In Memoriam

COMPILED BY GEOFFREY TEMPLEMAN

The Alpine Club Obituary	*Year of Election*
Joseph E Johnson	1929
Louise Boulaz	Hon LAC 1960
Thomas Hilary Sinclair	1949
Donald H B Reynolds	1951
George Henry James Watkins	1979
Rennie Montague Bere	1944
Cyril Douglas Milner	1946
Peter Wild	1960
Mary Dilys Glynne	1928
Cyril George Wickham	1945
David Renton Riddell	1952
Steven Hillen	Asp 1990
David Paul Henry Tyson	1991
Roger Jerome O'Donovan	1975
Stuart John Grant Hutchinson	1978
Robin Home McCall	1974
Walter Dugald Macpherson	1931
John Michael Kenneth Vyvyan	1933
John Henderson Longland	1957
Rupert Claude Martin	1948
Renée Fedden	LAC 1958

I am pleased to be able to include an obituary for Richard Ayrton, who died in 1990.

Richard Ayrton 1900–1990

Richard Ayrton, who was born in Reading in January 1900 and died in Zürich in August 1990 after a very brief illness, was never wearied by age. His unusually late introduction to alpinism began during a period of convalescence from asthma when he was nearing the age of 50 and continued into his 80th year, when he was still achieving climbs such as the voie Preuss on the Campanile Basso, the Second Sella Tower by the voie Messner, and the Sphinx on the Tour d'Ai. He joined the Club in 1956, having been proposed by Julian Layton and seconded by Sir Peter Daniell, and he was proud of his membership. When we first met in Lausanne in 1978, I recall that he wore prominently his

black AC button, and one of his first remarks was that one's age is simply a number that has little real significance and that it is within the individual's power to retain the youthfulness and health that is inherited. He was at the time following a discipline of daily runs through the forests where he lived, in the hills overlooking Montreux and Vevey. Banished by his doctor to live in Switzerland after severe attacks of asthma, he settled in Lausanne with his wife, son and daughter in the autumn of 1946. Favoured with comfortable means and with leisure, he was able to begin a new life far removed from the pressures and anxieties of his former occupation as a member of the London Metal Exchange.

In the summer of 1947 he did his first climbs in Arolla with the ski instructor and guide Maurice Beytrison: the Petite Dent de Veisivi, the Pigne d'Arolla, and Mont Collon by its S and W ridges. During the next three years, accompanied by Beytrison and Basil Bournissen, extensive ski touring and climbs of increasing difficulty were undertaken round Arolla, Zermatt, Saas Fee and Chamonix, including a traverse of the Grépon. In 1948, 1951 and 1956 I did a number of climbs with Arthur Lochmatter of St Niklaus, and it was years later that I realised why he had always spoken with awe about Richard Ayrton who, in 1956, accompanied by himself and Egon Petrig of Zermatt, had during a single fine week in July traversed the Jägigrat, climbed the Weissmies by its N ridge and ascended the Marinelli Couloir of Monte Rosa in the fast time of eight hours from the Marinelli refuge, finishing with traverses of the Lyskamm and Castor and Pollux. During Easter 1960 Ayrton and Lochmatter, joined by the Tyrolean guide Walter Hass, carried out a fortnight's ski-touring in the Stubai and Oetztal, covering about 180km of ascent and descent over four passes and eight peaks, including the Wildspitze.

Ayrton's association with Gaston Rébuffat began in the summer of 1960 and developed into a close and lasting friendship until Rébuffat's death in 1985. They climbed together for 20 years, usually accompanied by a young second guide, achieving a number of major ascents in the French, Swiss and Italian Alps. So deep was their understanding of each other that Ayrton used to say he was prepared to undertake climbs of any grade of difficulty provided Gaston approved. Rébuffat liked to recall and to recount the principle that he imbibed in his youth from the great Adolphe Rey of Courmayeur: *De la prudence, jeune homme, toujours de la prudence.* Richard Ayrton was of unathletic appearance and short stature, and financial means and leisure alone would have been unavailing without the extraordinary energy and enthusiasm that he possessed. I will not attempt to detail Ayrton's climbs with Rébuffat in the Alpes Maritimes (on which he contributed a useful paper and topographical guide, *AJ* 70, 281–285, 1965), the Vercors, Calanques, Grisons, Dolomites and Chamonix, except to mention that in August 1983 the Compagnie des Guides de Chamonix awarded him their *Diplôme du Choucas de Diamant* for his successes on four ascents of exceptional difficulty. His climbing days ended, typically, in the mountains when, during a climb in the Dolomites in June 1980, he suffered an infarct. Recovering fully from this, he was able to continue to enjoy skiing well into his 85th year, spending his winters in Zermatt in an apartment which he rented from his friends, the Perren family. His wife,

Beatrice, well-known in musical circles in Lausanne, died in 1979. He is survived by his son, daughter and several grandchildren.

Trevor Braham

Louise Boulaz 1908–1991

With the death in Geneva, on 13 June 1991, of Louise (Loulou) Boulaz, one of the great figures of alpinism has gone.

Loulou Boulaz was born in Avenches on 6 February 1908. A first-class skier and alpinist, she was a member of the national ski team in 1936 and 1937, and third in the world slalom championships at Chamonix in 1937.

Climbing initially with Lucie Durand and then, among others, with Raymond Lambert and Pierre Bonnant, Loulou Boulaz achieved many first ascents and numerous routes of great difficulty.
These included:

1933 SW face of the Dent du Géant (first all feminine)
1935 S arête of the Aiguille Noire de Peuteret
The Sentinelle Rouge on the Brenva Face
Croz Spur on the N face of the Grandes Jorasses (second ascent, first feminine)
N face of the Petit Dru (second ascent, first feminine)
1938 S face of the Grand Capucin
E face, Bec d'Oiseau (first ascent)
1945 S face, Marmolada
1948 S face, Aiguille Gugliermina, E face of the Caïman
E face of the Crocodile and N face, Aiguille du Plan
1949 The Pear Buttress on the Brenva Face (third ascent, first feminine)
1952 Walker Spur on the Grandes Jorasses (first feminine)
1960 N face of the Cima Grande di Lavaredo (first feminine)
1964 N face, Piz Badile
and many others

She participated in many expeditions to the Himalaya, Caucasus and the Sahara, in particular the women's expedition of 1959 to Cho Oyu (8201m), during which Claude Kogan, Claudine van der Straten and three Sherpas lost their lives, the upper camp having been swept by an avalanche.

