

## THE ARIKARA CODE OF EAGLE FEATHER HONOR BADGES

In the Arikara nation the wearing of eagle feathers was permitted as badges of rank and honors when sanctioned by the proper authorities. The particular significance of the character and manner of wearing feathers for each recognized honor was prescribed by ancient custom. Eagle feathers were recognized as tokens of aristocratic rank by birth, and they were awarded as the insignia of personal achievements and deeds of valor.

The code of Arikara insignia of individual military honors follows:

1. A man who had slain an enemy was entitled to wear one plume from the middle of an eagle tail attached in perpendicular position to his scalplock.
2. A man who had struck a standing enemy was entitled to the same insignia worn in the same manner.
3. A man who had struck a fallen enemy could wear one eagle plume in a horizontal position.
4. A man who had been wounded by an arrow in battle had the right to wear one split plume in a perpendicular position.
5. A man who had been struck by a spent bullet wore a small stick, a wooden pin or peg stuck in his hair. This stick was shaved with thin shavings around it and these shavings were left attached to the stick at one end, thus, giving the appearance of an Ainu "inao".
6. A man who had sustained a bullet wound had the right to wear an eagle plume stained with red.