

# Journals 1972

Charles Kemp

*La Montagne et Alpinisme* maintains its high traditions. The October 1971 number contains Yannick Seigneur's account of 2 ascents of the N face of the Eiger within 6 days and is worth reading for this alone. Bernard Amy's account of 'Solitude Andine' and Odette Bernezat on the Hoggar add to the excellence of this number. December 1971 contains an exciting account of the Makalu Pilier Ouest feat of Paragot, Mellet and Seigneur. February 1972 includes Andrzej Mröz on the Grand Pilier d'Angle on Mont Blanc in winter; also very informative articles on the Chablais districts of the Lake of Geneva, both on climbing and ski-ing. All this year's numbers contain articles of high interest.

*Les Alpes*, the journal of the CAS, appears as 4 quarterly reviews, supplemented by monthly bulletins. The latter carry all the domestic club news, but still need to be researched by the enthusiast for new route information, equipment details, and so on. The real literary output of the Club, however, appears in the quarterly reviews, which range the world for their subject-matter. Most major expeditions are noted or described, but there is no neglect either of the broader aspects of mountain lore—scientific, historical, philosophical etc. The famous 'Chronique himalayenne' is brought up to date by G. O. Dyhrenfurth, who also contributes a list of the world's unclimbed mountains above 7000 m. There are many other items of considerable interest, too numerous to detail, distributed through the issues; keeping up to date with mountaineering literature is indeed a formidable problem these days.

The *New Zealand Alpine Journal 1971* is both lively and interesting. It contains accounts of several overseas expeditions in the Peruvian Andes and in remote Tierra del Fuego. There are also many interesting accounts of domestic climbs, some poetry, which appears inescapable in mountaineering journals, and some very informative pages on the early exploration of the Northern Olivine Range and on the medical effects of altitude. Also lively is *The Canterbury Mountaineer 1970-1*. This includes an article by Granson entitled 'Eighty and still climbing'. Mr Edgar Williams at 60 years of age is credited with 6 first ascents!

The *Canadian Alpine Journal* is a splendid magazine with many beautiful photographs. The 1972 number naturally deals largely with Canadian mountaineering but is by no means confined to its own territory.

The Mountain Club of Kenya's *Bulletin* of November 1971 is also a virile publication and shows how such journals can be interesting and informative without being pretentious or prohibitively expensive.

The Mountain Club of Rhodesia is just 16 years old and is to be congratulated on its 1972 *Journal* which runs to 100 pages, is well produced and has interesting and sometimes amusing articles. The first chapter on the adventures of

Rhodesians in the Himalaya with the first ascent of Buddha Peak (6000 m or so) in Long Tong valley in Nepal and how Pat Sweet and Tom Choate sat out 6 days in a blizzard, are described with fun. The perils of skin cancer, ticks and bees in Rhodesian mountaineering, some trips to Ecuador and the Chimanimani are covered in very readable articles.

*Ascent*, June 1972 is the journal of the Sierra Club of California. If it has sins it also has a multitude of virtues. On p 55 it describes itself as 'a kind of infant prodigy'. Good luck to it. It starts with John Cleare on sea cliffs in the UK, and in no way can be accused of being parochial. It contains a number of informative descriptions of climbing in Yosemite, the High Sierra and Zion National Park, among other articles. The language is not always easy to interpret unless you are well versed in the idiom.

*Mountain*—Numbers 19–24. This lively, and well-informed magazine continues to be good value bi-monthly at 25p. The January issue records Yorkshire climbing and the second ascent (Campbell-Kelly and Wyvill) of the N face of Trollryggen, Romsdal, Norway, without 'siege' tactics in 1971. March deals with the Avon Gorge, Don Whillans and the November 1971 Cairngorm tragedy. May has Bonington on the 'Ethics of Mountaineering', the climbing areas in the NE of the USA and 'What happened to Mallory and Irvine'. July has Everest 1972 and all major Himalayan ascents from 1969. Douglas Scott contributes an article on Baffin Island. Allan Heppenstall interviews Riccardo Cassin and Paddy Buckley describes 'the last great wilderness' beyond Loch Maree. September is largely devoted to Cerro Torre in Patagonia and the 1972 Everest expedition. November includes Graham Land and Australia as well as British climbing.

*Mountain Life*, the new magazine of the British Mountaineering Council also appears bi-monthly at 25p. Without being too heavy handed it clearly aims to describe developments in equipment and techniques and to give instructional articles. All this is to the good. The first number included a wide variety of articles and Ian Howell's account of recent adventures in East Africa. The August number includes Alan Blackshaw's 'Ski Traverse of the Gods' from Austrian Kaprun to French Gap, perhaps 600 miles. October includes Don Whillans on Everest 1972.

*The Scottish Mountaineering Club Journal* maintains, under its new Editor, its consistently high standards.

*The Climbers' Club Journal* 1970–1 strikes in its own editorial a pessimistic note. It need not, although 240 pages may be a little ambitious. There is much of interest, including an article on Borneo and one from Peter Steele on medicine on Mount Everest. Greenland also is dealt with, and apart from some printing miscalculations this is as good a journal as most.

*The Geographical Journal*, 1971, has a very full description of the British expedition to the Air Mountains, Niger.

*The Cairngorm Club Journal 1971* contains a number of interesting accounts of overseas trips which will be of interest mainly to non-tigers and all the better for that. It contains a very useful article on the potentialities of rock climbing on the NE coast of Scotland.

