Mr. Stephen Fry
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October 21, 1983

Mr. Adams Carter
Editor
The American Alpine Club
113 E 90th St.
New York, NY 10128

Dear Mr. Carter:

Hello, I am interested in writing an article for The American Alpine Journal. The topic would be on defining and measuring mountains. The purpose of this letter is to determine your interest in my idea, and to obtain your suggestions about how my material should be presented to you.

I have been fascinated with the high mountains of the world for approximately 15 years now. For the last 3 years I have been working extensively towards publishing a book on Washington's 50 highest major mountains. To determine the top 50 I came up with a specific and unique mountain definition. The definition takes into account prominence, distance, and slope. The book on Washington's top 50 (or 20) will be photographic, scientific, and historical in nature. I also have plans to publish the results and conclusions of my work in the Journal of Geomorphology.

The definition I established has enabled me to measure such mountain statistics as: base, rise above base, area, and volume. I have also measured steepness and glacier data for many mountains. Mountains I have measured include: Mt. Everest, K2, Lhotse, Makalu, Broad Pk., Mt. McKinley, Mt. Logan, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Pico De Orizaba, Mt. St. Elias, Matterhorn, Mt. Whitney, Mt. Elbert, Mt. Rainier, Pikes Pk., Mauna Loa, Grand Teton, Mt. Robson, Fuji-San, Mt. St. Helens, (before and after the eruption), Mt. Shuksan, Half Dome, and Mt. Washington. All totaled I have measured almost 100 mountains, most of which are in Washington. To ensure the reasonableness, accuracy, and usefulness of my measurements, I have consulted with professors in geography, geology, geomorphology, and civil engineering at the University of Washington, (e.g. Professor John Sherman - Geography, Professor Marion Marts - Geography, Professor Darrel Cowan - Geology, Professor Stephen Porter - Geology and Geomorphology, and Professor Joseph Colcord - Civil Engineering). I have also discussed my definition with a variety of climbers and professionals in several departments of the U.S.G.S..

My basic plan for the article includes: 1. A short section about past mountain definitions. 2. My definition. 3. My measurements, including how they were obtained, and their accuracy, (the data would mostly be presented in tables, graphs, and figures). 4. Conclusions; applications in geography, geology, geomorphology, and climbing. It would also be

nice to include three or four photographs in the article of mountains such as Everest, K2, Rainier, Mauna Loa, Matterhorn, or Grand Teton. One of the photographs could be of me as I planimeter a mountain, (to determine the area of specific contours). I can supply good photos of Rainier and myself, hopefully you have access to photographs of the other mountains.

Finally, I should note that I earned a B.S. degree in geology from the U.W. in 1977. Also my current publications portfolio is limited to a few small letters and cover photos for Signpost Magazine here in Seattle. By the time this article would be published though, I should have a journal article published, one or two photo-articles published in the Seattle Times, and a decision by The Mountaineers about the future of my prospective book on Washington's 20 or 50 highest major mountains.

I truly hope you find my article idea interesting. I will greatly appreciate your prompt response to this inquiry letter.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Fry

Stephen J. Fry

H. ADAMS CARTER
361 CENTRE STREET
MILTON, MASS. 02186

November 2, 1983

Dear Mr. Fry,

Thank you very much for submitting to us your idea for an article for the American Alpine Journal on defining and measuring mountains.

We seem to have a wealth of material for the American Alpine Journal 1984. For that reason the Editorial Board fears it cannot accept your article, although I am sure it would be interesting.

Very sincerely,

H. Adams Carter

H. Adams Carter, Editor
American Alpine Journal