05.4" W). Our elevation was 2,410 feet. On the descent, our skis chattered like hypothermic teeth as we slid our way down the 53-degree upper headwall. March 8 is the day in Russia when all women are honored, so we named our line *The Ice Princess* in honor of our Russian cooking staff aboard the *Mikheev*.

From the bottom of *The Ice Princess*, we made an attempt on Mt. Scott. The glacier was broken and difficult to read in the flat light of the evening shadows, but we were able to find a path to the northeast ridge. Perhaps the highlight of the trip was working our way along a 70-degree knife-edge ridge several hundred feet below the summit, grabbing the top of the ice like a handrail, and traversing unroped 2,500 feet above the Lemaire Channel. Kris and I skied right off the summit, down the northeast ridge, with a short 100-foot section (the knife-edge ridge) where we took off our boards. All in all, we had a ten-hour day.

After a tasty steak dinner, we made our way to the top of the ship, where the full moon had risen in a giant orange glow. What a gift to have six days of sunshine in a row.

HANS SAARI, *unaffiliated*

DRONNING MAUD LAND

Dronning Maud Land, Various Ascents, Previously Unreported. In December, 1999, and January, 2000, our dream of dreams came true when, sponsored by the Elvia Insurance company, we traveled to Queen Maud Land, a beautiful mountain region in Antarctica. In the Fernisfjella (explored by the Norwegian expedition of Erik Tollefsen in 1993-94), we climbed Mundlauga by a new route, the West Face (snow and ice climbing to 55°) on January 1. We also tried a steep rock rib on the picturesque jagged summit of Midgard.

We then shifted our activities to the nearby Holtedahlfjella. It took us three long days and a maximum of concentration to cross the Sigynbreeb Glacier. As we later discovered, nobody had climbed in the Holtedahlfjella before; perhaps no one had been there before at all. From a base camp at 1400 meters, we reached the top of six mountains. We measured the coordinates and the height and gave them names (informing the Norwegian Polar Institute regarding these names upon our return). On January 9, we climbed Byrd Peak (1780-1800m), which is the north peak of Steinskaregga, via the west face (firn and ice) to the shoulder and on to the summit via the west ridge (broken rock).

On January 10, we made the first ascent of Elvia Peak (2200m; 71° 49.049' S, 8° 58.886' E) via the northwest face. Approach was made over the Sigynbreen Glacier, then through the Lukeš Gap to the Swiss Glacier. The ascent climbed the right part of the northwest face and involved ice climbing, with three pitches of 55-degree ice.

On January 11, we climbed the South Summit (1960m) of Steinskaregga. From the Sigynbreen Glacier, we approached an inlet from the southwest, then made the ascent from the south via easy broken rock to the top.

On January 12, we climbed Kubbestolen (2080m, 71° 46.976' S, 8° 54.206' E) via the funnel-shaped west face; this involved the same approach as for Elvia Peak. It was the most difficult route we did, a 650-meter ice route (50 to 60°) with two ice bulges that we had to pass on the right side.

On January 13, we climbed Carasole Peak (71° 49.529' S, 8° 54.929' E) via the East Ridge (broken rock). The approach was the same as for Elvia Peak.

On January 15, we climbed Soglio Peak (2325m, 71° 48.104' S, 8° 59.132' E) via ice on

Untouched rock of the Gruvletindane Massif, as seen from the summit of Kubbestolen. The small glacier has no name (the "Swiss Glacier" lies behind the camera). Behind the massif are many other untouched and unexplored mountains. No further information is available about them.
ČESTMÍR LUKEŠ

the northwest face (50° in one place), then along the north ridge to the left side of the top. The approach was the same as for Elvia Peak.

ČESTMÍR LUKEŠ *and* IRENE OEHNINGER, *Switzerland*

Holtanna, First Ascent, and Various Other Climbs. Holtanna (2650m), situated at the southernmost point of the Fenriskjeften massif in the Dronning Maud Mountains, is a huge granite spur that towers 800 meters above the ice. The first people to travel to these mountains were the Norwegians during the Antarctic summer of 1958-59. In 1996-97, another Norwegian team made the first ascents of different peaks in this area, including the famous Ulvetanna, the highest peak (2920m) of the northernmost massif.

The team for the first ascent of Holtanna was made up of five climbers and a photographer: Alain Hubert (Belgium), Ralph Dujmovits (Germany), André Georges (Switzerland), Fabrizzio Zangrilli (U.S.), and Daniel Mercier and Renè Robert (France). Also with us was Katelijne Vanheulekom (Belgium), in charge of communications with headquarters, and scientists Alain Bidart (France) and Ronald Ross (U.S.), who were working on different education and research projects.

The origin of the project goes back to 1997 when I saw these beautiful mountains from Blue-1 as I began the longest crossing ever made in Antarctica by foot and skis, using power sails. Because polar regions are central for research on climate change, I have always tried my best, through the concept of "learning by adventure," to use expeditions to make these isolat-