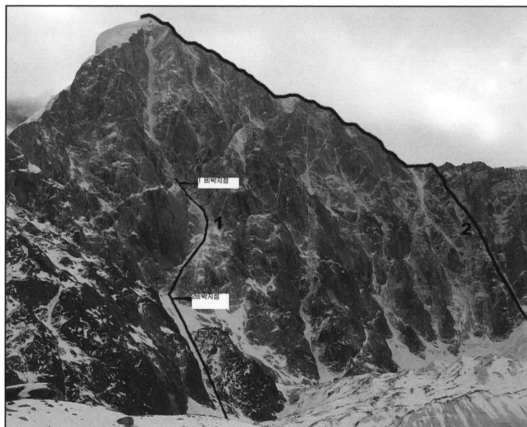


*Mt. Grosvenor (6,376m), northwest face direct, attempt.* Three Korean climbers, Ahn Chi-young, Heo Young-cheol and Yun Young-Joon, from the Wand Alpine Club attempted the northwest face of Grosvenor from March 31 to April 21. They retreated from ca 5,600m in the central couloir that leads directly to the summit. This was the line attempted in spring 2003 by Andy Cave and Mick Fowler, who retreated from a point slightly higher than the Koreans when faced with a loose and protectionless slanting groove choked with powder snow. The mountain was climbed later in the year for its only ascent by Julie-Ann Clyma and Roger Payne, who followed a much shorter line on the far right side of the face to gain the west ridge.

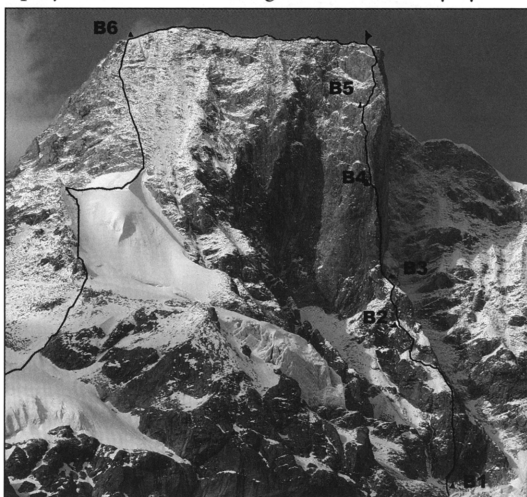


Northwest face of Grosvenor with (1) 2009 Korean attempt, and (2) 2003 Clyma-Payne route to summit. *Wand AC Expedition, supplied by Peter Jensen-Choi*

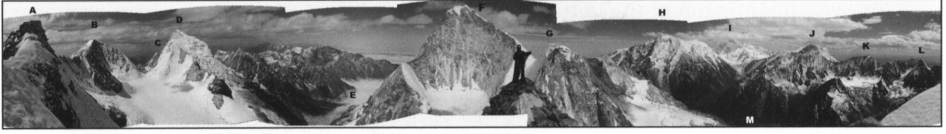
CHRISTINE PAE, KOREA, AND PETER JENSON-CHOI, *Corean Alpine Club and AAC.*

*Peak 6,134m, Carte Blanche.* Mikhail Mikhailov and I planned to be in Sichuan by mid-March. Our goal was the southeast face of Edgar (E Gongga, 6,618m), a large, steep, mixed granite wall. However, at the last minute the Chinese authorities canceled our permit because of the 50th anniversary celebrations in Tibet. Fortunately, a month later China reopened its doors, and it was not too late to continue with our project. We flew to Chengdu, traveled easily by road to Moxi on the east side of the Minya Konka Range and walked for only three hours with horses up the Yangzigou Valley to an altitude of 3,150m. "Base camp is here," said the horsemen, and, pointing vaguely to the north as they set off for home, added, "and your mountain is somewhere there." We were also told that Koreans had climbed Edgar, when we thought it was still virgin.

We then had many days of mist and rain. We examined the gorge leading to the foot of the southeast face, but the wall itself remained invisible. We then decided to go for a four-day acclimatization trip up the valley. During this trip, through a brief clearing in the cloud, we saw a beautiful rock wall



Southwest face of Peak 6,134m above upper Yangzigou Valley. Right-hand line, with bivouac sites indicated, marks Carte Blanche. Left-hand line, descending from B6, shows descent. *Alexander Ruchkin*



A 360° panorama from top of southwest buttress of Peak 6,134m. (A) Summit ridge of 6,134m. (B) Grosvenor (6,376m). (C) Jiazi (6,540m). (D) Riuchi Gongga (Tshiburongi or Little Konka, 5,928m). (E) Nannemgongou (Nan Men Guen) Valley. In far distance is snow-capped Lamo-She (6,070m). (F) Northwest face of Edgar (6,618m). (G) Peaks 6,130m. (H) Zhong Shan (Sun-Yat-Sen, 6,886m, second highest peak in Minya Konka Range). (I) Minya Konka (7,556m). (J) Daddomain (6,380m). (K) Peak 5,962m (unclimbed). (L) Dogonomba (5,960m, unclimbed). (M) Yangzigou Valley. *Alexander Ruchkin, stitched by Pedro Defien*



Oil painting of view looking more or less north from summit of Minya Konka. (A) Grosvenor (6,376m, first ascent in 2003 via northwest face to gain southwest ridge—left skyline). (B) Peak 6,206m (unclimbed). (C) Peak 5,603m (N 30°36'15", E 101°54'03"). (D) Jiazi (6,540m; first ascent, in 1982, gained snowy south ridge, facing camera, via west face to left). (E) Peak 6,134m (climbed in 2009). (F) Lotus Flower Mountain (5,704m, N 30°16'07", E 101°57'48"). (G) Peak 6,130m (unclimbed). (H) Peak 6,130m (unclimbed). (I) Edgar (6,618m, climbed in 2001 by snowy west ridge falling toward Peak 6,130m). (J) Part of Lamo-She Massif. *A photo of this painting by Y Tanaka was supplied by Tamotsu Nakamura.*

on the south side of Peak 6,134m that cried out to be climbed. This virgin summit lies northwest of Edgar, close to 6,367m Grosvenor. We decided to waste no more time on a face we hadn't yet seen, on a mountain that may have been climbed, when there were so many virgin peaks. On May 4 we left base camp for the southwest buttress of 6,134m, assuming it was steep enough to shrug off fresh snow.

We camped at 4,200m and during three days of poor weather marked a route to the base of the wall. We started up the lesser-angled lower spur on the 8th and climbed it over three days in about 13 pitches. The rock, generally 70-75°, was often icy, but we climbed the spur free except for about five meters of aid. This led to the headwall, a rounded pillar dividing the south and west faces.

After climbing a couple of pitches on the headwall during the afternoon of the 10th, we completed the remaining nine up this steep buttress from the 11th to 13th. Despite the angle, which fluctuated between 85 and 95°, we climbed mostly free, using rock shoes, at difficulties up to 6b-6c. We climbed more than 90% of the route free, the rest requiring aid in short sections up to A2. We took no bolts and placed no skyhooks but used a full assortment of gear from copperheads to large cams. The rock was not perfect, and there were sections where we had to hold our breath as we made delicate moves around large detached flakes. We used a small tent for bivouacs, though on two nights there was barely room to sit down.