

believe that "a woman's place is on top." But it will probably not convert those who believe otherwise.

PATRICIA A. FLETCHER

High Mountains and Cold Seas A Biography of H. W. Tilman, by J. R. L. Anderson. Seattle: The Mountaineers, 1980. 364 pages, illustrations, sketch maps. Price \$20.00.

Bill Tilman was the quintessential British explorer: tough and flexible as good leather, immune to hardship and danger, reticent often to the point of speechlessness. He was stocky, tireless, wiry and weathered with the brush mustache, pipe, and had the bearing of the best type British officer. He not only looked the part of an explorer—he lived it. No climber-explorer-sailor in this century led a more varied and adventurous life in remote parts of the world, and few have been fortunate enough to have such a skilled biographer.

Tilman revealed only parts of himself to the various categories of people who were his friends. He fought valiantly and with distinction in both World Wars and was wounded and decorated in both. Doubtless he had friends among his fellow soldiers but they were not well-known to those who knew Bill as a climber and explorer. We in turn knew little of Tilman the sailor, who took small boats into unlikely and dangerous waters. On the last of these voyages he and five young companions were lost without trace in the South Atlantic.

Roughly a third of Tilman's eighty years were spent in growing up, surviving two wars and in the formative decade when he farmed in Kenya alone with hundreds of books for company. Another third was devoted to mountaineering in Europe, Asia, Africa, Greenland and the sub-Antarctic; the remainder was spent in deep-water sailing after, as he put it, he was "too old to climb." Unlike most mountaineers and sailors, Bill Tilman wrote brilliantly, with splendidly dry wit, and a style and reservoir of quotations drawn from reading and re-reading the world's best literature while running his coffee plantation in Kenya. As a confirmed bachelor and putative misogynist there were no women in his life except for a devoted sister who was, he said, his sheet-anchor and to whom he turned for home and affection, which he returned to her many times. His fifteen books are classics in mountaineering and sailing, written with tongue in cheek, usually putting himself down, and with many famous one liners such as ". . . on the summit we so far forgot ourselves as to shake hands."

Mr. Anderson knew Tilman during his sea-faring phase and his son was one of Tilman's climbing disciples. Just what impelled him to write this splendid biography he does not tell us, but thank heavens he did: few mountaineers (who tend more to autobiography) have ever had

a biographer of such quality and perception. Anderson has produced a sensitive and engrossing book which is scholarly as well as entertaining, and which gives a clear portrait of a reticent and self-contained individual. By his careful selection of letters, Anderson shows a side of this remarkable man which was hidden from view, even from his many friends. This is a splendid book about a magnificent man, and every climber and deep-water sailor will like and should have it.

CHARLES S. HOUSTON

Na Vrh Sveta, by Aleš Kunaver, Ante Mahkota, Jože Andlovic, Matija Maležič, Danilo Cedilnik and Tone Skarja. Ljubljana: Mladinska knjiga, 1979. Published in both Slovene and Croatian. 254 pages with 184 photographs in color, 124 in black-and-white and 9 route sketches. Price: 640 Yugoslavian dinars.

Although most readers of the *American Alpine Journal* will not be able to read the text of *Na Vrh Sveta* ("To the Top of the World"), I still highly recommend this lovely book. Its photographs are some of the most breath-taking and beautiful imaginable.

The book covers two decades of Yugoslavian climbing in the Himalaya. Their first expedition in 1960 approached Trisul from the south and failed to climb the main peak but did ascend Trisul II and III. In 1976 they ascended the Nandakini and made a splendid and difficult new route on the western side of Trisul. In 1965 an expedition pioneered a route on 25,925-foot Kangbachen to about 1000 feet from the summit. Although Poles followed their route in the spring of 1974 and completed the first ascent, in the autumn of that year ten Yugoslavs reached the top and also made the first ascents of difficult Wedge Peak and two others. In 1969 they climbed Annapurna II and IV. In 1972 they pioneered a remarkably difficult route, the south face of Makalu, but bad weather and exhaustion prevented their climbing the final 1500 feet. An Austrian and an international expedition attempted their route but did not get even as high as they had. In the fall of 1975 the Yugoslavs returned and completed the route. The final section of the book deals with their outstanding achievement, the ascent of the complete West Ridge of Everest.

The section on each mountain is introduced by a brief history of the climbing on the peak with some fascinating photos from all epochs, a detailed description of the Yugoslav expeditions with excellent sketches of the routes and finally a collection of superb color photographs.

For the reader who does not read Slovene or Croatian, the photographs are reason enough to buy the book. They are of real artistic merit and are beautifully reproduced. There are excellent pictures of the approaches, of the people of the region, of the peaks and of climbing action.

H. ADAMS CARTER