

## Foreign Trek Log

This whole page is a copy of page 47 in the Trekking Centenary Brochure.

There follows a copy of the original hand written introduction to the Foreign Trek Log Book written by Chris Little in 1977. The book contains hand written logs for the nine Treks from 1974 to 1982.

*Note on the existence and use of this book.*

*Detailed records (or memories) of Trek prior to 1973 appear to have been lost in the mists of time. This is a pity, not just from a historical point of view, but also from the practical one that future leaders of Trek cannot easily benefit from the experience gained in these Treks. While Ulula articles are of some value, they cannot be detailed enough to be of great service to those planning future Treks. In order that a detailed record of subsequent Treks be available for reference, I suggest the following:*

1. *This book be handed on from one Trek leader to the next.*
2. *Trek leaders record the details of their Trek in the book, keeping to the same format as much as possible. Their report should include:*
  - (a) details of the itinerary, including times (excluding breaks for lunch rests etc.), nature of ground, campsites, costs etc.*
  - (b) details of equipment purchased*
  - (c) details of balance of account.**Reading previous reports will help set a useful pattern for reports.*
3. *If for any unfortunate reason Trek should not run in the year following his report, the current Trek leader should hand the book to the Secretary of the Common Room before leaving the school, thus ensuring the book does not find its way into a neglected attic.*
4. *A library of maps, guides and other information should be kept in conjunction with this book and passed on in a similar manner. Without maps the details here are obviously pretty useless.*

*C.T.Little MGS September 1977*

When planning the first Trek I organised (to the Pyrenees in 1982) I found the log of the first Pyrenean Trek in 1978 a very useful reference, and I wholeheartedly concur with Chris Little's two reasons for maintaining a log i.e. as a practical help to future leaders taking Trek to the same area, and as an historical record more detailed than Ulula.

From 1983 to 1997 each year's log has been produced as a separate, word-processed expedition report, but still with the original aims. In these reports the itinerary has been essentially a brief, factual account, concentrating mainly on the route taken, times and conditions, although occasionally (for instance for the first Morocco Trek in 1992) there is a fuller account of life on Trek.

Sadly, from 1998 onwards Trek Log was discontinued. However, for each of the post 1997 Treks that I have been on (1999, 2000, 2001, 2002 and 2005) I have written 'LAW's Journal'. These bear a remarkable similarity to their predecessors, the Trek Logs!

For the purpose of the Trekking Centenary I had hoped to have word-processed the previously hand written logs from 1974 to 1982 in order to make them more widely available in digital form. I have made significant progress with this, but regrettably the task will not be completed for some time.

Allan Witton September 2004