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**SOME 19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY VISITORS TO CAVES IN  
PENINSULAR MALAYSIA**

**O OBISKOVALCIH JAM V POLOTOŠKI MALEZIJI V  
19. STOLETJU**

LIZ PRICE<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 10 Cuepacs Apt., Jalan Thamby Abdullah, Brickfields, MY - 50470 KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA,  
lizprice@hotmail.com

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**Izvleček**

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**Liz Price: O obiskovalcih jam v polotoški Maleziji v 19. stoletju**

Človek je poznal jame v Maleziji že od predzgodovinskih časov, ko jih je uporabljal kot zatočišča, taborišča ali skrivališča. Najstarejša taka sled s polotoške Malezije je človeško okostje, staro 11.000 let. Prvi zapisi o obiski teh jam pa izvirajo šele iz 19. stoletja, ko so jih obiskovali predvsem Evropejci za zabavo, iz vedoželjnosti ali zaradi raziskovanja. Z raziskavami so v glavnem pričeli britanski kolonialni častniki, nastanjeni v Malaji, v 80-tih letih 19. stoletja. Leta 1878 so »odkrili« jame Batu in z njimi seznanili Evropejce. V prispevku so naštetih nekateri izmed teh obiskovalcev ter so opisane zgodnje raziskave.

**Ključne besede:** zgodovina speleologije, arheologija, jama, Polotoška Malezija, Malaja, Perak, jame Batu.

**Abstract**

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**Liz Price: Some 19<sup>th</sup> century visitors to caves in Peninsular Malaysia**

Malaysian caves have been known to man since prehistoric times, when they were used as shelters, campsites or places of refuge. The oldest remains found in Peninsular Malaysia are a human skeleton dated at 11.000 years old. But it was not until the 19<sup>th</sup> century that records appear of caves being visited, generally by European visitors for recreation, curiosity or research. Research generally began in the 1880's, mainly by British colonial officers stationed in Malaya. The caves at Batu Caves were "discovered" and made known to Europeans in 1878. This article lists some of the visitors and describes some of the early research.

**Key words:** history of speleology, archaeology, cave, Peninsular Malaysia, Malaya, Perak, Batu Caves.

## HISTORY OF CAVES

The earliest traces of man using caves in Malaysia have been found at Niah Caves, Sarawak, where a 40,000-year-old skull was discovered. Then there is a large gap in time. Perak Man is an 11,000-year-old skeleton found at Gua Gunung Runtuh, Perak, and is the earliest complete skeleton found. And in the same area at Lenggong, various cave sites have revealed objects such as stone tools, bones, and pottery, dating over the last 10,000 years. At nearby Kota Tampan, an open site shows evidence of a 30,000 year old stone workshop, although recent research suggests that this date should be 74,000 years.

Lenggong can be described as the primary speleological - archaeological site of Peninsular Malaysia.

At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, many plantation workers removed guano on a large scale from caves, to use as a fertiliser. Many archaeological remains have been lost through this indiscriminate digging.

Unlike other countries which have ancient cave paintings - some in France are 31,000 years old - Malaysian paintings only date back 2000 years, at Gua Tambun, Perak. The oldest aboriginal paintings are only about 120 years, at Lenggong, Perak.

The Chinese were visiting caves in Malaya during the Ming dynasty (1368-1634), trading in birds' nests. The main industry probably started in the early 15<sup>th</sup> century.

Records of visitors to caves only start in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. These adventurers were generally European and explored the caves for interest and curiosity, and then for social outings such as picnics at Batu Caves. Archaeological studies followed. And later caves were used as temples by the Buddhists and Hindus.

There are no records of any cave surveys being drawn during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Dark Cave at Batu Caves was first surveyed in the 1920's and the survey published in 1929 (Dover). It has since been resurveyed by 4 or 5 different groups, but no survey covers the entire cave.

