



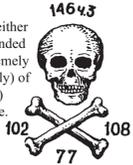
RUSSIAN CRIMINAL TATTOO'S



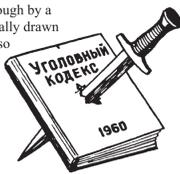
The head of Jesus Christ on the cross and a Bible, burning in the flames of the word "Freedom" - freedom and faith perished in the fire of the (Communist) Party. Drawn on the chest and shoulder.



Skull and cross-bones. Worn on the shoulder and forearm by (probably either antigovernment or anti-authority minded individuals). According to our extremely scant data, (possibly obtained secretly) of this category of criminals, (it means) they have a talent for armed violence.



The criminal code, run through by a dagger - "Anarchist." Usually drawn on the forearm, but may also be found on other parts of the body.



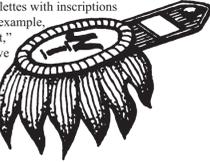
Inscriptions: "Slave of the KPSS" ("Slave of the MVD," "Slave of the USSR," etc.) - expresses disagreement with slave laws, oppression and conditions in the ITU. Tattooed on the forehead, eyelids and arms. KPSS - Communist Party of the Soviet Union MVD - Ministry of Internal Affairs USSR - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ITU - Correctional-Labor Institution In the picture is the inscription in Italian, "Submission."



A burning cross (a symbol of faith), entwined with barbed wire, with the inscription, "Faith in God, not in Communism." Drawn on the chest.



Shoulder straps or epaulettes with inscriptions (or other symbols), for example, "N" - "Napoleon the 1st," etc. These are distinctive decorations in the criminal environment of the authorities of the prison hierarchy. Drawn on one or both shoulders.



A six-pointed star (Star of David) and the inscription (usually in Hebrew), "We are a spiritual people. Life. Intellect. Power on earth." Drawn under the arm.



A five-pointed star and the inscription, "Death to trash (slang for policemen, prison guards)." Seen on the chest, shoulder, and the side surface of the shin.



A window with prison bars, a convict behind them, in the ribbon is the inscription, "He who has not been deprived of freedom doesn't know its value." - according to the unwritten code of prison, "A thief in the law" (from the glossary) is incapable of remaining free for more than a year. Drawn on the abdomen.



The head of a demon, with a dagger driven through it's neck, is a tattoo of anti-Semites. Drawn on various parts of the body.



A sign of quality. Drawn on the breast, pubis, sexual organ and other intimate parts of the body.



Crosses - symbols of female thieves. Drawn in the region of the temple, between the breasts, on the fingers of the hands.



An "Iron Cross" with swastika or without - symbol of contemporary punks, expressing solidarity with the Nazis. Placed on the chest between the collarbones. However, according to a statement of British sociologist D. Cambridge, in the book "Subculture. A Sense of Style," using the swastika in punk-fashion supposedly loses its primary meaning and is used only as an attribute of modern times.



A crescent moon and stars - tattoo is seen on people professing faith in Islam. Drawn on the lower part of the forearm and the chest.



Two, three and more half-arches resembling a piece of barbed wire - "personal account of a ZK": the number of half-arches is the number of convictions, and the number of bars is the number of years the bearer, by "account," has been deprived of freedom. Inside the unclosed circle are written the initials of the owner of the tattoo or the beginning letters of the name of the place where they are serving their sentence. ZK - prisoner or convict



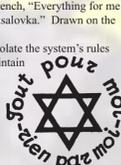
A medallion with the head of Jesus Christ in a crown of thorns - revenge upon traitors. Drawn only on the chest.



A hammer and sickle over cross-bones - suffering for (one's) beliefs. Drawn both on the arms and legs.



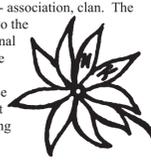
A "Star of David" with the inscription in French, "Everything for me - nothing from me" - is a symbol of the "otritsalovka." Drawn on the forearm. "Otritsalovka" - a group of convicts who violate the system's rules and policies in the ITK, refuse to work, maintain unlawful connections and never want to go straight/reform, frequent residents of "SHIZO" (penalty isolation; punishment cell) and "PKT"(unknown). ITK - corrective (forced) labor camp/ settlement



Jesus Christ crucified on the cross - "A clear conscience before my friends," "not capable of betrayal." Drawn on the chest.



