

THE
NORTH AMERICAN
INDIAN

BEING A SERIES OF VOLUMES PICTURING
AND DESCRIBING

THE INDIANS OF THE UNITED STATES
AND ALASKA

WRITTEN, ILLUSTRATED, AND
PUBLISHED BY

EDWARD S. CURTIS

EDITED BY
FREDERICK WEBB HODGE

FOREWORD BY
THEODORE ROOSEVELT

FIELD RESEARCH CONDUCTED UNDER THE
PATRONAGE OF
J. PIERPONT MORGAN



IN TWENTY VOLUMES

NOW TO BE HAD OF
CHARLES E. LAURIAT CO.
91 FRANKLIN STREET
BOSTON

1935

COPYRIGHTED BY EDWARD S. CURTIS 1907-1930
COPYRIGHTED BY CHARLES E. LAURIAT CO. 1935

FOREWORD

In Mr. Curtis we have both an artist and a trained observer, whose pictures are pictures, not merely photographs; whose work has far more than mere accuracy, because it is truthful. All serious students are to be congratulated because he is putting his work in permanent form; for our generation offers the last chance for doing what Mr. Curtis has done. The Indian as he has hitherto been is on the point of passing away. His life has been lived under conditions thru which our own race past so many ages ago that not a vestige of their memory remains. It would be a veritable calamity if a vivid and truthful record of these conditions were not kept. No one man alone could preserve such a record in complete form. Others have worked in the past, and are working in the present, to preserve parts of the record; but Mr. Curtis, because of the singular combination of qualities with which he has been blest, and because of his extraordinary success in making and using his opportunities, has been able to do what no other man ever has done; what, as far as we can see, no other man could do. He is an artist who works out of doors and not in the closet. He is a close observer, whose qualities of mind and body fit him to make his observations out in the field, surrounded by the wild life he commemorates. He has lived on intimate terms with many different tribes of the mountains and the plains. He knows them as they hunt, as they travel, as they go about their various avocations on the march and in the camp. He knows their medicine men and sorcerers, their chiefs and warriors, their young men and maidens. He has not only seen their vigorous outward existence, but has caught glimpses, such as few white men ever catch, into that strange spiritual and mental life of theirs; from whose innermost recesses all white men are forever barred. Mr. Curtis in publishing this book is rendering a real and great service; a service not only to our own people, but to the world of scholarship everywhere.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

October 1st, 1906.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

THE task of recording the descriptive material embodied in these volumes, and of preparing the photographs which accompany them, had its inception in 1898. Since that time, during each year, months of arduous labor have been spent in accumulating the data necessary to form a comprehensive and permanent record of all the important tribes of the United States and Alaska that still retain to a considerable degree their primitive customs and traditions. The value of such a work, in great measure, will lie in the breadth of its treatment, in its wealth of illustration, and in the fact that it represents the result of personal study of a people who are rapidly losing the traces of their aboriginal character and who are destined ultimately to become assimilated with the "superior race."

It has been the aim to picture all features of the Indian life and environment — types of the young and the old, with their habitations, industries, ceremonies, games, and everyday customs. Rather than being designed for mere embellishment, the photographs are each an illustration of an Indian character or of some vital phase in his existence. Yet the fact that the Indian and his surroundings lend themselves to artistic treatment has not been lost sight of, for in his country one may treat limitless subjects of an æsthetic character without in any way doing injustice to scientific accuracy or neglecting the homelier phases of aboriginal life. Indeed, in a work of this sort, to overlook those marvellous touches that Nature has given to the Indian country, and for the origin of which the native ever has a wonder-tale to relate, would be to neglect a most important chapter in the story of an environment that made the Indian much of what he is. Therefore, being directly from Nature, the accompanying pictures show what actually exists or has recently existed (for many of the subjects have already passed forever), not what the artist in his studio may presume the Indian and his surroundings to be.

