

seen anywhere in the area, leaving huge piles of scree to climb. The first recorded climbing in the area was by the Frenchman G. Courty before 1903, which left the intriguing reference in Jill Neate's *Mountaineering in the Andes*, "Nuevo Mundo, 6020m, location uncertain." Further exploration in the area was done by German geologist Frederic Ahlfeld, who emigrated to Bolivia in 1924. Ahlfeld began exploring the region in 1945 and climbed a number of peaks, including Uturuncu and Bonete (5695m).

In 1962, in a letter to Andean historian Evelio Echevarría, Ahlfeld stated that Nuevo Mundo, at ca. 5850 meters, was the highest peak in the Cordillera Sud Lipez and suggested that it was one of the two Cerro Lipez peaks. The Bolivian IGM map has a Nuevo Mundo lying immediately south of Cerro Lipez. However, in his book *Geografía Física de Bolivia*, published in 1969, Ahlfeld has a drawing of a Nuevo Mundo (5438m) and a description of its location far to the north of the Cerro Lipez group.

La Paz residents Toto Aramayo (Bolivia), Yossi Brain (U.K.) and Dakin Cook (U.S.) decided to go and look for Nuevo Mundo. After ten days and 2700 kilometers in a long-wheel-based Toyota Land Cruiser, they found Ahlfeld's Nuevo Mundo (5438m), failed on Cerro Lipez due to appallingly loose rock, and managed to climb Uturuncu (6008m) on October 8. They were greatly helped by the existence of a sulphur mining road to 5770 meters, which left them a 45-minute stroll to the summit.

Uturuncu would appear to be a good contender for Courty's Nuevo Mundo and, once you've got to it, certainly deserves the epithet, until now applied to Huayna Potosí in the Cordillera Real, as "the easiest 6000er in the world."

YOSSI BRAIN, *United Kingdom*

## CHILE

*Chile, Various Activity.* In the last two southern summers (December through March), I accompanied local mountaineers in repeat climbs in central Chile. However, on the four first ascents I was able to make in that period, I had no companions. On December 16, 1997, I climbed Cerro Pastén (4357m) in the upper Yeso valley east of Santiago, and Cerro Parrera (4569m). The latter peak is situated in the sources of the Navarro Creek, Aconcagua Province. In both ascents, I was harassed by very strong winds. In the following Chilean summer, I climbed P. 4121m, situated at the head of the Arroyo Blanco Creek and south of the Nieves Negras Pass, on December 31, 1998. I named it Alto del Arroyo Blanco (High Peak of the White Creek). Its southern ridge, which I used, had unstable rock and was quite exposed. On January 14, 1999, I ascended the fine red rock pyramid of Cerro Gastón (4024m), also situated in the upper Yeso valley of the Santiago hinterland.

EVELIO ECHEVARRÍA

*Cochamo, Various Ascents.* It was reported that British and American climbers have begun developing an area of granite big walls in the Patagonian Andes east of Puerto Montt in a valley 15 miles from the town of Cochamo. Briton Crispin Waddy discovered the area in 1997, cutting a machete swath through the dense jungle to the 2,000-foot west face of Mt. Trinidad, where he, his girlfriend Nell, and Noel Craine attempted a route only to have the attempt cut

short by forest fire. Accompanying them was Simon Nadin, who, with a partner, made the first ascent of the mountain via the north ridge. In 1998, Waddy, Craine and Nadin returned with a number of climbers. Steve Quinlan and Nathan Martin (U.S.) put up *Welcome to the Jungle* (5.11 A3), a corner system on the left side of the wall. Waddy, Craine and Dave Kendall climbed the wall's central prow to create *The Ides of March* (5.11 A3+), while Nadin and Grant Farquhar put up a 21-pitch 5.12 A2+ route on an overhanging crack system to the right. (*Climber*, June 1998)

*Towers of Brujo, Clandestino.* From February 5-19, Toni Arbonés, Nicolas Meyer and I established *Clandestino* (ABO 7c+ A0, 400m), a free route in the Towers of Brujo in the Central Cordillera. There is no map of this part of Chile, and as far as I know our tower has no name. The area is regarded as a replica of Patagonia—but with sun. Indeed, in summer (February), the weather conditions are remarkably stable. It is not the least important advantage in the Towers of Brujo, the bases of which are at around 3300 meters, and surrounded by hanging glaciers and seracs on the northeast face of Brujo Falso. We carried a total of 250 kilos of gear and supplies to this very isolated area to put up a route reminiscent of Michel Piola's routes in Chamonix.

The 13-pitch *Clandestino* (ten pitches of which are F7; the hardest is 7c+) is the fourth route in this difficult-to-access area. Waldo Farias, a Chilean andinist, was responsible for the first route, *Reflexion Vertical* (A1/6a), on a 300-meter tower. He made several attempts on the area's largest tower (400 meters), but was put off by the particularly long and difficult approach, and a granite that is similar to Yosemite but the cracks of which are closed. In 1998, a team that included Jens Richter and John Brewer made the first ascent of the tower via an elegant dihedral (6c/A2+). *Clandestino* takes the vertical pillar on the right-hand side of the dihedral.

We established the route ground-up in seven days of climbing, sometimes lowering down to sleep at Base Camp, other times sleeping on the wall. The very sheer granitic face offers only one ledge of two square meters up to the fourth pitch, making the use of portaledge essential. The approach from Base Camp to the wall is composed of a walk up on unstable moraine, and then a three-hour "stroll" on a glacier with lots of crevasses. Certain pitches were opened on-sight on natural gear, while others were put up with aid. Since our intent was to establish a free climb, each aid pitch was revisited, and in some places retrobolted in order to be redpointed. We freed all but two ten-meter sections, both of which were bolted to go at A0, and pitch 10, which was climbed with one rest. The in-situ equipment (about 60 bolts) is designed for free climbing repetitions of the route; only additional cams are necessary to repeat the route. Bolting was done using an electric power-drill, the batteries of which were charged by solar panel.

The concept of establishing free climbing routes with more thought for the repetition than the establishment was initiated in Chamonix by Michel Piola, whose 1980s mega classic *Le Voyage Selon Gulliver* began the current focus on hard alpine free climbs in the Alps. We exported the idea to the Andes with *Clandestino*. Right now, the mountaineers and climbers of South America do not seem receptive to such an idea; the geography of the Andean summits makes for mountaineers who are not often rock experts, while the local rock climbers are mainly into gym or typical sport climbing. If mountaineers and rock climbers are good in their respective pursuits, the challenge will be for one or the other to reach the main tower of Brujo and climb it.