

Japanese and American Tony Tonsing). German, 20-strong commercial expedition led by Hans Eitel (who left soon) and guide Peter Kowalzik: summit reached on August 16 by Peter Kowalzik, Wolfgang Angermeier and Marla Putz, Germans, and Heinz Wohlwent from Leichtenstein. Gasherbrum I (Hidden Peak). Detail missing from page 251: The Swiss expedition led by Norbert Joos included 12 members who proceeded up the northwest face, to the left of Messner's line. The summit was reached on June 7 by Norbert Joos, Hans Bomann and Martin Stoller, all Swiss (they were the only summitters of Gasherbrum I in 1993). The Germans led by Peter Geyer gave up at the Gasherbrum La (6670 meters). The Spanish Basques were led by Pedro Angulo. Broad Peak (page 251): Regarding the group led by Fausto De Stefaní, the summit was reached on July 6 by Italians Christian Kuntner and Marco Bianchi. And on July 7, by Alberi Brugger, Fausto De Stefaní and Serio De Leo, Italians, and Tabyas Heymann who is German. Nanga Parbat: One expedition report is missing from pages 262-265. An eight-member South Korean expedition led by Choi Hyung-Duk suffered the loss of one of their climbers, Ahn Chun-Moon, who died on July 7. He had reached 8050 meters by the Kinshofer route when he turned back, never to be seen again. This was witnessed by the two Basque climbers who summitted the same day.

XAVIER EGUSKITZA, *Pyrenaica, Bilboa, Spain*

CHINA, Tien Shan

P 5445 Attempt and Ascents of Jianshier Feng, P 4348, P 4203 and P 4300. An Anglo-Irish party of five, Mike Banks, Joss Lynam (joint leaders), Phil Gribbon, Paddy O'Leary, and Barrie Page, aged between 60 and 72, climbed the Bogda Feng group of Tian Shan, east of Urumqi in Xinjiang during August. They attempted the highest summit (5445 meters) but were stopped by steep slopes of bare ice. (A Japanese team from Tocigi Alpine Association climbed the peak with the aid of 1600 meters of fixed rope.) Four smaller peaks were climbed: Jianshier Feng (4304 meters), unnamed (4348 meters) (called by us Eric's Peak — for Shipton), unnamed (4203 meters) (called by us Snow Dome), and unnamed (approximately 4300 meters) (called by us Isolde Feng). (The first two heights are taken from *CMA Guide to Mountaineering in China*, the third from the Japanese map in the *AJ* 1983, the fourth by aneroid.) We think maybe 4348 and 4300 had not been climbed before. Records in Europe are very scarce, but there has been a lot of Japanese and Korean activity, though mainly directed at 5445. We also walked up several 4000-meter hills. There still seem to be plenty of

interesting peaks to climb, and the Xinjiang Mountaineering Association is very helpful.

JOSS LYNAM, *Alpine Climbing Group*

K2, North Ridge Attempt. On June 11, Heinz Wohlweind, Hans Stegmeier, Reinhard Vlasich, Elisabeth Vlasich, Peter Kowalzik (leader) and I met in Beijing to climb the north ridge of K2 (*on an IMC commercial expedition from Germany — Ed.*). On June 14, after traveling by jet and jeep across China, we began the seven-day trek to K2 basecamp on the North K2 Glacier. We established ABC at 5000 meters on June 25. After four weeks of beautiful, albeit very hot, weather, we were ready to start summit attempts on July 25. A major storm hit the Karakoram. Wohlweind and Kowalzik were at Camp III, Stegmeier and myself were at Camp I (5000 meters). Both parties waited one day for the weather to improve, but conditions only worsened. Growing avalanche danger forced us down. Kowalzik and Wohlweind descended from Camp III (8000 meters) to Base Camp in near whiteout conditions in one day. After five days, the weather improved. Kowalzik, R. Vlasich and I made one more summit attempt and on August 5 we reached Camp IV at 7900 meters. By early the next morning, another major storm hit the Karakoram, and again we were forced to descend. Just below Camp IV, an old fixed line I was rappelling off of broke while I was descending a steep rock face. I fell about 30 feet and landed in a tangle of ropes. Fortunately, Peter was behind me and saw me fall. He and Reinhard stayed with me for two hours while I slowly regained full consciousness. I was able to descend on my own power to ABC. I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to Peter and Reinhard. I most certainly would have perished without their vigilance. The return trek went safely and without incident.

JAY SIEGER, *unaffiliated*

Siguniang Shan, Sichuan. In September 1994 I was based out of Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan. From here I made two exploratory trips into the exceptional mountains of Kham, on the eastern edge of the Tibetan Plateau. First I visited the Songpan region and the National Park at Jiuzhaigou. There are a few mountains of interest to climbers in the area, notably Xuebaoding, east of Songpan. I made an ascent of a peak north of this area, known locally as Wosikaxiong (4000+ meters). It was a moderate rock scramble from the west. Later, I went to the Qionglai mountains northwest of Chengdu. This area, on the edge of the Wolong Nature Preserve, is quite accessible and very scenic. Here is Celestial Peak, a fine rock pyramid

first climbed by an American team several years ago. Celestial Peak, however, is overshadowed by the highest peak of Siguniang, certainly one of the most beautiful 6000-meter peaks in the world. I spent over two weeks in this region, exploring and climbing by myself. Based out of the nearby village of Rilong, I made several trips up the Changping Valley. On my first outing I hiked past Celestial Peak and Siguniang Shan, establishing a basecamp at the head of the valley below three fine peaks. I made an advanced camp at 15,000 feet. Next day I climbed a moraine ridge to a glacier descending from two of the peaks. I climbed up snow and ice to the saddle separating the two peaks, then easily bagged each summit (heights about 17,500 feet). Later, during a period of unsettled weather, I made a camp below the west face of Celestial Peak. I had seen another fine peak to the west from the other summits, but now the weather limited my options. Nevertheless, I made an ascent of a peak just west of Celestial, via a rock ridge which turned to snow and ice. The summit appeared to be slightly higher than that of Celestial Peak (given 5413 meters). I set my sights on Siguniang but the weather thwarted my plans several times. Finally I approached the south face from the Changping Valley, a rather difficult thrash. I made a bivy at the base of the south face at 15,000 feet. Next day I climbed the right side of the face up steep snow and ice gullies, reaching the east ridge at approximately 17,900 feet. I continued up the east ridge and face on snow and ice, arriving at the top in deteriorating weather late in the day. The descent was epic — I was forced to make an unplanned bivy on the ridge before completing the descent the next day (I down-climbed the route I had ascended). The route itself was classic — a moderate climb but with great character. This was the third ascent of the mountain, and by a new route.

CHARLIE FOWLER, *unaffiliated*

TIBET

Mount Everest, Ascents and Attempts During the Pre-Monsoon Season. Sixty-seven climbers summitted Everest from the Tibetan side of the mountain in the pre-monsoon (spring) season. Eleven teams, five of which were commercial expeditions accounting for 21 of the summitters, brought the grand total of Everest summitters from both sides to 608, after adjusting for climbers who have made more than one ascent. The success on the Tibet side was due to three very strong teams, plus strong individuals such as Anatoli Bukreev on other teams. All expeditions worked well together in what one leader called a "harmonious mob." Another factor was the first complete ascent of the northeast ridge by a Japanese team under the leadership of Tadeo Kanzaki and Kiyoshi Furuno (climbing leader). Aided by an unusual-

ly large number of Sherpas (23), the team fixed 4000 meters of rope on the highest section, which was readily used by later teams. Finally and most importantly, the weather was incredibly good. Cloudless skies, light winds, and mild temperatures from May 11 to 17 and again from the 23rd to the 27th meant that anyone who had the strength and determination to go to the top had done so. "Most people who summited would not have gotten to 8300 meters in normal weather conditions on the north side," said one veteran Everest leader. "There would have been dead people everywhere if there had been a sudden drop in temperature or increase in the winds," he said.

It was during this period that Alison Hargreaves became the first woman to have made an unsupported ascent of Everest, which she did without bottled oxygen on May 13 from her high camp at 8300 meters in a little over seven hours. Hargreaves did not claim to have made a solo ascent — there were 182 climbers on the north ridge at the time she climbed it, and 33 more on the Japanese route that joins the north ridge very high up — but other climbers on her route concur that she can rightfully claim to have made the first unsupported ascent by a woman. By "unsupported" she means that she was an entirely self-contained unit above Advanced Base Camp, that she carried all her own supplies of tents, gear and food up the mountain, slept in her own tents rather than in camps pitched by or with others, ate her own high-altitude food which she cooked herself, and did not climb in the company of anyone else. The other climbers noted that she had refused invitations to come into their tents for a chat or a cup of their tea, staying outside to chat with them and drinking her own brews. After her ascent, her plans were immediate: she would go to K2, the world's second-highest mountain, a month or so later and to Kangchenjunga (third-highest) in the autumn or next spring.