Her alpine achievements put her without question amongst that small élite of very great alpinists of the 20th century. It is not therefore surprising that she was made (as was Yvette Vaucher) an Honorary Member of the Geneva Section of the CAS, even before women had been admitted to the CAS! She was also an Honorary Member of the Alpine Club, having been made an Honorary Member of the Ladies' Alpine Club in 1960.

All friends of the mountains and of alpinism take their leave of this *petit bout de femme*, this *grande dame* of the high mountains, with a feeling of sadness, but also with admiration for everything she accomplished during her long and prolific career as an alpinist.

André Roch

(With acknowledgement to the CAS Bulletin)

Thomas Hilary Sinclair 1911–1990

Hilary Sinclair was born in Crumpsall and went from Manchester Grammar School to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, in 1929, where, in addition to achieving academic distinction and a reputation for playing three simultaneous games of chess, he became Captain of the College Association Football Club and then played for Oxford City in 1933–4. He joined the Civil Service and represented the Service in both football and cricket until the war put an end to both sports. He had, however, yet further strings to his bow, for in 1933, following six years of mountain walking and scrambling in the Trossachs, Western Highlands, Lake District, Wales, Savoy, Tyrol and around Mont Blanc, he made his first, guided, alpine climbs – the Schwarzberg Weisstor and the Wellenkuppe. He had three further alpine seasons, guideless with A L Longworth in the Silvretta, around Zermatt and in the Oberland before the war intervened and, being posted to Llandudno, rock-climbing in North Wales was his portion. Back in the Alps with G F Peaker (guideless) in 1946 and 47 and again in 48 in the course of the Club Meet at Kleine Scheidegg, he collected a more than respectable bag. On his performances Peaker was able to recommend him for membership of the Alpine Club, reporting that he was 'extremely steady and confidence-inspiring on either rock or ice, a (very) fast goer'. Several good alpine seasons with Peaker followed (see *AJ89*, 265, 1984), until the responsibilities of marriage and the arrival of his children brought the decision that he could no longer accept the risks involved in major rock or alpine climbs. His interest in and love of mountains was not dimmed; he gained much pleasure in introducing his children to mountain walking here and in the Alps, and he applied his considerable talents in the service of mountaineering.

In 1960 he became Hon Secretary of the British Mountaineering Council, then and for some further years an entirely voluntary body; in 1965, when the newly-retired Donald Greenwood became available to undertake the increasing burdens of the BMC Secretary, Hilary continued as Assistant Hon Secretary and served thus until the mid-1970s. During this period he devised and negotiated, single-handedly, the first BMC insurance scheme for British climbers. He chaired the BMC's Access and Conservation Committee and represented the BMC on the Council for National Parks and on the UIAA Commission for the protection and conservation of the mountain environment. For these and other services to British mountaineering he was awarded the OBE in 1980. He was Hon Secretary of the Civil Service Sports Council, 1949–61, Chairman of its Finance Committee and subsequently Vice-Chairman of the Council.

In 1949 Hilary married a fellow Civil Servant, Eleanor Ross, who continued her career after their marriage, to become an Assistant Secretary in the Board of Trade. They had two sons and a daughter. Eleanor died in 1989 after a long illness. Hilary died suddenly on Boxing Day 1990.

This bare factual account conveys little of Hilary's personality. Quietly spoken and unassertive in conversation, he was singularly well informed and effective in all he undertook, with a great capacity for organisation and execution of business. In his middle age, when I came to know him, he was reticent about his alpine and athletic achievements of earlier years, but his

good-humoured and imperturbable competence in conducting his young family on mountain-walking holidays in the Tyrol, and notably in orderly retreat from a hut in quite awful conditions, was characteristic.

Frank Solari

Rennie Montague Bere 1907–1991

Rennie Bere was a member of the notable Cambridge generation of mountaineers who were up at the University in the middle and late 1920s, and in many ways he was one of the most distinguished of them. He was a tall, heavily built man, and this no doubt had something to do with the fact that he was not a good rock-climber. But he was utterly intrepid, and an altogether delightful companion. I first met him in 1935, when there was a joint OUMC and Climbers' Club meet at Chamonix, and I still have a vivid memory of an immensely slow traverse of the Grépon which John Ryle and I made with him: despite having started from a bivouac on the Rognon, we only got back to the Montenvers well after dark and had to bivouac again on the station platform there. Later that same summer (Rennie was on leave from Africa) we met up in order to do some explorations on the Dewerstone and elsewhere on Dartmoor; whenever Rennie came off, as happened occasionally, the stub of his cigarette was always still in his mouth when contact with the rock was re-established. In Wales he had climbed with most of the leading figures of the time, such as Kirkus, Hargreaves, Hicks and Edwards. He was elected to the Climbers' Club as early as 1928 and to the Alpine Club in 1944.

On going down from Cambridge in 1930 he went into the Colonial Service and was posted to Uganda, at first as a District Commissioner; later he became Provincial Commissioner of the Northern Province. In the 30 years of his time in Uganda he made an enormous contribution to mountaineering and mountain exploration there, especially in the Ruwenzori, for the opening up of which he was largely responsible. Early on, he was a pioneer of climbing on the granite outcrops called 'inselbergs', for which he used thick, heavy ropes made locally from natural bush fibres. He visited the Imatong Mountains on the Sudanese border and various other mountain areas, such as the Virunga volcanoes (4506m), in this early period.

