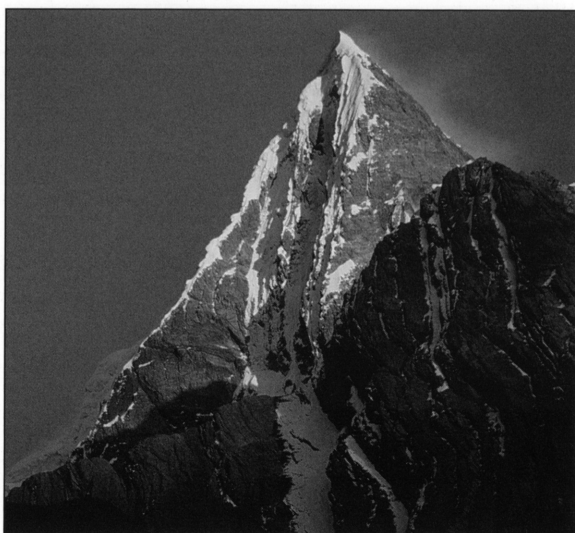


mixed climbing and steep snow in the lower part. We hadn't expected such steep climbing and didn't take Friends or nuts, only four pitons, some slings, one snow blade, and three ice screws, which we used in the upper part. I led the first mixed pitch, which took us to a snow-and-ice gully. The average angle of the seven pitches we climbed was 65°. We missed the gear lying in base camp, but it didn't help to think about the gear. We didn't even think about the serac that overhung the gully. We took five hours from the base to the summit of this beautiful mountain.



Jirishanca Chico's southeast face. Azman's route ascends the shady couloir leading directly to the summit. Urban Azman

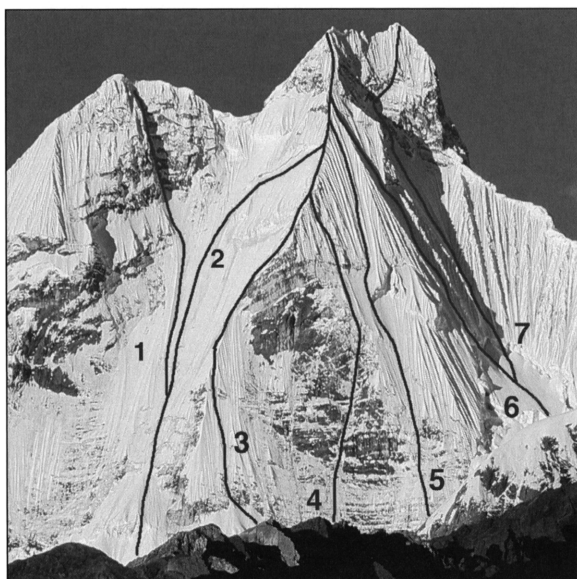
We had planned to descend by the west ridge, then the short part of south face to the glacier. This descent, however, turned out to be impossible, so I decided to descend the north face. We were forced to downclimb the upper part, because we didn't have enough gear and could make only 30m abseils. After 180m the terrain become too difficult, so we made four Abalakovs. We found a rocky ridge on the lower part of the face, which took us to the bottom. We shook hands smiling, said, "Thank you, God," and walked the long way over ridges back to base camp. We spent 14 hours on this unforgettable adventure.

URBAN AZMAN, *Slovenia*

Note: Although Azman reports finding no sign of previous passage on this route, which ascends the middle of three parallel couloirs dropping directly from the summit, it is unclear whether this route is new or the same as the 1984 Italian route on the face. If the route is new, Azman proposes the name Sweet Child of Mine—Ed.

Jirishanca Norte to summit slopes. It is early July, and my climbing partner Iñigo Mujica and I have just gotten off the south face of Chacaraju, after completing the Bouchard Route in 25 hours. On arrival at our base camp at Laguna Jahucocha we saw that the southwest face of Rondoy was impracticable, owing to loose snow and avalanches. Jirishanca, however, looked be in good condition. We knew that the north summit, or in any case this face, remained virgin. Establishing a route on the face motivated us to mount a fast, nonstop assault.

At the same time the distance to the face was a problem. From the lake it appears to be nearby, but the serac barrier at its base forces one to make a huge detour. Faced with these logistics, we ferried loads and established a camp on the pass between the Ogre and Yerupajá Chico. Just before the pass we were faced with overhanging serac eight meters high, which Iñigo climbed in impeccable style. Camp was in a truly impressive place, with the Yerupajá glacier on one side and the one issuing from Jirishanca on the other. We stayed at this camp an entire day, resting



The west and southwest faces of Jirishanca (6,126m), showing: 1. Spanish attempt (Mujica-Ramon, 2002). 2. Polish route (Pawlikowski-Probulski, 1982). 3. Italian route (Airoidi-Cassin-Ferrari-Lafranconi-Lanzetta-Liati-Zucchi, 1969. 4. Slovenian route (unconfirmed location). 5. Austrian route (Bürger-Ponholzer, 1987). 6 American route (Bowlin-Caldwell, 1971). 7. Czech route (Drlik-Stejskal, 1982).
Jeremy Frimer

and preparing for our assault.

On July 19 we left our tent at 1 a.m. and began the descent towards the base of the wall. The first part of the route up the face turned out to be trickier than expected, with difficult pitches among seracs. Daybreak found us 300m up, at the foot of the great slope that makes up the route's middle section. There we encountered relatively easy, though exposed, climbing that took us to the base of the great final dihedral. To reach the dihedral we overcame difficulties involving very hard 70° ice and mixed sections, yet it became clear that the hardest climbing was still to come. We started up the great dihedral with a 70m, grade 5 pitch, followed by another of the same length but of 5+ M5+ difficulty. The following pitch began with difficult aid climbing on rock and ended below

the final summit slopes. However, my partner had lost a crampon, and since without it there was no chance of reaching the summit, we retreated about two pitches shy of the top, though it was only 3:30 p.m. So began a long series of rappels, interrupted only by a stop so we could melt snow, followed by what was without a doubt the hardest part of the day—the climb back up to camp.

We reached the tent at 2 a.m., concluding a 25-hour push. The following morning we continued down to our base camp in Jahuacocha, where fried trout awaited our return. From base camp my friend and our gear departed toward Huaraz. I still hankered to see the Huayhuash, so I went for a hike around the base of the massif.

ORIOL BARÓ I RAMON, *Spain (translated by Oriol Solé-Costa)*

Tsacra Grande, West Face. In mid-August Mark Richey and I left our families at our base camp at Laguna Jahuacocha and hiked up the Quebrada Huacrish to above Laguna Saquicocha. We camped that night on a grassy hillside just below the west side of the moraine that drops off steeply on its east side into the lake. Early the next morning we woke to cloudy skies and at first decided to wait another day for better weather. But a few hours later it was clear, and we decided to go. We climbed above our camp and traversed to the east across a steep, loose slope, high above the south end of Laguna Saquicocha. From there we dropped down onto the glacier draining the west side of Tsacra Grande. Once on the glacier we headed up a shallow trough in