
Bernese Alps West (from the Col du Pillon to the Lötschenpass) By Robin Collomb
Pp 74. 16 illustrations. West Col Productions, 1971. Price £1.50.

'A selection of popular walking and climbing routes' in an area where there is a great deal that is straightforward and suitable for the novice climber, and in many places even for the mere walker. The style is thoroughly competent, as in the other volumes in this series. It is good to know that the English-speaking climber can be adequately guided nowadays without the labour of an agonised return to schoolboy French or German.

Edward Pyatt

Mountaineering journals

Der Bergsteiger 1970 (Österreichischen Alpenvereins). *Der Bergsteiger* seems to have lost some of the zip that has made it so attractive recently. Or is it that familiarity breeds—well, certainly not contempt, for it is too good a journal for that,—but a certain boredom? The East Alpine flavour is as strong as ever, naturally, but there is a lack of ideas this year. Perhaps it is just a bad patch? One hopes so—thank goodness there is no falling off in quality of the excellent photographs.

The most original idea was Erich Neubauer's review of the North face Cima Grande in the years 1975, 1999, and 2050—does he really mean it, one wonders? I suspect not, but at least it makes a change in a sport which is so often given to looking back, rather than forwards.

Original too, in their way, are the short features about obscure mountains in far away places: Lapland (Jan), Demavend (Feb), Turkey (Apr), the Sahara (May), Mexico (July) and Bali (Dec). The Sahara notes deal actually with the Hoggar and are well illustrated.

In the April issue Dietrich Hasse writes about bivouacs on the Dru, but, oh dear, what can one think of titles such as *The Beautiful Summits of Switzerland*, *Wandering in Valais*, and *Mountain Tours with Children*? (The last not a useful training feature, but a guide to walks and scrambles for very young children with their parents.)

There is a very full obituary of Jorg Lehne in the September issue, by Dieter Hasse and Dr G. Leukroth.

Walt Unsworth

The British Ski Year Book 1970 Editor Sir Arnold Lunn. Ski-ing in this age of television is a spectator sport, and the Winter Olympics without ski-ing events, possibly as a result of disagreement on the definition of amateurism, would be inconceivable. Yet the B.S.Y.B. remains a mountaineering journal, and long may it continue to be so. Races are described and results recorded, it is true, but the real interest to the reader lies in the accounts of ski-expeditions and tours, exploration and development of new areas, and reports on equipment. Can it be that the Editor, the genius who after all started this business of racing, has never forgotten that competence on skis enables one to travel in and climb and enjoy the mountains? He had his reward in the increasing practice of langlauf and off-piste ski-ing, and by the numbers of climbers who in recent years have taken to ski-mountaineering. Even the A.C. has arranged a ski-meet. Neil Hogg in 'Who's for the Demo?', and Patricia Murphy in 'From Alpine to Cross-Country Ski-ing', are strong supporters.

It would be easy but superficial to dismiss the *Year Book* as a journal by Lunn about Lunn: it is about ski-ing and by Lunn, who cares—care is not the right word—to the uninitiated he must be painstakingly crazy about it. Only in this way can one explain the 'Review of the Year', which records, it would seem, everything even remotely connected with ski-ing.

Other articles deal with the Valais, Oberland, Bernina, Norway and the developments in Scotland. In the equipment section the reports on ski and bindings are useful.

F. L. Jenkins

Himalayan Journal Vol XXIX. 1969 In recent years the publication of the *Himalayan Journal* has for various reasons been much delayed. Volume 29, 1969, has come out four months after Volume 28, 1967/68 and Soli Mehta, the Honorary Editor, is to be congratulated on his successful efforts to bring this journal up to date. This volume is interesting and well illustrated and runs to over 200 pages.

The first article is a reproduction of a lecture given by Brigadier G. F. Heaney to the R.G.S. on 'Rennell and the Surveyors of India', an interesting account of the early Himalayan surveyors. In recent years there has been an increasing number of Indian expeditions to the Himalaya and this is reflected in the number of articles submitted by Indian mountaineers. There is a thoughtful article by Ashoka Madgavkar on the future of Indian mountaineering which first appeared in the *Climbers Club Bulletin* in Bombay after the ascent of Everest by Commander Kohli's Indian expedition in 1965.

Many of the climbs recorded will not be new to readers of the *Alpine Journal*, although some, such as Captain Day's account of the fourth ascent of Tirich Mir, are dealt with more fully than in the *A.J.*

There is an article on the American Dhaulagiri Expedition of 1969 which ended so tragically. Following a brief account of the Barcelona Hindu-Kush Expedition of 1969 are some useful notes on the 'Problem of Istor-o-Nal' by Dr A. Diemberger.

The volume also contains a useful summary of 1969 expeditions to the various areas of the Himalaya, Karakorum and Hindu-Kush, and a reprint of a tabular summary of mountains above 7300 m which first appeared in *Berge der Welt*.

For those interested in pot-holing there is a very comprehensive article by S. A. Craven entitled 'India Underground'.

V. S. Risoe

The Canadian Alpine Journal 1970 The redesigning of *The Canadian Alpine Journal* is part of the overall rejuvenation of The Alpine Club of Canada. This journal has certainly succeeded in contributing towards that end. In format, it is similar to the Sierra Club's *Ascent*, but is more comprehensive than that publication covering as it does every aspect of Canadian mountaineering. In his editorial, Andrew Gruft has outlined his thoughts on the purpose of a journal—'it should promote climbing by publishing articles and photographs that interest, inform, and excite; it should keep as complete a record as possible of Canadian climbing during the year of its issue; and last, but most important, it should act as a means of communication amongst all climbers with reference to common issues and interests'. In all of these objectives, this publication has succeeded admirably and is now amongst the best such publications in the world.

The contents show the problems in obtaining good quality material and there are reports of climbs achieved as long ago as 1964, although many of these had not been reported previously. On the international scene, there are excellent sections on the problems of climbing in Peru by John Ricker (who is currently writing a guide to the Cordillera to be published by the A.C.C.), and a story, 'Tips on Nepalling', by Alice Culbert. More generally, there is the report of the Canadian first ascent of the Western Spur of Huascarán (Peru), a section on the ascent of Noshq (24,580 ft) in the Hindu-Kush (Afghanistan) and tales of Canadian ascents in Yosemite (Salathé Wall) and Chamonix.

I was very pleased to read the sections on climbing on Squamish Chief (in Vancouver's back-yard) and Yamnuska (the Calgary climber's 'gritstone').

There had been so little information on these developments, which constitute some of the finest and hardest climbing in North America, that the cliffs had almost become mythological. In addition, there are a wealth of climbing reports from the St. Elias, Interior and Coast Ranges, as well as news of important new ascents in The Rockies.

The mid-section of the journal is given over to reprints of the now famous articles, 'Games Climbers Play' (Lito Tejada-Flores) and 'Margins of Safety' (Harold Drasdo), both of which deserve to be read as widely as possible. These are followed by a bibliography of Canadian mountaineering literature, 1960-9, which is excellent reference material. Throughout, the journal is well illustrated, there being large, well-produced photographs on virtually every page.

All in all, this is an excellent record of Canadian mountaineering, which brings out the diversity of the challenges awaiting climbers in this country. It is probably a good thing that the publication is not widely available in the U.K., otherwise more British climbers would be emigrating to the quiet seclusion of the Canadian hills. I did!

John Amatt

New Zealand Alpine Journal 1970 This journal provides ample evidence of the skill, activity and enterprise of New Zealanders. About half is devoted to expeditions overseas—to Patagonia, the Peruvian Andes and the Antarctic—most of the other half to climbs and new routes in New Zealand. Perhaps most significant is the opening article by Graeme Dingham describing the ascent of six of the most famous European north faces in the summer of 1969. As the editorial points out, such achievements must dispel finally the latent image of New Zealand climbers as stepcutting packhorses.

As a balance to all this activity there is a short and readable section entitled Mountain Reflections and an even shorter one on Science and Techniques.

Richard Brooke

American Alpine Journal 1970 Once again the photographs are of a very high standard. Ed. Cooper's seem to get better every issue. Bradford Washburn sets his own standard which always seems to make others look that little bit out of focus. It is not that, of course, but his skill and his cameras.

Riccardo Cassin describes his team's success on the very steep West face of Jirishanca. Is he really getting younger? The Andes are well covered once again. This time with accounts of the Cordillera Vilcanota, Huayna Potosi

and a list of ascents in the Quimsa Cruz. For would-be mountaineering hypochondriacs I recommend the article on high altitude research on Mount Logan—more and better things to catch at high altitude! Anyone who still remains unconvinced of health hazards in the high mountains could then turn to the account of the mountain sickness which happened to Al Read of the ill-fated American Dhaulagiri Expedition. The terrible accident which caused the deaths of seven members of the expedition is described by the sole survivor.

When one reads the list of expeditions made by Americans to foreign parts one wonders who is left to watch the home fronts. A glance through the articles by Robbins, Roberts and Rowell soon settles any worries. Chris Jones foresees things to come in the States. Quite rightly, he saw most of them happen in Europe when he lived here.

M. Burke

Ascent 1969/70 This year I have had the good fortune to review two editions of *Ascent*. I can only enthuse. What a pity it is not weekly! Quite often articles are duplications of things already seen or accounts of trips by other members of the various teams. Despite the duplication they always seem that bit different and that bit livelier. I think my favourite is something which I really should not review, a criticism by Chuck Pratt of a new 'Technique book'. Perhaps would-be technical writers might read Chuck's article and then decide whether they should be writing at all. My second favourite is another article by Pratt on his trips to the desert. What a pity we see so little of his writings! There does seem to be a little too much mind-searching as to why people climb, why they aren't climbing with the people they used to climb with and why they didn't do the things they intended to do. Perhaps they were too busy writing why they had given up climbing with Fred! Robbins expands on his Tis-sa-ack article of the *American Alpine Journal*. Its almost frightening. What can a poor little face do to stop a team like Robbins and Peterson. Their climbing seems to be about three standard higher than anyone else's in determination. It is difficult to work out who is the villain of the plot. Is it old Robbins or young Peterson? However it is enthralling reading. My palms were wet when I got to the top with them.

M. Burke

Mountain holds its head up high throughout another year. We English speaking climbers owe a debt of gratitude to the Editor Ken Wilson for the constant high standard of information he gives us.

Throughout the year *Mountain* follows the world of climbing wherever it is to be found. The accounts of climbing in Australia show the range of the

magazine's quest for information however unlikely the area might seem. Its information notes provide an up-to-date diary of what has been done, where and by whom. The format and presentation are first class. Even the ads are worth more than a cursory glance. Well done *Mountain*. Keep them coming.

M. Burke

Rocksport Published six times a year, this magazine is a *must* for the climber in Britain. It maintains a nice balance between information and controversy; writing and illustrations are diverse, highly interesting and of acceptable quality. Attitudes are modern and forward looking. *Rocksport* is doing a much needed job and doing it very well.

Edward Pyatt