

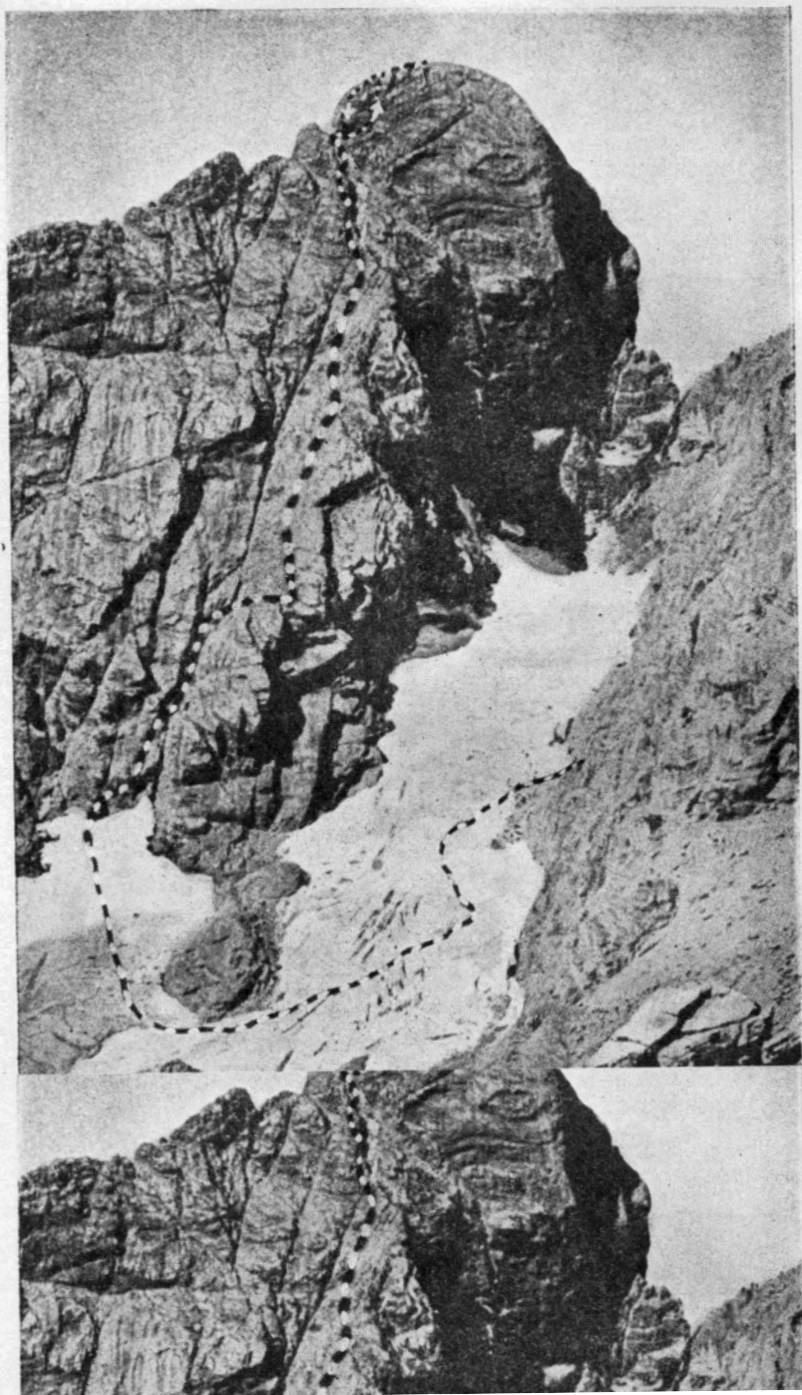
NOTE ON THE SOUTHERN AIGUILLE D'ARVES.

IN 1926 three members of the C.U.M.C. (Messrs. E. G. H. Kempson, L. R. Wager, and J. L. Longland) climbed this peak by the more usual S.W. face route from the Col Lombard to the Brèche Supérieure, thence ascending and descending by the 'Mauvais Pas' and following the route of our ascent back to the Col Lombard. Neither on this occasion nor two years later, when L. R. Wager and the writer revisited the mountain, was there a fixed rope on the 'Mauvais Pas,' although a big iron-shod rope loop and a piton at the top of the step facilitate descent on the doubled rope. We were informed at the Rieu Blanc chalets that the guides usually place a rope there after the first ascent of a season and remove it at the end of the summer, but I have no confirmation of this. As Monsieur Montandon points out in his note ('A.J.' 40, 402) there is a small and useful belay at the foot of the 'Mauvais Pas.'

On July 20, 1928, in the course of an ascent of the three Aiguilles d'Arves (mentioned elsewhere) we again arrived at the foot of the 'Mauvais Pas' by the Col Lombard route. This time we decided to try one of the variation routes and avoid the ascent of the 'Mauvais Pas.' We followed the little ledge at the foot to the right, N.E., and beyond and slightly upward when it had given out (a total of some 60 ft. to the right of the 'Mauvais Pas'). Then we struck directly upward, and a little back to the left, joining the S. ridge about 80 ft. above the 'Mauvais Pas.' The route was marked at rare intervals with arrows in red paint or red lead, and follows exactly the description of the *Corra* route in Commandant Gaillard's 'Les Alpes de Savoie' (Vol. III, p. 50). If the red marks are those made by M. Thorant during his solitary ascent in 1894,¹ then Mr. Coolidge's assumption (*Central Alps of the Dauphiny*, 1905, p. 30), that M. Thorant used the *Rodet* variation, is incorrect. On our ascent the leader wore boots, and the climbing, though exposed, is not exceptionally difficult; there is no need to use *Kletterschuhen*, as Dr. Wilson might seem to imply ('A.J.' 40, 20).

We descended by a *rappel* down the 'Mauvais Pas,' and regained axe and rucksack at the Brèche Supérieure. From there we descended the E. face of the Aiguille by the *Corra* route (I have marked the descent in the accompanying illustration, taken from *La Montagne*, March 1928). It will be seen from this photograph that Dr. Wilson in his drawing ('A.J.' 40, facing 15) has somewhat

¹ This is very unlikely, as the marks were already faint in 1897.
—Editor.



misplaced the *Corra* route, sketching it in some distance too far to the right. It would appear that the route marked by Dr. Wilson as that of the late Mr. Raymond Bicknell's party is also the *Corra* route, except that where Mr. Bicknell was forced to traverse back, left, into the couloir owing to iced rocks, the normal route (and that which we followed on our descent) keeps well away to the right (true left) of the couloir up easy slabs. If a party keeps in the couloir, as Mr. Bicknell's had to, it soon becomes almost impossible to traverse out to the right again, owing to a belt of very steep boiler-plate slabs separating the couloir from the easier ground. I have shown the 'La Montagne' photograph to Mr. Peter Bicknell, and he agrees that the route I have marked is substantially that which his party was attempting to follow. The descent of this route took our party just 65 minutes from the Brèche Supérieure to the Glacier de Gros Jean, and had it not been for the exceptional state of the rocks, would not have taken Mr. Bicknell's party long to ascend. Thus it may seem that Dr. Wilson's comment should be slightly modified. [It was doubtless in ignorance of the very formidable nature of the N.E. face that Mr. Bicknell's party started on what they probably imagined would prove a fairly simple climb up to the "Mauvais Pas" ('A.J.' 40, 16).]

Commandant Gaillard's explicit directions ('Alpes de Savoie,' Vol. III, pp. 49, 50) show clearly the coincidence of Mr. Bicknell's route (except for its upper part) and our own route with that of Signor Corra. His remarks, and the photograph I include, show also that the *Corra-Bicknell* couloir does *not* lead up to the Brèche Supérieure, as would appear from Dr. Wilson's drawing. The photograph shows that this couloir splits into several branches in its upper section, one of which certainly *does* go to the Brèche Inférieure, as Dr. Wilson has drawn it. It is a second and distinct couloir² that runs from the Brèche Supérieure to the glacier: this is almost hidden in the photograph, but is shown by the dark band of shadow running up from the left-hand corner of the highest bay of the Glacier de Gros Jean. It is extremely steep in its lower section, its true left wall being the tremendous undercut slabs falling directly from the summit of the South Aiguille.

We found that these two couloirs were quite distinct, being separated by a great rock bastion that runs down further into the glacier than any other part of the Aiguille. Our observations are

² But the far better photograph—showing more snow as on the date of Dr. Wilson's descent—by M. Piaget in *La Montagne*, 1910, facing p. 344, shows clearly that the 'Bicknell' couloir *does* run to the Brèche Supérieure. Sir Joseph Napier identified on this (Piaget) photograph the place of the accident as two-thirds of the way up the extreme left-hand couloir. M. Piaget's photograph is 'snapped' obviously from a point further to the N.E. than the one reproduced here.—*Editor*.

