

(8163m) was successfully summited by a 14-member team led by Daniel Lee Mazur on 30 September. Sadly, Austrian climber Zoltan Benedek died while descending from camp 4. Benedek's partner was rescued from camp 4 and was flown by helicopter from 6,800m. Both climbers were climbing without any support above base camp. Thirty-eight foreign climbers along with 20 Sherpas reached the top of Manaslu on 1 October, while 15 climbers including six foreigners summited on 30 September. A further 38 climbers abandoned their summit attempts citing bad climbing conditions followed by a week-long deteriorating weather pattern. Boyan Petrov became the first Bulgarian to ascend Manaslu.

At least 73 climbers including 44 foreigners successfully summited **Makalu** in the period 1-3 October 2015. The ministry of tourism issued permits to 106 climbers, representing 11 different expedition teams for the 2015 autumn season.

Everest was quiet during the autumn 2015 season with only the 33-year-old solo Japanese climber Nobukazu Kuriki on the mountain making his fifth attempt to reach the summit. Kuriki lost nine fingers to frostbite during a 2012 Everest attempt. Having failed in late September 2015 Kuriki restocked and on Friday 2 October headed back up to camp 2 for a second attempt. He eventually retreated from the mountain due to bad conditions. Elizabeth Hawley said that allowing and promoting a 'crazy' man to convince the world it was safe showed how desperate the Nepali government was to revive the industry it was promoting.

ANTONIO 'SEVI' GÓMEZ BOHÓRQUEZ

Peru 2013-14

CORDILLERA BLANCA 2013

On Nevado Ishinca (5530m), *Carlito's Way* (D+, M5, 60°–80°, 480m) is a possible new direct variation on the north-west face climbed on 5 June. Carlos Esteban Pineda Beyer and Carlos Eduardo Solé Perozo arrived in Huaraz at the end of May 2013. On 3 June, the Venezuelan Andeans crossed the Quebrada Ishinca and slept in the refuge at c4350m. They arrived the next day at the Mariscal Castilla refuge (4950m), which has been renamed Bivouac Longoni (Vivacco Longoni) after its restoration. At 5.45am on 5 June, Beyer and Perozo headed up moraine intending to climb the north-west face by a direct route from the refuge to the snowy peak. The ascent began properly at about 5,050m, with an icefall of 30°–40° for the first 190m, followed by two pitches (30m and 60m) of mixed climbing, another three 60m pitches at 60° and 80°, and a short (20m) pitch of some 50°–60° to the summit at 11.15am. They descended by icefalls to the north-north-east, arriving at the Vivacco at 11.55pm. This is a direct variation on the *Cosley-Houston* 2003 route.

References: Carlos Esteban Pineda Beyer and Carlos Comesaña; Morales Arnao, C, *Andinismo en la Cordillera Blanca*, Lima, Turismo Andino, 1968; *Slovenski alpinizem* 2009–10; *American Alpine Journal (AAJ)* 1965, 2014; www.cosleyhouston.com/recent/03-06-ishinca.htm.

When Carlos E Pineda and Carlos E Solé were on the Nevado Ishinca, they had the opportunity to contemplate the central couloir of the north face of **Nevado Ranraplca** (6062m), including the north face central couloir and made this their next target to give *Learning of our Weaknesses* (ED, M6, 5.10+, 70°–90°, 960m) on 9 July 2013. They left the Mariscal refuge at 12.30am on Saturday 8 June, and from the glacial moraine traversed below the enormous snow apron at the base of the couloir. The pair moved together for the first part to get as high as possible before the first rays of the sun. They passed the first crux, a section of thin ice and snow mixed with rocks over a near-vertical slab. They suffered a few small powder avalanches and reached their first decent piece of gear just before 6am. After this they climbed to avoid the danger of the main couloir, which was throwing down great quantities of ice and rock. The pair climbed a central pillar that was largely loose and decomposing rock. A little after sunset they arrived at the upper section of the couloir, where they took the leftmost of three gullies; this took the shape of a series of vertical ice cascades that resembled a giant staircase.

The temperature plummeted at nightfall, to around -20°C at 5,700m. They tried to fend off the cold by rubbing their knees, taking short rests and carrying on climbing to keep body heat up and to keep from falling asleep. Just as the night ended they reached the last icefall, climbed that and finished up the last pitch through an unstable cornice to the ramp and up to the glacial plateau. At 11.30am on 9 July, whipped by strong winds, with frozen faces and in very poor visibility they reached the summit. They descended by the normal route on the north-east face, wandering around for a while before they found the abseil point, still set up with stoppers and carabiners by a Chilean team that had come up the north face the day before. That took them to the bottom of the glacier, and at 7.30pm they arrived, exhausted, at the refuge, 43 hours after leaving.

References: Carlos Esteban Pineda Beyer; *Revista Peruana de Andinismo y Glaciología*, 1958-9; *AAJ* 1969 and following.

After climbing *Karma de los Cóndores* (300m, 5.11+; *AJ* 2006 pp320-321) on the rocky prow of **Hatun Ulloc** near the Quebrada Ishinca, the Swiss team of David Hefti, Marcel Probst, Mathias Schick and Florian Zwahlen travelled to the south of the Cordillera and installed themselves in a base camp at c4,500m at the foot of the west face of **Nevado Shacsha (Shaqsha) South** (5697m), for an attempt on the west face. (The mountain is called Nevada Huanchan (5632m) on sheet 20-i of the Peruvian Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN).) They climbed the route *Würmligrüber* (7a+, 60°, 240m) on 23 July 2013, without visiting the summit.

After a day of reconnaissance they spotted a promising system of cracks in the rock face west of the south peak of Shacsha, which is 5,697m on the German *Alpenvereinskarte* (DAV) of 1939. The four Swiss left camp on 23 July at 4am, skirted a small lake and crossed the bergschrund. The difficult climbing started here, at c5,350m, with two pitches of 5c (35m) and 6c+ (65m), before gaining a large dihedral. The route went up the corner (30m) at 6b, before an easy ramp took them to the two hardest pitches, 7a+ (40m) and 7a (35m), which led to a chimney. Six pitches finished the rock face and they then climbed 60m of 60° snow and ice to a point at c5,600m on the south-south-east arête of the lower summit to the south-west of Shacsha South. Four abseils took them down the route, they down-climbed over the bergschrund and returned to base camp at 8pm. Much of the route consists of clean finger and hand-sized cracks.

Nevado Shacsha is called Shaqsha in the book *Yuraq Janka* by John F Ricker, who gives the summit height at 5,703m, and 5,697m to the south top. Shacsha is given an erroneous name of 'Huantsán Chico' in the 1939 map published by the German Alpine Club (DAV); the 2005 edition kept that name, but added 'Nev Shacsha' in brackets and 5,632m as per the Peruvian map. Shacsha South is given the name 'Nevado Huanchán' and given 5,632m on sheet 21-h of the Peruvian IGN.

