

The "wacinyhe" (eagle plume) is usually found on these bonnets as in the center of the ordinary warbonnet sticking out behind at the tip of a bare middle of a long wing feather. This is the "wacinyhe" - eagle plume.

The "wacinyhe" was a special protective charm. The University of Oklahoma Norman, Oklahoma

It was purchased at a high price Dec 22, 1928. from a medicine man who had cast a protective spell into it (by magic)

Dear Weygold:

I have jogged the memory of my friend in Montana about the Crow photographs. I hope to hear from him soon.

X { Can you explain to me the symbolism of the horned bonnet worn by a Dakota war leader? What honors were needed to own one? It appears a number of times in Sitting Bull's autobiography (without tail), the horns and weasel tails (ermine) being distinct.

It appears that the society of Strong Hearts (Cante Tinza) organised by Sitting Bull, Gall, and Crow King during the Indian wars, allowed every member to wear one of these bonnets, having a pair of horns attached and tail feathers of the eagle. (V. Teton Sioux Music, page 321).

XX { In a photograph by D F Barry (shown in the Handbook of Amer. Indians in connection with the article on Sitting Bull, he is shown in a horned bonnet with a tail, but without plumes around the head. Is this the usual type of war bonnet for war leaders, or is it peculiar to the Strong Hearts? The lance banner of eagle plumes was also the weapon of members of this society.

perhaps both

Anything you can tell me about this insignia will be very much appreciated.

Faithfully yours,

W S Campbell

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xx) George Sword (one of the old warriors of Red Cloud) once made me such a horn bonnet and a lance. I got the impression that it was the equipment of a "blotayhunga": leader of a war party. According to others it is the badge of a medicine man?

I never got an explicit explanation of the symbolism. - It is probably too ancient a thing to be remembered by modern Indians. The wearing of buffalo horns probably meant originally the transference of the powers (strength etc.) of the buffalo bull to the wearer. (Compare the Querochs horns on the helmets of ancient Teutonic warriors, surviving in the coat of arms of some noble families, the budding horns on the forehead of Michelangelo's Moses etc.) The horns thus became a symbol of strength & leadership.