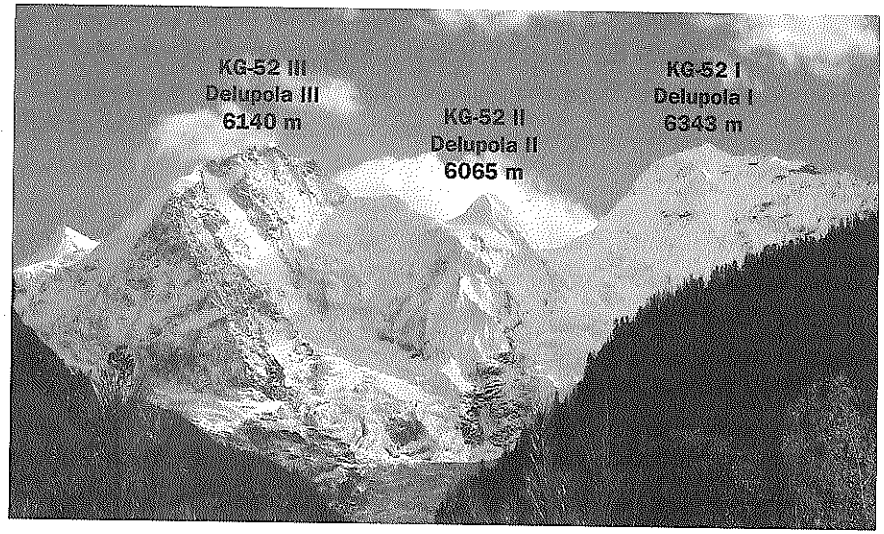
The well-known Bruce Normand (a Scot who now lives in China) and American Kyle Dempster made an eight-day visit to the massif in November 2010. They warmed up on the W Face of **Mt Grosvenor** (6,376 m), a 24-hour effort followed by one bivouac—the mountain's second ascent. The first ascent of Edgar's E Face was far more difficult and dangerous, comprising five days of bad weather and avalanches to the summit and three days down. Normand describes the route this way: "Although not a very direct line, [it] may be the only safe one on the east face of Edgar." Normand's description of the climb in the *American Alpine Journal* makes it clear that safety is a highly subjective concept.

Scholarly Mountaineering

The nearly complete suspension of exploratory mountaineering in eastern Tibet could not stop the scholarly elucidation of the sometimes-confused maze of hundreds of little-known mountains there. Tatsuo (Tim) Inoue of the Alpine Club of Kobe University (ACKU) is no armchair mountaineer. He led the expedition that made the first ascent of any peak in the extensive **Kangri Garpo** range in 2009. He now has produced a major rationalization of the hundreds of mountains in the range, particularly the 6,000-m peaks.

Kangri Garpo stretches 280 km in a roughly NW to SE line from Tongmai to Zayul near the Sichuan border. The only known ascent is the 2009 climb of Lopchin Feng (6,805 m), the second highest summit in the range (see the account in Alpina, *Appalachia*, Summer/Fall 2011, LXII no. 2, page 121). Until now, most of the mountains were unnamed as well as being unclimbed and had uncertain locations and elevations. Inoue has produced a document (*Japanese Alpine News*, Volume 12, pages 104–131) that goes far toward filling this gap. It might be thought that in these times of Google Earth and satellite technology, his task would be a simple one, but that proved untrue. Inoue used Google Maps, Google Earth, and a whole alphabet soup of other technologies—Advanced Spaceborne Thermal Emission and Reflection Radiometer (ASTER), Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM), and all the rest—as well as old Soviet maps and Chinese People's Liberation Army maps. Unfortunately, he had no access to the most recent Chinese versions.

The process was a painstaking effort to establish the elevation and location of hundreds of predominantly remote and unexplored mountains, attach an unambiguous identifier (Inoue uses a "KG number") and, using a



Tatsuo "Tim" Inoue, using available satellite and other data, established elevations for hundreds of remote, unexplored mountains in the Kangri Garpo Range of Tibet. This illustration is an example of his work, showing three 6,000-meter peaks in the Delupola group of peaks. Inoue's "KG" labels were his own invention. TAMOTSU NAKAMURA

whole library of images, relate the KG number to previous names and map locations when they exist. For this effort, Inoue amassed images taken by four ACKU expeditions and by a long list of mostly Japanese explorers—the list headed, of course, by Tamotsu Nakamura. The library incorporates a single photo taken in 1933 by Frank Kingdon-Ward. (By amazing skill or luck, Kingdon-Ward chose to photograph Ruoni, the highest peak in the entire 280 km range.)