confirmed by Mr. Coolidge: 'Follow the Col de Jean Jean route over the glacier to the foot of the S. Aiguille, and thence mount the couloir and its left-hand branch. Do not (as for the col) bear across this couloir to the left, but mount straight up it (or by its left bank), aiming at the gully descending from the westernmost of the notches at the S.E. foot of the Aiguille' (i.e. the Brèche Supérieure—I think the westernmost of the notches must be the Brèche Supérieure, because: (1) The arête bearing all these towers and notches runs from the S.E. in a N.W. direction towards the peak, and therefore the westernmost notch should be the highest notch, i.e. the Brèche Supérieure; (2) in the Gaillard note, just below, I take 'le profond couloir' which he states is descending from the Brèche Supérieure to be identical with 'the gully descending from the westernmost of the notches which the ordinary route from the Col Lombard attains.' The italics are mine.—J. L. L.) So, too, Commandant Gaillard, who, after describing the route in, and on the right of, the *Corra-Bicknell* couloir, mentions that one reaches and eventually crosses this second couloir, just below the 'Mauvais Pas': 'En quelques mètres, on atteint le profond couloir qui descend de la Brèche Supérieure et plonge au-dessous sur le glacier.' Dr. Wilson has very naturally, after an absence of some years, confused the two couloirs, and assumed that it was by the horribly steep couloir (as he says 'the couloir being like a waterfall between nearly vertical cliffs') that Mr. Bicknell was forcing an ascent. (See 'A.J.' 40, 18, and note 6.) If Dr. Wilson's own route in the descent had really been on the face to the right (or N.) of the terrific Brèche Supérieure couloir, he would have become involved in the impossible overhangs (shown in deep shadow at the bottom of the face under and to the N. of the summit in the photograph) of the lower N.E. face close to the Col de Gros Jean. It is more likely that Dr. Wilson has telescoped the two couloirs together in his drawings and description, and that he is quite right when he says 'I gather that Signor G. Corra's ascent corresponded in its lower half with the lower half of our descent.' If he had actually been continually to the N. of the real Brèche Supérieure couloir he would hardly have written: 'Once beyond this patch of ice we found no real difficulty. . . . We did not doubt that we had struck the "ordinary route."'

I fear that this note has stretched to a great length owing to the necessity of documentation, and references to confirm our own observations upon two recent visits to this peak, but I think it worth while to rehabilitate a very sound and pleasant route in the eyes of climbers. May I also be allowed to endorse Dr. Wilson's remarks upon the great charm of these three peaks: the climber nearly always will find himself alone, and can discover a great deal that still requires exploring, while the threat of extreme popularity has been averted by the destruction of Refuge Lombard in the spring of 1928!

J. L. LONGLAND.

I have been much interested in reading Mr. Longland's note, and in examining the picture of the E. face of the S. Aiguille d'Arves when quite free from snow. I have seen others somewhat similar, but I deliberately chose, for the model of my sketch of routes ('A.J.' 40, 15), the photograph by M. Piaget shown on p. 344 of *La Montagne*, 1910, because it showed a large patch of ice or snow more or less where we had found one, and a small patch, close to the couloir, which seemed to correspond with that shown on the diagram illustrating Mr. Bicknell's route ('A.J.' 39, 346). In this photograph, as in my copy of it, the couloir is seen to bifurcate above, one branch going to each of the Brèches on the sky-line. It is difficult to correlate the two photos: or to account for the branch couloir leading to the Brèche Inférieure, unless on the assumption that a fall of rock may have altered the topography. I cannot say that I have any recollection of noticing this branch, on either of the occasions when I was on the mountain. I copied it, because it is there on the photograph.

As to our route down in 1892, we traversed diagonally down a large steep ice slope, and left it at its lowest point, a long way N. of the couloir. Where exactly this should be placed on the picture of bare rock presents a problem.

After leaving the ice, my recollection is that we went pretty straight down, but we *may* have been forced to the S. as Mr. Longland's comments would seem to imply.

Signor Corra's route, as shown on my sketch, was evolved from M. Capdepon's account. Reading M. Gaillard's directions (*Alpes de Savoie*), after completing my digest of the two Capdepon papers, I concluded that they must be misleading. They did not fit in with my recollections, and I thought it possible that Mr. Bicknell's party might have been led on to dangerous ground through reading them. I trust that the route shown on my sketch may not lead future climbers astray.

CLAUDE WILSON.

THE FIRST ASCENT OF PIZ BADILET.

PIZ BADILET, or Cima Sant' Anna, 3168 m. = 10,394 ft., *S. map*, or 3169 m., *Lurani map*—an extraordinary instance of the accuracy of the late Count Lurani's measurements. No name or height on the *I. map*. Name only (*C. Sant' Anna*) on the *Wilson map*.

