

ANTONIO 'SEVI' GÓMEZ BOHÓRQUEZ

Peru 2015-16



The Anzac variation of the *Guides'* route on Taulliraju (5830m). The mountain saw sustained activity from a largely New Zealand team in June 2016.



The line climbed on the west ridge of Taulliraju climbed at 5.8, M4 and AI5.

Cordillera Blanca

On the granodiorite east face of **Cerro Parón** (5325m), known today as The Sphinx, Roger Schaeli (Switzerland) and Simon Gietl (Italy) opened *Chappie* (600m, 7b+max) over five days from 1 July 2015. The route lies between *Intuition* and *Dion's Dihedral*. The team also climbed the routes *Cruz del Sur* (800m, 7b) and the 1985 classic *Bohórquez-García* on the eastern side. They used pitons and Friends and 8mm para-bolts at the belays. Allow one to two days for the ascent and carry two sets of Camalots up to No2 and a set of wires.

Italian brothers Tomas and Silvestro Franchini camped at the foot (4450m) of the steep south-west face of **Nevado Churup** (5495m), to the left of the central buttress. At first light on 2 June 2015 they reached 4,850m and moved to the right of the buttress on 75° snow and ice. Their route *Divine Providence* (Peru) (650m, M7) continued with mixed climbing (M5) via a crack-dihedral on good rock. Above the buttress was more ice and snow (80°) to reach and overcome a rock band. They then climbed an overhanging section, followed by delicate ice (M7), to the left of a large dihedral in the spur that comes down from the summit. They continued mixed climbing (M4+), then 75° 'Andean snow', more M4+ mixed and finally rock (V) to the top of the spur. There is no indication about whether they summited via the south-south-east spur.

At the end of May 2016, a group from New Zealand arrived for a five-week trip to the Cordillera Blanca. The climbers (all NZ except where noted) were Ben Dare, Steven Fortune, Pete Harris, Daniel Joll, Alastair McDowell, Reg Measures (UK), Claire Measures (UK), Jaz Morris, Rose Pearson, Lincoln Quilliam (Australia), Matthew Scholes (Australia) and Stephen Skelton (USA).

On 1 June, McDowell (NZ), Quilliam (Australia), Skelton (USA) and Dare (NZ) camped at the head of Laguna Parón and paired up into two ropes to climb separate gullies on the 400m south face of **Caraz III** (5720m). On 3 June, McDowell and Quilliam climbed the *Khesghi-Bell* route (1987), in the fluting located right of the central gully that goes directly to the top. They found snow and ice of moderate difficulty (WI2) and mixed M4 terrain. Skelton and Dare climbed the *Wolf-Erickson-Knoll* (1997) route, located to the left of the central gully, 'following a steep, névé-filled gully broken by a series of thinly iced rock slabs. The climbing was engaging although never difficult, with completely unprotectable ice up to WI3.' The two teams reached approximately 30m below the menacing cornices of the upper edges, 'one of which collapsed on Skelton and I as we neared the top, fortunately without serious damage other than a smashed helmet.'

On 6 June, Dare climbed the south-west face of the **Pyramid of Garcilaso** (5885m) via a new route. Starting by a small avalanche cone to the left of the *Wolf-Clarke* route, he continued about 500m across mixed terrain and thin ice to the west ridge, almost two-thirds the height of the peak. Discouraged by the unstable ice mushrooms, he abseiled down the same

