that Miyolangsangma guided him safely to the summit of Everest in 1953, and Jamling grew up seeing his father worship the goddess in the chapel in their home in Darjeeling. Before Jamling’s mother died, she told Jamling that there was a special bond between their family and the mountain that involved his father’s second wife, Ang Lhamu. She told him to find the lama Trulshig Rimpoché, and ask him for the story. Even so, when he sought out Trulshig Rimpoché in 1995, he was unprepared to hear what the lama had to tell him: not only had it been prophesied in the 1930s that a Himalayan Buddhist would be the first person to climb Chomolungma, Jamling was told that there were indications that his stepmother, Ang Lhamu, had been a manifestation, a human embodiment, of the goddess Miyolangsangma. The book masterfully interweaves such moments with little known stories of Tenzing Norgay’s early expeditions in the Himalaya, Jamling’s own Sherpa perspective on the events on Everest that fateful spring of 1996, and the similar steps that father and son took along the way to the top of the mountain.

Yet the heart of the book lies in something that father and son came to share beyond reaching the summit of Everest. Though Jamling was a nominal Buddhist before his experience on the mountain, when disaster struck and he was confronted with the questions of life and the very real possibility of death, his supplications suddenly felt urgent and sincere. Here is a very personal story of faith that blossomed and grew on the icy slopes, in the powerful arms of the omniscient, bountiful goddess of Everest, Miyolangsangma. In Touching My Father’s Soul Jamling Tenzing Norgay shares his humble and life-changing experiences of puja, prayer, and patience in his own powerful and provocative witness for Tibetan Buddhism.

Laurie Kallevig

I ask you to read once again Galen Rowell’s review of Washburn’s Mountain Photography from last year’s AAJ. There Rowell painted a clear portrait of the character of Washburn, which he saw realized in that beautiful volume. Washburn’s newest book with Peter Cherici also represents a wonderful effort from this “single most exacting human being” that Rowell has ever known. In fact, the superb demonstration of scholarship, proper research, attribution, and documentation pales before the passion that gave birth to this completed volume, and all in his 92nd year.

I am very much reminded of Douglas Freshfield and his 50-year scholarly battle to determine which Alpine pass that Hannibal crossed with his elephants. Freshfield began his published comments in the 1870s, stating, “I found that my alpine and geographical sense were both outraged.” He continued a lifelong battle with Latin scholars who had limited climbing experience or ability, publishing again in 1914 and continuing to write privately until his death. A holograph letter from 1923 is vibrant with his considerable disgust with the continuing controversy and states that he is not likely to “plunge again” into the controversy in public. It was never far from his mind.
I sense a similar purity of vision and outrage in an alpine and geographical sense from Brad Washburn with regard to Dr. Cook and his claims, especially as published in *To the Top of the Continent*. Most of us who have spent time in the Ruth Gorge and at Mt. McKinley have absolutely no doubt whatsoever that Dr. Cook never came within miles of the summit. The Cook controversy strikes us as an oddity of human behavior that the absurd argument that Cook summited could be taken seriously in this day and age. Yet it is believed by a few, and that fact clearly offends the sensibilities of Washburn. The passion and precision that the Cook Hoax has generated is wonderful to behold, and has produced a book that the Cook Society will find quite painful to read and ponder. A glorious Washburn photograph of the “Fake Peak” (facing page 162) is worth the price of the book alone. There you can barely see a pimple of a protuberance named “Fake Peak” lost among the magnificence of countless other peaks of the Alaska Range all dominated in the background by Mt. McKinley.

