

Freya, Southwest Buttress, Baffin Island, 1987. The first time I approached Windy Lake shelter in Auyuittuq National Park in the southeast corner of Baffin Island, it was late February. The temperature hovered around -25°F and wind was building. We had been traveling under severe conditions for several weeks and one of my dogs had already frozen to death. By the time we reached the cabin and I had staked the team in a ravine beyond, the wind was blowing so hard that I had to crawl across an exposed hummock back to the cabin where I was destined to spend a few days. When the storm died and the sun returned, we continued through the Weasel valley, past Thor, Asgard and the rest of the big walls. I promised myself to return, in the summer, with climbing gear. Three years later, in July, 1987, Gray Thompson and I were camped at Summit Lake, looking for an objective. Freya's dominant face stood just northeast of camp. Doug Scott had put up a route on its right side and so we decided to try the left, the southwest buttress. We third-classed several hundred feet on a low-angle apron and roped up when the angle steepened. The first 19 pitches were 5.6 and 5.7 and we moved quickly in the warm sunlight. Then Gray drew a 5.9 lead on steeper slabs with a few small roofs. By afternoon, we had negotiated fairly technical climbing toward a house-sized chock that was jammed inside a major dihedral system on the left side of the face. We worked right under the chock on mossy, wet 5.9, expecting to exit on a shoulder that would allow us to walk up the summit ridge. Instead, we found a headwall, broken by ledges, that went free for ten more pitches at 5.8 and 5.9 with about ten feet of aid. We finally reached the summit in the Arctic twilight at midnight. The descent was a long series of nasty rappels into a snowy, slabby gully system that started northwest of the summit. The total climbing time was 15 hours and we were away from camp for 30 hours.

JON TURK, *Unaffiliated*

GREENLAND

Kronpriz Frederik Bjerger, East Greenland. This British expedition, led by Stan Wooley, successfully climbed and explored in the Kronpriz Frederik Bjerger, south of Kangerdlugssuaq Fjord. The other members were Dr. Ian Campbell, Ted Courtney, Rob Ferguson. Jim Lowther, Mike Parsons, John Richardson, Dave Wooley and I. The area appears to have been visited only once before by ground parties, namely by members of Lawrence Wager's expedition of 1935-6. (See *Geographical Journal*, Vol. XC, N° 5 November 1936.) We were flown by ski plane on July 18, landing at $67^{\circ}57'\text{N}$, $34^{\circ}45'\text{W}$. The next day was spent climbing two small nunataks ($68^{\circ}00'\text{N}$, $34^{\circ}43'\text{W}$ and $67^{\circ}58'\text{N}$, $34^{\circ}42'\text{W}$) before splitting into two parties for a sledging and climbing journey of four weeks. Stan Wooley, Campbell, Courtney and Richardson took a line mostly close to the edge of the icecap and made the first ascents of the following peaks: small nunatak ($68^{\circ}03'\text{N}$, $34^{\circ}52'\text{W}$; c. 2050 meters); Panoramannunatak-

ker (68°13'N, 43°28'W; an extended mountain two of whose summits were climbed including the main summit of 2400 meters); P 2300 (68°18'N, 33°52'W); P c. 2100 (68°00'N, 34°05'W); P c. 2300 (68°04'N, 33°57'W); Peak (67°57'N, 34°28'W; westernmost of three prominent rock peaks); and Peak (67°58'N, 34°24'W). Ferguson, Lowther, Parsons, Dave Wooley and I meanwhile took a lower line and made ascents as follows: the highest point of an extended massif (68°09'N, 34°19'W; c. 2500 meters); P c. 2400 (68°12'N, 33°13'W), subsidiary summit of Redkammen (named in 1936 by Deer and Fontaine "Comb Mountain"); P c. 2130 (68°08'N, 33°27'W); P c. 2600 (68°07'N, 33°35'W); P c. 2600 (67°58'N, 33°50'W) P 2400 (68°01'N, 34°03'W; an obvious trapezium-shaped nunatak); P 2600 (67°57'N, 33°57'W); and P 2400 (67°50'N, 34°06'W), the finest rock peak of the area of Matterhorn-shape. We retreated from a prominent snow peak at 67°64'N, 34°27'W in the face of dangerous snow conditions. On August 13, we reassembled at the landing strip and before flying out on August 15 climbed P 2200 (68°00'N, 34°46'W) and P 2300 (67°59'N, 34°54'W), both on the edge of the icecap.

PHILIP BARTLETT, *Alpine Club*

Staunings Alper. Members of the Islandic Alpine Club chartered a plane and flew on July 21 from Iceland to Mestervig. The plane then dropped their gear on the Bersaekerbrae Glacier. Four days later they established Base Camp at 700 meters. They unsuccessfully attempted Glamis but found very loose rock. They climbed Tintaget, Kensington, Bersaekerspire, Dunnottar and Black Wall. It was a very rainy summer, which explains why they did not climb more peaks. They returned to Iceland on August 30. The climbers were Ingimundur Stefáns-son, Sigursteinn Baldursson, Haraldur Porri Grétarsson, Gudmundur Eyjólfsson and Stefán Smáráson.

DOLFI ROTOVNIK, *Danish Mountain Club*

MEXICO

El Gran Trono Blanco, Cañón del Tajo, Sierra de Juárez, Baja California, 1988-90. Dan Curley and I established two new routes on the south face of El Trono Blanco. *La Joya* (IV, 5.11+) was completed in November, 1988. Ten pitches of face climbing with steep friction and edging are well protected by 60 bolts. *El Paseo Blanco* (IV, 5.11) was done in April, 1990. The first two pitches follow a right-facing dihedral, nailed by Fred Beckey in the early 1970s. From Beckey's "dead-end" crack system, our route continues straight up with superb face climbing for another ten pitches. The upper half of the route follows crystalline dikes which offer small square-cut holds, an alluring ladder to the summit. *Baile del Sol* (5.10), a variation of the 1975 South Wall Crack Route, was climbed in 1989 by Curley and Chuck Berry, who placed 30 bolts. A pitch