

the first ascent of the peak in 1977. We made a reconnaissance of the route on August 14 and discovered fixed rope and trash left from 1977. On August 19 we started up the south ridge and climbed to above a large gap in the ridge that would force us out onto a glacier to the left. A serac barrier threatens this glacier, and by midday it was too hot to venture in that direction, so we stopped at 5,500m to wait for cooler early-morning temperatures. On August 20 we crossed the glacier and climbed an ice face on the opposite side. This led to a point above the seracs where we could recross the glacier to the south ridge. We then climbed an ice face and chimneys to our second bivouac, at 6,400m.

On our third day we climbed through several rock bands to a snow ridge, where we placed a high camp at 6,700m. On August 21 the weather started to deteriorate, and we reached the summit in a storm. We took two more days to descend to base camp.

After Latok II we waited to do more climbing, but poor weather and lots of new snow prevented us from doing anything else.

STEVE SWENSON, AAC

*Editors note: This was the second ascent of the Italian route (summit reached on August 28, 1977 by Ezio Alimonta, Toni Masé, and Renato Valentini, after the expedition had fixed 2,600m of rope) and the fourth of the summit.*

*Latok Group, clarification.* During the summer Mark Richey, Steve Swenson, and I spent six weeks on the Baintha Lukpar Glacier, a branch of the Biafo Glacier, climbing Latoks II and V. Having copies of *AAJ 1998* and *2000* with us, it became apparent there were significant errors and inconsistencies in the photos, maps, and accounts of the locations of Latoks IV and V. The accompanying photo shows the five Latoks correctly labeled. This will hopefully put to rest the confusion.

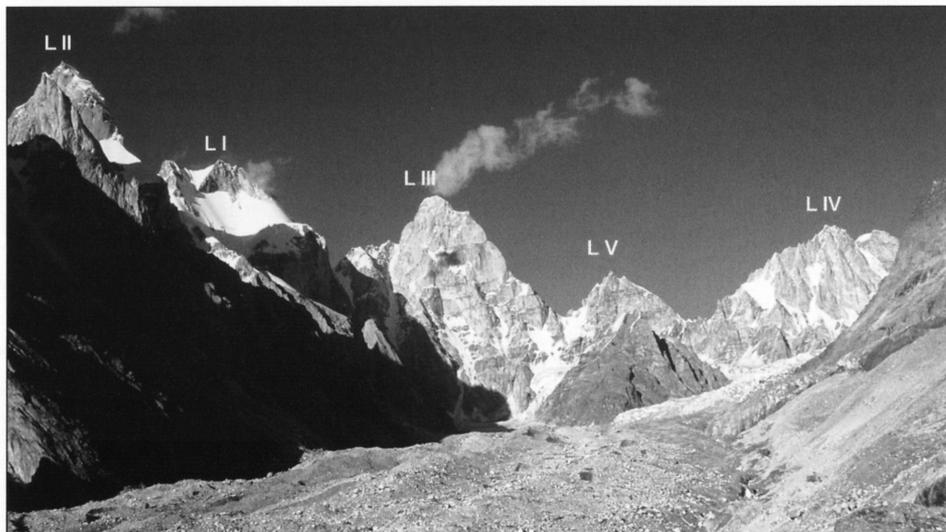
For correction sake, in *AAJ 1998*, p. 321, a sketch is incorrectly labeled. The peak captioned Latok IV is actually Latok V, the smallest of the group. Latok IV is not represented in the drawing but would be to the right of Latok V.

In *AAJ 2000*, pp. 333-334 there are also misrepresentations in regards to Alexander Huber's account of Latok IV and Omiya and Tsuchida's attempt on Latok V. Omiya and Tsuchida did, in fact, attempt Latok V, the height of which they reported as 6,190m. This height corresponds closely to our altimeter reading on the first ascent. We also found a picket with Japanese markings, further buttressing their claims. Their account in the *AAJ* is correct, and the editor's note was wrong. Furthermore, Alex and Thomas Huber climbed the lower of two obvious summits on Latok IV (6,456m). The photo by Omiya on p. 333 incorrectly labels Latok V as Latok IV, thus the Huber's line is not in the photograph.

So the sketch in *AAJ 1998* is wrong, the photo in *AAJ 2000* is incorrectly labeled, and the editor's note about Omiya and Tsuchida's attempt is mistaken.

DOUG CHABOT, AAC

*Latok III, third ascent.* No doubt influenced by the inclusion of the route in the seminal book, *Himalayan Alpine Style*, Alvaro Novellon and Oscar Perez of Spain made the third ascent of the southwest ridge of 6,949m Latok III, also the third ascent of the mountain. The first ascent was



The Latok group and Baintha Lukpar Glacier from the west. (LII) Latok II (7,103m): the south ridge was repeated in alpine style in 2006. (LI) Latok I (7,145m). (LIII) Latok III (6,949m): the southwest ridge (right skyline) was repeated in alpine style during 2006. (LV) Latok V (6,190m): first ascent in 2006 by an American team via the col between V and IV, the east face, and upper south ridge. (LIV) Latok IV (6,456m). *Doug Chabot*

made in 1979 by a Japanese expedition, which approached from the Baintha Lukpar Glacier and made a three-week siege of the ridge, climbing mostly on the right flank and using 1,600m of fixed rope. From the glacier the route has a vertical interval of 2,300m, though it is the upper 1,700m on the ridge itself that provides the main difficulties. The crux proved to be a steep rock barrier high on the mountain, giving difficulties of UIAA VI+ and A2. In 1988 three Italians repeated the route, with seven bivouacs, in a self-supported push, helped in places by old Japanese rope. They needed three more days to regain base camp.

Novellon and Perez first climbed to the shoulder (5,300m) at the base of the ridge, where they deposited food and equipment. After they regained this point in seven hours climbing from base camp on July 21, they set off for the summit the next day in alpine style. On the 22nd they connected runnels, couloirs, and snowfields to arrive at the base of the steep barrier, having found the initial ground easier than expected and making fast progress. The second day, after an uncomfortable bivouac, they started late and climbed the step, using aid in places and making several variants, because cracks were chocked with ice. (The whole route was in icy condition.) On the third day, after another poor bivouac, at 6,500m, they left most of their gear, overcame three pitches of rock and mixed terrain, made more difficult by fatigue and lack of acclimatization, and arrived at the summit snowfield. They unroped and continued to the top, only 12 days after arriving at base camp. They rested for a day at their top bivouac and made it back to base in a roundtrip of seven days, exhausted but having removed all their equipment. They used no fixed ropes, though they did use anchors from the Japanese expedition for rappelling, making theirs the first ascent of the mountain in alpine style.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*, *CLIMB Magazine*