This splendid peak, dwarfed only by its position close up against the overwhelming Piz Badile, occupies a position of the greatest topographical importance, being astride the heads of two valleys and one glen, Porcellizzo, Codera and Trubinasca. Besides Count Lurani's admirable map, only the new Siegfried (1927) and *Wilson* maps represent its position correctly as the point where the long

Porcellizzo Ridge, starting from above the Lago di Como, abuts against the main or frontier ridge. As a climb of more than usual interest, its ascent has now, perhaps, been accomplished twenty or thirty times.

The three Climbers' Guides¹ to the district are unanimous in awarding the first ascent to the late Count Francesco Lurani and Signor C. Magnaghi with Giovanni and Giulio Fiorelli of Val Masino, July 26, 1893. Major H. A. Tanner in his 'Forno-Albigna-Bondasca' (1906), the first guide-book to part of the district, states (pp. 62 and 114) that the 1893 party made an 'attempt' on the peak, 'attaining nearly the first tooth of the summit'; Tanner goes on to claim (pp. 64 and 114) the first ascent of the highest point for himself with the late Christian Klucker on June 22, 1904.

In reality this ascent, a variation of the route taken in the second ascent of the mountain, was the *third*.

Major Tanner has now written a long letter,² in *Romansch*, addressed to the Section 'Bernina,' S.A.C., with a copy addressed to the Alpine Club, in which he seeks to prove his contentions of having been first on the actual summit of the peak.

To meet Major Tanner's claims a description of the actual mountain and of its several routes is necessary. Piz Badilet may be said to possess two arêtes, N.W. and S.W., and three faces, N., S.W., and S.E. The N.W. arête, forming the easiest route, can only be attained by a steep and dangerous climb from the Codera Glacier (to the S.)³ leading up to the gap between our peak and the precipitous Punta di Trubinasca, 2996 m., *S. map*. The S.W. arête, mostly a knife-edge of precipitous rock, is best attained by climbing the Punta Torelli, 3132 m. (the figures on the *S. map*, 3182, are a misprint, so Colonel von Steiger informs me), and then following the said ridge. The N. face is a tremendous precipice of slabby rock with a fairly defined rib, well shown on the new Siegfried, projecting from it. This face is, in fact, a replica of the famous N. face of Piz Badile on a greatly reduced scale; hence the peak's appropriate name. The S.W. face is a clean-cut and inaccessible rampart above the Codera Glacier; higher up, it eases off and its last icy part is traversed when ascending the mountain by the N.W. arête. The S.E. face is less high than either of the others and consists of smooth,

¹ *The Alps of the Bernina* (1910), i, pp. 17-20 (Strutt). C.A.I. *Guida, Alpi Retiche Occidentali* (1911), pp. 237-9 (Balabio). S.A.C. *Club Führer, Bündner Alpen* (1922), iv, pp. 161-3 (Rütter).

² Dated June 22, 1929, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his ascent. This letter is unfortunately far too long and contentious for publication. It is, moreover, written in a language with which but few Britons are in any way acquainted. A German translation is in the A.C. Library.

³ The route from the N., when once accomplished, is quite out of court.

precipitous slabs seamed in one or two places by fairly deep-cut but narrow chimneys. The edge between the S.E. and N. faces might be described as an 'arête,' but is very short and abrupt, as our peak is but 150-200 ft. higher than the Colle del Badile to the E.⁴ The following is a chronological summary of the different routes (and variations thereof); nearly each ascent appears to have been by a slightly different route from its forerunners, and no route hitherto discovered is really *safe* except the S.W. arête.

(i) By the N.W. arête, reached from the S. July 26, 1893, Count Lurani's party as above.

(ii) By the N.W. arête, reached from the N. June 12, 1899, Herr Anton von Rydzewsky with Christian Klucker and Angelo Dandrea of Cortina.⁵

Variation of (ii), to the E. June 22, 1904, Major H. A. Tanner with Christian Klucker.

(iii) By the S.W. arête. August 11, 1909, Signori Romano Balabio and Gaetano Scotti.

Variation of (iii), *i.e.* by the S.E. face and S.W. arête. August 3, 1911, Signori Antonio Balabio and A. Nava. The account is quite incomprehensible.

(iv) By the E. face (and E. arête or rib). October 18, 1921, Count Aldo Bonacossa and Signor Antonio Polvara. On this day the party followed the S.W. arête *backwards* to the Punta Torelli, a most difficult expedition not yet repeated.

