India—Himachal Pradesh

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Mountaineers of Bombay, Zerksis Boga, Arun Samant, Muslim Contractor, Bhupesh Ashar, Shekhar Jaywant, Gaurang Bhatia and I explored the unvisited Lingti valley and Shilla valley in eastern Spiti. We climbed five peaks, attempted three others, reconnoitered two major peaks and traversed two difficult second ascent of the peak. Meanwhile Ragnhild Doseth, Elżbieta Skorek and Ludwik Wilczyński reached the north ridge of Bhrigupanth near the summit (6777 meters, 22,234 feet).

JÓZEF NYKA, Editor, Taternik, Poland

Thalay Sagar, Attempt on the North Face. Dr. X. Bigard, H. Giot, H. Sachetat, P. Royer, D. Seguier, J.P. Chaligne, liaison officer Malkeit Singh Meit and I left Gangotri on August 27 and after a three-day approach got to Base Camp at Kedartal at 15,600 feet on August 30. By September 6 we were established at Advance Base at 17,400 feet at the foot of the north face of Thalay Sagar, which we attempted by the couloir in the center of the face. On September 9 and 10 we fixed rope on the first 1650 feet of very sustained slopes: 60° to 80° slabs covered with ice. It stormed from the 11th to the 13th. On September 15 and 16 we prepared the route to 21,325 feet, having great difficulties on ice. There were three vertical or overhanging rope-lengths without bivouac sites. On September 20 and 21 Sachetat, Royer, Seguier and I made a summit attempt, finding great difficulties on fragile ice. Sachetat made a 200-foot leader fall and was seriously injured. Seguier and Royer were badly affected. A painful retreat lasted late into the night. The three were evacuated to Delhi. We could see that there was little chance to climb the north face, where the last obstacles were very formidable: compact slabs covered with verglas which ended in overhanging chimneys. Giot, Chaligne and I decided on an attempt on the west ridge. We bivouacked on September 27 at 20,350 feet on the snowy west ridge. On the 28th we continued up easy climbing to the summit step at 21,325 feet. We got to a vertical rotten-rock pitch at 22,150 feet but felt we lacked the equipment to continue. We left Base Camp on October 4.

JEAN-CLAUDE MARMIER, Lieutenant Colonel, Groupe Militaire de Haute Montagne

Ascents in the Gangotri Region. Many expeditions are now repeating previously ascended climbs in the Gangotri region, particularly in Kedarnath Dome, Bhagirathi II and the Jogin peaks. Possibly the most important ascent for which we lack details is that of Bhrigupanth by Taiawanese led by Mrs. Huang Lee Chun-Jung in September.