Inoue observes, "The altitude data extracted from ASTER and Google Earth indicate lower height numbers on the sharp or thin summit structure peaks than . . . actual and little lower numbers on massive or round shape peaks." He therefore assumes that "all data extracted from the satellite survey indicate lower than [actual elevation.]" Some may debate this conclusion, but anyone who compares Himalayan Google Earth images with good photos of the same peaks will notice the apparent flattening effect.

Inoue's principal product is a table of 47 Kangri Garpo peaks 6,000 m or more high (the previous estimate for the number of Kangri Garpo 6,000ers was 30.) The table lists each peak's KG number, position in degrees, minutes, and seconds, the best elevation estimate, and names, if any. Most mountaineers have limited interest in mountains "that no one has ever heard of," *a fortiori*

in those of unknown position and height. Thus, the table will probably set the agenda for climbs in the Kangri Garpo for the foreseeable future.

In Memoriam

George Christopher Band, OBE[1], 1929–2011.The death in August of George Band was a major loss from the rapidly decreasing group of survivors of the golden age of Himalayan mountaineering when nearly all the very highest peaks in the world were climbed for the first time. Band was the youngest climber, selected at age 23, on John Hunt's 1953 Everest expedition, which put Sir Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay on top for the first ascent of the highest of all. Hampered by acclimatization problems and illness, Band's high point was a carry with Sherpas to 7,300 meters. He is better remembered for his first ascent of Kanchenjunga with Joe Brown in 1955. Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world, much more difficult and dangerous than Everest. The ascent by Band and Brown was the only first ascent by English climbers of any of the fourteen 8,000ers, was made by a new route without extensive previous reconnaissance, and marked the first participation of working-class climbers such as Brown in high-standard Himalayan mountaineering.

Band was born on Japanese-controlled Formosa (now Taiwan) to Presbyterian missionaries. The family escaped from the island only a fortnight before the outbreak of war in the Pacific following the attack at Pearl Harbor. Band was educated in England at Eltham College and Queen's at Cambridge. He was president of the Cambridge University Mountaineering Club (CUMC) and managed some good climbs in the Alps despite the limitations of Britain's postwar economic austerity policies. His climbing experience led to his selection for Everest. Band's national service was as a Royal Signals officer with experience as mess officer, leading to his subsequent expedition assignments to the usually thankless tasks of communications and expedition food supply.

Between Everest and Kanchenjunga, Band joined a six-man CUMC expedition to then unclimbed Rakaposhi (7,788 meters). The expedition failed to reach the top, but it pioneered the idea of transporting gear and some members in a heavy-duty van the 7,600-odd miles overland to the Himalaya to save money. (The idea became the approach of choice for low-budget expeditions in the 1960s and 1970s.) He also put together *The Road to Rakaposhi* (Travel Book Club, 1955), a charming tale with much local color and history—in my view his best book.

He then tried to be a professional mountaineer. But he had read geology at Cambridge and petroleum engineering at Imperial College and, responding to the questions of his parents about "when he would get a real job," he joined Shell for an itinerant but remunerative career as an expatriate petroleum executive. His near contemporary, Chris Bonington, chose differently, as he told in his autobiography *I Choose to Climb* (Gollancz, 1966)— thus, Band's sly remark, "I chose to work." And he did, in seven different countries. The discovery of the North Sea oil fields in 1983 brought him back to England, where he headed the UK Offshore Operators Association. That post, and his subsequent retirement, gave him the opportunity to hold a series of mountaineering and charitable establishment posts, including president of the Alpine Club, the British Mountaineering Council, and the Himalayan Trust (founded by Hillary to provide education and health care to the Sherpas). Band found time to author two more books—much more in the establishment mode: *Everest: 50 Years on Top of the World* (Harper Collins) in 2003, and *Summit: A Celebration of 150 Years of the Alpine Club* (Collins) in 2006. In 2008, he was granted the OBE for his services to mountaineering and charity.

Acknowledgments. These notes are based in part on accounts in Japanese Alpine News *and* The American Alpine Journal *and its electronic supplements. The use of the valuable reference source* The Himalayan Database *is also gratefully acknowledged.*

—Jeffery Parrette
Alpina Editor

[1] OBE is a grade in the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire.