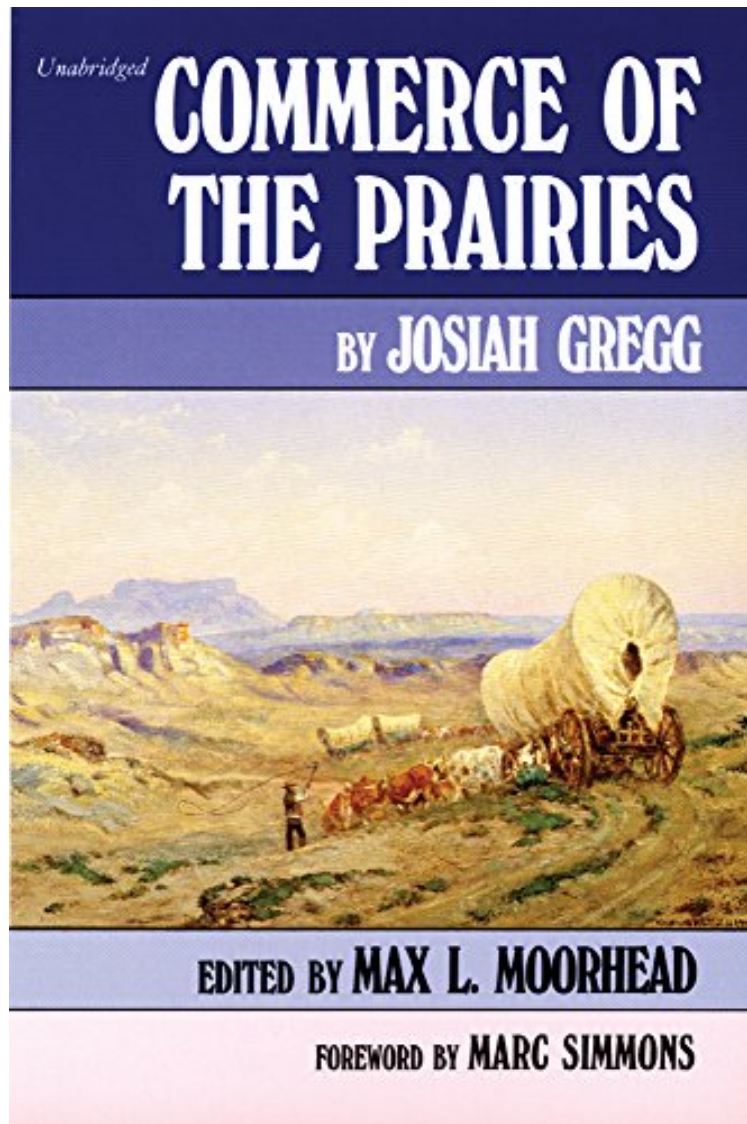


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Commerce of the Prairies (American Exploration and Travel Series)

Josiah Gregg

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Written as a scrupulously accurate guidebook to the prairies and as an authoritative account of the early Santa Fe trade, *Commerce of the Prairies* has been a favorite of historians, ethnologists, naturalists, and collectors of Western Americana for generations. But Gregg's masterpiece is not for specialists alone: its vivid descriptions of desert mirages, wagon caravans, Indian alarms and attacks, buffalo hunts, and other early Western phenomena will delight all who wish to know the country as it was before the great herds of buffalo were slaughtered and the roving Indians confined to reservations, before the landscape was transformed by barbed wire, domestic cattle, plowed fields, and modern highways. Josiah Gregg, a man of rare sensitivity and passionate science interest, joined a caravan of traders bound for Santa Fe in 1831 and almost immediately developed a fascination for the adventure-packed life of Santa Fe trader. And during the ten years that he engaged in the Santa Fe trade, Gregg took copious notes on the life and landscape of the American prairies and the Mexican plateau, later utilizing them in *Commerce of the Prairies*. This new edition faithfully follows the rare first edition, to and including the maps and illustrations. It will be welcomed both by readers familiar with the importance and interest of Gregg's work and by readers who have yet to discover its attraction.

About the Author Max Moorehead was David Ross Boyd professor emeritus of history at the University of Oklahoma. He was the author of *The Presidio: Bastion of the Spanish Borderlands* and editor of Josiah Gregg's *Commerce of the Prairies*, both published by the University of Oklahoma Press.