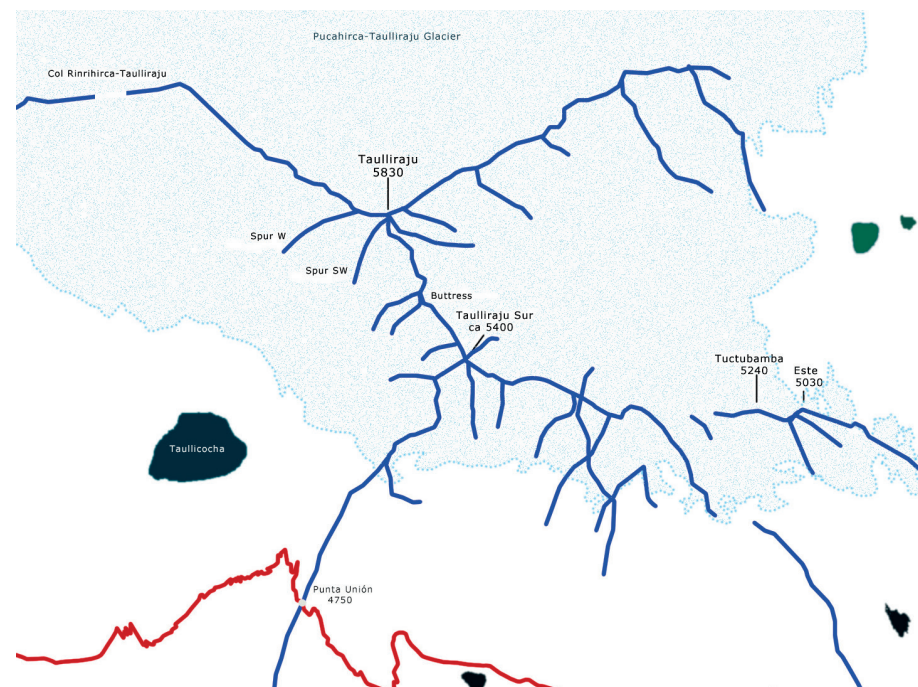


The route climbed on the south ridge of Taulliraju South (5400m).

line without continuing to the summit. After activity in Quebrada de Parón, where teams of this group climbed the east face of **Cerro Parón** (La Esfinge 5325m), they returned to Huaraz and on 15 June established base camp in Quebrada Santa Cruz: see notes below.

On 16 June 2016, Steven Fortune, Daniel Joll (NZ) and Matthew Scholes (Australia) set off for **Taulliraju** (5830m) from base camp at Taullipampa (c4250m) in the Santa Cruz Gorge. They planned to climb the south-south-east ridge, first climbed by Chamonix guides in 1978. A variant was opened on 3-4 July 1988 by Bruno Prom, Jean-Marc Gryska and Dominique Gleizes of the Groupe Militaire de Haute Montagne (GMHM), through the central gully (400m, MD, 80°) of Taulliraju's Third Buttress, on the right side of the south-west face. The 2016 trio of Antipodeans found the buttress lacking in ice, so they climbed the ridge left of the corridor: 'nine new pitches of sustained and often run-out mixed ground (M6) to reach the south-south-east ridge. Here, ice conditions improved and they were able to follow the upper section of the *Guides'* route (1978) to the summit.' They encountered overhanging ice steps to AI6 on the final pitches and dubbed their new line the *ANZAC Variation*.

On 21 June, Steven Fortune, Alastair McDowell and Rose Pearson (New Zealand) climbed the south ridge (450m, TD-, M5) of **Taulliraju South** (c5400m). The trio encountered sustained mixed climbing on the lower ridge (M5). After a short diversion onto the north-west face, they regained the ridge, climbing moderate, blocky ground to the summit.' On the same day, Quilliam and Dare attempted **Pucahirca South** (6039m) by the south face. For more information on attempts and ascents of this peak, see *AJ* 2009, pp294-6.



A topo map of the Taulliraju massif. (Sevi Gómez Bohórquez)

On 23 June 2016 Rose Pearson and Alastair McDowell travelled from base camp to the Rinrihirca (Rinjirka) Pass, climbing a fair way up the unclimbed north-west edge of **Taulliraju**. A day later Reg Measures and Steven Fortune did the same. Soon, both teams were weaving their way along the ridge crest confronted with vertical unconsolidated snow, overhanging ice, thin mixed climbing and compact dry granite (5.8, AI5, M4). On the afternoon of their fourth and third days respectively, all four climbers reached the summit. In total there were three bivouacs on the ridge and one on descent, on the col where the south-south-east ridge meets the Third Buttress. They continued to the west shoulder of Taulliraju South and descended by its west face. Rose Pearson was the first woman on the summit of Taulliraju.

On 18 June, Ben Dare and Stephen Skelton left base camp for the far side of the peak, in search of a new route on the east face. They started up the first five pitches of the Chamonix *Guides'* route, and after a camp on the crest of the lower south-east ridge, abseiled into the lower glacier below the face on 19 June and soloed 300m of easy snow and ice. Once on the face they climbed 12 pitches of immaculate granite, with difficulties up to 5.10c, taking them directly to the upper north-east ridge, where they bivied. The morning of 20 June saw them traverse onto the upper north face to climb another four ice and mixed pitches (M5/AI5) directly to the summit; the entire route was some 950m of climbing. Descent was via the south-east

ridge, with an overnight stop where they had left their tent, returning to base camp on 21 June.

