
This facsimile reprint of James Hutton's earliest works provides modern geologists with basic materials in the history of our science from which we all can profit. Few of us have read, or will read Hutton's two-volume Theory of the Earth (1795); the documents here reviewed provide the gist of his arguments in a more readable form. The System of the Earth is a privately printed abstract of the Theory of the Earth; The Theory of the Earth and Observations on Granite appeared in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. To these papers is appended a biography of Hutton by his friend, John Playfair; this is the basic document for later biographers. Mr. Eyles has contributed a perceptive introduction, describing some little-known facets of Hutton's life, establishing the authenticity of the Abstract on The System of the Earth, and commenting on the reprinted works. Dr. White's Forward places these papers in their historical perspective.

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