As for the Ruwenzori, it is hard for someone without firsthand knowledge of the area, and not very well versed in its literature, to know exactly what Rennie did in the way of making first ascents himself, as opposed to the numerous first ascents which he made it possible for other people to make. He certainly visited the then unclimbed Portal Peaks, Kihuma (4391m) and Rutara (4282m), in 1935, and on subsequent visits he made the first ascents of first one and then the other. In 1945 he organised and took part in a survey expedition of the Ruwenzori which made a new route up Vittorio Emanuele (4890m) and also climbed Margherita, the highest peak of the range. His delightful book, *The Way to the Mountains of the Moon*, published in 1966, tells the story of his climbing life in Africa. He was mainly responsible for the foundation of the Mountain Club of Uganda in 1946, and it was appropriate that he should have been its first President.

Rennie was as distinguished a naturalist and conservationist as he was a mountain explorer. Five years before his retirement in 1960, he became the first Director and Chief Warden of the Uganda National Parks, and in 1957 his services were recognised by the award of the CMG. Three years later he retired and, with his wife Maree who had been with him on most of his travels ever since their marriage in 1936, he went back to his native county, Cornwall, to live in West Cottage at Bude Haven. He was still much interested in climbing and got to know some of the hard young climbers whom he often watched on the sea cliffs along that coast. Also it was at this period that he did a great deal of writing, especially on the wildlife of the part of Africa in which his working life had been spent. One way and another he published something like a dozen books, of which the obituary notice in the *Independent* said that 'although generally short, they are extremely readable, as well as being sources of unique and valuable information'. His final book, *The Nature of Cornwall*, was published in 1982.

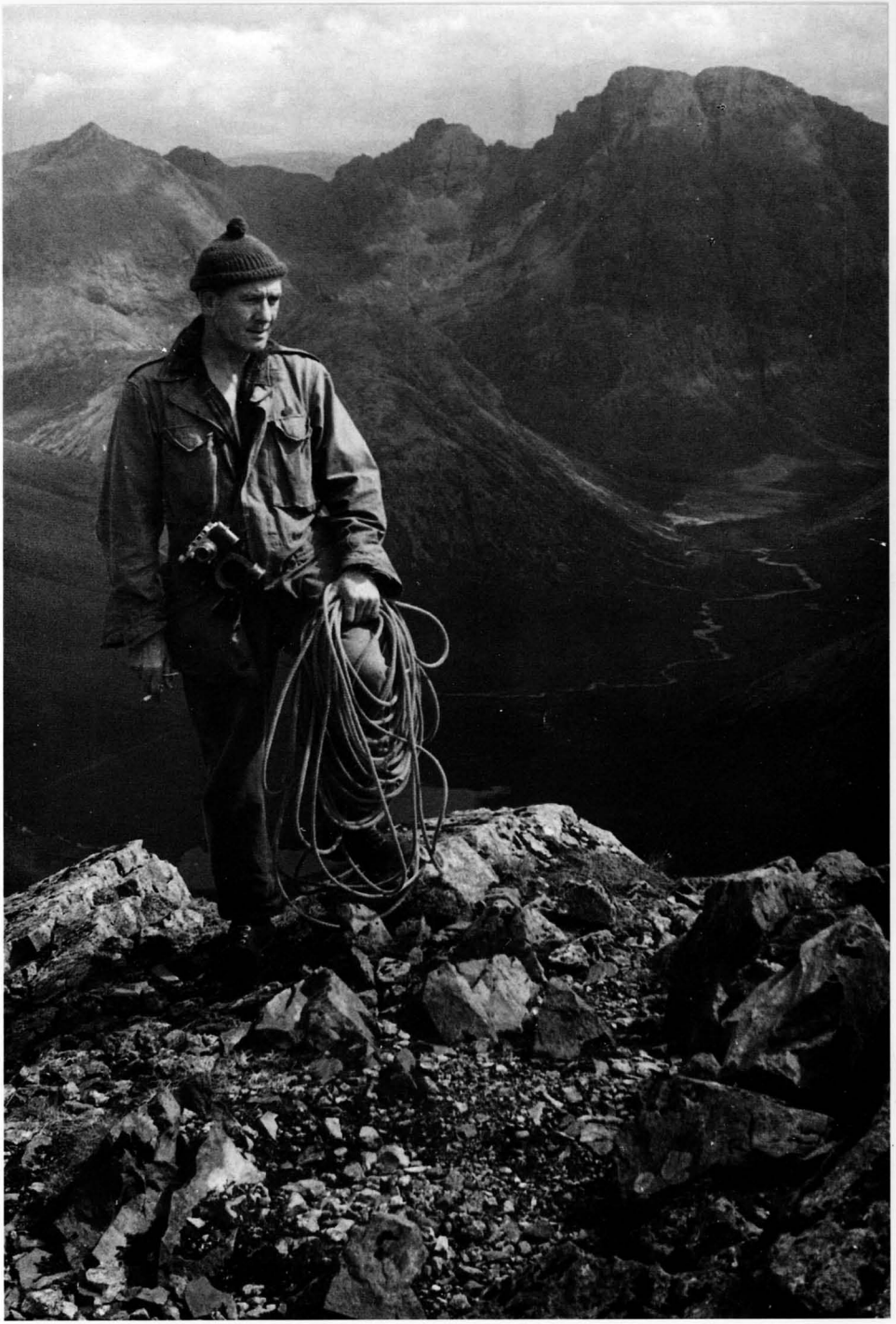
It was always a delight to call on him at West Cottage. In his later years (it was never possible to think of him as old) Rennie became a little deaf. This did not matter at all when one was talking to him because, whether or not he had correctly heard the question one had asked, his answer was always fascinating. His way of speaking was for some reason curiously hesitant; perhaps this was an indication of his natural modesty. He had a striking face, deeply lined, and he remained a big, active man almost until the end of his life. With Rennie's death, the Club has lost a member of rare distinction.

