
Alpine Club Notes

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE FOR 1990

PRESIDENT	Lt Col H R A Streater OBE
VICE PRESIDENTS	P J Nunn The Rt Hon the Earl of Limerick
HONORARY SECRETARY	Dr M J Esten
HONORARY TREASURER.....	R A Coatsworth
COMMITTEE: ELECTIVE MEMBERS.....	Miss M Agrawal M E B Banks C M Gravina P N Herold G D Hughes H R Lloyd Mrs J Merz R Payne S M W Venables
ACG CO-OPTED MEMBERS	M A Fowler R A Ruddle R Lawford E H J Smyth FRCS Miss M Darvall V S Risoe MBE
HONORARY LIBRARIAN.....	
HONORARY ARCHIVIST.....	
ASSISTANT ARCHIVISTS	
HONORARY KEEPER OF THE CLUB'S PICTURES.....	D J Lovatt
HONORARY EDITOR OF THE CLUB'S JOURNAL.....	Professor E H Sondheimer
ASSISTANT EDITORS.....	Mrs J Merz A V Saunders G W Templeman G L Swindin G W Templeman M H Westmacott
HONORARY GUIDEBOOKS EDITOR	
CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ...	
CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBRARY COUNCIL	
ASSISTANT HONORARY SECRETARIES	
ANNUAL WINTER DINNER.....	Mrs J Merz
CANDIDATES	A N Husbands
LECTURES	S M W Venables
MEETS.....	M Pinney

TRUSTEES.....	M Bennett A Blackshaw J G R Harding
HONORARY SOLICITOR.....	S N Beare
AUDITORS.....	A M Dowler Russell Ohly & Co

GENERAL MEETINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB 1989

10 January	Kurt Diemberger, <i>K2 from both sides</i>
14 February	Alan Hinks, <i>The Biggest Walls</i>
14 March	Jon Tinker, <i>K2 in Winter</i> , and <i>With the Mujahedin in Afghanistan</i>
11 April	Cecilia Nevill, <i>Across Tibet and Sinkiang by Bicycle</i>
9 May	Jim Curran, <i>A Slimmer's Guide to the Himalaya and other places</i>
12 September	Mike Banks, <i>Jaonli 1989</i>
10 October	John Harding, <i>The Pyrenees from Atlantic to Mediterranean</i>
14 November	Rob Collister, <i>Over the Hills and Far Away</i>
28 November	Guilia Zanoni, <i>The Italian Side of Mont Blanc</i> (extra meeting)
4 December	Annual General Meeting: <i>Valedictory Address by the President</i>

CLIMBING MEETINGS 1989

11-12 February	ACG Winter Meet, Glencoe
11-12 March	North Wales. Informal dinner with lecture by Dave Walsh, <i>Cho Oyu</i>
22 July-12 August	Courmayeur. Joint Meet with Climbers' Club and ABMSAC
24 July-6 August	Cornwall. CC hut, Bosigran. Family meet held jointly with Climbers' Club
30 September-1 October	Lake District. Informal dinner with lecture by Walt Unsworth, <i>Lost Cities</i>

ALPINE CLUB SYMPOSIUM 1989: THE INDIAN HIMALAYA

This expedition symposium, again organized by the Club at Plas y Brenin, was held on 25 November 1989. 160 people attended, accommodated in the excellent new lecture hall at the National Mountaineering Centre.

The President, George Band, opened the meeting. Charles Clarke gave a brief overview of the geography and history of climbing in the principal ascents in (British) imperial times before 1947, and later discussed the problems of access and the role of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation.

The speakers took us on a fascinating series of mountain journeys and ascents, indicating the variety of the terrain and the scope for future climbs in all the areas covered. Meena Agrawal described the Indian expedition to Kamet, portraying in colour the views many of us have seen only in monochrome in Frank Smythe's *Kamet Conquered*. Rob Collister guided the audience on a characteristic lightweight journey through Zaskar – ending alone with one mule after a happy and successful series of climbs. Stephen Venables, fresh from Cenotaph Corner that morning and off to Antarctica the next week, talked about Kishtwar and the ascent of Kishtwar Shivling. Alan Hinkes described his climbs in Kulu, including the S face of White Sail. Steven Berry, a director of Himalayan Kingdoms, spoke on his travels in Bhutan, with entrancing slides of the mountains of Lunana. Though His Majesty the King has, apparently, closed the nation to climbing, there is every reason to believe this will not last for ever. Doug Scott, whose first visits to the Greater Ranges were over 20 years ago, described joint expeditions with Indian climbers, including the first ascent of Changabang and a recent expedition to Rimo in the Indian Karakoram.

The meeting, masterminded by Sheila Harrison, our Assistant Secretary, drew together a wealth of information and climbers young and old. With Britain's peculiar historical connection with India, our common language, the Alpine Club's Himalayan Index, the continued support of the Mount Everest Foundation and the British Mountaineering Council – not to mention the co-operation of the Indian Mountaineering Foundation – British climbers are ideally placed to visit India, and we can expect to see many more fine climbs in the future.

Our thanks to Plas y Brenin for having us once again, to the speakers, to Victor Saunders for planning and to John Cleare for the loan of slides.

Charles Clarke

THE CLUB ARCHIVES AND THE MOVE TO EATON SQUARE

The move from South Audley Street – itself a fragment of history – has presented the Club with a rare opportunity to unearth, sort out and to some extent weed out its collection of archives. Everything has had to be exhumed from the dusty basement room which has housed them for the past half-century, including a sizeable amount of unsorted material whose existence had long been unsuspected or forgotten. All the 'no-go' cupboards and shelves are empty, but the space available at Eaton Square cannot accommodate all their contents.

We have therefore divided the archives into what must be stored away until we reach a permanent home and what we can take with us. The latter material has been selected under three particular headings: (i) items of special interest or value known from past experience to demand frequent enquiry and

reference (these will include our collection of original Führerbücher, diaries and letters of famous past mountaineers, material relating to Mount Everest and presidential papers); (ii) unsorted documents which can be worked upon and indexed during the interim period; and (iii) certain Club records, including the Committee minute-books for the last 10 years. (The latter are confidential documents which may only be consulted by express permission of the Honorary Secretary acting on behalf of the Committee.)

Turning now to the content of the collection, it is to be noted that the archives remain catalogued according to the system devised by our former archivist, N R Rice, as explained and set down in his article in *AJ* 78, 71–77, 1973. But although Rice's index has continued to be the main means of identification and reference, the collection itself has become greatly enlarged over the ensuing years. The broad working principle, introduced by Rice and adhered to ever since, has been to retain groupings of material as separate entities under appropriate headings – either because of derivation from a common source, as for instance presidential papers, or because of belonging to a clearly defined category such as diaries or Führerbücher. The collections of correspondence belonging to eminent climbers may be said to be covered by both these criteria.

Additions are constantly coming in. Not only is some account of the Club's day-to-day activities and transactions necessary to augment the record, but items relating to earlier times continue to arrive from the bequests or families of deceased members, as well as from other sources. Fortunately, not all the material received is of sufficient relevance or importance to be worth keeping, so that some weeding can be undertaken – a difficult but essential task if our collections are not to become unmanageable.

Amongst documents recently sorted and indexed may be mentioned the presidential papers of Lord Tangle, a meticulously kept record of his terms of office, first as Honorary Secretary and later as President. Correspondence covering the presidencies of Lord Schuster, Colonel Strutt and Captain Farrar, also indexed during the past two years, forms a useful record of their times, though one that is far from complete. We have also received the papers of Emlyn Jones and Peter Lloyd, both of them Past-Presidents in eventful times, and the task of sorting these will be one of the first on the list at our new quarters. Other acquisitions include a collection of papers from Lord Hunt which has been sorted and catalogued by V S Risoe, and some correspondence from our late members Noel Odell and Dorothy Pilley/Richards. Lastly, but most important amongst recent work, the whole collection of documents – correspondence, diaries, qualification papers, minute-books – belonging to the Ladies' Alpine Club has been sorted and put into order by Margaret Darvall during the past year. Included amongst these is a beautifully written, annotated and illustrated diary of a former member, Elaine Huth, who climbed during the early part of the century, which may well merit early publications.

The different ways in which the Club's Officers, particularly its Presidents and Honorary Secretaries, keep their correspondence provide an interesting study for the archivist. 'No names, no pack-drill,' but may I respectfully remind present and future holders of these offices that almost every

letter they receive or write on the Club's behalf becomes part of its history. Initialled, carbon copies of their replies to letters are especially useful in reconstructing an incident or chapter of events, but are all too seldom available.

At Eaton Square some of our main goals will be to try to arrange the archival material, as far as space permits, in a form more easily accessible for reference purposes, to index as many unsorted papers as time allows and to improve the existing card index – at present scrappy and incomplete – of named mountaineers of former days. I hope that at some stage it may become possible to compile for issue to members an abridged index of the whole collection of our Archives. But, with present resources, that is some way in the future.

Edward Smyth

THE ALPINE CLUB LIBRARY

Moving house is a tedious, time-consuming, costly and worrying operation, but it has at least the advantage of concentrating the mind. We have long been aware that some of our possessions have little if anything to do with mountains, mountaineering or mountaineers. Now most of the irrelevant material has been disposed of, and in the process we have learned something about the more useful parts of the collection.

