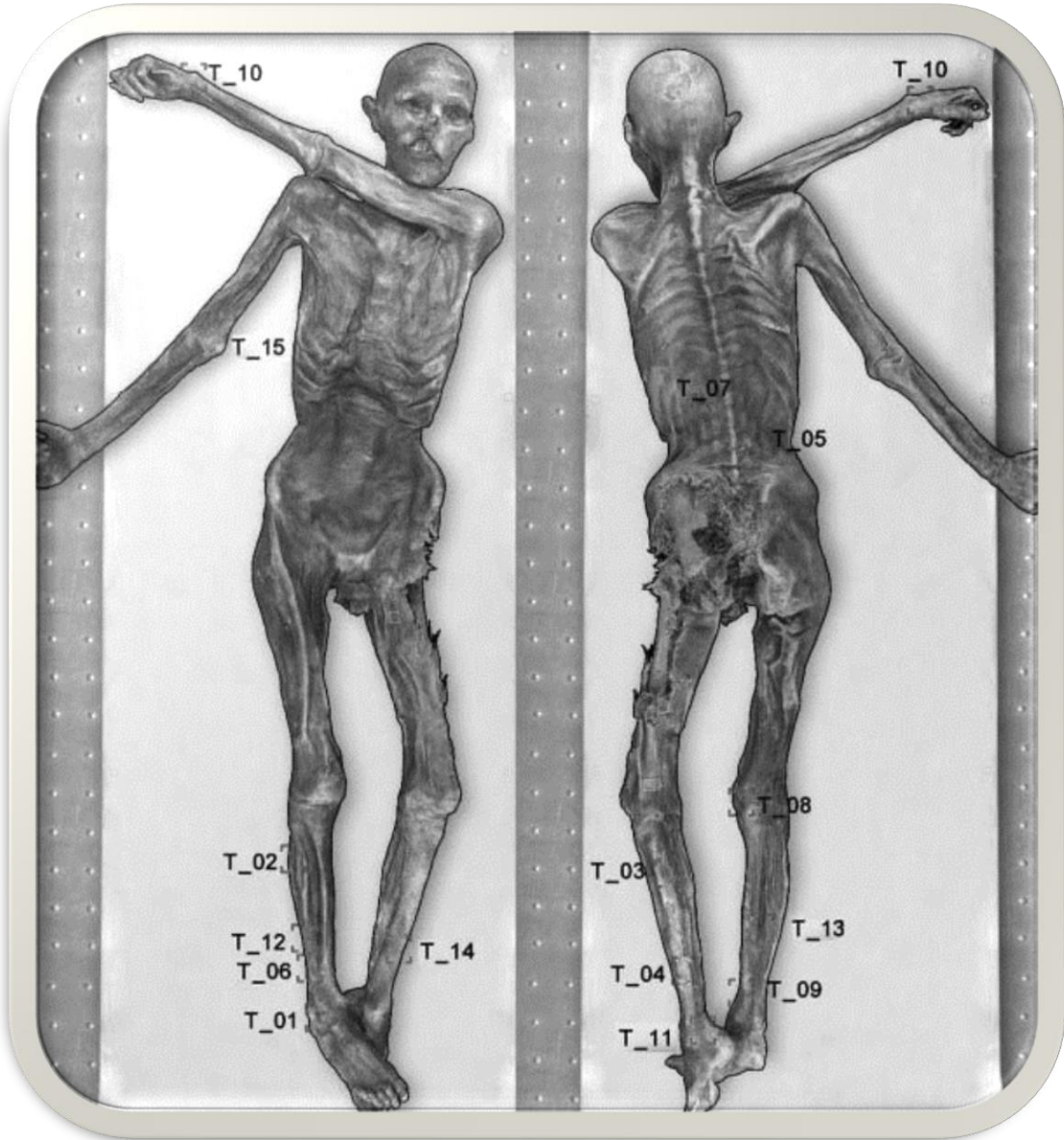






**IMPLEMENTS FOR MARKING THE SKIN, DATING BACK MORE THAN 12,000 YEARS, HAVE BEEN FOUND IN FRANCE, PORTUGAL, AND SCANDINAVIA.**





**ÖTZI, THE 'ICEMAN' DISCOVERED IN 1991 ON THE ITALIAN-AUSTRIAN BORDER, DISPLAYS THE OLDEST ACTUAL MARKINGS. HIS REMAINS WERE CARBON-DATED BACK 5,200 YEARS.**





**TATTOOS, HOWEVER, WERE NOT LIMITED TO EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.**





THEY HAVE BEEN FOUND IN ANCIENT EGYPT (BUT ONLY ON WOMEN) THE SCYTHIAN PAZYRYK IN THE ALTAI MOUNTAINS, ANCIENT BRITON ANCIENT GREECE AND ROME, PRE-COLUMBIAN CIVILIZATIONS OF PERU AND CHILE, THE CREE, CHINA, JAPAN, AND THE POLYNESIAN CULTURES.

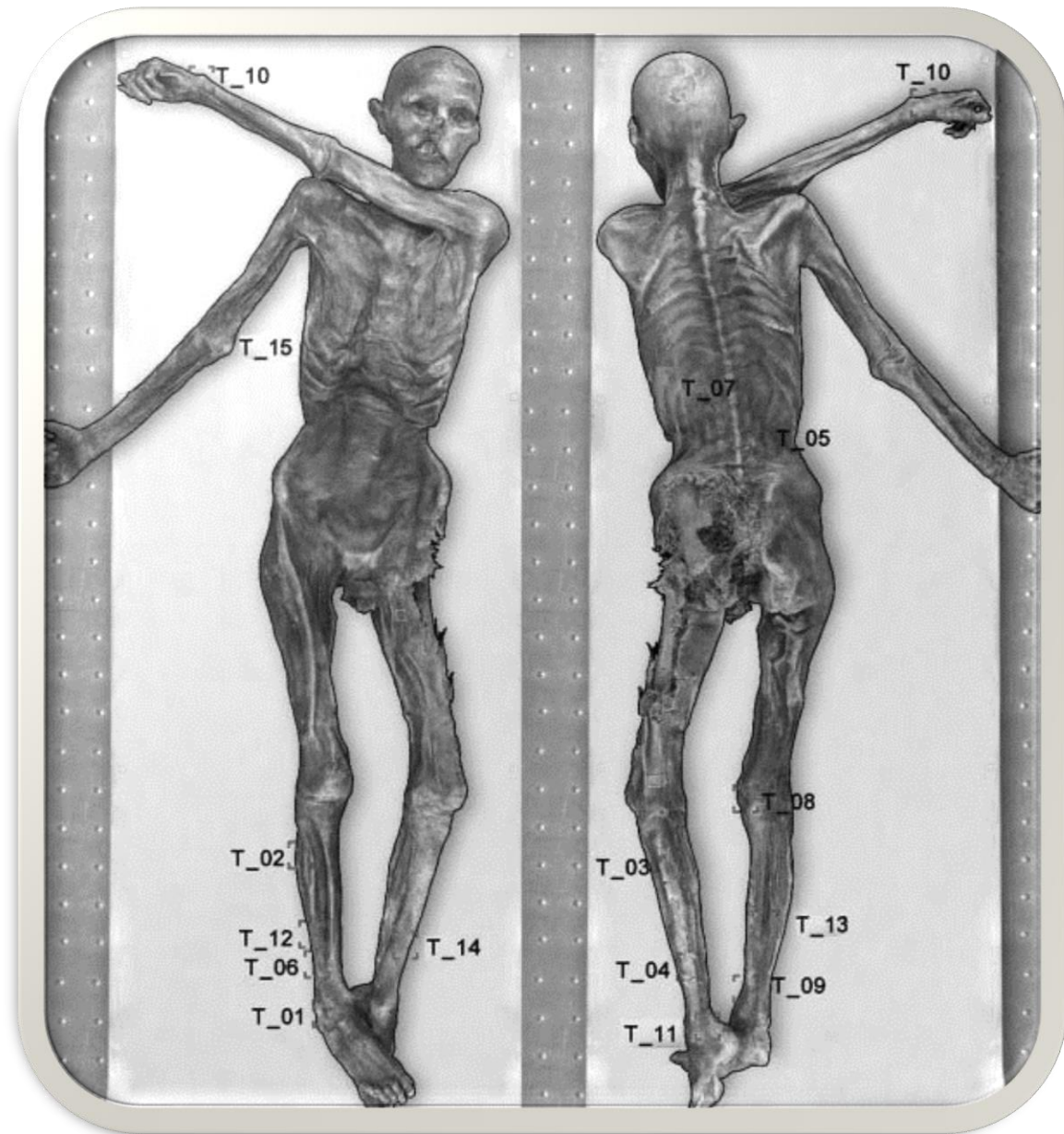


**THIS LAST GROUP, WHICH JAMES COOK VISITED  
IN TAHITI IN 1769, PROVIDED THE CONTEMPORARY  
NAME TO SUCH MARKS... THEIR TERM 'TATATAU'  
OR 'TATTAU' BECAME 'TATTOO.'**