A D M Cox

Cyril Douglas Milner 1906–1991

(*Plate 83*)

Born in York, Douglas Milner crossed the Pennines to embark on his career of distinction in banking in 1925. That same year saw the first of many climbing visits to the Lake District, where he became dedicated and thoroughly competent on rock and snow and ice. In the years to the outbreak of war he climbed with and often led such notables as Herbert Carr, C F Holland, G F Peaker and C F Speaker on the major climbs of the period in the Lakes, Wales and Scotland. He led Peaker on the Tower Ridge of Ben Nevis; in bad weather he shared the lead with Peaker in the traverse of the main Cuillin Ridge in 13½ hours; with his wife Joan he made a 15-hour winter traverse of the Cairngorms. His first alpine season was around Zermatt, with Eric Byrom, culminating in the Matterhorn by the Hörnli. In the Mischabel in 1937 he shared leads with E A Marriott and Peaker on seven major climbs in a fortnight. In 1938 he shared leads with J R Jenkins and G L Travis on four major routes in the Mont Blanc range, including a notable adventure on the Requin (*AJ 50*, 303–05, 1938). Post-war seasons in the Dolomites and the Mont Blanc range added to his record, but a growing family made increasing claims on his vacations. He was, however, able to park his young sons, early one July, with a relative and had a splendidly active fortnight around the aiguilles, with a guide for company, before the crowds had arrived (*The Rucksack Club Journal 12*, 60–66, 1952).



83. Cyril Douglas Milner, 1906–1991. (p326)

Milner's interest in photography had been aroused in his schooldays, and he found in the mountain scene an endless source of inspiration for his cameras. An alert and discerning eye for pictorial opportunities, skill in manipulating his camera while climbing, and meticulous technique in the darkroom produced a long succession of splendid photographs that put him firmly in the line of distinguished photographer-members of the Alpine Club, and earned him the Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society. His large-format books of photographs – *Rock for Climbing* (1950), *The Dolomites* (1951), *Mont Blanc and the Aiguilles* (1955) – were outstanding. His textbook *Mountain Photography: its art and technique* (1945) was comprehensive and lucid, with photographs from many sources to illustrate the text; it was succeeded in 1977 by *Photoguide to mountains for the backpaker and climber* (also published in Spanish translation), which took in the advance of colour photography that had not been generally available in 1945. His pictures illustrated Charles Evans's *On Climbing* (1956). His mountain phtographs were widely exhibited and he was much in demand as a lecturer.

He became a member of the FRCC in 1934, of the Wayfarers Club in 1934 and of the Rucksack Club in 1936. He was President of the Wayfarers Club, 1947–48, and of the Rucksack Club, 1956–57. He was admitted to membership of the Alpine Club in 1946, and he was Chairman of the Committee that organised the exhibition to mark the Club's centenary in 1957. For the Centenary Volume of the *Alpine Journal* he selected and supervised the reproduction of all the illustrations and contributed a comprehensive review, 'A Centenary of Mountain Photography'. For many years he enlivened the Club's AGMs with his shrewd questioning of the accounts. In December 1983 he organised the exhibition at South Audley Street, 'Mountains and Mountaineering 1883–1983', of photographs by members of the Club, that was also shown in a number of galleries in Britain during the following year. As Vice President 1983–84 (an honour he appreciated above all others) he took a notable part in the management of the Club, his 100% attendance at committee meetings involving much journeying from his home in the Wirral.

Milner's command of the Queen's English, both spoken and written, was well-informed, eloquent, precise, illuminated by flights of imagination and a deft wit and, when the occasion offered, devastating turns of phrase. His pen was as prolific in satire (see *AJ84*, 78–85, 1979) as in learned and affectionate appreciation. He could and did express deeply-held views with vigour and entertainingly picturesque instances drawn from his wide and deep reading. His tribute (*AJ85*, 59–67, 1980) to the French author/artist/photographer 'Samivel' was distilled from an intimate correspondence over many years.

As if all this were not enough, in his later, less physically active, years he turned to landscape painting in watercolours – the eye that had directed his camera so well was no less adept at guiding his brushes. It is our misfortune that the Club had long since lost interest in exhibitions of members' painting, otherwise we might have shared in the appreciation of his work in this medium that was shown in the north-west.

A man of many parts, he excelled in them all.

Frank Solari

Peter Wild 1912–1991

(Plate 82)

Peter Wild was born in Eccles and was early attracted to the Pennine moors and caves. A Rover Scout at 17, he trekked with a Scout party in Norway in 1930 – a prelude to the several climbing visits he was to make from 1957 onwards. For several years his main interest lay in caving and moorland walking. In 1938 he moved to Flintshire to develop his interests in the less frequented mountains of North Wales. After the war he made three visits to Western Ireland for caving and mountain walking, including a traverse of the Twelve Pins of Connemara. His first alpine climbing was with the ABMSAC in the Mischabel, to be followed by several seasons in Switzerland and the Dolomites. A disabled hand limited his scope on rock, but he was thoroughly competent on many standard alpine courses such as Piz Palü and Piz Bernina from the Capanna Marinelli, on which we shared the lead. A visit to Iceland was dominated by the weather – rained off (and nearly blown off) Snaefellsjökull when just below the ice cap; Bláfell in Kerlingarfjöll had to be taken at night to forestall the storm that was forecast and duly arrived; 36 hours of heavy rain quenched hope of access to the Thórsmörk ice cap after a promising reconnaissance. In Norway for five seasons he climbed in what were then still little-visited areas. He was particularly drawn to Sunnmøre, for the guidebook disarmed criticism: 'The text should not be taken too literally. If it should happen that the terrain does not tally with the described route, you would be well advised to follow the terrain and not the guidebook.' After seasons in the Jotunheimen and Jostedalsbreen, he ventured northwards in 1966 to Øksfjord at latitude 70° in Finnmark and found rewarding climbing on the local ice caps. His last visit to the Alps, to the Dauphiné in June 1990, was a particular delight for the floral riches never enjoyed during climbing seasons in high summer.

