



# Annals of the Former World

By John McPhee

Download now

Read Online →

## Annals of the Former World By John McPhee

The Pulitzer Prize-winning view of the continent, across the fortieth parallel and down through 4.6 billion years

Twenty years ago, when John McPhee began his journeys back and forth across the United States, he planned to describe a cross section of North America at about the fortieth parallel and, in the process, come to an understanding not only of the science but of the style of the geologists he traveled with. The structure of the book never changed, but its breadth caused him to complete it in stages, under the overall title *Annals of the Former World*.

Like the terrain it covers, *Annals of the Former World* tells a multilayered tale, and the reader may choose one of many paths through it. As clearly and succinctly written as it is profoundly informed, this is our finest popular survey of geology and a masterpiece of modern nonfiction.

*Annals of the Former World* is the winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction.

↓ [Download Annals of the Former World ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Annals of the Former World ...pdf](#)

# Annals of the Former World

*By John McPhee*

## **Annals of the Former World** By John McPhee

The Pulitzer Prize-winning view of the continent, across the fortieth parallel and down through 4.6 billion years

Twenty years ago, when John McPhee began his journeys back and forth across the United States, he planned to describe a cross section of North America at about the fortieth parallel and, in the process, come to an understanding not only of the science but of the style of the geologists he traveled with. The structure of the book never changed, but its breadth caused him to complete it in stages, under the overall title *Annals of the Former World*.

Like the terrain it covers, *Annals of the Former World* tells a multilayered tale, and the reader may choose one of many paths through it. As clearly and succinctly written as it is profoundly informed, this is our finest popular survey of geology and a masterpiece of modern nonfiction.

*Annals of the Former World* is the winner of the 1999 Pulitzer Prize for Nonfiction.

## **Annals of the Former World By John McPhee Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #85492 in eBooks
- Published on: 2000-06-15
- Released on: 2000-06-15
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Annals of the Former World ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Annals of the Former World ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

In 1978 *New Yorker* magazine staff writer John McPhee set out making notes for an ambitious project: a geological history of North America, centered, for the sake of convenience, on the 40th parallel, a history that encompasses billions of years. In 1981 he published the first of the four books that would come from his research: *Basin and Range*, a study of the mountainous lands between the Rockies and the Sierra Nevadas. Two years later came *In Suspect Terrain*, a grand overview of the Appalachian mountain system. In 1986 McPhee released *Rising from the Plains*, a history of the Rocky Mountains set largely in Wyoming. And in 1993 came *Assembling California*, a survey of the area geologists find to be a laboratory of volcanic and tectonic processes, a place where geology can be watched in the making. *Annals of the Former World* gathers these four volumes, which McPhee always conceived of as a whole, to make that epic of the Earth's formation; to it he adds a fifth book, *Crossing the Craton*, which introduces the continent's ancient core, underlying what is now Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska.

McPhee's great virtue as a journalist covering the sciences--and any other of the countless subjects he has taken on, for that matter--is his ability to distill and explain complex matters: here, for example, the processes of mineral deposition or of plate tectonics. He does so by allowing geologists to speak for themselves and an entertaining lot they are, those sometimes odd men and women who puzzle out the landscape for clues to its most ancient past. *Annals of the Former World* is a magisterial work of popular science for which geologists--and devotees of good writing--will be grateful. --Gregory McNamee

### From Publishers Weekly

A feast for all John McPhee fans, this major book incorporates some of the author's best work on geology into a comprehensive tour de force. Those familiar with McPhee's writing on the subject of geology will know that his narrative includes not only scientific theory but also portraits of his geologic guides. While the majority of this material has appeared in the *New Yorker* and in books such as *Basin and Range*, *In Suspect Terrain* and *Rising from the Plains*, the collection, which includes 20,000 new words, is much more than a recycling of past writing. As McPhee says, "The text has been meshed, melded, revised, in some places cut, and everywhere studied for repetition." McPhee's many fans won't be disappointed with the high-quality descriptive portraits of geologists, their work and theories. Since the writing follows McPhee's previous works and not any set geography or geologic logic, the author has provided what he calls a "Narrative Table of Contents," which not only describes each section in turn but the theories discussed in it. In this near flawless compilation of ambitious and expansive scope, McPhee's personalized style remains consistent and triumphant: "Ebbets Field, where they buried the old Brooklyn Dodgers, was also on the terminal moraine. When a long-ball hitter hit a long ball, it would land on Bedford Avenue and bounce down the morainal front to roll toward Coney Island on the outwash plain. No one in Los Angeles would ever hit a homer like that." 25 maps, not seen by PW.

Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc.

### From Library Journal

McPhee is the most celebrated contemporary writer on North American geology, and *Annals* is his magnum opus, combining edited and revised sections from previous works with two new essays.

Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Michelle Sanders:**

Do you have favorite book? If you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each publication has different aim as well as goal; it means that e-book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. They are reading whatever they acquire because their hobby will be reading a book. How about the person who don't like examining a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book once they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you will need this Annals of the Former World.

#### **Steven Young:**

This Annals of the Former World book is simply not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper a person read a lot of information you will get. This particular Annals of the Former World without we recognize teach the one who examining it become critical in pondering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Annals of the Former World can bring once you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it within your lovely laptop even mobile phone. This Annals of the Former World having good arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

#### **Morgan Johnson:**

Reading a book to be new life style in this calendar year; every people loves to study a book. When you go through a book you can get a lots of benefit. When you read books, you can improve your knowledge, due to the fact book has a lot of information on it. The information that you will get depend on what sorts of book that you have read. If you would like get information about your review, you can read education books, but if you act like you want to entertain yourself read a fiction books, this sort of us novel, comics, and soon. The Annals of the Former World offer you a new experience in reading a book.

#### **Justin Tapscott:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard this question when you got scholars? We believe that that issue was given by teacher on their students. Many kinds of hobby, Every person has different hobby. And you also know that little person like reading or as examining become their hobby. You should know that reading is very important and book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You discover good news or update in relation to something by book. Many kinds of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is niagra Annals of the Former World.

**Download and Read Online Annals of the Former World By John  
McPhee #HFODR6IME42**

## **Read Annals of the Former World By John McPhee for online ebook**

Annals of the Former World By John McPhee Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Annals of the Former World By John McPhee books to read online.

### **Online Annals of the Former World By John McPhee ebook PDF download**

**Annals of the Former World By John McPhee Doc**

**Annals of the Former World By John McPhee Mobipocket**

**Annals of the Former World By John McPhee EPub**