## VISITORS TO THE MALAY PENINSULA

The earliest record I have found, which actually predates the period covered in this paper, is by **Dr. J.G. KOENIG**, who went to Quedar (Kedah) on 15-30 December 1779. On 25 December he saw the Gerai Mountains, and on the 26<sup>th</sup> the Elephant Mountain. Dr. Jean Gerard Koenig (1728-1785) was born in Livland, and was a pupil of Linnaeus. He became a noted botanist. In 1768 he travelled to India. His original manuscripts are in the Natural History Museum, London.

Various other people later wrote about Elephant Mountain or Gunung Giriyan (now called Keriang). **T. WARD** was probably the first person to describe it. He was an assistant surgeon in the Madras Establishment. In November 1832 he visited Quedah and examined Gunung Giriyan. He went to the rock on an elephant loaned by the Rajah of Ligore. Guides showed him the caves; he visited four which he explored and recorded. He also knocked off specimens to study. He noted how the hill was surrounded by sea not too long ago. Today Gunung Keriang rises majestically above rice paddies, near the town of Alor Setar.

**Lt. Colonel James LOW** (later Captain) came to Malaya in the 1820's as an Indian Army Officer, but remained until 1830 in a civilian capacity. He was concerned with British dealings

with Perak, Kedah and Siam and was sent to Perak in 1826. In the 1830's he had administrative charge of Province Wellesley. In 1849 Low visited the Langkawi Islands, which were dependencies of the Siamese government of Kedah. He described them as "bold islands, formed and flanked by towering masses of limestone". He also saw Khaw Wong (Gunong Wang at Baling). He died in 1852.

The Langkawi group consists of some 104 islands, many of which have limestone deposits. The caves even today have been little studied.

**Sir William Edward MAXWELL** (1846 - 5 August 1897) also went to Langkawi and Elephant Rock. He worked in the courts in Malaya and Singapore from 1865 and was an administrator in Province Wellesley and Melaka from the late 1860's. After the Perak War of 1876 he was Assistant Resident of Perak for a short time from February 1878, then British Resident of Selangor from 1889-1892, and Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements before going to West Africa in 1895.

During his time in Perak, Maxwell went to Lenggong in 1876 and was taken to see some of the caves on 2 April. They walked through the dark jungle to get to Bukit Kajang. He mentions Lobang Gandang (Gua Gendang) near Tasik. Strangely this cave is not mentioned again until 1993 (Price 1993).

Also in 1876 he travelled on foot through north Perak to Patani in Kedah, and mentions Gunong Wang at Baling with its caves and bats and swallows. He refers to Gunong Geriyang in Kedah. Also to Gunong Pondok in Perak.

On 26-27 December 1877 Maxwell cruised around the islands of Langkawi with his brother R.W. Maxwell and the Rajah of Kedah, and refers to Low's trip. He gained information to correct and supplement the geographical information in the Admiralty charts. And he saw the limestone cliffs and mentions the wild bees' nests and edible birds' nests. He visited Goa Cherita and describes the legends. William Maxwell played a leading part in establishing the Straits Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society (SBRAS) in 1878 and was editor for many years.

**H.W.C. LEECH** wrote about the limestone hills in Kedah and Perak, especially Gunong Pondok which he had been told about by a Mr. Deane in 1879. Leech mentions the bat guano was used as manure in Province Wellesley. Like most of the early visitors he describes the limestone rocks as being pure, crystallised and generally white in colour. Today Gunong Pondok is being quarried. It is an isolated hill and was an important site for archaeological work.

Other visitors to Gunong Pondok include **Frank Athelstan SWETTENHAM** (28 March 1850 - 11 June 1946) (Barlow). He left the United Kingdom on 2 November 1870 and sailed for Singapore, reaching Melaka on 2 January 1871, and Singapore on the 4th. where he became a cadet in the colonial office. He first visited Selangor in early 1872, and in August of the same year he went to Pahang, Terengganu and Kelantan.