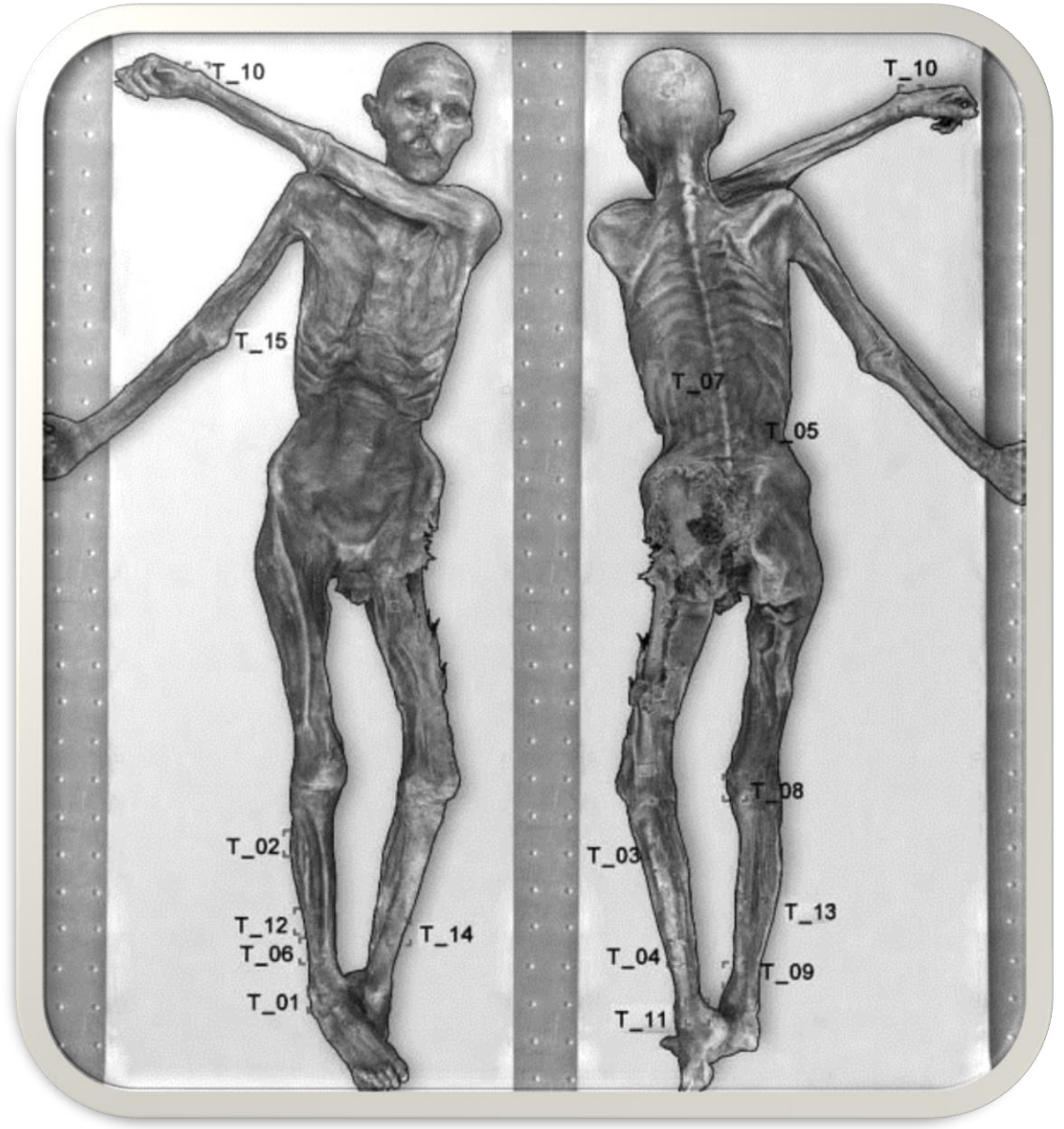




**ÖTZI SPORTED ABOUT FIFTY LINES AND CROSSES MARKED ON VARIOUS PARTS OF HIS BODY, INCLUDING HIS SPINE, KNEE AND ANKLE JOINTS.**



INTERESTINGLY, THESE ARE ALSO THE POINTS USED IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE ACUPUNCTURE, ALTHOUGH THE EARLIEST INDICATIONS OF THE USE OF NEEDLES ON PRESSURE POINTS DIDN'T OCCUR FOR ANOTHER 2000 YEARS.

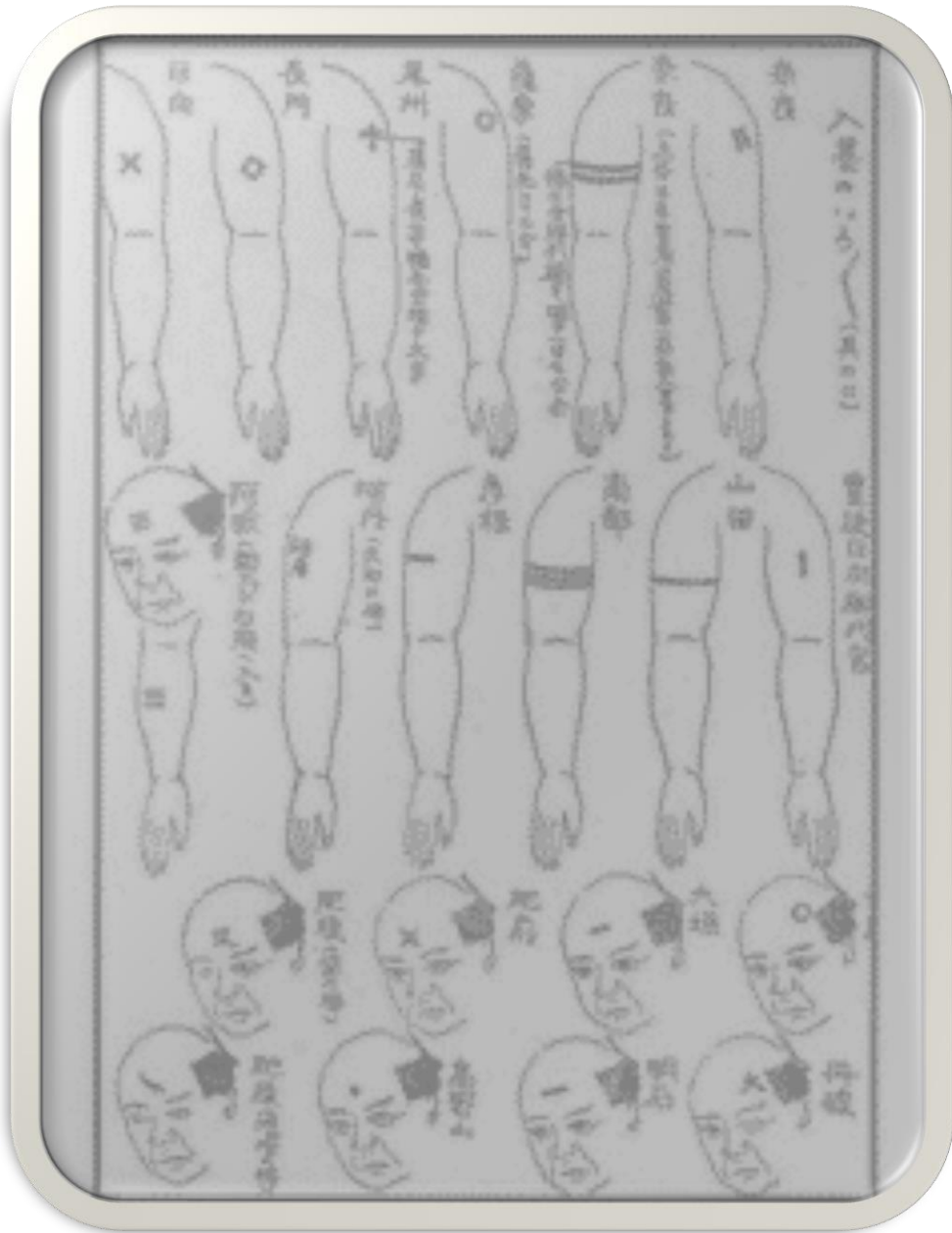




RESEARCHERS BELIEVE THESE TATTOOS WERE USED FOR THERAPEUTIC PURPOSES RELATED TO ARTHRITIS AND ABDOMINAL PAIN... SIMILAR USES WERE FOUND IN FEMALE EGYPTIAN MUMMIES WHERE TATTOOS WERE BELIEVED TO BE RELATED TO CHILDBIRTH.







**TATTOOS SERVED ADDITIONAL PURPOSES OVER THE CENTURIES. ROMANS AND THE JAPANESE MARKED CRIMINALS... SLAVES CARRIED AN INDICATION OF OWNERSHIP... NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICAN CULTURES AS WELL AS BRITONS USED THEM FOR CEREMONIAL PURPOSES.**



**SCANDINAVIANS AND SAXONS CARRIED A FAMILY CREST... EUROPEANS WHO JOINED THE CRUSADES OFTEN HAD A CROSS ON THEIR HAND TO INDICATE A DESIRE FOR A CHRISTIAN BURIAL.**

