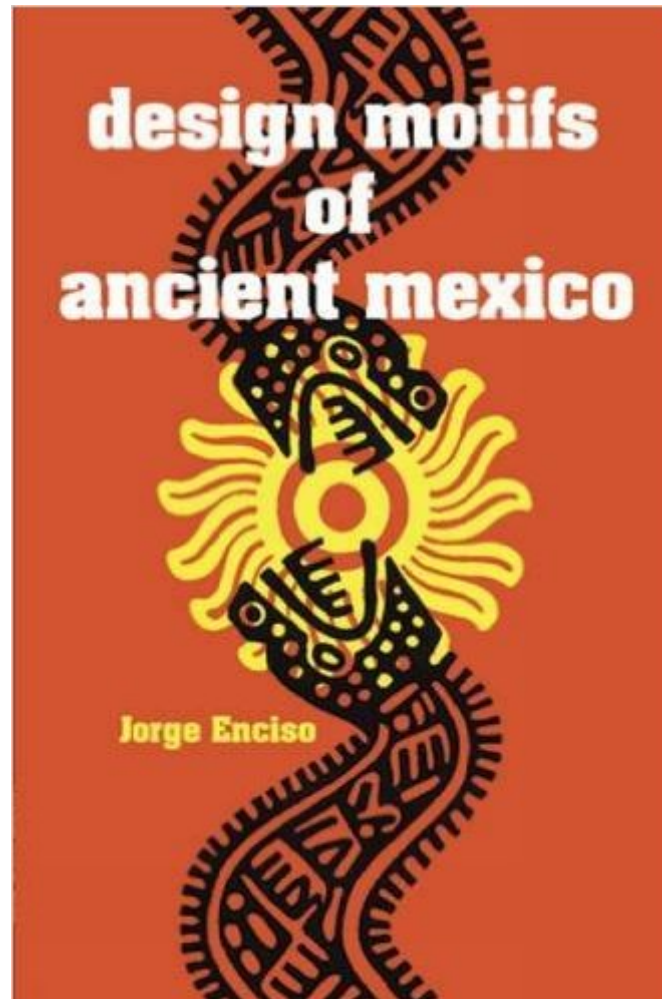


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# Design Motifs Of Ancient Mexico (Dover Pictorial Archive)



## Synopsis

Here is an unusual collection of pictorial material for artists, commercial designers, handicraft workers, and at-home hobbyists â ” 766 vigorous primitive designs that will add color and strong, rhythmic lines to textile work, leather craft, wood and metalwork, advertising art, and other areas where novel decorative ideas are at a premium. More than 90 percent of this material has never before been printed; all of it is royalty free. You may use up to 10 items for any single use without fee or special permission. The book reproduces plumed serpents, calendrical elements, wind gods, insects, toads, lizards, birds, real and mythological animals, flowers, demons, the human head and figure, and hundreds of abstract ornamental designs derived from carved seals of the Aztec, Maya, Totonac, Zapotec, Olmec, Toltec, and other early Mexican cultures. This book is the finest inexpensive collection of such motifs to be found anywhere. "A rich source of inspiration." â ” San Francisco Examiner. "Couldn't be more practical . . . meets the highest standard." â ” Interior Design and Decoration.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (26 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I love this book! There are images in various shapes and sizes from very detailed to very simple. All designs have been reproduced in sharp black-and-white so they are easy see, copy, enlarge, etc. I reproduce the images in artwork and crafts and this book has proven to be EXACTLY what I need for my work. Also, each design is labeled with a brief description of it's use and where it was found. The designs are put in helpful categories by subject so if you are looking for a certain animal, that

particular design is easy to find. Anyone even slightly interested in ancient Mexican designs will find this to be a beautiful book.

This book is a bargain and especially useful for artists working in various mediums that want to include the ancient designs of Mexico. All of the motifs are authentic and come from extensive research with such collaborators as Mexico's National Museum and its directors and associated professors. Numerous individual contributors, such as artists like Diego Rivera and Miguel Covarrubias have contributed their own personal collections for reproduction. The author, Jorge Enciso, first published this book in 1947 and it has been out of print for quite awhile, that is until Dover Press came out with a paperback edition. The designs are all magnificent reproductions of stamps used in various parts of ancient Mexico. Many of the designs you've probably seen before in artwork where a Mexican motif is used but there are countless others that are unique and rarely seen. Intricate, geometric designs abound as well as drawings that feature the natural world and the use of animal figures both real and imagined. The decorative patterns are elaborate manifestations of the cultures of pre-Columbian Oaxaca, Veracruz, Azcapotzalco, Yucatan, Puebla and Teotihuacan amongst others. Many of these designs are still used in the arts and crafts that are produced in these areas. There are more designs than any one artist could ever use. These designs are useful as well as springboards for other ideas inspired by the ancient designs. Dover Press has given permission to use up to ten designs for any project without permission so any artist can use them without copyright infringement. A very handy book for people interested in preserving the artistic traditions of Mexico.

This is a remarkable collection of images taken from ancient Mexican stamps. These stamps were usually made from fired clay; the author believes they were mainly used to stamp designs on pottery. My guess is that's not always true, as I've seen a lot of Precolumbian Mexican pots, and not many have that type of decoration. The author mentions that the stamps were also used to make temporary tattoos, and to stamp designs on fabric and paper. It would be interesting to know what the current archaeological thinking is on the uses of these stamps. Butterflies were a popular motif in the Precolumbian Valley of Mexico. It's interesting to note that the Nahuatl (Aztec) word for butterfly is "paplotl", intriguingly similar to the French "papillon". Owls, another popular motif, were tecolotl, the source of the Mexican Spanish word tecolote. The stamps illustrated are primarily from the Valley of Mexico, with a few from Vera Cruz and other localities. This edition is a reprint of the 1947 book. Dover currently sells Design Motifs of Ancient Mexico, a book and CD collection, but the book

appears to be a 48 page abridgement of the original. My advice is, buy the book first, then buy the CD if you want to actually use the designs. The book is the usual high-quality Dover product -- my copy is the 1953 reprint, and it's still in fine shape 50-some years later. Highly recommended. Happy reading--Peter D. Tillman

This book was spectacular for investigating designs and art from early Mesoamerica. The illustrations were clear and well organized. If I could have on thing that this book doesn't provide (and never claims to) is more biographical information on each design and what it might mean or represent. Regardless of that, this book was exactly what I was looking for and I couldn't be much happier with it.

I bought this item to help me figure out which type of tattoo I want to get. Being of Mexican and Aztec decent I really want something that is close to my indigenous roots. This is a great archive of graphical imagery that has helped me understand some of the iconic glyphs my ancestors made.

I spend a great deal of time studying these motifs, looking for the prevalence of individual elements and how these elements are variously combined. This book is an invaluable resource and very highly recommended.

I got this book to use the designs and inspiration for ceramic projects. There is a terrific array of designs that I have been able to either use directly, or adapt. I've found this collection very helpful.

This book is an excellent source for dynamic graphic images. I hope Peet's Coffee gave this guy some royalties for the Dog Star Monkey design on the Large cup. OK, maybe the credit really goes to the guy who carved it hundreds of years ago, but would Peet's have had access to the image without this book? An excellent source book.

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