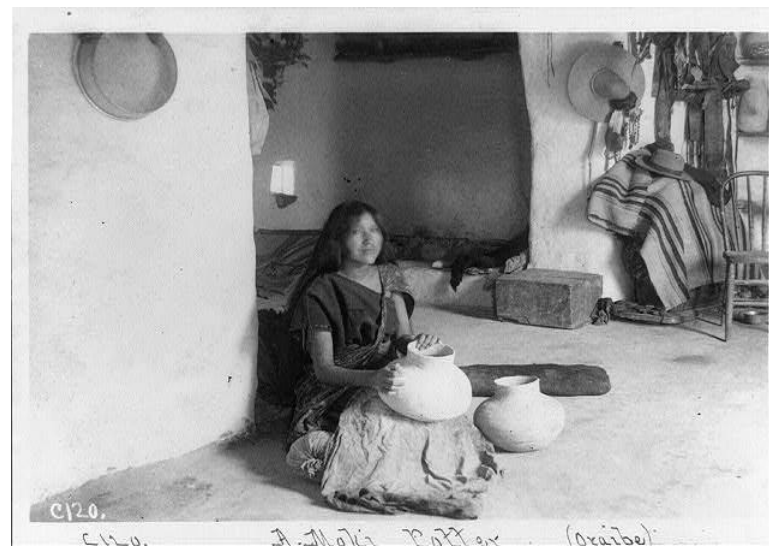
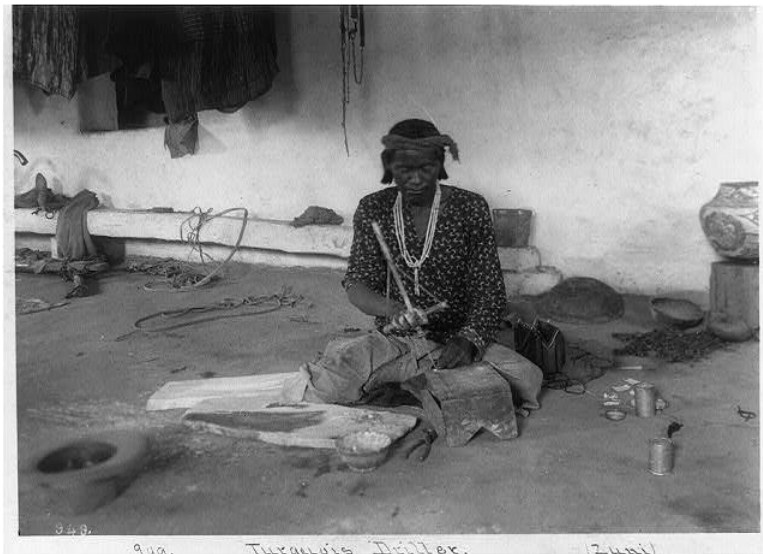


The Myth of the Vanishing Race

Adam Clark Vroman, Edward Curtis & The American Indian



Adam Clark Vroman



Edward Curtis



Edward Curtis's Methods of Photographing American Indians

- “To Curtis the Indian, as a nation, was ‘the vanishing race,’ whose ancient manners, customs, and traditions should be recorded before they disappeared, and this often led him to pose his subjects so that at times his pictures seem reenactments; indeed he is known to have had his subjects wear the long-obsolete dress of their forefathers for his camera.”

Edward Curtis's Methods of Photographing American Indians

- “Curtis paid natives to pose and dance in several simulated ceremonies...He staged the dances out of season. Curtis used ‘not only ‘phony’ costumes, additions, and poses,’ observed James Faris in *Navajo and Photography*, ‘but indeed, in some cases actual phony Navajo...’ He removed parasols, suspenders, wagons, the actual traces of modernism and material culture in his pictures of natives.”

[“Edward Curtis: Pictorialist and Ethnographic Adventurist,”](#)



Curtis retouched the clock out of the original photograph. The new image (without the clock) was published in his book, *The North American Indian*.

What are some objects that Vroman included in his photos that Curtis most likely would have left out