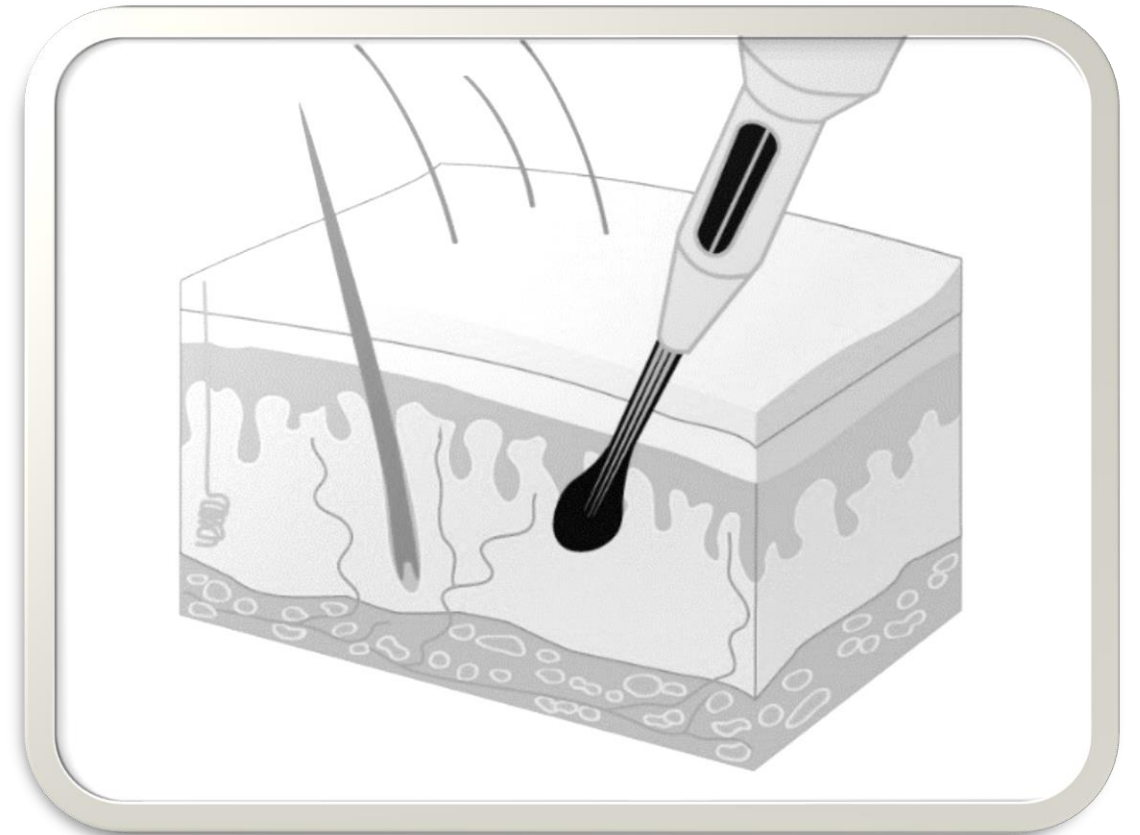


**SAILORS AND MINERS HAD THEM FOR IDENTIFICATION IN CASE OF A DISASTER.**

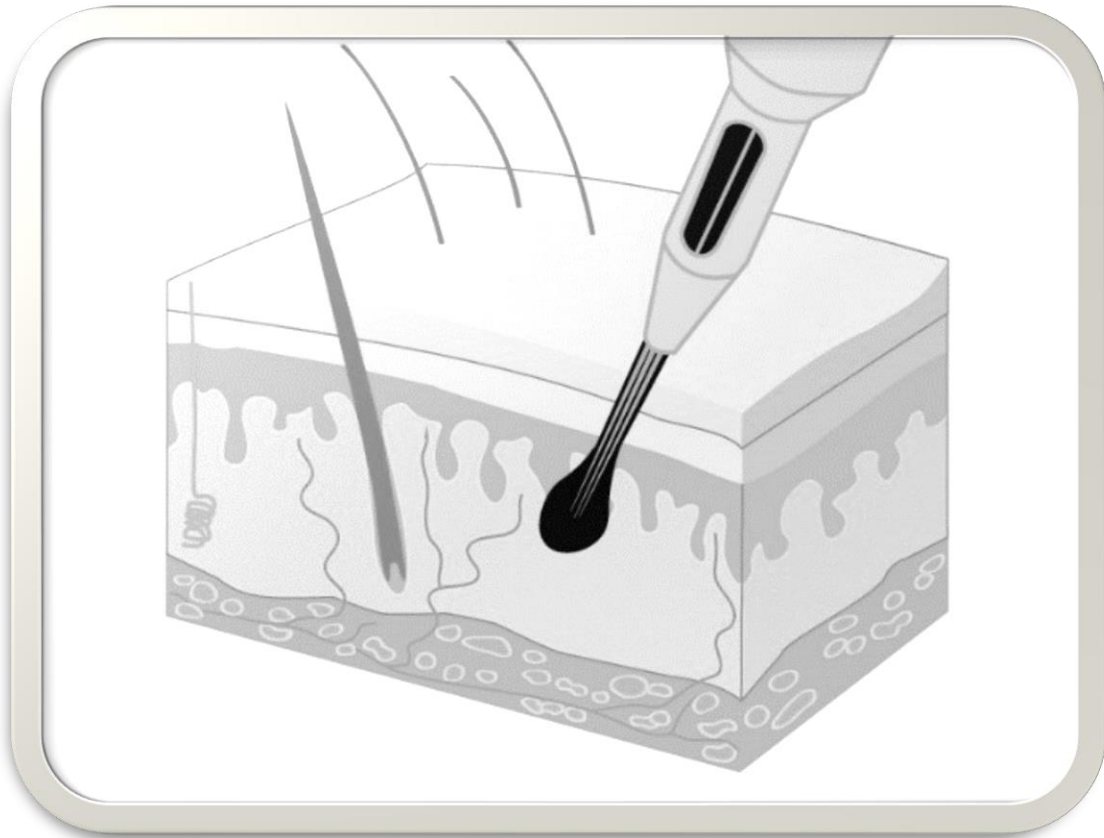




**VARIOUS METHODS HAVE BEEN USED TO CREATE TATTOOS, BUT ALL REQUIRE A MEANS OF PUNCTURING THE SECOND LAYER OF SKIN, OR DERMIS, TO APPLY A PIGMENT UNDERNEATH... THIS SKIN LAYER ISN'T SHED LIKE THE EPIDERMIS, AND THE PIGMENTATION BECOMES PERMANENT.**



THE IMPLEMENT TO PUNCTURE THE SKIN  
REQUIRES A SHARP POINT — TODAY A NEEDLE —  
THAT WILL PENETRATE TO THIS LAYER.



**CURRENT ELECTRIC TATTOO MACHINES USE THE SAME BASIC MODEL AS THAT PATENTED IN 1891, BASED ON THOMAS EDISON'S ELECTRIC ENGRAVER PEN.**

