

# Book Reviews 1978<sup>1</sup>

Compiled by Geoffrey Templeman

**The Ascent of Denali** Hudson Stuck (The Mountaineers, Seattle/Mountain Craft, Vancouver/Cordee, 1977, pp. XIV, xx, 188, FF (a complicated pagination totalling 254!)), photographs and maps, £3.95) This paperback facsimile reprint of Stuck's classic account of the first complete ascent of Mount McKinley, originally published in 1914, has been enlarged by the addition of introductory notes by Bradford Washburn, including 8 pages of his own photographs on which the route and camps are marked, plus the diary of one of the party, Walter Harper, and a brief account of his life.

The ascent makes fascinating reading and was a great achievement by any account. The party was hardly experienced in mountaineering. Led by Stuck, Archdeacon of the Yukon—'no professional explorer or climber or scientist, but a missionary . . . and of these matters an amateur only', it comprised Harry Karstens, the 'Seventy Mile Kid', one of the most experienced outdoorsmen in the North who joined the stampede to the Klondyke; Walter Harper, a tough 21-year-old half breed who was Stuck's attendant, dog driver and interpreter in Alaska; and Robert Tatum, also 21, one of Stuck's assistants at the Nenana Mission Station. The party was completed by Johnny and Esaias, two Indian boys of 14 and 15! Moccasins were worn for much of the climb, the boots ordered from New York being useless, as were the ice-axes. The food for high altitudes imported from outside Alaska also strikes an original note—18lb of erbwurst, 20lb of chocolate, 5lb of China tea in tablets, 10lb of figs and 4lb of sugared almonds.

The expedition started from Nenana on St Patrick's day and went on foot the whole way, in itself a considerable feat, and finally reached the summit on 7 June, having spent all the time from mid-April on the Muldrow and Harper Glaciers and the NE face of the mountain. During one stage of the climb, at 2400m, their tent caught fire and they lost over half of their equipment and provisions. They calmly set about making a new tent by sewing sled-tarpaulins together and severely rationed themselves on food, carrying on with their slow upward struggle. Although inexperienced in mountain climbing, their sound knowledge of Alaskan snow and ice conditions and general out-of-doors commonsense meant that they always appeared to have the situation under control. The success they achieved was certainly well deserved. This book is one of the classics of early American mountaineering and it is good to have it readily available again.

Geoffrey Templeman

**Classic Rock** An anthology compiled by Ken Wilson (Granada, 1978, pp 256, 280 × 220mm, 230 illustrations—some colour, £12.00) *Hard Rock* by the same compiler, which appeared in 1974, was competently executed and very well received. This now is a companion volume of the same format and arrangement, but with more pages and pictures, covering a range of famous British climbs of standards up to Hard Severe. The pictures offer what is perhaps the finest selection of the British climbing scene so far collected in one volume.

It is justified to repeat from the earlier review that 'the range of styles among the multiplicity of authors differentiates the climbs quite remarkably giving an overall impression of considerable variety', for this is equally true this time. Moreover there are now numbered among the authors some more senior climbers who made their contributions to British climbing up to 40 years ago. They leaven the mixture and increase the diversity.

While *Hard Rock* was largely devoted to climbs where many of us would not be able to leave the ground, *Classic Rock* describes routes with which we are much more familiar. It is comforting to learn that the climbs of one's past are neither completely neglected, nor serving as easy-ways-down, but do in fact still figure in the climbing story.

This is indeed a winning formula and one wonders where the author will turn next to exploit it. In his preface he promises us further volumes covering the standards between those of *Hard Rock* and *Classic Rock*. Perhaps he will consider one also on British pinnacles, taking as criterion inaccessibility to all but the climber. He can then cover the tremendous range of sea-stacks from Sark to Shetland as yet but little photographed; mountain pinnacles; outcrop pinnacles such as Ilam Rock, Symonds Yat, gritstone, granite tors and Tunbridge Wells sandstone; as well as curiosities like the Devil's Chimney above Cheltenham and Etheldreda's Pinnacle at Beachy Head. Or maybe he will turn now to the continental or the American scene!