Washburn and Cherici provide a solid historical background to Dr. Cook and the Alaska Range. They outline the traditional arguments and evidence, but the greatest value is a complete analysis of the photographic “evidence” as presented in *To the Top of the Continent*. As Dr. Cook kept the negatives of his original photos unpublished during his lifetime, and as they have never been discovered or apparently examined by a competent third party, Washburn went to great efforts to duplicate each of the Cook photos. The narrative of the discovery of each place where each photo was taken is precise in detail and offers an explanation of the particular omission or commission that Cook undertook to maintain his hoax. Even more impressive is Washburn’s analysis of the photo equipment used by Cook and then the duplication of photos using similar equipment himself. This approach makes this volume bibliographically significant in and of itself. As technology has progressed to a point where any tyro with very few bucks can fake any photograph today, this book may be the last where actual photos and negatives handled traditionally are used evidentially with certainty. (Editor’s note: the authors relied on the seminal reference, Robert M. Bryce’s *Cook & Peary: The Polar Controversy Resolved* [Stackpole Books, 1997] for important factual information. Students of this controversy will want to refer to Mr. Bryce’s thorough and insightful account.)

There is a rich history of travel lies and travel liars, as well as a long list of fakes in publishing. For example, in late 17th and early 18th century in London there was a well-developed industry of publishing 400+ page books concerning purported voyages, all written by people who had never traveled more than 20 miles from St. Paul’s Cathedral. A typical example is the following title: *The Voyages, Dangerous Adventures and Imminent Escapes of Captain Richard Falconer. Containing the Laws, Customs, and Manners of the Indians in America, His marrying an Indian Wife, His shipwrecks, and His narrow Escape from the Island of Domenico? Written By Himself, NOW ALIVE*. London 1720.

Capt. Falconer and Dr. Cook shared one significant point in common: they never suspected that any of their readers would make the voyage themselves and then publish their own rebuttal and commentary.

The layout of *The Dishonorable Dr. Cook* is also noteworthy. Whereas *To the Top of the Continent* repeats its title on the top of each page of text in large type, about 300 times, thus reinforcing the impact of the title, Washburn and Cherici reinforce their view at the bottom of the page. The symbolism of the location quite tidily sums up the thesis of each book. Lastly, *The Dishonorable Dr. Cook* is 10 inches wide by 8 and 5/8 inches tall. While the layout might better display the book’s photographs, it does not sit comfortably on a shelf, especially next to a copy
of *To the Top of the Continent.* The resulting aggravation to any Cook Society bibliophile who finds it necessary to refer to both volumes could be considered an unexpected benefit.

WILLIAM C. LORCH


This book contains excerpts from the diaries of Bradford Washburn that he wrote during three expeditions to Alaska and the Yukon. They give the reader a day to day glimpse of the struggles of a man and his companions who were scientists, students, and mountaineers exploring unmapped areas of Alaska’s great mountains and mountain ranges. Beyond the stunning photographic detail that has made Washburn famous, the trilogy captures his “voice.” Those of us who have been privileged to spend any time with him and his wife Barbara, will hear this through the written word. The diaries are descriptive, to the point, and often full of humor.

Washburn was perhaps the first to exploit the use of aircraft to get to places unknown, unseen, and rarely, if ever, traveled. The men from Harvard and Dartmouth who participated in these expeditions assisted Washburn in completing surveys that led to the accurate mapping of the glacial expanses of Mt. Logan, St. Elias, Fairweather, and later Denali. Under his leadership and organizational skill, these men, which include the likes of Barry Bishop and Ad Carter, spent three and four months at a time in remote, uncharted areas, patiently conducting survey activities and making first ascents of many high altitude peaks. They accomplished these feats without modern lightweight equipment, communication, and transportation.

In his time, Washburn was certainly one of a few hard men. *Exploring the Unknown* provides great insight into the personality and skill, both as a mountaineering leader and scientist, of Bradford Washburn, one of the true elders of American mountaineering.

PETER J. PANARESE


This book contains a collection of Twight’s writings that were published mostly in climbing magazines between 1985 and 2000. As he says in his introduction, this book contains the “author’s cuts,” not the homogenized fluff offered up by specialty climbing magazine editors who are often unwilling to offend subscribers and advertisers.

When these articles were first published, Twight introduced a controversial new style for mountaineering literature that caught the staid climbing community off guard. His work captured considerable attention at the time because these dramatic stories about attempting difficult alpine routes were told with such an overpowering nihilism that readers were either inspired or revolted. Many climbers were accustomed to and enjoyed reading from