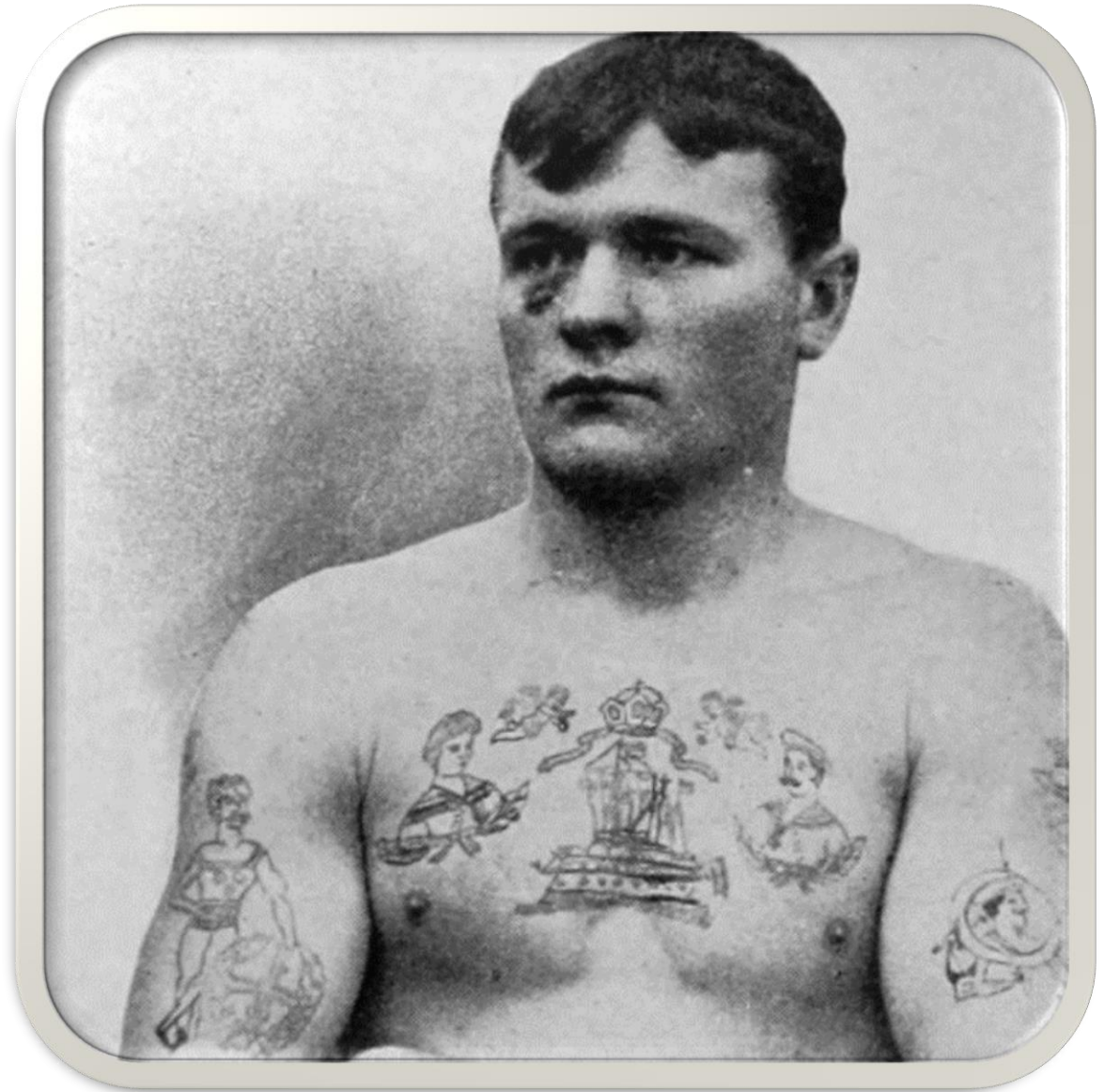




**PIGMENTATIONS HAVE INCLUDED SOOT, CINNABAR (FOR RED MARKINGS) AND CADMIUM COMPOUNDS FOR HUES SUCH AS ORANGE AND YELLOW... THE PIGMENTS USED IN MODERN TATTOOS ARE FROM COLORLESS METAL SALTS THAT GIVE OFF DIFFERENT HUES WHEN LIGHT REFRACTS OFF THEM.**



**AS YOU NOTED WITH RESPECT TO JABEZ WILSON'S  
TATTOO, DIFFERENT TATTOO ARTISTS USE  
DIFFERENT TYPES OF PIGMENTS AS WELL AS EACH  
HAVING THEIR OWN STYLE.**



**MODERN DAY FORENSIC EXPERTS ARE ABLE TO EXTRACT SOME OF THE PIGMENT, WHICH INVESTIGATORS USE TO EXCLUDE OR CONFIRM A PARTICULAR ARTIST'S WORK.**





*MICHELLE MIRANDA, AUTHOR OF FORENSIC ANALYSIS OF TATTOOS AND TATTOO INKS, DESCRIBED THE CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF THE TATTOO PIGMENTS AS ASSISTING IN DETERMINING 'THE AGE, QUALITY OR PREVALENCE OF THE INK.'*



# Forensic Analysis of Tattoos and Tattoo Inks

Michelle D. Miranda

 CRC Press  
Taylor & Francis Group

ANCIENT PIGMENTS WERE CARBON-BASED, BUT BY THE LATE 1800s, INK COLORS WERE INTRODUCED (MOSTLY BLACK, BLUE, GREEN, AND RED).. FROM THE MID- TO LATE-1900s, THE PIGMENTS CONTAINED HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF HEAVY METALS.





**CURRENTLY, MOST OF THE COLORS ARE SYNTHETIC ORGANIC, AND THE DESIGNS HAVE FINER LINES WITH MORE AND BRIGHTER COLORS.**





TATTOOS FELL OUT OF FAVOR IN EUROPE WITH THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY... THESE MARKINGS WERE CONSIDERED A DISFIGUREMENT OF THOSE 'MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE,' WITH EMPEROR CONSTANTINE GOING SO FAR AS BANNING THEM IN THE FOURTH CENTURY.



