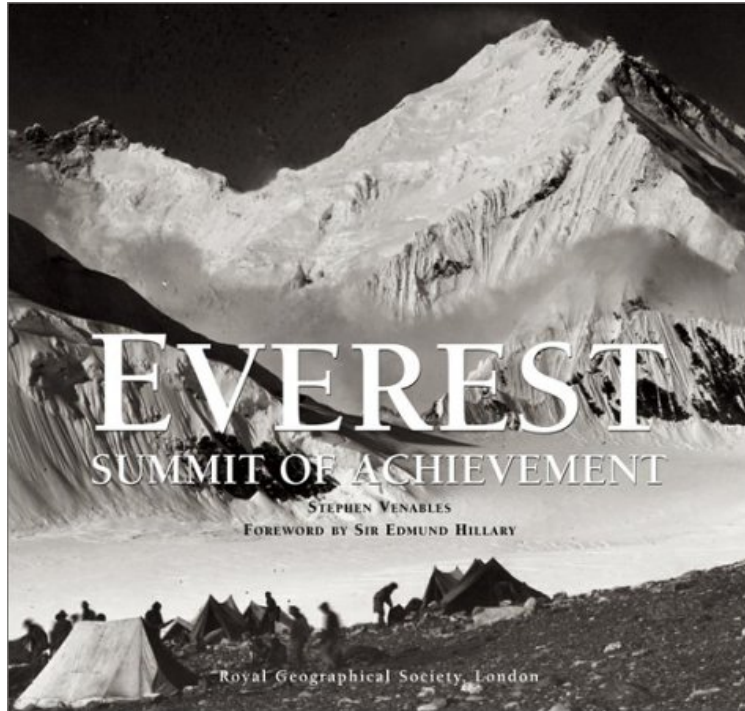


[Download] Everest: Summit of Achievement

## Everest: Summit of Achievement

*The Royal Geographic Society*  
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**The Royal Geographic Society : Everest: Summit of Achievement** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Everest: Summit of Achievement:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Sensational, comprehensive large format photo/history bookBy Gordon M. WagnerTremendous, top-quality throughout. Well-written history of the early Western surveys and exploration of Everest and the Himalayas. Hundreds upon hundreds of excellent photographs. Absolutely the best book on Everest I've ever seen.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Super Book as to be Expected from the folks that put it together!!By Robert L. BairdJust a Magnificent book on Everest! Unmatched photos.! If you can't go yourself, or if in fact you have been there, You need to buy this book. Words do not do it justice!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy mike mAwesome

Published to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the first successful ascent of the world's highest mountain, Everest takes readers into the exhilarating world of exploration and expedition from 1910 through today. 400+ photos.

From Publishers WeeklyGeorge Mallory's famous answer to why he was so dedicated to scaling Mt. Everest-"Because it's there"-is as good an answer as any to those wondering why so many people risk life and limb to ascend the world's highest peak. This lavish volume, featuring hundreds of photos and documents from the massive archives at London's Royal Geographical Society, offers a less prosaic reason for all that risk taking. The photos are, almost without exception, utterly breathtaking, finding an almost infinite variety of ways to capture Everest's soaring, snow-covered vastness (often with a string of antlike human climbers scurrying somewhere in the foreground). However, the text

between the glorious photos is uneven. Some of the pieces are enlightening, especially those detailing the reactions of Nepalese and Tibetan locals to the people who came tromping into their lands in the late 19th and early 20th centuries simply to scale the mountains (a beyond-foolish endeavor, they thought). The most engaging of these is Ed Douglas's, on how the mountains fit in with the locals' religious lives (the accompanying photos of grim-faced nuns and monks are striking). Descriptions of mountaineering trips, especially that by climber Venables, are competently delivered but less engrossing. The photographs-depicting Mallory's pal Sandy Irvine cheerfully fixing an oxygen cylinder in 1924; Hillary and climbing companion Tenzing Norgay drinking a celebratory cup of tea in 1953; and (more harshly) porters, who earned little more than a dollar a day, staggering with climbers' baggage in 1971-are undoubtedly this volume's strength. Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Adult/High School-Readers enthralled by Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air* (Villard, 1997) will enjoy this sumptuous celebration of Everest expeditions. The real glory of this oversized book is its wealth of magnificent color and black-and-white photographs. More than 400 pictures, some never before published, depict the region's spectacular beauty. The many candid shots of the climbing parties and the wonderful portraits of the Sherpas show the human side of the adventure. Introductory essays by Edward Hillary and the Dalai Lama precede a brief account of the earliest explorations. Pieces about the life of the Sherpas and the religious traditions associated with the mountain show appreciation for its spiritual importance to the Tibetans. The major portion of the text is Stephen Venables's account of expeditions undertaken by the Royal Geographic Society and the Alpine Club between 1921 and 1953. The heroism, tragedies, and triumphs of these summit attempts provide exciting reading, while the use of journal entries and letters brings a personal touch to the larger-than-life stories. Special features include brief biographical sketches and photographs of all the expedition members between 1921 and 1953, and a list of those who have reached the summit since 1953. Kathy Tewell, Chantilly Regional Library, VA Copyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist \*Starred\* Mount Everest has never been the subject of a book quite this phenomenal. It commemorates the nine expeditions to the Everest massif by Britain's Royal Geographic Society, the ninth culminating in Tenzing Norgay's iconic pose on the peak 50 years ago. From the immense archive documenting these efforts, this album culls several hundred images, many of invaluable ethnographic value, as the Tibetan culture photographed in the 1920s and 1930s was virtually wiped out by the Chinese communists in the 1950s. The mountain itself is staggeringly spectacular. Expedition photographers have been careful to portray from a distance the intimidating wall of the Himalayan Mountains, with Everest's pyramidal summit towering above its guardians. Closer in, the camera often captured a climber gazing upon the mountain-wreathing clouds--romantically contemplating the ethereal scene, perhaps? Perhaps not: the text faithfully records the arduousness and danger of the entire enterprise. The text is indeed well done, featuring an introduction by Edmund Hillary, historian John Keay's preface about the survey that identified the world's tallest mountain, a narrative proper by mountaineer Stephen Venables, and chapters on the Sherpas and their lore. The complete package on the mountain's early history, this work is absolutely enthralling. Gilbert Taylor Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved