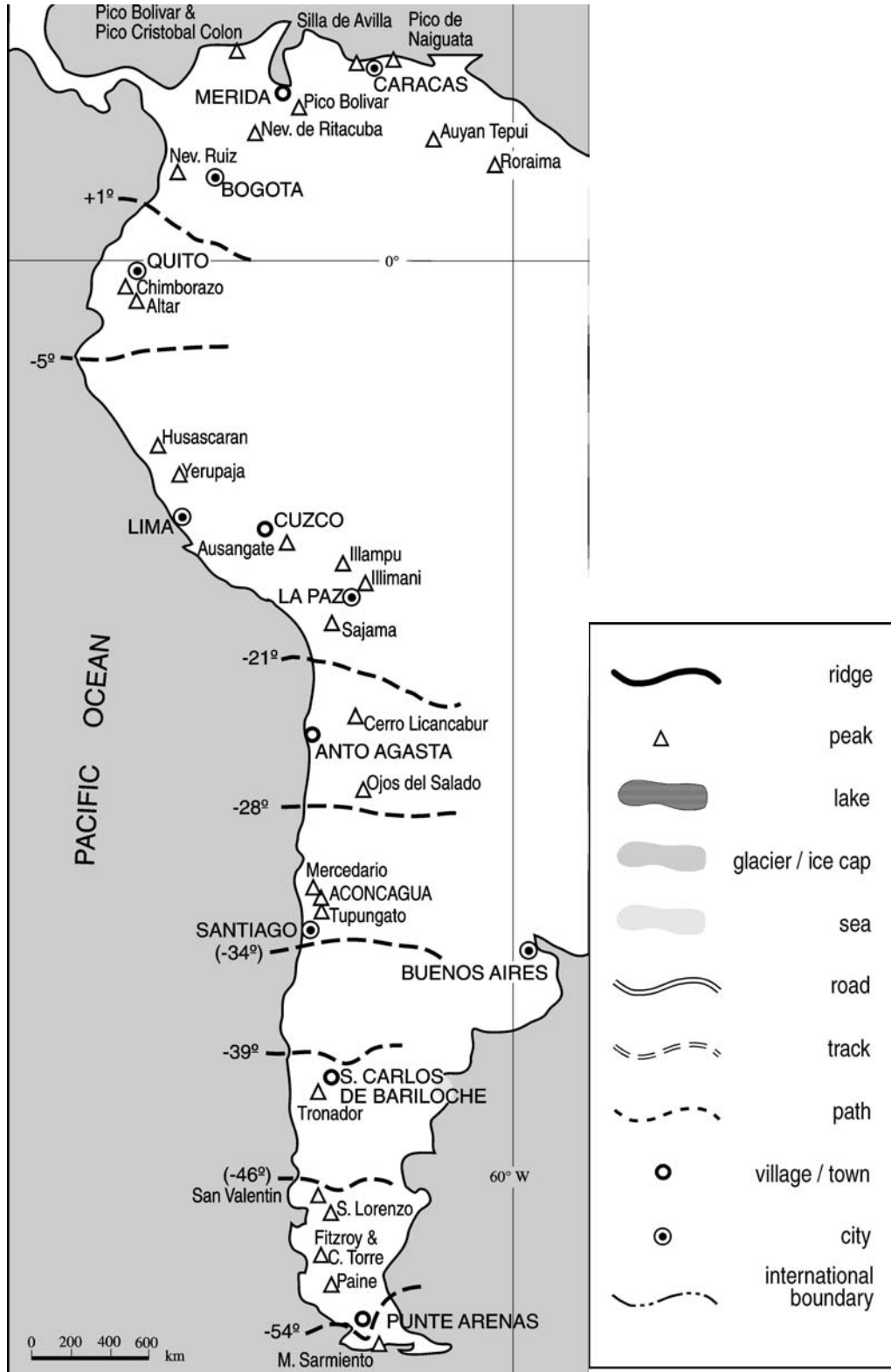


**INTRODUCTION**

*Map showing the Andes and the key to the sketch-maps*



## Foreword

The Andes were the sacred mountains of the Incas. To this spiritual tribe, which originated in the high altitude of Lake Titicaca, snow-clad peaks and mountain passes were places of veneration. At the height of their conquests, the Inca empire stretched for almost five thousand kilometres along the chain of the Andes, from southern Colombia to southern Chile. The Incas' famous network of roads skirted the flanks of the great mountains. Whenever a traveller climbed a pass, he or she made an offering to propitiate the mountain deities: a pebble, scrap of clothing or an eyelash left on a sacred mound. The pre-Inca Nazca people of the coastal desert worshipped mountains as the source of precious water: many of the mysterious Nazca lines point towards distant peaks.

When Francisco Pizarro's ruthless conquistadores marched into Peru to plunder and subjugate the Inca empire, they were appalled by the sight of the mighty Andes. Spanish men suffered from mountain sickness and their horses slipped on steep ascents or panicked when crossing swaying suspension bridges. The Incas used their mountain terrain to destroy some contingents of invaders trapped in defiles under a barrage of boulders. One conquistador lost hundreds of men frozen to death on the passes of the Ecuadorean Andes.

