

*Ski Guide—Austria* Mark Heller (Quartet Books, London, 1973, £1.50).

This is a new guide compiled by Mark Heller, the ski correspondent of the *Guardian*, covering some 90 ski centres. It is full of useful information about the availability of skiing, with clear map diagrams. It is not a guide to hotels or après-ski.

## Notes 1973 Asia

### Bob Lawford

#### Hindu Kush

**Mir Samir (5809 m)** A small Austrian party made the first ascent of the sw summit.

**Koh-i-Bandaka N (6725 m)** A DAV expedition led by Ulrich Kamm with Base Camp in the Darrah-i-Sakhi made the second ascent by a new route on the N ridge. They also climbed Koh-i-Bandaka s (6843 m) and made the first ascent of Pt 6044 m s summit.

**Koh-i-Bandaka Zeraghan (6280 m)** was climbed for the first time by a team led by J. Dozier. Their route followed the NE Ridge.

**Tirich Mir (7706 m)** was climbed by a Spanish expedition led by Jose M<sup>a</sup> Montfort. They also made first national ascents of Tirich West I (7487 m) Manresa Zom (7352 m) and Dir Gol Zom (6778 m). See page 199.

**Noshaq (7492 m)** The Polish expedition led by A. Zawada made history by climbing this major peak in winter. They reached the summit during the night of 12–13 February. See page 11.

#### Karakoram

**Saser Kangri I (7672 m)** The highest virgin peak in India was climbed by an Indo Tibet Border Police team led by Joginder Singh. The expedition approached from the Shyok valley and the Shukpa Kunchang glacier. They reached the summit on 5 June and the following 2 days.

#### Kishtwar

**Brammah (6416 m)** The first ascent was made by Chris Bonington and Nick Estcourt in August. They followed the SE ridge as did previous attempts.

#### Kulu-Lahul

Jon Fleming led a 39 member British Army expedition which made several ascents including Indrasan, Ali Ratni Tibba and Menthosa. Another British team led by R. Collister climbed in the South Parbati area. Articles on both these expeditions appear in this *Journal* (pp 21 and 121).

**Ali Ratni Tibba (5490 m)** was climbed by three different routes by a small expedition led by Adrian Burgess. They also made the first ascent of one of the Manikaren spires (c 5200 m).

#### Garhwal

**Panch Chuli (6904 m)** After nine previous attempts by five different nations this much sought-after peak was eventually climbed by an Indian expedition led by Mahendra Singh. The summit was reached on 26 May.

**Kamet (7756 m)** The third ascent was made on 20 September by a 14-member team led by Anil Deb.

Indian expeditions made first ascents of three other peaks: Nanda Pal (6306 m), E of Trisul, on 8 June, Balakun (6471 m) NW of Nilkantha on 9 June and Chaudhara (6510 m) on 2 June.

### Nepal

**Kanjiroba Himal** A pre-monsoon Japanese expedition made the first ascent of a 6600 m unnamed peak to the SE of the main peak.

**Kanjiroba (6882 m)** Another Japanese team made the second ascent by a new route on the E ridge.

**Dhaulagiri I (8167 m)** The Americans made the third ascent on 12 May when Reichardt Roskelly and Nawang Sonden reached the summit. Their route was by the NE ridge, the same as both previous ascents.

**Dhaulagiri III (7715 m)** The DAV Munich section made the first and second ascents, reaching the summit on 20 October by a route on the SW face and on 23 October by the W ridge. The expedition was led by Klaus Schreckenbach.

**Dhaulagiri IV (7661 m)** There were two more attempts on this major unclimbed peak. The Austrians attacked the N face and reached a height of 7250 m. A late-in-the-season attempt by a British team led by A. P. Johnson ended in a double tragedy. Alan Dewison was killed after a fall and Sherpa Kanchha lost his life in an avalanche near Base Camp.

**Putha Hiunchuli (7247 m)** A Japanese attempt on this peak also ended in tragedy when two members and a Sherpa were killed in an avalanche following heavy snow in central Nepal on 12 October.

**Manaslu (8156 m)** A German team led by Dr Gerhard Schmatz made the first ascent by a new route on the E face. This is the fourth ascent of the peak. The first Spanish expedition to Nepal attempted the original E face route but gave up on 13 October after Camp II had been destroyed twice by avalanches and heavy snow.

**Annapurna I (8091 m)** The Japanese attempted a new route on the NE buttress and then switched to the British Army 1970 route, having to retreat 50 m from the summit. Four members and a Sherpa lost their lives in an avalanche. An Italian team attempted another new route on the NW face. Two members lost their lives in an avalanche at Camp II.

