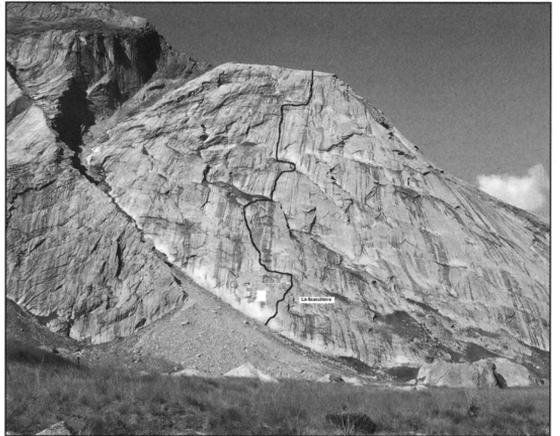


A foreshortened view of the east face of Golden Sentinel (ca 5,200m). (1) Italian descent. (2) Viaggio nell'ignoto (UIAA VI, seven pitches, CAI Curbatt Group, 2007). (3) North ridge (UIAA VI, eight pitches, CAI Curbatt Group, 2007). This summit lies immediately north of Peak Giorgio, climbed in 2005 by another Italian expedition. *Fabrizio Mazza*

UIAA VI. We used only nuts, Friends and a few pegs. Both routes began from an advanced camp placed below the summit pyramid, ca 900m of relatively easy terrain above base camp. We then turned to a subsidiary buttress rising 700m above our 4,000m base camp. Here, we established a 1,200m-long route of great character, weaving an intricate line up dihedrals and slabs at UIAA V+. We named the route the Chessboard. We completed all routes in a day. Most of us approached the area via a flight from Delhi to Leh, but Giudici and Travella cycled the 1,000km in 15 days.



The 700m-high granite buttress next to the 2007 Italian base camp in the Suru River Valley, showing the 1,200m-long route, Chessboard. *Fabrizio Mazza*

FABRIZIO MAZZA, *Italian Alpine Club*

Mt. Aiseo, northwest face. Having never climbed in the Greater Ranges before and with a full-time job to start in September, I found the prospect of a first trip to the Himalaya hard to resist. Adriano Ferrero, Simon Lorenz, Aimone Ripa di Meana, Oliver Ullrich, and I would make up a team of varying experience and fitness. Following in the footsteps of Mummery and Abruzzi, we would head to Zanskar's Durung-Drung Glacier. After a couple of months trying to get fit on the treadmills of London, we flew to Srinagar. The atmosphere was tense, with a heavy troop presence, but from our houseboats on Dal Lake the scene could hardly have been more

tranquil. Our Liaison Officer joined us at this stage. A seasoned mountaineer, Amresh was also a mango-eating champion (2.4kg in three minutes) and former Guinness World Record holder for standing on one leg (71 hours 40 minutes).

Our team assembled, we journeyed past the Nun-Kun massif to the Pensi La (4,400m), where Z3 (6,270m), our primary objective, could be seen towering above the glacier. Despite initial optimism from our climbing Sherpas (Narbu and Dorjee), closer inspection from a base camp on a moraine at 4,620m revealed that the mountain had suffered since ascents in the 1980s. A couple of avalanches confirmed our fears, and we felt compelled to look for another target, away from black ice and loose rock.

While exploring the upper glacier, we surveyed another mountain that looked safe and achievable. To reach it, we passed beneath the previously climbed Rahamo and through a spectacular glacial ice canyon that cleaved a passage through the main icefall. Above this we established advanced base camp at 5,025m.

The following day, August 2, we woke to clear skies and good snow. Although our goal was still some distance away, we soon reached the Savoia Pass immediately north of our proposed peak and began the ascent. The northwest flank proved to be similar in many ways to the Voie Normale on the Weissmies (Swiss Alps). Steep, crevassed glacial terrain eventually gave way to a balcony nestled beneath rocks at 6,000m. The summit seemed a long way off, and with bad weather approaching and fatigue creeping in, we decided on one last push. To our surprise the summit was far closer than we expected, with a short, steep section leading to a perfect snowy pinnacle, on which we recorded two GPS readings of 6,026m and 6,032m and an altimeter reading of 6,035m. We decided to take the average of GPS readings, which so far had proved more reliable, hence 6,029m. We enjoyed excellent views of the whole range before the long climb down.

Having consulted the journals and found no recorded ascents of the mountain, we christened it Mt. Aiseo, and awarded a grade of PD, chiefly for crevasse problems. As a whole, the area offers considerable scope for challenging and adventurous climbing.

EDWARD COOPER, *Alpine Club*

Shinkun East. A seven-member Indian team, led by Subrata Chakraborty and organized by the Himalayan Club, made the first ascent of Shinkun East (6,081m), which rises to the west of the Shinkun (formerly Shingo) La. Shinkun East is a relatively insignificant eastern outlier of previously climbed Shinkun. They established base camp at Chuminakpo (4,650m), and a higher camp at 5,190m. On September 9 the team reached the top of an unnamed 5,912m point, where they set their final camp. On the 10th Chakraborty, Jayanta Chattopadhyay, Debraj Dutta, Rudra Prasad Halder, Goutam Saha, and porter Harsh Thakur negotiated a cornice and two 70m rock bands, then traversed another rock barrier to an ice slope that gave a straightforward ascent to the summit.

HARISH KAPADIA, *Honorary Editor, The Himalayan Journal*

LADAKH

Kula, west ridge, second ascent/possible variant. On June 29 Gaurav, JS Gulia, and Amardeep, with two HAPs, Fateh Chand and Pyare Lal, reached the 6,546m summit of Kula in the Rupshu region. Kula is the name assigned this peak on the most recent Survey of India map, though the IMF refers to it by its former name of Chalung. The team from Sainik School Kunjpura, led by