

The Tip



In 1906, financier and philanthropist J.P. Morgan offered photographer Edward Curtis \$75,000 to document the Indians of North America. While most pictures that resulted depicted his subjects out on the plains or otherwise *in situ*, there were times when only a sitting portrait in Curtis' studio was possible. The photographer was keenly aware of the importance the Indians attached to their war bonnets, so in those instances, he skillfully fluffed up their feathers with a blow dryer. The gesture was universally appreciated. Here, Chief Skulking Frog of the Acatec Tribe prepares to tip Curtis some wampum for that extra effort.