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Review of *Geology of the Lewis & Clark Trail in North Dakota* By John W. Hoganson and Edward C. Murphy

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Geology of the Lewis & Clark Trail in North Dakota. By John W. Hoganson and Edward C. Murphy. Missoula, MT: Mountain Press Publishing Company, 2003. xii + 247 pp. Photographs, maps, tables, references, index. \$18.00 paper.

Stephen Ambrose would be proud! During this bicentennial commemoration of the most intrepid expedition in American history, a plethora of books on a broad range of topics dealing with the "Journey of Lewis and Clark" have made their appearance. Hoganson and Murphy have taken an intriguing look at one segment of the journey—the physical environment of North Dakota where the expedition spent more time (213 days) than in any other area that would become a state during its two-and-a-half-year-long journey from St. Louis to the Pacific Ocean. As mandated by Thomas Jefferson, a major goal of the expedition was to observe and record geology, to collect rock, mineral, and fossil samples, and to assess the potential for economic reserves along the four-thousand-mile route. Hoganson and Murphy deftly combine the history and geology of the Northern Great Plains in a well-written, lavishly illustrated text. The book is chock-full of photographs, diagrams, maps, and tables that present the geological and historical story in a visually concise and comprehensible manner. The authors also include a convenient glossary and have smartly divided their bibliography into two sections: the first citing those works dealing with the historical aspects covered in the book, the second listing texts concerned with North Dakota and Northern Great Plains geology.

This is certainly not the first book to combine history and geology; it is, however, the only work to my recollection incorporating the views of both disciplines in which the principal subject is *not* related to the military. One hopes that Hoganson and Murphy's effort spawns other historo-geologic texts on topics other than battlefield geology.

As a geologist, but one new to the Northern Great Plains, this book has taught me a great deal about North Dakota geology. That certainly doesn't mean a reader has to have a background in geology to understand and appreciate the text. Written in an easily understood manner, I believe the book's unique slant on a "hot topic" will appeal to a large audience. Getting the word out is key. **Richard L. Josephs**, *Department of Geology, University of North Dakota*.