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# INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 12

To collecting the data and making the pictures for this volume far more than the usual time has been given. My first visit to the villages of the Hopi was in the year 1900, at which time a substantial number of the pictures were made. I again visited these interesting people in 1902, and further work was done during the years 1904, 1906, 1911, 1912, and 1919. It is most fortunate that a great many of the pictures were obtained so long ago; for, conservative as these people are, there has been a great change in their mode of life, hence many of the photographs here presented could not have been made in more recent years. It should be noted that the copyright dates do not always coincide with the year in which the photographs were made.

Walpi, the best-known village of this group, received first consideration in conducting the investigation, and all statements not specifically referring to other villages may be considered as applying to this pueblo.

There is a subtle charm about the Hopi and their high-perched homes that has made the work particularly delightful. This was especially so in earlier years, when their manner of life indicated comparatively slight contact with civilization. Certainly no other place in the United States afforded a like opportunity to observe native Americans living much as they did when the Spanish explorers first visited the desert land of our Southwest.

The Hopi are strictly sedentary people depending primarily on cultivated crops for their food. This fact makes a study of their ceremonial and religious life particularly interesting, for we see here a striking illustration of the effect of habitat and food supply upon ceremonial development. They are deeply religious, and their life is devoted largely to ceremonial rites, the most spectacular of which is the splendidly dramatic Snake dance.

In collecting and preparing the material for publication I have had the continual collaboration of Mr. W.E. Myers, who has shown an extraordinary devotion to the work and has spent much time with the Hopi people.

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"Introduction to Volume 12"
From
*The North American Indian: Volume 12*
by Edwards S. Curtis
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