*The MAM Journal 1971-2* is the fiftieth anniversary number. Best wishes! It also ranges far and wide from accounts of the Grosshorn, Kashmir, Kenya, the USA, our own Highlands, our Pennine Way, South Africa, Transvaal, the Dibona and Nevis. Something for everybody here and Midlands may indeed be an apt part of the Club's name.

Like the *MAM Journal*, the *Rucksack Club Journal* covers a good deal of the mountaineering world, namely the Grosshorn again, Sutherland, an attempt on Nampa in Nepal, the Karakoram, Iceland, Greenland, New Zealand, our own lakes and ski-touring in w Canada. It makes good reading.

*Oxford Mountaineering 1972* has an unfamiliar new-look—a typewritten text on an A4 size page with orange and black cover. This is all enforced by the steeply rising costs of printing. Mountaineering seems to give rise to a tremendous range of literature and it is good to see how organisations work to the limits of their budgets to produce literary entertainment for their members. In all of them there is some that is bad, much that is good. A great deal of dedicated work is involved, so who would be a carping critic? Let us go on hearing from Oxford, and from all the others who have a tale to tell.

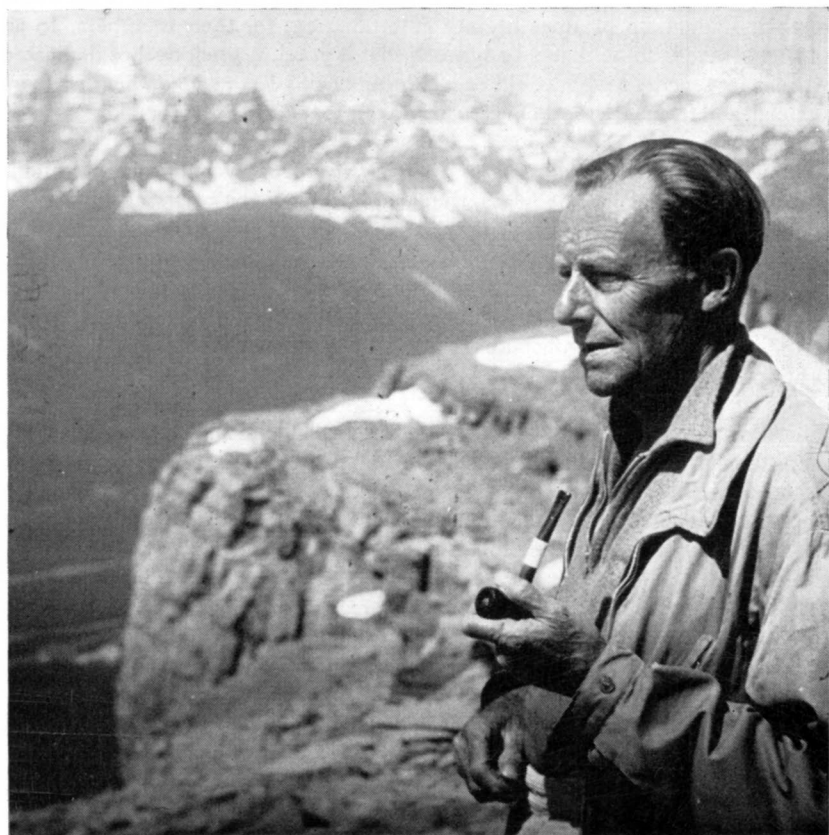
*The Journal of the Mountain Club of South Africa* reveals yet another mountaineering world, of which the peaks, the techniques and the personalities may be different, but the underlying principles can be clearly seen to be the same. One would be pleased to go there and join in, knowing that it would have all the appeal of more familiar scenes nearer home. As befits the journal of a major national club, this volume is well produced and beautifully illustrated. Much of the material is local, but there are articles too on South Africans climbing in other parts of the world.

There is a fine selection of journal literature available to the German-speaking mountaineering world. The *Österreichische Alpenzeitung*, the journal of the Österreichischer Alpenklub, while retaining an austere external appearance unchanged for many years, contains a wealth of information from the expert heart of Austrian mountaineering. This, more than any other, is the historian's source book. The number for September/October, 1972 is outstanding with a 1:25,000 map of the Koh-e-Keshnikhan area of the Hindu Kush and a table by G. O. Dyhrenfurth of the unclimbed 7000-m peaks of Asia. *Alpinismus* and *Der Bergsteiger* serve the German-speaking nations much as do *Mountain*, *The Climber* and (hopefully) *Rocksport* in this country. Both appear monthly in Munich, the first edited by Tony Hiebeler from Heering Verlag, the second from Bruckmann, but under the banner of the Österreichischer Alpenverein. Each is a mine of information for the mountaineer, though *Alpinismus* also devotes space to ski-ing and to the tougher aspects of canoeing. Subscription to either, or both, is essential for a really close understanding of the European

scene. Also from the Alpenverein comes a bi-monthly bulletin of more local interest and also the Alpenverein's *Jahrbuch*. The latter is a beautifully produced book of some 200 pages with some colour pictures, which includes descriptions of expeditions and climbs in all parts of the world. Each year a 1:25,000 map of some area of the eastern Alps is enclosed in an end pocket. The Deutscher Alpenverein also issues a bi-monthly bulletin from Munich.

It is impossible to do justice to all the journals, magazines and other publications received. They are, if not specifically referred to above, acknowledged with grateful thanks.

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107 Basil Goodfellow