A flower of lily or chamomile - association, clan. The number of petals corresponds to the number of members of a criminal group or the people tried in one criminal case. Initials may be written on the petals. The place for the tattoo is any visible part of the body. Often found among young people.



Portrait of the Virgin Mary with child - "A clear conscience before my friends," "not capable of betrayal." Drawn on the chest.



A devil and a woman - "A woman drove me to crime," "evading the law." Drawn on the chest, thigh, more seldom on the forearm.



A tom cat - symbol of good luck and wariness. Can be seen with paws, a hat or top hat, a bow tie, etc. It is thieves' colors of a man forever and with conviction connected to the criminal world, inclined toward robbery, theft and burglary. If it is drawn on the forearm or shoulder - "Native Occupant of the Prison" (abbreviation KOT), if drawn under the arm - "Prison - Native Home," if drawn on the legs - convicted for robbery, convicted for life, if drawn on the abdomen - "THIEF."



A torch - solidarity in places of confinement. Often seen with the initials of the person who made the tattoo. The word "freedom" is written on the ribbon in this picture.



A knife in hand, manacles on the wrist - "Cormorant" (slang for hooligan). Drawn on the calf of the leg, on the forearm.



The burning of a woman chained to a post - "revenge upon the one that betrayed me." The number of logs - the period of punishment received. Drawn on the thigh.



A sea gull on a background of a shield with a stripe - a sign of friendship before conviction, "Friends by free will/choice." Drawn on the hand, forearm.



A woman sitting on a kopeck (coin) - driven into crime by a woman or by love for a woman who sells herself, "I am going to get revenge for the pain I received." Drawn on the chest or the front part of the shin.



A burning crucifixion of a woman on a cross - driven into crime by a woman or by love for a woman who sells herself, "I am going to get revenge for the pain I received." Drawn on the chest or the front part of the shin.



A dagger, entwined by a snake - the leader of a "suit" (as in card suit) of thieves. If the snake's head is raised - "I began by stealing and robbing," if the head is lowered - "I was stuck with (had to resort to) stealing" (very rare!)



A tulip in hand - turned 16 years old in an education-labor settlement. Drawn on the shoulder.



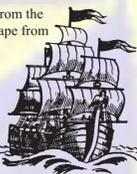
A rose in the hands - turned 18 years old in an education-labor settlement. Also drawn on the shoulder.



The head of a woman, a knife and a rose - oath of revenge. Drawn on the upper part of the forearm.



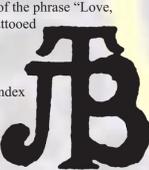
A sailing vessel - roving thief. From the original poster it is "given to escape from places of confinement."



A running deer - inclined to escape. Drawn on the chest. The inscription under the deer is Latin, "Free Man". RSFSR - Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic



Interlacing of the capital letters of the phrase "Love, Comrade, (Free) Will." Often tattooed on the under-aged in specialized vocational training schools, specialized schools, the VTK. Drawn between the thumb and index finger. VTK - penitentiary for youths, from the original poster



A woman, a torch, a snake, a skull, an ax, a crown, a cross, bars on the window, money "all things in life are fleeting." Drawn on the chest. Only convicts of authority are permitted to wear this tattoo, (probably "A thief in the law" bows for two "sacred" (things) - "kicha"(prison) and cross.



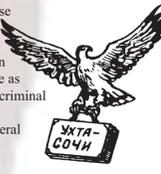
A wolf and a woman - a cartoon picture of a police officer. The wolf sometimes wears a police uniform, with shoulder straps, in a service cap with a badge on it. Drawn on the abdomen, thigh.



The Madonna with child in her arms - "Prison - Native Home," "A Child of the Prison." Drawn on the chest.



A soaring eagle with a suitcase in its talons - inclined to escape. Drawn on the chest. But if the eagle has a sheep in its talons - committed a crime as specified on page 117 of the criminal code of the RSFSR (rape). RSFSR - Russian Soviet Federal Socialist Republic



A devil with a bag - "I was lucky, but the devil took my luck away." The owners of these tattoos have a long-term conviction for committing theft of government and public property. Drawn on various parts of the body.