**Annapurna II (7937 m)** A Japanese team made the third ascent by the W ridge. One member reached the summit in bright moonlight at 8.30 pm.

**Everest (8848 m)** Both pre- and post-monsoon expeditions were on a mammoth scale. The Italians used helicopters to lift equipment and food over the ice-fall. Fresh vegetables from Kathmandu were delivered the same day at Camp II. Parties reached the summit by the South Col route on 5 and 7 May, in all 4 members and 3 Sherpas.

The 49 member Japanese expedition attempted the SW face and reached 8300 m, about the same height as the best previous attempt. Two other members reached the summit via the South Col thus becoming the first successful post-monsoon expedition. One Sherpa lost his life in an avalanche on 12 October.

**Lhotse (8511)** A nine member Japanese team made the first attempt on the 2000 m S wall. This was the forerunner of a major expedition in the future.

**Makalu (8481 m)** A strong Czech expedition attempting a new route on the SW ridge was abandoned at a height of 8010 m after a fatal accident.

**Kangbachen (7902 m)** This is now the highest unclimbed peak in Nepal. A post-monsoon attempt on the NW face was beaten back by heavy snow.

**Kangchenjunga West (8505 m, see below)** This peak is also known as Yalung Kang. A strong Japanese team made the first ascent on 14 May. When descending the summit pair bivouacked about 120 m below the top and next morning one of them disappeared. The reason for his death is unknown.

This expedition made new determinations of the heights of the local mountains. Taking a mean figure of 8600 m for the highest summit of Kangchenjunga, the following relative heights were measured: Yalung Kang -95 m; Kangchenjunga s Peak -109 m; Middle Peak (between the highest summit and s Peak) -122 m. Confirmation of these results is awaited, while a more accurate absolute determination also seems necessary.

## Notes 1973 Australasia

### Colin Monteath

#### Australia 1972-73

Keith Bell and Greg Mortimer made the first traverse of Ball's Pyramid, a 1800-ft sea stack off the NSW coast. The descent of the N ridge was severely hampered by the arrival of Cyclone 'Kirsty' necessitating several desperate bivouacs.

This duo has put up considerable numbers of fine new routes throughout Australia in the past year including the breathtaking 970-ft Icarus (grade 19) on the huge N face of Bluff Mountain in the Warrumbungles.

All states of Australia continue to produce fine young climbers and many new routes (a conservative estimate gives 350 new routes in the past year). Completely new and exciting areas continue to be found and opened up resulting in many great climbs; far too many to name.

Established trade routes continue to take a hammering with further elimination of aid resulting in some very high-grade routes. High ethical standards are being maintained. *Thrutch* magazine continues to serve climbers throughout Australia and New Zealand with up-to-date news articles and details of ascents.

#### New Zealand 1972-73

**Mount Cook area, 1972 winter season** Bill Denz and Alan Jones completed the first winter ascent and traverse of Mount Hicks (3170 m) in the upper Hooker valley. They bivouacked on the summit ridge of Hicks; from there Denz carried on solo to complete the first winter ascent of Dampier, New Zealand's third highest peak.

Graeme Dingle and Noel Sissons made the first winter ascent of the magnificent s ridge on Mount Cook. They bivouacked twice on the ridge then descended the w ridge on Cook from the low peak. Perhaps the most significant winter ascent of the season went to Limbo Thompson and Bob Cunningham when they made the first winter Grand Traverse of Cook from Gardiner to Plateau huts. The small close-knit group of climbers attempting winter routes was brought to a sudden halt when Keith McIver and Bill Hauck were killed attempting the Caroline face on Cook.

**Mount Cook area, 1972-73 summer season** Bill Denz soloed the 4000 ft ice route on the s face of Cook. He followed up this first ascent by soloing a new line on the Caroline face coming out directly on the low peak of Cook. Routes like the Caroline face, s face on Douglas, w face on Haidinger and the E face on Sefton continued to attract top local and overseas climbers. No less than three hard new routes went up on the s face of Hicks; a complete ice route by Keith Woodford and Mike Browne; a buttress route by Graeme Dingle and Noel Sissons and a mixed gully route by Denz, Peter Gough and Etienne Kummer.

**Mount Cook, 1973 winter season** Rob Rainsbury, Brian Pooley, John Visser and Colin Dodge climbed the E face of Cook thus completing its first winter ascent. Peter Gough and Bill Denz climbed the 3500-ft rock Sheila face on Cook, also a first winter ascent. These two climbs mark only the third and fourth times Cook has been climbed in winter. One of New Zealand's top guides, Bruce Jenkinson, was killed by a short fall whilst rock climbing near the Mount Cook village.