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217 Oak Ridge Circle
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BOOK INFORMATION SHEET (1.14.20)

Author (as it should appear on the book): David Freese

Title: *Mississippi River*

Subtitle: *Headwaters and Heartland to Delta and Gulf*

Contributors: with essay by Simon Winchester and a foreword by Sarah Kennel

Partner: Published in association with Aegon Transamerica Foundation and the American Land Publishing Project

Book pages: 336

Number and type of illustrations: 209 toned photographs (printed in 4-color) by the author (including 7 foldouts), 1 historic cyanotype photograph, and 4 color maps

Trim size: 11.875" x 11.5" landscape

List price: \$50.00

Discount: trade

ISBN (book): 978-1-938086-73-1

ISBNs (electronic): n/a

Edition: Hardcover with PLC

E-book? Not now.

Interactive e-book? None.

Jacket: Yes

Edition size: 1,100

Publication date: May/June 2020

Advances due: April 2020

To warehouse: May 2020

Printed in: Singapore

Distributor: Casemate/IPM

Bookstore categories (list three): Photography/Nature/U.S. History

Audience: Those who love photography and in-depth photo books; those who want to know more about life and land on the Mississippi; and the many regional markets whose cities (including major U.S. cities such as Minneapolis/St. Paul, Dubuque, St. Louis, Memphis, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans) and historic towns (including Galena, Hannibal, Ste. Genevieve, Natchez, and Vicksburg) are along the river.

Selling points (list three): (1) This book completes David Freese's trilogy on North America's major waters: West Coast, East Coast, and now the Mississippi, America's greatest and most important river; (2) no artist or

photographer has made such a comprehensive visual record of the river or the two coasts; (3) the combination of photographs and text by renowned author Simon Winchester and curator Sarah Kennel, along with Freese's own essay and extensive notes on photos, provide a depth to our understanding of the Mississippi as nature and communities along the river deal with record-setting floods and the consequences of climate change.

Tagline: A major new book that shows why the Mississippi remains America's most important and iconic river!

Description of the work:

America's most important and iconic river has had many names: from the Ojibwe word *misiziibi*, meaning "a great river spread wide over the land," to the more familiar Mighty Mississippi, Old Blue, and Ole Man River. In *Mississippi River: Headwaters and Heartland to Delta and Gulf*, the third book of David Freese's trilogy on North American waters, the photographer takes us on a captivating visual journey from the river's source at Lake Itasca in northern Minnesota 2,552 miles south to the Gulf of Mexico.

Freese's photographs—from the ground and from the air—open our eyes to encompass the river's diversity and complexity as seen from its cities, towns, and hamlets, its industrial sites and farmland, its historic buildings and sanctuaries for wildlife, all the while revealing the constant flow of goods, grain, and fuel up and down the nation's major shipping artery. The photographs also illustrate the ongoing dangers posed by increased flooding and the protective measures historically taken by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in trying to fulfil an impossible task: of keeping a restless and often swollen and unruly river in check.

There is great pressure on America's biggest river in the way we manage and treat it, and we can be thankful for the establishment of wildlife sanctuaries and the passage of environmental legislation that enhances the quality of our waters, air, and soils. But too often there are negative environmental consequences to our way of life, ranging from (ironically) the loss of habitat affecting millions of birds and other wildlife to poisonous runoff from pesticides and herbicides on agricultural fields. As one encounters the river, one must also remember that, throughout its vast watershed, the Mississippi was initially the great river for native peoples who were systematically removed from their homelands; and, as Freese journeys downriver, one is also reminded of the dark legacy of slavery, especially in the South.

The *Misiziibi* reveals America's complicated past and present and hints at its future like no other river. American history truly bends and turns in its waters. To complement the photographic journey, acclaimed author Simon Winchester provides one of the most compelling short histories of the Mississippi yet written and Sarah Kennel, Curator of Photography at the High Museum of Art in Atlanta, places Freese's images into the canon of landscape photography as a magnificent body of work that documents, critiques, honors, and sanctifies America's most treasured river. David Freese concludes his remarkable book with a provocative afterword and extensive notes on many of his photographs.

Blurbs:

“David Freese captures the magic, majesty, and muddy squalor of the Mississippi River. Through images that report, rhapsodize, and editorialize, he depicts the river as a giver of life and a source of peril, a wellspring for agriculture and industry, and a means of transportation, recreation, and contemplation.”

—Barbara Tannenbaum, Chair of Prints, Drawings, and Photographs and Curator of Photography, Cleveland Museum of Art

“With *Mississippi River: Headwaters and Heartland to Delta and Gulf*, David Freese has created an extensive portrait of the massive life force that runs through the North American continent. His photographs acknowledge and chronicle diverse aspects, from engineering projects and human involvement to flora and fauna, from map-like aerial overviews to intimate vignettes. The scope and thoughtfulness of his photographic perspective, along with the richly descriptive essay by Simon Winchester and foreword by Sarah Kennel, offer insight into the significance of the Mississippi not just for those who live in its watershed, but for all Americans. Taken together with Freese’s surveys of North America’s East and West Coasts, we can appreciate the intrinsic way that our cultural and economic histories are written in the land and how the keys to our future—especially in light of climate change—are visible along the Mississippi as well.”

—Rebecca A. Senf, Chief Curator at the Center for Creative Photography and the Norton Family Curator of Photography, and author of *Reconstructing the View: The Grand Canyon Photographs of Mark Klett and Byron Wolfe*

“It seemed appropriate that, as I read this book, record rainfall in the Midwest brought Mississippi River levels to an all-time high as an early-season hurricane was barreling toward New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. Get David Freese’s wonderful book, *Mississippi River: Headwaters and Heartland to Delta and Gulf*, to gain an understanding of how natural forces are combining with human-caused climate change and questionable decision-making to create a perfect storm of societal consequence.”

—Michael E. Mann, Director, Penn State Earth System Science Center and author of *The Madhouse Effect: How Climate Change Denial Is Threatening Our Planet, Destroying our Politics, and Driving us Crazy*

About the Author:

David Freese has spent the last sixteen years photographing North America’s major waters, resulting in a trilogy of books: *West Coast: Bering to Baja* (2012), *East Coast: Arctic to Tropic* (2016), and *Mississippi River: Headwaters and Heartland to Delta and Gulf* (2020). His prints are in many collections, including the Center for

Creative Photography, Cleveland Museum of Art, Denver Art Museum, Haggerty Museum of Art, and Library of Congress, and his photographs have appeared in *Communication Arts*, *Photo District News*, *Photo Insider*, *Polaroid International*, *Popular Photography*, *Smithsonian Air and Space*, and *View Camera* magazines.

About the Contributor(s):

Simon Winchester is a journalist and *New York Times* best-selling author of more than twenty best-selling books, including *The Perfectionists: How Precision Engineers Created the Modern World* (2018), *Pacific* (2015), *The Men Who United the States* (2013), *Atlantic* (2010), *The Man Who Loved China* (2008), *Krakatoa* (2003), and *The Professor and the Madman* (1999). In 2006, Winchester was appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II for “services to journalism and literature.”

Sarah Kennel joined the High Museum in Atlanta in 2019 as the Donald and Marilyn Keough Family Curator of Photography. She previously served as the Byrne Family Curator of Photography at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, and as a curator in the Department of Photographs at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. She has curated many exhibitions and authored numerous publications, including *Charles Marville: Photographer of Paris* (2013), *In the Darkroom: An Illustrated Guide to Photographic Processes before the Digital Age* (2010), and *In the Forest of Fontainebleau: Painters and Photographers from Corot to Monet* (2008).