After the Conquest, it was Spaniards who, in Elizabethan times, made the first recorded ascent of an Andean peak. As early as 1582 a group of enthusiasts described climbing the Ecuadorean volcano Pichincha to observe its crater after an eruption. Andean mountaineering really began in mid-eighteenth century, with a number of climbs by scientists who were sent to Quito to try to calculate the earth's diameter at the equator - their measurements formed the basis of the entire metric system of weights and measures. In 1802-3 the German geographer and polymath Alexander von Humboldt climbed to the snowline on Cotopaxi and Chimborazo. And in 1880 Edward Whymper carried out the first major Andean climbing expedition, ascending Chimborazo and a series of other Ecuadorean peaks.

Climbing in the Andes thus long antedates Himalayan mountaineering. Although the Andes are second to the Himalayan ranges in altitude, their many beautiful and dangerous mountains have been tackled by most of the world's great mountaineers, including Lionel Terray, Chris Bonington, Reinhold Messner, Peter Habeler and Eric Shipton. Stretching from the Caribbean to the Antarctic Ocean, the Andes still offer many challenges and unclimbed peaks, with approaches through remote and often forested terrain. They are attracting an increasing number of climbers, particularly those who like the freedom from bureaucratic control and absence of peak fees in the South American republics.

Such a great mountain range deserves a reference book of appropriate excellence. Jill Neate with her unrivalled combination of mountaineering experience, meticulous historical research, familiarity with all the mountaineering literature, and command of the appropriate languages, has produced a compendium that must surely be the definitive source of information about mountaineering in the Andes.

John Hemming, Director and Secretary  
Royal Geographical Society

## Acknowledgements

The task of compiling this book would have been virtually impossible and too depressingly daunting, had I not built on the following basic sources: Pietro Meciani's *Le Ande*; Evelio Echevarría's *Survey of Andean Ascents*; and the *Climbs and Expeditions* section of the *American Alpine Journal*.

I also owe a great debt of gratitude to all who have helped me with this project, for dealing so sympathetically and efficiently with my many requests for information, books and photocopies; and in this respect I especially wish to thank Pieter Crow of Lander, Wyoming.

I want to thank each of the following for helping in similar ways: Pat Johnson, Alpine Club Librarian; Pat Fletcher, American Alpine Club Librarian; the staff of Keswick Public Library; Hans-Dieter Greul, Alpin International, Frankfurt/M; Mario Mingardi, Libreria Alpina, Bologna; Audrey Salkeld; John Pollock, Seattle; Dan Buck, Washington, D.C.; Deutscher Alpenverein Library, Munich; Domenico Mottinelli, Biblioteca Nazionale del Club Alpino Italiano, Turin; Evelio Echevarría, Fort Collins, Colorado; Hillary Bradt, Bradt Enterprises; June Parker, Hon. Librarian, Fell & Rock Climbing Club; Jos, Betancourt and Carlos Chalbaud, Mérida; Lois A. Krieger, Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, NH; Roger & Elspeth Whewell and Vojislav Arko, San Carlos de Bariloche; Shane Winser, Information Officer, Expedition Advisory Centre; John Pilkington; Peter Leeming, and to John Hemming for his foreword.

More recently, for this new edition, I would also like to thank everyone who has provided information, photographs and published material since the publication of the first edition, especially the following: Vojislav Arko, Bariloche; David Hillebrandt; Josep Paytubi, Servei General d'Informació de Muntanya, Sabadell; Guillermo Rayni, Director Anti Suyu, San Juan; Axel Strasser, D.A.V. Library, Munich; and Hermann Wolf, Bayreuth.

A special thank you goes to Kate Cox and Fay Hercod for drawing the sketch maps which have been included, and to David Sharman (who will shortly be publishing his own work on the Cordillera Blanco) for checking them. Last but not least, my thanks also to Deborah Boys for so painstakingly laying out the text. It would be surprising if a work of this nature did not contain some errors and omissions, particularly as it deals with mountain areas which are still in the process of being accurately surveyed and officially named. I have endeavoured to cross-check all the information given and to ensure that it is up-to-date and apologize for whatever mistakes there may be.

## Introduction

The Andes of South America make up the longest mountain system in the world, a distance of approximately 9,000 kilometres. Almost every year climbers from all over the world, as well as South Americans, are active in most parts of the Cordillera de los Andes, making new ascents and routes. This activity has been going on now for over one hundred years, and the purpose of this book is to provide a means of finding one's way through the labyrinth of Andean ranges and peaks, and all that has been written about them. It does not purport to be either a definitive history or a climbers' guidebook in the accepted sense, but it can claim to be the most comprehensive reference source so far available, including a fair amount of information not previously available in English.

Apart from updating the information and correcting as many mistakes as possible, the thinking behind this new edition has been to make more information available to the reader at first hand. A selection of sketch-maps has also been included.