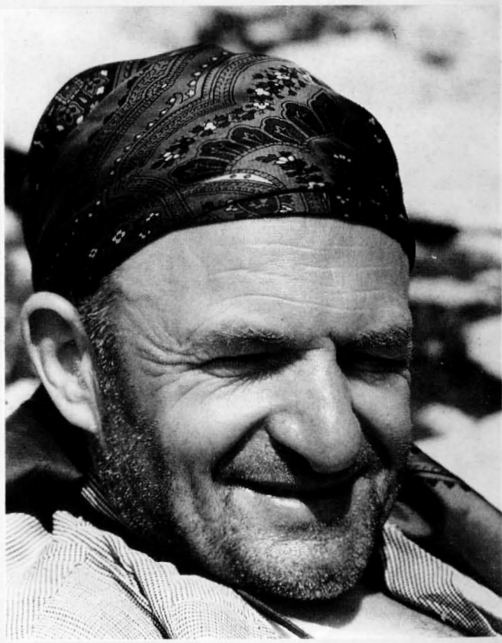
His interest in mountains was catholic – it embraced archaeology, history, geology and ecology in which he was widely and deeply read. A professional photographer, he was competent in recording both the mountain scene and the specialised mountain flora. All these meant as much to him as seeking out unfrequented ways and peaks, or navigating across the Denbigh moors in the worst of winter weather. He was knowledgeable and diligent in defending rights of way and was an invaluable witness in notable access disputes, but he was discriminating in the causes he espoused – round-robin appeals for uninformed support of ill-founded campaigns were anathema to him. He was equally knowledgeable and active in nature conservation, had been a founder of the North Wales Naturalists' Trust, and had been Chairman of the Trust's Clwyd branch. He did much for mountaineers in behind-the-scenes activities, representing the Alpine and Rucksack Clubs on the BMC Welsh Committee and the Welsh Committee on the BMC Committee. He was the natural and effective choice to represent the BMC on the Snowdonia National Park Structure Committee. His advice was sought by the National Trust on local issues. In all of this work, and much more, his thoughtful understanding of and consideration for others were helpful in establishing cordial working relations with local farmers.

In 1938 Peter married Muriel Spurgin who was his close partner in all his



81. *On the top of Pioneer Peak*, sketch by A D McCormick. (From *Climbing and Exploration in the Karakoram-Himalayas* by W M Conway, 1894.) (p238)

82. Peter Wild, 1912–1991, Bregaglia 1962. (*Frank Solari*) (p328)



travels and climbs. The death of their only son David in the Antarctic while on his last survey expedition was a great tragedy for them.

Peter had an alert and enquiring mind, and his lifetime reading and study were aided by a retentive memory. His approach to life was kindly though not uncritical, illuminated by a sense of humour that relished the comical. He earned a special place in his local community not often accorded the English in Wales. The large congregation at his funeral was a testimony to the wide range of his service in Wales.

Frank Solari

Mary Dilys Glynne OBE, DSc 1895–1991

Mary Glynne was a mountaineer when there were not so many women climbers, and a scientist of international repute when there were not so many women scientists. I first met her in the queue for the canteen lunch at Rothamsted Experimental Station, where, as a distinguished Principal Scientific Officer, she characteristically got to know a rather shy and very junior statistician. She was a warm and generous person who will be greatly missed by a very wide circle of friends.

She began her scientific career as a voluntary worker at Rothamsted in 1917, but was soon appointed to the staff and was a founder member of the Plant Pathology department. Her early work concerned wart disease of potatoes; she devised a method of identifying the fungus in the soil which contributed largely to the success of the regulation, still in force, prohibiting the planting of susceptible varieties in infected soil. Her other main interest was in the diseases of cereals. With others, she showed that lodging of wheat and barley, that is, the flattening of some crops that one sees before they are harvested, is often caused by fungus diseases rather than by wind and rain, and that these diseases are increased by mono-culture. Preventive measures, including rotation of crops, can now be taken.

Like so many others, she came to mountaineering by way of fell-walking. Not that the transition was altogether easy; the death on the Dent Blanche of Owen Glynne Jones, her mother's cousin, was not easily forgotten by her family who strongly discouraged her from climbing. But it was in her blood; hers was very much a climbing family. She was introduced to rock-climbing in 1925 'by two young men who found me on the top of Great Gable', and she joined the Fell and Rock shortly afterwards.

She went further afield. After a preliminary season in the Alps with an experienced party led by Herbert Carr, which included Haskett Smith and Brenda and Evelyn Ritchie, she went to Australia on a fellowship in 1928–29 and climbed there, in both islands of New Zealand and in South Africa. Among a long list of peaks ascended, she recorded the second ascent (the first by a lady) of Mt Spencer. At the same time, she was elected a member of the Ladies' Alpine Club, of which she was subsequently a vice-president, and she joined the Pinnacle Club.

In 1930, it was back to the Alps. Among other climbs, she did the Matterhorn by the Hörnli – that indispensable item in any alpinist's list. Based on Chamonix

in 1931, she climbed the Grépon. Petits Charmoz, Requin, the Aiguille de l'M and Mont Blanc by the Tête Rousse. Her last full alpine season, and probably her best, was 1933. She went to the Dauphiné, climbing Les Ecrins and traversing the Meije. Moving to Chamonix, she traversed the Aiguilles du Dru.

She was never one to publicise her achievements. Most of her article 'I remember', in the 1975 Ladies' Alpine Club Journal, is about other people. In 1936 she recorded 'walking in the Tatra', and we are left to learn from others that the walk included a first ascent, admittedly of a minor peak. The year before, she had taken part in the first ascent of a well-known rock route in Snowdonia, the Bluebell Traverse, with Menlove Edwards.

After the war, periodic visits to Snowdonia, staying in the Ogwen valley in a room she kept at Tal-y-Waen, or elsewhere with relatives in North Wales, provided opportunities to climb and keep fit on her well-loved Welsh hills. It pleased her that the younger members of her family carried on the climbing tradition, and they recall that she was an inspiration to them. The written record of her climbing at this time is very sparse, but she climbed the Tête Forret in 1948 with her nephew, Cym Smith, and her last alpine peak, the Piz Corvatsch, in 1954. The last climb recorded by her was of Fujiyama, in the course of a lecturing trip to Japan in 1963 – a fitting coda to her high mountain activities.

