

Chile—Northern Andes

Cerro Doña Inés, Pre-Columbian Ascents. Although it had been ascended several times in the last few decades, no traces of pre-Columbian ascents had been reported for this well known peak, located some 30 miles north-northwest of the mineral area of Potrerillos, in Atacama Province in northern Chile. In March 1983, E. Baeza and J. Duran, of the recently formed Club de Montaña de Atacama, located on the top (5070 meters, 16,634 feet) an Inca altar, stone walls and several fireplaces.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

Volcán Copiapó, pre-Columbian and Modern Ascents. This prominent volcano (6072 meters or 19,922 feet) is located on the Chilean-Argentinian border and west of the Ojos del Salado. In 1937 it was ascended by members of the Polish expedition that saw on the summit platform several constructions probably built by Indians. The peak was ascended several times afterwards but no examination of those constructions was made. In January 1980 an expedition of the Club Andino de Chile, Santiago, carried out a preliminary survey. Three years later, in 1983, a large civilian-military group of ten people including a woman, Cecilia Leal, climbed to the summit and completed a survey of findings, which were later analyzed by archaeologist Angel Durán. The climbers located several terraces, one of them with a retaining wall, fireplaces and an altar.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

Chile—Central Andes

Tupungato and Tupungatito, First Winter Ascents. The Spanish mountain guide and ski instructor at Farellones, Chile, Fernando Garrido, had attempted Tupungato in the winter of 1981. He succeeded in the same endeavor on October 16, 1984. He approached the mountain (6550 meters, 21,490 feet) by way of the Río Colorado valley, northeast of Santiago and mostly on skis reached the Vega de los Flojos, classical Base Camp for Tupungato. From this place he made the first ski ascent of Tupungatito (5640 meters, 18,504 feet) on October 10. He then ascended to the Portezuelo (gap) del Tupungato (c. 15000 feet) and carrying no tent, to save weight, he climbed to about 17,400 feet, where he had to abandon his skis. He continued and placed a bivouac on the north side of the mountain, at about 18,000 feet. On October 16 he reached the top of Tupungatito, finding there a Chilean and an Argentinian flag left by previous parties.

HUMBERTO BARRERA, *Club Andino de Chile*

Argentina—Northern Andes

Cerro de las Cuevas. Ancient and Modern Ascents. Searching for the legendary Inca "city" of Aconquija, an expedition of the Club Andino Mercedario

(San Juan, Argentina) travelled to Concepción in Tucumán Province, reached the junction of the rivers Jaya and Las Pavas and, emerging from the forest, climbed the eastern slopes of the Nevados de Aconquija, a range that contains several peaks between 16,000 and 18,000 feet. The "city" itself was located at a height of 4300 meters (14,108 feet) and it was formed by two sections which are locally called Pueblo Viejo de Abajo and Pueblo Viejo de Arriba. The climbers believe that at its peak this Inca complex may have had 500 to 1000 inhabitants. Cerro de las Cuevas (5000 meters, 16,404 feet), on whose slopes the constructions are nested, was ascended by Antonio Beorchia (leader), C. Delgado, A. Graffigna, J. Garcés, D. Olivares, J. Oro and a woman, María Storico on July 23. The flat summit itself was surrounded by an elliptical wall, which contained several habitations. Traces of at least one modern ascent to the lesser peak, some 40 meters lower, were found. The well known archaeologist Juan Schobinger stayed behind several days at Pueblo Viejo to study its ruins and the ceramic pieces found.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Nevado Cajón, Pre-Columbian and Modern Ascents. The "Momia de Los Quilmes" was possibly an Inca mummy found between 1920 and 1924 in some unknown place near Cafayate, in Salta Province, northern Argentina. The mummy itself is presumably lost but Argentinian mountaineers believed that it had been extracted from an Inca burial in some high Andean peak near Cafayate. Antonio Beorchia, head of the Centro de Investigaciones Arqueológicas de Alta Montaña, San Juan, organized an expedition to locate the burial ground of the now legendary mummy. Other expedition members were J. Garcés, G. and J.P. Oro, A. Rugna and F. Salgado. From local hillmen Beorchia learned that the mummy had been found on the summit of Nevado Cajón and that at least two previous different parties had ascended that peak to sack its Indian remains. The Beorchia expedition then ascended the mountain (5468 meters, 17,940 feet). A bone, possibly human, was found on the summit itself and some 150 feet below, walls and bundles of firewood. It is assumed by the Argentinians that the mummy had been indeed a sacrificial offering of Inca origin.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

Luracatao. The volcanic peak of Luracatao (5850 meters, 19,193 feet) was climbed on August 19 by Luis Aguilar and Cristián Vitry, of the Club Amigos de la Montaña, Salta, Argentina. The peak is located about 42 miles almost due west of the summer resort of Cachi, in the Salta province. The climbers ascended first the forepeak (c. 18,400 feet) and were astonished to find near it a large lake, frozen, probably the second highest body of water in the world (after the well known one in the crater of Licancabur volcano, a peak on the Chilean-Bolivian border). A bivouac was necessary and the summit reached the next day, a first ascent.

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