

Rock Climbs of Tuolumne Meadows. Don Reid and Chris Falkenstein. Chockstone Press, Denver, 1986. 140 pages, black and white photographs, line drawings. \$13.95 (paper).

This is an excellent revision of the authors' 1983 guidebook, and it should be well received by those who seek refuge from the summer waves of heat and humanity in Yosemite Valley below.

Several improvements have been made in this edition that are immediately obvious. Carolly Hauksdottir's inspired illustration of Tuolumne Meadows has been enlarged and moved to the title page. In its place on the cover is a striking wrap-around, color photograph of a climber dramatically silhouetted against a sea of water-streaked granite. The introductory material has been set in larger, easier-to-read 10-point typeface, and route names have been attractively bold-faced to make them readily distinguishable in the text. The biggest improvement has been the increased emphasis on photographs of the cliffs. The photos are more numerous than in the 1983 edition, and they have been spread conveniently through the book rather than bunched up in one place. This very practical idea makes the guidebook considerably easier to use.

Other noteworthy features are the inclusion of several newly discovered areas, the helpful comments on protection, and the retention of Tom Higgins' well written historical perspective. Higgins' eloquent plea for a return to traditional climbing style is especially thought provoking and should be read by every climber who contemplates murdering the impossible with questionable tactics.

Other than a few misspellings (guidebook is one word, for example), there is very little to criticize about this fine book. Only three relatively minor points come to mind, and two of these are purely cosmetic. Many of the route names in the captions for the illustrations are not lined up vertically with each other, which creates a rather ragged appearance on close inspection. Also, despite the great success of boldfacing throughout the book, it is almost overwhelming in the index; it probably would have been better to save the boldfacing for the relatively small number of formations listed there instead. And finally, it would have been nice to know what route is depicted on the cover so that visiting climbers could duplicate the shot if they so desired.

All in all, *Rock Climbs of Tuolumne Meadows* is an excellent investment. It is certainly one of the best guidebooks yet produced for any area in the United States and should whet the appetite of any climber who enjoys exhilarating runouts on endless sweeps of granite.

KEN NICHOLS

East Africa International Mountain Guide. Andrew Wielochowski. West Col Productions, Goring, 1986. 151 pages, photographs, line drawings, maps, bibliography. \$25.00 (U.S.).

This is a welcome addition to climbing book shelves to sit alongside *Guide to Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro* and *The Mountains of Kenya—A Hill Walker's*

Guide, both by the Mountain Club of Kenya. This guidebook also covers Mount Kenya and Kilimanjaro. But, in addition, it describes the Ruwenzori Mountains and many of the first-class rock climbs that abound in East Africa. As a bonus, cave exploration is included. The author spent eight years gathering the information for the book and has done most of the climbs and some first ascents himself.

Apart from the Ruwenzori and Kilimanjaro, the guide concentrates on Kenya. The author first deals briefly with its geography and people, then its flora and fauna. He gives a short discourse on the Swahili language, from which, he says, an ungrammatical but understandable speaking knowledge can be gained. He also discusses transportation, health, weather and climbing hazards and gives a bibliography and a list of useful maps—unfortunately, hard to obtain at present. Driving directions to the climbs are included, together with information on garages and the availability of gasoline.

The rock climbs are graded by the UIAA system and the ice climbs by the Scottish method. The length of the climbs is given in meters (the book is in the metric system only) and times are given for the mountain routes. The quality of a climb is also rated with one, two or three stars. The rock climbs are of a high standard, many being Grade IV–V (5.0–5.6), with many more of VI- to VII- (5.8–5.10c).

I have done several of the mountain routes and can attest to the accuracy of the descriptions, which have roughly the same detail as Beckey's guidebook.

The updated information on the Ruwenzori is valuable and, while in Kenya, climbers should be tempted to try some of the rock climbs and walking routes described. Some important climbs, however, are excluded, such as Mawenzi. Good walking areas, such as Mount Elgon and the Abedare Mountains are also not included. In this respect, *A Hill Walkers Guide* is better.

MICHAEL D. CLARKE

Maps of Nepal. Harka Gurung. White Orchid Books, Bangkok, 1983. 100 pages, 28 color and black and white maps, many sketches and geological information.

The author has been engaged in large-and small-scale planning, not only in his native Nepal but for international organizations as well, and has published books and articles about the physical sciences, and the economy and politics of tourism in Nepal. He has collected twenty-eight maps, ranging from one by Kircher in 1666 to the 1981 Landsat map of Nepal, and has annotated them skillfully. There are brief chapters on the history of mapping in the Himalaya, panoramas, and fascinating summaries of geological and geomorphological studies, in addition to a short bibliography and a list of major peaks along Nepal's northern boundary (which will doubtless intrigue climbers). Though the modern maps are too small in scale to be helpful to the traveller, the book is a