

As to their comment about its being doubtful that we had reached the top, we thoughtfully did provide against just this contingency twenty-five years ago by taking a 360-degree overlapping panorama set of photographs and publishing it—for Communists to overlook—in the January 1934 issue of *The Geographical Review*, in a technical article by Dick "Bursball" (his real name is Burdsall) entitled, "The Altitude and Location of Minya Konka."* The editorial introduction says that "The writer of this article is the leader of the mountaineering team of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions." Along in his article we read interesting details, such as the following: "The snow gradually melted and our progress became slower. We were going up an incline of over 70 degrees [yes, that's what it says] and had to make a foothold at every step we climbed . . . Without the comrades' help we would not have succeeded . . . That day we got up to 17,700 feet above sea level. I gave orders that we should encamp under a cornice of snow" [yes, it says that, too]. When they got on top they "embraced each other, our eyes filled with joyful tears. Lining up we proudly hoisted the five-star national flag on the misty pinnacle. Kuo Teh-sun tied a red scarf, entrusted to him by a Young Pioneer, on the handle of an ice-axe standing just below the flag. I took a picture of the historic scene."

The same mentality which chose its own way of spelling our names must also have been the one to choose the altitude of the mountain for them. For though Dick Burdsall had been generous in our survey, offering: "24,891 feet, plus or minus 85, which for convenience we round off to 24,900 feet," none of these four possibilities would suit them. Instead, they felt it necessary to choose a five-foot different one of their own "24,895 feet." No doubt the extra five feet is snow that got pushed off the top of the mountain and lost while they were rummaging around on top looking "for traces of markers" of our expedition, but not finding them!

TERRY MOORE

A further note. The February 1958 issue of *Der Bergsteiger*, pp. 198-202, has an excellent account of the Chinese expedition to Minya Konka written by the leader, Shih Chan-Chun. The criticisms so justly made by Terris Moore of the article in *People's China* cannot be made of this account. In *Der Bergsteiger* Shih Chan-Chun states, "Minya Konka was first climbed in 1932 by an American Sikang Expedition. Four American climbers, Richard L. Burdsall, Arthur B. Emmons, Terris Moore and Jack

* See, also; Terris Moore, "The Minya Konka Climb," *AAJ* 1933, 2:1, pp. 1-17; Richard L. Burdsall and Arthur B. Emmons, 3rd., *Men Against the Clouds: The Conquest of Minya Konka*, New York, 1935.

Theodore Young made the attempt and two of them, Burdsall and Moore reached the top." [The names are all correctly spelled.] He goes on to say that their well-illustrated book gives "the very best detailed description of Minya Konka." He describes the slip and the fatal fall of three of the climbers during the descent from the summit. As for the altitude, he gives 7590 meters (24,902 feet), obviously a rounding off of the American altitude to the nearest even 10 meters and only two feet above the other figure. The article in *Der Bergsteiger* appears to be an accurate account of the expedition stated in good taste.—*Editor*.

