

Arken (Ark) seen from a distance of eight kilometers to the northwest. The 2010 attempt ran across the south face, out of sight to the right. Jim Gregson

piercingly cold ice-cap wind-spill battered the tents, only relenting in late morning. From this location all except Stern made the first full traverse of Ararat (2,480m, and the highest summit in Paul Stern Land), Sandy and I having made the first ascent in 2008. We climbed the west ridge and descended the southeast ridge and southwest face. On the 5th Robin, Sandy, and I skied west toward the ice cap, encountering many crevasses, where in 2008 none

had been seen. We climbed a high nunatak called Solbjorgs Fjell (2,090m) over rock and ice on its north-northeast ridge. We named the route Cryoconite Ridge (cryoconite is a term coined by the polar explorer Nordenskjold to refer to atmospheric debris, soot, dust, pollen, etc. that is trapped in ice and provides a climate record). We skied quickly back to camp under a hot sun.

By the day of our pick-up we were acutely aware how much depletion had occurred in the snow cover, mostly by sublimation in the warm conditions experienced in 2010. Ten or 12 years ago we always came to Greenland at the end of July. For icecap and glacier trips this would now be very unwise. The summer melt is kicking in earlier, and the air company is unwilling to risk landing its ski-planes so far into the summer. We now come in the late spring, and if 2010 conditions become the norm, knowledge and experience of how to cope with crevasses will become increasingly important.

On our journey out the pilot flew us around Arken's summit. We could clearly see that our attempted route would have led us to the top, if we'd had better luck with conditions. Is this a good reason to return? Yes—but we already have our eyes set on a new area further north.

JIM GREGSON, UK, *Alpine Club*

RENLAND

Grundtvigskirchen (1,977m), east face, Eventyr; Milne Land, Pt. 1,295m, north pillar. An Italian-Swiss team comprising Simon Gietl, Daniel Kopp, Roger Schali, and photographer/climber Thomas Ulrich made the first ascent of the spectacular east face of Grundtvigskirchen, a huge granite wall rising 1,325m from a point not far above the south coast of Renland.

After flying to the airstrip at Constable Point, and crossing Scoresby Sund by Zodiac inflatables, the team established base camp just 50m above the sea. Across the waters of the Ofjord to the south lies the large island of Milne Land. Gietl (Italian) and Schali (Swiss) first crossed Ofjord to a fine granite pillar rising to a 1,295m summit on Milne Land's north coast, more or less directly opposite Grundtvigskirchen. After introductory scrambling the pair started on the upper 850m granite pillar at 6 p.m. They climbed 15 pitches and then took a rest for one-and-a-half hours before climbing the remaining 15 pitches to the

top. The ascent took only 15 hours and was easily protected with natural gear. Difficulties were around 6b. They found no evidence of previous passage, not on the pillar nor at its summit.

All four climbers then spent more than a week working their line on Grundtvigskirchen, using a portaledge camp at ca 750m to make a semi-capsule ascent of this superb wall. In a total of 40 pitches, 39 were climbed onsight or redpointed, with difficulties up to 7a+. Although bolts were placed for main belays, only natural gear was used between stances. They reached the summit on August 6 after two days of non-stop climbing (forced by a predicted spell of bad weather). They named the route Eventyr, which means Fairy Tale in Danish.

In 1998 the east face of Grundtvigskirchen was the target for Bengt Flygel Nilsfors, Magnar Osnes, Odd Roar Wiik (all from Norway), and the Swede Micke Sundberg. Heavy rockfall and ice fall forced them to abandon the climb, but Nilsfors, Sundberg, and Wiik returned in 1999 with Patrik Fransson from Sweden to make the first ascent of the south ridge. They accessed the peak by first taking a charter flight to Milne Land and then kayaking across the Ofjord. The ridge, which begins 500m above the fjord and rises almost 1,500m to the summit, gave more than 30 pitches of magnificent roped climbing on superb granite up to 5.11a.

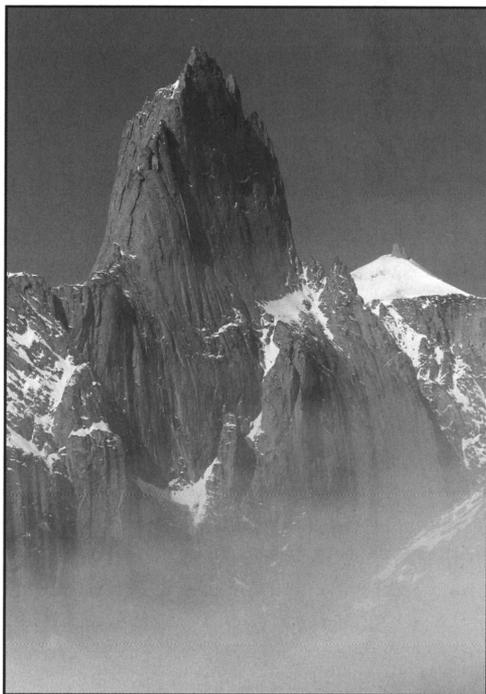
Naming peaks in Greenland has long been a tricky affair, and Grundtvigskirchen has been particularly difficult. The AAJ Online contains two reports on place names in Greenland, including a climbing history of Grundtvigskirchen. One was written by me and the other by geologist and Greenland expert Tony Higgins.

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain INFO*

SCHWEIZERLAND

Schweizerland, various ascents. The 2010 Braunschweiger Grönlandexpedition flew to Kulusuk on July 12, and over the next two days traveled northeast by boat and on foot (with pulks) into the mountains between Knud Rasmussen Gletscher and Kangertivartikajik Fjord. Base camp was established northeast of the head of the Kangertivartikajik Fjord at 266m. From there Thorsten Henszelewski, Jens Köhler, Gaby Lappe, Birgit Lehmann, and I were able to climb nearly every day, due to almost continuous sunshine. We reached a number of summits, some of which may not have been climbed before.

Possible first ascents and unofficial names are: Inuitseerdumud Dunitsud (Birthday Present, 1,325m, UIAA III+, 66°02'22" N, 36°16'47" W); Qaqqardivaq Maluck (Maluck Peak, 1,318m, from northeast at UIAA II, 66°02'33" N, 36°16'27" W); Qaqqardivaq Thorsten (Thorsten Peak, 1,316m, northeast



East face of Grundtvigskirchen, climbed by 2010 Italian-Swiss team. Left skyline (south) ridge is upper section of 1999 Norwegian-Swedish route. Patrick Huber