Cordillera Huayhuash

On 8 August 2015, Lorenzo Festorazzi and Silvano Arrigoni reached the secondary summit of **Jirishanca Chico Oeste** (5270m) of Jirishanca Chico (5467m or 5446m) by a (likely) new route; most of the climbing on *Via del Ragni* (400m, D+) was 65-70° with a short stretch of vertical climbing. This minor peak is given 5270m on the DÖAV 1936 map, and was named Jirishanca Chico Oeste when it was climbed by a Japanese expedition in 1967 (*AAJ* 1968 p194). It seems that the Italian route climbed on the north-east side of this minor peak, possibly a little to the right of the *Iwatani-Furuhata* route, to arrive at the col between Jirishanca Chico and its west peak. It is difficult to know which sections of the Italian route coincide with those of the Japanese. Festorazzi and Arrigoni continued from the western summit on the west ridge toward the summit of Jirishanca Chico (5467m) but this 'final ridge presents certain problems due to the thinness of the ice', so they returned by the same route.

On 15 August 2016, Arnaud Bayol, Antoine Bletton, Cyril Duchêne and Dimitry Munoz, members of the GMHM, set up an advanced base camp at Suerococha (4818m). (This lake is called Suirō-kocha on the original map from the DAV, but the correct name of Suerococha and correct height are given on the 2008 map of Österreichischer Alpenverein.) In the subsequent days, mainly using aid and fixed ropes through the first 200m of the north face of **Puscanturpa East** (5410m), as it was difficult to protect. The team climbed as two ropes: the first prepared the route with the second intending to climb as cleanly as possible. Cleaning cracks and adding some bolts for belays or run-out sections, the climbers took seven days to reach the summit. The French quartet named the route *El Juego Sumando*, incomprehensible to Spanish speakers being an extrapolation of French to Spanish. Bayol added that although in situ stations reduced overall seriousness, the climb was still quite hard, with long passages of 6b climbing lacking protection.

Max Bonniot and Didier Jourdain, members of the GMHM, set up base camp in the Siulá Lagoon (4290m) and spent several days studying the 1,300m unclimbed east face of the **Nevado Siulá Grande** (6356m). They crossed the eastern glacier complex to access this limestone wall and started climbing on 21 August 2016. Difficulties started from the first pitch, but the weather worsened that afternoon. They waited overnight, and in the morning returned to base camp. Returning to the wall on 24 August, they climbed 200m of rock, then surmounted a collapsed snow and ice formation they called 'La Casquette' and bivouacked above it. Seeing a logical line that seemed to lead to the summit. Next day the difficulties increased, and they had another precarious bivouac on a platform. On the morning of 26 August they climbed excellent limestone with good protection to reach the end of a rocky triangle (c5700m) at noon, with half the route finished. About 100m of rappelling took them to the south-east ridge, which

began with snow and bad ice, giving laborious climbing. On 27 August they climbed without rest because a storm was forecast for the following afternoon; they arrived at 9pm at the base of the mushroom top and found a good bivouac (6200m). Continuing at 5am, three hours later they reached a windless summit, after almost 1,500m of climbing: 750m on rock to La Casquette (6c) and another 750m of snow and ice up to 70° in pure alpine style for five days with four bivouacs and without placing bolts. They descended by the same route, bivouacked before the rocky wall and arrived at the base camp at 2am on 28 August. They named their route *Le Bruit des Glaçons* (1400m, ED, 6c, WI5), which means: 'the sound of ice cubes', a reference to seracs around base camp.

Cordillera Carabaya

On 29 June, 2016, Vahi Beltrami, Yasu Beltrami, Germán Silva (Chile), Nathan Heald (USA-Peru), Duncan McDaniel, Aaron Zimmerman (USA), and Derek Field (Canada) travelled to the Cordillera Carabaya. This seldom-visited range, with impressive snow and rock peaks rising to 5,780m, is located about 200km north of Juliaca in the Puno region of south-east Peru. The potential for new rock and ice routes is significant.

The team drove north from the town of Macusani, capital of Carabaya province, establishing a first base camp (c4600m) in the moraine basin of the Antajahua valley, below **Allinccapac** (5780m; 5837m GPS). On 30 June, from a high camp directly below the glacier at 5,000m, they climbed the gentle north-east face of **Japuma** (c5550m), identifying a potential route on a fluted ice face below and slightly east of Pico Carol (5715m), a pinnacle described as 'a prominent gendarme on the east ridge of Allinccapac' by the 1960 Oxford Andean expedition.

On 1 July 2016 at 3am, Heald, Zimmerman and Field set out from their high camp towards the ice face, with the intention of reaching the eastern edge of the Allinccapac from the col (5700m) just east of the Pt5715m. Heald: 'After crossing a penitente plain, slogging through deep snow, and overcoming a pitch of AI3 on the lower face, we crossed two significant crevasses and arrived at the base of the main headwall (c5500m). This presented four pitches of steep, hard, and blue ice (80°). On the fourth lead, we traversed 20m left across a steep, unstable snow slope to gain the col. We continued along the east ridge of Allinccapac, bypassing Pico Carol on its north flank, but were unable to find a safe route, so retraced our steps to the col. As a consolation prize, we climbed 15m of easy mixed ground up the northeast ridge of Pico Carol to the summit. We descended north down a snow slope, crossed a glacial plain at around 5,600m, and wrapped around the west shoulder of Allinccapac, making two rappels from its west ridge down to the base of the glacier. We made it back to base camp at 5pm, concluding a circumnavigation of the mountain. Our route up the south face of Pico Carol is 700m, D WI4.'

On 3 July, Zimmerman and Field traversed the **Papaccapac** (5460m) and **Mamaccapac** (5450m) tops from the south, via a tributary of the

Huayllatera valley. They knew that in 2007 a British group had climbed the Papaccapac by its north side (see *AJ* 2008), but they believed Mamaccapac remained unclimbed. From a camp at 4,700m, they climbed 400m of scree to a small rocky crest and down 100m into the adjacent Chambine drainage to access the tongue of ice extending southward from the col between Papaccapac and Mamaccapac. By dawn the same day they navigated lower crevasse fields, then climbed the right side of the main (south) face (200m, 70-80°) to the col between the two peaks (c5350m). The complex east face of Papaccapac was taken via a rock gully on the right of the summit, plus three pitches of grade 5.5-5.7 to the gendarmed summit.

The route was called *Mom and Pop Shoppe* (350m, D, 5.7, AI3). They note that Papaccapac is definitely taller than Mamaccapac, by about 10m but it is difficult to tell which gendarme on Papaccapac is the true summit. Rappelling down to the col, they ascended the west side of Mamaccapac's summit tower (called the south-west ridge by the 2007 British expedition), which is more of a blocky buttress than a ridge, and generally faces west. Difficulties included 50° ice, and 5.7 rock climbing; at the summit there was a cairn and abseil anchor from the 2007 team; they descended via abseil to the col and the lower glacier.

On 5 October Nathan Heald returned to Carabaya, travelling from Cuzco with his Peruvian friends Luis Crispín and Jorge (Coqui) Gálvez Aramburu. Next day they travelled by taxi from Macusani Lodge to the lake below **Nevado Allinccapac** (5837m GPS). That afternoon they reached 5,200m on the western shoulder. At 2am next morning they started up the west shoulder (WI3), gaining a lower-angle platform that led to a prominent rock band. A series of easy pitches and a traverse took them to the summit ice cap, then WI2/3 pitches to the large summit plateau where they walked 300m to the highest point. They summited at 9.30am on 8 October; GPS indicated 5837m. They descended by the same route. Local climber Rafo León later reported he had climbed Allinccapac with Ángel Pérez on 19 June 2008 by the same or similar route; their ascent is confirmed with a photo on the summit.

Cordillera Vilcanota

The **Cayangate** massif lies 10km north-west of Apu Ausangate in the remote Vilcanota range south-east of Cusco. This chain of five high peaks is aligned and numbered I-V, north to south, on a 4.5km ridge. In 1953 three Austrians led by Heinrich Harrer made first ascents of the big peaks on the western front of the range. First Ausangate, then Colque Cruz, then the highest, Cayangate IV. They climbed the north-west icefall to bivouac on the col between Cayangate III and IV, finishing up the north-east face. The Japanese expedition of 1962 made first ascents of Cayangates II, III and a sub-peak of Cayangate I they called 'Pico de Victor', though I believe this to be the 'Horrorhorn' of subsequent expeditions. It seems they climbed the north-west sides of these peaks. The southernmost and last peak to be climbed was Cayangate V in 1966. The DAV named it 'Chimbaya', also

the name of a couple of more remote peaks in the Vilcanota range. On the Peruvian IGN map it is labelled confusingly as 'Colque Cruz', not to be mistaken for the actual Colque Cruz chain to the north.

Subsequent ascents of this chain are few and far between. In 1972 a French team made it to within 200m of the highest summit but had to turn back because of a storm. Their report claimed a new route but they seem to have gone more or less along the line of the first ascent. In 1985 four Polish climbers reached the summit by a new route: the technical rock buttress to the right of the north-west ice fall. They bivouacked on the col from Cayangate III, as did the Austrians and French before them. The most recent ascent, and the only one on the eastern side of the mountain, was in 2006. Three AAC members, Chris Alstrin, Andrew Frost and Mark Hesse, climbed the technically difficult 1,000m eastern rock ridge, and finished on the north face to make the third definite summit.

