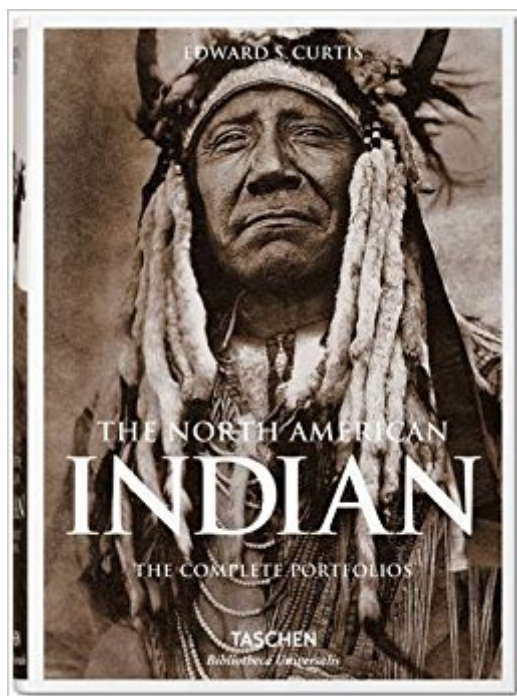


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# The North American Indian: The Complete Portfolios



## Synopsis

In search of a lost time: The complete portfolios by Edward S. Curtis on Native Americans

At the turn of the 20th century, the American photographer Edward Sheriff Curtis (1868–1952) started on his 30-year project to produce a monumental study of North American Indians. Using an approach that was both artistically and scientifically ambitious, he recorded, in words and pictures, the traces of the traditional Indian way of life that was already beginning to die out. With tireless personal commitment Curtis visited 80 American Indian tribes from the Mexican border to the Bering Strait, gaining their confidence through his patience and sensitivity. His work was printed in 20 volumes between 1907 and 1930 as *The North American Indian*, but with only 272 copies, originals became extremely rare. This book gathers Curtis's entire American Indian portfolio into one publication, offering renewed access to and appreciation of his extraordinary achievement, which is as much a precious historical document as a triumph of the photographic form.

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

For over thirty years, photographer Edward Sheriff Curtis (1868-1952) traveled the length and breadth of North America, seeking to record in words and images the traditional life of its vanishing indigenous inhabitants. Like a man possessed, he strove to realize his life's work, which culminated in the publication of his encyclopedia *The North American Indian*. In the end, this monumental work comprised twenty textual volumes and twenty portfolios with over 2000 illustrations.

Unfortunately, these photos of views of the Native American that you will see no where else are reproduced in a tiny format. Otherwise, magical and unforgettable depictions of Indians before encroaching White so-called civilization wiped them and their way of life out.

This is a great collection of the photographic collection which Edward S. Curtis amassed while gathering a tremendous amount of information about the native North American Indians. His eye through the camera gives insight into the real people of this nation. Beautifully put together, it introduces the reader to a large number of virtually unknown/uncommon Indian Tribes. While the paperback version is adequate, it is extremely large and hard to view the pictures without putting undue stress on the binding. The hardcover edition might be a better option, but even better would be the volume edition.

if you are interested in the photography of Edward Curtis do NOT buy this book. You would literally be better off paying to print his work out at your local library. The size of each picture is an embarrassment (usually no more than a couple inches wide) and it is fairly evident that the pictures were scaled down to minimize the effects of a truly inadequate printer. (the subjects of the photographs are barely discernible. Imagine an image that has been photocopied many times on an ancient xerox machine and you will have an accurate mental image). If you are interested ONLY in the text then i guess this is for you.

I hardly ever write negative reviews but felt compelled to write something here given that the description and positive reviews of this book were so completely misleading. I bought the hardcover version and there are maybe a total of 60 images of horrible quality in the whole book. What a huge

disappointment. I wanted a book of Native American photos and instead received a book of 90% text and 10% images that are so dark and blurry I can hardly make out the image. Nevermind the fact that the book appears to be produced by some homemade publishing company. I can't speak to the paperback version but the hardcover version is not worth near the money is charging. What a shame.

I felt like I got my monies worth and then some. Some other reviews mentioned being too dark - but this is the work and effects Curtis strived for to depict the times. All photos are clearly replicated with Curtis' caption and sometimes descriptive info of area, tribe, occasion. Roughly 6 x 8 of heavy stock; Some photos are full page and easily could be framed. All photos are sepia (brown tones) and do the subjects justice - again, Curtis' choice. An outstanding collection that will not disappoint.

There is a learning experience here for nearly All AMERICANS. The man was a genius with a dedication to "Mission Impossible"

I looked at the available contents of this book. There were supposed to be over 700 pages to this book, but the book I received only had 218. I am very disappointed in this book. It was not at all what was advertised. Why put those contents when they are not in the book that I received!!!The North American Indian

I received two copies with different covers. this copy I donated to the local library.

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