**CERTAIN POPULATIONS—SUCH AS SAILORS AND MINERS, MENTIONED ABOVE — CONTINUED THE PRACTICE EVEN IN THE VICTORIAN ERA.**

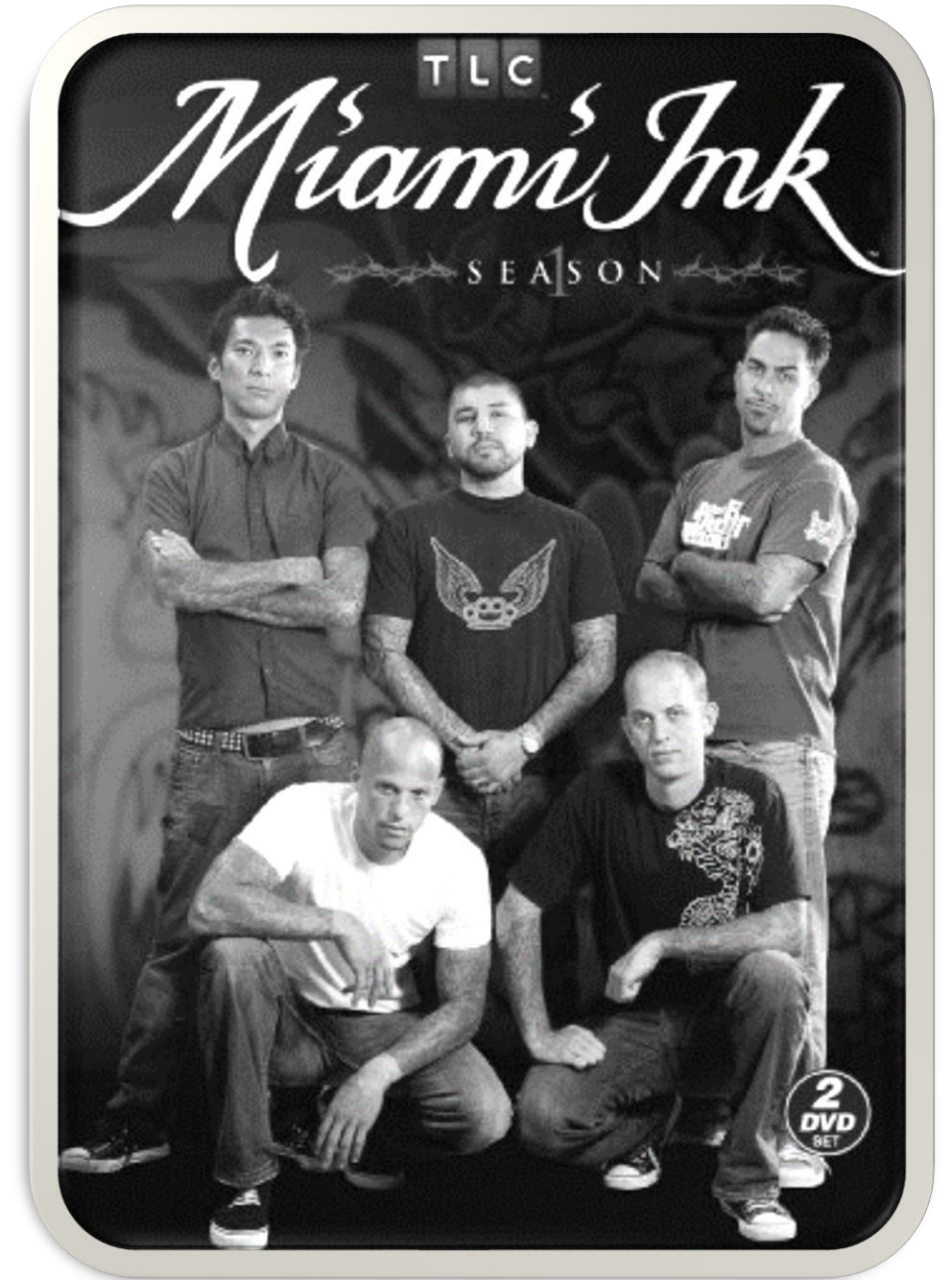


*CURRENTLY, ABOUT ONE IN SEVEN PEOPLE IN  
NORTH AMERICA SPORT AT LEAST ONE TATTOO.*





**SOME OF THIS INCREASED POPULARITY AMONG THE GENERAL PUBLIC HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO THE TV SHOW 'MIAMI INK,' WHICH PREMIERED IN 2005 AND SHOWCASED THE ARTISTRY INVOLVED IN SUCH WORK.**





**YOU DIDN'T DOCUMENT MUCH ABOUT  
MY INVESTIGATION INTO THE  
PRACTICE OF TATTOOING.**





*AS YOU DISPLAYED IN 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE RED-HEADED LEAGUE,' HOWEVER, MY TREATISES ON THE SUBJECT WERE BOUND TO HAVE INCLUDED...*







*...EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON THE TYPES OF  
INKS, CRAFTSMANSHIP, AND SYMBOLS — ALL  
GOING MORE THAN JUST SKIN DEEP.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 079 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 080, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT HOW GOSSIP WAS USED DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.



## REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

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- [HTTPS://WWW.HUFFPOST.COM/ENTRY/HOW-TATTOOS-WENT-FROM-SUB\\_B\\_6053588](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-tattoos-went-from-sub_b_6053588)





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IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY  
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RUSTY MASON  
&  
STEVE MASON

