# Regional Notes 1976

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Following the policy outlined last year, these notes are again brief where we feel the subject in question is adequately covered elsewhere, long in advance of our publication dates. Two regions—South Africa and South America—are given extensive coverage in the Events and Trends reviews which appear in preceding pages. These reviews will form an increasingly important feature in future journals.

## THE ALPS AND EUROPE

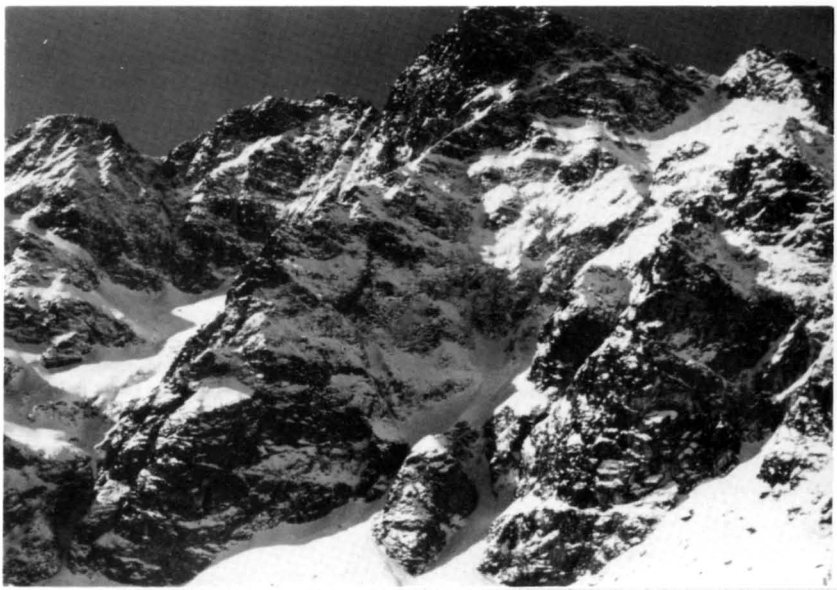
General coverage of the events of the 1976 season appeared contemporaneously in *Mountain* and will be detailed in due course in *Alpine Climbing*. We are grateful to the correspondents concerned for the following notes:

**Centenary of Slingsby's ascent of Store Skagastølstind 21 July 1876** The Norsk Tindeklub invited the AC to join them in a meet to celebrate with descendants of W. C. Slingsby the Centenary of his ascent by his eponymous glacier and Mohn's Skar. Professor N. E. Odell, Rev. F. L. Jenkins and Professor E. H. Sondheimer represented the AC, and the Slingsby family were Eleanor Winthrop Young (daughter), Jocelin Winthrop Young (grandson), Geoffrey Winthrop Young, aged 15 years (great-grandson) and Philip Gordon (great nephew). All the male descendants with Jenkins and Sondheimer, with the NTK President, Anders Opdal, H. Tønsberg, Hans Chr. Bugge, Arne Randers Heen and others climbed the mountain on 21 July 1976 by the more recent and shorter rock route by Heftye's Renne, as the weather was very doubtful, and it snowed heartily on the descent. Two days after the splendid dinner at Turtagrø that evening Jenkins and Sondheimer climbed Dyrhaugstind by the S Face and traversed the whole ridge. F. L. Jenkins

**The main ridge of the Tatra** The complete traverse of this ridge is a real mountaineering challenge and in winter provides a superb introduction to Himalayan climbing. It stretches for 80km with many pitches of IV, V and VI. There are 39 prominent peaks and many lesser summits and pinnacles. The High Tatra, with the main concentration of difficulties is separated from the West Tatra by the Liliowe Pass on the one hand and from the Belanske Tatra by Kopske Saddle on the other.

Apart from general fitness, stamina and a certain amount of luck (long periods of good weather are rare) a winter attempt requires siege tactics or the cooperation of 2 teams, the one laying supply dumps for the other. Not less than 10 days would be needed, probably March/April is the best time; June is the best month for summer attempts.

*100 Part of the Tatra ridge (Photo: J. Baryla)*





*101 Tatra view (Photo: P. Boardman)*

The ridge was traversed for the first time in 1957, since when there have been a dozen or so other ascents, 2 solo. The first winter traverse in the early 1960s involved 13 bivouacs. It is my ambition to attempt the Main Ridge in winter with an Anglo-Polish party of 4 to 6. Is anyone interested?

Marek Brniak

## GUIDE-BOOKS

**Le Massif des Écrins** Vol. 1—Meije—Râteau—Sorreiller. Vol. 2—Écrins—Grande Ruine—Roche Faurio—Agneaux—Clouzis. Lucien Devies, François Labande and Maurice Laloue (Editions Arthaud, 1976, pp 304 & 308, diagrams) These are the fourth editions of the standard guide-books to Les Ecrins, which first appeared in 1946, under the names of Lucien Devies and the late Maurice Laloue. The present volumes form a fitting tribute to the latter's memory, and M. Devies is fortunate in having François Labande as co-author. They are, as usual, beautifully produced with clear diagrams and concise descriptions, and cover between them nearly a thousand routes, forming the definitive guide to the areas concerned. Not as bulky as the Mont Blanc volumes, the only snag for British climbers is likely to be the price—currently £11 per volume. The remainder of the area, Ailefroide, Pelvoux, Bans, Olan, etc., is to be split into 2 further volumes now in preparation.

