

China

WEST KUN LUN

Seilik Gulam Muztag, first ascent. A Japanese expedition comprising four climbers led by Hiroshi Onishi was successful in making the first ascent of Seilik Gulam Muztag (6691m), formerly known as Kashitashi, completing the route attempted by an expedition in 2000, of which Onishi was a member. The Japanese mountaineers established Base Camp at 3800m on July 31 and a couple of days later Advanced Base at 4500m north west of the peak. Camp 1 was placed at 5170m near the foot of the North Ridge. By the August 11 Camp 3 had been established at 6200m on the ridge, from where several ropes were fixed up steeper snow slopes to the top of a 6400m snow dome, the highest point reached by the 2000 party. At 6:30 a.m. on the 12th all four members left Camp 3 in the dark and reached the top of the dome at 8:00 a.m. Continuing in unstable weather the climbers followed a wide snow ridge split by many small crevasses and then a final knife edge to reach the highest point a little after 3:00 p.m. The weather cleared at this point and the team was able to have fine views of the unclimbed West Peak (6650m) before making their descent.



TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Japanese Alpine News*

Yunnan Province

HENGDUAN RANGE

Hengduan Range, Crown Mountain, possible first ascent. During the end of January 2001 I reached the top of a beautiful 5100m peak (according to my altimeter) in the north west of the Yunnan province in China. The peak can be approached from the road from Zhongdian around the last pass before coming down to Deqin. According to Chinese travel books the peak name is The Crown Mountain and it sits opposite of Mt. Baima, northeast of the road facing southwest, and therefore not very snowy on this side. The mountain is made of many small rocky peaks that give it its "crown" name. The highest of them is the one to the north-west. At the 4400m campsite is an old ruin of rock and wood that maybe belongs to yak shepherds or the road builders. We pitched our tents there, and the temperature went to -25° Celsius that night. My partner had mountain sickness for a few days, and so I went up solo and climbed all the peaks from southeast to northwest except the first big one on the southeast, which was probably first ascended by an American who lives in Kunming, Bob Moseley, who confirmed the heights. The start of the climb was easy scramble past rock fall on the ground, the last part involved one or two pitches of 5.7 at the most. A few meters to the northwest there is another lower peak, which seems to have a few rocks one on the other; the approach to the main peak from there seems hard. Therefore I assume my climb was a

first ascent. The entire climb down was easier in a 5.5 chimney. The climb takes a few hours. Not far away sits the highest peak in Yunnan, the sacred unclimbed Meili peak, which can be seen from Crown Mountain.

ALON HOD, *Israel*

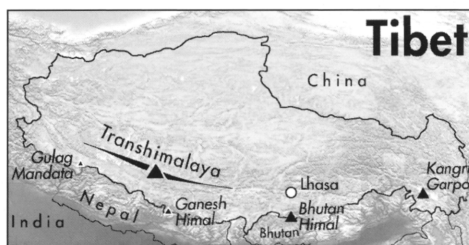
SICHUAN

Jarjinjabo Range, first ascent of unnamed rock tower. Four Japanese climbers, Eiji Daigo, Yuriko Kowaka, Naoki Ohuchi, and Taizo Yoshida, made the first ascent of an unnamed granite tower in the Jarjinjabo Massif above Zhopu Pasture. This region of West Sichuan lies close to the border (Yangste River) with Tibet and approximately 65 km northeast of Batang on the Sichuan-Tibet Highway. The team established base camp on July 25 at 4050m on the Zhopu Pasture and on the 26th set up an advanced camp at ca 4700m below the tower, after making a non-glaciated approach. On the 27th they fixed the first 100 meters of the south pillar in three pitches and after two days of rain recommenced by climbing 10 pitches and bivouacking. The following day, the 31st, they completed a further three pitches to the summit and descended. The 320-meter-high wall (480 meters of climbing) gave maximum difficulties of 5.10a and A1. Although nearly 70 percent of the route followed good cracks, the team used more aid than expected due to the heavy rain.

TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Japanese Alpine News*

Tibet

Gurla Mandata, ascent. Japanese climbers, Masakazu Okunda and Susumu Yamada, together with a high altitude porter, climbed this 7694m peak in Western Tibet via the Original Route up the West Ridge approached from the north. The summit, a.k.a. Naimona'nyi, was reached on September 25.



TAMOTSU NAKAMURA, *Japanese Alpine News*

Yangra Kangri, attempt on a new route. The highest summit in the Ganesh Himal lies on the Nepal-Tibet border and is referred to as Yangra Kangri (in Tibet) or Ganesh I (in Nepal). The 7429m peak was climbed on October 24, 1955 from the Nepalese side by Eric Guachet, Claude Kogan, and Raymond Lambert, but since then nobody else has reached the top. In 1987 a joint expedition between The Himalayan Association of Japan and The Tibet Mountaineering Association succeeded in climbing Labuche Kang (7367m), west of Cho Oyu. In spring 1995, Mr. Cheng Tianliang, the Tibetan leader of that expedition, suggested a 10th anniversary joint expedition, the target being the north side of Yangra Kangri in 1997. As the area around the peak had not yet been opened to foreigners, I lost no time in replying that the HAJ agreed to his suggestion.

I organized a reconnaissance and at the end of September 1996, joined 45 year old Gaya,