Variation of (iv). July 19, 1924, Lieut.-Colonel E. L. Strutt with Pierre Blanc, taken in the *descent*. Probably there is little difference between the 1911, 1921 and 1924 routes, except that Bonacossa and Strutt hit, or left, the S.W. arête close to the summit, while A. Balabio *appears* to have hit it far further to the S. This route, or variations thereof, have now become fashionable.

The summit ridge of Piz Badilet consists of two peaks, W. and E., separated from each other by a snow ridge forming a formidable cornice overhanging the N. or Trubinasca (Bondasca) slope. The E. peak is some (?) 200 ft. higher than the W. and is about 20 to 30 minutes distant from the latter. By traversing the S.E. face all difficulty and danger, between the two peaks, is usually avoided.

The Summit, or E. peak, consists of two *teeth* split off from each other by a gap or cleft 2 metres deep (Tanner, p. 156) and 5 feet

⁴ The deep-cut notch immediately E. of our peak is not the Colle del Badile, the N. couloir leading to the notch is impossible of access. To the E. of this notch comes a gendarme, absurdly christened Badiletto (!), *Guida*, p. 235; the pass is immediately E. of the gendarme and between it and the main mass of Piz Badile. See *A.J.* 37, illustrations facing 140 and 142.

⁵ Owing to causes explained later, this party, having attained the W. peak, turned down the N.W. arête without proceeding to the summit.

wide horizontally (Strutt, 'A.J.' 36, 410, footnote 1). The E. tooth (Tanner's) is perhaps *one* foot higher than the W. tooth (Lurani's)!⁶ 'Hinc illae lachrymae.'

The question has already been dealt with in the JOURNAL, and I thought had been allowed to drop. I now repeat my own remarks made in 'A.J.' 27, 411-412, and reproduce Count Lurani's letter, sketch, and photograph. I am much indebted to Herr Rütter for the use of his photograph taken from the N.

. . . 'Regarding the first ascent of this peak the following facts have not been published previously. Wishing to learn a few intricate topographical details concerning the district, I wrote to my esteemed master, the late Count Lurani. I render his (English) reply so far as this peak [Piz Badilet] is concerned.

Viareggio : June 15, 1909.

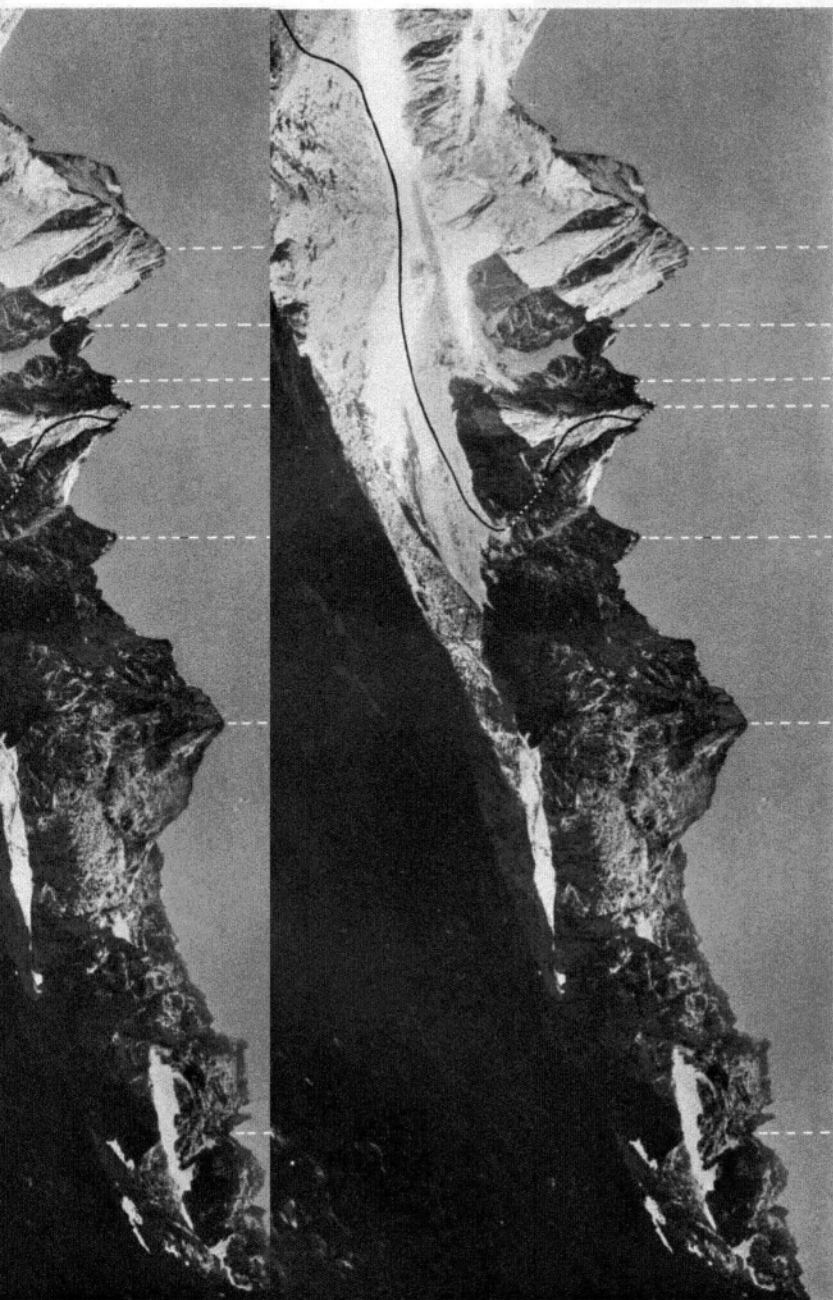
"Concerning my ascent of the Cima Sant' Anna (I availed myself, as regards the name, of the privilege to be exercised by the *first party*⁷ as did Payer with the Punta San Matteo),⁸ with Carlo Magnaghi and Fiorelli, the weather was very bad, thick cloud and snow. We reached what we thought was the summit, but owing to mists failed to recognise that there is in the *immediate vicinity* another boulder 3 or 4 ft. higher than the one we were on. This

