
JÓZEF NYKA

China and Tibet 1992

Everest – Kangshung face One of the most significant ascents in the spring season was the Chilean repeat of the 1988 US–Canadian–British route. The seven-member team, led by Rodrigo Jordán, used Sherpas up to 6450m (Camp 1) and supplementary oxygen for the summit attempt. From Camp 3 on the South Col Cristián García Huidobro, Jordán and Juan S Montes reached the summit on 15 May. The expedition then removed 90% of their fixed rope and all camps and rubbish during the descent.

This fine achievement brings new prestige to Chilean mountaineering and their attention to the environment they left behind should equally be praised.

Shisha Pangma Central (8008m) Four members from the Japanese Alpine Club Fukuoka Chapter climbed this summit on 6 May. Two, Toyobumi Miyazaki and Etsuroh Hino, did not use supplementary oxygen.

Namcha Barwa (7782m) A joint Sino-Japanese expedition made the first ascent of this peak – the world's highest unclimbed separate mountain. Since the area opened 10 years ago all eyes have been on it, with Chinese teams attempting it without success. In 1990 and 1991 joint Sino-Japanese expeditions found a reasonable approach from the NW and an ascent line from the S. In November 1991 they crossed the shoulder of Naipun (7043m) and reached a point some 300m short of the top. The 1992 expedition was co-led by Sangju (China) and Tsuneo Shigehiro (Japan) and established six camps, the last at 67000m. Despite being hampered by unstable weather and heavy snowfall, 11 of the 12 members reached the summit on 30 October, in two parties.

Although the main summit is now climbed, there are two unclimbed 7000ers and several unclimbed high 6000ers in the massif.

Menlungtse (7181m) – SE face The Slovene pair Marko Prezelj and Andrej Stremfelj, recipients of the 1991 Piolet d'Or, made two attempts in October. The first failed at 6400m because of bad weather, but the second, on 22–24 October, was successful. They climbed the face alpine style, with a bivvy at 6150m, to reach the Great Plateau at 3.30pm on 23 October and the virgin, main (eastern) summit three hours later. They described their 2000m ice route as very interesting, but dangerous in the lower part because of rock and ice fall (UIAA V). Menlungtse West (7023m) was climbed by Alan Hinkes and the late Andy Fanshawe on Bonington's 1988 expedition.

Before their ascent Prezelj and Stremfelj acclimatised on the neighbouring unnamed and unscaled Pt 6301m, which they climbed on 11–13 October (UIAA IV 45°–50° 700m 5 hours).

Broad Peak Central (8016m) The first ascent of this peak from the Chinese side is included in the Pakistan area notes.