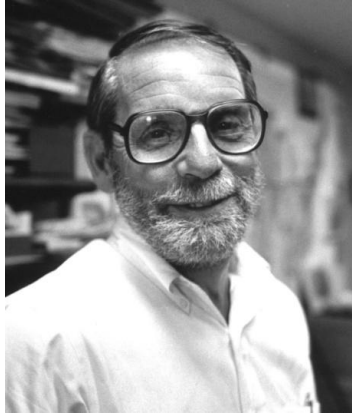


2011 NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY LITERARY AWARD



JOHN MCPHEE

Master of Literary Journalism

John McPhee is often considered the greatest living non-fiction writer and a legend in literary journalism. His narrative approach to a multitude of common and uncommon topics has earned him a Pulitzer Prize and legions of fans who accompany him on his carefully constructed literary journeys.

PRAISE FOR JOHN MCPHEE

“To read the studious John McPhee in this sensationalist age, when so many other literary journalists are shrieking from some self-aggrandizing edge, is to be reminded of what the genre should be—artfully reported stories that illuminate who we are.”

-Robert Braile, *The Boston Globe*

“If you’re a fan of literary nonfiction, John McPhee is the mountaintop. He’s the master of amazingly-informative, exactingly-sculpted, “you-can-read-it-two-or-three-times” journalism.”

-Tom Ashbrook, NPR

BIOGRAPHY

John McPhee was born in Princeton, New Jersey, and was educated at Princeton University and Cambridge University. His writing career began at *Time* magazine and led to his long association with the *New Yorker*, where he has been a staff writer since 1965.

McPhee has received many literary honors, including the Award in Literature from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and the Pulitzer Prize for General Non-Fiction in 1999, awarded for *Annals of the Former World*. In 1978 McPhee received a Litt.D. from Bates College, and in 2009 he received an honorary Doctorate of Letters from Yale University.

McPhee's subjects, reflecting his personal interests, are highly eclectic. He has written pieces on hybrid airships (*The Deltoid Pumpkin Seed*), the United States Merchant Marine (*Looking for a Ship*), farmers' markets (*Giving Good Weight*), the shifting

flow of the Mississippi River (*The Control of Nature*), geology as well as a short book entirely on the subject of oranges. One of his most widely read books, *Coming into the Country*, is about the Alaska wilderness. His most recent book, *Uncommon Carriers*, published 16 May 2006, is about freight transportation.

McPhee has profiled a number of famous people, including conservationist David Brower and the young Bill Bradley, whom McPhee followed closely during Bradley's four-year basketball career at Princeton University. The resulting book, *A Sense of Where You Are*, is a classic of non-fiction writing – a literary craftsman's admiring profile of a basketball craftsman. But some of McPhee's most memorable work describes people who work out of the limelight: a builder of birch bark canoes, a bush pilot, and a French-speaking wine maker in the Swiss army.

WORKS

<i>Silk Parachute</i>	2010	<i>Giving Good Weight</i>	1979
<i>Uncommon Carriers</i>	2006	<i>The John McPhee Reader</i>	1976
<i>The Founding Fish</i>	2002	<i>Coming into the Country</i>	1977
<i>Annals of the Former World</i>	1998	<i>The Survival of the Bark Canoe</i>	1975
<i>Irons in the Fire</i>	1997	<i>Pieces of the Frame</i>	1975
<i>The Second John McPhee Reader</i>	1996	<i>The Curve of Binding Energy</i>	1974
<i>The Ransom of Russian Art</i>	1994	<i>The Deltoid Pumpkin Seed</i>	1973
<i>Assembling California</i>	1993	<i>Encounters With the Archdruid</i>	1971
<i>Looking for a Ship</i>	1990	<i>The Crofter and the Laird</i>	1970
<i>The Control of Nature</i>	1989	<i>Levels of the Game</i>	1969
<i>Rising from the Plains</i>	1986	<i>A Roomful of Hovings</i>	1968
<i>Table of Contents</i>	1985	<i>The Pine Barrens</i>	1968
<i>Heirs of General Practice</i>	1984	<i>Oranges</i>	1967
<i>La Place de la Concorde Suisse</i>	1984	<i>The Headmaster</i>	1966
<i>In Suspect Terrain</i>	1983	<i>A Sense of Where You Are</i>	1965
<i>Basin and Range</i>	1981		

