



Hawaii '91

Canaries '94

Kenia '98

Catania '99

Iceland 2002

Azores 2004

Mexico 2006

Korea 2008

Australia 2010

???



Catania 1983



International Union of Speleology

Union Internationale de Spéléologie

Commission on Volcanic Caves

June 2010



- ... expedition to lava-tubes on Kilimanjaro
- ... bible about Easter Island lava-tubes

58

This Newsletter is send free to members of the commission, and others who are interested in lava-tubes and volcanic caves. It is not possible to subscribe – but news and information are always (very much!) appreciated.

This wonderful book just arrived...
Bi-lingual: English & Spanish ...
Costs around Euro 40.00

THE CAVES OF EASTER ISLAND

UNDERGROUND WORLD OF RAPA NUI

by Andrzej Ciszewski, Zdzislaw Jan Rijn, Mariusz Szelerewicz


A fascinating book was published about numerous Polish expeditions to Easter Island. Issued in Kraków - Poland, 2009. It is a huge volume, size A-4, and 2½ cm. thick, with a weight of 1,6 kg (= 3½ lbs) and 368 pages. The pages with over 100 colour photos are not numbered ...

Chapters are:
Geographic and Biological Background, Sociology and Culture, Caves in Legends and Ceremonies, Names of the Caves, Caves in the reports of Travellers and Discoverers, The most popular Caves, Archaeology in the Caves, Kinds of Cave Uses, the Caves of Moto-Nui, Underground Treasure of Rapanui is waiting for a rescue, Speleological Expeditions, History and Course of the Polish Research, Geology of Easter Island, Volcanic Forms and Features - General Description, Polish Exploration, Archaeological Objects in the Caves of Easter Island, Cave Plans and Descriptions (some 250 pages ...), Bibliography of Caves on Easter Island, and an appendix

As mentioned above – this is a very impressive publication. A comprehensive introduction on ‘what was known’, but also ‘done’ by others. The amount of pictures and drawings is impressive. For many photographs no location is given, but there might be an understandable reason for this. Sad is to read (but this was already known from very early reports) how many artifacts were ‘taken away’ by early researchers.

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As editorial address is given: Pracownia Kreatywna Bezliku
31-309 Kraków, ul. Ehrenberga 36a, Poland
szelerewicz@ceti.pl

Honorary President: Dr. W.R. HALLIDAY
wrhbna@bellsouth.net

Web-master: John PINT
ranchopint@yahoo.com

www.vulcanospeleology.org

Chairman & editorial address: Jan-Paul van der PAS
Vauwerhofweg 3
6333 CB SCHIMMERT
Netherlands

jpgvanderpas@hetnet.nl

Contributor for ‘Speleological Abstracts’ (BBS – Commission of Bibliography – U.I.S.):
Greg MIDDLETON – Tasmania

“WoMOVoc” – project: Worlds Most Outstanding Volcanic Caves
João Paulo Constância
jpconstantia@worldvolcaniccaves.org
http://www.worldvolcaniccaves.org/pages/aboutus/

The commission logo is a design by Conny SPELBRINK, introduced for the symposium on the Canary Islands (1994). She gave the approval to use this for the commission.



In the previous Newsletter an expedition was announced for lava-tubes on Mount Kilimajaro (2011). This would be organized by Dutch caver Sjoerd van der Schuit. At a certain moment (April 2010) it was realized too few participants were available, and the whole project shifted to 2012 (or later).

Now an interesting proposal came via Jim Simons (Kenya). Although the proposal for 2010 is likely unobtainable, but already I got the information Sjoerd would like to participate with Clive Ward.

For more information:

Sjoerd van der Schuit
Clive Ward

sjoerd.s@home.nl
ward.clive60@yahoo.com

Proposed Expedition to Lava Tubes of Mount Kilimanjaro

Leader: Clive Ward - Cave Exploration Group of East Africa

Time : 12 day safari with 10 days camping on the mountain during the months of September or October, 2010 or 2011 (these are the best months to climb the mountain)

Participation: min. 6 - max 12 persons. Open to all members of the UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves, members of International Caving Associations and Clubs (experience in lava tubes and/or high altitude hiking would be an advantage)

Possible Itinerary:

Day 1 Arrive and transfer to Nairobi hotel
2 Transfer to Kilimanjaro & trek to around 2400 - 2700 m.

- 3 Trek to 2nd cave (a blister) at 3300m.
- 4 Trek to near Mawenzi and camp at 3800m. Examine longest cave
- 5-7 Survey the longest tube and visit other Mawenzi caves between 3800 - 4200m.
- 8-9 Explore lava flow for new caves around 3800. and below
- 10-11 Trek to Kibo and make ascent to the summit at 5896m
- 12 Descent mountain and return to Nairobi hotel

Note: the itinerary is structured to provide a desirable period of time for high altitude acclimatization while also caving to ensure a successful ascent to the summit of Mt. Kilimanjaro at the end of the safari.

