

GHOST DANCE : HAIR ORNAMENTS AND SYMBOLISM

So **from** that time on, then, a few of the old folks still wanted to keep their Ghost Dance, because they paint their face, you know, before they went out and danced. They put on their plumes, you know. Some of them made out a cross. Some of them made (it) like a bird--magpie, or a crow, or something like that. Painted them. Natural color. Some of them still adhered to that. Some adhered until they die.

(Now wait a minute--I didn't understand when you were saying they were painted like a crow--you mean their face was painted?)

No. The ornaments on their heads. Now there Indian artists that could made a magpie--you seen magpies--long, peacock-blue, dark, long tail feathers. They have white wings. Well, those birds that they wore, they weren't very big, but they resembled the shape and everything to look like a magpie or crow. If it was a crow they paint it black. Magpie, they paint it blue--kind of a dark, sky-blue or something like that. They wore it on their heads. Some wear a cross--a red cross. That's what they have for their plumes on their heads. (Jess is apparently talking about a rawhide ornament made in the shape of a bird or cross and painted to resemble the bird, to which the eagle plume was attached, and then the whole ornament attached to the hair. I did not understand what he was talking about and thus my questions here make no sense--jj)

(You mean their painted the plumes that color?)

Yeah. (I don't think Jess means the plumes were painted--jj)

(What were the plumes from?)

Well, they represented what their belief was. (Jess is probably talking about the symbolic significance of the whole hair ornament--plume and all--to the individual participant--jj) That the crow-- Evidently by this