ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

SOME ACQUISITIONS DURING 1954

By T. S. BLAKENEY, Assistant Librarian

APART from the usual intake of new books on mountaineering and allied matters, which are dealt with in reviews; and apart from the steady expansion of the numerous climbing journals that the library contains, we have, during the past year, received a number of valuable gifts, which are listed below.

(*a*) Sir Gavin de Beer has presented two microfilms, which it is hoped later to enlarge and to bind in readable form. The films are :

(i) de Saussure's diary of 1786.
(ii) A list of visitors to Chamonix in 1788, taken from the archives Haute-Savoie.

In addition, he has presented photostats of two hitherto unknown Paccard documents, being Paccard's barometric records made on the first ascent of Mont Blanc. These MSS. have lain hidden in the British Museum and Sir Gavin de Beer has published them in *Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London*, 1955, a copy of which he has also given to the Club.

(*b*) Mr. Edward C. Porter, of Chicago, a new member, has presented six original letters of the artist, Josiah Gilbert, between 1865 and 1869, together with a copy of the privately printed edition of these letters.

He has also presented a very interesting Napoleonic document, on which Sir Gavin de Beer kindly sends us the following note :

> 'Among many interesting documents recently acquired by the Club, is a manuscript itinerary and intelligence report on the road from Lucerne to Italy over the Saint Gotthard Pass, issued by the French War Office in Paris on March 21, 1800, in preparation for the campaign in which Napoleon made his celebrated passage of the Grand Saint Bernard and won the victory of Marengo. The Itinerary consists of distances, days' marches, and observations on the conditions, width, and passability of the road for vehicles and horses.
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> 'The Saint Gotthard Road must already have been well known to the French Army in 1800. General Desaix had crossed it in peacetime in 1797, while in 1798 and 1799 it was a constant theatre of war between the troops of General Lecourbe and the Austrians, to whom in 1799 were added the Russians under Marshal Suvorof.'

(*c*) Mrs. Frank Smythe has given us an original letter written by Charles Hudson at 5 A.M. on July 13, 1865 to the Rev. John McCormick,

just before setting out for the Matterhorn ; and the original letter of Whymper to McCormick, immediately on his return to Zermatt on July 15. These letters were printed in Frank Smythe's biography, *Edward Whymper*, pp. 180 and 198.

(*d*) The executors of the late W. N. Ling have presented his climbing diaries (21 notebooks), covering the years 1893 to 1953.

(*e*) Colonel G. G. Morse has presented us with five volumes of typescripts of the climbing diaries of Sir George Morse, covering the years 1884 to 1927.

(*f*) The Dowager Lady Throckmorton has presented to the Club the MS. diary of A. W. Moore on the expedition to the Caucasus, 1874.

(*g*) Miss K. M. Freshfield has kindly deposited on loan the residue of her father's climbing papers. It would seem that most of D. W. Freshfield's immense correspondence, &c. was destroyed, though the Club was fortunate in possessing already five volumes of his letters to H. F. Montagnier.

The Freshfield papers have been drawn upon for this issue (pp. 113–17 above).

(*h*) Mr. D. L. Busk has presented a typed translation of the record of the Polish expedition to the Ruwenzori (see *A.J.* 59. 412), together with a cash donation for binding same.

(*i*) During the past year we were in touch with Miss Ida L. Watson, executor and residuary legatee of Miss Florence Auldjo, daughter of John Auldjo. After discussions with her, certain literary MSS. and one or two grangerised books were taken by the British Museum, and a fragmentary collection of sketches by Auldjo, mostly of Scottish scenes, went to the National Library of Scotland. The remainder of Auldjo's papers were given to the Alpine Club.

These include a translation by John Auldjo of *A Short Historical and Descriptive Account of the Valley of Aosta*, by General Count de Loche, together with extracts from J. A. de Luc's *History of the Passage of the Alps by Hannibal* ; a fragment of a diary of 1827, dealing with Auldjo's ascent of Mont Blanc, and containing sketches by him ; a very miscellaneous collection (now bound up in one volume) containing notes of journeys by Auldjo to Tetuan, and along the coast of Spain and Portugal ; an account of a visit of Sir Walter Scott to Naples ; the Warrant of Auldjo's appointment as Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Freemasons of Upper Canada ; a translation into English of the Mosaic code of Jewish law ; an account of how to renew ' the flowery grain of Persian Swords commonly called Damascus Blades ' ; and other writings not relevant to mountaineering.

