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Trollkyrkja, Møre og Romsdal

Trollkyrkja, Møre & Romsdal, Norway - an annotated bibliography with a previously unpublished 1964/65 survey by Pete Livesey & Bradford Pothole Club

The annotated bibliography of Trollkyrkja, surveyed length 550 m, a well known limestone cave in Møre & Romsdal, western Norway has been abstracted from a Norwegian Cave Index and Karst Bibliography started by the compiler and Shirley St. Pierre in 1963. The bibliography includes details of the 1964/1965 explorations & survey by Pete Livesey and other members of Bradford Pothole Club, which have not been published previously.

Trollkyrkja is formed in an attractive white, yellow and grey marble. It has several entrances, two underground streams and a series of waterfalls up to 12 m high. There are three sumps, two of which have been by-passed. Located about 20 km north of Molde, between Trolltind and Stordalstind in the Sandnestind range of Indre Fræna, Møre and Romsdal, it is about 484 m a.s.l. Being a well known tourist attraction for many years the well trod path to the cave is waymarked from the road, 100 m asl., for about 4 km (1½ hrs). Early records from 1892 - 1911, indicate that 60-70 m of the cave was visited. Figur 1. Over the years other parts were explored (Hansen, 1933) Figur 2. And an iron railing installed as protection around a pothole at one of the entrances with a metal ladder. Trollkyrkja was further extended and surveyed in 1964 and 1965 by Pete Livesey, J. Warwick Peirson, Malvin Klauseth, other members of Bradford Pothole Club, local Norwegians and friends. (See Merknad 1, page 37). The upstream sump in the eastern branch was free-dived by Pete Livesey in 1965 (Stoyles, 2005). The length of the cave is about 550 m. (Livesey, 1964, 1966. See Merknad 1). Figur 3.

The author and his family visited a small part of the cave in July 1967. Figur 4, 5, 6 with Pete and John Stanger, his climbing partner on their recent second ascent of the Trolltind Wall in Romsdal (See Merknad 4 and Figur 9).

Figur 7. A.M. Gautier published a sketch profile of the cave (Pittard, 1979).

M. Phipps a member of the Cave Diving Group of Great Britain examined two of the sumps in 1980 by free diving (Phipps & Wilkinson, 1980).

Trollkyrkja and other caves in the area have been investigated by Ivan Sarong, a Danish member of Norsk Grotteforbund who lives in Oslo. (Sarong, 2002, 2005).

A photographic trip was made by Hans Øivind Aarstad and David St Pierre 25th August 2006. (St. Pierre, 2007).

A detailed description or study of Trollkyrkja has not yet been published.

"Troll" caves are common in Norway. A less well-known example is the large Trollkjerka at Evenes in Nordland, surveyed length 2031 metres 1989-90.

The entries in the bibliography are presented in chronological order to provide a sense of the history of exploration of the system.

An asterisk indicates that a copy of the report is held by the compiler.

The entries are classified in the system used in the former "Current Titles in Speleology":

III Bibliography & Catalogue.

V. Cave Description.

VIII Diving.

IX Geology & Geomorphology.