<sup>1</sup> Unsigned short reviews are the work of AJ Editorial Staff.

The author is doing an excellent job; we have to hope that he is deriving appropriate rewards so that we can look forward to more of the same.

*Edward Pyatt*

**The Shining Mountain—Two Men on Changabang's West Wall** Peter Boardman (Hodder & Stoughton, 1978, pp 192, illustrations, colour and black and white, £5.95) It is very good—an exciting tale well told, giving a real insight into what it is like out at the front. This was one of the hardest routes so far tackled among big mountains. The resulting gripping story is a must for the mountaineer's bookshelf, if indeed he has any room remaining on it.

A few years back the Rishi Gorge was a nearly impenetrable sanctuary. Here is what they find today. 'The track is beaten broad by the passing of expeditions . . . and along it a trail of metallic foil, tins, empty Gaz containers and food wrappers . . . now the Indian government is making plans to build a catwalk through the mouth of the Gorge to make the area even more accessible for tourism.'

After the expedition Peter Boardman concludes—'We've proved nothing that hasn't been proved before—if you want to climb something enough, you'll end up climbing it. Perhaps I'll go round a mountain in future, instead of pushing an irrational way up one of its sides.' When he does we will hope to hear more from him.

However, one has to ask how long this sort of fine writing can continue to fascinate. For how long will mountaineers maintain an interest in highly technical descriptions of deeds far beyond the powers of most of them? A small number indeed may be inspired to go and do likewise; the rest find increasingly that these accounts tend to blur into a background of extreme technicality. As the nature of the struggle veers farther and farther away from ordinary comprehension, the non-mountaineering public, though still agog for adventure, may also find its interest blunted by these same very complex technicalities.

*Michael Craig*

**The Challenge** Reinhold Messner (Kaye & Ward, 1977, pp 205, illustrations—some colour, sketch maps, £4.75) This is an outstanding account of what is now appreciated as a new trend in the development of mountaineering—the ascent of an 8000m Karakoram peak, Alpine style, by a party of 2. The climbers were Peter Habeler and Reinhold Messner; the mountain was Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak) (8068m) climbed with bivouac camps at 5900m and 7100m; the year was 1975. The interpersonal tensions of a bigger expedition were absent but their place was taken by a heightened awareness of the utter interdependence of the 2 climbers involved. This comes over clearly in the excellent translation by N. E. Bowman and Audrey Salkeld.

Contrasts with a bigger expedition can be derived inside the same covers for the first part of the book deals with an Italian expedition, led by Cassin, to the S face of Lhotse earlier the same year, of which Messner was a member. They were driven back by the extreme difficulties and the dreadful weather. A new feature of this particular expedition was the return home of one of the members, Aldo Anghileri, who, overcome by the monotony and the danger of expedition life, became homesick for his family and homeland. 'If you climb mountains because you enjoy it, because you get some relaxation from it, then this is the wrong place and the wrong mountain.' Such doubts must often assail the mountaineer far from home; few have ever found the courage to turn tail.

Messner frequently voices his own doubts about the lengthy separations from his wife which expedition mountaineering involves. He is obviously haunted by this aspect of his life, but his obsession with mountaineering always overcomes his human scruples. Now he is the first mountaineer to have climbed 4 8000m peaks.

*Edward Pyatt*

**Sivalaya. The 8000 metre peaks of the Himalaya** Louis Baume (Gastons-West Col, 1978, pp 316, maps and drawings, £12.50) In the author's words this book is a chronicle and a bibliography of exploration. I wish he had explained the origin of the title. Presumably the word means 'The abode of the Hindu god Siva' but it is one I have not come across. There is an introductory chapter on the Himalaya in general dealing with its formation and nomenclature, survey and exploration, and the development of mountaineering and more recently, tourism. The author stresses the threat to the ecology of the whole region posed by tourism and over-exploitation.

Each of the 14 8000m peaks of the Himalaya and the Karakoram has a chapter to itself,

giving details of height, position and map references. There follows the 'chronicle' which recounts briefly the history of the mountain, attempts on the summit and successful ascents from the earliest days to 1977. The text of each chapter is preceded by a drawing of the mountain showing the route of the first ascent, and a map of the area. In general the maps serve their purpose well, but the one centred on Annapurna 1 could with advantage have been extended to take in Annapurnas 2, 3, and 4, all of which are mentioned in the text.

For such a subject to be covered in a 300-page book printed in double spacing, accounts of the expeditions must perforce be of the briefest, and I consider the Publisher's splurge which refers to the chronicles of the expeditions as 'exhaustive and reading like high drama in a detective story' to be misleading. The account of the first ascent of Everest in 1953 occupies 10 lines, though some others, notably the German expeditions to Nanga Parbat, are dealt with more fully.

This is essentially a reference book, useful for those who do not have ready access to libraries such as that of the Alpine Club. In addition to the list of principal source references at the end of each chapter there is a comprehensive bibliography at the end of the book. £12.50 seems an excessive price for a book such as this, which appears to have been relatively inexpensively produced.

*V. S. Risoe*

**Climbing Ice** Yvon Chouinard (Hodder and Stoughton, London, 1978, pp 192, many colour and black and white photos, £7.95) This well-produced book is an extremely clear guide to ice-climbing. After a brief historical introduction, it covers all the major techniques and contrasts the French method, where the object is to keep as many crampon points in contact with the snow as possible, with the German front pointing method. The author believes that climbers should not become committed to one particular method but be able to adapt their mode of progress to the terrain and conditions prevailing. Such an approach has the virtue of flexibility and the important practical advantage of preventing the faster onset of fatigue which can result from an over-reliance on one method.

Chouinard has had an important influence in originating new designs of ice-climbing equipment and in bringing these designs to the market-place through his involvement with the Great Pacific Ironworks. There is thus a considerable amount of valuable advice about the choice of equipment and its subsequent maintenance. However, in spite of his personal interest in selling hardware, the message that comes across is that a few good and well-chosen tools are much to be preferred to being encumbered with a mass of gadgetry, some of it possibly second rate.

The book is full of very good photographs. The various moves and techniques involved are copiously illustrated, usually with smaller format black and white pictures. In addition, there are many larger photographs, some in colour, chosen for their pictorial as well as their didactic qualities; the situations portrayed are often hair-raising so far as the ordinary mortal is concerned and illustrate what can be achieved when highly developed but fairly simple techniques are used with great skill. In all, an excellent and very readable book although on account of its format not one to be used with an ice-axe in one's other hand.

*Tom Connor*

**Sur le Toit du Monde—Ascension du Pic du Communisme 7495m** (CAF, Combloux and La Mure, 1978, pp 56, in French, illustrations, npq) General information on the 7000m peaks of the USSR is followed by an account of the ascent of the highest in 1977 by a French expedition which included our good friend J.-P. Zuanon.

**Swiss Hotel Pioneers** L. Gaulis and R. Creux (Swiss National Tourist Office, 1976, pp 223, 240 × 197mm, illustrations, npq) A history of the Swiss hotelier families, whose talents and dedicated work gave Switzerland the reputation that it has today.

**Wall of Shadows** Graeme Dingle (Hodder and Stoughton, 1976, pp 177, colour illustrations, £6.95) The story of the 1975 New Zealand attempt on the N face of Jannu is presented by one of the country's best known mountaineers. The climbing was extreme on a route menaced throughout by ice-cliffs and avalanches and they failed, though far from ingloriously.

The book is the usual pattern of expedition account, inescapable since all expeditions follow broadly the same script. This one is enlivened by the author's self-analysis and what we hope is a faithful record of his emotions and experiences. The picture is rounded off by diary

extracts from other expedition members. The book closes with the usual appendices; the whole is a worthy addition to our fund of expedition lore.

**Für die Sicherheit im Bergland, Jahrbuch 1977** (Österreichischen Kuratorium für Alpine Sicherheit, 1977, pp 216, in German, n.p.q.) A series of notes and reports by various authors on the year's work of the Austrian national mountaineering safety organization.

**Avalanche and Snow Safety** Colin Fraser (John Murray, 1978, pp 269, illustrations, £6.50) This is an updating of a previous work by the author, *The Avalanche Enigma*, which was given an excellent review by G. Seligman in *AJ* 71 325. While the length seems to have been somewhat reduced, there is new information on the location of victims buried by avalanche. Radar methods have been developed for use by rescue teams, while personal transceivers are now frequently carried by each member of parties travelling away from the popular slopes. However location is only a part of the problem, since removal of the snow cover in time can still often present almost insurmountable difficulties.

It is an important work, the essence of a lifelong study, on a subject which must be taken seriously by all visitors to snow mountains.

**The Mountains of Canada** Randy Morse (Hurtig, Edmonton, Alberta, 1978, pp 144, 300 × 225mm, illustrated by colour, \$29.95) The illustrations are lavish and beautiful; the price is high; a worthy addition to the many fine selections of mountain pictures now being prepared for us all over the world. Are these books becoming a substitute for travel? Or do they inspire travel in the beholder? One would like to hope the latter. Unfortunately one can be sure that when one arrives at any much photographed place the developing tourist facilities will be busy stamping out the beauty or at least erecting a tawdry curtain in front of it. Such pictures serve therefore both as an inspiration and a rejection. Perhaps it is better to enjoy them in a book, then set out and travel somewhere else.

**This Accursed Land** Lennard Bickel (McMillan, 1977, pp 210, illustrations and map, £4.95) A new account of the 1912–13 journey by the Australian explorer, Douglas Mawson, into King George V Land in Antarctica, which ended in the deaths of his 2 companions and an epic solo journey back to their base. The story was overshadowed at the time by the tragedy of Captain Scott's attempt to reach the S Pole, but in fact this trip was equally arduous and Mawson's survival truly miraculous. The book is certain to revive interest in Mawson's own book—*Home of the Blizzard*, which appeared in 1915.

**Accidents Happen—Anticipation, Avoidance, Survival** Ann Welch (John Murray, 1978, pp 240, P/B £2.95, H/B £5.95) This provides a thoroughly competent treatment of an intriguing and novel subject, with examples taken mainly from the sports of flying, gliding and sailing. The general principles enunciated apply also to mountaineering, to rock-climbing and to survival among mountains, where the lessons to be learned are much the same. The 'blurb', which describes it as 'essential reading for all those concerned with safety in sport', can for once be taken as not overstating the case. There would seem to be scope for a similar work dealing with mountain sports; perhaps some enterprising reader will be inspired to tackle it.

**Mountain Weather for Climbers** David J. Unwin (Cordee, 1978, pp 60, 140mm sq format, illustrations, diagrams and tables, £1) An important little booklet setting out the fundamentals of mountain weather, its causes and its forecasting, in British hills and in the Alps. Detailed enough to arouse the interest, it is nevertheless not long enough to become boring. A useful buy which should be on many a mountaineer's bookshelf, where it may well serve to whet the appetite for more extensive studies.

**The Vertical World of Yosemite** Ed. Galen Rowell (Wilderness Press, Berkeley, California, 1974, pp xiv, 208, photographs, \$16.95) Sub-titled 'A Collection of Photographs and Writings on Rock Climbing in Yosemite' this book is a collection of articles on Yosemite which appeared mainly in the *Sierra Club Bulletin* and the *American Alpine Journal* from 1934 onwards, the majority being in the Sixties. Ascents covered include an ascent of Half Dome in 1884, as well as the expected and famous accounts of Salathe Wall, Muir Wall and others. The reproduction of the many photographs is reasonable, one or two of the ones in colour being exceptional.

**W Śkakach I Lodach Swiata. Himalaje-Karakorum** Ed. K. SAYSSE-Tobiczyka (Wiedza Powszechna, Warsaw, 1974, pp 472, many photographs, zł 140) Although entitled 'Himalaya-Karakorum', this volume is in fact the fifth in the series 'In the World's Rock and Ice' which first appeared in 1959, and which gives accounts of the activities of Polish Mountaineers over the preceding few years. The articles include Alpine and Andean expeditions in addition to Asian areas and, although in Polish, will be of interest for the wealth of illustration.

**The Magnificence of the Himalaya** Compiled by Asahi Shimbun (Asahi Shimbun, Tokyo, 1978, pp vii, 219, many photographs, mostly in colour, map, npq) Primarily a pictorial record with 115 colour photographs of Himalayan mountains, this book is dedicated to the late Kyuya Fukata and forms a picture version of his book 'The High Peaks of the Himalaya'. Many of the photos are superb, but the double page spreads suffer from the centre join. The text is in Japanese.

**Storm and Sorrow in the High Pamirs** Robert W. Craig (The Mountaineers, Seattle/American Alpine Club/Mountain Craft, Canada/Cordee, 1977, pp xiv, 174, maps, drawings, colour photos, £3.95 paperback) In one of several comments appearing inside the front cover of this book, Royal Robbins calls it 'a superb piece of mountaineering literature and the best book about a mountaineering expedition yet written by an American writer', which is quite something to live up to. So many expedition books and reports are received, that the habit of scanning quickly through the pages and only stopping at a particularly vivid piece of writing or detail of an acrimonious dispute becomes the norm. This book was started in the same way, but was read in detail long before the end was reached, so maybe Robbins has a point. It tells the story of the American group's participation in the International Meet in the Pamirs in 1974, which ended tragically in the deaths of 8 Soviet women, 5 Estonians, the Swiss Eva Eissenschmidt and their own member Gary Ullin. The combination of earthquakes, weather conditions and the numbers of people at high altitude in the mountains at one time make the end result only too easily foreseeable for the reader, but the relationship between the Soviet hosts and their guests is well described. An interesting book.

**Gipfelsturm im Karakorum** Andrzej Zawada and others (VEB F. A. Brockhaus Verlag, Leipzig, 1977, pp 164, maps and photos, DDR 15M) The account, in German, of the 1971 Polish Karakorum Expedition to Khinyang Chhish led by Andrzej Zawada.

**Erfolg am Kantsch. 8438 M** Günter Sturm (BLV Verlagsgesellschaft, Munich, 1975, pp 144, maps and photos, paperback, npq) The account of the 1975 Deutschen und Österreichischen Alpenverein expedition to Kangchenjunga which climbed the West Peak (Yalung Kang). It includes the usual technical appendices, plus chapters by Paul Bauer on the 1929 and 1931 expeditions.

**L'Aneto et les Hommes** Jean Escudier (Marrimpouey Jeune, Pau, 1977, pp 183, photographs, maps and route diagrams, 55 F, in French). The story of the discovery and main ascents of the Aneto, the highest peak in the Pyrenees, from Ramond de Carbonnières in the late eighteenth century up until 1935, with generous helpings of Barrau, de Franqueville, Tchihatcheff, Russell and Packe in between. Although it is a scholarly work, running to 293 footnotes, it is written in a racy style that is easily followed by anyone with a smattering of French. A most useful addition to the literature of the Pyrenees.

