

turn of the century. Despite its deceptive scrapbook style, the work is scholarly. It is also highly nostalgic.

The author is at his best with the history of the early climbing. One wishes he had personally said more and quoted less—but, then, many of the quotations are memorable. He might also have omitted, or at least modified, the chapter on distant Mount Sir Sandford, for its story, while essential in any broad account of Selkirk climbing, belongs elsewhere and shifts the focus away from the House and the Glacier at the very moment when the reader has become engrossed in both. But these, however, are minor flaws, overshadowed by good research, an entertaining style, excellent history and magnificent illustrations.

SAMUEL H. GOODHUE

High Mountain Peaks in China—Newly Opened to Foreigners. Chinese Mountaineering Association. The People's Sports Publishing House of China and The Tokyo Shimbun Publishing Bureau of Japan, 1981. 45 pages in English and 151 in Japanese, black and white and color photographs, maps. \$17.50.

The color photographs and the text present the most valuable information in English about Chinese mountaineering and Chinese mountains open to foreign climbers in 1981. (We understand that there may be minor additions in 1982.) The Japanese text seems to be an expanded version of the same material.

The opening article on "Mountaineering in China" is written by Shi Zhanchun, Vice-President of the Chinese Mountaineering Association and a new Honorary Member of The American Alpine Club. Twenty-four articles follow: eight concern Qomolangma (Everest), four Xixabangma (Gosainthan), two Kongur and Muztagata, two Bogda (in the Tianshan), two Anyêmaqên, four Gongga (Minya Konka); one is about Chinese mountaineering equipment and another concerns the "Tentative Regulations for Foreign Mountaineering Groups."

Shi Zhanchun tells us that the Chinese Mountaineering Association was organized in 1958 with the policy of "making mountaineering serve the economic construction, national defense and high-altitude scientific investigation." He briefly tells of Chinese ascents of Qomolangma and Xixabangma and of the scientific work done on these peaks in collaboration with the climbers. He also praises the world altitude records for women set on Muztagata and Kongur Tiùbie (7595 meters) in 1959 and 1961 and on Everest (8848 meters) in 1975.

The other articles describe geographical areas, nearby cities, routes of access, scientific studies, snow-line altitudes and routes on the eight mountains. One of the more interesting items is by Wang Fuzhou, one of the three Chinese climbers to make the first ascent of Everest from the north in 1960. He tells of the crisis at the Second Step, how they

scaled it after Qu Yinhua took off his shoes and socks and climbed the last part barefoot, and of their continuing to the summit by starlight. Of necessity, all the articles are very compressed and factual, but they provide valuable information for those interested in Chinese mountains or in mountaineering in China.

ROBERT H. BATES

Chamonix Mont-Blanc 1900. Gaston Rébuffat. Grands Vents, Genève, 1981. French text. 143 pages, 8½" × 11½", black-and-white and color illustrations. Paper.

Gaston Rébuffat has compiled a wonderful and evocative record of both a place and a time. Instead of producing yet another book on Chamonix and Mont Blanc, he has chosen to focus on the year 1900, the peak of the Art Nouveau movement, and to relate this artistic outburst to a flowering of interest in the area—a truly inspired idea.

Although the text, which covers such topics as the development of alpine sports and the rise of alpinism, is useful and informative, it is in the choice and arrangement of the illustrations that the book really shines. No aspect of life in Chamonix/Mont Blanc at the turn of the century has been overlooked and the reader is treated to a visual feast.

First come the eye-catching posters, designed to capture the scenic and sportive attractions of the region. Next are the postcards, both pictorial and photographic, that show everything from climbers in all manner of impractical and improbable garb and tourists viewing the glaciers to mountain railways and scenic vistas. As if all this were not enough, there are also pictures and paintings galore.

For those who still want more, there are examples of alpine music and hotel cards as well as a generous sampling of notices from the press of the day. The pleasures to be enjoyed at Chamonix and Mont Blanc are deliciously depicted on candy boxes, postage stamps, stationery, and on an incredible variety of souvenirs.

This is not a book to be gone through only once but is, rather, one that can be savored many times. Gaston Rébuffat is to be congratulated for his unique approach and for bringing new life to an old subject.

PATRICIA A. FLETCHER

In the Shadow of the Giants—Mountain Ascents Past and Present. Tom King. A. S. Barnes & Co., San Diego and New York, 1981. 262 pages, black and white photographs, sketch maps, glossary, bibliography. \$11.95.

If you are a mountaineering history buff and have a romantic taste in prose, then *In the Shadow of the Giants* could be a welcome addition