**Glockner Region** (West Col Alpine Guides) Eric Roberts (West Col Productions, 1976, pp 152, photo-diagrams, diagrams, map, £4.20) This first English guide to all the worthwhile climbs in the Glockner region of the Hohe Tauern covers the Hocheiser—Kitzsteinhorn chain, Wiesbachhorn-Hoher Tenn chain, Tauernhauptkamm and Glocknerkamm, and describes over 100 routes of all grades of difficulty, as well as detailing valley bases and huts. The guide, which has soft card covers, has 22 photo-diagrams.

**Escalades dans le Massif de la Sainte-Baume—Bartagne-Béguines** Alexis Lucchesi (Marrimpouey Jeune, Pau, 1976, pp 150, 18F) Less than 20km from the Mediterranean

coast and only 25km from Marseille, the limestone range of Sainte-Baume reaches 1147m at the Signal des Béguines. This guide-book details 144 routes on the buttressing crags, with lengths up to 165m. With the Calanques and the Montagne Sainte Victoire within 25km this adds up to a varied climbing area and moreover one which enjoys superlative weather.

**Ecoles d'Escalade Vaudoises** (St Loup, Vallorbe, Covatanne) Claude and Yves Remy (Librairie Bauer, Renans, 1975, pp 72, 15SF) Descriptions of routes on some local training crags in NW Switzerland.

**Guide des Escalades du Baou de Saint-Jeannet** M. Dufranc (Ed. Marrimpouey, Pau, 1975) Third edition of a guide-book describing 9000m of routes close to Nice, some up to 200m long.

**Scalate nelle Grigne** Claudio Cima (Ed. Tamari, Bologna, 1975, 6000L) Guide-book to the well-known rocks above Lecco.

**Mont Blanc Range** (Trélatête–Mont Blanc–Maudit–Tacul–Brenva) Robin G. Collomb & W. H. O'Connor (Alpine Club, 1976, pp 221, diags, npq) The original 2-volume Mont Blanc guide-book in this series is now being replaced by a work of 3 volumes, of which this is the first. These 3 volumes will correspond with those of the CAF Vallot guide-books, the latter are however more comprehensive; here we have only a selection of routes. The material for this first area has been increased in size by around 40 per cent by the addition of some older routes and many post-1965; descriptions and standards have been revised as necessary. No doubt the users will in due course be turning in details of their personal objections to the facts and opinions expressed herein, but there seems little doubt that this particular series does a tremendously useful service to British climbers. They can readily find the whereabouts of the best climbs and the best competition, while their safety no longer depends on a tenuous memory for school-day French.

## AFRICA

### ATLAS MOUNTAINS

Hamish Brown sends the following note on a Spring 1976 trip.

Above Oukaimeden a traverse was made from Attar to Tamaskaout, the peak dominating the approach to the ski resort. From the Neltner hut I crossed the Tizi n'Ougane to descend the Agoundis Valley but got lured on to the extensive hill area of the Adrar Tirkout to the S. After descending the Ourika Valley from Tachdirt, Meltsen (3595m) was climbed with 2 bivouacs. A brief ski visit to the Middle Atlas showed an area ready-made for langlauf trips. A tarred road will shortly reach Imlil, and the Toubkal massif is already much busier than a decade ago. The *Alpine Journals* for 1966 still have the best information in English. *Villes et Montagnes Marocaine* is no longer found in Morocco bookshops, but the AC library has a copy. It also has the original *Massif de Toubkal* (1938). Rumour has it that this can still be bought in France. There is now a French series of IGN maps of Morocco; the Toubkal Massif is Feuille NH-29-XXIII-1 *Oukaimeden-Toubkal* 1:100000. In 1:50000 there is *Jbel Toubkal,* virtually unobtainable in Morocco. I have a few for sale. Lastly, *Appalachia* (December 1974) has a good summary of Moroccan hills.

### EAST AFRICA

The last 18 months has seen a surge of activity in the mountains of East Africa. On Mount Kilimanjaro (5895m), John Cleare, Bill O'Connor and Ian Howell established a new direct route on the Kersten Glacier. Subsequently, Paul Fatti and John Moss climbed another route which lies between this and the Austrian route. Another ascent of this glacier was made by Iain Allen and party (see p 171). It is felt that there is plenty of scope for still more new routes on this remote S side of Kibo.

On Mount Kenya (5199m) Doug Scott writes that he and Paul Braithwaite made a new direct route up the NE Face via the Gray Pillar (see accompanying photograph) in