On 13 February 1874 he and **Captain Samuel DUNLOP**, the Inspector General of Police in Perak, passed Gunong Pondok, which is some miles north of Kuala Kangsar, and camped in a Malay hut at the foot of the hill. They travelled by elephant. Swettenham spent the night there again in April with J.W.W. Birch and Speedy, amongst others.

In an extract of the journal by Messrs. Dunlop, Swettenham and Pickering during the crossing from Larut to Kuala Kangsa on 12 February it was noted that Gunong Pondok resembles Elephant Rock in Kedah. This was published as *Geography of the Malay Peninsula* by A.M. Skinner in *Journal SBRAS*, 1 July 1878.

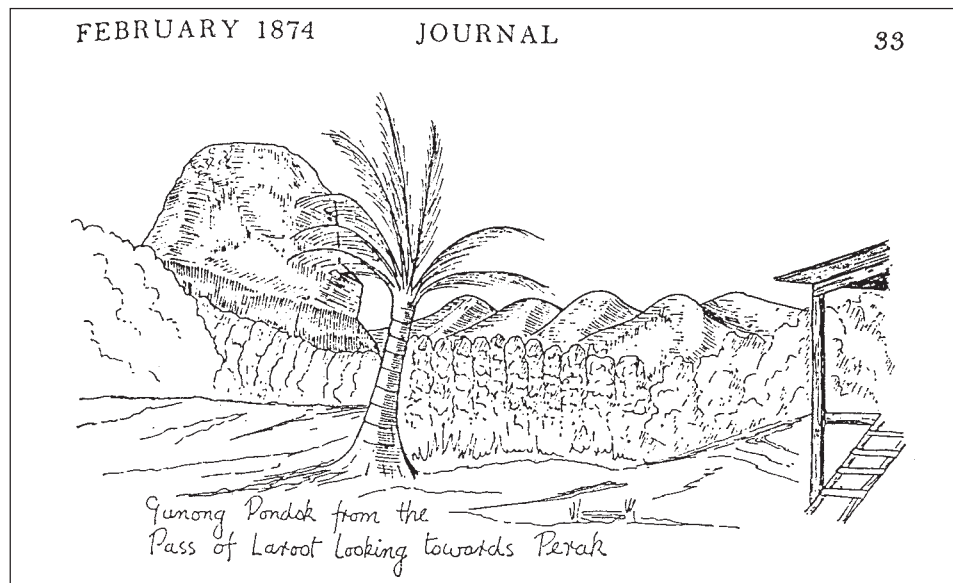


Fig. 1: Sir Frank Swettenham's *Malayan Journals 1874-6*. (Reprinted in *Oxford in Asia*, ed. Burns - Cowan 1975)

**W.A. PICKERING** was the only man in the Colonial government at that time (around 1874) who understood Chinese having been an interpreter in the Straits Settlements in 1872. He was protector of the Chinese.

**James Wheeler Woodford BIRCH** (1826-1875) was the first British Resident appointed to Perak under the Pangkor Engagement of 1874. But only 12 months after taking up the post he was assassinated on 2 November 1875. His death was followed by the Perak War. Prior to taking up the Residency, he travelled through Selangor and Perak. On Monday 13 April he saw Gunong Pondok, and described it as a hill in a gorge sticking up like Punch's hat. On the 15<sup>th</sup> he wrote about the caves with huge stalactites in Gunong Pondok. He actually visited the caves on 8 March 1875. In Birch's report on Perak, 2 April 1875, he mentioned Gunong Pondok with its nitre caves. He had plans for a new road to Gunong Pondok. On 7 May he visited Gunong Mesa during a 10-day tour of the Kinta valley, and on the 8th, he wrote about Gunong Gaja. On 12 July he took Booth and George Scott and Speedy to the nitra caves [Gunong Pondok], travelling by elephant.

The Kinta Valley is an area of some 50 limestone hills lying to the north and south of the city of Ipoh in Perak. It was also one of the main centres of tin mining in Malaysia. Birch is the only person I have found to mention Gunong Mesa and Gaja. Gunong Gaja is a very prominent limestone hill, rising 612m above the plains at the southern end of Kinta Valley, so it is surprising that no other travellers described it. Today it is home to one of the most well known caves in the peninsula, Gua Tempurung, which has been developed as a show cave.

