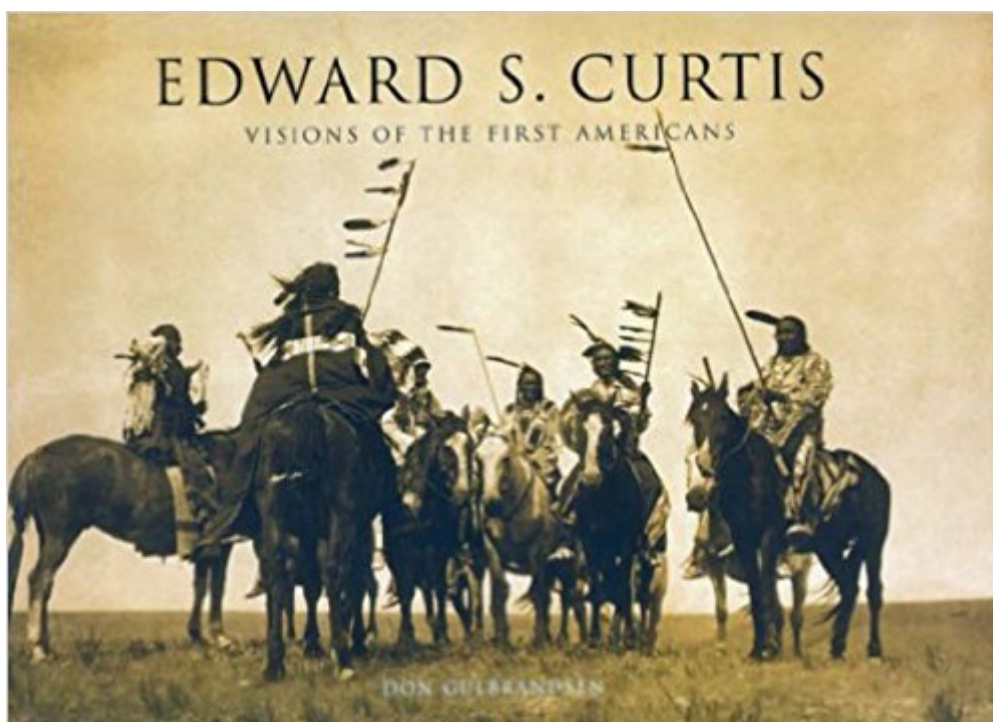


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# Edward S. Curtis: Visions Of The First Americans



## Synopsis

Edward S. Curtis: Visions of the First Americans is a tribute to the photographer, his work, but above all to the Native Americans he photographed. Chapters on many different Native American tribes make this collection unique. Edward Curtis's recognizable style, saturated with sepia, is immediately recognizable. He captures not only the striking faces of his subjects, but also a glimpse into the lifestyle of each Native American tribe he photographed. Women grind corn, and communities gather outside their traditional living areas. Atop horses, Native Americans ride on the prairie. Papooses are bundled in woven carrying packs, and men are dressed in full feathered regalia. These images paint a picture, known to us now only as a historical memory. Many tribes are featured in this volume, from the familiar Apache and Navaho to lesser-known tribes. This book will draw in readers who are interested in world cultures, along with photography buffs and historians. This hardcover volume is a wonderful addition to any library.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Chartwell Books; Reprint edition (April 1, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0785826505

ISBN-13: 978-0785826507

Product Dimensions: 1 x 13.5 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 104 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #84,963 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #10 in [Books > Arts &](#)

[Photography > Photography & Video > Individual Photographers > Artists' Books](#) #219

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## Customer Reviews

Don Gulbrandsen became a Green Bay Packers fan in the late 1960s when he realized that not only were they the best team around, but they had a running back who shared his name—former Texas Tech star Donny Anderson. This was a stunning decision for a young boy growing up in northern Illinois, and whose father was a Chicago Bears fan. Don's transformation into rabid Packer diehard became complete two decades later when he finally moved to the land of his dreams, Wisconsin. Although the Lindy Infante-coached franchise was struggling

mightily at the time, it was great to be living in a place where nearly everyone – a man or woman, young or old, black or white – found common ground in their devotion to the Packers. Don relished opportunities to attend games, visit the Packers Hall of Fame, spend Sundays glued to the TV, and while away hours in discussion with friends and coworkers analyzing draft prospects, player injuries, and NFC Central opponents. And when the Ron Wolf/Mike Holmgren/Brett Favre/Reggie White era finally arrived, Don – like all Packer fans – was rewarded for his unwavering confidence in the team. Don has spent two decades as a publishing professional, focused primarily on enthusiast books and magazines covering a wide variety of topics: sports, hunting and fishing, home improvement, transportation, collectibles, and more. He has worked as an editor in both magazine and book publishing and is the author of several books.