Preliminary inclusions:

- x2 nights Nairobi hotels
- all tentage and (essential) good food upon the mountain
- costs of leader-guide, other local guides and mountain porters
- airport/hotel transfers and to/from Mt. Kilimanjaro

Exclusions:

- travel to and from Kenya
- 10 days Mt. Kilimanjaro Park fees (it might be possible to get these fees waived as a 'scientific expedition')
- sleeping bags and personal caving & climbing equipment
- all hotel beverages, soft & alcoholic drinks
- tips to hotel staff, guides and porters
- travel and accident insurances
- any personal expenditure

Costs:

To be determined on a sliding scale depending upon the number of participants



Ancient Shizuoka wind cave to be filled with concrete to reinforce local road

MISHIMA, Shizuoka -- A wind cave near the base of Mt. Fuji here, one of Japan's oldest, will be filled for road construction.

The Mishima Municipal Government earlier said it would fill the "Mishima Fuketsu," an underground wind cave below an area near JR Mishima Station's north entrance, to construct a new road over the cave. About half of the estimated 3,000-square-meter cave will be filled with cement to reinforce the ground. Currently, no scientific investigations are being conducted on the cave, which contains rare stalactites, but some volcano experts insist research be carried out before the construction. Discovered in 1953, the Mishima Fuketsu is one of some 100 known wind caves around Mt. Fuji, which was created more than 10,000 years ago, at the southernmost point that the lava flow reached following an eruption. Its total length is at least 300 meters. According to a study conducted by Nihon Kazan Dokutsu Kyokai (Japan Volcano-Speleological Association) in 1986, there are lava stalactites that have been formed over a long period of time in the cave and it is one of the few caves preserved in an urban area.

「駅前風穴」埋め立てへ



三島風穴の内部を調査する立原弘会長(右)と大島浩三(左)三島風穴三島市で今年2月(火山学協会提供)

静岡・三島 最古級

富士山の噴火でできた溶岩トンネルの中にも最古級で、静岡県三島市のJR三島駅北口の地下に広がる「三島風穴」が今月下旬にも埋め立てられる。工事を行う静岡県三島市によると、風穴の真上に市道を造るため、推定約3,000平方メートルある風穴の半分をセメントなどで充てんし、地盤を補強する。風穴に対する学術調査は実施されているだけで約3,000

歴史1万数千年 専門家「工事前に学術調査を」

1953年に発見され、86年に日本火山学協会(現・富士火山学協会)が緊急調査した。長年かけて形成された「溶岩トンネル」などがそのまま残存され、市街地に残る洞窟としても全国的に希少という。かつては製鉄会社の敷地内にあり、会社の移転に伴って05年、三島市南町土地区画整理事業が公共用地として買収した。市によると、風穴の内部で崩落が確認されたため、道路工事優先で、今年内にもセメントと粘土質の材料で充てんする工事を始める。市建設部は「安全を削ぐのが第一の目的。手当りをしない」と懸念している。

【意味伸】



The area was once owned by a local pharmaceutical company, and later acquired by a municipal land development corporation in 2005, following the relocation of the drug manufacturer's office. As part of the wind cave has already collapsed, the city plans to start filling it with cement, prior to full-scale road construction. "Safety is our primary target. If we leave it without repair work, the existing roads running over the cave could also collapse," a city official said, explaining the urgency of the situation.

Meanwhile, President Hiroshi Tachihara of the Tokyo-based nonprofit organization Volcanospeleological Society pointed out the educational value of the cave, saying: "I hope the city will conduct thorough research of the wind cave and preserve the valuable parts of it." Satoshi Koshimizu, director for the Natural Environmental Sciences Division of the Yamanashi Institute of Environmental Sciences also said: "We are investigating the wind caves at the northern foot of Mt. Fuji using the latest methods such as three dimensional analysis. It is incredible that they are going to fill the cave before conducting any research."

Mainichi Daily News 15 March 2010

Visit to the 11th Pseudokarst Symposium
12 - 16 May 2010 - Saupsdorf (Germany)

As representative of our commission, and out of personal interest, I visited this symposium, in a fantastic scenery of sandstone table-mountains. Very well organized in a kind of mountain-hut the atmosphere was very relaxed. The amount of lectures was plenty, as were the field-trips. Most participants were from central Europe, but two large groups came from both Sweden and Galicia (Spain) to promote next meetings/symposia. I counted some 50 participants from 10 countries. From the lectures really fascinating were exploration of the quartzite caves in Venezuela (entrances with several helicopters in it). A remarkable lecture came from Istvan Esterhasz about "butterflies prefer volcanic materials" (in Hungary).

The area shows magnificent rock formations, and gives possibilities for very interesting field trips. It is called the Saksoni Switserland, but is not in Switzerland. It is in a far corner of Germany, close to the Polish and Czech borders. Actually not too far from the location of the next U.I.S. congress in 2013 - Brno, Czech Republic.

