

Editor's Notes

Acknowledgements

I am indebted to my predecessor, Edward Pyatt, for his help and for handing over a viable organisation, and to Robin Collomb for all the help, instruction and information he has given me. Between them they taught me all I now know about publishing and printing. To my Assistant Editors, I owe a special vote of thanks. Without Phil Bartlett, Tom Connor, Robin Robinson and Geoff Templeman, this issue would never have reached the presses. Frank Solari slaved many hours in the darkroom on my behalf. My thanks are due too, to the many regular contributors who have remained loyal to the *AJ* despite the change of editor and also to all the other contributors, including those whose work could not be included. Lastly, and most of all, without the support and understanding of my family, this edition might never have been printed. To all of you, ladies and gentlemen, thank you.

John Fairley

Alpine Club Library

It might be supposed, after the major efforts of the past 10 years, the publication of the first volume of the new Library Catalogue and the exhibition in the Club's gallery in December 1981 to mark that publication, that there would be rather less for the Library Council to do in 1982. This has been far from the case.

The sale to the public of the Catalogue—very necessary to defray the cost of its compilation and printing—has occupied much time with encouraging results after initial problems, and the appointment of a dealer in USA to promote the Catalogue promises a useful expansion of the market. A gratifying number of members have bought their own copies at the concessionary price. Work on compiling the material for the next volume is proceeding and the Council members are studying ways to speed the work including the possible use of word processing techniques.

The repair and rebinding of our older books is a continuing task, now under the direction of Mr Louis Baume in succession to Mr Len Frank who resigned from the Council in 1981 after serving it so notably from its foundation. In addition to the many books in need of major repair, far more are suffering from the ravages of time but are suitable for treatment to arrest deterioration. We are fortunate in being able to have them treated by the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies under the direction of the National Trust's consultant on book preservation.

Funds for the repair of books and also for the purchase of books to fill

gaps in our collection continue to come in from the sale of surplus books organised, as are so many other activities, by our Honorary Librarian, R. Lawford. We have received Deeds of Covenant from new members of the Club and substantial further donations from two members who have been generous in the past. We have also received many gifts of books, notably from the late Miss Dora de Beer, H. M. Brown, D. F. Pilkington and Dr C. B. M. Warren. Dr J. Wilkes made a contribution towards the cost of rebinding a book he borrowed and found in poor condition—perhaps other members might follow suit?

We have made an arrangement with the American Alpine Club, at their initiative, for an exchange of surplus books which offers the prospect of filling some of the gaps in our coverage of North America.

The utilisation of the Library by both members of the Alpine Club and the public continues to increase, with 522 visits by members in 1982 and 142 by non-members (427 and 104 in 1981).

With the assistance of our Solicitor, S. N. Beare, we have taken advantage of recent legislation to have the word 'Limited' deleted from the title of our Company, a new Certificate of Incorporation having been issued by the Registrar of Companies recording our incorporation under the name of Alpine Club Library.

G. Dugdale, the representative on our Council of the Royal Geographical Society, died after a long and trying illness—his advice and help will be missed. The RGS has nominated D. Wileman in his place. P. Bicknell has succeeded Sir Alan Pullinger as one of the Club's representatives on the Council. He has commissioned and donated to the Library a new and elegant stamp designed by Mr Will Carter for embossing our books with the Library's name.

Douglas Busk

The Expedition Advisory Centre

In October 1980 the Royal Geographical Society and the Young Explorers Trust (an association of youth expedition societies and expeditioners) formed a jointly administered advisory service known as the Expedition Advisory Centre. It is established in an office provided by the Royal Geographical Society in its own house at 1 Kensington Gore, SW7, initially to assist those planning their own expeditions and projects. The Centre has evolved to meet the needs of the now increasing number of expeditions undertaking research projects overseas.

