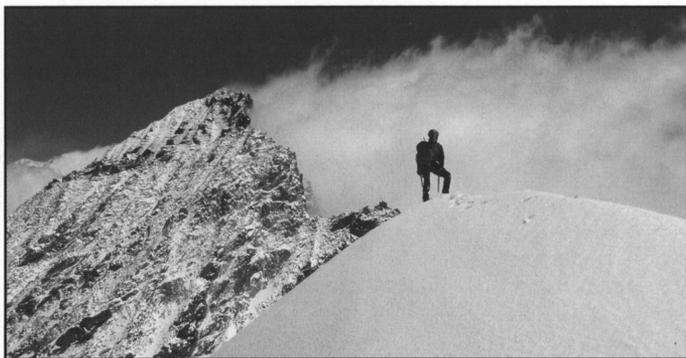


by Julie-Ann Clyma and Roger Payne with two friends from the Sikkim Amateur Mountaineering Association, Kunzang Bhutia and Sagar Rai. The south summit is believed to be unclimbed].

On the 14th Bob and Dave climbed an unnamed 5,500m peak between Jopuno and Lama Lamani. They traversed steep snow and



Bob Hamilton on summit of Lama Lamani North, with Jopuno behind. Unclimbed south ridge of Jopuno faces camera, with upper west face to left. Steve Kennedy

ice for a couple of ropelengths to reach a snow arête on the south face, followed it for a pitch, and then climbed two short pitches up mixed grooves to the summit block, which they gained by exposed moves.

At 2:45 a.m. on the 18th, Steve, Bob, Geoff, and I left camp to repeat the west ridge of Jopuno. Above 5,450m the ridge became icy, and after two time-consuming pitches we got established on the firm brown rock mentioned by the American party that first climbed this ridge in 2008 (AAJ 2009). The section above was well covered in snow and, although broken, gave climbing of about Scottish III. At 11 a.m. Steve and Bob reached the foot of the looser black rock that forms the summit of the mountain; Geoff and I were a pitch behind. We had been climbing slowly, and it now appeared unlikely that we could reach the summit and descend safely before evening, so we turned around. We reversed the route by downclimbing and rappelling, regaining the tents at 5:30 p.m. Although disappointed not to have reached the top, we agreed that it had been 15 hours of very good alpine climbing in a splendid mountain setting.

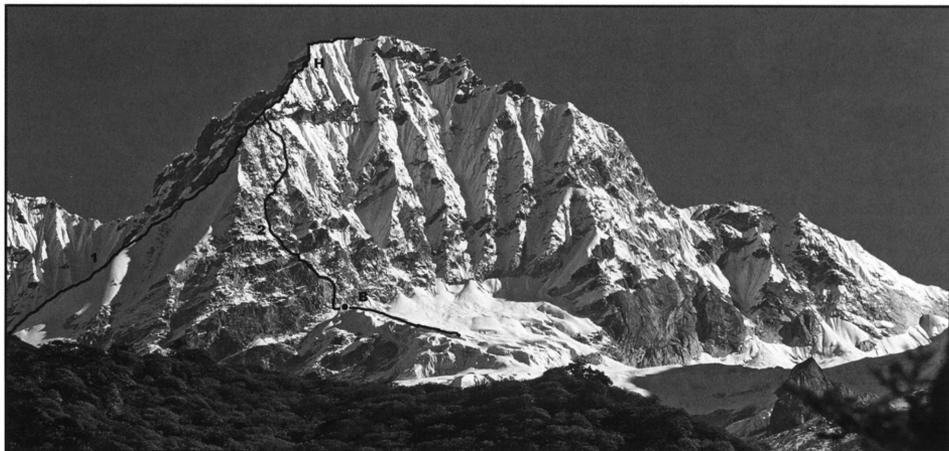
Together with Tingchenkang (6,010m), Lama Lamani and Jopuno have been designated Alpine Peaks by Sikkim authorities, and it is easy to arrange permits. All three offer good, medium-grade alpine ascents and could become classics of the Eastern Himalaya. The expedition used Roger Payne's recommended agent, Barap Bhutia Namgyal, who proved invaluable, and we thank the Mount Everest Foundation and the Mountaineering Council of Scotland for their generous support.

PAUL SWENTON, AAC

Jopuno, southwest face and west ridge, attempt; history and corrections. In the autumn of 2009 Julie-Ann Clyma and I were back in Western Sikkim and with Hugh Sheehan made an attempt on Jopuno. Although it became cloudy on many afternoons, we did not have a single day of precipitation. On November 7 we climbed the left side of the southwest face to gain the crest of the west ridge at the base of the black rock section. We climbed this until just below the snowy foresummit, but by this time it was windy and cloudy, and we did not have time or equipment to go farther. More than half our descent was made in the dark.

Since writing my article for AAJ 2008 (*“Emerging from the Mists: the sublime alpine peaks of Sikkim, India”*), I have discovered that the 2001 ascent did not follow the south ridge. It appears that Kunzang Butia and Sagar Rai climbed snow on the northwest face and, if I have understood correctly, encountered loose rock but did not traverse the main ridge to reach the highest point.

