

In this pocket-sized volume, she and John Boyle, with his enormous Everest library, have put together an exhaustive compendium of all known Everest attempts. It includes flights over or off the mountain, walks around it, as well as the illicit climbs of which few records exist.

The book is divided into three parts: a bibliography of Everest books, a chronology of expeditions and a listing by author of articles in the major climbing journals. It is unique in that it supplies an invaluable connection of expedition chronology to its extensive bibliography. Where would you go to learn more about, say, the Polish winter ascent of 1980? Here it is fully referenced with six books and eight journal articles.

*Climbing Mount Everest* will quickly become the invaluable guide to anyone interested in finding the primary sources within the vast Everest literature.

THOMAS M. HOLZEL

*Vascos al Himalaya: 1974-1992, crónica de una aventura.* Antonio Ortega, editor. Pyrenaica. Bilbao, Spain, 1992. 264 pages, 364 color illustrations. Hardbound.

*Everest: el desafío de un sueño.* Rodrigo Jordán. Editora Ograma, Santiago, Chile, 1992. 122 pages, 84 color and 8 black-and-white illustrations, 2 line drawings. Hardbound.

*Everest: la ruta lógica.* Mauricio Purto. El Mercurio, Santiago, Chile, 1992. 132 pages, 124 color and 2 black-and-white illustrations. Hardbound.

Mountaineering books in Spanish are fairly common, but little known outside the Hispanic nations themselves. These three have in common their topic (the higher mountains of Asia), their size (large album format) and all three aim at portraying the endeavor of a people, Basque or Chilean.

The Basque work is a magnificent one. The quality of its printing is enviable. It narrates by means of a rich text and an abundance of excellent color pictures the achievements (and failures) of the Basques in the mountains of high Asia. The chronicle covers from 1974 (an attempt on Everest and an ascent of Shakhaur, 7084 meters) to 1992, when no less than eighteen Basque parties were active in Asia, among other things, to ascend Everest four times and Cho Oyu thrice. A total of 136 expeditions, most of them successful, are reviewed. The book closes with statistics of many kinds. And while it is true, as editor Ortega recognizes, that the Basques have preferred to head for the greater mountains only, disregarding exploratory work, it is also true that their activity in Asia has been remarkable.

The two other books aim at describing the twin 1992 Chilean expeditions to Everest. They reached their goal by different ways and routes. Jordán led his seven-man team up the Kangshung side of Everest, this being the third ascent of that face. It was the work of a dedicated team. It reached the summit on May

14, 1992. Purto, on the other hand, named his book "The Logical Way to Everest" for he believed that in order to reach the apex of the earth, climbers had to follow a long preparation. Leading small teams he did, among other enterprises, the traverse of the summits of McKinley, an ascent of Vinson in the Antarctic as well as others of Cho Oyu, Shisha Pangma and Gasherbrum II, a process of five years. Well trained, he and the tough Sherpa Ang Rita reached the top of Everest on May 14, 1992. To their mutual surprise, by sheer coincidence both Chilean teams met on the summit the same day, same time. There was rivalry. In fact, the Jordán work does not mention that their countrymen also made the summit. Both books are different. Jordán's is bilingual (Spanish and English) and describes the ascent of the Kangshung face step by step. There are a great number of quotations from British climbers, no doubt because Jordán has lived in England. His book is complemented by a 96-minute long video. The Purto book, wholly in Spanish, is more succinct in text and allows instead its ample and very descriptive pictures to tell a good part of the story. Seven mountains in three continents are portrayed and there is again a diversity of quotations from climbers and philosophers.

The main contribution of these three works is that they show the technical level achieved by peoples of other nations and at the same time, provide an insight as to how others may react in the face of the giant mountains of our planet. The Basque book, in particular, is to be recommended. The quality and quantity of its pictures would alone justify its acquisition.

EVELIO ECHEVERRÍA

*Flowers of the Western Himalayas.* Rupin Dang. Indus, Harper Collins, New Delhi, India, 1993. 140 pages, many color photographs.

This is a guide to a small area of the Himalaya but it covers the territory often visited by naturalists, trekkers and tourists. It is intended for amateurs but it should be helpful for professionals visiting the area for the first time. It is not intended to be comprehensive but includes many herbs, shrubs and trees that have conspicuous flowers. It is of pocket-book size and is suitable for carrying in the field.

All the main species are illustrated with color photographs and these are the features that users will turn to for plant identification. The photographs are good and usually show details of the flowers clearly. In many cases, the leaves are obscure or not shown at all. However, the text often gives description of the leaves. It also gives the approximate flowering time and habitat. Some of the illustrations also include views of the mountains and valleys and should be helpful for anyone wishing to have an understanding of the Himalaya.

A user wishing to identify a plant will no doubt glance through the illustrations until a suitable picture is found. It would have been helpful if the illustrations had been grouped by color as is usually done in manuals of this kind.