



Edward S. Curtis Above the Medicine Line: Portraits of Aboriginal Life in the Canadian West

Rodger D. Touchie

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For almost three decades, Edward Curtis photographed the First Peoples of the North American West and studied their cultures. As part of his fieldwork, he cruised the Pacific Northwest coast and ventured into the lands of the Blackfoot Confederacy, both north and south of the Medicine Line.

Alarmed that the traditional Aboriginal ways of life seemed in danger of disappearing forever, Curtis made an incredible effort to capture the daily routines, character and dignity of First Peoples through photography and audio recordings. Against seemingly insurmountable odds and at substantial personal and financial sacrifice, he completed the 20-volume masterpiece *The North American Indian*, deemed the most gigantic undertaking in the making of books since the King James edition of the Bible by the *New York Herald*.

With more than 150 photographs, *Edward S. Curtis Above the Medicine Line* is both a compelling narrative that sheds new light on the Curtis mystique and a fascinating overview of many of the First Peoples he studied a century ago. Also available in paperback.

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