

SOUTH AMERICA

PERU

CORDILLERA BLANCA

Caraz II, South Face. It was reported that, during the summer of 1997, Britons Al Coull, Mark Kendrick and Muir Morton established the *Superduper Couloir* (TD, ice/mixed 80-90°, 500m), a fairly direct central line on the south face of Caraz II (6020m) above the initial complicated icefall. It was the face's second route. (*High Mountain Sports* 189)

Copa, Various Activity. It was reported that French climbers were busy on Copa (6173m) in April and May, 1997. Gael Bouquet des Chaux first soloed the Southwest Pillar, a 400-meter rock climb (D+) that ends at P.5300m, in six hours on April 27. He then teamed up with S. Goriatchec and climbed the southwest ridge and south face of Copa on May 3, 1997. The 1300-meter route, which took the men 11 hours to climb and for which they proposed a name of *La Marguerite del l'Adjudant Chef*, finished on the summit ridge at ca. 5900 meters and was graded ED1. Bouquet des Chaux then teamed up with Gilles Grindler to climb a longer, independent line on the southwest pillar. *Top 93* (TD) was 600 meters long and finished on the "top" of P.5300m. Bouquet des Chaux then went on to solo the 400-meter pillar (D+, one section of F6a) right of the normal route's couloir the same day. On May 7, all three climbed the normal route to the main summit of the peak. (*High Mountain Sports* 189)

Quebrada de Rurec, Via Monttrek. It was reported that Spanish climbers Eloi Callado and César Pedrocchi established what was perhaps the first wall route in the canyon of the Quebrada de Rurec in the summer of 1997. Over 13 days, the two climbers put up *Via Monttrek* (F6c A4-, 750m). The area is also known as Catedrals de Rurec and described as having "awesome potential" for big rock routes. (*High Mountain Sports* 189)

Huandoy Sur, Desmaison Route, Second Ascent. We went to Peru between June and August, 1997, to climb Huandoy Sur's south face. At the start there were four of us on the project: Gerome Blanc-Gras, David Jonglez, Daniel Dulac and me. After 20 days of preparation, during which we fixed three pitches with the teams, Jerome and I continued alone.

We arrived in Huaraz on June 9; the team split on around June 29. The other two thought that climbing the south face would be impossible before their scheduled July 15 return to France. In total, the ascent took more than ten days. The first two days were spent fixing three pitches (we left a static rope fixed on the face and kept food and gear at the top), after which the team split. Then, with a lot of doubt about the outcome, Jerome and I climbed one more pitch in two days, but the weather was not very good. So we descended, returning to Huaraz on July 10 to say good-bye to our friends and get more food. We returned to the face equipped with more food. With the arrival of the full moon, the weather was fairly clear and we climbed for four days, climbing all the aid climbing in three more days and fixing all the static rope we had. When another storm arrived, we went back to Huaraz, using all 500 meters of fixed rope to descend the beautiful overhanging face into the foggy void of the storm. (There was a lot of ambiance in this part of the overhanging wall!)

After ascending the 500 meters of fixed rope (and bringing with us more food), we left the