Michael Westmacott

Cyril George Wickham CBE 1909–1991

Cyril Wickham was elected to the Alpine Club in 1945, served on the Committee 1955–57 when he played an active part in organising the Centenary celebrations, and was a Trustee of the Club for many years. He died on 22 July 1991 at the age of 82.

He was first attracted to fell-walking and rock-climbing in the Lake District and North Wales in the early 1930s and made his first alpine visit in 1934, when he climbed unguided several peaks in the Stubaital, Oetztal and Pitztal with a student party. In 1935 he was frustrated by the weather at Zermatt, but from Saas he climbed the Lenzspitze and Nadelhorn and traversed the Portjengrat though (like many before and after him) mist denied him the certainty of the summit on that extended ridge. In 1936 he made the first of several visits to Chamonix but had to be content with the Aiguille de l'M and the S face of the Moine which he led. Conditions were more favourable in 1937, and he achieved five major ascents above Chamonix and three at Arolla. In 1938 he did six fine routes in the Dauphiné leading his brother, the Rev (later the Rt Rev) E A Wickham, and went on to collect the Zinalrothorn, Rimpfischhorn and Matterhorn. His pre-war alpine climbs ended in 1939 with the Blaitière, Peigne and Moine up the SW ridge and down the N ridge with his brother, and the Grande Ruine with W S Webb. In 1948 he resumed his annual alpine seasons in the Oberland with Kenneth Hockenhull – Wetterhorn, Finsteraarhorn, Aletschhorn, Schreckhorn, Eiger by the Mittellegi – and continued annually at this sort of pace with his brother, Douglas Side, L R and Gladys Pepper, and others. For instance, 1958 included the Balmhorm, Ebnefluh, Bietschhorn up

the N ridge and down the SW ridge, and Grivola. However, the years began to take their toll and he tapered off, climbing with a guide for his last seasons as he was having difficulty with his breathing.

In 1966 Wickham took his son Christopher to Norway where they ascended Galdhøpiggen and Glittertind. Throughout he had an impressive record of rock climbs and winter expeditions in Scotland, the Lake District and Wales, continuing into the 1970s. I have happy memories of the Tower Ridge on Ben Nevis in 1962 in the course of a Rucksack Club Easter Meet. His calm and competent leadership ensured a lack of drama until he cut through the final cornice. He did not seek the fame of first ascents – climbing was his prime recreation, to be enjoyed (or endured) in the company of his close friends.

A chemist who graduated from Imperial College, he went into industry where his interest in the law of patenting inventions led to his becoming a qualified patent agent. In 1948 he joined Monsanto where he set up and ran the patents department until retirement in 1972. President of the Chartered Institute of Patent Agents 1968–69, he was chairman of the standing advisory committee to the Patent Office 1975–1988 and advised the government on the drafting of the Patents Act. He was appointed CBE in 1980. Internationally he was much in demand, and was one of the prime movers behind a course in European patent law at the University of Strasbourg and was a delegate to the World Intellectual Property Organisation.

Cyril Wickham was a man of strong opinions and gifted with the power of expressing them with clarity and perception. Socially he relished controversy and could propound highly original, even outrageous, ideas with a wealth of literary allusion and historical instance to upset convention – all with a charm that disarmed offence and left one entertained but wondering how much of it had been in earnest and how much in fun.

It was characteristic that, when the Club had voted overwhelmingly to admit women to membership, it was Cyril Wickham who perceived that the decision would adversely affect the future of the Ladies' Alpine Club and rose in the meeting to propose that the Club should consider inviting the LAC to join the Club *en bloc*.

He leaves his widow, Brenda, and their two sons.

Frank Solari

David Renton Riddell 1902–1991

Dr David Riddell was in General Practice in Baldock for many years and a member of the Town Council.

Though both of us are veteran AC members, I think it is fair to say that, other than at Alpine Club South Audley Street meetings and the dinners, our most frequent contacts came through our joint membership of the Association of British Members of the Swiss Alpine Club and at its annual alpine meets. Many members of the AC, of course, attended these – the ABM was founded in 1909 as an offshoot of the AC, to encourage support for the huts. This parenthetic preamble is to explain why, for this obituary, I depend largely upon that in the *ABM Journal*.

It is usual to end an obituary by saying how much we shall miss the deceased. In David's case I am going to open with that remark: if there ever was anyone who will be missed by us all it is David Riddell, a constant attender at our meets at home and abroad, for nearly half a century.

We both joined the ABMSAC in 1946 but I think we were first together on a meet in 1959 – the Jubilee Meet at Saas Fee under the presidency of George Starkey – and from thence forward we were reunited continuously year after year, his last meet being Zermatt in 1990. David was elected to the Alpine Club in 1952.

He was an addition to any party, especially a travelling party, with his tremendous enthusiasm for trains, and an unbounded interest in everything; gloriously argumentative, with plenty of humour; a connoisseur of food and wine but fully able to 'rough-it' when necessary. He always carried too much, but was incorrigible in this, a strong and energetic goer and powerful climber, indefatigable until over 80.

He had exasperating habits, like unpacking the whole of his rucksack every time we stopped; he would fail to notice which way the others went, so that extemporary search parties were deployed all over the mountain; he was more than expert at losing things, so that the whole party had to disperse in the recovery of his possessions. But, I must say, a special providence protected him in this: things had a habit of returning to the fold out of the blue, even from as far away as Basel Station (left on the train) or Bel Alp (left at the hotel), but somehow these little foibles only endeared him to us the more. He kept us on our toes: excellent company on the mountain, at the dinners, and at everyday meetings.

He kept extensive diaries and, of course, through long experience, he knew Switzerland well (not to mention the hill parts of Britain) and his list of peaks all over the Alps was long and varied. His first visit to the Alps (1924) was, I believe, two years before mine. He enjoyed a Himalayan trek in his eighties.

His 'holiday', I recollect, was interrupted on at least one occasion, when his medical ministrations were called upon. The Zinal meet in 1963 seemed to be attacked by some rather vicious virus and poor Dr Riddell was obliged to perform his morning round as if at home.