Nathan Heald and Caleb Johnson, having met Luis Crispín and his brother Adan in the village of Marampaki on 18 April 2015, followed moraines south of Laguna Armacocha for a few hours and next day moraine ridge on the west side of the icefall coming down from the west face to where it finishes in the shadow of the west ridge that descends **Cayangate IV** (6120m). Being early in the season, crevasses were covered or had good snow bridges to cross on the glacier below the face. Leaving about midnight on 20 April, Heald, Johnson and Luis Crispín followed the most direct line up the face, climbing over avalanche debris from seracs higher up. One pitch of WI3 gave access to snow slopes; the rest of the face was 60-70° snow and ice, followed by a 70° snow runnel, to the summit at 11.20am. Due to avalanche hazard, they descended down easier slopes on the upper mountain to the right of the route. They arrived at base camp at dusk.

The name Huayna Ausangate applies to two different peaks on the western side of the Cordillera Vilcanota. One of them is a sub-peak of **Nevado Ausangate**, located two miles west of the main summit on the west ridge. It was probably first climb in 1953 by Austrians on their way to the first ascent of the main summit. The other **Huayna Ausangate** (5600m) is a pointy, prominent summit at the western end of the Colque Cruz massif. Although not as high as its neighbours, it is steeper on all sides and requires mixed climbing to reach the top. There are only a few references to the peak in past expedition accounts and I believe it to have been climbed three times previously. The first was by Fritz Mörz, Heinz Steinmetz, Jürgen Wellenkamp and Heinrich Harrer in 1953. Comparing photographs from then and now, Huayna Ausangate used to be covered with much more ice.

Nathan Heald's interest in Huayna Ausangate was raised during attempts on Colque Cruz in 2014, as they had established base camp below the south face. This face seemed dangerous low down due to a rock wall topped by a large serac, so Heald decided on an approach from the north. On 27 September, Heald, Alexis Trudel (Canada) and Luis Crispín (Peru) reached base camp on the north-west side of Huayna Ausangate at 4,900m, a flat moraine next to a clear lagoon the size of a football field near the circular

stone camps of an old expedition.

On 28 September, the three carried gear up a moraine ridge to the glacier icefall that comes down from the north-west side of the peak; it seemed to have the easiest access of the three glaciers. Next morning at 1am they crossed the crevasse field to reach the north face of the west ridge and climbed 300m of easy mixed ground at 60-70° to the west ridge at about the exact spot where the Austrians of 1953 had taken their photo. Trudel, suffering from altitude, decided to wait on the ridge. The ridge had much less ice than previous years and was difficult to follow because of cornices, so Heald and Crispin abseiled 20m off the ridge, down soft snow to the glacier below the south face, and traversed east under the south face looking for a line. One pitch of poor snow, then several pitches of mixed climbing at 70° with good rock but poor ice and six inches of loose snow brought them to the summit at 9.30am (600m, D, AI3, M4). They descended by abseil down the south-west face to avoid rock fall that threatened them on the way up. They met Alexis on the ridge and descending in bad weather reached their tent at 4pm.

Starting on 29 May 2016, Nathan Heald and Derek Field (Canada) took five days to reach the summit of **Hatumhuma** (6127m GPS) via a new route on the east face. They left their high camp (c5300m) shortly after midnight on 1 June, arriving at dawn at the base of the main wall, climbed several hundred metres up 70° snow slopes to reach the summit ridge and continued towards the north, taking extreme care on the corniced arête. At 9am they reached the summit where Heald's GPS recorded 6127m. Heald and Field are correct in believing that their new route is near but left of that of the Yugoslav expedition of 1980, which started from a camp on the south-west side.

Cordillera Vilcabamba

Ever since Nathan Heald and Edwin Espinoza (Peru) climbed **Tucarhuay Este** (5700m) in 2013, Heald has been interested in the west summit. 'The climbing history on this peak,' Heald explains, 'is short since it hadn't seen a summit bid since 1968. After making the second ascent of Salkantay in 1956, Lionel Terray, Tom DeBooy, C G Egeler and Raymond Jenny made the first ascent of Tucarhuay from just over the Salkantay pass on the less steep north face, but in good alpine style.' The second ascent in the late 1960s involved a siege-style Japanese expedition that used 5,000ft of fixed rope. Heald continues: 'There is a large glacial lagoon at the foot of the south face that many tourists go to visit. A local rancher named Antonio Huari told me that he had to recover the bodies of two climbers who had tried the south face above the lagoon many years ago.'

Heald climbed to the south face of Turcahuay with Duncan McDaniel, an American living in Chile. Having warmed up on **Cerro Soray** (5428m) on 28 April 2015, the pair descended to the cabins of his friend Edwin Espinoza in Soraypampa. Next day they climbed 600m to carry equipment up to a camp (4800m) on ledges at the end of a spur of the south ridge of

Tucarhuay (5943m). That same night, about 11pm, they left for the summit with a stove, but no bivouac equipment. The terrain was easy up to the glacier ice formed by the south ridge, but they had to overcome huge seracs, steep slopes of hard ice, and roping up to cross crevasses and snow bridges. Above the seracs they traversed west (left) below the face, looking for runnels that would lead directly to the summit.

The first 60m were 70° ice, increasing to 80° and 90°. They alternated 30m pitches, and the slope eased to 70° in a series of mixed pitches. In the afternoon it began to snow hard, and the accumulating snow avalanched down onto them as they climbed runnels with large slabs of unstable snow. At 4pm they realised they would not reach the summit before nightfall. They climbed another 15m to a ledge of ice beneath a roof of rock (5800m), which they upholstered with ropes to fend off the cold. The night was clear and they shivered through it all. At dawn on 1 May they melted water for tea as soon as they could – the sun's warmth wouldn't reach this face – and left the ledge at 6.45am. They climbed mixed ground covered with fresh snow and two pitches later they were under a huge, hanging cornice where the face met the south ridge. Fragile snow and ice conditions gave Heald some of the most dangerous climbing he's faced in the Andes, as the pair moved together on ground 'full of loose snow, brittle ice-mesh traverses, on top of airy cornices that felt and looked to me like I was standing on clouds.' They reached the summit at 9.45am in time to see Salkantay disappearing into cloud. The final 150m took three hours. Now in cloud, the pair descended on v-threads, although the ropes were jammed after the first abseil, as they melted in and then froze again. After 10 abseils and a convoluted descent they reached their tent at 7pm: *South Face Direct* (1000m, TD+ AI4).

Before climbing Turcahuay, McDaniel and Heald, with Coqui Galvez Aramburu, left Urubamba for Yanahuara, turning up the valley that leads to **Pumahuanca** (5350m). Heald and Aramburu had tried the mountain's east ridge in November 2013 but found it too broken with rock towers, judging it easier to approach via the south or north-east faces. On this attempt they would climb the south face.

A three and a half hour trek took them up to a large lagoon and around its right side to gain altitude up to moraine where they could access the glacier. They bivouacked (5050m) but during the night it started snowing lightly and became windy. They climbed good snow at 45-60°, traversing up and right across the south face to reach the ridge, following it the final 50m up to the summit. It was a complete, frosty whiteout and the climbers stayed only a few minutes before going down at 6:15am. They were back in Cusco by late afternoon. 'It is quite accessible,' Heald write, 'in between Halancoma and Chicon, but is a minor peak in the Cordillera Urubamba and does not have a big pull as an objective: on Malcolm Slesser's 1964 map, this area has a question mark instead of a name; I could not find any information on the peak.'

Nevado Palqay (5422m) is north-east of Salkantay, whose east ridge drops down to the Palqay Pass before it swings north to form the peaks

of Chuyunco and Palqay at the northern end. Further along, in the cloud forest to the north, this ridge ends in the famous site of Machu Picchu and the peak Huayna Picchu before dropping steeply to the Urubamba river. According to Nathan Heald, there is no record of it being climbed, but Tom Hendrickson, who climbed the south-west ridge of Veronica and has lived in Cusco since the 1970s, said he climbed one of these peaks in 1978. He and his New Zealand partner approached from the large, flat area north of the Palqay Pass, but when they reached the summit there were too many clouds to see anything. There are a few glaciated peaks in between Chuyunco and Palqay on the mountain ridge. Heald's route went direct to the northernmost, highest peak.

Heald and Waldemar Niclevicz (Brazil) left Cusco on 8 May 2015 for Soraypampa and next day, with horses, reached the base of the north-east ridge of Nevado Salkantay at 4,200m. The 22km trek crosses the Inkachiriaska and Palqay passes. The following day they headed to the east side of the river and north to a pasture below the west ridge of Nevado Palqay. They climbed a scree chute to the ridge then traversed to the other side for 100m. They found a protected site on a shelf next to the glacier. Leaving tent at 2am on 11 May, they started traversing the glacier below the ridge. After a tentative approach up a rock chute, they returned to the glacier and kept traversing steeper snow until they gained a snow rib that led to the upper glacier. The climbing was on good 60-70° snow. They gained the west ridge proper as daylight arrived.

Seracs on the west face kept them to the north side of the ridge but route finding remained tricky until they climbed a short steep pitch of ice. Then they could see the ridge leading to the fore-summit. Continuing up this for 200m, they traversed the easy angled face under the fore-summit to the col between it and the rocky main summit. The final ridge was two rope-lengths of 60° snow and rock traverses with fun exposure. They were on the summit at 7:30am: *West Ridge* (500m, D). It was a beautiful day and they stayed on the summit for almost an hour taking in the views of Nevados Veronica, Salkantay and the airspace above the Inca Trail and Machu Picchu.