**Hamish's Mountain Walk** Hamish Brown (Victor Gollancz, 1978, pp 360, maps, photos and drawing, £7.50) Sub-titled 'The First Traverse of all the Scottish Munros in One Journey', this book is a day-by-day account of Hamish Brown's S to N traverse of the 279 Munros (one more has been added since) from Ben More on Mull to Ben Hope in the far N. The statistics alone are impressive—1639 miles, with nearly 450,000ft of ascent, an average of 4000ft and 14½ miles for each of 112 days, and the achievement is made the greater by the references to the troubles that beset the Ripley brothers on their attempt in 1967.

Nevertheless, I approached the book with some doubts, as I feared that the 'chatty' style and constant harping on the inadequacies of non-Scottish mountain lovers which have peppered the author's previous articles would prove too much for a Sassenach lover of mountain literature. In fact, I found that I was hooked by the time I had reached Bridge of

Orchy! Many of the domestic details seem superfluous, and I could have wished that the poetic extracts had been restricted to those of acknowledged poets, but the remainder was a delightful—and practical—read. The blurb stated that 'used in conjunction with the relevant Ordnance Survey map, the book should prove a useful tool for Munro-Baggers' and, for once, this is an under-estimation, as it will form an indispensable background of information for anyone wandering in the Highlands. Not only are routes, problems of access, places of accommodation and so on, mentioned, but each group of hills has its historical and geographical associations mentioned, as well as stories of the various characters who have roamed and climbed in the hills in the past.

The general production of the book is good, with a sprinkling of reasonable photographs, and it should be added to the shelf alongside such as Murray, Bell, Weir and Borthwick as a very worthwhile contribution to Scottish mountain writing.

**The Conquest of Mount Cook and Other Climbs** Freda du Faur (Capper Press, Christchurch, 1977, pp 252, photos, \$ 50.00) This latest title in the Capper Press Reprint Series is a facsimile issue of the book originally published in Britain in 1915. In the May 1915 issue of the *AJ* the reviewer concluded that 'the book is one of the most interesting that have been published for some time; it recalls the freshness and the enthusiasm of 50 years ago, when the Alps of Switzerland were young to climbers, and it will be a classic in the mountaineering literature of the New Zealand Alps.' Freda du Faur, an Australian, spent 4 seasons in these Alps from 1908 to 1912, making the first ascent of Mount Cook by a woman in 1910, the first ascent of Mount Dampier, the first Grand Traverse of Cook's triple peaks and the ascent of Tasman, as well as many other excursions. She climbed mostly with the Graham brothers as guides, but it is obvious from the narrative that she became an accomplished climber. It appears that these 4 hectic years were the sum of her mountaineering activity and that she never visited the New Zealand Alps again, or indeed climbed again. Writing her book 3 years after leaving New Zealand, she hints at the end that she will not return and, in fact, spent much of the rest of her life in England before returning to Australia, where she died in 1935.

Whilst the offset-litho process cannot compare with the original, it is good to have copies of this book in circulation again, although at \$50 a time for a limited printing of 1000 copies, it will not circulate very far!

**Bergsteigen. Festschrift des Österreichischen Alpenklubs zu seiner Hundert-Jahr-Feier 1878–1978** (S. Walcher, Vienna, 1978, pp. 232, 2 pages of photos, paperback, npq) Divided into 2 parts, this centenary publication gives first the Alpenklubs' activities during these 100 years, and then a selection of mountain writings from the period.

**Mountains of the World** (a handbook for climbers and hikers) William Bueler (The Mountaineers, Seattle, 1977, pp 280, maps, £3.25) The second edition of a book originally published in 1970 and with a publisher's caution that some of the information on individuals and organizations (and names of countries!) may be out of date. A slight bias may be found in the fact that whilst Central Asia gets 8 pages, the US has 58.

Two autobiographies to note, first published some time ago but only recently received:

**Nothing Venture, Nothing Win** Edmund Hillary (Hodder & Stoughton, 1975, pp 320, maps and photos, npq) Sir Edmund Hillary's very readable account of his life up to the age of 56 covers, as one would expect, mountain climbing all over the world, from the Alps to Everest, in addition to his Antarctic expeditions. These, coupled with his building efforts in the Himalaya and extracts from family adventures, make a fascinating tale.

**Higher than Everest. Memoirs of a Mountaineer** Major H. P. S. Ahluwalia (Vikas, Delhi, 1973, pp x, 188, photos, npq) Major Ahluwalia's autobiography has as its central section an account of the Indian Everest Expedition 1965, when he successfully reached the summit, and this is followed by the story of his slow recovery from the wounds he received at the end of the Indo-Pakistan war a few months later.

**Where the Indus is Young** Dervla Murphy (John Murray, 1977, pp x, 266, photos, map, £4.95) Dervla Murphy's sixth book of travels describes the winter she spent in Baltistan with her 6-year-old daughter Rachel in 1974/5. Written in diary form, she describes journeys made

in the Indus, Shyok and Shigar valleys with their pony Hallam, staying in accommodation ranging from palaces to huts where the occupants lived at bare subsistence level. Ms Murphy writes a fascinating account of this 'Tibet of the Apricots' and of her small daughter's reactions to their adventures.

**Makalu 1976** Ivan Fiala (Pressfoto, Bratislava, 1977, cover, introduction and 33 loose photographs, Kčs 60) This Czech publication is a folio of photographs, mostly in colour, of the Czech expedition to Makalu in 1976. Little detail of the expedition is given apart from a diary, in Czech, on the inside of the cover, but captions in English are included on the back of each photo.

The following Italian books have been received:

**I Rifugi del Club Alpino Italiano** Carlo Arzani (Agielle, Lecco, 1977, pp 160, location maps, L 5000) This is the second edition of a book which lists all the CAI huts and national rescue posts, both alphabetically and by numbers corresponding to a series of location maps. The information given includes the altitude of the hut, best access points with the height of these, accommodation, CAI Section, map reference, etc. In addition, addresses of all CAI Sections and the areas they cover are also given.

**Antrona, Bognanco, Sempione** Luciano Rainoldi (Arti Grafiche, Vigevano, 1976, pp 240, map, many photos and topo-diagrams, npq) This is a general guide to the area surrounding the 3 valleys of the title in the E Pennine Alps and includes such peaks as the Weissmies, Fletschhorn and Pizzo di Loranco. Brief descriptive chapters of the various valleys are followed by notes on geology, flora and fauna. Then comes a short history of mountaineering in the region, which introduces descriptions of 465 routes.

**Dalle Ferrate al 6° Grado** Sergio de Infanti (Arti Grafiche, Friulane-Udine, 1976, pp 160, many photos and topo-diagrams, L 5000) Sub-titled 'Le Pui Belle Scalate Sulle Carniche', this volume describes 60 of the best climbs in the Carnic Alps of all grades of difficulty. The majority are illustrated by full page photos and topo-diagrams. A brief history of climbing in the area and notes on a number of refuges complete the book.

**Civetta—per le vie del passato** Giovanni Angelini (Nuovi Sentieri, Bologna, 1977, pp 368, large format, numerous illustrations, npq) The amount of research that has gone into this book is quite incredible. There has been a number of 'single mountain books' before, and this one ranks with the best of them, tracing the history of ascents of the Civetta by its major routes up to the 1930s. There are copious notes to the various chapters, with hundreds of illustrations of the mountain and the personalities involved, including many from contemporary publications.

**Sette Anni Contro Il Tirich** Machetto-Varvelli (dall'Oglio, 1976, pp 270, maps, drawings and photos, paperback, npq) This book traces the history of exploration and mountaineering in the region around Tirich Mir, with particular emphasis on expeditions since the first ascent of the principal peak by the Norwegians in 1950.

**Montagne Nostre** CAI Cuneo Section (Istituto Grafico Bertello, 1976, pp 424, many maps, diagrams and photos, some in colour, L 15000) This excellent volume was published to celebrate the centenary of the Cuneo Section of the CAI, 1874–1974, and gives a complete picture of the Maritime Alps and the area around Cuneo. Articles by various authors include not only the expected geology, geography, mountaineering history, flora and fauna, but comprehensive coverage of caving, as well as peasant community life and architecture. The illustrations are excellent and, for anyone with a smattering of Italian, it will be an indispensable companion to browse through before travelling in the area.

**Escursioni Nei Parchi Alpini** Oscar Casanova (Centro Documentazione Alpina, Turin, 1977, pp 178, in Italian, pictures, some colour, many sketch plans, L 5500) A series of simple walkers' routes in nature reserves and national parks in Italy and along the border from Argentera to the Julian Alps, mostly single day excursions, but some longer.

The following expedition reports or other private publications have been received:

**Oxford University Baffin Expedition** (pp 40, photos) Covers, briefly, the 5-man expedition to Baffin Island in 1976 which carried out a climbing/geological programme on the Cumberland Peninsula, based on Pangnirtung.

**A Himalayan Trilogy** (1977, pp 32, maps and photos) This is the well-produced report of the 1977 North of England Himalayan Expedition which made the first ascent of Devachen and also climbed White Sail and Papsura in the Kulu Himalaya. The centre pages feature a map of the area surrounding the East Tos Glacier surveyed by the expedition.

**St. Helens Mountaineering Club 1977 Andean Expedition** (pp 18) The report of the small expedition which achieved the first ascent of Nevado Quiyoq (Punta de Lanzadera; 5029m), the highest summit of the Plateriyayoc group of the Cordillera Urubamba, and also of the SW Rib of Veronica.

**Ampleforth College Himalayan Expedition 1977** (pp 49 plus 2 of maps and 17 of photos) The full report of the first British school expedition to the Himalaya, which achieved its objective in ascending Kolahoi.

**L.U.M.C. 1976 Kishtwar Himalayan Expedition** (pp 36, photos, maps) The report of the Loughborough University Mountaineering Club's attempt on Cathedral Peak in Kashmir.

**Kulu 1976** (pp 12, photos, maps) The report of the University of Bristol Mountaineering Club's expedition which made first ascents of 7 peaks in the Tos Nulla region of Kulu.

**Manchester University Hindu Kush Expedition 1977** (pp 16, photos, map) Well-produced and illustrated report of the 6-man M.U.M.C team which climbed a number of peaks in the Kebak region of the Hindu Kush from a base in the Qalat Valley.

**1976 British Hoggar Mountains and Bilma Sands Expedition** (1977, pp 77, maps, diagrams and photos) The expedition account of climbs and explorations in the Atakor and Tahifet regions of the Hoggar Mountains and the vehicle crossing of the sand seas of the Sahara north of Lake Chad.

**The British Jannu Expedition 1978** (1978, pp 11, diagrams) Report of the 4-man, alpine-style expedition which climbed Jannu by the 'French Route' so successfully.

**Oxford Expedition to the Hindu Kush 1977** Stephen Venables (1978, pp 14 + appendices).

**Gervasutti's Climbs** Giusto Gervasutti (Diadem Books, 1978, pp 201, illust, npq) This is a facsimile reprint of a book published in 1957 in this country. That in turn was a translation (by Nea Morin and Janet Adam Smith) of a work originally in Italian *Scalate Nelli Alpi* (1947), which soon after appeared in a French version *Montagnes Ma Vie*. There is a lengthy review of the latter by R. L. G. Irving in *AJ* 57 272.

Gervasutti was killed in 1946 on the Mont Blanc du Tacul. His climbing philosophy, as expressed here, was much ahead of his time and the reappearance of this work is specially welcome for the present generation.