

lovely peak, we named it HAR Pinnacle after the names of our three base camp staff, Hassan, Abdul, and Rassool.

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Latok II, West Face and Northwest Ridge, Ascents, and Other Activity. A mostly German expedition of Alex and Thomas Huber, Toni Gutsch, Franz Fendt, and Christian Schlesener, plus American Conrad Anker, succeeded in making the second and third ascents of Latok II (7108m; see clarification below on the naming and altitudes of the Latok group). The team arrived on the Uzum Brakk Glacier in the middle of June. The Huber brothers, Gutsch and Anker began fixing rope up the central couloir to access the 1000-meter-plus face that begins at more than 6000 meters. Their route, *Tsering Mosong* (VII 5.10c A3), involved 26 pitches and was climbed over 11 days. A full account of the west face climb appears earlier in this journal.

Christian Schlesener and Franz Fendt made the third ascent of the mountain via the west face’s central ice couloir to the northwest ridge. They placed their advanced base camp at 6000 meters in the couloir. From there, they followed the central couloir to the crest of the ridge at 6600 meters, then started up the remaining 500 meters of the ridge. Thirty hours of climbing put them near the summit, but they were unable to see it and began to doubt their chances of success; fortunately, a radio message from base camp, from where the climbers could be seen, confirmed that they were close. They reached the summit after a 36-hour push. On the descent, the pair rappelled for 14 hours down the horizontal wall; Fendt narrowly escaped an ice avalanche before they arrived back in advanced base 50 hours after leaving. They got three hours’ rest at ABC, then continued down, using up all their climbing gear for rappel anchors. After having placed their last ice screw, they tied their ropes together and rappelled one last time, then downclimbed the last 300 meters. They had been moving nearly non-stop for 70 hours. They named their route *Nomadu* (VI 5.10a WI5 A2, 1100m).

Thomas Huber and Gutsch also made the second ascent of Spalding via the 900-meter Northeast Pillar (V 5.12b), climbed for the first time in 1995 by Volker Benz, Alex Huber, Karl Sptizof and Ruta Florschutz. Alex and Thomas, together with Gutsch, also climbed Bravo Brakk (ca. 5999m) via a snow/ice couloir up to 70° on the southwest flank in seven hours from base camp.

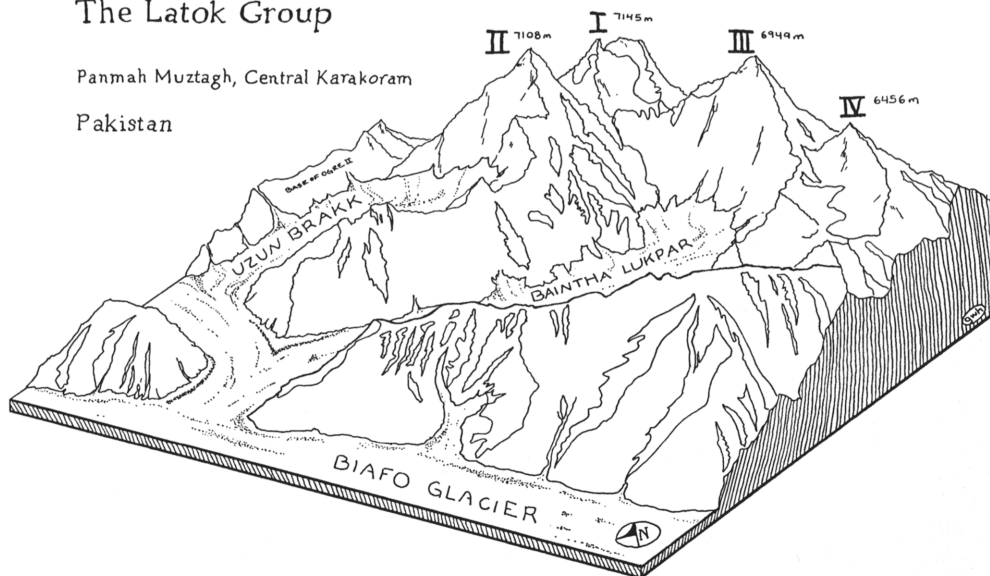
The Latok Group, Clarification. The 1997 ascents of Latok II have allowed us to clarify the naming of the three peaks of the Latok group. Below, we list the altitudes given to the peaks by three different sources: the *Ortograficzna Mapa Szkitowa Karacorum*, elaborated by Jerzy Wala in 1971; the triangulation results from the 1977 Italian expedition led by Professor Arturo Bergamaschi that made the first ascent of Latok II; and the map *Karakoram*, published in 1990 by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research.

	Latok I	Latok II	Latok III
Wala (1971)	7145 m	7108 m	6956 m
Bergamaschi (1977)	7086 m	7151 m	6860 m
Karakoram map (1990)	7145 m	7108 m	6949 m

The Latok Group

Panmah Muztagh, Central Karakoram

Pakistan



The heights given correspond as follows: Latok I is the central peak of the group; Latok II, the western peak; and Latok III, the eastern peak. (See above sketch.) The triangulation results from Professor Bergamaschi's expedition, which surveyed the peaks with Galileo and Salmoiraghi instruments, indicated the peak accepted as Latok II as the highest at 7151 meters. Based on these findings, Bergamaschi proposed that the designations for Latok I and Latok II be switched. He therefore called his the first ascent of "Latok I," but the peak has continued to be called Latok II in most publications. *The American Alpine Journal*, while acknowledging Professor Bergamaschi's work, will continue to refer to the Latok group by its designation in the 1990 *Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research Karakoram* map. The 1997 ascents of Latok II were thus the second and third ascents of the mountain.

We are indebted to Professor Bergamaschi, who has been kind enough to supply us with both a map that clarifies the results of their triangulations and a photo that shows his team's original route.

Shipton Spire, Ship of Fools. Mark Synnott and Jared Ogden established a new route on the east face of Shipton Spire (5852m) called *Ship of Fools* (VII 5.11 A2+ WI6), spending 20 nights on the wall and summiting on August 6. A full account of Synnott and Ogden's climb appears earlier in this journal.

Hainablak, Ascent. Hainablak is the prominent granite aiguille named by Ardito Desio in 1929 during his exploratory reconnaissance up the Baltoro Glacier. The tower, which can be seen in in this journal on page 25 and in *AAJ* 1997 on page 322 behind the climber (mis-captioned as Chuck Boyd; it is actually Greg Fowleraker) as he ascends fixed lines on Shipton Spire, is west of Uli Biaho and hides Shipton Spire from most viewpoints. It was reported that Hungarians Gabor Berecz and Oskar Nadasdi and German Thomas Tivader visited the