

# Notes 1974 South America

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## PERU

The 1974 Commonwealth Andean expedition (notes kindly supplied by Colin Monteath) climbed in the Colque Cruz range in the Cordillera Vilcanota. The following ascents were made between the 28 May and the 30 June (Heights from the New Peruvian Instituto Geographico Militar's Carta National 1 : 100,000. In accordance with local usage, the peaks are numbered with Quechua numerals):

**Provence** (5250 + m) Badly named by 1970 French expedition. W ridge, possible new route; Monteath.

**Cadarache** (5400 + m) Part of Payachata group. Possible new route; Twomey, Browne, Woodford, Monteath.

Traverse of Provence and up NW ridge of **Incaichuni** (5458 m) First ascent; Twomey, Browne, Woodford, Monteath.

N face of **Colque Cruz huq** (6102 m) New route; Twomey, Browne, Woodford, Monteath.

**Provence**. W ridge; Jolly, Boyd.

**Incaichuni** new route; SE ridge. Jolly, Boyd, Lang.

**Parioc Este** (5200 + m) Highest rock pyramid. First ascent; Boyd, Lang. Later climbed by Browne, Twomey.

**Colque Cruz tawa** (5950 + m) First ascent; Woodford, Monteath via N face; Jolly, Twomey via NE ridge. A day later Browne and Boyd after new route on the N face.

**Kiru** (5720 m) a snow peak W of Cuchillo. Possible first ascent. Twomey, Woodford, Jolly, Lamb, via NE face. Boyd, Monteath via N ridge.

**Colque Cruz soqta** (6000 + m) New Route; NE ridge by Woodford, Jolly, Boyd, Lang, Monteath. A plan to attempt a traverse of all 6 summits of Colque Cruz was abandoned due to the dangerous nature of the cornices visible from this summit.

**Colque Cruz soqta**. New route on NE face. Twomey, Browne.

**Colque Cruz kinsa**. (5950 + m) First ascent of N face. Woodford, Jolly.

**Colque Cruz isca** (6000 + m) First ascent of N face. Lang and Boyd from camp in basin between CC isca and CC huq.

**Colque Cruz huq**. New route on SE ridge. Lang, Boyd.

The expedition completed 9 new routes on Colque Cruz including 3 of its 4 virgin summits. Colque Cruz pisqua remains unclimbed. Later, in a nearby region, Twomey and Browne climbed the NE ridge of Tacirani (5350 + m), a fine rock and ice spire.

Walter Krog writes that the Mountain Club of Rhodesia sent 9 members led by Dr Tom Choate to the Pumasillo group in the Vilcabamba range. The following peaks were climbed: Snow Dome (5425 m), Lasunya (5640 m), and the S summit of Lasunya Yoc (6005 m). The routes taken are believed to be new.

Some other important first ascents were made as follows: Huascaran Norte, NE face (6655 m) by a French team led by Maurice Barrard. This mountain was also climbed in

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1973 by an Italian Expedition led by L. Gaetani; Huandoy Oeste (6056 m) S Pillar by a Polish team; Nevado Cayesh (5721 m) W face in 4 days by a New Zealand team (Dawson and Allen at summit); Jirishanca (6126 m) SE face by a Japanese team.

### BOLIVIA

The Mountain Club Of Rhodesia expedition (see above) climbed the S summit of Ancohuma in the Cordillera Real (over 6400 m). Two members then completed a double traverse of the ridge leading to and beyond Pyramid Peak (6035 m).

**Tiquimani** (5550 m). Rudolf Wurzer led an Austrian group in the first ascent of the 1000 metre S face of this mountain. They also climbed the SE face. The same group climbed 13 peaks of over 5000 metres making first ascents of the NE face of Chacocomani (6042 m) and the ice faces of the S face of the N Peak and the W face of the Central Peak of Illimani.

**Huayna Potosi** (6095 m). An American team (Millar, Daly, Gillette) climbed the SE ridge and the E face (first ascent). They were unsuccessful on a long rock route, the NE ridge of Illimani.

### PATAGONIA

The 1973/4 season in Patagonia was an outstanding one. At last an ethically pleasing ascent of Cerro Torre was made by a 12 man expedition from the Lecco section of the Italian Alpine Club. Four men reached the summit on 13 January 1974, Casimiro Ferrani, the leader of the expedition, who had been on the unsuccessful attempt on the mountain in 1970, Mario Conti, Guiseppe Negri and Daniele Chiappa. The climb involved the usual battle with Patagonian weather with a 3 week interruption at a point only 450 metres below the summit.

A South African party made the first ascent of the E face of the Central Tower of Paine on 21 January 1974. This is one of the highest vertical rock faces climbed to date (4000 ft, grade VI and A4). The party comprised Paul Fatti, Roger Fuggle, Art McGarr, Mervyn Prior, Mike Scott and Richard Smithers, the last 2 reaching the summit (see p 5).

An attempt was made on the unclimbed E Pillar of Fitzroy by a strong Swiss team comprising Toni Holdener, Hanspeter Kaspar, Ernst and Andies Scherrer and Robert Wenger. The highest point reached was 200 m below the summit, a blizzard forcing retreat on 14 January.

An American team made the first attempt to climb Torre Egger but the route was abandoned due to the danger from falling ice. They then climbed an impressive needle across the valley called Innominata, via a route on the W face.

All these routes are indicative of the trend towards climbing big walls under extreme alpine conditions.