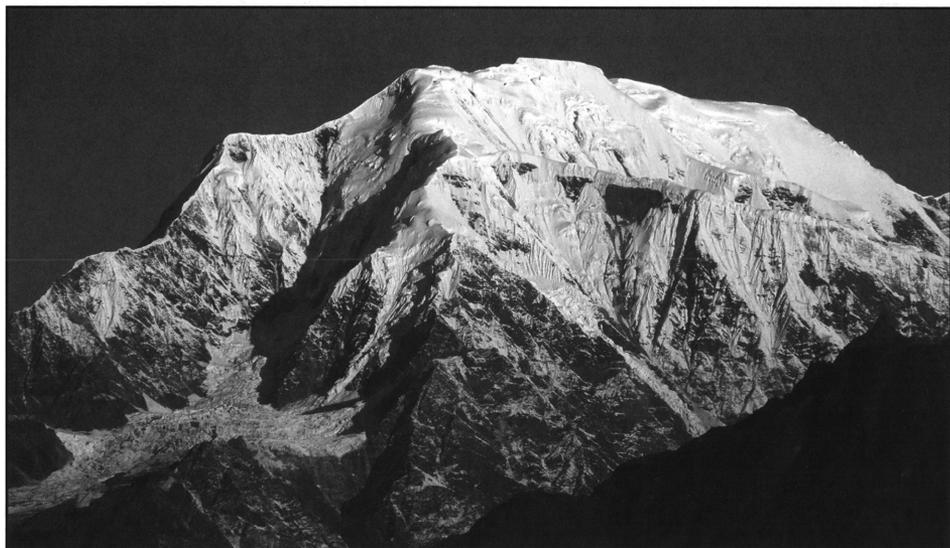
I also realized that WW Graham described climbing “Jobonu” in 1883. In the 1884 *Alpine*



Jopuno from southwest. (1) West ridge (Halladay-Smith, 2008). (2) Southwest face to west ridge (Clyma-Payne-Sheehan, 2009, to high point H on west ridge). (B) Bivouac site on 2009 attempt. Roger Payne

Journal he writes that it was “incomparably the hardest ascent we had in the Himalaya owing to the great steepness of the glacier work.” It is hard to imagine that Jopuno was climbed in 1883, but I would have thought that the west ridge would have been the line of choice in the pioneering days of alpinism. Nothing in his account fits the topography of Jopuno, and my current view is that he might have climbed the northwest glacier on Tinchengkang and mistaken it for Jopuno.

I began to wonder if the highest point of this mountain had been reached, but after helpful correspondence with Jason Halladay and Josh Smith, who made the first ascent of the west ridge in 2008 (*AAJ* 2009), I think it fair to say that these two Americans reached the summit of this ridge, which may be the highest point of Jopuno, higher than the summit at the top of the south ridge. Halladay



Kangto from the south. The highest point is at the far end of the summit ridge. The unclimbed Kangto II (6,953m) is further south on this ridge. Harish Kapadia

notes that on top they were shrouded in clouds and graupel, but, from what he assumed to be the true summit, he began to follow the ridge toward the south summit. As it appeared to be the same elevation or lower than the point he was on, he turned back.

ROGER PAYNE, *Switzerland*

ARUNACHAL PRADESH

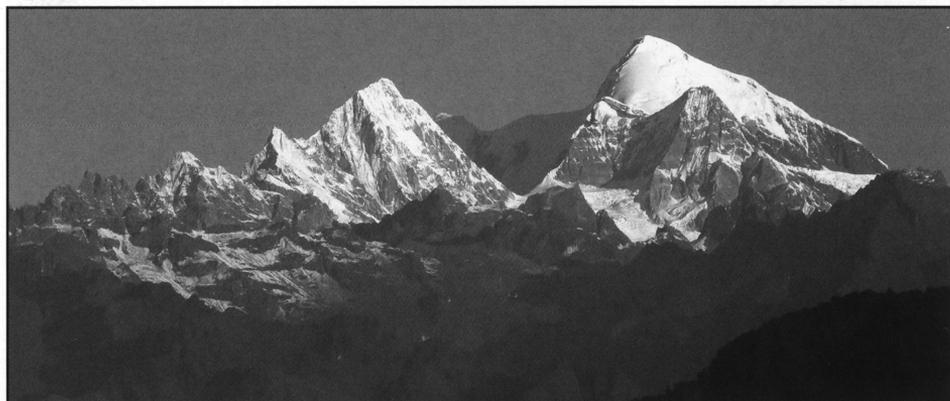
Photography of the Kangto Range. During a trek to the East Kamang district in October-November, Harish Kapadia took photos of the enigmatic high peaks straddling the Arunachal-Tibet border. These form what is generally referred to as the Kangto Range, the last high mountain group of the eastern Himalaya. (The most easterly point of the Himalaya, Namcha Barwa, lies entirely in Tibet). The peaks rise from the head of the Pachuk Valley and lie on the McMahon Line.

The highest is Kangto (7,042m), which has only been climbed once, in 1981 by Japanese from Tibet. Way to its west stands Gorichen (6,488m), while farther east lie Chomo I and II (6,878m and 6,710m) and Nyegi Kongsang (6,983m). Gorichen, with its easier access and moderate difficulties, has been climbed a few times. Kangto and Chomo I and II have never been attempted from the south; there are no passes here, so neither locals nor defense forces have any need to venture into this region. Chomo I and II have never been attempted, and Nyegi Kongsang has a checkered climbing history. It was attempted from the south by an IMF expedition, which claimed an ascent, but it was later proved they stopped a long way from the summit. The accompanying images of these rarely photographed peaks were taken from Lada Village (1,500m).



Furthest east in the group is the unclimbed Nyegi Kongsang.
Harish Kapadia

LINDSAY GRIFFIN, *Mountain
INFO*



The next peaks east of Kangto are Chomo II (left) and I. *Harish Kapadia*