**Thomas George BOOTH** was of the 10<sup>th</sup> North Lincoln Regiment. **George SCOTT** was a Penang merchant. **Captain SPEEDY** was of the Straits Police, and temporary Assistant Resident at Pangkor.

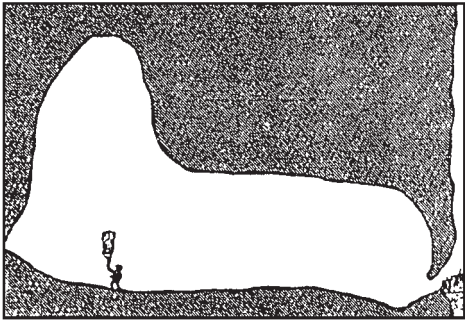
In March 1880, Swettenham decided to move the administrative headquarters from Klang to Kuala Lumpur. Kuala Lumpur had turned into a boomtown since the price of tin had soared in the late 1870's. Swettenham bettered the conditions in Kuala Lumpur in the 1880's, e.g. by replacing the fire prone wooden buildings by brick ones, and improving the roads and the drains. He was keen on developing the roads and railways. From 1882 -1904 Swettenham held a sequence of senior posts in the West Malayan states. He shared with **Hugh LOW** the role of creating the Residential system. He was at odds with Douglas, the Resident, and replaced him in 1882, but faced administrative chaos left by Douglas. His official service period in Selangor was 2 October 1882 - 31 May 1889 although he was often elsewhere, e.g. in Perak at the end of March 1884 - 11 January 1886 during Low's leave.

The caves at Batu Caves have been extensively visited since their discovery by Europeans in 1878. **William T. HORNADAY** (1 December 1854 - 7 March 1937) was the "discoverer" of Batu Caves. He was the chief taxidermist at the US National Museum in Washington from 1882-1890, and spent two years in the jungles of India, Ceylon, Malaya and Sarawak collecting specimens for American museums, and for Professor Henry A. Ward's Natural Science Establishment at Rochester, USA.

A Naturalist in Selangor, 1878


146 Wm. T. Hornaday

than Cathedral Cave. The accompanying diagram represents a vertical section, as nearly as could be obtained without measurements.



We stood for some time gazing in silence about us, quite awed by the grandeur of the natural rock-temple we had discovered.

Remembering the Baptistry at Pisa, and, recalling its beautiful echo, I sang out clear and strong,



Sol mi do

Fig. 2: Reprinted by Oxford in Asia 1993.

Hornaday visited Selangor in June - July 1878. He planned a trip into the interior with **H.C. SYERS**, the Superintendent of the Police. They travelled by ponies from Kwala Lumpur to Batu on the Klang River on 29 June. There they met some Jacoons, the local people, who were familiar with some nearby caves which they used as places of refuge from elephants.

On 3 (?) July Hornaday and Syers were on a hunting trip for elephants, and on their way home they were shown a cave, Gua Belah or Double Cave. The next day they explored Gua Lada or Chilli Cave where the Jacoons used to catch bats to eat. In the third cave, Gua Lambong, Hornaday sang to appreciate the resonance in the Cathedral Cave. Syers discharged his rifle which sounded like a deep boom of thunder. They entered the caves using torches of dry bamboo. On the way back to »Kwala Lumpur« Syers had a bad fall off his pony but was protected by his thick pith helmet.

Hornaday and Syers spent a week at Batu. The former collected rock specimens from the caves, and hunted. A short account of his stay in Selangor was read by proxy at a meeting of the SBRAS in Singapore on 7 April 1879. It was published in *Journal SBRAS* 3 July 1879, and reprinted in the *Selangor Journal* 1893. His full report was not published until 1885.