Among the other firsts for countries were Argentina, Denmark, Latvia, Ossetia, Brazil, and Turkey. The first Taiwanese woman, Chiang Hsiu-Chen, summited this year, and Sherpa Babu Tshering became the first person to go from bottom to top twice in the same season. The fastest ascent of the Tibetan side was accomplished by Reinhard Patsheider (38), an Italian guide, who climbed without bottled oxygen from 6450 meters to the summit in 21 hours. Perhaps Marc Batard's 1988 record should stand, because his 3500 vertical meters was done at a rate of 167 meters-per-hour as opposed to Patsheider's 107 meters-per-hour.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mount Everest, Northeast Ridge. The Nihon University Mountaineering Club and Alumni Association determined to mount an all-out effort to climb

this long route, one of the two last remaining major unclimbed routes on Mount Everest, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the club's founding. In addition to the climb of the northeast ridge, the expedition planned scientific studies around the north side of Mount Everest. Architecture Prof. Zenkichi Hirayama was the expedition's general leader. The expedition under him included 13 climbers, six scientists, two Chinese liaison officers, an interpreter and 31 Sherpas. On March 25 we established Base Camp at 5150 meters on the Rongbuk Glacier. By April 29, we had completed the extension of the route through the crux section of the northeast ridge. At this point the Japanese expedition members descended to Base Camp, and the Sherpas to ABC, to rest. The original plan was to have two summit parties assault the summit on separate days, but with the weather stabilizing and with the forecast sent to us from Japan calling for continued good weather, we decided to combine the two parties into one consisting of Furuno, Imoto, Lhakpa Nuru and Dawa Theri. Another eight Sherpas were sent to establish Camp 6, and the last camp, Camp 7, above 8500 meters.

May 7, the summit party climbed up to Camp 4, and May 8 to Camp 5. Furuno, Imoto and 10 Sherpas hooked up to oxygen, departed at 8 a.m., advancing to where the 1992 Japan-Kazakhstan Joint Expedition had bivouacked, and only five meters from the spot where the corpses from the 1982 British expedition were found buried in snow.

The route up the third pinnacle was complicated, involving a series of ascents and descents. The climbers descended about 50 meters, contouring to avoid the col in front of the gigantic fourth pinnacle (Junction Peak) which loomed up ahead. At 8350 meters on the upper part of the north ridge they cut a platform out of the snow surface and established Camp 6. It was decided, with the approval of ABC, to add Nima Dorje and Pasang Kami to the summit party.

May 10 dawned clear. From Camp 6 to the point of confluence with the north ridge, the route was unknown territory. The 12 people in Camp 6 departed at 8 a.m., and fixed three pitches of rope, traversing along the slope, before discovering leftover rope from the north ridge route. They gained the top of the ridge, then contoured along the northern slope again, and established Camp 7 at 8560 meters at the base of the First Step. As soon as the tents were pitched, six Sherpas descended to ABC. They extended the route to the Second Step (8650 meters), and found that the Chinese ladder that had supposedly disappeared was still there, although it was lying on the ground. Instead of using the special aluminum collapsible ladder that they had brought, they reinstalled the Chinese ladder, then extended the route upward. Since there was room for only four people in Camp 7, it was decided that two Sherpas would have to start their summit assault from Camp 6.

On May 11 the climbers got up at 2 a.m., and started up at 4 a.m. by the light of headlamps. The two Sherpas in Camp 6 had started up at 3:30. They

climbed the First Step in the darkness and continued toward the Second Step. The step has two parts, the lower 10 meters and the upper 10 meters. Having reinstalled the Chinese ladder up the upper part, they passed the Second Step easily. Dawn broke just before the triangular snowfield. The snowfield started as a hard snow wall but eventually the climbers had to break trail through softer snow. They rounded some rocks on the north face side, then, following rope left from the fall 1991 Japanese expedition, which looked like it was ready to break, traversed for two pitches. Then they climbed two pitches up a rock slab gully, and, fixing rope, climbed straight up onto the summit ridge. A 15-minute climb up the snow ridge, less steep than what they had been climbing on, brought them to the summit. The summit was relatively broad, like a cornice; a surveying device with optics, which had been carried up the year before for survey work, was still standing. The time was 7:15 a.m.