At time of writing (December 1989), arrangements for moving a 'working library' to the Club's temporary home at 118 Eaton Square are well in hand. Its contents have been segregated, and three months' experience confirms that it comprises the most frequently consulted journals and books (as well as maps and expedition reports). Some 75 per cent of the collection will have to go into storage until new permanent premises are available. It will be possible to get at the stored volumes, but inconvenient and expensive, so some historical research may be frustrated. There will, however, be a proportion of the archives (letters, diaries etc) readily available, as well as many volumes of miscellaneous printed matter which are in process of being catalogued. The aim is 'business as usual' as far as possible, for both Club members and the general public.

Preparations for the move, in addition to day-to-day tasks, have put heavy pressure on all concerned, but particularly on Bob Lawford, Peter Ledeboer and Jon Mellor. We are most grateful to them for shouldering the burden. Thanks also to a number of other members who have been most helpful, as well as to those who continue to support the Library financially or with gifts of books.

Michael Westmacott

THE GRAHAM BROWN CORRESPONDENCE

Professor T Graham Brown, who bequeathed his climbing books and papers to the National Library of Scotland, had conducted a large correspondence with fellow-climbers. So among the folders of letters in the Library in Edinburgh there is much to interest the Alpine historian. Any future historian of the Alpine

Club would strike a rich seam: in the collections of the 1930s, for example (when Graham Brown was on the AC Committee) there are many letters from T G Longstaff, John Waller, C F Meade, C G Crawford, E L Strutt and others, referring to the Mount Everest expeditions of 1933 and 1936; and later ones contain correspondence about the *Alpine Journal* which Graham Brown edited from 1949 to 1953.

Janet Adam Smith

ERRATA

The following errors in *AJ94* have been noted:

Reverse of title page, last line: for 0-09-173659-5 read 0-09-173770-2.

pix, line 1: for '150 and 151' read '214 and 215'. (Note: Colour Plates 56-68 are between Plates 95 and 96.)

p40, line 22: Chapman fought in Malaya, not Burma.

p93, Reference 8: the title of Fleming's book is *News from Tartary*.

p208, line 15: for 'Zemul glacier' read 'Zemu glacier'.

p292, line 8: for 'Kopiada' read 'Kapadia'.

Plates 56 and 57 (opposite p214): the captions should be interchanged.

Plate 94 (px and opposite p199): for '1862' read '1868'.

Plate 96 (opposite p262): the picture should be turned through 90°, with the left-hand side at the bottom.

EDITOR'S NOTES AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In January 1990 the Alpine Club moved from 74 South Audley Street, which had been its home since 1937, and the future role and policy of the Club are under active discussion. The issues are fully described in the Past President's Valedictory Address, reprinted at the beginning of this volume. The recommendations of the Club's Study Group include an invitation to the Editor of the *Alpine Journal* to consider commissioning articles grouped round the great issues of the day. The Editor is fully convinced that the journal should make its contribution to the debate on the many problems facing the world of mountains and mountaineering today, and articles on current issues and controversies are hereby invited (some, indeed, appear in this volume). The only caveat arises from pressure on available space in the journal: gratifyingly, we continue to receive more good contributions than can be accommodated, and there are fairly strict limits on the space which can be allocated to any one topic without unduly narrowing the wide range of the journal.

Many people, too many to be listed individually, have again given help, with practical assistance, advice and moral support. I thank them all - without the helpers the job would not be possible. I express particular thanks on this occasion to the Assistant Editors: Victor Saunders, who manages to combine his work for the journal with an incredible number of other activities, including an epic climb on Kangchuntse as recounted elsewhere in this volume; Geof

Templeman, continuing with quiet competence, as he has done for many years, to look after the book reviews and obituaries; and Johanna Merz who, with exemplary energy and efficiency, has added to her editorial responsibilities the major task of organizing the illustrations for the journal. Grateful thanks also go to Frank Solari for photographic help, to Ingeborga Doubrawa-Cochlin for her translation work and her moving tribute to Jerzy Kukuczka, and to Paul Sidey and the staff of Century Hutchinson for producing such a handsome volume last year.

Above all, thanks are due to the journal's authors. George Band, in the Valedictory Address, said that the Alpine Club lives or dies by its members. Similarly, the *Alpine Journal* lives or dies by its contributors. I am grateful to them all for the enthusiasm put into their writing as well as their climbing, and for the patience and good humour with which they – well, most of the time – endure their Editor's quibbling, nagging and cajoling.

Ernst Sondheimer