

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*