



Fred Salamin on the headwall pitch of the Diamond Couloir, Mt. Kenya, October 2005. He likened this section to the Modica-Noury Route on Mt. Blanc du Tacul, France, which is 5+. *Fred Salamin Collection*

mond Couloir, negotiating steep and often thin ice in a 3m-wide runnel. They noted the "Window" had long since disappeared. They continued to the Gate of the Mists and over the summit of Nelion, for what local porters report was the first ascent in six years.

Back in the winter of 1997-1998 three local climbers, with a total of more than 50 years experience on the mountain, were surprised to find the Diamond Glacier reduced to almost half its size and no ice to be seen anywhere in the couloir. The following Christmas (1998) the Diamond Glacier had all but disappeared, and not even running water could be seen in the couloir. However, during the previous October the couloir was climbed direct at hard Scottish V Mixed. Anecdotal evidence suggests that glacial decline has been taking place on the mountain at an increasing rate since the 1980s. However, during this time there have been periods when the classic ice routes have been climbable, if not in their original fat state.

Uganda

Rwenzori Range, traverse, various ascents, and new peaks. From January 31 to February 12, Cam Burns, Charlie French, 12 porters, one ranger, and I traversed the central portion of the Rwenzori range, from Roccati Pass south to Kilembe. The traverse included ascents of Mounts Speke (16,042'), Stanley (16,763'), and Baker (15,889'), as well as an ascent of Keki (13,760') in the Nyamugasani Valley and two previously unclimbed peaks (13,400' and 13,440') in the Kamusongi Valley.

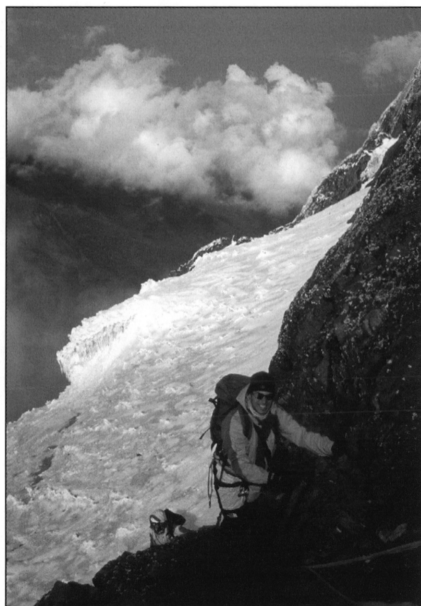
Leaving Nyakalengija on January 31, we hiked four days up the Bujuku and Mugusu rivers to the northeast side of Mount Speke, making camps at Bigo Hut, Skull Cave (named for human

contents), and on Speke's "upper eastside." On February 4 Cam, Charlie, Josiah Makwano, Peter Babughagle, and I traversed Speke from the northeast to the southwest, by way of the Vittorio Emanuele summit. We intended to ascend the Vittorio Emanuele Glacier; to our surprise the glacier was gone. The slope that once held the glacier was bare rock. We hiked this slope toward the ridge connecting the Ensonga and Vittorio summits. We needed crampons and ice tools just beneath the ridge. On the crest we scrambled south through dense mist to the Vittorio summit, encountering some technical climbing. We descended Speke's southwest ridge.

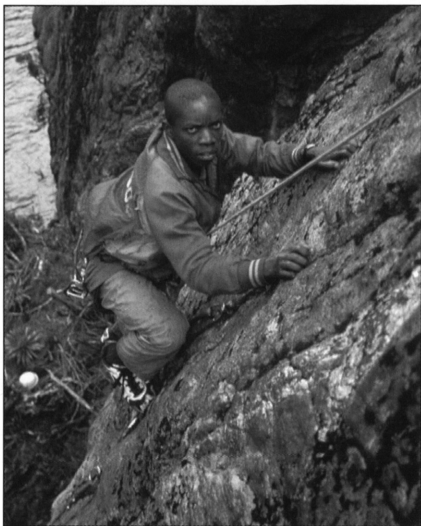
On February 6 and 8, respectively, we made ascents of the Margherita and Edward summits of Stanley and Baker.

On February 9 we bushwhacked south around the east side of Kitandara Lake. East of the Butawu River the vegetation opened up in a large burn area (the result of a Ugandan Army skirmish with rebels). Skirting Weismann Peak's west ridge, we climbed a steep slope into the Kachope Valley, camping at Kachope rock shelter. The porters enjoyed reading the graffiti in this shelter, as the signatures were those of "very old men" they knew back in the village.

