**Literature and the Mountains: A Bibliography**

The following is a very incomplete, rudimentary, occasionally annotated bibliography of literature and on the mountains. I have loosely organized it first by genre, then by region, then loosely by date. I certainly haven’t read all these, and so cannot attest to their quality, but have tried to limit the list somewhat to those works that hold either special literary or historical significance. This list owes particular debt to Professor Thomas Moran, Middlebury College.

This list has emerged somewhat haphazardly, rather than by design. I welcome submissions for further additions and annotations. Please contact me at: amahlstedt@gmail.com

**Critical works on mountains and mountain culture**

Edmund Burke and Immanuel Kant’s writings on the sublime
_Mountain Gloom, Mountain Glory_ (Marjorie Hope Nicholson)
_Mountains of the Mind_ (Robert MacFarlane)
_Nature's Altars: Mountains, Gender, and American Environmentalism_ (Susan Schrepfer)
_The Unquiet Woods: Ecological Change and Peasant Resistance in the Himalaya_ (Ramachandra Guha)
"Rock," from _Landscape and Memory_ (Simon Schama) (1995)
_The Colors of Nature: Culture, Identity, and the Natural World_ (Allison Deming and Lauret Savoy, eds) – about minorities and nature broadly, but some essays on mountains
_Savage Dreams: A Journey into the Landscape of the American West_ (Rebecca Solnit)
_Reading the Mountains of Home_ (John Elder)

**Mountaineering Literature**

_Himalayas_
_The Fight for Everest_ (E.F. Norton) – about first British (Mallory and Irvine) attempts
_Everest: the Reconnaissance_ – also about first attempt
_The Conquest of Everest_ (John Hunt) – about 1953 successful summit
_The Crystal Horizon_ (Reinhold Messner)
_Into Thin Air_ (Krakauer)
_The Climb_ (Anatoli Boukreev) – Boukreev’s response to Krakauer’s version of events
_Annapurna_ (Maurice Herzog) – about French ascent of Annapurna in 1950; a classic

_Andes_
_Touching the Void_ (Joe Simpson)
Alps
"The Ascent of Mont Ventoux" (Petrarch) (26 April 1336), from Letters from Petrarch.
"The Horrid Mountains" (John Evelyn) (1646), from Book of the Mountains, A.C. Spectorsky, editor.
"Nature," from Selections from the Poetry and Prose of Thomas Gray, William Lyon Phelps, editor (1894)

Eiger Dreams (Krakauer)

Other
Ascent:  Of the Invention of Mountain Climbing and Its Practice (Jeremy Bernstein) (1965)
Medicine for Mountaineering (James Wilkerson) – indispensable wilderness medicine book

Travel Literature/Non-fiction/Nature Writing

Asia
Among the Tibetans (Isabella Bird) – 19th c. female explorer
Journeys in Persia and Kurdistan (Isabella Bird) – 19th c. female explorer
My Journey to Lhasa (Alexandra David-Neel) – 19th c. female explorer
A Mountain in Tibet (Charles Allen) – an interesting, if imperial nostalgic, history of British exploration in Tibet
The Man-Eaters of Kumaon (Jim Corbett) (1944)
A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush (Eric Newby) (1958)
An Area of Darkness (VS Naipaul) (1964)
From Heaven Lake (Vikram Seth)
The Snow Leopard (Peter Matthiessen)
Forget Kathmandu (Manjushree Thapa) – last two chapters

North America
“Ktaadn”, in The Maine Woods (H.D. Thoreau)
A Lady’s Life in the Rocky Mountains (Isabella Bird) – 19th c. female explorer
The Journals of Lewis and Clark
John Muir
"Adirondack Wilderness" (Verplanck Colvin) (1874), from The Wilderness Reader, Frank Bergon, editor.
“Thinking Like a Mountain” (Aldo Leopold)
Night Comes to the Cumberlands: A Biography of a Depressed Area (Harry Caudill) (1962)
Forever on the Mountain: The Truth Behind One of Mountaineering’s Most Controversial and Mysterious Disasters (James M. Tabor) – 1967 McKinley expedition
Into the Wild (Jon Krakauer)
(Barry Lopez)
Young Men and Fire (Normal Maclean) – about firefighters in Montana
Early Days in the Range of Light: Encounters with Legendary Mountaineers (Dan Arnold) – about early climbers in the Sierras

