

THE FÜHRERBUCH OF ANDREAS JAUN

BY D. F. O. DANGAR

ANDREAS JAUN of Meiringen was born on September 27, 1829, and died in his seventy-third year on May 13, 1902. His career is not comparable with those of some of the great guides of Meiringen. Most of his time was spent in his own district and he seldom went very far afield, but he performed some good work and made several new expeditions.

His Führerbuch was issued on June 1, 1863, and extends over a period of thirty years. Unfortunately it does not cover the whole of his Alpine career, and there are several years without any entries. Nevertheless, it contains much of interest and throws fresh light upon the doings of some of the early members of the Alpine Club.

We know that Jaun was climbing before 1863 from the fact that he accompanied Leslie Stephen when he 'opened a passage between Rosenlauri and the Grimsel by crossing the Weitsattel.'¹

The first entry, dated July 26, 1863, is over the signature of John Tyndall, who was accompanied by P. L. Sclater, and describes the journey from Stein to the Grimsel of which an account can be found in *Hours of Exercise in the Alps*. Even at this early stage of Jaun's career Tyndall thinks he 'can be safely recommended as a highly competent mountain and glacier guide.' Bennen joined the party for the crossing of the Oberaarjoch, and after leaving Tyndall at the Eggishorn, Sclater and Jaun returned to the Grimsel and on the following day, without a second guide, went to Meiringen over the Gauli Pass. Sclater could 'most conscientiously endorse all that Professor Tyndall has said of Jaun. He is strong, careful, and obliging, and is evidently very well acquainted with the glaciers and passes of the Oberland.' He finished the season by a few expeditions with Herr Ernst Pliner, including an ascent of the Finsteraarhorn on August 15.

On July 24, 1864, Herr Kiefer-Weibel, 'from Basle, Secretary of the Swiss Alpine Club, . . . with his left arm lame, engaged Andreas Jaun to reach by way of Hof and the Trift glacier the Schnee and Damma Stöcke (both of them maiden).' The names in the account of this successful expedition are confusing. In the 1864 maps the names Dammask and Schneestock are given to the true Schneestock and Eggstock and therefore it would seem that these were the peaks actually ascended by Herr Kiefer-Weibel. If this is, in fact, correct, his ascent of the Schneestock preceded by four days that of Herr Hoffmann-Burckhardt who is credited with having made the first ascent. The Eggstock was first climbed by Herr Gottlieb Wenger on July 7, 1864, but as stated in the *Climbers' Guide*, the confusion of names in this

¹ See *A.J.* 4. 255.

district 'accounts for many errors in the accounts of the older climbers.'

In August, Andreas was with our member E. Harvey of Liverpool for a fortnight. Together they ascended the Titlis and two minor peaks in the district, crossed the Gauli Pass and went up the Ewigschneehorn. An attempt on the Wetterhorn was defeated by a storm. Mr. Harvey, 'having had some experience of glaciers, can recommend him as a perfectly safe and competent guide for difficult excursions.'

Then followed some expeditions with Joseph H. Warner, including an unsuccessful attempt upon the Diablerets. They 'also accomplished, (for the first time, I believe),' wrote Mr. Warner, 'the passage over the Wenden Gletcher (*sic*) from Gadmen to Engelberg.' This last expedition is of special interest, being evidently the first crossing of the Wendenjoch, previously attributed either to Herr Zähringer and some friends, or to Thomas Brooksbank, A.C., with Kaspar Blatter in August, 1871. 'I know no man,' the entry concludes, 'who possesses more fully all the best qualities of a genuine Oberland guide.' Jaun was with Mr. Warner again the following year when they crossed the Petersgrat, 'the glacier being unusually difficult.'

The first entry for 1866, signed by W. E. Utterson Kelso and A. G. Girdlestone, is as follows: 'We took Andreas Jaun of Meyringen as our guide for the Shreckhorn (*sic*). The weather prevented our proceeding beyond the Kastenstein. We were perfectly satisfied with, what we saw of him and his demands were exceedingly reasonable. This entry is of particular interest to readers of Girdlestone's book, *The High Alps without Guides*. It does not seem quite to tally with the author's references to the expedition.

Then followed a few October days with P. L. Sclater, including a tour from Trachsellaunen round to Stechelberg by way of the Gamchilücke and Sefinenfurgge, but Sclater was mistaken in thinking that his was the first crossing of the Gamchilücke.

There are but two entries for 1867; the second, by our member the Hon. Roden Noel, describes the first crossing of the Renfer Joch, now known as the E. Wetterlimmi. Johann Tännler was second guide. The party 'experienced considerable difficulty, but Jaun proved himself first rate as a guide—courageous, cautious, and judicious. My being a novice did not make his task easier but he was throughout careful, considerate, and obliging. This pass was planned by the Rev. Leslie Stephen.' Noel wrote an interesting account of this expedition in *A. J.* 4. 255, stating that Stephen discovered the pass when making the passage from Rosenlauri to the Grimsel already referred to. It seems probable that this expedition was made in 1858, but in the reverse direction. It is very unfortunate that we have no account of it.

