



Major – the Great Bear, so perhaps it was the knowledge of the presence of a representation of *Ursa Major* within the Display which was important rather than it actually being visible. A similar principle may explain why other pictograms lie outside normal vision range for an observer stationed in the hills.

If the creators of Nazca intended the Display to be used as an event predictor then in the interests of consistency and accuracy, observations of the Display would have needed to be made from a fixed reference point. One way in which an observer could have done this would have been to increase his altitude whilst retaining a selected Display element within normal vision range. He could have achieved this simply by climbing the hills to the nearest "observation" post.

The oblique photographic work brought some most surprising results. To date, sixteen images, which to the best of my knowledge, were previously unknown have been discovered. The images differ from the well known pictograms which are sand etchings because they appear to be constructed in bas relief from surface rock and shale while the designs were possibly highlighted by pieces of pottery. If this interpretation is correct, it could account for the presence of the vast, localised areas of potsherds which as yet have not been satisfactorily explained. If these potsherd areas are coincidental with the image sites, then the inclusion of datable ceramics would be a major factor in establishing a construction date for the images.

As yet, it is not possible to say a great deal about the images themselves because the interpretation work continues. But one of them seems to represent a small mountain deer – the Guemal (*Hippocamelus antisensis*) sometimes called the Taruca which the pre-Incas worshipped. Its relationship to the rest of the Display is obscure.

A second image, the "Dragon God" seems the most interesting. It faces east towards the rising sun and is directly along the line of the mid-winter solstice (21st June in the southern hemisphere). The bas relief construction of the image would only permit full-face illumination on, or about, that one day in the year. In Ancient Peru, did a priest-astronomer take up his "post" and await the signal before the "feast of the sun" could begin? It was these exact conditions that the camera reproduced in the photographic pro-

*Above left:* A normal vertically taken photograph of the Pampa de San José archaeological zone where the appearance is a mass of lines with no apparent coherence.

*Left:* This is thought to be a representation of the small Andean mountain deer, the Guemal, or sometimes called the Taruca. The image was fairly intact during the pre-1940s (inset) but as the 1963 enlargement shows much of the detail especially the legs has been destroyed.