South America
Voyage of the Beagle (Charles Darwin) – 8/14/1835; section when he climbs the Bell of Quillota outside Valparaiso, Chile
Anything about or by “Julius Popper”: European conquistador (late 19th c.) who documented the extermination of the indigenous of Tierra del Fuego (which he precipitated)
Writings, photos, and films of “Alberto De Agostini”: early 20th c. Italian missionary, mountaineer, explorer, cinematographer, photographer of Tierra del Fuego and Patagonia
El corazon a contraluz (Patricio Manns) (1996) – I don’t know if this has been translated into English, though it appears to have been into French
In Patagonia (Bruce Chatwin)

Africa
In the Dust of Kilimanjaro (David Western)
Looking at Mt. Kenya (Kenyatta)

There is probably also literature on Mts and war – the 10th Mtn division in WWII, espionage between Brits and Russians, then US v Soviets, now India/Pakistan

Fiction – prose

Asia
Kim (Rudyard Kipling)
“The Man who would be King” (Kipling)
Heat and Dust (Ruth Prawer Jhabwala)
Soul Mountain (Gao Xingjian) (2001)
The Inheritance of Loss (Kiran Desai) (2006)

Africa
Ngugi wa Thiong’o on Mount Kenya?

North America
“Rip Van Winkle” (Washington Irving)
My Side of the Mountain (Jean Craighead George) – children’s lit
The Way to Rainy Mountain (N. Scott Momaday)
A River Runs through it (Norman Maclean)
Deliverance (James Dickey)
Storming Heaven (Denise Giardina) (1988) – Appalachia at turn of 20th c.
Unquiet Earth (Denise Giardina) (1994) – sequel to Storming Heaven
“Brokeback Mountain” (Annie Proulx)

Caribbean
Wide Sargasso Sea (Jean Rhys) – sections in Blue Mountains
“Night Talkers” in The Dew Breaker (Edwidge Dandicat)
Europe
*Frankenstein* (Mary Shelley) – sections at foot of Mont Blanc
*People of the Black Mountains* (Raymond Williams)

Many sections of the Old Testament – Jacob and Isaac (Genesis 22); Moses on Mount Sinai (Exodus 33-34)

**Fiction – poetry**

Asia
*Poems of Hanshan* (translated by Peter Hobson)
*The Mountain poems of Hsieh Ling-yun* Translated by David Hinton

Basho

Europe
“Mont Blanc” (PB Shelley)
“Crossing Simplon Pass” (Book XI, 523-640); “Mount Snowdon” (Book XIV, 1-129),
from *The Prelude* (William Wordsworth)

North America
Gary Snyder – *Axe Handles*
Denise Levertov (later work, meditations on why she's NOT going to go to/hike/climb Mt Rainier, but will only contemplate it at a distance)

Appalachian Ballads

**Art – painting**

Chinese landscape painters: Dong Yuan; Fan Kuan; Li Cheng
Ruskin – Mer du Bois
JMW Turner – Hannibal Crossing the Alps; Mont Blanc; The Passage of St. Gothard

**Art – photography**

Ruskin – Mer De Glace (photo)
Bradford Washburn
Galen Rowell
Ansel Adams

**Film**

"Lost Horizon" (Frank Capra, dir.) (1937, 132 min.)
IMAX “Everest”
“Brokeback Mountain”
“Kundun”
“Deliverance”
“Harlan County, USA”
“October Sky”
Planet Earth – “Mountains”
http://www.banffcentre.ca/mountainfestival/ -- website for the Banff Film Festival, the annual celebration of mountains sports and culture in film

Websites
www.mountainvoices.org