David's birthday usually fell during the meet, and this was made a festive occasion for the party – a few cigars perhaps, a bottle of 'Bouvier' for him – and the hotel usually collaborated with a special birthday cake. David was expected to respond with an appreciative little speech.

He did not lack confidence in his own opinions, and a spare hour in the hut might be enlivened by his vehement proclamations, deliberately, perhaps, encouraged by our provocations, and his vigorous blows on the table might alarm not only ourselves, but other interested spectators. Good old David! Yes: We shall miss him.

F Paul French

Steven Hillen 1966–1991

In early July 1991 Steve Hillen was killed with his close friend, Dave Tyson,

while descending from Makrong Chhish in the Karakoram. Although only 25 years old, Steve had already touched the lives of many people, from all walks of life. Wherever he spent time, Steve made lasting friends.

We first met Steve at Loughborough University, joining the Mountaineering Club together as novices. Steve's experience grew from his first climbs on peak gritstone, followed by mountain crags in the Lakes and North Wales, snow and ice in Scotland and then the Alps. During our years together at Loughborough Steve's infectious laugh and fun-loving personality made for many memorable climbing trips.

Steve's attitude towards life allowed him to excel in every field into which he ventured. He was awarded a first class degree in electronics and computer systems (1988), and went on to accept a research post in the Department of Computer Studies at Leeds University. Steve's colleagues at Leeds and Loughborough all agree that he had a brilliant career ahead. However, Steve continued to integrate his highly successful academic career with his ambitions for mountaineering. His boundless enthusiasm for the mountains went beyond merely pushing the grade. In the mountains he was in his element, facing new challenges with his friends.

Steve's first foray into high-altitude mountaineering was in 1989, when he successfully led the Loughborough Students' Andes expedition. This expedition culminated in the first ascent of Cerro Negro, Patagonia. In addition, exploratory excursions into the Bolivian and Chilean Andes achieved numerous first British ascents.

Steve first saw Makrong Chhish in 1988 while on a trip over the Biafo and Hispar glaciers. On his return he researched into this mountain and, finding it to be unclimbed, he began to organise an expedition to climb the peak. By June 1990 Steve's initiative and determination had turned his dream of three years into a reality.

There was a great atmosphere on the expedition. Steve's fun-loving nature helped to create the happy feeling that every member of the expedition enjoyed. We *are* lucky to have shared so much laughter with Steve and are deeply saddened that he has been taken from us. He will always live on in our memories.

Richard Kenworthy
Dave Lister

David Paul Henry Tyson 1967–1991

On 9 July 1991 David Tyson was killed whilst climbing on Makrong Chhish in the Hispar Karakoram, Pakistan. He died trying to save the life of his climbing partner, Steve Hillen. He was aged 24 years.

David Paul Henry Tyson was born in South Wales on 1 March 1967. Not long after his birth his parents moved to Betws-y-Coed in Snowdonia, and he grew up surrounded by the mountains. David was educated at the local school and spent his adolescence exploring the highlands both at home and abroad. His early rock-climbing experiences were gained in the Welsh mountains, and he made several significant ascents in the Alps at an early age. By the time he left

school David was an experienced and accomplished mountaineer and a very capable skier.

I first met 'DT' when he started his degree course in chemical engineering at the University of Bath. He sought me out on his first evening in Bath, wanting to know the date of the next mountaineering club meet. This showed particular determination as he was on crutches at the time and suffering from the effects of a very serious rock-climbing accident. We soon became firm friends and worked together to improve the circumstances of the university mountaineering club. David's enthusiasm for the mountains was inexhaustible and his eagerness inspired many otherwise hesitant members. Until his death David kept up with the fortunes of his old club and attended its meets whenever he could.

After graduating from university David was instrumental in planning a successful expedition to Peru and Bolivia. Following this trip he joined up with some climbers from Loughborough University Mountaineering Club and made several first ascents in the Paine, Patagonia. On returning from South America David started work for Imperial Chemical Industries in Huddersfield. He quickly settled down and applied his talents, although in the short time available to him he was not able to show the true depth of his expertise and experience.

David's approach to life was direct and he believed in speaking his mind. This could lead to conflict, but was usually turned to good effect and resolved in good humour. We had common interests in photography, driving and eating and this enabled us to spend hours in each other's company without ever running out of something to say. In the mountains David felt truly 'alive' and he enjoyed the company of young and old alike. He had heartfelt words of encouragement for the novice and was a source of inspiration and knowledge for the more experienced. Whether he was walking, climbing, scrambling or skiing he quickly earned the respect of all those around him. He had an intuitive feel for the mountains and he inspired confidence through his safe and efficient technique.

I last spoke to David on the day before he left for Pakistan. He was full of enthusiasm for the expedition and was very optimistic about the prospects of success. Typically he was already planning his next trip. The manner of David's untimely death was characteristic of his generous and committed approach. It was a sad end to a life that was lived to the full.

Bruno Hancock

Robin Home McCall CBE 1912–1991

Robin McCall was born in 1912 and died in November 1991. I knew him for over half of the 79 years of his life: at first, only as an extremely keen Town Clerk of Winchester; later, as I got to know him better, I substituted in my mind the word enthusiastic for the word keen. All that he did he did with enthusiasm. His enthusiasm for the necessary reform of local government led him to become the Secretary of the Association of Municipal Corporations, the National Association of City and Borough Authorities, and later the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, but it was his enthusiasm for the mountains with which we are concerned in this journal.

However, I must first go back to local government to discover his other qualities. As the Town Clerk of Winchester he worked in a period before the central government had deprived local government of its vitality. When in 1973 Winchester conferred on McCall the Freedom of the City, he described in an inspired address the vital factors in local government as courage, imagination, determination and integrity; at the memorial service for him and his wife Joan at Winchester Cathedral, Professor Martin Biddle said that there was no better statement of the qualities which distinguished their own joint lives. I would add to these the qualities of complete honesty, straightforwardness and unfailing generosity.