In addition, Miss Watson presented a miniature of Auldjo, at the age of eight, painted by his mother. This now hangs in the Club anteroom and from a copy of it in one of the books in the British Museum, we learn that Auldjo had a second Christian name, Richardson, a fact not, apparently, recorded before.

Among the Auldjo papers was a copy of the Sherwill and Clark pamphlet, on their ascent of Mont Blanc in 1825, and a considerable

number of newspaper cuttings and some photographs of the Auldjo family.

(*j*) Mr. H. J. M. Pritchard has presented a unique copy of the privately printed work (written by Benjamin Hawes) of Hawes & Fellows's *Narrative of an Ascent to the Summit of Mont Blanc*, published 1828. This appears to be Wm. Hawes' own copy, and the Club already had the copy that seems to have belonged to Benjamin Hawes.

What makes Mr. Pritchard's gift so remarkable is that there are bound into the volume two items of great interest ; (i) a note written by Wm. Hawes on the summit of Mont Blanc, with the signatures of the two amateurs and their six guides ; (ii) the original certificate issued by the Commune of Chamonix of this ascent of Mont Blanc. A facsimile of this was annexed to Hawes & Fellows's *Narrative* ; now we have the original itself.

Wm. Hawes wrote two letters on the summit of Mont Blanc ; one of them the Club already had, being contained in Benjamin Hawes' copy of the book, referred to above. The note in Mr. Pritchard's copy of the book, though not strictly a ' letter ' in the ordinary sense of the word, is likely to be the second piece of writing done at the time, and we may fairly congratulate ourselves on having both letters.

The Club library, indeed, is peculiarly rich in its collection of records of this particular ascent of Mont Blanc. The two copies of Hawes' *Narrative* referred to are illustrated with coloured prints, but the prints are not identical. Other copies were printed with no plates, and we have two of these also, both presentation copies from William Hawes and Benjamin Hawes.

We have, further, three copies of Sir Charles Fellows's own independent *Narrative*, published 1827. Of this, 50 were issued, at least five with coloured plates (*A.J.* 57. 393) : the Club has one with and two without coloured plates, all three presentation copies from the author. In one of them is bound up a reprint of the first record of this expedition, extracted from the *Nottingham and Newark Mercury* of August 25, 1827. In addition, in the Suzannet collection in the Club, there is another copy of Fellows's *Narrative* with coloured plates.

To complete the record, we may mention that the Club possesses two MS. drafts of Fellows's *Narrative*, and also the corrected proof sheets. If we add to these the collection of letters to Sir Charles Fellows to which reference was made in *A.J.* 43. 312, it may be claimed that our collections on this particular ascent are probably uniquely complete.

To all the donors of the above items, we express our gratitude ; but there remains one more name to be mentioned. Mr. C. W. Nettleton, who has been a generous supporter of the Club and its library for so long, gave us a very handsome donation to expend on the library. After consultation with him, it was agreed that part at any rate should be used in binding some of the Club's MS. material. In the result, we have been able to bind the Auldjo papers and the letters to Sir Charles Fellows ; and also a good deal more, hitherto tucked away in envelopes

and folders. The Girdlestone letters[1] have been bound; the Brand papers[2]; various papers of William Mathews[3]; the Foskett diary[4]; Leslie Stephen's MS. of *Sunset from Mont Blanc*; and, last, but not least, several volumes of letters, etc. have been formed from the collections hitherto residing in bundles in a safe. Thus, Coolidge's papers amount to one whole volume; so do Claude Wilson's; another volume gathers together letters of Farrar,[5] Freshfield, Adams-Reilly and Whymper. Other volumes are more miscellaneous.

Part of Mr. Nettleton's gift has been used to help in the expense of binding the numerous volumes of foreign mountaineering journals that, during the war, were left incomplete and which have, gradually, been made complete through the co-operation of the foreign clubs concerned.

[1] See *A.J.* 57. 369.

[2] Briefly and rather inadequately referred to in *A.J.* 32. 75.

[3] We are indebted to Mr. D. F. O. Dangar for the gift of some of these, several years ago (*A.J.* 58. 406). It is particularly fortunate to have any Mathews documents: a large box of letters and papers was in the possession of one of the Mathews family in 1939, and the intention was to give them to the Alpine Club. But it was decided to leave them where they were until the war was over and they were all destroyed in an air-raid.

[4] See *A.J.* 51. 332.

[5] Farrar's papers were mostly destroyed at his death; fortunately, two volumes of his correspondence with Montagnier survive.