Abbreviation of a Latin expression, "Dum spiro spero" ("While I breathe, I hope"). Drawn on the hand and under artistic tattoos.



The head of a girl - Turned 17 years old in VTK. Drawn on the shoulder.



Iron bars, a dagger, a stemmed rose - convicted for hooliganism, turned 18 years old in places of confinement. Drawn on the shoulder and forearm. (The number of rods in the iron bars - the length of confinement).



A skull, a dagger, a snake, a stemmed rose, money - spent a long time doing thefts, robberies and burglaries. Repeated convictions/Repeat offender; "A thief in the law." Drawn on the chest.



A church on the palm of a hand. The number of domes designates the number of convictions or the period of punishment for the committed crime. Drawn on the thigh on the calf of the leg, on the forearm. On the chest - only the church or the cathedral. The manacles - right of the tattoo, are acquired only by those who receive a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years. The inscription is in Latin, "With God!"



An executioner and a woman - convicted for killing a woman or a relative. If only one executioner is depicted - "Honoring the code of thieves." Drawn on the chest and front part of the thigh.



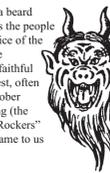
A gladiator ("Gerakl", Superman with a machine gun), the tattooed individual is inclined to sadism and blatant hooliganism. People with such tattoos are called "fighters" (possibly "butchers") in places of imprisonment. They perform violent actions upon "the guilty" convicts and citizens (when) at large. Drawn on the shoulder or the back.



A handshake in manacles - the sign of friends in places of confinement. Drawn on the hand, forearm or shoulder.



The head of a monster with fangs, horns and a beard "bared-teeth (grin), negative attitude towards the people of the police, of the justice system, of the Office of the Public Prosecutor, of the administration of the reformatory institution, (and towards) the unfaithful of the traditions of thieves. Drawn on the chest, often next to a portrait of Lenin - Leader of the October Revolution, which also has an affirmed meaning (the abbreviation VOR, Russian for "THIEF"). "Rockers" adopted this tattoo in the criminal world. It came to us from the west from the film, "Hell's Angels."



A genie, flying out of a pitcher - typical tattoo of a drug addict or one inclined to drug usage. Drawn on the chest, shoulder, forearm, the front part of the thigh, and between the thumb and index fingers.



A spider in a spiderweb - tattoo of a drug addict. A spider without a spiderweb - "spiderbite." Typical tattoo of thieves. Both are worn on the hand between the thumb and index finger. In addition, the spider is worn on the left and right sides of the neck, which signifies "policy crushed (crushed by policy)," that is, repeatedly punished in places of confinement for various violations of custody policy: lockups/punishment cells, PKT, deprived of meetings (visitors), etc.



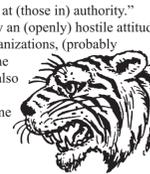
A cross, a sacred head in a crown of thorns, the card suit "spades" - convicted for hooliganism. Drawn on the shoulder, forearm, front part of the thigh. (A tattoo of convicts who have been in the Baltic ITU).



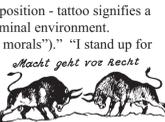
A dagger, a revolver, ammunition, a bottle, a wine glass, a woman's head, a syringe, ampoules, cards, money (in various combinations) - 1) "Bardak" (disorder, or den of depravity) - "this is what ruins us;" 2) "Decided to lead the criminal way of life." Drawn on various parts of the body. In the criminal world everyone is allowed (to wear this tattoo).



The head of a tiger - "Angry at (those in) authority." Wearers of this tattoo display an (openly) hostile attitude toward law enforcement organizations, (probably) corrections personnel with the criminal environment, and also toward all employees of the ITU. Ready to repulse anyone encroaching his dignity.



Bulls facing each other in opposition - tattoo signifies a fight for leadership in the criminal environment. ("probably "not burdened by morals"). "I stand up for myself." Drawn on the shoulder-blades. Has the same meaning with knights fighting.



The window of a cell, a skull, the criminal code of the RSFSR along with the head of a snake run through by a dagger, a guard in the guard tower, barbed wire - "revenge on the Public Prosecutor." The number of bars on the wire (as on other tattoos) designates the sentence received for the crime committed. Drawn on various parts of the body.