Later in the year, Edwin Espinoza (Peru), Roger Gasser (Switzerland), Duncan McDaniel and Heald repeated the 1968 Fritz Kasperek Memorial Expedition route on **Salkantay's** north face, via the direct north face of the east peak in perfect weather. Gasser later had the pleasure of finding Bruno Klausbruckner, one of the members of this expedition, in Switzerland, sharing information and photos.

On 23 May 2015, Basque alpinists Odie Girado and Kepa Berasategi travelled from Huaraz to Collón (3400m), a centre of population in the Taricá-district. They trekked the Quebrada Ishinca and carried on past Jatunpampa, crossing to the right side of the river before reaching a waterfall. They followed the tributary Jangya Uran, called Uran Mangya on the old German maps, to the right (west) and after six hours and 1,200m of altitude, set up base camp (c4500m) on a pampa just before the moraine leading to **Jangyaraju I** (5675m). Next day they followed the moraine for

two hours, and camped at (c4900 m) near a glacial stream. On 25 May they climbed heading rightward, toward the north-west ridge, to avoid the glacier. They climbed easy passages of UIAA III, reaching the base of the rocky northeast wall in two and a half hours, spending the rest of the day to reach the summit, abseil back to the glacier and return to camp: *Libre* (655m, MD+, 6a+ A2, 60°, M5). This is likely to be a different route to that climbed by Australians Chris Turner and Mary Ambrose in 1993.

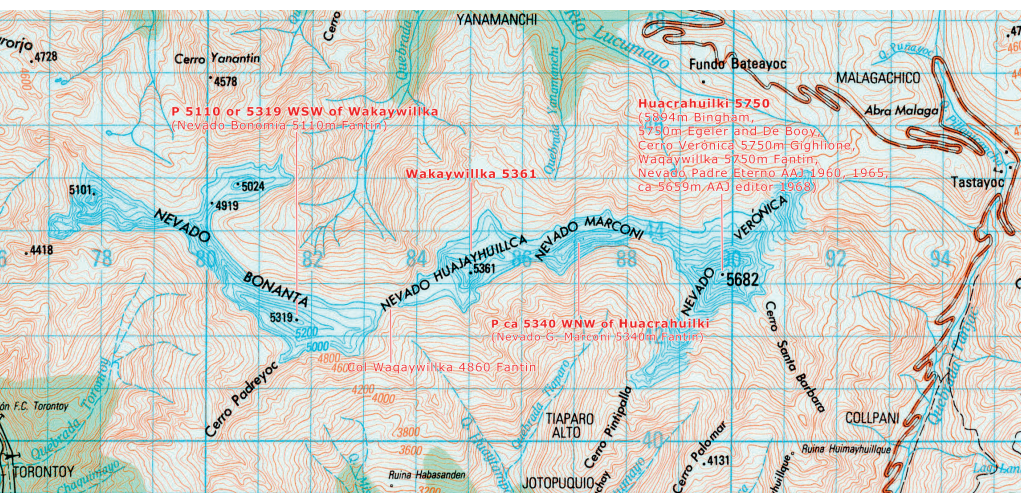
Nevado Panta (5680m GPS) is the last major ice-covered massif in the western Cordillera Vilcabamba. Its only known ascent was in 1960 by a Swiss Mapping Expedition on the north face. On 15 August 2016, Nathan Heald, Duncan McDaniel and Waldemar Niclevicz (Brazil) travelled from Huanacacalle and its archaeological sites of Ñusta Hispana and Rosaspata to the south side of Panta on 4WD roads. From a large bend in the road, south-east of the peak and by a bromeliad forest (*Puya raimondii*), they walked to base camp, following a good path along the left side of the valley (4800m). At 1am on 16 August, they climbed the glacier below the wide southern ridge. Once at the very edge they went through a labyrinth of seracs and crevasses, with some sections of WI4. Once on the summit plateau, they post-holed to the top, reaching it at 10am. They were back at their camp by 5pm having completed the peak's second ascent and a new route: *South-west Face* (850m, D+ WI4). Panta's summit was given as c5840m in the note on the Swiss expedition of 1959, published in *AAJ* 1960 p141.

The Vilcabamba remains one of the least climbed areas in Peru with great new-route potential, not just on glaciated peaks but also on large granite towers like those in Quelcamachay. Nowadays there are many roads offering easier access to these areas.