India—Himachal Pradesh

Lingti and Shilla Valleys, Spiti. To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Mountaineers of Bombay, Zerksis Boga, Arun Samant, Muslim Contractor, Bhupesh Ashar, Shekhar Jaywant, Gaurang Bhatia and I explored the unvisited Lingti valley and Shilla valley in eastern Spiti. We climbed five peaks, attempted three others, reconnoitered two major peaks and traversed two difficult
river gorges. As there is no pass at the head of the Lingti, locals rarely penetrate its deep gorges. Shilla valley has had only about four expeditions. Peak Shilla (6111 meters, 20,050 feet) was made famous by an ascent in 1860 by an unnamed survey khalasi and by the wrong height assigned to it. Chau Chau Kang Nilda (6303 meters, 20,680 feet) was climbed by Jimmy Roberts in 1939. The latest map shows Gyah (6794 meters, 22,290 feet), adjoining Shilla, as the highest in Spiti and all Himachal Pradesh. With our “inner-line” permits, we started the 412-kilometer journey from Simla to Kaza. We reached the barren, windy, cold Lingti roadhead at midnight on July 25. We trekked on July 27 with 10 porters and 12 donkeys to Lalung village (12,000 feet). The next day we proceeded in heavy rain to Zingu (14,200 feet). On July 29 we climbed to a pass at Zingu-top (14,000 feet) and started to cross the Shijbang gorge, but we could complete the traverse to Shijbang-top (15,800) only the next day. We camped at Shijbang (14,900 feet). On August 1 we crossed the Shijbang Nala to Sanesa, traversed above Sibu and finally crossed the Sheru Nala to camp at upper Sheru (14,600 feet). The next day our yaks deposited us at Detto Numa (16,000 feet), our Lingti Base Camp. On August 3 we sited Advance Base at 17,600 feet almost at the junction of the Sheru, Tangmor and Giu Nalas. To the northeast were two peaks. One, Sibu (5700 meters, 18,701 feet), had been climbed by our advance party of K. Kutty and M. Shagwat in June. On August 5 Samant, Contractor, Ashar, Jaywant, Bhatia and I climbed Lagma (5761 meters, 18,900 feet) up a gentle snow slope. For the next three days Contractor and I with porter Sher Singh headed up the Tangmor gorge, hoping it would give access to the upper Lingti and Gyah. We descended 2500 feet to the river basin, which was full of boulders and ice bridges. In six kilometers the gorge narrowed considerably. We had to climb each intervening scree slope and rappel on the other side. On August 7 we tried unsuccessfully to make an exit to the southwest and returned to Advance Base. On August 8 we all attempted Tangmor Peak (5880 meters, 19,292 feet) and failed because of a huge, unstable cornice. We withdrew from the Lingti valley and reached Kaza on August 11. We feel that Gyah and the upper Lingti cannot be approached from Tangmor. The route may lie across the river to Lashitang and over the Chaksachan La. We left Kaza for Langja (14,200 feet) on August 14. Samant and Contractor were established at the base of Chau Chau Kang Nilda on the 15th. They pushed camp farther up and reached 19,000 feet, but constant bad weather forced them to retreat after six days on August 20. Ashar, Bhatia and I reconnoitered the route to Shilla. There is no approach over Shilla gorge in the west and one has to cross Shilla-jot (18,500 feet) and descend almost over Lashitanga in the Lingti valley. This may also give easy access to Gyah. With two camps we reached the base of an 18,000-foot pass on August 17. On the 18th we climbed scree and steep ice to an 18,600-foot col and traversed west along a corniced ridge to reach the summit of Zumto (c. 5800 meters, 19,029 feet). Bhatia returned to the col and rappelled back to camp. In inclement weather Ashar and I climbed steep rock and traversed to reach Tserip (c. 5980 meters, 19,620 feet). We descended to the
north and traversed to climb Kawu (c. 5910 meters, 19,390 feet). We descended and traversed east to Shilla-jot and down to camp. We had climbed three peaks on this semi-circular basin. On August 21 we started to travel back from Kaza.

Harish Kapadia, Himalayan Club

Mulkila 6 (M6), North Face, Lahul. Our Franco-Swiss expedition consisted of Jean-Jacques Asper, O. Paulin and me. After a seven-day approach, by way of Manali, Rothang Pass, Khoksar, Kyelang, Darcha and Yotse, we reached Base Camp on the Mulkila Glacier at 14,100 feet. Camp I was on the glacier at 16,600 feet and Camp II at 18,350 feet at the foot of the north face. We climbed alpine-style for two days. Paulin and I reached the summit (6279 meters, 20,600 feet) on June 23. The north face of M6 is a 2000-foot-high ice-and-snow wall which averages 60° and has one 75° pitch. It was the first ascent of the face and the third of the peak.

André Zagdoun, Club Alpin Français

Koa Rong Peaks. Koa Rong 3 (6157 meters, 20,200 feet) was climbed by Indian women Bani Bose and Smiriti Bhattacharjee and Sherpas Dawa and Pasang Thondup on July 25. The leader was Miss Lipika Ghosh. Japanese Shigemi Toyoda, Takamasu Tsukamoto, Akira Ota and Kazumi Suzuki climbed Koa Rong 4 (6340 meters, 20,800 feet) by the northeast face with two high camps on September 18. Toyoda and Suzuki climbed KR5 (6257 meters, 20,530 feet) via the northeast face on September 27 having established two different high camps.

Kamal K. Guha, Himalayan Club

Miyar Nalla, Lahul. Susan Brener, Barry Owen and I were in the Miyar Nalla area in September. After three days’ walking from Udaipur, we reached the glacier which leads up to the Kangla Jot. As we had only a short time at our disposal, we took the first tributary glacier to the right a few miles above the snout, opposite the place where Palphu is marked on the Himachal Pradesh trekking map. We did not know of any others who had been up our side glacier but we found ugly litter left by a Japanese party. The side glacier forks after a few miles. We had a sortie up the icefalls of the direct continuation but eventually opted for the left fork, which we followed in a northerly direction to a camp in a snow bowl at 17,300 feet. From there an easy glacier led up to a 19,000-foot plateau on the main divide between Lahul and Zanskar. On September 7 we climbed to the plateau and ascended a very pleasant rock peak of 20,000 feet. We then traversed the ridge over a sharp subsidiary pinnacle before making an awkward descent to our snow bowl. On September 9 Owen and I climbed an elegant snow-and-ice peak of 20,000 feet by a varied and devious line. Again we traversed the mountain and had good views of the second large