

First Across the Roof of the World. Graeme Dingle and Peter Hillary. Hodder and Stoughton, Auckland, 1983. 232 pages, color photographs, maps. £9.95.

In these days of ultradistance exploits in many sports, it is intriguing to discover another type of ultra event to test the limits of physical and psychological endurance. The event described in this book is a trek from one end of the Himalayas to the other—from Sikkim to Pakistan. This ten-month adventure covered 5000 kilometers and provided a good dose of pain and suffering to the participants. Completion of this traverse, like other alpine accomplishments, had little practical value, but it was an exciting odyssey. It was interesting to follow the day to day progress and to learn of the complications encountered in putting together the continuous, high-altitude route. Having travelled on many segments of the route, I found it intriguing to learn how the pieces fit together to make the “super trek.”

The photographs in this book are superb. The continuous maps are informative and the descriptions realistic and colorful. The concept of going alpine style, rather than using porters, certainly added to the accomplishment. The authors provide practical advice on equipment and survival in the appendices. For anyone who has visited the Himalayas or hopes to do so, this book gives an excellent overview of the entire region as well as an entertaining story.

GENE F. WHITE

Catalogue of the Himalayan Literature. Second Edition. Yoshimi Yakushi. Hakusuisha Publishing Co., Tokyo, 1984. 759 pages. ¥19,000.

In 1972 Yoshimi Yakushi, compiler and editor of the present catalogue, encouraged by his mentor Mr. Kyuya Fukata (Vice President of the Japanese Alpine Club during the last years of his life), privately published his *Catalogue of the Himalayan Literature* in a limited 500-copy edition that quickly sold out. That catalogue was a bold first attempt to assemble a comprehensive bibliography of the many varied books published over the years in different countries of the world.

This new catalogue is a revised, corrected and enlarged version of its predecessor, yet of broadly similar content. It now lists more than 4600 books and some 100 maps and is divided into two main parts: the first, in English, dealing with books in European languages; the second, in Japanese. The first part has 3752 titles in all, each provided with full bibliographical details, not just of the original editions, but also of those translated into foreign languages. Of great value is the brief explanation of the contents of almost every book. Whereas books emanating from Eastern Europe are well represented, those in Russian or Chinese are not included because of the difficulties in obtaining enough accurate information about them.

The map section—which excludes those of the Survey of India and similar series—deals only with maps of this century. These maps are arranged in geo-

graphical sequence from east to west, a logical order that may, however, test the inconstant memory of some. The pity is there is no overall map to help situate the remoter mountain ranges or the principal peaks.

What gives the second, Japanese, part a very special interest is that the bibliographical information is also given in English. Alas, it is not easy for those in the West to ascertain, let alone to read, what has been published in Japan—the country that sends more expeditions to the Himalaya and China than any other. Extremely few Japanese mountaineering books appear in any European language. The few books and journals that do contain English summaries that all too often do no more than whet one's appetite.

Although this catalogue is aimed at the mountaineer and traveler, its interests go beyond the sheer logistics of expedition organization or the calibration of peaks and embrace the very fabric and life of the Himalaya and its people. Whether one wishes to read about Khotan carpets or K2, about Tibetan tankas or Trisul, all are represented within these pages.

Both Yoshimi Yakushi and his publisher, Hakusuisha, are deserving of our gratitude. The former for his proficiency and perseverance over many years in assembling and presenting this wealth of information with such clarity and accuracy, and the latter for having produced a tome that is well laid out, clearly printed, strongly bound and a pleasure to consult.

LOUIS BAUME

Everest: The Ultimate Challenge 1922-1982. A stereo sound history of sixty years of struggle to climb the world's highest mountain. Quarry Lane Productions, P.O. Box 1237, Alexandria, Ontario K0C 1A0 \$9.99 (U.S.) including postage.

If one can cut through the heraldic trumpets and heavy choral backgrounds, there is some good stuff here: reminiscing voices of Odell, Hunt, Scott, Habeler, Messner and that absolutely natural performer, Ed Hillary. My favorite passage is writer Jan Morris' eagle-eyed observation of the camp scene as Hillary and Lowe descend into the camp. Alas, when the memorabilia is good, it is too quickly over. The musical themes out of the film *Chariots of Fire* resume their ponderous way; the narrative goes for the heartstrings over good factual reporting.

"WASPs on Everest" is the hidden subtitle of this tape cassette. With the exception of Habeler and Messner, everyone interviewed is to English born. The *only* non-English speaking expeditions referred to at all on the history, and then only in passing, are the Swiss in 1952, the Chinese first ascent of the North Face, and the first woman, a Japanese, to make the summit. The story also spends a tedious time raking up the Francophobia of the 1971 CHEKC International Expedition.

The point of this ethnocentrism unfolds towards the end, however. We are told nothing of the exploits of the Indians, the Italians, the Swiss, the Poles, the Yugoslavs, the French and half a dozen other nationalities simply, by omission,