The task has not been an easy one, for although lightened at times by the readiness of the Indians to impart their knowledge, it more often required days and weeks of patient endeavor before my assistants and I succeeded in overcoming the deep-rooted superstition, conservatism, and secretiveness so characteristic of primitive people, who are ever loath to afford a glimpse of their inner life to those who are not of their own. Once the confidence of the Indians was gained, the way led gradually through the difficulties, but long

THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

and serious study was necessary before knowledge of the esoteric rites and ceremonies could be gleaned.

At times the undertaking was made congenial by our surroundings in beautiful mountain wild, in the depths of primeval forest, in the refreshing shade of cañon wall, or in the homes and sacred places of the Indians themselves; while at others the broiling desert sun, the sand-storm, the flood, the biting blast of winter, lent anything but pleasure to the task.

The word-story of this primitive life, like the pictures, must be drawn direct from Nature. Nature tells the story, and in Nature's simple words I can but place it before the reader. In great measure it must be written as these lines are — while I am in close touch with the Indian life.

While primarily a photographer, I do not see or think photographically; hence the story of Indian life will not be told in microscopic detail, but rather will be presented as a broad and luminous picture. And I hope that while our extended observations among these brown people have given no shallow insight into their life and thought, neither the pictures nor the descriptive matter will be found lacking in popular interest.

Nor is it our purpose to theorize on the origin of the Indians — a problem that has already resulted in the writing of a small library, and still with no satisfactory solution. The object of the work is to record by word and picture what the Indian is, not whence he came. Even with this in view the years of a single life are insufficient for the task of treating in minute detail all the intricacies of the social structure and the arts and beliefs of many tribes. Nevertheless, by reaching beneath the surface through a study of his creation myths, his legends and folklore, more than a fair impression of the mode of thought of the Indian can be gained. In each instance all such material has been gathered by the writer and his assistants from the Indians direct, and confirmed, so far as is possible, through repetition by other members of their tribe.

Ever since the days of Columbus the assertion has been made repeatedly that the Indian has no religion and no code of ethics, chiefly for the reason that in his primitive state he recognizes no supreme God. Yet the fact remains that no people have a more elaborate religious system than our aborigines, and none are more devout in the performance of the duties connected therewith. There is scarcely an act in the Indian's life that does not involve some ceremonial performance or is not in itself a religious act, sometimes so complicated that much time and study are required to grasp even a part of its real meaning, for his myriad deities must all be propitiated lest some dire disaster befall him.



From Copyright Photograph 1914 by E. S. Curtis

THE WEDDING PARTY - QÁGYUHL

**Specimen Illustration (reduced in size) from the
Portfolios accompanying
THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN
Copyrighted by Charles E. Lauriat Co. 1935
All rights reserved**



From Copyright Photograph 1908 by E. S. Curtis

THE OATH - APSAROKE

Specimen Illustration (full size) from the text of
THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN
Copyrighted by Charles E. Lauriat Co. 1935
All rights reserved

THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN

Likewise with their arts, which casual observers have sometimes denied the Indians; yet, to note a single example, the so-called "Digger" Indians, who have been characterized as in most respects the lowest type of all our tribes, are makers of delicately woven baskets, embellished with symbolic designs and so beautiful in form as to be works of art in themselves.

The great changes in practically every phase of the Indian's life that have taken place, especially within recent years, have been such that had the time for collecting much of the material, both descriptive and illustrative, herein recorded, been delayed, it would have been lost forever. The passing of every old man or woman means the passing of some tradition, some knowledge of sacred rites possessed by no other; consequently the information that is to be gathered, for the benefit of future generations, respecting the mode of life of one of the great races of mankind, must be collected at once or the opportunity will be lost for all time. It is this need that has inspired the present task.

In treating the various tribes it has been deemed advisable that a geographic rather than an ethnologic grouping be presented, but without losing sight of tribal relationships, however remote the cognate tribes may be one from another. To simplify the study and to afford ready reference to the salient points respecting the several tribes, a summary of the information pertaining to each is given in the appendices.