This combination of qualities is useful on the mountains, particularly when a person is neither a natural climber nor able to spend each weekend in North Wales or the Lakes. Robin's only qualification was his love of the mountains. Indeed, I understand that, before he climbed with me, all his alpine climbing had been with guides. This accounts for his one failing – his insistence on keeping his ice-axe in his right hand whatever the angle of the slope. When I protested about this and pointed to the danger to which he was exposing himself and me, he retorted that guides always let him keep his ice-axe in the one hand. I patiently explained the difference between myself and guides.

Robin also climbed with Harry Archer and his family in the Lötschental. Harry tells me one story to demonstrate the energy which Robin displayed at a reasonably good age: apparently he lost a crampon near the top of the Wilerhorn, but next day he shot up again hoping to find it and, being the person he was, he did find it.

I proposed Robin for the Alpine Club and the Club had the good sense to elect him, even though they did not then foresee what work he would do for them. For some years he acted as an enthusiastic chairman of the House Committee in a period of difficulty and at the start of the search for new premises. The Club has good reason to be grateful to him.

Robin's children have inherited their father's enthusiasm for the mountains: his son Christopher, now also a member of the Club, is a regular visitor to the Alps, as is Elizabeth. He has passed many of his characteristics to them, perhaps the best gift to one's children if one's characteristics are like Robin's.

Harry Sales

Rupert Claude Martin 1905–1991

Rupert Martin was one of the Alpine Club's older members, having joined the Club in 1947. Mountaineering began for Rupert when, in 1922, he visited Switzerland following severe pneumonia which had afflicted him at the age of 17 whilst he was still at school. So began his lifelong love of the mountains and he was to return to Switzerland regularly both privately and in a professional capacity. His climbs were the classic ones of the Alps: Riffelhorn, Zinalrothorn, Weissmies, Wetterhorn (twice), Matterhorn (twice), Eiger, Mönch, Rimpfischhorn, Titlis and others, all with guides, plus travels in the Pyrenees, Sierra Nevada and Atlas. He had early family links with the Club, one of his father's sisters marrying the Rev J F Medley (AC), and another marrying

W J Petherick (AC), brother-in-law and companion of Mummery. Rupert Martin was also a keen cricketer and was a member of the MCC for over 50 years.

Educated at Shrewsbury School and Queen's College, Oxford, where he read Greats, Rupert Martin chose a career in teaching. In 1927 he joined St Paul's School on a temporary assignment to teach classics but was subsequently appointed a housemaster and stayed for ten years. He became headmaster of King's School, Bruton, in 1937 and set about revitalising it despite the many difficulties created by the war. His loyalty to King's, and his wife Ellen's ill-health, led him to decline the offer of the headmastership of his old school, Shrewsbury, proposing J F Wolfenden in his stead.

In 1946 Rupert left King's for Switzerland to become British Council Representative at the headquarters in Zürich. He established a large British library and gave many lectures in the cantons about Britain and its institutions, inviting a stream of distinguished speakers, and doing much to cement relations between the two countries after the war. The first of his series of six popular travel books, *Lands and Peoples*, was about Switzerland.

Returning to Britain in 1949 and to school life again, Rupert took up the vacant headmastership of St Dunstan's, a preparatory school in Burnham-on-Sea. He was twice a member of the committee of the Incorporated Association of Preparatory Schools and became its vice-chairman in 1957.

Always a scholar and a sportsman, Rupert Martin is remembered for his warm humanity and his keen interest in family and friends. He leaves a son and two daughters.

John Fairley
From information supplied by Lt Col J G Moncrieff

Renée Fedden 1917–1992

Like her husband Robin, Renée Fedden came comparatively late to climbing and showed that extra enthusiasm and drive that late starters often do, as if to make up for lost time. Her father was a Greek lawyer in Alexandria, and she met Robin in Cairo during the Second World War: on his leaves they went walking and camping in Syria and the Lebanon. Back in England the Feddens started climbing in North Wales, then had several seasons in the Pyrenees – their 1957 expedition, with Basil Goodfellow, produced Robin's delightful *The Enchanted Mountains*. Renée was elected to the Ladies' Alpine Club in 1958. Then came the challenge of the Alps, and a fine record of classic climbs which included the N ridge of the Piz Badile, the traverse of the Meije, the Zmutt ridge of the Matterhorn and – with Basil Goodfellow, Peter Lloyd and Alan Pullinger – the N face of Castor.

The Feddens' love of travel then took them further afield to climb – to Turkish Kurdistan with Peter Lloyd, to the Peruvian Andes (an expedition recently recalled by Patrick Leigh Fermor in *Three Letters from the Andes*), to the Pindos mountains in Greece, to Kulu. It was the 1965 expedition to the seldom-visited mountains of south-east Turkey that Renée looked back on with most pleasure: the camps on the high pastures, the hospitable Kurdish nomads,

the superb flowers, the splendid climbing in wild country. Peter Lloyd remembers her then as 'seeming to keep going on a cigarette and a Dextrosol and being an excellent climbing companion, quite imperturbable'.

Many of my best days on the mountains were with the Feddens – weekends in North Wales, a summer in the Dauphiné when we shared a chalet at Villeneuve-la-Salle and took it in turns to stay with the children while the other two climbed. In the years after Robin's death in 1977 Renée and I walked in the Pyrenees and the Alps, content now to look up at summits we had once climbed. With her interest in pictures, books, buildings, flowers; with her command of languages and her capacity for friendly silence, Renée was somehow both the most restful and the most stimulating companion, on or off the mountains. On a climb she was neat and elegant both in her movements and in her person: on the stormiest ridge or in the most primitive hut she was always orderly, always trim.

A few years ago she settled in France, on the edge of the Cevennes, near St-Hippolyte-du-Fort. There, out of a run-down farmhouse, and with the collaboration of a local architect, she and her friend Rosie Peto created a beautiful home that reflected Renée's taste for elegant simplicity. And there, after some months of illness, she died on 29 January 1992. I shall miss her enormously.

Janet Adam Smith (*Janet Carleton*)