From Kachope we crossed Bamwanjara Pass (14,600') to the Batoda Valley. After descending halfway to Lake Batoda, we headed east over a low pass to the Nyamugasani valley. Here we surveyed our approach to the Kamusongi River valley and identified a peak called Keki (*cake* in English), which was named by Humphreys (1933) because of the impression the peak left on his hungry expedition. Osmaston and Pasteur described Keki as "steep sided and maybe difficult to climb. No ascent has been recorded." While the porters went to set up camp at Bigata rock shelter, Cam, Charlie, Fred Bosco, Peter, and I headed to the mountain. Keki's northwest face is an uninviting cliff, its west side steep vegetation. After dumping our packs north of the summit, our team broke ranks, with each person aiming for what he thought was the best route to the top. After 30 minutes of climbing we coalesced just beneath the summit,



There's still some ice left in the Rwenzori. Climbing Mt. Stanley in February 2005. *Cam Burns*



One of the local guides working for Rwenzori Mountain Services being introduced to rock climbing on the lower slopes of Mt. Baker, overlooking Lake Kitandara. The RMS is the local cooperative with more or less exclusive rights to operate visitor services on the central circuit and south of the range. Guides developed from headmen in charge of local porters and have recently begun to have proper training. *Cam Burns*

sweaty and scratched. We noted Keki's elevation and coordinates, and found a cairn beneath some moss. Keki had obviously been climbed in the past, probably from the east, which is the side we descended. After traversing the peak we circled back to our packs to find our porters. They had been unable to locate Bigata rock shelter. Following a short discussion we descended the Kamusongi Valley to Mutinda rock shelter and camp.

On February 11, Cam, Charlie, Peter, Fred, and I cut through steep jungle to a col between two rocky spires south of Mutinda. From here we climbed a three-pitch lower-fifth-class route to the summit, sometimes via vegetation and sometimes beautiful rock. We marked the summit with a cairn, noting elevation and location: 13,400'; N 0° 16' 37.2", E 29° 55' 3.6". Later that day Cam, Charlie, and Fred soloed another slightly higher peak farther southeast. As it was one of Cam's daughters' birthday, we dubbed the peaks Zoe's Needle (the lower summit) and Mollie's Tower (higher).

BENNY BACH

Editor's note: Guide to the Rwenzori - Mountains of the Moon; 336 pages including 48 color plates, 25 grayscale, and 30 maps and drawings; ISBN 0-9518039-6-4. Publication date June 2006. £16.00.

The 1972 Osmaston and Pasteur "Guide to the Rwenzori," long out of print, has been expanded and completely revised. It describes changes in the status of the range as a National Park and World Heritage Site, and records the great retreat of the glaciers. As before, it contains a detailed history of exploration, climbing, research, and management in the range and has been funded by the Rwenzori Trust, to which all proceeds will accrue. The objectives of this trust are to support scientific research, environmental conservation, and mountaineering education in Uganda or for Ugandans.

Henry Osmaston notes that naming of features in "other people's" mountain ranges is something that has to be both appropriate and modest. The following has been abstracted from the guidebook and could be pertinent to other mountain ranges.

Onomatology (the study of name origins). Places, like people, must have names to identify them. The Bakonzo have lived and hunted in the Rwenzori for millennia. Naturally they gave names to features important to them: rivers, lakes, rock-shelters, etc. These are often either descriptive or historical but have been awarded in a limited and uncertain fashion to features such as mountains, which have only become important in the last century to explorers with other interests. The first explorer of all, Stanley, did his best for local names with *Ruwenzori*, though he was not entirely successful and recently *Rwenzori* has been adopted as nearer the vernacular. Later explorers, such as Johnston, tried to identify local names, such as *Duwoni* and *Kyanja*, with particular mountains, but did not know enough about them: these names later had to be discarded.

"New places" must have new names. Humphreys was diligent in manufacturing (not always correctly) and applying apparently local names to the minor peaks he climbed. These continue to be used, e.g., *Keki* for one shaped like a cake. In 2006 we celebrate the centenary of explorations that resulted in Abruzzi applying the names of European royalties (*Margherita*), German professors (*Kraepelin*), and earlier explorers (*Scott Elliot*) to most of the major peaks, passes, and other features. These were in accord with the political climate then, and had the official approval of the Royal Geographical Society (which had to urge on him the application of his own name, albeit modestly, to the smallest of the five main mountains). This tradition