Cordillera Urubamba

On 9 March 2016, Nathan Heald (USA-Peru), Yjeguel Camasa and Eduardo Baca (Peru) climbed **Nevado Bonanta** (5319m): a large, rounded glacial summit on the ridge extending west from Nevado Veronica (5893m). Heald recorded in *AAJ* 2017 that their 'route up the east ramp had a short, easy, but very exposed fifth-class rock section to gain the glacier. Here, I found an old Charlet Moser ice axe; I believe it is from the 1958 Italian expedition that made the first ascents of Bonanta, Huakeihuilqui, Marconi, and the Chicon peaks farther east (*AAJ* 1959). The climb onto the summit plateau was straightforward on 120m of 50° ice, after which we post-holed up knee-deep snow until the summit (300m, PD+). There were no views, as it was still the wet season, but they would be spectacular on a clear day.'

On a photo Heald published online with the names of the Nevados ('Bonanta, Wakaywillka and Veronica'), the Bonanta summit (5300m) seems to coincide with that of the (unofficial) Nevado Bonomia (5110m), as named by the Italian expedition of 1958 led by Luigi Binaghi. This P5110m was later named 'Nevado Bonanta' (5319m) in the Urubamba sheet of the Instituto Geográfico Nacional (IGN) of Peru, where its summit is to the south-west of the 'Huajayhuilca Nevado' (5361m), that is, 'of the



When oronymy and topography collide. Complex naming history in the Cordillera Urubamba.

Wakaywilka'. This could be confusing, because the publications of Mario Fantin, Binaghi's companion, give the name 'Waqaywilka (Veronica)' to the main snow-capped mountain massif itself.

John F Ricker, a scholar of the Andes and Quechuan oronymy, Huacrahuilki is the correct local name of what is today called Nevado Veronica. The *AAJ* 1960 article on the re-naming of mountains: 'The editor deplores giving foreign names to Andean peaks, rather than Quechua or at least Spanish names.' Perhaps we should not use the names Bonomia or Bonanta, names that H Adams Carter, John F Ricker or Evelio Echevarría (among others) would consider 'unacceptable and worse, tactless and offensive' and instead should use 'P5110' or 'P5319 west of Huacrahuilki' until the Peruvian geographical authorities decide on another name. Hirishi Furuhashi and Tomoaki Kato (Japan) were the second to ascend P5110, on 30 August, 1967, with two bivouacs.

On 5 April 2016, Nathan Heald, Jorge (Coqui) Gálvez Aramburu, Eduardo Baca and Yjeguel Camasa (Peru) approached from the north-west via Maucau (Pampacorral Community) and in five hours reached the eastern slopes of the Chainopuerto (5650m). This, according to Heald, is an outlying peak of **Nevado Sahuasiray** (5818m). They left camp at 2am on 7 April, crossed the eastern glacier and from the col with the Nevado Can Can climbed ice of up to 70° on the south side of the Chainopuerto pyramid. Clouds from the jungle reduced visibility to 40m. They had to take turns standing on the unstable summit ledge. They returned via the same route (600m, D AI3). This was probably a new route and the second overall ascent.

Nevado Chainopuerto was first attempted in 1964 from its south-eastern side by a Scottish team; they came up 200ft short of the summit (*AAJ* 1965).

In 1968 an Irish team made the first ascent. It was attempted by Club de Andinismo Cusco a few times in the early 2000s without success. Heald believes the route up the east side of the peak to the col is new, but they likely climbed the summit cone via a similar route to the Scots and Irish.

On 28 June 2016, Brad Johnson (USA) and Andrés Marín (Peru) travelled from Ollantaytambo on paved road 28B, up switchbacks to the Abra de Málaga (4316m), with the idea of climbing the Halancoma. They started their approach at the largest left-turning switchback beyond the 117km marker, at about 3900m, followed a steep, grassy valley, from which they climbed a steep hillside on the right for c700m to gain a ridge crest (4570m), where they could view the west face of Halancoma. They traversed for some time, reaching a lake camp (4650m) below the west face. Starting next morning at 4am, down moraine and slabs to a glacial ramp of 50° ice, they reached the summit ridge about four hours after leaving camp (700m, 50° AI2 5.5). The last 20m of summit ridge was mixed climbing. The main summit of Halancoma was a few hundred meters to the south, but poor rock convinced them to descend from where they were, having settled for **Nevado Halancoma Sur** (5367m).

The Halancoma south summit, less frequented than the north, was reached in 1981 by Tom Hendrickson (Club Andino Bariloche, Chile) and John E Saunders (Alpine Club of Canada); In 2015 the Peruvians César Cahuana and Alfredo Zúñiga traversed the north-to-south ridge between the two peaks; and in 2016 the Peruvian Jorge (Coqui) Gálvez Aramburu opened a route (PD 55-65 °) by the south face. The easy normal route to the north summit (c5300m) of Halancoma is now the habitual route of local groups.