The layout has been revised so that, as far as possible, all the information pertaining to any range will be found all together in one place. Bibliographical references have been slimmed down to the most readily available material. For each country/region/range there is a general topographical description, summary of climbing history, list of peaks and selected references. At the end of each country section (except for Chile and Argentina) will be found details of maps, mountaineering and other organizations, and local mountaineering journals.

In the first edition all entries in the Peak List were given bibliographical references. However, quite a lot of these references contained very little hard information about approaches and routes, and/or were not easy to obtain. As many as possible of these brief references have now been checked and any useful information transferred to the new lists. In the case of difficult new climbs on major peaks, there was insufficient space to do more than indicate the general line of the route. For fuller details, reference should be made to the Climbs and Expeditions section of the *American Alpine Journal* for the following year, e.g. for a climb done in 1981, see the 1982 volume. Occasionally climbs are reported later, in which case it will be necessary to look one or two years further on.

The Andean countries have now created national parks in many of the popular mountain areas, with new roads, trails and hut accommodation. On the other hand, South America is a rather volatile part of the world, so that one must be prepared for military/police check points in places. For up-to-date details of such things as park registrations, climbing permits, huts etc., consult the latest editions of travel guides, among which the *South American Handbook* is generally recognized as the best, and enquire locally on arrival.

In most of the Andean countries the official mapping agencies are run by the military and maps are often only obtainable by personal attendance at the headquarters building. Some remote areas are not yet mapped to a large scale, some sheets may be restricted, some may be based on satellite surveys, and so on. Selected sheets covering the most popular areas, and some commercially produced maps, are available in limited supply from time to time outside South America from specialist map and booksellers. The largest reference collection readily available to the public in the United Kingdom is housed in the Map Room of the Royal Geographical Society. Quoted heights of peaks should be regarded with caution in many cases. On some maps, e.g. the Peruvian 1:100,000 series, mountain names do not always correspond with historical or local usage.

To save space, the following abbreviations have been used for names of climbing journals. Journal references are given in the following form: volume or issue 'n'. number (year): pages.

AJ	Alpine Journal, Alpine Club
AAJ	American Alpine Journal, American Alpine Club
ACAB, Rev.CAB	Anuario, Revista del Club Andino Bariloche (early issues of the Anuario are entitled Memoria)

BdW	Berge der Welt, Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research (later volumes issued in English as Mountain World)
CAJ	Canadian Alpine Journal, Alpine Club of Canada
FAEC	Anuario de Montaña, Federación de Andinismo y Excursionismo de Chile
GJ	Geographical Journal, Royal Geographical Society
GR	Geographical Review, American Geographical Society
Jahr.DAV	Jahrbuch, Deutscher Alpenverein (successor to Zeitschrift)
JMCSA	Journal of Mountain Club of South Africa
Journal, SSAF	Journal, Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research
LA	Les Alpes, Swiss Alpine Club
LM	La Montaña, Federación Argentina de Montañismo y Afines
MW	Mountain World, Swiss Foundation for Alpine Research
NZAJ	New Zealand Alpine Journal, New Zealand Alpine Club
RA	Revista Andina, Club Andino de Chile
RM	Rivista Mensile, Italian Alpine Club (now called La Rivista)
RPA	Revista Peruana de Andinismo
Zeit.DAV/DOeAV	Zeitschrift, Deutscher (& Österreichischer) Alpenverein

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### Pre-Columbian Ascents

The climbing history of the Andes is remarkable for the considerable number of ascents now known to have been made by the Incas and various Indian tribes before the arrival of Europeans. They climbed peaks as high as 6700 metres and constructed shelters on or near the summits, which were used as signal stations and for sacrificial purposes. The first recorded discoveries were made in 1884 and 1886 when stone constructions, bundles of wood, statuettes and ornaments were discovered on Licancabur. The biggest peak on which Indian remains have so far been found high up is Llullaillaco, and the extent of the constructions indicates that it must have been a most important mountain for the Atacameños and the Incas. Remains have been found on numerous peaks in the northern Andes of Chile and Argentina and in other ranges. Antonio Beorchia is one of the foremost Argentine mountain archaeologists; Johan Reinhard is another expert.

In 1954 a group of local arrieros uncovered on Cerro Plomo, in the Chilean Cordillera Central near Santiago, the mummy of a twelve year-old boy complete with statuettes, feather head-dress, bracelets and wool bags, the victim of a sacrifice made some 450 years earlier. A similar find was made ten years later on Cerro El Toro in northern Argentina. Another Inca mummy was found on Aconcagua in 1985, although not very near the top. For climbers, perhaps the most intriguing question arising out of these discoveries is whether the Indians ever reached the summit of Aconcagua. The discovery in 1947, on the summit ridge, of the body of a guanaco hints at the possibility. Mario Fantin's book, *Le Ande*, contains a chronological summary of archaeological expeditions.

Peaks on which archaeological remains have been found are indicated by † in the peak lists.

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