Proposals for next symposia were:

Second International Conference on Granite Caves
in Sweden 2011 - June 1-4 (and 5-7 for post trips)
information on: <http://www.speleo.se>

12th International Symposium on Pseudokarst
Galicia, Tui, Spain 2013
Information from mvaqueiro@frioya.es
xeoloxia@udc.es

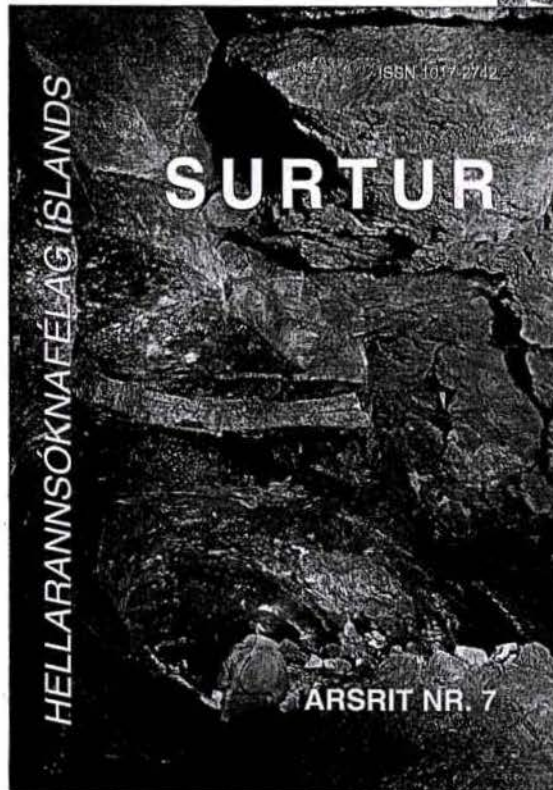
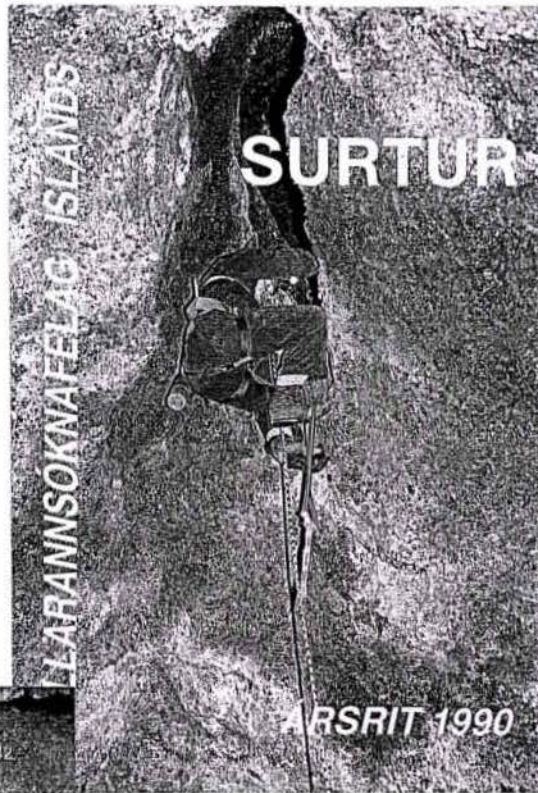
However, this date is also the year of the U.I.S. Congress in the Czech Republic and will be considered.

From the Swedish lecture(s) an interesting one was about methane-explosion caves. Maybe this is a link to our commission?

Jan-Paul van der Pas

Collectors item ?

After the establishment of the Icelandic Speleological Society (25 Nov. 1989) a publication was issued - *SURTUR*. The first issue came in 1990 (ISBN 9979-9062-6-X). Up till 1995 it appeared yearly, issue #6 in 1995. Than in 1999 the last issue came, # 7 with 64 pages with mainly colour pictures. The last 6 issues had ISSN numbers, all 1017-2742. Size of the publication was A-5, the total amount of pages 454!



Language was Icelandic, but summaries in English available. The last issue was bi-lingual. Contents were very informative: cave-slime in Litli-Björn Cave, renewed opening of Vidgelmir Cave, and the first explorations on Surtsey Island.

The ISS was founded by Siggí Jónsson and Björn Hróarsson. However, even after a very successful symposium in 2002 the group fell apart and *SURTUR* stopped Now a collector item! Only 500 of each printed

from CaveChat

- "You can't get lost."
"It's all walking passage."
"The trip should take us about 4 - 6 hours."
"It's dry."
"There's a short free climb."
"Sure, I know the way to the cave."
Of course it goes!
"No, you won't need a wetsuit."
"It's just a short duck-under."
"Leave your pack behind, you won't be needing it."
"There's plenty of room to turn around."
"I know exactly I'm at!"
"Don't worry, you won't need knee pads for this cave."
"Just a couple photos...."
"Virgin cave is just waiting!"
"Just a quick dig..."
"We have permission."
"I found a new cave no one has ever been in."
"Its a short walk."
on a map..." ends"
on a map..."borehole"

This list or remarks was send by our
commission member Harry Marinakis.
Of course this is not valid for lava-tubes,
or