⁶ In 1924, on arriving at Lurani's tooth, Pierre Blanc leant across the cleft and grasping the other in his hands swung himself on to the very acute point overhanging the mountain's vertical S.E. or Porcellizzo face. To me it appeared less painful to touch it feet foremost. I fear that the remainder of my body has never reached the highest point! When I told Pierre Blanc, most uncomfortably *à cheval* on the highest 'summit,' of the controversy still agitating the mind of a certain individual, his sole remark was, 'C'est de la blague.' In the letter quoted further on, Klucker's comment on the topography of the summit teeth and cleft is terse and to the point: 'Ein ordentlicher Felsgänger kann die Spalte ohne Bedenken überspringen.'

As it is as well to quote all the authorities' opinions, I add Herr Rütter's remarks: 'Only a "hair-splitter" could claim the honour of the first ascent, because he made the few easy steps to the top, which the Lurani party *perhaps* (only perhaps!) did not owing to the blinding storm.' Herr Rütter adds: 'I am quite of your opinion and back you entirely.'

⁷ My italics.—E. L. S.

⁸ Count Lurani was not quite accurate here. The first ascent of the Punta San Matteo was made on June 28, 1865, by Messrs. D. W. Freshfield, F. F. Tuckett, J. H. Backhouse, and G. H. Fox with François Dévouassoud and Peter Michel (*A.J.* 2, 145-146); the (?) *second* ascent was made by Payer on September 21, 1867.



P. EADILE.

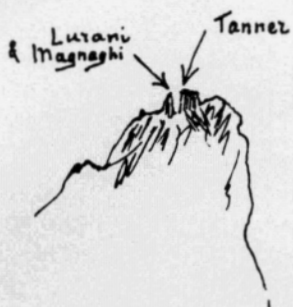
C. DEL BADILE.

E. PEAK. { P. BADILET.
W. PEAK. {

FUNTA DI TRUBINASCA.

PIZZO DI TRUBINASCA.

PASSO DI TRUBINASCA.



SUMMIT OF CIMA SANT' ANNA.
(Drawn by Count Lurani.)

W. PEAK.

LURANI'S PEAK.

E. PEAK.



TANNER'S PEAK.



SUMMIT OF CIMA SANT' ANNA.
(Drawn by Count Lurani.)

very slightly higher point was the one reached subsequently by Herr Tanner. We left our cards some 20 metres below the foot of the highest summit, where Tanner also found them."

'I venture to reproduce the photograph and sketch most kindly sent to me by Count Lurani. Christian Klucker confirms the locality of the cards almost to the very inch.

'Under the circumstances, and considering the ludicrously small interval between the point reached and the actual summit, few can hesitate to grant *unreservedly* the honour of the first ascent to the gallant Milanese and his companions.'