In the spelling of the native terms throughout the text, as well as in the brief vocabularies appended to each volume, the simplest form possible, consistent with approximate accuracy, has been adopted. No attempt has been made to differentiate sounds so much alike that the average student fails to discern the distinction, for the words, where recorded, are designed for the general reader rather than the philologist, and it has been the endeavor to encourage their pronunciation rather than to make them repellent by inverted and other arbitrary characters.

EDWARD S. CURTIS.

By availing ourselves of the material already manufactured, we are able to offer for immediate delivery 9 sets in $\frac{3}{4}$ levant and 5 sets in full levant. Each set consists of 20 volumes of text and 20 Portfolios of the large plates, making in all, 40 volumes in each set.

The prints in the Portfolios do not duplicate those in the text.

10 additional complete sets in $\frac{3}{4}$ levant can be assembled, by using the material on hand, but only at an increase in price, over the 9 sets now offered.

No more complete sets (beyond these 19) can be made up from the material on hand. The necessity of reprinting the volumes to make further complete sets, would put the cost, to the buyer, back to the original subscription price.

(COPY OF ORIGINAL PROSPECTUS)

Outline of the Curtis Publication
of
THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN
and
Subscription Agreement
With The North American Indian (Incorporated)

The work will consist of 20 volumes of text, and as illustrations embodied with the text there will be 1,500 full-page photogravure plates; 40 of these, illustrating ceremonial subjects, will be colored plates.

Each volume will consist of about 350, or more, quarto pages, measuring $9\frac{1}{2}$ x $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

The entire work will be printed on imported hand-made paper of the highest grade, one part of the edition being Holland paper of a rich tone, and the other part on Japan vellum, both papers selected with special reference to their enduring qualities.

In addition to the 20 volumes of text and their illustrations, there will be 20 portfolios, each consisting of 36 or more copperplate photogravures, measuring 12 x 16 inches, on 18 x 22 sheets. The entire work will, therefore, contain a minimum total of 2,220 plates illustrative of Indian subjects. No pains has been spared to produce in every detail an exceptional example of book-making.

The binding is three-quarter Levant, gold top, and the portfolios bound to match the book itself.

The Foreword is written by ex-President Roosevelt and the entire work is under the editorial supervision of Mr. Frederick Webb Hodge, Ethnologist in charge of the Bureau of American Ethnology, Smithsonian Institution, and Editor of the "American Anthropologist."

The series of volumes will comprise a descriptive and illustrative treatment of all the Indians of the United States and Alaska who still retain to a considerable degree their primitive customs and beliefs. Each volume will be complete in itself, inasmuch as it will treat of a tribe or a group of tribes quite independently of the others.

It is understood that the total edition printed from these plates will be limited to 500, this number covering both the United States and Europe.

Each volume is provided with a carefully prepared appendix giving, in the most compact form possible, a description of each tribe assigned to that volume, together with a vocabulary and a comprehensive index. The appendix alone constitutes a valuable and convenient work of reference.

I hereby subscribe for one set of the Curtis Publication of The North American Indian, all book and folio illustrations to be printed on Holland hand-made or Japan vellum paper, the same to be published in 20 volumes of text and 20 supplemental portfolios, and I agree to pay therefor the total of Thirty-eight Hundred and Fifty (\$3,850.00) Dollars, payable in installments of One Hundred Ninety-two Dollars and Fifty Cents (\$192.50) for each volume of text with supplemental folios as same may be delivered.

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

9 Sets in $\frac{3}{4}$ levant complete with Portfolios as described above are offered at \$885.00 each, f.o.b. Boston.

5 sets with the text bound in full levant and Portfolios in $\frac{3}{4}$ levant are offered at \$1,245.00 each, f.o.b. Boston.

The original price of the set in full levant was \$5,925.00.