

tory wrong, but a competent copy editor would have caught most of these errors. Finally, some dimwit decided to transform meters to feet with exactitude. So we have, for instance, Krzysztof Wielicki confronting the “984-foot face in front of me.” Obviously, in the original this was rendered as an approximation: 300 meters.

What do I think the future holds? I hoped you wouldn't ask, and I see why so many essayists shunned the question. It's quite obvious, as many contributors state, that harder climbs will be done and speed records will be shattered. Commercialization of climbing will become even more disgusting than it now is. With nothing to lose, I will venture a few outlandish predictions. The South Col will be totally cleaned up one day. Sport climbing will be an Olympic event very soon. The *Nose* of El Cap will soon be done in an hour. Someone within this decade will climb three 8000-meter peaks on the same day, using a helicopter, of course, to get from one to the other (but where does the chopper land—at base camp or maybe just a wee bit higher, say the Western Cwm of Everest?).

Many of the authors talk about the endless hidden ranges where huge, virgin walls will be free climbed in solitude. True adventure is still out there for those who have the courage and commitment to explore. The rest of us will have to be content with climbs that will increasingly swarm with humanity.

STEVE ROPER

*Pushing the Limits: The Story of Canadian Mountaineering.* Chic Scott. Calgary: Rocky Mountain Books, 2000. Countless photographs. 440 pages.

This author knows his stuff, as well he ought, given his long experience with the Canadian mountain scene. This exhaustive and beautifully illustrated narrative of the history of Canadian climbing does much to educate the reader that there is more to the Canadian mountains than the well-known west.

Scott takes us from the first sighting (by white-skinned folk) of the Rockies in 1754 to beyond the present, and includes almost every way station that this reviewer can think of. There are, of course, as with any large undertaking, lacunae. With regard to this book, however, such complaints are almost invariably matters of judgment or relative merit, not historic inaccuracies. I, for instance, would have included more of the early climbs from the Glacier House, but that might well be due to the fact that my first Canadian climbing was done from that locale. So it probably would be with almost any reader who knows his own backyard and likes to think it is the most important place in the world—as it rightfully is to each individual. But Scott has risen above the lot of that sort of parochialism and has clearly done enormous and thorough research.

Indicative of the quality of this book is the fact that several of my Canadian friends have offered me copies of the book (one of which I accepted) with the comment that I would find it enjoyable. And they were right! Not only did I enjoy reading through this book, but at the most recent Banff Mountain Book and Film Festival, it was awarded the UIAA's James Monroe Thorington Award for the best recent work of research into the history of alpinism.

We who live south of the 49th parallel should recognize both the name of Dr. Thorington, and the historical merit that his name carries in mountaineering literature.

WILLIAM LOWELL PUTNAM