
The System of the Earth (1785), **Theory of the Earth** (1788), and **Observations on Granite** (1794), by *James Hutton*; together with a Biography of Hutton by *John Playfair*. Introduction by *V. A. Eyles*, Foreword by *George W. White*. Contributions to the History of Geology, Vol. 5, George W. White, Ed. Hafner Publishing Company, New York. 1970. \$12.95.

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 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 *Foreword* places these papers in their historical perspective.

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