References: *Alpine Journal (AJ)* 2006; *AAJ* 2014; Sheet 20-i *Recuay* IGN (Peru); *Cordillera Blanca (Perú)*, 1:100,000, DAV 1939; Sheet 21-h *Huayllapampa* IGN (Peru); Ricker, J, *Yuraq Janka*, Map 3, 1977; *AAJ* 2000, 2011, 2015; *Planetmountain.com* 12 June 2010; *Alpinist.com* 28 June 2010.

CORDILLERA HUAYHUASH 2013

On 15 June Yasushi Yamanoi and Masuru Noda started climbing steep, excellent rock on the lower section of the south-east face of **Nevado Puscanturpa Este** (5410m). Arriving at the middle of the route the light-weight-style team were then faced with large patches of snow, and it took some effort to overcome the steep slopes of sugar snow and loose rock, including a very cold sitting bivouac at c5300m. The next day they finished off the route up the easy, higher icefalls and the headwall, arriving at the summit in mid-morning. This was probably the fourth ascent of this peak. Their route name, *Qiumplirgun Swerminganta* (ED+, VII M5+, A1, 700m) means 'dreams come true' in the local Quechua language. Yamanoi lost five fingers and all the toes on his right foot in 2002 after an alpine-style repeat of the 1999 *Slovenian Route* on the north face of Gyachung Kang (7952m) in the Mahalangur Himal.

References: Yasushi Yamanoi; *AJ* 2008, pp338-9; 2013, p308.

After Puscanturpa East, Yamanoi and Noda camped by a lake (c4750m) at the foot of the south-east face of **Nevado Trapecio** (5653m). On 24 June the team repeated the *Fernandez-Pita* route. The pair overcame slopes of ice and snow at 50° – 70° in the lower section, with a section of steep ice and loose mixed terrain (M5+) in the upper part of the face. They arrived at the summit in 14 hours and bivouacked at c5,200m on the descent, concerned that abseiling in the dark could send them off route. They finished their descent in the warmth of the next morning's sun.

References: Miguel Ángel Pita Galego and Yasushi Yamanoi (p.c.); *Desnivel* 251 June 2007; *AJ* 2008, p340; *AAJ* 2014.

CORDILLERA URUBAMBA 2013

On 30 November, the Peruvian Andeans Jorge 'Coqui' Gálvez Aramburu, Manuel Urquizo Cereceda and Dominique Riva Roveda ascended the river called Joñayhuaiyo (according to the official Peruvian map) in the direction of the southern slope of **Nevado Capacsaya (Qhapaqsaya, Ccapacsaya, Huayurioq, Media Luna)** (5060m or 5044m) in the Cordillera Urubamba. They passed the village of Sutoc (c3750m) then Laguna Manallocsec (4050m); then, with heavy rucksacks, they made their way up a steep moraine. On top of the moraine they switched to big boots and crampons and some 10 hours after starting carved out a snow hole in a shelf at

the base of the east wall of the western summit. At first light the next day they observed this wall sheds a lot of rock far too frequently; they traversed east to situate themselves under the south-west face of the eastern summit. The first part of the ascent on 1 December was on deep soft snow, followed by 100m on mixed ground (60°) that was lovely but loose, with some airy and exposed sections. At a system of shelves they traversed to the right, heading for an outstanding corner (25m, 70m; 6c+ A1) with a good crack that occasionally made it hard to protect. Four further pitches (250m) of climbing at IV brought them to the summit. They descended by the line of ascent. This new route contains some 450m of difficulty at about 6c+ A1, and is probably the first route with hard climbing on the walls of Capacsaya.

The first recorded route on Nevado Capacsaya is that of Malcolm Moore (USA) and John F Ricker (Canada), by the west glacier and north-west ridge, on 29 April 1970. Ricker wrote afterwards (*AAJ* 1970 p410) that the published height of 16,600ft (5060m) seemed too low. The Canadian alpinist, who was a student of the Quechua language, spelt the mountain's name as Ccapacsaya, also known as Huayurioq, and never came across anyone who called it Media Luna as had been annotated on the sketch maps of the Italian alpinist Mario Fantin. Note: it remains to be verified whether the Peruvian team climbed the same peak as Ricker; in the opinion of Gálvez it doesn't seem to be the case.

References: Jorge Gálvez and Manuel Urquizo; Sheet 27-r, *Urubamba*, IGN (Peru); Fantin, M, *Pioneri e Epigoni Italiani sulle vette di Ogni Continente*, Italia, Commissione delle Pubblicazioni del Club Alpino Italiano (CPCAI), 1975; Fantin, Mario. *Le Ande*. Italia: CPCAI, 1979; *Montañas Peruanas* 59; *AAJ* 1970; 1973; 2014.

CORDILLERA VILCANOTA 2013

Nathan Glenn Heald, Thomas Ryan (USA) and Luis Crispín Quispe (Peru) left the village of Pacchante on 31 May 2013. They camped before and below the pass of Jampa (or Campa), in the valley that forms **Nevado Caracol** (5625m), **Concha de Caracol** (5640m), **Pucapunta** or **Puca Punta** or **Pachanta** (5740m), at the tail end of the mountains that join the Nevado Caracol with the Pachanta (also called the Pucapunta). (Heights are from Heald's GPS.) At 1am next morning the trio left for the Caracol. To gain entry to the south face of the Caracol, they started via a rocky spur on the east side, then had to get past some 15m of bullet-hard, 80° ice, followed by knee-deep soft snow at 45°–55°. Once they made it to the west ridge of Caracol, they found an easy bergschrund. After another 30m of 80° ice and in four hours they reached the summit of Caracol by the north-west arête following this to the Concha del Caracol where, at 6am, they rested for 10 minutes.

At this point that Ryan decided to stop, waiting for his companions. Heald and Crispín carried on with the traverse to the col between the Concha del

Caracol and Puca Punta, with snow at 45°–55° and exposed, but with little technical difficulty. The final section was at 70°–80° but on good névé, with small cornices and hard snow-ice. On the ridge they stayed on the north (left) side, as the cornices hung over space on the south. Heald touched the summit (5740m by his GPS) at 10am, describing in the *AAJ* 2014 (p201): 'Several sections were vertical, and we barely spoke while delicately passing the cornices that hung over the west face. As we arrived at the top, I saw that the actual summit was just a large flake of ice, about the size of a car, balanced on top. It was too dangerous to stand on it, so I just touched the top with my hand.' The north-west ridge of Puca Punta/Pachanta was TD, AI3, 200m.

Puca Punta/Pucapunta (5740m) is the Pachanta Peak whose first ascent by William W Hooker and Craig Merrihue was recorded in the article 'The Harvard Andean Expedition 1957' (*AAJ* 1958). The name Pachanta also appears in the map in Günter Hauser's book *Ihr Herren Berge*. The map indicates from north-west to south-east the peaks of Caracol (5619m), Concha de Caracol (not named, but given a height of 5630m), Pachanta (5727m) and further to the north-east is Ccapana Peak (5725m). The Harvard expedition stayed in the hacienda named after this last. Pachanta (Pacchanta) is called Nevado Puca Punta in the Peruvian IGN sheet 28-t *Ocongate*, located to the north-north-east of the pass of Nevado Campa, but is not given a height. The same is to be found in the Tinquí-Auzangate trekkers' sketch map, drawn by Healy and printed by the South American Explorer Club in 1985. The sketch-map of Wilkinson and Rubens (*AJ* 2005, p48) has the summit of Pachanta/Puca Punta coinciding with the third summit to the south-south-east after Cayangate IV.

References: Nathan Heald; *American Alpine Journal* 1967; 1981; 2014; Hauser, G, *Ihr Herren Berge*, 1957; Piero Ghiglione, *Nelle Ande del Sud Perù*, 1953; Cronk and Wortis (sketch), *AJ* 1959; Mario Fantin, *Le Ande*, 1979; Sheet 28-t *Ocongate*, Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN); Wilkinson and Rubens, *AJ* 2005; *Revista Peruana de Andinismo y Glaciología* 15.

CORDILLERA VILCABAMBA 2013

After attempts in 2011 and 2012, Nathan Heald, Thomas Ryan and Luis Crispín climbed the north-east ridge of **Salcantay** (6279m) on 16-17 June 2013, 27 years after the only previous ascent by Mark Lowe and Pete Leeming (UK). Heald records the height at 6279m, and checked it when he ascended the route again on 31 July with James Lissy (USA) and Edwin Espinoza (Peru). The route is given D with sections of AI2 or AI3 on ice. Salcantay received its name and a height of 6,271m on the map by Piero Ghiglione, in his book *Nelle Ande del Sud Perù* (1953). The orographic map of south Peru, published by the Swiss Foundation for Alpine Exploration (SSAF) is based on Ghiglione and indicates two peaks, and only one height given at 6,160m next to the eastern summit.

References: Nathan Heald; *AAJ* 2013; *Desnivel.com*; Ghiglione, P, *Nelle Ande del Sud Perù*, Officine Grafiche Aldo Garzanti Editore, 1953; *Sud Peru* (SSAF) is a sketch of ridges and rivers based on five expeditions by Ghiglione between 1939 and 1955.

CORDILLERA BLANCA 2014

Quilluhirka (5047m), also **Quillujirca**, might mean 'orange hill' in Quechua, as the locals call it, and it is accessible from Olleros. The peak is approximately 1.1km to the south-south-west of Schacsha Sur (5697m) and a few kilometres to the south of the summit of Nevado Shacsha/Shaqsha (5703m). On 15 July, Ecuadorians Rafael Cáceres, Esteban Mena Yañez, Nicolás Navarrete and Carla Pérez climbed five pitches on the south-east face (5.11d, 5.7, 5.11a, 5.10, 5.10), to the right of *El sueño de los Excluidos* (*Dream of the Excluded*) that was put up by Iannilli, Scappatura and Di Donato in 2010. The team arrived at the wooded shelf at the beginning of the south face and continued up the *Italian Route* on the south-east ridge, then 500m of possibly unclimbed terrain on the upper south-east face to the summit. The Ecuadorians estimate 850m for the route, with a difficulty of 5.11d. The team then opened a new route from the same wooded shelf up the south face (5,11 +/5.12-, 300m), but didn't continue up to the summit.

Quilluhirka has another local name: Yuraqmurmu-muruhirka, which might mean 'hill of the white spots'. The first recorded ascent to the summit was by North Americans Cameron Tague and Kent McClannan, who climbed the right side of the south-east face (*Mission Control*, 5.11+ A2+) on 27-28 June, 1999. The south-east face was climbed in August 2003 by the Spaniards Enrique Barberá Llansol, Vicente Casquel Lopez and Antonio Gómez Bohórquez (6b, A2, 320m), but they didn't summit. From 11-17 May 2010, Roberto Iannilli, Ivo Scappatura and Andrea Di Donato climbed the left of the south-east face, calling their route *El Sueño de los Excluidos* (VII/VII+, A2, 1400m). They climbed the most logical line and found no sign of previous ascents on the wall nor on the summit, the lowest and to the left of that reached by the North Americans; they gave the peak the name Punta Giampiero Capoccia; this name doesn't follow the nomenclature of the Geographical Society of Peru, nor of the Peruvian Institute of Geography (IGN).

Later in May 2010 Luca D'Andrea and Massimo Massimiano shared the first 300m of the *Sueño*, then continued on the left side of the south face, possibly without reaching the summit (*La Teoría de la Gota de Agua*, VII, A2, 800m).

References: Kent McClannan; local people in Olleros and Canray; Sheet 21-h *Huayllapampa* of the IGN of Peru. *AAJ* 2000; 2011; 2015; *Planetmountain.com* 12 June 2010; *Alpinist.com* 28 June 2010.

On 7 June 2014, Peruvians Marco Jurado Ames, Jack Sierralta Infante and Rodrigo Mendoza entered the Cátac by the Sector Carpa (the point of access by Pastoruri), crossed the pass of Acococha (4600m) and spent the night in the Quebrada Queshque. Next day they reached a base camp (c4600m) at the foot of a laguna called Pamparaju in the 2005 edition of the German map of the area. (The name Laguna Pamparajo on the Peruvian map shouldn't be confused with the Lagunas Pamparaju Ricker drew on the Quebrada Pamparaju, below the north-west slope of the Nevado Qeshqe.) On 9 June at 3am the three climbed the moraine of **Mururaju** (5711m), (also Morroraju or Pongos Sur), then crossed avalanche debris from the north-west face, to reach the glacier and north-west ridge. The route started with loose rock, then mixed, steep ground with 70° soft snow up the north-north-west flank of the mountain. The ascent took 12 hours camp to camp, and four days after arriving at the laguna, and they then walked 8 hours back to Cátac. This was probably the first repeat of the route since 1971. The north-north-west ridge was first climbed on 3 June 1971 by the Germans D Fritz, H Güner, W Hummel, R Röcker, P Schmil, D Schwenkglens, W Weber and F Wibmer from a high camp (c4500m), at the head of the Quebrada Queshque, called Tranca Ruri by the official Peruvian map and the 2005 German edition.

References: Marco Jurado; *Alpenvereinskarte Cordillera Blanca Süd Peru* 0/3b, 1:100,000, Österreichischer Alpenverein, 1939 and 2005; Hoja 20-1 *Recuay*, 1:100,000, IGN (Peru), 1986 reprint; *AAJ* 1972, pp162-163; Map 4 of Ricker, J, *Yuraq Janka: A Guide to the Peruvian Andes Part I: Cordilleras Blanca and Rosko*, Banff, Canadian Alpine Club, 1977.

CORDILLERA DE HUAYHUASH 2014

On 7 July 2014, Beto Pinto and William Alva from Peru and Daniel Araiza Chávez from Mexico camped on Cuargelhuain at c4300m. Next day a three-hour walk took them to Carhuacocha, a lake at 4,138m, and then they carried all their gear to a moraine camp by Nevado Yerupajá, where they met with Austrian alpinist Florian Burger. On 10 July, they gained the glacier between the peaks Yerupajá (6617m) and Siulá (6344m) and set up a base camp at 5,300m, at the foot of their primary objective: the south-east face of **Yerupajá Grande**.

The team left early to study the route from c5,600m on the plateau. From this vantage point they could see conditions were dangerous, with big avalanches, as was the glacial slope of Siulá Grande. They knew **Jurau B** (5727m), the north peak of Peak 5740, was unclimbed but the whole of the west face looked unstable except for the possibility of one couloir. They decided on the couloir and returned to camp. At midnight on 13 July they left for their new objective, reaching the col (c5500m) between Yerupajá and Peak 5578m to the north-east of Siulá Grande. They descended, negotiating crevasses, and at 3am were at the base of the west face of Jurau B.

The gullies held mushroom cornices for as far as they could see with their headlamps; the team climbed sections of 60°, 70° and 90° in the first pitches, until they reached an ice mushroom that effectively formed a roof over the only possible route. They climbed that, which was easily 100°, then continued over ice cascades of 60°, 70°, 80° and 90°, until just below the summit ridge. The last two pitches were icicles over snow slabs; this rare glacial formation did help the climbing, but the leader had to put huge effort in to avoid knocking his second unconscious with the falling ice. That often involved horizontal movement before going directly up, and at times breaking up the ice in order to advance. They reached the north summit at sunrise then carried on for the main summit by the north ridge, a narrow arête that after 30m took them to the base of a wall of ice some 20m high. The wall looked very dangerous, as it was covered in ice chandeliers. Here, at 6.30am, they ended their ascent. The route took eight ice screws and six snow stakes. This was probably the first ascent of the north peak of Jurau B. They called their route *El Inca, el Cachaco y el Azteca* (TD, 60°–100°, 300m).

They returned to the base of the wall at 10am. After some 20 minutes of coiling the ropes, when they were starting to downclimb, the ice they were standing on broke off and sent Araiza into a crevasse. Pinto slid down the snow on the downhill side of the crevasse, holding his companion on the rope; fortunately Araiza wasn't seriously injured, just bruised. Burger and Pinto pulled him out, as one ice axe had fallen into the crevasse, and the team returned directly to base camp. On 14 July, they crossed the crevassed glacier to Carhuacocha, and the following day made it to Huaraz after a three-hour walk and four-hour car journey.

References: Beto Pinto Toledo.

Still in the Cordillera de Huayhuash, the French team of Frédéric Degoulet, Benjamin Guignonnet, Helias Millerioux and Robin Revest climbed *Looking for the Void* (M7, WI6, R, 900m) in alpine style, on the west face of **Siulá Chico** (6265m). The route appears to coincide to a large extent with the intended route of the Catalans Jordi Corominas and Jordi Tosas, in 2003. The French team found no friends or pegs that the Catalans abandoned on the abseil, and they abseiled off abalakovs. Except for the third and last bivouac on the Catalan route, the French team covered unclimbed ground, spent four nights on the wall between 16 and 20 May 2014 and reached the summit.

The first day the French team climbed about 400m, with the greatest difficulties in one of the last pitches (6a). They bivouacked for two hours on a carved-out shelf at 5,800m. At 2am next morning they braved the crux of the day (M6 +), a 45m corner with little ice, which Ben Guignonnet overcame in two and a half hours of climbing. Four pitches of vertical ice (WI5 +, WI6, WI5 +, WI5) took them to 5,980m, where they had their second bivouac, somewhat less protected than the first, and stone fall put a hole in their tent. At 3am of the third day Degoulet overcame a



The line of the attempt on the south-east face of Tsacra Grande (5774m) by Italians Saro Costa, Tito Arosio and Luca Vallata. (*Tito Arosio*)

'very psychological' pitch (M6, WI5 +, R) with a complicated step about 8 metres above the last piece of gear, took five minutes to catch his breath and then climbed 20m to the next belay. At the end of the day another hard pitch (M5, WI5) led them to third bivouac (6170m), where they took a couple of hours to carve a terrace. On the fourth day of ascent they started climbing at 5am, followed a small ridge of snow, then a precarious pitch (45m, M6, WI6), very demanding because of the altitude, now c6,200m, and only Guignonnet could lead it. Two pitches later Revest reached the summit ridge and after the last stretch of deep snow, the four reached the summit. They quickly descended to the last bivouac, and next day abseiled 800m in three hours to reach advanced base camp.

References: Benjamin Guignonnet, Jordi Corominas, Mick Fowler, Robin Revest; *Desnivel.com*

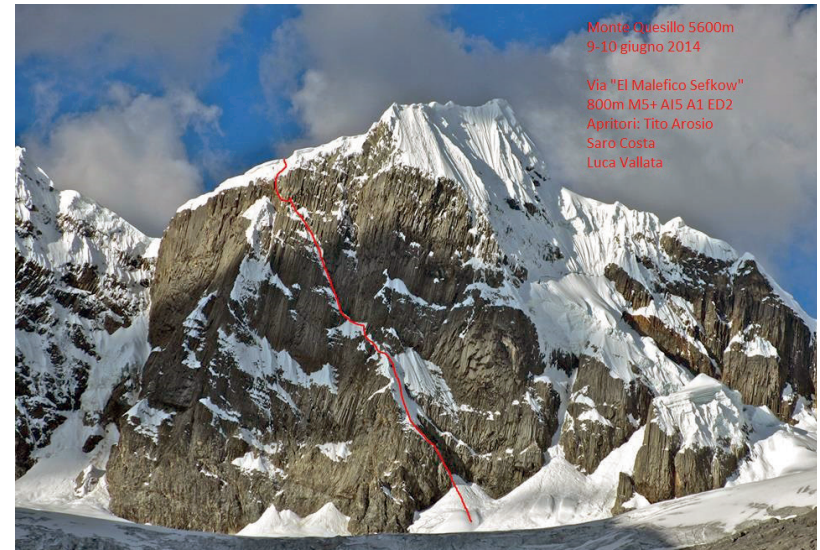
On 26 May 2014, Italians Carlo Cossi and Davide Cassol arrived in Huaraz (3090m). They bought food for a month, and travelled the six hours to Llamac (3250m) in the Huayhuash. With cook Pio Polo, local herdsmen Omar Abner and nearly 300kg of supplies, they loaded onto nine mules and two horses for the three-day approach. They crossed the Macrash Punta (4272m), camped near Jahuacocha, a lake at 4,050m, climbed the Quebrada Huacrish to the pass of Llaucha Punta (4850m), then that of Tapush Punta (4770m), dropped down to Incahuahin to camp on the plain of Huatiaqpampa at c4300m, continued to Auquimarca, Calinca (4175m) and Cutatambo (4265m) and on 1 July set up base camp (c4300m) between the lakes of Jurau (4343m) and Sarapo (4482m) in the Quebrada Ruri Relle, also known as Quebrada Sarapococha. They were 26 days at base camp, shared with compatriots Tito Arosio, Saro Costa and Luca Vallata.

Cossi and Cassol acclimatised on 'Cerro Gran Vista' (5152m), a summit that isn't named on official maps, west of the north side of the Sarapo. On 5 June they climbed the north face of **Jurauraju** (5335m), comprising high-quality grey limestone, just to the right of a prominent ridge and a distinctive gully. This they called *Laurapaq* (V+). The Italians then intended to climb **Jurau** and **Yerupajá South** (described later), and in their final days in the area, in later June, returned to Jurauraju, where they opened another magnificent rock route named *La Zuppa di Pio* (IV+) in homage to Pio's soup.

The Jurauraju is Cerro Jurau, but with no height given, on the official Peruvian map; its main summit is to the east of the Ogo mine, east-north-east of the old Vaqueria Cutatambo and east-south-east of the laguna Jurau. The 1939 *Alpenvereinskarte* gives the main peak of Jurauraju as 5,340m, the 2008 edition puts it at 5,335m. The first ascent of the main summit was on 27 June 1963 by Walter Schnyder, Heinz and Edwin Gebauer Schelling, members of a Swiss expedition that reached the south summit (5271m) from a base camp in Juraucocha.

References: *Cordillera Huayhuash (Perú)*, *Alpenvereinskarte* 0/3c 1939 and new edition 2008; Sheet 21-j *Yanahuanca* IGN (Peru); *Planetmountain.com* 28 July 2014; *AAJ* 1964; 2015.

Cossi and Cassol left base camp for the east and climbed, by the Jurau glacier, **Jurau D** (5674m) the south-east summit of Nevado Butcher (5960m) and slightly north-west of Huaraca (5537m) or Jurau E. The climb began on the snow and ice of the west face of Jurau, just to the left of the line of the summit pyramid, until they reached the top of the wall and the north ridge, calling the route *La Siesta del Bodacious* (WI4+, M4+, 600m). The two Italians continued on the eastern side of the peak to the east ridge but, as they said in *AAJ* 2015: 'We stopped 80m below the true summit due to huge, dangerous-looking cornices. This proved to be a wise move, as the following day we saw a cornice collapse on the ridge, causing a large avalanche 200m left of our new route. To descend, we rappelled our route using V-threads and a couple pieces of rock protection.' The north ridge of Jurau (5674m)



Having missed out on Tsacra Grande Arosio, Costa and Vallata set their sights on the west face of Quesillo (5600m), or Jurau F. In two days they climbed *El Malefico Sefkow* (ED2, AI5, M5+, A1, 800m). (*Tito Arosio*)

was climbed in 1961 and the east ridge in 1966, both by German expeditions. British climbers Brian Barker and Jonathan Preston opened a 15-pitch route on the west side of Jurau D in 1988 (TD-, 60°–90°).

References: In addition to the above map references, see *AAJ* 1962; 1967; 1989.

Italians Saro Costa, Tito Arosio and Luca Vallata shared base camp with their compatriots. From 9 to 10 June 2014 Arosio and Costa climbed 800m 'with mixed sections (up to M6) and ice (AI4+)' on the south-east face of **Tsacra Grande** (5774m) that faces the Quebrada Seria, mistakenly called Segya. They reached the south-west ridge, but because of the soft and dangerous snow retreated 150m from the summit. Arosio, Costa and Vallata then set their sights on the west face of **Quesillo** (5600m), or Jurau F. For two days they climbed what may be new terrain, on ramps of snow, ice and rock. They called the route *El Malefico Sefkow* (ED2, AI5, M5+, A1, 800m). Cornices prevented them from summiting. They also attempted the Siulá Grande and the Huaraca or Jurau E. Nevado Tsacra Grande is given 5774m in *Alpenvereinskarte* 0/3c 1939, but the 2008 edition erroneously gives 5610m. Nevado Quesillo is further south of Jurau D (5674m) and Huaraca (Jurau E 5537m), which were climbed by the German expedition of 1961.

References: In addition to the map references, see *Planetmountain.com* 8 July 2014; *AAJ* 2015.



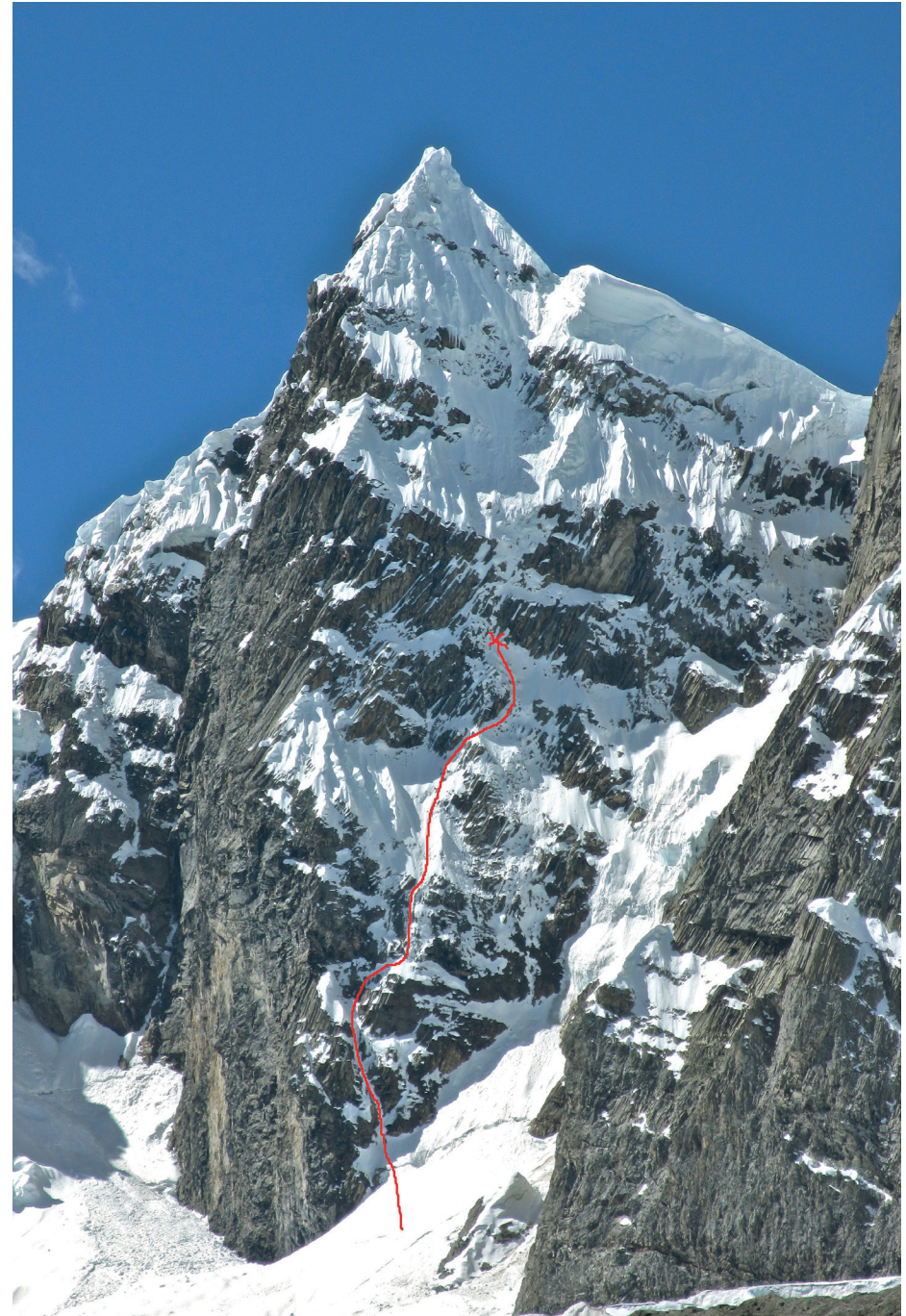
During the first ascent of *El Malefico Sefkow*. Cornices prevented them from reaching the summit. (*Tito Arosio*)

After climbing the Jurau, Cossi Carlo and Davide Cassol had four and a half days of bad weather. They then tried to open a route on the south face of **Yerupaja Sur** (6515m), but were stopped by powder snow that had built up on slopes of 90°, as a result of which Cassol had three falls.

Yerupaja Grande (6634m), west face, combination of routes

12 September 2014

The American Nathan Heald, resident in Cuzco, his compatriot Duncan McDaniel and the Peruvian Crispin Luis travelled from Huaraz to Llamac on 5 September. The next day they set up a base camp between Jahuacocha (4050m) and Solteracocha (4120m), lagoons on the west side of the Jirishanca and Rondoy snowfields. On 7 June they carried their equipment, following a path along Solteracocha, then along the edge of the glacial moraine, with an ABC (c5300m) near Jirishanca where the Yerupajá glacier meets the east face of Nevado Rasac. They left their tent at 1.30am next morning, and climbed the Rasac via a col to Yerupajá. On 9 June they descended to rest at base camp. The next day Heald and Crispin returned again to their higher camp. On 11 June they climbed the glacier to Jirishanca, but with dangerous glacial conditions decided to change objectives, camping on the western edge of Yerupajá glacier. At 11.30pm that night they travelled under a clear sky to the west side of the Nevado. They climbed along the north-west ridge, reaching the point where Roger Bates and Lloyd Gallagher came to the



The highpoint reached by the three Italians on Huaraca. (*Tito Arosio*)



Arosio and his friends also attempted the 2001 Slovenian route on the west face of Siulá Grande *Noches de 'Juerga'* (ED, 65°-90°, mixed VI, 1,000m). (Tito Arosio)

lower north summit on 30 June 1968. However, the first ascent of the full north-west ridge of **Yerupajá Grande** (6634m) is attributed to Dick Renshaw and Dave Wilkinson, climbing from the lower summit; they followed the north ridge and reached the main peak on 13 August 1979.

Heald and Crispin alternated pitches of 60°–70° ice through the first 400m, to névé on the north-west ridge. With an ascending traverse of the west face under large blocks of ice, they were diverted to the route followed by Thomas (Tom) Pulaski and Geoff Conley (USA) on 11 July 1979. They moved together on good snow to a long pitch of ice (70°–80°) then snow (65°) then crossed the bergschrund to the final slope, which gave two long and well-protected couloirs (70°–80° ice and snow). Crossing hanging ice through a gap, they moved onto the east face for good snow (60°–70°), and moved together up to the summit snow mushrooms. At 11.56am on 12 September and in a whiteout, they were careful not to break through the cornice at the summit ridge. This was the first ascent of the summit in 11 years. They descended the ridge to the mouth of the couloir, then straight down the west face in 13 rappels from pickets and abalakovs to spend the night at their ABC.

References: Nathan Heald; *Cordillera Huayhuash (Perú)*, *Alpenvereinskarte* 0/3c 1939 and new edition 2008; *AAJ* from 1969 to 2014.

Alberto Hung from Peru and Steve Meder of France travelled from Lima to the city of San Mateo in Huarochiri province and on to Dam Yuracmayo. On 22 March 2014 they climbed the north-west ridge of **Tatajaico** (5342m), descending via the west ridge. They called their route *A Puro Huevo* (D, V, M3, 60°). The Nevado Tatajaico is halfway along the Quebrada Quilla-cocha, the part of the Central Cordillera mountain range known locally as Pariacacca and Cordillera Huarochiri (see *AJ* 2011 p83), about 100km north of Lima. William F Jenks included Tatajaico and Jija (5513m) in the group of Nevado Tunshu (*AAJ* 1941 pp174-175), and wrote, 'to the best of my knowledge neither has been climbed.' On 22 July 1958, Hugh Simpson, William Wallace and Miss Myrtle L Emslie recorded the first ascent of Tatajaico, giving it a height of 18,058ft; in *AAJ* 1972 (p176), Evelio Echevarría corrected the height to 18,343ft or 5594m. In 1967 it was climbed by a German expedition led by Ekke Rubel, and on 5 September 1972 the Swiss Christian Brückner, Ruedi Merker and Magdalena Hohl climbed Tatajaico to 16,634ft. In 2002 the Peruvian Bruno Castro, Guillermo Portocarrero, José Usquiano, Carlos Verdeguer, Marisol Carbajal and Alberto Hung made an attempt, but near the top had to give up due to a severe thunderstorm. The following year, Castro, Juan Narvaja and Nice Trujillo got the first Peruvian ascent via the easy western face.

References: Emslie, M, 'Conquering Peru's Virgin Peaks', *The Scotsman*, 4-5 November, 1958; *AJ* 1967; 2001; *AAJ* 1941; 1959; 1969; 1973; 2014, 2015; *Montañas Peruanas* 57.

Tunshu Sur (Tunsho Sur 5420m), first ascent

7 June 2014

The IFMGA Peruvian guide Beto Pinto Toledo, Guy Fonck (Belgium) and their cook Habram Morales left Huaraz on the night of 3 June 2014 for Lima and La Oroya for the first ascent of the virgin summit of **Tunshu Sur** (5420m), to the south-west of Tunshu Central and one of the four Tunshu *nevados*. Geographically this is in the Junín department, specifically in the North Yauyos Cochabambas, in the valley of Cochabambas-Junín. The next day they toured the valley Pachacayo and a three-hour march took them to the end of the lake Azulcocha where they set up base camp (4520m). On day five they explored the way that the shepherds of Alaca call Suicicocha, which they cross to go to the town of Suicicanchas. Sheet 24-I of the IGN (Peru) does not show this pass. The same day they climbed the north ridge on a mountain south of the pass with easy sections of V to a rocky summit at 5,200m. From this, they observed Tunshu and the route they would take.

On 7 June, Pinto and Fonck left at 1am for the south face of Tunshu Sur. They took two and a half hours to the start of the glacier, crossed several crevasses and dangerous snow slabs, and reached the south face at 6am. The compact glacier snow changed little before reaching the five-metre-wide bergschrund, which took them some 40 minutes of work. They sank into soft, 50° snow on the first part of the south face. Climbing for 200m at an average gradient of 70° to 80°, they arrived at 9.36 am on the previously unclimbed south summit of Nevado Tunshu or Tunsho, where a GPS marked 5520m instead of the 5420m on the German map. They called their route *Mel & Lies* (70° to 80°, 200m), the names of their girlfriends.

References: Beto Pinto Toledo; Alberto Carlos Hung Pitman (*Montañas Peruanas*); Diego Fernández Chávez; Hans Huber; John Harlin (*AAJ*); Peter Brill; Ricardo Rivadeneira Samaniego; Toño Rodríguez Verdugo; Akademischen Sektion München des DAV. *Cordillera Central Yarumario-Gruppe*, 1:60,000; IGN (Peru) sheets 24-k *Matucana* and 24-I *La Oroya*, 1:100,000; *AAJ* 1941-2006; Echevarría, E, 'The Cordillera Huarochirí, Peru' *AJ* 2001; Volgel, Jochen, et al *Münchener Anden-Kundfahrt*, 1967. 'Verlauf, wissenschaftliche und bergsteigerische Ergebnisse', Minich, Akademischen Sektion München des Deutschen Alpenverein, 1969.

CORDILLERA URUBAMBA 2014

Germans Phillip Moser and Chris Romeike left Munaychay, a village at about 3,300m in the Chicón (Ch'iqun) valley in the Cuzco province of Urubamba. They carried two loads to advanced base camp (c4900m) on moraine beneath the central glacier on the western side of the Chicón massif. After a day in camp, they climbed 400m to the central summit of Nevado Chicón (5490m) via the steep south-west couloir up to a ridge of loose rock and snow; they reached the central summit about 7.30pm and bivouacked (c5486m) slightly north of the top. At dawn they followed the

ridge to the north by dangerously loose rock and reached the main summit (5526m) around 10.30am. Descent was from the north of the peak, and they 'traversed around the massif by crossing the northern glacier.' (*AAJ* 2015, p202). Their route was called *Vía del Corazón* (TD+, WI4, M5, 550m).

Records of the first ascent of Chicón seem confused if we compare data from the 1958 expedition, in which Italians gave names to at least nine peaks in the Yucaj area, with various subsequent publications of lists and notes on tops climbed and the 1958 note of the 'Nevado Alessandro Volta 5572m' marked on the sketch map published by Mario Fantin in 1975. This does not match the description of Michael G Andrews in *AAJ* 1974, p188: 'Chicon III lies in the group also known as the Yucaj. This particular peak was climbed once before by a different route by Mario Fantin and others in 1958 and named by them Nevado Alessandro Volta. The three peaks of this group are known locally as Chicon.'

References: *AAJ* 1959; 1961; 1962; 1974; 1975; 2015; Sheet 27-r, *Urubamba*, IGN (Peru); Fantin, M, *Pionieri ed Epigoni Italiani sulle vette di Ogni Continente*, Italy, Commissione delle Pubblicazioni del Club Alpino Italiano, 1975.

Nevado Sahuasiray (Saguasiray, 5721m, 5777m or 5818m), south-west face

10 April 2014

On 8 April 2014 Nathan Heald and Eduardo Baca from Peru travelled from Cusco to meet Erich Nordt in Calca before the three continued to Huarán, a village at 2,900m. The local porter Alejandro brought their luggage on donkeys to the rural community of Cancha Cancha (4000m) after three hours. The president of the community prevented the porter continuing because two years before a Chilean hiker died while trekking.

Heald, Baca and Nordt, with heavy loads on their backs, took two hours to the pampa (4600m) where they camped on the right (south) side of the moraine down from the south-west face of **Nevado Sahuasiray** (Saguasiray 5721m, 5777m or 5818m). Next day they continued along rocky spurs to reach a secondary west ridge of the south-west ridge. Easy but exposed traverses took them to a couloir of about 35m, third grade, although with heavy packs it was not that easy. They found greater difficulty (V/V+) on a rocky passage of 4m. They arrived at the snow above the ridge, followed this for half an hour on ice of 45° and camped on it at about 5,300m. Before going to bed they had to locate the exit from the spur to the glacier requiring a 30m rappel.

At midnight, Baca felt anxious about continuing. Nordt left two hours later with Heald, but was also anxious and decided to accompany Heald as far as the glacier plateau to protect him over the concealed crevasses of early season. They left the rope fixed at the 30m abseil for the return journey. Heald led the way in the knee-deep snow. After dodging several small crevasses in steep terrain, they arrived about 5.30pm at 5,500m, under the north and south peaks. The rest of the climb was more technical, and Nordt waited on the glacier, with the rope and snow stakes. Heald came to the hanging

blocks on the ridge and crossed to the left before returning to the north side of the ridge, where the snow offered better conditions. He climbed the ridge in two long sections of 70° snow, and after several rocky steps reached the summit: 'A rock platform nearly four square metres between two fingers like a snow cone of ice cream.' This is probably a new route and the second ascent of the summit of Sahuasiray. It was 7.24am; in the spectacular scenery without a GPS, Heald couldn't verify the correct height of the three given to this summit. Nevado Verónica (5682m), whose summit had long ago been measured by GPS at 5911m, seemed higher than Sahuasiray. Heald returned to Nordt by the same route, climbed the fixed rope and reached the camp where Baca waited. Descent from the summit took one and a half hours. They arrived tired at Huarán at 7pm.

Nevado Verónica is also called Huacrahuilki, according to John F Ricker the local name of the peak, also spelt Wakaywillque. Sahuasiray Nevado is also called Saguasiray. The south (5670m) and north peaks (5720m, or 5800m) were climbed on 21 June 1963, by Italians Fulvio Ratto, Franco Riva, Antonio Zappa and Carlo Pivano. The latter died from stone fall while descending from the north summit.

References: Nathan Heald; *AJ* 1964; 1970; *Revista Mensile del Club Alpino Italiano* 1964.

On 7 January, Nathan Heald, with Peruvians Eduardo Baca, Sequel Camasa and Jorge 'Coqui' Galvez climbed the north-west face (AD, 70°) of **Nevado Sirijuani** (5400m). The crux of the route included a 150m ice wall (60°–70°) under a large but stable serac. Nevado Sirijuani, 'a fine isolated ice and rock peak' (*AJ* 1965, p446), was first climbed on 9 July 1964 during a quick run from camp at c15,000ft by members of the Scottish expedition (see *AJ* 1964, pp240-245) that approached via Calca to Quebrada Cancha Cancha. 'Kenneth Bryan and Robin Brooks made a route up the west flank, following three ice fields linked by buttresses, while Norman Tennent and Robin Chalmers approached by the more continuous rock of the south ridge.' (*AJ* 1965, p446). Italians Giuseppe Agnolotti and Giorgio Pettigiani climbed the east face, reaching the summit on 6 May 1976 at 2.30am.

