

## BOOK REVIEW

### *Caves of Northern Thailand*

Pindar Sidisunthorn, Simon Gardner, Dean Smart

Reviewed by John Barnes

River Books, 2006

This volume is another high quality production by River Books, a local publisher, and comprises an Introduction; A Preface; Acknowledgements and two parts comprising an Part 1 Introduction consisting of seven sections and Part 2 comprising eight sections, each representing a province in Northern Thailand. This hard-cover volume also includes Appendices and numerous beautiful coloured maps, sketches and high quality colored photographs of 100 caves of Northern Thailand.

The book has excited me and could well form part of a new elective in our Tourism MBA program next year.

#### Introduction:

##### Part 1 Introduction;

Geology; Cave Life and Environment;

Cave Archeology; Temples and Folklore;

Uses and Conservation; Cave Exploration;

Cave Photography.

##### Part 2 Cave Profiles:

Pang Ma Pha; Mae Hong Son;

Chiang Mai; Lamphun and Lampang;

Chiangrai; Phayao; Nan; Phrae.

#### Appendices:

Additional Information; other names, latitude/longitude, length, access, references;

Glossary, Bibliography,

Further Reading.

Index.

Interestingly, we are informed that “there are around 4,000 caves currently known in Thailand, but experts estimate that this is probably less than half the real number. This volume introduces us to 100 caves of a estimated 2,000 in Northern Thailand.

Substantial research on Northern Thailand’s caves has been undertaken by academics from Mahidol and Silapakorn Universities.”(p.9)

The research and publication costs of this book were subsidized by The Thailand Research Fund and The Petroleum Authority and Thailand

This is a beautiful book, detailing a substantial research project and brings to us all the subterranean beauty that lies below us.