After one hour on the summit, the group started down, raced back through the pinnacles, and descended all the way to ABC that day, arriving at 6:16 p.m. just before the sun set.

NIHON UNIVERSITY MOUNTAINEERING CLUB (*translated from the
Japanese by Harold Solomon*)

Mount Everest, Ascent by George Mallory. Our team ascended the North Face route. On May 10, our first summit team left ABC to position themselves at C6 for a May 14 attempt. Chirring Sherpa, George Mallory and Jeff Hall were the first to summit at 6:30 a.m. following their 1 a.m. departure. They were later joined by Kaji Sherpa, Jim Litch, Dan Aguilar and Wongchu Sherpa. A second team comprised of Phinjo Sherpa, Colin Lynch, Jangbu Sherpa, Jay Budnick, Steve Reneker and Kurt Wedberg submitted on May 16. For George Mallory it was a closing of the family circle tragically begun when his legendary grandfather disappeared with Andrew Irvine above their Everest high camp on May 8, 1924. In another "closing of the circle," Steve Reneker carried the ashes of our friend Dave Tollakson (AAJ 1994, *In Memoriam*) to the summit. It was figuratively Dave's seventh continental summit following his death as our Everest teammate on a practice climb in April, 1994.

PAUL PFAU

Mount Everest, Summer Attempts. While the monsoon weather was dumping large amounts of snow on the mountain, three summer attempts were made from Tibet: one by a Swiss expedition and two by small

American teams. None were successful. American David Breashears was caught by a huge wind slab avalanche about 30 meters below the North Col at 7000 meters. His life was saved by a previous expedition's fixed rope, which he had clipped. He said, "It made me realize how mortal I was," and went home.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Mount Everest in the Post-Monsoon. A small Indian team came to the north side of Everest during the summer and stayed on well into the autumn. They were at or above basecamp nine weeks in all. Their leader, Atanu Chatterjee, said they were finally defeated by the unhappy discovery of the disappearance of three-fourths of the important ladder which earlier mountaineers had placed at the Second Step (8700 meters), and which all climbers via the North Ridge route now expect to use. The Indians had neither enough rope nor enough strength to surmount the Step or traverse around it.

Two out of three South Korean teams on the same route in the autumn managed to overcome this problem. All three teams also reached the Step and were turned back by the absence of the well-known ladder. One team had no strength left to continue their climb, but the other two temporarily retreated, brought up a good supply of rope, and together went to the summit on October 14.

One of these successful teams had begun their ascent on Everest via the northeast ridge. The Koreans had brought with them Lhakpa Nuru, one of the Sherpas who had summited by this route and who had reached the top five other times. But an avalanche struck a party of two members and four Sherpas when they were at 6900 meters. It killed Lhakpa Nuru and injured another Sherpa and two Koreans. When this team returned to the northeast ridge a week later, they found there was still serious danger of avalanching, and they abandoned that route.

The other successful Korean team also lost a Sherpa, Zangbu, who fell to his death during his descent down the Great Couloir from the summit. He either lost his footing or was involved in a small avalanche. He fell 3000 meters.

An autumn expedition from Spain suffered the loss of member Xavier Lamas, who was killed by an avalanche while they were acclimatizing on Changzheng, just north of Everest.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Lixin and Changste. It was reported that a group of Italians climbed two 7000-meter peaks last spring. Claudio Bastrntaz reached the top of Lixin Peak (7113 meters) on May 13 while his partner, Dando Pignataro, stopped at around 7000 meters. On May 18, the two set out from Everest's Advanced Base Camp for the North Col. A little before the Col Pignataro decided to descend. Bastrentaz continued alone up the southeast ridge of Changste (7580 meters). (*High Mountain Sports* 158)