A reasonably-priced book with excellent large reproductions of many of Curtis's most famous photos and even more of his less well-known portraits. The number and quality of the photos, combined with the very low price, merits 5 stars. As some other reviewers have noted, there are a surprising number of typos in the text, which is somewhat annoying, and the author of this book seems to mistakenly believe that the fact that Curtis "staged" many of his photos diminishes their value somehow. Perhaps the author did not understand that, given the technology of photography in the early 1900s, ALL photos had to be posed to get a sharp image because the exposures took so long. And because Curtis's entire reason for his massive undertaking of photographing the 70-plus tribes he recorded was to capture a vanishing way of life, he certainly would not be interested in showing the tribes-people in European style clothing. As discussed at length in Timothy Egan's excellent biography, "The Short Nights of Shadow Catcher," Curtis took time to get to know the tribes he visited, and asked tribal members if they still had some of the traditional garments their people used to wear and to wear that clothing, if available, in their photograph. Photographing tribal members in their traditional garments made Curtis's work MORE valuable as an historical record, not less. However, even with these criticisms of the author's obvious editorial bias, the brief text is still informative. For a gripping and detailed biography of Curtis, read Egan's book. For great photos, at a great price, this book cannot be beat.

Having just read "Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher" by Timothy Egan (I recommend it), I wanted to see more of Mr Curtis' photos. I preferred a large format and this seemed to be a reasonable choice vs price. I am generally satisfied with the binding quality and the print quality. The focus of some images is soft while--especially with portraits (perhaps done in a studio)--the focus is quite

sharp. I believe this is true of the originals, not only this specific printing of the images. However, I am disappointed to find that the exact same prints occur on more than one page in the book; that is, several photos from an earlier chapter will reappear in a later chapter. Considering how many photos Mr Curtis produced, it seems that it would have been better to include other photos rather than duplicating those already included. So far I have noticed about a dozen duplications. Generally each photo is accompanied by useful explanatory text. In addition, there is a reasonable amount of biographic text as well.

An awesome book. The histories and stories of these native American tribes left me with a new appreciation of them and their lives. The one of Chief Red Cloud inspired me to paint him in oil and that has not happened to me before. A wonderful book for anyone interested in our lands history.

This book is a knockout! It's oversized and beautifully reproduced photos are epic - so gorgeous. The text quickly sums up each section of a massive 30-year project to capture all the North American tribes before they and their cultures disappeared back in the late 1800's and early 1900's. I just wish that I could delve into more of what has to be one of the most important anthropological efforts of humankind. If we could just get a chance to buy all its original photographic volumes; produced at the same high-level as this book; I'd be one of the first subscribers! Having the context of another 100+ years of history would create something new and valuable to a full subscription for the 2020's. Just a thought. Buy this book and you'll give yourself and your loved ones something rare and wonderful.

This book was a very emotional experience for me. Curtis sacrificed a lot to give us this lovely documentation of a vanishing way of life. Do we really know what the daily lives of these peoples were like. Probably not, but Curtis gave us these one of a kind pictures that are gorgeous to me but also a reminder of terrible losses for native Americans.

Useful for its organization into the original Curtis volumes, but by sourcing his material from all over he has condemned this book to the lower shelves. Curtis' work isn't easy to reproduce. The original photogravures are sui generis, but here you will mistake terrible copies for poor craftsmanship on Curtis' part. Try "Sacred Legacy" if you can get it for a reasonable price.

Outstanding collection of some of the best photos in each of the 20 Volume Masterpiece. Although

E.S. Curtis has his critics, who else sacrificed his life in an attempt to record these images of our countries native peoples? Without his work, and the many dedicated assistants who he employed, we would have little record of their language and customs.

Not sure what those complaining about this being printed in China are on about. I'm absolutely blown away with the art of the photo's Mr Curtis was able to create of the vanishing (and now vanished) American Indian. The photo's are not up to what we are used to today with our high-tech digital equipment, but he had to go out into the less than civilized world, take the pictures and develop them. I recommend reading Short Nights of the Shadow Catcher by Timothy Eagan along with this book. Mr Curtis was a genius.

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