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The following historical note aims to resolve the confusion that has arisen in relation to the summits of **Taulliraju Sur** and **Tuctubamba**.

Part of the problem lies with inaccurate sketch maps. The map from the guide *Yuraq Janka* by John F. Ricker (1977) shows a definite SSW ridge of Taulliraju (5830m) descending to the Punta Union pass (4750m) without any marked peak. The south-east ridge, by contrast, shows a prominent peak with no height or name. On the east ridge of this unnamed peak are two minor peaks of 5420m and 5030m, which Ricker named in his book 'Nevado Tuqtubamba' and 'Tuqtubamba Este'. These summits were climbed on 12 July 1960 by Andrea Farina and Nino Poloni as part of the Italian expedition led by Bruno Berlendis, which gave the names Nevado Antonio Locatelli to 5240m and Nevado Leone Pelliccioli to 5030m.

The SSW ridge was presented differently on sketch map 93 in Mario Fantin's book, *Pioneri ed epigoni italiani sulle vette di ogni continente* (1975), this time showing a 5000m summit named Nevado Unión. This name was given by the 1960 expedition led by G Dionisi, who believed they were the first to reach this peak, from the col that allows passage from the Santa Cruz gorge to the Huaripampa. The Italian team was unaware that the previous year H Adams Carter, his son of 15 years and a friend of the same age had reached the same top. Another notable difference in Fantin's sketch is that it shows the south-east ridge of Taulliraju as uncertain until it reaches peaks 5420m and 5030m, and does not mark the prominent unnamed peak.

The real terrain differs from that represented in these sketch maps. Looking north-east from the head of the Santa Cruz gorge highlights that on the SSE ridge of Taulliraju, the unnamed south-west peak is the one that really goes down to Punta Union. Such differences between sketches and reality, as well as the imagination of new authors, led to confusion between the prominent unnamed peak and its neighbour nevado Tuctubamba, and in some cases with Nevado Unión.

Taulliraju Sur, Taulliraju Sureste or Taulliraju Chico (c5400m)

When Slovenians Tomaz Štrupi and Tone Stern tried to climb this prominent unnamed peak on 8 July 1995, they found pitons and coils of rope on the north-west face. They reached the south-west ridge, but not the summit. Afterwards, they sought details of who had left the material and whether they had attained the summit. They could identify nothing of relevance in the *Revista Peruana de Andinismo y Glaciología (RPAG)* or the *American Alpine Journal (AAJ)*. The problem seems to be that the relevant reports in these publications are subject to many interpretations, since they

201. South side of
Tauliraju Sur (c5400m)
from the upper end
of the Quebrada
Huaripampa.
(Ignacio Ferrando)



lack a line in a photo showing the exact route.

RPAG, No 12, 1976-1977, p. 15: Giulio Fiocchi organised the Spedizione CAI Lecco with the aim of climbing the west wall of Tauliraju. They approached by the Santa Cruz gorge and made their base camp near the Taullicocha lake. In subsequent days, they climbed the ridge towards Tauliraju Chico, ESE of Tauliraju summit, but failed 100m from the top due to technical difficulties and avalanche danger.

AAJ, 1977, p.216: Tauliraju attempt. Our expedition consisted of Mario Conti, Pino Negri, Giuseppe Lanfranconi, Angelo Zoia, Roberto Chiappa, Dr. Galluzi, Denis Bertholet and me [Giulio Fiocchi] as leader. We reached Base Camp at the head of the Santa Cruz gorge on the Taullicocha lake on July 10 [1976]. We worked out a route north of the peak over a pass, across under the north face and up an icefall to the northeast face. Conti, Zoia, Negri, Lafranconi and Chiappa set out on an eight-day attempt. They climbed gullies and compact granite slabs. Bad weather drove them back to Base. In four more days they got to 17,725 feet, some 1400 feet below the summit, but dangerous ice conditions forced them to give up.

AAJ, 1978, p 567: Tauliraju attempt. Clark Gerhardt, Christian (Del) Langbauer, Todd Thompson and I [Craighead McKibben], accompanied by Juan Henostroza and Aquilino Moreno, established the base camp on 26 June [1977] below the impressive west face of Tauliraju. Ignorant of the 1976 Italian attempt, we repeated some of their mistakes and had some exciting but ultimately futile climbing to a high point on the south ridge.

Thus, the material found by the Slovenian team could be from the Fiocchi expedition, although the McKibben team might also have made a drop. It is also possible that it was discarded by the French guides Jean Luc Fabre, Jean Paul Balmat, Daniel Hervé Thivierge and Monaci, who climbed to the left of the Italian attempt when they reached the summit of Tauliraju in alpine style in 1978.

This report ends with a further correction note. Some guides after Ricker suggested, in confusion, that the unnamed south-west peak of Tauliraju was the Tuctubamba (5420m) climbed by the Italians in 1976. So, six years after Štrupi and Stern's attempt, four American climbers approached the same peak in the belief that it was Tuctubamba. Clay Wadman and



202. West side of Taulliraju from the vicinity of Taullicocha lake.
(Antonio Gómez Bohórquez)

Christian Beckwith tried to climb a couloir on the south face. Absent, among other things, were the granite slabs covered with ice and snow. Their companions Topher and Patience Donahue had more luck climbing the north-west side; see *AAJ* 2002, p.296 and 2003, p.305. The two brothers reached that peak of about 5400m, unnamed on the maps, arbitrarily named Taulliraju Chico and Taulliraju South, although it might be called Taulliraju South-east.