Chinchey Group: Shahuanca, Cherup II, El Roca del Cuyé Loco. In the Chinchey Group, up behind Huaraz, the French alpinists Clément Guntz and Hugo Robin made what they think may be the first ascent of a peak they called Shahuanca on July 25, 2000. The peak, which is labeled 5,383m on the 1939 Deutschen Alpenverein map, lies east of Chopihirca (5057m) and Catac, in what appears to be the Shahuanca valley. The route ascends the west-southwest side of the peak, is 1,000 meters long and AD+ in difficulty. On August 2 Guntz soloed, a possible first ascent, the Northwest Arête of Churup II (5461m), from Q. Cohup at ca 4000m. He descended the face to the right. Guntz, Robin, and Joel Menard also established a new 500-meter rock route at El Roca del Cuyé Loco, near Churup, climbing a series of left-facing corners through a roof. The route appears to be called Le Pilier du Hamster Fou.

Based on correspondence with Clément Guntz, FFME, France

Churup, 496spa-smos. On October 2, I placed my tent at the upper Churup Lake and the next day broke trail to the base of the wall, where I left ropes, harness, and ice ax. On October 4 it took 1 hour and 30 minutes to return to the base, thanks to the trail I had opened. From the bottom of the face I climbed the obvious couloir to the right. This couloir comes to an obvious intersection. To the left, leading directly to the summit, is the Princesa Malinche route. To the right is Fear, a route up a mixed dihedral. I began by trending slightly to the right and then straightened my line and ended below a promontory to the right of the summit. From this point I took less than ten minutes to reach the summit. Descent was by the Fear route; the rappels are in place. (I used two 60-meter ropes.) I found good ice conditions, the average slope being 70 to 80 degrees, with two sections of 85 degrees. Equipment left: one ice screw, one pin, four slings. The route is named 496spa-smos (V AI4, 450m), on the southwest face of Churup (5493m).

RICHARD HIDALGO, Peru

Cashan Este, Mathi, Matias. In July 1998 I departed from Olleros and walked toward Rurec's Quebrada (creek), before arriving at Tararhua Lake (4400m), where I set up my tent. From there I went to the southeast face of Cashan (5723m). I climbed in a couloir, to the right of a buttress that passes through the center of the face. I surmounted a section of 75-80-degree verglassed rock below a serac barrier. After surmounting a bergschrund I traversed to the left across a snow slope that took me to the southeast ridge. I crossed the ridge and continued on the 70-degree southwest face to the summit. I called the route Mathi, Matias (500m, MD-, 70-80 degrees). Descent was via the northeast ridge and the crevassed southeast glacier. It took all night, and I came back to camp early the next morning.

RICHARD HIDALGO, Peru

Ocshapalca, Variante Peruana. Guillermo Mejia and I installed the tent at the moraine camp in September 1998. Our new route on the south face of Ocshapalca (Variante Peruana, 650m, ED-) begins to the right of the central buttress and the Alquimia Route. We climbed straight toward 5881m summit, joining the American Route for the top third. The descent to camp was by the Alquimia Route, after we made a bivouac in a cave 50 meters from the summit. (Editor's note: is likely a repeat of an existing route.)

RICHARD HIDALGO, Peru