

Le Ande by Mario Fantin. Milano: Club Alpino Italiano, 1979. 142 pages of Italian text, 69 black-and-white photographs, 53 maps.

Les Andes du Pérou, au coeur de la Cordillère Blanche by Nicolas Jaeger, Paris: Denoël, 1979. 172 pages in French, numerous photographs about half in color, 12 pages of maps and sketches.

Two handsome books on the Andes appeared in 1979. Though neither is in English, the illustrations are enough to interest a climber who knows no Italian or French.

Mario Fantin is Italy's mountain expert. He knows the Andes well from first hand. He covers the mountains from end to end in *Le Ande*. The first third of the book deals with the geography of the whole chain, its people, fauna, individual ranges and pre-columbian ascents. In the second third first ascents are listed range by range, after a short history of the region's exploration. This is followed by a short description of notable Italian ascents. The reviewer noted only a few minor errors, including the omission of his name from one first ascent. There is, however, the troublesome business of giving Italian names to some of the peaks which should be called by their native names. The last third includes a large selection of excellent photographs which are well reproduced and 53 useful maps showing primarily summits and ridges. This is a valuable and handsome book.

Despite its title, *Les Andes du Pérou* is restricted to the Cordillera Blanca. The first section of the volume talks about the geology, climate, people, fauna, flora and history of the region. The reviewer has again noted minor errors but these are remarkably few. However, someone not familiar with the climbing history of the region might, on reading the book, think that it had all been made by the French. The second half of the book is devoted to the remarkable 1977 and 1978 expeditions led by the author. He describes the climbs made by him and his companions and his daring solo ascents. The black-and-white photographs are muddy, out of focus, and badly reproduced but the color photos are for the most part breath-taking.

H. ADAMS CARTER

Mountaineering in the Tetons: The Pioneer Period 1898-1940, by Fritiof M. Fryxell—Edited by Phil D. Smith, Jackson: Teton Bookshop, 1978. 180 pages. Price: Hardback \$8.95; Paperback \$5.95.

This unique little book by two Teton pioneers whose Teton mountaineering experiences span the years from 1924 to 1935 should be interesting reading for Teton veterans and novices alike. The period covered by the book saw American climbing advance from rock scrambling with occasional use of the rope to extended technical climbing on large faces and

ridges with continuous use of the rope, pitons and other technical means imported from Europe. When Grand Teton National Park was founded in 1929, these two writers were appointed as the first ranger-naturalists at Jenny Lake.

Originally, this revision edited by Smith was intended to be an updated version of the premier Teton guidebook *The Teton Peaks and Their Ascents*, published by Fryxell in 1932. Publication of this work was scheduled for 1941 but was postponed by the outbreak of World War II. After the war, the manuscript was destroyed by a fire which consumed Smith's home. The recovery of an early copy of the manuscript which had been given to Joe Hawkes in 1941 did not occur until the 1950's. In the meantime, the *Mountain Climbing Guide to the Grand Tetons* by Henry Coulter and Merrill McLane was published in 1947 and *A Climber's Guide to the Teton Range* by Leigh Ortenburger in 1956, followed by a second edition in 1965. In the early 1970's, it was decided to publish the original manuscript as a chronicle of early ascents in the Tetons.

Most of the route accounts are anecdotal and collected from personal correspondence between the original climbers and the author and editor. Included is all the early history of the Grand Teton, from the first confirmed ascent in 1898 to the exploits of Underhill, Henderson, Fryxell, Smith, Petzoldt and the early efforts of Durrance. However, Durrance's last season, 1940, when he pushed the technical standards in the range to new heights, is not included.

The style is charming and reflects the two writers' deep love for this now popular range of mountains. The style is exemplified by one item taken from Fryxell's original volume concerning the ascent of Rockchuck Peak, a relatively minor Teton summit.

The lower slopes of the mountain are thickly overgrown with huckleberry bushes, the finest in the Tetons, and higher up are numerous raspberry patches clustered among the boulder fields, nor must one fail to mention the occasional clumps of serviceberry. An ascent of Rockchuck Peak in berry time (which usually spans the month of August) calls for great tenacity of purpose and self-mastery on the part of the mountaineer, lest he lose sight of his lofty goal and give himself up to the lusts of the flesh. The writer knows, since he climbed this mountain (August 16, 1929), both hands and mouth busy all the way to timberline. Let it be known that he did reach the top, though the time consumed in making the ascent must never be disclosed. That this was the first complete ascent on record may perhaps be attributed to the failure of other climbers to get beyond the berry patches.

This book is more than a guidebook in that it is also a history of the exploits of the pioneers of American climbing. It reflects the close-knit

climbing community that existed at Jenny Lake from the twenties to the mid-sixties. The accounts remind us that climbers of fifty years ago were also conscious of the style in which climbs were done; for example, the time consumed on many a first ascent is seldom bettered today.

The volume not only gives historic perspective to the routes in the Tetons, but insight into the kind of men who pioneered them.

RAYMOND G. JACQUOT

Life Is Meeting by John Hunt (Lord Hunt of Llanfair Waterdine).

London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1978. 286 pages, 28 photographs and 11 maps. Price £ 6.95.

This book tells the story of how John Hunt has managed to combine outstanding mountaineering with an outstanding professional career. Perhaps no climber hitherto has been so doubly successful. In *Life Is Meeting*, though the principal focus is his professional career, Hunt takes us from his early climbs in the Alps in 1923 (at age 12) to climbs in the 1970's. In between there are spirited attempts on Salto Kangri, a fine first ascent of Kolahoi and post-monsoon climbs in the Kangchenjunga area. In 1935 he was turned down as a member of the Everest expedition because of a heart murmur, but in 1953 he led the Everest team that achieved the famous first ascent, a climb dealt with only briefly here. His Army career was significant right from the time he was a top cadet at Sandhurst. During many assignments he was able to initiate rough country or mountain training for troops. This practice helped his men on the Sangro front in World War II when Hunt commanded first a battalion and later the 11th Indian Infantry Brigade. He won the DSO and CBE during the war years for special achievements in Italy and Greece.

Lord Hunt's second career, public service, has been equally spectacular. After leaving the Army as Honorary Brigadier in 1956, he was for ten years director of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme. Later he became Personal Advisor to the Prime Minister during the Nigerian civil war and was for seven years chairman of the Parole Board for England and Wales. Other major assignments continued but he usually managed some climbing. While visiting one prison, for instance, he couldn't help noting that the wall could be climbed and demonstrated how. On another occasion an inmate remarked to him, "I did some climbing, Guv.' That's why I'm here."

During the 1960's especially Hunt had much to do with climbing exchanges, particularly with the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries, and he took part in some difficult and dangerous climbs. He also helped to develop the philosophy adopted by Kurt Hahn and Outward