
Surveys



The Matterhorn from the Zen Stecken Bridge (now Upper Zermatt). Johann Jakob Sperli the Younger. Date unknown. Watercolour. 7 x 10cm. After an engraving by Johann-Jakob Meyer, *Helvetische Almanach für 1820*.
(Alpine Club Collection HE059P)

TOM NAKAMURA

Blue Sky Expedition

A Journey in South Tibet



Holy mountain Yalaxianbo: main peak (left) and south peak (north-west face).

(All photos: Tom Nakamura)

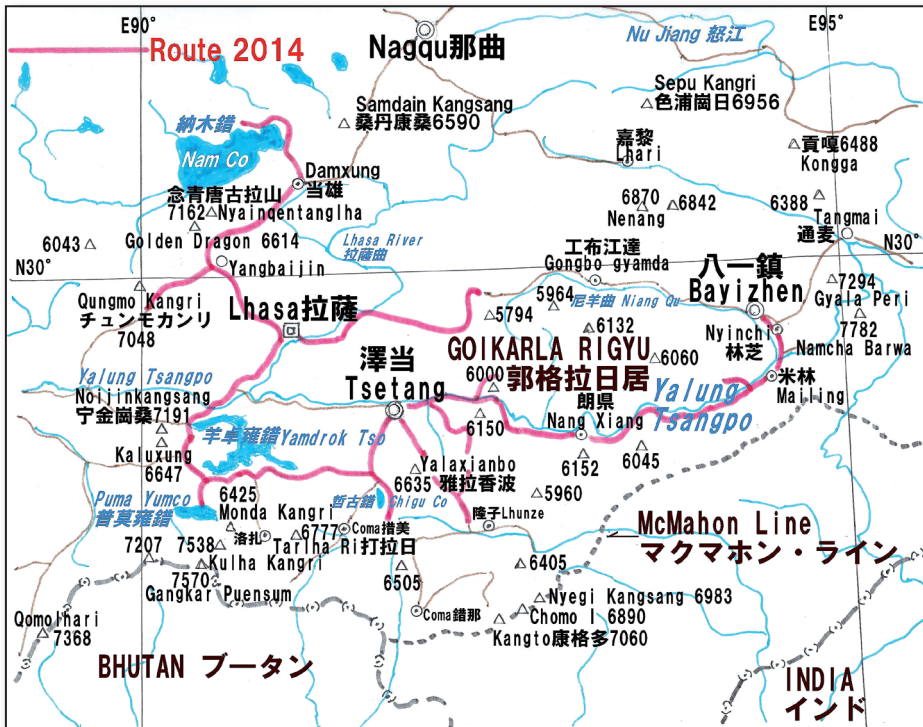
Once again, Tom was the 'Man of Blue Sky'. Clear, blue skies warmly welcomed us in every key point of our journey except for one, at the Goikarla Rigyu range.

The original plan of our expedition was to begin with the exploration of the unfrequented Goikarla Rigyu. This range has several veiled peaks over 6000m and extends some 250km from east of Lhasa to Bayizhen of Nyinchi Prefecture, between the Sichuan-Tibet Highway (north) and the Yarlung Tsangpo river (south). For efficiency in our investigations, we made full use of a Toyota Landcruiser, rather than camping and horse caravans; unfortunately this met with poor results. The 6000m peaks were elusive; complex valleys and ridges hindered views of our objective peaks. We had insufficient harvest in this mountain range.

Our second objective was to approach as closely as possible to the McMahan Line in south Tibet. Here, however, the difficulty came in the



Above: holy mountain Yalaxianbo, south-east face. Below: the route.



South of the Tsangpo–McMahon Line. 6151m peak, north face, on south bank of Yalung Tsangpo west.



Goikarla Rigyu: holy mountain Worde Konggye (5725m), west face.



North face of Goikarla Rigyu (6060m) seen from Bahozhen, Sichuan-Tibet Highway.



Kulha Kangri and West: (from left) Karengjian north 6824m, main 7221m; Kulha Kangri (from left): north 7381m, central 7418m, main peak 7538m



Nyainqentanglha West and Nam Tso: Kyizi (6206m) south-east face



Nyainqentanglha West and Nam Tso: Golden Dragon (6614m) south-east face.



Samdain Kangsang 6590m (left end) and 6000m peaks, west faces.

form of strict and frequent checks and controls by Public Security Bureau and police. All counties adjacent to borders with Bhutan and India are totally closed to foreigners. Unsurprisingly, we met no foreigners en route. We were luckier in our harvest this time, owing to our capable Tibetan guide who had the sense to carefully detour checkpoints, which contain Public Security, police and army. A complete profile of the east face of Tarlha Ri (6777m) massif, peaks ranging south to the Bhutan border and every side of the massif of the holy mountain Yalaxianbo were photographed.

We were lucky to reach a heavenly lake called Puma Yumco (4980m), which is now closed to foreigners. From there, a grand panorama of Kulha Kangri (7538m) massif and the mountains ranging to south-west on the Bhutan border overwhelmingly inspired us. The north face of the world's highest unclimbed peak, Gangkar Puensum (7570m), was glimpsed to south.

We also made a two-day excursion to Nyainqentanglha West: the first day to Qungmo Kangri (7048m) and following day to the north bank of the holy lake Nam Tso at 4718m.

Summary

A brief account of the exploration of unclimbed mountainous regions in south Tibet by Tom Nakamura (79), Tsuyoshi Nagai (82) and, at 70, the baby of the group, Tadao Shintani, 11-25 Oct 2014. The trip involved some 4500km of driving from Bayizhen to Lhasa and several days of perfect weather: Oct 14: South of Nang Xian (Peak Bobonng 6152m south of Yarlung Tsangpo), Oct 16: Yalaxianbo 6635m and access to south toward McMahon Line, Oct 17: Tarlha Ri 6777m and peaks close to Bhutan border, Oct 20: Puma Yumco, Kulha Kangri massif, Gangkar Puensum and further west, Oct 24: Nyainqentanglha West and Nam Tso.

ANINDYA MUKHERJEE

South Simvu

Secrets of the Great South Ridge of Kangchenjunga, Part One



Siniolchu over the 5215m unnamed col, from our high point on Peak 6130. The rock needles on the watershed between Passauram and Zumthul Phuk glaciers are visible immediately right of col. (All photos: Anindya Mukherjee)

Maps, if caviare [sic] to the general, are, as Louis Stevenson has insisted, very suggestive to persons with proper imagination.

Douglas Freshfield, *Round Kangchenjunga* (1903)

For the last few years I have been exploring the valleys and glaciers of the south-eastern flanks of Kangchenjunga. To be more specific, my explorations have focused on the little – or completely – unknown glaciers of Talung, Tongshyong, South Simvu, Passauram and Zumthul Phuk, and their respective valley systems. In this article and its companion, which follows in this volume, I cover my recent (2014) explorations of South