

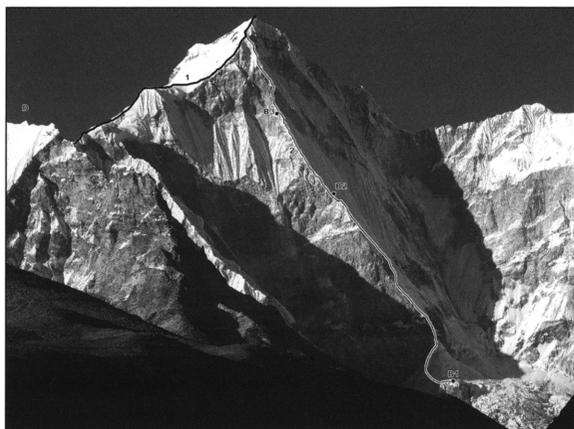
of the face. We established a camp on the Khumbu side of the pass at 5,600m. To reach the start of the route, we crossed the pass and descended 100m on the west side, before traversing snow shelves into the base of a large couloir rising back right to the crest of the south ridge. During our first attempt, at the beginning of October, we left a rope fixed on a difficult rock pitch at 6,000m. Our final attempt took place from October 10 to 11, with a bivouac at 6,300m. We reached 6,600m on the south foresummit, after climbing 1,000m, with difficulties of ED V/M5 A1. Above, a snow ridge led to the main summit, but the weather was freezing, and my partner especially was suffering from cold feet, so we retreated. We made 20 rappels using 70m ropes and reached camp the same day.



South ridge of Tengi Ragi Tau seen from slopes of Parchamo. (1) Baro-Corominas attempt, 2009. (2) Approximate line of Japanese-Nepalese route (first recorded ascent of the mountain; Ezaki, Morishita, Onda, and Takahashi, with Dhanjiti Tamang, Pasang Tamang, and Tul Bahadur Tamang over two days in December 2002). *Oriol Baro*

JORDI COROMINAS, *Spain*

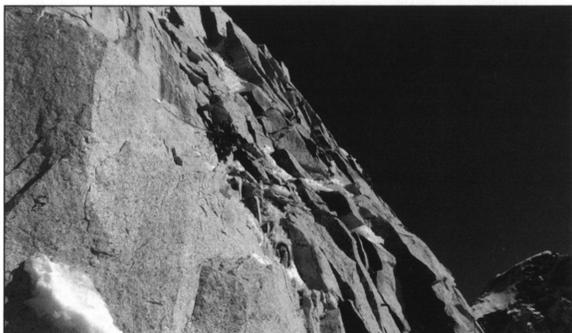
## MALAHANGUR HIMAL – KHUMBU SECTION



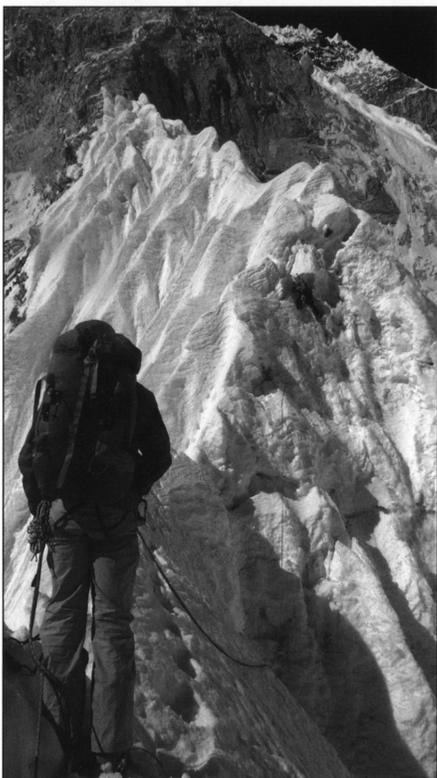
Pasang Lhamu Chuli from southeast, showing (1) upper section of Slovenian Route and (2) Hook or Crook, with bivouacs marked. Lower section of (1) is hidden by Dzasampatze (D) in foreground. *Simon Anthamatten*

*Pasang Lhamu Chuli (7,351m), southeast face, Hook or Crook.* At 2:30 p.m. on October 29, Michael Lerjen, my brother Samuel, and I stood on the summit of Pasang Lhamu Chuli. We were not exactly full of joy. Pasang Lhamu Chuli hasn't got an easy way off down the backside. Like the Matterhorn, once you reach the summit, you are only halfway through. That evening we made it back to 6,900m and the following day regained base camp. It took 25 rappels from Abalakovs, stoppers, Camalots, a buried ice axe, and a buried segment of trekking pole.

After establishing base camp at 5,200m, we acclimatized with an ascent of Dzasampatze [the second known ascent



Simon Anthamatten on mixed terrain at 7,100m, southeast face of Pasang Lhamu Chuli. *Simon Anthamatten collection.*



Samuel Anthamatten leading on precarious ridge toward upper rock buttress on southeast face of Pasang Lhamu Chuli. *Simon Anthamatten*

of this 6,295m peak immediately south of Pasang Lhamu Chuli, the first having been made by Slovenians in 2004]. We began our new route on Pasang Lhamu Chuli on October 25, making a five-hour trek across the broken Somna Glacier to bivouac below the southeast face at 5,800m. The next day we were able to move fast: a little ice-climbing at first and then snow-trudging. In high spirits we camped on a snow mushroom

at 6,500m, remaining tied in while we slept. The following day the climbing became more complex: snow mushrooms as big as trucks, between which lay steep ice walls. While climbing ice we were able to place good protection and to belay using ice screws, but on bottomless snow we could only move forward like voles, with no useful belay. Our nerves were on edge, as we often moved up one step only to fall back two. Regularly we asked ourselves what this had to do with climbing. We gained only 400m that day and squeezed our two-man tent into a gap in a mushroom at 6,900m. With three of us inside, the night was uncomfortable.

On the following morning our morale sank when we encountered a 150m rock wall at ca 7,000m. Steep slabs and vertical cracks taxed us, and, above, steep ice pitches sapped our remaining energy. Once over this, 300m of desperately tiring snow-trudging brought us to the summit. We made it thanks to team spirit and motivation, having to implement efficiently all the experience we'd gathered in the Alps, Patagonia, Canada, and Alaska. This was the first alpine-style ascent of Pasang Lhamu Chuli, and we named our route Hook or Crook (VI W16 M5, 1,550m).

SIMON ANTHAMATTEN, Switzerland

*Editor's Note: Formerly known as Nangpai Gosum I or Jasamba, Pasang Lhamu Chuli straddles the Nepal-Tibet border southwest of Cho Oyu. It was officially renamed by the Nepalese Government after the death in May 1993 of Pasang Lhamu, the Sherpani who became the first Nepalese woman to climb Everest but perished during the descent.*