

Another error practically leaped from the page. Charles A. Fay, one of the prime movers of Canadian alpinism, is described as a professor at *Harvard*. I suppose it's part of the stereotype: all prominent people from the eastern US are associated with either Harvard or Yale. In point of fact, Charles Fay was perhaps the most prominent alumnus of Tufts College, where he spent his long and distinguished career as professor and dean.

Content and style aside, this book has grievous defects. Typographical or spelling errors occur on average about once a page. Frequently, letters are squeezed together in order to make more words fit on a line, which makes the text difficult to read. Conversely, the hyphenation at the ends of lines often does not conform to grammatical rules. On page 147, we have the name "Thompson" broken at the end of a line thus: Th- ompson!

What does this book supplant or improve upon? Two other "popular" histories come to mind. *The Canadian Rockies* (1969) by Esther Fraser, while rather less detailed and equally superficial, remains a serviceable overview of the subject. Chris Jones' *Climbing in North America* (1976) fits Canadian alpinism into the larger picture and thus is necessarily selective in its coverage. On the other hand, Jones offers causal analysis and the insight of the practicing mountaineer, along with a vivid writing style, all things which are lacking in this and Fraser's book.

So what we have here is a book about the history of mountaineering written by someone who is neither historian nor mountaineer. It is the work of a professional writer, whose success in other venues induced an Alberta foundation to subsidize a project intended essentially to advertise the glories of the province. It is the work of a modern media man. For nearly forty years, I have climbed in the mountains which form the subject of this book and have delved into their lore and history, but this work has failed to engage my interest.

ROBERT KRUSZYNA

*The Mountains of Europe*. Kev Reynolds, Editor; various contributors. Oxford Illustrated Press, Haynes Publishing Group, Starkford-near-Yeovil, Somerset, England; Haynes Publications, Ltd., Newbury Park, California, 91320. 207 pages, 51 color and 18 black-and-white illustrations. U.K. price £ 19.95 (approx. \$US 37.00).

This book is addressed not only to serious mountaineers, but to all lovers of mountains. Its purpose, the editor tells us, is to enthuse and inform—also, he should have added, to educate.

Except for the Apennines, the text covers all Europe's mountain areas—a big order for a relatively short book. Kev Reynolds and his colleagues acquit themselves well, though some readers may complain about omissions. The writers all know their business. There are, however, rare typographical errors, notably in the translation of French names into English. Much of the content is necessarily broad-brush, but it is always interesting.

Despite the editor's apologies for what he terms excessive attention to his native isles, the section on Britain holds the reader's attention. Cameron McNeish's chapter on Scotland is remarkably well written and sets a noble tone for the remainder of the book.

British hills are succeeded by Norway's. Here we learn that some modern Norwegian alpinists deliberately refrain from reporting their first ascents so that successors will not be denied the thrill of pioneers. Then come good chapters on the Alps, one each for the Dauphiné, the Mont Blanc area, the Valais Pennines, the Oberland, Engadine, Dolomites, Austrian and, finally, Julian Alps of Slovenia. The focus then shifts to the Carpathians, Caucasus, Pyrénées, Picos de Europa (described with enthusiasm by Louis Baume, author of *Sivalaya*), Greece and Corsica. The authors do not limit their descriptions to topography. There is also history (with frequent references to Roman and medieval times), biota, access and accommodations. In the background, barely audible, echoes a serious concern for modern man's degradation of Europe's mountain beauty.

The writers and the editor are not only alpinists, but true lovers of the mountain scene. They admire gentle hiking and alpine esthetics as much as they do severe undertakings. This is one of the joys of this book for those of us who in recent years have been bombarded with the writings of super-climbers and their tales of derring-do. Kev Reynolds' book does not overlook important feats of mountaineering, most especially those which, in their day, were considered outstanding, such as I.A. Richards' and Dorothy Pilley's now classic ascent of the east face of the Dent Blanche, André Roch's route on the east face of the Zinal Rothorn, Hamish McInnes's twelve-day traverse of Ushba, or the struggle for the Eiger's north wall. But these things are treated as sidelights. The main emphasis, as it should, focuses on the glories and wonders of Europe's mountain world.

The color illustrations, on matte paper, are excellent, many of them featuring unusual views of well-known areas and summits. The black-and-whites do not succeed so well, aside from a few spectacular shots, notably one of Ushba. The maps represent a major weakness in an otherwise good book. They are inadequately detailed, neglect to include most references found in the text, but often supply place names not elsewhere to be found. They are, in a word, quite useless.

Nonetheless this is a good purchase for anyone wishing to acquire a quick, general and informative description of Europe's mountains or help in deciding where one might want to go for more detail. There are, of course, many works of this kind available, both old and new, so that the reader may wonder at the outset how this volume can compete against its rivals in today's market. The quality of the authors' writing is the answer. Kev Reynolds has done a fine job and his book merits serious attention and a wide readership among those who have interest in Europe's alpine world.

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