Lobuche Kang II, First Ascent. A Swiss party from Neuchatel established Base Camp at 5300 meters. Camp I was above the difficult 400-meter-high serac barrier at 5750 meters, Camp II was at 6300 meters on the col between Lobuche Kang I (7367 meters) and II (7072 meters). Heavy snow and dangerous crevasses complicated the route. The steep and not easy east ridge (55° ice) was fixed with 1000 meters of rope (800 meters in vertical rise). All members of the team were able to reach the virgin summit (7072 meters). Members of the team were: Heinz Hiigli (leader), Carole Milz (deputy leader), Christian Meillard, Andre Muller, Simon Perritaz, Thierry Bionda, Andre Geiser, Doris Liischer, Pierre Robert and Dominique Gouzi. Labuche Kang I was first climbed in 1987 by a joint Sino-Japanese expedition.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

Lhakpari, First Ski Descent. An expedition guided by Andy Broom (Out There Trekking) reached the summit at 11 a.m., September 22, via the west ridge. All skiing was randonée except Philip Ponder, who made the trip on a telemark system with three-pin bindings, perhaps the highest anyone has skied up and down on them. Some of us used poles with self-arrest hand-grips. As the final summit ridge got steep, icy and exposed we removed our skis and went to the configuration of a self-arrest pole in one hand and an ice axe in the other.

CLEVE E. ARMSTRONG, O.D., *unaffiliated*

Cho Oyu, Various Ascents in the Post-Monsoon. Thirteen teams attempted Cho Oyu, and all were successful via the Standard Route from the west side in Tibet. Most of them were commercially organized. A total of 75 men and two women summited from September 11 to October 13. On that date, the famous, indestructible Ang Rita Sherpa, who is about 48 years old, became the first person to make four ascents of Cho Oyu. He is best known as the only person to have summited Everest nine times. He has been to the

tops of Dhaulagiri four times and Kangchenjunga once. Amongst the other men were the first South African to this summit and two Sherpas who submitted twice this season. One of the women, Jan Arnold, was from New Zealand. One Cho Oyu candidate never reached basecamp. A New Zealand mountain guide, Guy Cotter, was a member of the same team as Arnold, and they flew from Kathmandu to Lhasa before going to climb. At his Lhasa hotel one evening he handed in a fax message for his family back home, waited while it was transmitted, and took it away with him to his room. Later that night he was arrested, taken away by the police for several days of intensive interrogation, forced to confess that he had committed a crime, and deported on a plane back to Nepal. He had been videotaped by the police throughout his time in their custody. His offense: in his fax he had said that he had heard a bomb explode and seen army vehicles speeding down the street.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Shisha Pangma. It was reported that five expeditions attempted Shisha Pangma this spring, all by the Standard Route. Only three men continued on to the main summit. Erhard Loretan summittted in a solo climb that began at 5:30 a.m. on April 28 from a camp at 5800 meters. He reached the central summit at 11:30 the following morning and the Main Summit half an hour later. (*High Mountain Sports* 155)

Shisha Pangma, Southwest Face, New Route. The expedition was made up of Kim Bover, Ramon Estiu, Jordi Bosch "Barraca," Xavier Robiró, Carles Figueras, Josep Permañé and Iñaki Garijo. The route was climbed without prior preparation alpine-style by Josep Permañé and Carles Figueras on September 22 and 23. After we had established basecamp (5700 meters), we began to climb on September 22. We did not find any platform for the tent so we attached ourselves to the slopes, passing the night at 6800 meters. The following day we went up to the top side of the southeast ridge (approximately 7550 meters) where we put up a tent 50 meters below it. On September 24 we passed the seracs (approximately 7700 meters) and went up the slopes which led to the top. We could only advance slowly, opening a deep pathway in the snow. Surrounded by fog until 4 p.m. we arrived at what we believed was the top. But suddenly the fog disappeared and we understood that we were wrong — we were on the small top situated directly east of the main top. (We saw perfectly the exit of the English route near our feet and the ridge leading to the main summit some meters above us.) We decided not to arrive on the main top (excessive snow, fatigue, lateness

of day), and descended. On September 25 we continued the descent to Advanced Base Camp beginning from 7400 meters on the southeast edge.