The functions of the Centre are threefold:

1. To set up a computerised data bank of information on travel, transport, equipment, supplies, medical needs, logistics, diplomatic and government requirements; scientific fieldwork, instruments, surveys, projects and techniques; research sources and finance and fund-raising. A register of all known expeditions leaving the UK is maintained, and a library of reports is held by the RGS for consultation; already over 1000 expeditions are

recorded in this way.

2. To publish data from this bank as information for expedition organisers as broadsheets, instruction manuals, and handbooks.
3. To organise training of leaders of school or youth parties undertaking fieldwork abroad or in this country; and also for those organising projects at undergraduate or graduate level to more difficult or remote places. The fulcrum of this programme is the day-long seminar 'Planning a Small Expedition' now to be held twice annually, one in London and one in the provinces.

The Centre will be pleased to help mountaineering or similar adventure sport expeditions on any aspect outlined above but is not equipped to advise on technical matters which the specialist organisations such as the BMC or British Cave Research Association are qualified to do.

In October 1982, the Centre became a British Land Company Plc-Sponsorship Project in which the Company is providing finance over a three-year period so that the Centre can continue to extend and improve its services to schools, universities and the expedition fraternity in general.

The Centre plays an important role in forging links between the parent bodies and the many organisations and bodies involved in exploration and fieldwork. The Information Officer is Mrs Shane Winser, and the YET Administration Officer, Ms Joanna Cecil-Wright, and the RGS Expedition Officer, Mr Nigel Winser are part-time staff, at 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR (Tel: 01 581 2057).

Clive C. Jermy

Commentary on article in AJ 87

A member has criticized in the strongest possible terms the techniques and viewpoints expressed in the article 'With young folks on the Haute Route' in *AJ* 87 20-27.

The *Alpine Journal* has always aimed to present as wide as possible a view of mountains and mountaineering and thus to include material which would not necessarily be endorsed officially by the Alpine Club. Open expression of different points of view followed by debate is always, except perhaps in extreme cases, to be preferred to censorship.

However, in the present instance, it is necessary to emphasize that views set out in the article are personal and are not those of the Alpine Club, and in particular the Club disassociates itself entirely from the remarks made concerning Frau Biner of Zermatt.

I regret and withdraw the editorial comment at the conclusion which appears to confer approval on the undertaking.

There are two spelling errors, entirely the responsibility of the undersigned, 'Parfleur' should read 'Prasfleuri' and 'Montford' should read 'Mont Fort' (both on p 23).

Edward Pyatt

The West Highland Way

Exception has been taken to my remarks in *AJ* 86 246 regarding this long distance route. I am unrepentant.

Objections arising from experience of this type of route south of the border are hardly applicable in the broad expanse of the highlands. In the south the long distance paths are perhaps over-signposted, but this is because they wend skilfully through private lands on which trespass must altogether be avoided. In the north the Pennine Way suffers from erosion from over-use, but it is situated within easy reach of areas of considerable population density.

While no one would wish to see routes waymarked with paint splashes on Continental lines, there is scope for the setting up of recognized long distance routes described in broad terms and with the minimum of direction posts, cairns, etc. Of course no one wants road access and car parks.

Mountaineers who oppose the setting up of such elementary facilities are trying to exclude from the countryside those who are for various reasons less enterprising or less physically capable than themselves. This is a pity, since just these qualities could well be developed by the proposed routes.

Vast untracked areas would still remain for the elitist.

Edward Pyatt

Anniversaries

We congratulate the UIAA on the occasion of its 50th anniversary. In Europe the Schweizerische Rettungsflugwacht (SRFW) has achieved 30 years' service, whilst the Yugoslav Mountain Rescue Service celebrates its 70th birthday. In South America, clubs celebrating their 50th year include the Club Andino de Chile (founded 1933) and the Club Andino Bariloche, Argentina (founded 1931). The Federación de Andinismo de Chile celebrates its 40th anniversary.

Honours

We congratulate our members, Robin Day who has been awarded the OBE, and Michael Ward who has been awarded the CBE for services to mountaineering.