Editor's Notes

Acknowledgements
My assistants deserve much more of my gratitude than I know rightly how to say. Phil Bartlett and Geoffrey Templeman did much more than is immediately obvious to fill these pages with articles and information, spending many hours writing letters, telephoning and editing to do so. Behind the scenes, Robin Robinson and Ernst Sondheimer have done all the proof-reading and each will have read every word of this Journal more than a dozen times by the time it reaches the presses. Robin also compiled the Index. Frank Solari did all the work of converting colour slides into black and white prints (quite a bit more, too, than finally got used). It is entirely due to their help and to the understanding of all our families that I have not created a new Club Record — that of the shortest ever period of service as Editor.

The regular contributors deserve considerable gratitude also. Year after year the editor assumes that their articles will appear just like they always do. Year after year they research, write and revise so thoroughly, and deliver their copy so promptly, that there is little left for the editor to do. Finally, my thanks are due to all the other contributors some of whom, inevitably, will be disappointed that their work could not be included.

None of this work receives any payment and all of it has to be done in the spare time, evenings, weekends and holidays when the rest of us are out climbing. To all of these people I and the Club owe a very deep debt of gratitude.

John Fairley

Alpine Climbing Group
The Alpine Climbing Group has undergone something of a reorganisation which it is hoped will lead to a major recruiting drive and new members. At the A.G.M. in January, Dave Wilkinson was appointed as the new Secretary and Jon Tinker as membership Secretary. Dave Wilkinson, to whom correspondence should be addressed in the first instance, is at 69 Booth's Farm Road, Great Barr, Birmingham B42 2NR.

Phil Bartlett

Alpine Club Library
In 1981 *(AJ86 243)* I was able to report that the first volume of the new Catalogue of the Alpine Club Library was nearing publication after ten years' work. We were able to celebrate publication with a Library Exhibition in December 1981 *(AJ87 235* and *AJ88 111)*, since when sales of the Catalogue, worldwide, are nearing the 200 mark. The Catalogue has been very favourably reviewed, notably by the American Alpine Club and the Royal Geographical Society, and further publicity is being undertaken by the publisher. Members are reminded that they may obtain the Catalogue at the reduced price of £40 on application to the Hon. Librarian.

The task goes on — there is much more material in the Library yet to be catalogued and so made accessible, including some 700 volumes of Tracts collected by the Club over many years, each containing up to 30 individual items, which will keep our Librarian, Mrs Johnson, at full stretch for a long time ahead. We are pleased to note the continuing rise in the use of the Library by members and non-members although it makes further demands on our Librarian, and we are looking into the possibility of using modern techniques to expedite the cataloguing task. Employment of additional Library staff may become necessary but will only be possible when the Library's funds can meet the additional costs. (Members are reminded that the Library is a registered Charity so that Covenanted donations may be made with tax benefits to both the Library and donors.)

Our Hon. Librarian has catalogued the Club's collection of maps and he has begun cataloguing the collection of photographs, some of which date back more than a century — he has already catalogued 1000 of the 7000 items in the collection. Apart from their intrinsic interest, many of the photographs now being identified will have considerable potential for reproduction fees from books, newspapers, television, etc., that is at present unrealised.

Rebinding of older books continues, sometimes at quite high cost justified by the rarity and high value of the books concerned, under the supervision of Library Council member Louis Baume whose expertise is so valuable. We have been fortunate in securing the services of a volunteer team from the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies to clean and treat the leather bindings of many other books which have deteriorated over the years.

Funds for rebinding and for the purchase of books to fill gaps in our collection have come from the sale of surplus books — we are finding a ready market at home and overseas for such books as are not taken up by members. Handsome gifts of books and maps have been made by many members and relatives of deceased members — these are fully reported in Club circulars. These much enrich our shelves and members who own books they no longer require are urged to present them to the Library.

Douglas Busk, Chairman

Insurance

It is important to note that, in general, an Insurance Policy will only cover the 'rescue cost' of a helicopter if one is in fact rescued. If such a flight is summoned by, for example, worried friends in the valley and the helicopter is subsequently refused by the party on the mountain, then an Insurance Company may not be obliged to cover any expense incurred.

Errata

The following errors of fact occurred in Volume 88:

p54; AJ 56 pp 306-320 should read AJ 46 pp 306-320

p178; 'the Polish Winter Ascent of Everest . . . is unrecognised by Nepal'. This is not the case. An account of this climb appears elsewhere in this issue.

Illustration 21 caption should read 'Craig yr Aderyn in the foreground'

Illustration 33 was inadvertently reversed left to right.

Illustration 15's caption must stand for all the spelling mistakes and other bugs which crept in!

I am indebted to Mr D. F. O. Dangar for the following corrections to the list of Honorary Members. The list showed the country of residence when it would have made more sense to show nationality.

Honorary Members of the Alpine Club

1861	For Studerm	read Studer
1865	For Loppe	read Loppé
1878	For Adolph	read Adolphe
1888	Tyndall was 'Professor'.	
1903	For Fritjof	read Fridtjof
1913	For Goodwin	read Godwin
1921	For Boba	read Bobba
1922	For Mattrier	read Mettrier. Mettrier was a Frenchman. See AJ 57/224
1926	Paravicini was a Swiss; if my memory is correct he was Swiss Minister in London.	
1933	Smuts, though generally known as 'General' was in fact Field Marshal.	
1934	I don't think Kugy would have been best pleased with 'Italy', wherever he may have lived! See his obit 54/293 and also 70/86.	
1937	For Mundy	read Munday.
1938	For Spenser	read Spencer
1940	Charles Gos was a Swiss	
1949	Bois de Chesne; for a note on his nationality see 59/332	
1956	For Segogne	read Ségogne
1963	For Zurcher	read Zürcher
1970	For Andre	read André
1979	For Roche	read Roch

Letters to the Editor

From Prof. Roland Rodda

Sir, in my paper 'Mountains and climbs in Tasmania' *(Alpine Journal, 86,* 1981, 17-27) I indicated the surveyor James Sprent had made the first ascent of Frenchmans Cap (1443m) in 1832, my authority being 'A climbers guide to Frenchmans Cap' published by the Climbers Club of Tasmania in 1979 and edited by P. Robinson. In the *Tasmanian Mail* of 2 Aug 83, R. J. Twin of Hobart refers to a letter held in the Archives of the State Library of Tasmania and written on 20 Jan 1853 by Sprent to the Deputy Surveyor General of the then Lands and Surveys Department. The letter describing his expedition to Frenchmans Cap between 8 and 16 January 1853 states that he did not himself complete the ascent as he found his 'head not fit for such a dangerous service' but that his men by 'great labour and coolness' were able to place 'an object on the top'. The actual day on which the climb was made is not given.

I am indebted to Mr Twin for this information and I should be most grateful if you would please be good enough to allow me to correct my error. Thank you very much indeed.

Yours faithfully,

Roland Rodda

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Tasmania.

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