The following year, on July 14, he crossed the Gauli Pass with Eliot Howard, A.C., who was 'in every way satisfied with him and he appears to have a thorough knowledge of this part of the Alps.' In August he accompanied A. G. Puller 'as porter and second guide over the Unter-Aar-Joch (being the first time it was crossed).' Alexander Mennich of

the Eggishorn was leading guide. This pass is now known as the Ober Studerjoch.²

The season ends with an entry signed by H. Elphinstone, Lt.-Col., R.E., and Arthur, Lt., R.E., stating that Andreas 'acted as guide to His Royal Highness Prince Arthur and suite for a period of fourteen days in Switzerland including the passage over the Oberaarjoch, the Gauli glacier, etc., to the Grimsel and other places and has given the greatest satisfaction.' H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught was perhaps fortunate to have made these expeditions before the Alpine Club narrowly avoided royal censure in 1882.³

In July, 1869, E. R. Whitwell records an ascent of the Wetterhorn with Jaun as second guide but 'he would have acted as first guide perfectly well. The snow was in a shocking condition and required great care.' K. Blatter was leading guide.

There are no entries for 1870 and I have been unable to find any record of his doings. Possibly he had been called up for military duties owing to the Franco-German war, a fate which prevented Hans Jaun from doing any mountaineering that year. Whatever the reason, he was back again at work in 1871 and in August ascended the Jungfrau and Finsteraarhorn with Baron Albert de Rothschild, elected to the Alpine Club in December the same year. The following month there were a few expeditions with the Rev. Sedley Taylor, the Rev. Robert Burn and A. D. Ryder. 'His skill in leading across broken glacier and ice falls is very great, and we have always found him most willing and obliging.' An ascent of Monte Rosa with A. D. Ryder finished the season.

Next year he was once again with his old employer, P. L. Sclater. Together with the Rev. J. E. Millard they crossed the Petersgrat and the Beich Pass and made the first passage of the easy Trützi Pass from Münster to the Grimsel Hospice. The entry describing these expeditions, signed by Dr. Millard, reveals that Jaun acted as guide to him and his brother 'over the Oberaarjoch in 1862.' This was in 1861, not 1862 as stated by Dr. Millard.⁴ On the departure of Millard, Sclater and Jaun crossed the Sandgrat and also made the passage of the 'very interesting but apparently little known pass from the Maderaner Thal to Unterschächen called the Rückerkäli.' The first travellers' crossing of the Ruchkehlen Pass, as it is now known, was made in 1866.

In August, John and Robert Collier crossed the Strahlegg with him and a few days later ascended the Dossenhorn. The Hon. John Collier was better known as a painter than as a mountaineer. His brother Robert became the second Lord Monkswell. Little is known of the Alpine careers of these two brothers, but the present Lord Monkswell kindly informs me that he does not think either of them ascended any of the better known peaks.

The end of the season of 1872 seems to mark a turning-point in Jaun's career. Until then, by far the greater part of his work had been done with British mountaineers, most of whom belonged to the Alpine

² See *A. J.* 4. 155.

³ See *A. J.* 40. 183.

⁴ See *A. J.* 32. 240.

Club, but in the next twenty years only two of our members are mentioned, the Rev. T. W. Bull and H. Seymour Hoare, who, with the Rev. T. Rivington, made the third ascent of the Wellhorn in 1876—'a very long expedition which lasted 29 hours.'

There are no records for 1874 or 1877 and only one for 1882, but this last year Jaun was with Sir Edward Davidson.⁵

The standard and interest of his expeditions fall and there are few more entries worthy of remark. There are records of crossings of the Nägelisgrätli and of the Great and Little Scheidegg and even, upon one occasion, of 'a nice little trip through the Berner Oberland.'

In 1886 we find ascents of the Ewigschneehorn and the Finsteraarhorn. His career drew quietly to its close. As late as July, 1891, Herr Edward Kölkenbeck found him 'very active for his age.' The last entry, dated August 17, 1893, refers to yet another crossing of the Nägelisgrätli.

Perhaps the best estimate of Andreas Jaun is to be found in the *Introduction to the Alpine Guide*: 'makes a good second in a difficult expedition, but not quite in the first rank.'

A TRAVERSE OF THE STRAHLHORN

By J. A. STEWART

THE S. face of the Strahlhorn consists of a slope of broken rock rising some 700 metres above the Findelen Glacier, seamed with snow gullies, and interrupted at about a third of its height by an almost level snowfield. It is seldom visited, and was known to none of the party which had climbed the peak from the Britanniahütte under T. Graham Brown's leadership on July 27, 1949, and intended to complete the traverse by descending it and crossing the upper névé of the Findelen Glacier to the Neu Weisstor.

Ten members of the Täsch meet had lunched on the summit rocks, but of this caravan four were bound for the valley by way of the Adler Glacier, leaving two ropes of three men each for the S. face. Graham Brown directed the first rope: I brought up the rear of the second. In this position I did not disdain the help of a rope from the Adlergletscher party for the initial, and hardest move of the descent, which began at the dip on the ridge between the summit and point 4127.

The destruction of a small cornice and about 80 ft. of step-cutting down hard snow and some ice brought us to the top of the selected rock rib. The selection was made somewhat blindly, because little detail could be seen from above, but it proved to be a good one, and later, comparing our rib with its fellows, we did not regret our choice.

⁵ See *A.J.* 35. 262.