References: Nathan Heald; *AJ* 1964; *AJ* 1964; 1965; 1977.

CORDILLERA VILCANOTA 2014

In April, Nathan Heald and Crispin Luis explored the south face of **Nevado Colque Cruz** (Alcamarinayoc, 6102m) in the extreme north of the Cordillera Vilcanota. They made it to c5,900m but had to abandon due to avalanche. They returned in July and could not get past the previous high-point; consolation prize was **Chumpe** (6110m) by its north-west ridge to get a better view of the original target. At the end of September, Heald and Crispin returned with Edwin Espinoza (Peru) to try again. They climbed

a large unstable moraine – they called it 'the gravel pit' – to set up the first camp. From here, on 24 September at 11.30pm, the three crossed crevasses to reach the base of the south face of Colque Cruz; they found more snow than expected because the rainy season had started a week before, pouring powder snow on the mountain.

Heald wrote: 'When we reached the crux ice wall, Luis turned back due to an ankle injury he had sustained on Yerupajá. As he made his way down alone, we watched an avalanche almost hit him far below us; however, he was okay and we continued. Edwin and I climbed up and left across the ice wall toward its apex. Most of this wall is 60°-70° until the final, steep five metres. Above the icefall, we simul-climbed for 300m on good snow (60°) until reaching a bergschrund below the final summit block. From here we traversed right (east) across the south face to gain a lower-angle ramp. We arrived at the summit at 10.25am just as the clouds began to blow in from the jungle to the north. From the top, we down-climbed and rappelled from V-threads on the icy south face. We reached the tent around 4pm and hiked out the next day. Nevado Colque Cruz is known to have been climbed seven times, first by Germans in 1953, by the Japanese in 1965, a Canadian–New Zealand–Australian team in 1974, by Germans in 1984, by Italians in 1987, and most recently by a British team up the mountain's technical south-west face (*AJ* 2007). In 2005, Dave Wilkinson explored the south face but judged it out of condition and made an ascent of nearby Nevado Ichu Ananta instead (*AJ* 2005).'

References: Nathan Heald; *AJ* 2015 p.204

CORDILLERA VILCABAMBA 2014

In early July 2014 Nathan Heald, Michael Church, Michael Hauss (USA) and Brazilian Waldemar Niclevicz travelled from Mollepata to Soraypampa. They walked under the north-west slopes of Nevado Salcantay to see if it was possible to climb the west face. They camped at about 5,000m, under the north-west buttress; Church contracted altitude sickness and Niclevicz had no faith in a route hidden by clouds. They then tried to climb the north ridge but stopped because of the mixed climbing and broken rock. From this camp they saw that the Humantay chain and its north summit seemed accessible. Heald had previously studied this possibility, and he believed the north-west ridge or north face offered the best opportunity to reach the summit of **Humantay Norte** (5403m). Niclevicz was skeptical, decided not to go and lent his ice axes to the porter Macario Crispin (Peru) so that he could climb. On 8 July they approached the peak, found a good camp on the north-east arete just below the glacier; they saw that the rest of this ridge had sections of steep rock and opted for a ledge system on the north face that connected with the ridge.

They left the tent at 1am and reached the north face by a mostly easy glacier. At about 5,150m the slope got very steep and they climbed the right

side of a rock wall 'via two pitches of unprotected climbing in a chute-like feature (5.7)'. Above this wall they climbed good snow at about 70°, 'until reaching a steep, sheer rock wall.' Two long traverse pitches to the right and they reached the summit ridge. With another long pitch (AD) they reached the summit at 8.30pm, when the clouds began to rise from the valley. They down-climbed from the summit to the top of the rock wall, where they abseiled to the lowest angle of the glacier. They arrived at the high camp about 12pm, and walked up to the Ahobamba valley the same day, arriving at 5pm.

The 'Nevado Huamantay' on the IGN Peruvian map has three peaks: north-west (5217m), north (5473m) and south (5459m). The top edge of the latter extends south-east towards the Nevado Salcantay. It is therefore likely that when the Japanese expedition of 1968 added the sub-name Humantay in brackets to the name Soray, this may have led to the mistaken belief that the summit was climbed by Terray and his companions in 1956. The height given for Humantay is from Heald's GPS and doesn't correspond to the IGN map.

In October 2014, Nathan Heald, Luis Crispin, Edwin Espinoza and Alexis Trudel (Canada), climbed the south-west ridge (PD, 350m) of **Cerro Jatunjasa** (5350m), locally called 'Incachiriasca' (*AAJ* 2014, p293), according to Conny Amelunxen. Cerro Jatunjasa is given 5338m in the IGN (Peru), and was climbed in June 1970 (possibly by the north face) for the Jubilee Expedition of the Sektion Bayerland of the German Alpine Club, and by Canadians Conny Amelunxen and Karen Perry, probably in 2003.

References: Nathan Heald; *AAJ* 1971; 2004; also see *AAJ* 1963 for the New Zealand ascents in the Pumasillo area.

Translated by Susan Jensen

MARCELO SCANU

Argentina & Chile

In 2015 South America suffered from the El Niño phenomenon with rain, snow, wind and low temperatures. It eased off, however, promising better weather for the New Year. A new government has taken office following the elections of October 2015, while the Argentine *peso* lost much value relative to hard currencies.

Jujuy

Granada is a volcano in the Puna region, a high desert near the point where Chile, Bolivia and Argentina meet, and was climbed by Incas for ceremonial purposes. During the southern hemisphere winter, on 21 June, Argentines Agustín Piccolo, Diego Simari and Carlos Torino opened a new route on its south wall. After a five-hour trek through moraines the group reached the base; the wall has many potential new routes of some 400m, all of them with mixed terrain and ice falls. They reached a lower summit (5670m) after a four-hour push, and named their route *Tata Raymi* (PD, WI4, 400m). They descended by Granada's west ridge and camped at 4,500m in a local hut.



Charly Contartese, Juancho Torres and Esteban Degregori put *Jumanji* (6c) in March 2015, the second route on the Torre Blanca de Ectelion in the Aguas del Sosneado. (*Esteban Degregori*)

La Rioja and Catamarca

Mount Parofes (5845m, S 27° 53.282', W 68° 40.767') is a volcano that lies between mighty **Pissis** and **Bonete**, in La Rioja province. It had the claim of being the highest unclimbed American mountain until a party ascended it on 11 November 2015. Argentine born but Brazilian resident Máximo Kausch, with Brazilians Pedro Hauck and Jovany Blume, made a difficult