Major Tanner's letter contains several inaccuracies. He says that Klucker 'gave,' originally, the first ascent to Tanner and himself, but had then changed his mind. Now, in 1908, Klucker assured me that the reasons why he and Rydzewsky on June 12, 1899, after their terrible ascent of the N. face of the peak, did not proceed beyond the W. peak, where the N. face route joins the watershed were: (1) that Rydzewsky was too tired and the Cortina porter too incompetent; (2) that he, Klucker, was convinced that Lurani⁹ had reached the summit. This opinion was subsequently still further confirmed by his having, together with Tanner, discovered in 1904 the card of Lurani just below—'3 metres to the S.W. of,' so Klucker in the quoted letter—the actual summit (W. *tooth*), after their still more dangerous ascent from the N. of June 22. In the letter referred to, dated September 25, 1925, in the possession of a mutual friend, Christian Klucker confirms the above statements. The great guide adds, with some heat, that he also had hoped the claim was long buried!

Moreover, on June 22, 1904, Tanner set out from Sassfurà, on his own admission (p. 153), to attempt the then unclimbed E. arête of the Punta di Trubinasca. Being foiled in his desires by the impossible conditions of the couloir between Punta di Trubinasca and Piz Badilet, Klucker and he, determined to accomplish something, then tried to repeat (p. 154) Rydzewsky's route up Piz Badilet; this also proving impossible owing to conditions, the party was compelled to attempt the peak by a very bad and dangerous variation of the said route. In this attempt they were successful. Tanner is so confused between the W. and E. peaks that he states in his book, p. 114, that Rydzewsky made the first ascent of the

⁹ If Lurani, in kindly contradiction of his quoted letter to me, 'gave' the first ascent to Tanner, as the latter declares in his letter to the S.A.C., it was probably because the former did not consider the 'summit' *tooth* worth quibbling about, when the honour of having found and accomplished the entire route, for the first time, to within five feet horizontally and one foot vertically of the 'summit,' naturally accrued to his party! The modesty and charm of Lurani were bywords in Alpine circles, as indeed Tanner recognizes.

W. peak in 1899—over which, p. 62, Tanner acknowledges Lurani to have passed in 1893, thus contradicting his own statement! Tanner, so it would appear, has failed to differentiate between the *W.* and *E. peaks* of the mountain and the ridiculous *W.* and *E. teeth* of the 'summit,' discovered and exploited by himself. (See Tanner's illustration, p. 116, and the reference to Lurani's ascent, p. 151.) It is highly probable that Tanner—like everyone else except Lurani and Klucker—knew nothing of Piz Badilet until his ascent. At all events, he did not deny publicly Lurani's first ascent until *after* his own.

Is it likely that a guide like Christian Klucker, explorer if not pioneer of his own native mountains, would, in 1899, have hesitated to do—alone if necessary—the extra 20–30 minutes of easy work to the summit and back, if he had thought for one instant that the said summit was still virgin?

It is quite safe to assert that not one single mountaineer, amateur or professional—except Tanner—has ever hesitated in accepting unreservedly Lurani's expedition of July 26, 1893, as the first ascent of Piz Badilet.

If Major Tanner be still sceptical let him turn to 'A.J.' 5, 206–211, to Mr. Freshfield's description of the first ascent of a peak not far from the Bregaglia, the Tinzenhorn: Two parties, Mr. Freshfield's and another, were 'bustling' on the same August day of 1866 for the honour of the first ascent. Mr. Freshfield's party, leading throughout, helping the others to avoid difficulties, duly reached the top. Sitting there for an hour or more in some anxiety about the others, they eventually desisted them crawling along the ridge towards the top. To continue in the *doyen* of mountaineers' own words: 'As they came up, I, knowing the importance attached by . . . mountaineers to such *small points*,¹⁰ indicated a boulder two feet higher than that on which I was sitting, and said, "See, Sir, there is the 'allerhöchste Spitze'; it is still unclimbed." With a sudden effort the Herr rushed on to it and grasping J—and F—by either hand, so as to form the familiar group of the oath of the Grütli, gave vent to his feelings in a sentence which, beginning with "Hoch" and "Vaterland," soon subsided into "Geben Sie mihr Schnapps." . . .

To turn still nearer home, let Major Tanner glance at the prominent tooth, point 3198 m. (*Lurani*), Punta Sertori, on the E. arête of Piz Badile, on the same ridge and near Piz Badilet. The actual top, or E. tooth, a foot or two higher than the western or point always ascended ('A.J.' 24, 686), was not climbed till July 20, 1913; but have Aldo Bonacossa and his companion ever attempted to ravish the honour of the 'first ascent' of September 17, 1900, from Gugelloni and Sertori, both long since dead, as are Rydzewsky, Lurani, alas, and now Klucker?

¹⁰ My italics.—E. L. S.

The whole story and claim are absurd. Why, in a snowy¹¹ season the W., or 'Lurani' tooth, on which there is ample space, would be *higher* most certainly than the 'summit' hardly thicker than the end of a tent-pole!

Let Major Tanner, of whom I have the kindest recollections on Sils Lake in the 'nineties, who has done much good work in the Alps, who will always possess the honour of having 'introduced' to mountaineers in general the wonderful West Wing of the Bernina, let him, with the greatest respect, I repeat, withdraw gracefully from an untenable position and rest content with his conquest of Piz Badilet¹² by its most difficult and dangerous side.

E. L. STRUTT.
'Bernina' Section of S.A.C.

OLYMPUS FROM THE WEST AND SOUTH.

THE following note of an expedition we made over Olympus last July is written to supplement the account of our former visit to the mountain in the summer of 1926 ('A.J.' 39, 86 *et seq.*). We started from Larissa by motor car in the early morning of July 13, and went over the usual very indifferent roads of northern Greece to the neighbourhood of Selos. The last bit of the journey to Kokkinoplos was accomplished with a donkey to carry the baggage, as first the road and later on the motor car gave out. Provisions were taken from Larissa, as one cannot rely on getting anything in the way of food at Kokkinoplos. We took one mule and muleteer from this village; and as we were setting out for the mountain three soldiers were compulsorily provided by the gendarmerie to accompany us. By the evening we got as far as Mikri Gourná, a grassy combe well above the tree line, and here we pitched our tent at about 8000 ft. The muleteer and soldiers were provided with felt coats and slept in the open. There was no water here, but a small patch of snow served as substitute.

On July 14 we went up Megali Gourná, and by easy slopes to the top of Skolion and then on to Skála, having fine views across to the main Virgin-Mitka-Throne of Zeus ridge. We arrived at Skála about 11 A.M. and left the soldier escort there while we climbed the length of the rock ridge. From Skála we descended to a deep depression in the ridge, from the further side of which we gained first the Tarpeian Rock and then the adjacent summit of the Virgin. Retracing our steps slightly, we descended the eastern face a short distance and

¹¹ As on the day of Lurani's ascent?

¹² I might add that the alternative name, Cima Sant' Anna, was given to the mountain by Count Lurani in honour of the Saint on whose festival the first ascent was made.

then climbed up to regain the ridge at the Cock's Comb. From here the arête led us straight to the summit of Mitka. Descending from Mitka by the long eastern gully and working round to the gap Stribadha, which lies between Mitka and the Throne of Zeus, we continued on up to the summit of the Throne of Zeus. The climbing was nowhere difficult and most of it just quick rock scrambling—it was not necessary to put on the rope at any part of the way. After descending the Throne of Zeus we skirted round the cliffs to Porta to investigate the rocks of the ridge which descends from the Throne to this gap. We found these rocks very broken and fragile and far too well provided with forbidding overhangs. We did not consider an ascent impossible, but, if made, it will be extremely difficult. We returned along the terraces and screes on the E. side of the ridge with a final oblique and easy ascent to the summit of Skala. From Skala we cut straight across to Megali Gourna, avoiding Skolion, and reached our camp about 6.30 P.M.

On July 15 we made the descent to Sparmos, a village on the S. of the mountain. From the head of Mikri Gourna we went E. as far as Dristela, all the way over grassy uplands, and from Dristela we made a rapid descent to a southward running valley. Just above the tree level we reached a most welcome fountain, and from here downwards a track led through the trees first in the gorge of the valley and later on over a shoulder to our right. Lower down we passed near but not actually by the monastery of Aghia Trias. At midday we got down to the few houses of Sparmos village—a place where it would be impossible to get provisions—and continuing on, with sundry rests in the intense heat, we reached Elassona in the evening.

To sum up the impressions of our two expeditions we have rather come to the conclusion that the most interesting and certainly the simplest approach is from Litokhoron on the E. To reach either Kokkinoplos or Sparmos from Larissa is a long business and involves a considerable motor drive, anyhow as far as Elassona. Further, the approach from Kokkinoplos or Sparmos means a long trek across rather monotonous grassy hills before one reaches the crest of the peaks, and this is avoided on the eastern side. From whichever side one comes, one night at least must be spent on the mountain, and for a camping site there is not much to choose between Bara and Mikri Gourna. At neither of these is wood available; but the Kalivia in Mavrolongos, where we camped in 1926 coming from Litokhoron, is among the trees and so has plenty of wood to burn. At none of the three places is there any water, but snow lies in patches near all three. Although we have not tried it, we think the small chapel on St. Elias might prove a very convenient sleeping place, as it is so near to the Mitka crest; but both wood and water would have to be carried there.

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