

Slesse Mountain, East Pillar Direct. From August 29 to 31, Perry Beckham and I completed a new rock route on the east side of Slesse Mountain. Beckham, Barry Blanchard and I had climbed the first third of the route in the fall of 1992. It begins up the prominent east buttress, previously climbed by John Stoddard and partner, and parallels the classic northeast buttress across the tottering void of the east face. Where the east buttress meets the main wall and the Stoddard route veers left, our route goes straight up vertical cliffs of gneiss. The first three pitches had 5.10 face climbing and bolting on the lead. Easier pitches (5.8) up a buttress to the right of a gaping snow-filled recess led to a huge terrace. A steep headwall then gave more 5.10 face climbing and then some zigzagging on ledges. The summit crest was reached after 23 roped pitches. We bivouacked twice, once on a grand ledge and then less comfortably on a sloping slab with our feet in our packs and our harnesses cinched to pitons. Perry snored anyhow. With 17 quarter-inch bolts (nine for belays) in place, the route could be climbed in a day.

GREG CHILD

North West Territories

Harrison Smith and Lotus Flower Tower, Logan Mountains. Paola Fanton, Giuseppe Bagattoli, Danny Zampiccoli, Fabio Leoni and I traveled north to Watson Lake and were flown by float plane on July 3 to Glacier Lake. Four hours on foot took us into the heart of these lovely mountains in the Cirque of the Unclimbables. Above us soared the north face of Harrison Smith. Despite other routes already climbed on the peak, there remained logical and beautiful new routes. We hoped to climb the north face of Harrison Smith alpine-style, but after several tries, we always returned drenched by rain to our advanced camp under a huge boulder. We decided to use fixed rope. The climbing was always of sustained difficulty with much moss that made placing protection hard. However, there was a line of cracks that let us progress rapidly. We frequently climbed in the rain and at strange hours, which are possible at that time of year in the North West Territories with 20 hours of daylight. Our line headed to a great dihedral which halfway up the wall led toward the summit up very difficult pitches. After twenty days we wondered if there ever was good weather in the region. However, July 25 dawned with splendid weather. All five of us were quickly at the top of the fixed ropes. At eleven A.M., we were above the great dihedral. We still had some very difficult pitches, a wet, overhanging crack and as a final surprise, one of the most terrifying off-width cracks of our careers where protection was impossible and into which we had to stuff inelegantly whatever parts of our bodies we could. At eight P.M., we were all on the summit. The 750-meter-high climb was rated 7+, A2. A few days later, another gorgeous day let Leoni with Fanton and Zampiccoli with Bagattoli repeat the lovely first-ascent route on the southeast face of the Lotus Flower Tower. This route is unique, especially in the second part which ascends slabs

of very compact granite. Nine pitches on rock with tiny knobs make this almost a game, a very difficult and beautiful climb.

MARIO MANICÀ, *Club Alpino Italiano*

Proboscis Variant, Logan Mountains, 1992. Spaniards José María Codina and Joaquín Olmo made the second ascent of the 1963 first-ascent route of Proboscis, with a variant. After climbing the first third of the route, they continued straight up, where the first-ascenders, Robbins, Kor and McCracken, traversed to the left. The Spaniards traversed left at about two-thirds height to rejoin the first-ascent route. They reached the summit in August 1992.

Canadian Arctic

Climbs in Auyuittuq National Park, Cumberland Peninsula. In June, Germans Frank Jourdan and Wilhelm Alfred attempted two climbs both of which were turned back before they reached the summit by extremely cold snowstorms. They climbed 11 pitches on Mount Tyr and 14 pitches on Mount Breidablik. On August 5 and 6, Americans John Barbella, Kurt Roy, Alan Bills, Steve Hopkins and Dave Oakley climbed Mount Thor by its south ridge. In early August, Doug Cairns and Dan Cousins climbed Mount Bilbo by the northwest ridge in 14 pitches on rock, five hours up from the Nerutusogq Glacier (IV, 5.7, 45° snow and ice). They felt this was a fine, safe route with sun and good rock. They then climbed Mount Sigurd by the southeast ridge, 3000 feet of rock, four hours up from the Tuppermit Glacier (III, 5.4). They made a scary descent of the southeast ridge to a steep gully with loose rock. They did not recommend the route.

SAKIASIEL SOWDLOAPIK, *Auyuittuq National Park*

Ellesmere Island. The Inuitian Orogen geological province constitutes a marvelous sandstone desert of mesas and buttes punctuating the icefields. The corridor from Tanquery Fjord to Hazen and to northwest Greenland has been used since the days of the Dorset culture. Our expedition set out to explore some of its obscurer venues. From Tanquery we headed northeast to the icefields of the British Empire Range. Ascending the Rollrock Glacier to the Viking Icecap, I made a solo ascent of the peaks dividing the two arms of the glacier. At the southern end of the British Empire Range stand a succession of buttes flanked by the Charybdis Glacier. Ruthmary Deuel, Forrest Baldwin, Tom Eads and I climbed the south peak in snow and fog by way of the Charybdis Glacier. We ascended the Observation Plateau above the Air Force Glacier. We sited stone house rings near Hazen, two muskox skulls on the Charybdis Glacier, eocene tree fragments (including root systems), a herd of 13 muskoxen and three Peary caribou that approached us fearlessly. At Hazen, we met the crew of the Russian