tribute to edward s. curtis

Pazola Washte is the name given to Edward Curtis by Sioux Chief Red Hawk. It means ‘Pretty Butte’.

Pima Land - 1907
“HOMEWARD” – National Photographic Society Gold Medal Winner - 1898
Canyon de Chelly – Navaho - 1904
EDWARD SHERIFF CURTIS BOUGHT A LARGE 14” X 17” VIEW CAMERA IN 1890 AND A YEAR LATER OPENED A STUDIO IN SEATTLE WITH HIS PARTNER, RASMUS ROTHI FOR $150

SELF PORTRAIT - 1899
Piki is cornbread baked in colored sheets of paper-like thinness. The batter is spread on the baking stone with the bare hand, and the quickly baked sheet is folded and laid on the basket at the baker's left.
Edward S. Curtis devoted 30 years to photographing and documenting over eighty Indian tribes, west of the Mississippi, from the Mexican border to northern Alaska. His project won support from such prominent and powerful figures as President Theodore Roosevelt and J. Pierpont Morgan.

His work, “The North American Indian”, consisted of 20 leather bound volumes, each containing 75 hand-pressed photogravures and 300 pages of text. Each volume was accompanied by a corresponding portfolio containing at least 36 photogravures.

His proposal to Morgan, his financier, was to “show pictures and text of every phase of Indian life of all tribes yet in a pristine condition…………..going fully into their history, life and manners, ceremony, legends and mythology.”
Atsina War Party Farewell
Cree picking blueberries
In the Badlands – Sheep Mountain - 1904
Chief Red Hawk – Sioux – 1906
Veteran of the Battle of Little Big Horn
The ford of Apache
Piegan carry willows for sweat lodge - 1900
THE POOL

APACHE
1903
Watching for signal - Nez Perce
DRINK IN THE DESERT
APACHE GIRL
AND
PAPOOSE
Apache Morning Bath - 1906
MARICOPA

HIPAH WITH ARROW BRUSH
At The Old Well of Acoma - 1904
1930 - With almost no fanfare Curtis published the final two volumes of “The North American Indian.” It has been estimated that during the project Curtis took over 40,000 photographs and made 10,000 wax cylinder sound recordings of Indian speech and music. About 200 sets of the works were printed and Curtis delivered 25 sets to J.P. Morgan as promised for partially financing the project. The Morgan Company later sold 19 of those sets. The Library of Congress has a set.

October 19, 1952 - Edward Sheriff Curtis died of a heart attack at the age of 84, in the home of his daughter Beth. A seventy-six word obituary in the New York Times mentions simply that Curtis had been an authority on Indian history and that he had also been known as a photographer.

The end

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