Capital Latin letter "D," a tiger, a skull clamped in the tiger's paw, a crown, the card suit "spades" - convicted for robbery. Cruelly, antisocial orientation of interests, desires and aspirations. Drawn on the shoulder, chest and forearm. Punks and Rockers tattoo this on their chests.



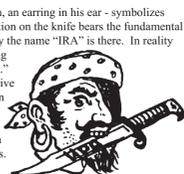
A woman crucified on a cross - "cross of thieves." (probably Thieves of authority) among the convicts "pin" it (the cross) on. Locations for the tattoo - chest, forearm, front part of the thigh.



A symbol of threat, revenge. Occasionally with a date or initials. "I've taken a vow of revenge." The inscription says, "Live and let live."



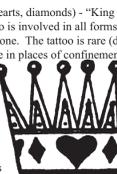
A pirate with a knife in his teeth, an earring in his ear - symbolizes threat. In this tattoo the inscription on the knife bears the fundamental meaning (of the tattoo). Usually the name "IRA" is there. In reality it's an abbreviation - "I am going (probably) to kill Party activists." Inclined to sadism, with a negative attitude toward those who are on the way to correction (trying to go straight). Drawn on the shoulder, chest. The earring - a symbol of good luck for thieves.



An exposed woman, entwined by a snake (versions can be quite different!), - designates passive homosexual. The tattoo is made by force or by losing in a card game, but sometimes by one's own accord. Location of the tattoo - only on the back!



A crown with red playing card suits (hearts, diamonds) - "King of all suits," passive homosexual, a man who is involved in all forms of depravity. Weak-willed/Lack of backbone. The tattoo is rare (drawn on the back), but the majority of people in places of confinement know of it. People who have this tattoo or the one to the left are called "cock's combs," "roosters" or "blues." These are the most insulting (abusive) names in places of confinement. A convict calling another convict these names, even as a joke, could pay for it with his health or his life.



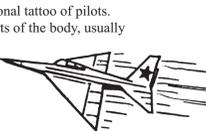
Jesus Christ, crucified on the cross; the crucifix is in hands chained in manacles, - "I believe in the thieves' idea." "I won't betray the code of thieves." Drawn on the chest, front part of the thighs.



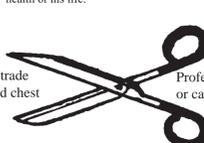
An anchor with ring-buoy, etc. Professional tattoo of sailors. Drawn on various parts of the body, usually seen: arms, chest.



An airplane, Professional tattoo of pilots. Drawn on various parts of the body, usually seen: arms, chest.



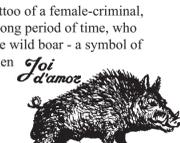
Professional tattoo, signifies trade or career. Drawn on arms and chest



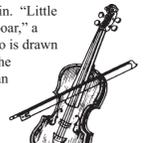
Professional tattoo, signifies trade or career. Drawn on arms and chest



A wild boar or its head - tattoo of a female-criminal, deprived of freedom for a long period of time, who engages in lesbian sex. The wild boar - a symbol of strength, masculinity, women who take on the male role get this (tattoo).



Tattoo of a treble clef or a violin. "Little violin" - the antonym of the "boar," a weak-willed woman. The tattoo is drawn on by the "men," with whom the "little violin" engages in lesbian oral sex.



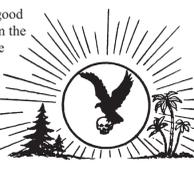
A symbol of threat, revenge. Occasionally with a date or initials. "I've taken a vow of revenge."



A "clerk" - deciphers translations from the slang dictionary: "Gangster, able to use (both) knife and razor well."



The thieves' symbol of good luck, strength. Drawn on the chest. For this tattoo one has to be an authority criminal in the world of crime.



A "slope-edged" star - solidarity with the "otritsalovka," loyalty to its codes; a card player, playing "under interest" (one of the precepts of "A thief in the law" - he should play cards perfectly). The tattoo is drawn at the corners of the collarbones. In recent years many convicts fascinated by the tattoo started pinning it on.



Tattoo - "Outraged by the injustice of Soviet legislation." (You can count those who have it among the ranks of asocial individuals. The inscription is Latin, "To err is human."