JOAUQUIM BOVER BUSQUET, Spain

Makalu, New Route on Northeast Face. The Japanese Alpine Club, whose \$30,000 peak fee was sponsored by a prominent Japanese newspaper, sent 11 climbers accompanied by 12 Sherpas to attempt the northeast ridge from its beginning. They had estimated that their route would be 10 kilometers of extremely difficult pioneer climbing. Base Camp was at 3920 meters, established on March 30. They forged a route along the southwest face of the ridge, then went up onto the ridge and continued southwestward on it briefly. Then they moved northwest from the ridge onto the main Sakyetan Glacier, and without going to the Makalu La, joined the standard route up the northwest ridge to the summit on May 21. They spent mid-April to mid-May making the route, fixing all of it along the segment of knife-edged ridge, rock towers, and cornices. On a difficult ridge section, an ice avalanche struck but did not seriously hurt two Sherpas. With the additional services of their Base Camp head Sherpa, veteran mountaineer Pertemba, they completed this section, then were able to pitch Camp 5 on the southwest end of the ridge before moving onto the plateau at 7350 meters. On May 20, they established Camp 7 at 7650 meters. Osamu Tanabe, Atsushi Yamamoto, Toshihiko Arai, and Masayuki Matsubara's summit success was followed on the 22nd by their climbing leader, Munehiko Yamamoto, along with Taro Tanigawa, Takeshi Ono, and Hirotaka Takeuchi.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Palung Peak, Siguang Peak, Cho Oyu, Attempts and Ascents. Together with my wife Marija I joined the Croatian Cho Oyu Expedition led by Darko Berljak. Above basecamp we worked separately. We wanted to climb a new route on the northwest ridge of the mountain (from the Palung La). To acclimatize we first climbed Palung Peak (7012 meters) in two days. Siguang Peak (7300 meters) was our next acclimatization plan. We crossed Palung La and descended under the Cho Oyu north face on the Palung glacier. The next day we tried to reach the summit but abandoned our attempt 150 meters below it due to lack of time. On the descent we spent the second night at 6600 meters. The day after we returned to basecamp over the Palung La. On September 26 we started from the Palung La for the northwest ridge. Within the first 100 meters we were caught by two small slab avalanches. Nonetheless we continued, hoping to find better conditions high on the

slopes. But it was even worse. We decided to abandon our attempt at 6400 meters. The same day we descended to the basecamp. In the meantime our friends on the Normal Route had already finished the climb. Seven of them reached the summit. They had already ordered the yaks from Tingri and planned to clean up the high camps. We decided to try the Normal Route. The weather was still unstable and unpredictable. On September 27 we reached the summit at 3 p.m., after 10 hours of climbing, breaking trail alone in very deep snow. Thin clouds and gentle snow came along with us the whole day. Cho Oyu was the third 8000-meter peak for Marija and seventh (including Kangchenjunga south summit) for me. All three we have done together.

ANDREJ STROMFELJ, *Planinska zveza Slovenije*

Muztagh Ata and Unnamed Peak Ascents. The summer of 1994 found me in Kashgar, Xinjiang, on the way to West Tibet. My companion, Paula Quenomoen, and I decided to do a side trip into the Kunlun Mountains before heading to Mount Kailash. We established a basecamp at Janbulak Village below the west peak of Muztagh Ata. Paula and I climbed together to about 5000 meters, at which point she returned to the village. I continued alone, climbing a spur on the west face of the west peak. I rested for a while, then finished the ascent in a continuous push, crossing the deceptively long Janbulak glacier to the Main Peak, where I climbed directly to the summit from the west. I returned via the same line. The route offered no real technical difficulties — it was a steep hike on snow. Later, Paula and I made the pilgrims' circuit of the holy Mount Kailash in a slow five days, enjoying the remarkable scenery and interesting people along the way. Above and south of the Drolma La (the high point of the circuit at over 18,000 feet) we climbed a 6000-meter peak. The ascent involved rock scrambling, easy mixed climbing and a final headwall of hard snow. The summit afforded tremendous views of Kailash. Most peaks in the area have been climbed by pilgrims; this summit, though, appeared unclimbed. We later climbed another very attractive 6000-meter peak to the southeast of Kailash. This peak is quite obvious as one descends the pilgrims' path from the Drolma La. From a high camp at 17,000 feet we climbed the sweeping hanging glacier and snow slope on the north face, arriving on the summit before sunrise. This peak appeared to have been unclimbed before as well.

CHARLIE FOWLER, *unaffiliated*