Harry Charles Syers (s.a. - 1897) was formerly a private in the 10<sup>th</sup> Regiment before becoming Superintendent of Police at Klang. He was promoted from the ranks in 1875 when he was engaged by Davidson to work as temporary inspector of police aged about 23, and appointed superintendent in 1875 or 1876. In 1891 he became Captain Superintendent and was appointed Commissioner of Police of the FMS in July 1896. He was fluent in Malay and studied the Chinese and their language. He was the one man Swettenham trusted when he took up his duties in Selangor on 2 October 1882.

Syers played a major part in Kuala Lumpur life until his death. A quiet, efficient young man who could handle his incompetent superior Douglas. By the end of 1882 Syers, Swettenham and J.P. Rodgers were the only Europeans left in Selangor. Syers died on 14 July 1897 in central Pahang from wounds inflicted by an enraged, wounded seladang. He was buried in Pekan, but in 1899 his body was exhumed at Swettenham's request with the assistance of Dr. E.A.O. Travers, and brought to Kuala Lumpur for reinternment. Some 60,000 mourners attended the funeral parade. He had been held in esteem by all races and classes in Kuala Lumpur society.

**Dominic D. DALY** (1844 - 1889) was the man who took the credit for discovering the caves at Batu Cave. A few weeks after Hornaday and Syers explored the caves, there followed the second visit. The party consisted of Daly, **Captain Bloomfield DOUGLAS**, **Lieutenant R. LINDSELL**, some orang Sakei and some police. They explored the same three most accessible caves, and Daly gives a good description of them, and mentions the Sakei charcoal drawings outside. In his 1879 report, also read at the SBRAS meeting on 7 April, he admits Hornaday and Syers had found the caves a few days earlier, but erroneously suggests that it was his party which first explored them.

Daly made a rough topographical survey of Selangor in April 1875. From some time in 1876 he was in Perak, but by February 1879 (or earlier) he was back in Klang. He was in charge of the Land Office in the 1880's, as Commissioner of lands in Selangor. Chaos characterized his term of office and he was sacked in the summer of 1882 from head of the Public Work Dept. (PWD) for allowing Douglas to purchase town lots from the government at a public auction conducted by Daly. Douglas also lost his job. Daly was Douglas' son-in-law. He died from fever on 15 July 1889.

Captain William Bloomfield Douglas (25 September 1822 - 1906) was Her British Majesty's Resident of Selangor at Klang (the capital of Selangor) 1 June 1876 - 1882. He was a notoriously rude man. Swettenham and Weld were against him and as a result of enquiries, Swettenham managed to unseat and replace Douglas.

Lieutenant R. Lindsell was of Her Majesty's 28<sup>th</sup> Regiment. During the trip to the caves with Daly, most of the party were too timid to go into Gua Lambong, so Lindsell took the lead. They were using damar torches, but had to replace them by dry bamboo as the damar resin that dropped onto the guano set fire to it.

**Isabella Lucy BIRD** (15 October 1831 - 7 October 1904) was the first woman to write about Batu Caves. She was the daughter of an English country parson, and a celebrated traveller who was described as tough and experienced. She was the authoress of travel books. She adapted easily to journeys by elephant. Bird spent a few weeks in Malaya in the first half of 1879, and later published her accounts. She mentions the limestone hills as being curious features of Selangor and Perak, and described Gunong Pondok with its many caves. She met Daly and Syers during her "unexpected and hastily planned expedition into the Malay states during five weeks of January and February 1879". She said Batu Caves had been discovered some seven months prior to her visit. Isabella Bird married John Bishop in 1881, and became the first woman fellow of the Royal Geographical Society in 1892. A feature film on Bird is planned (Ryan).

By the 1880's Batu Caves was becoming a famous show place. It was used for picnics, especially Cathedral Cave, and people would explore by the dim light of candles. By this time the jungles were safer. During 1883 cart tracks were being pushed through to the mining areas, including Batu Caves. Today Batu Caves is surrounded by industrial estates and highways.

On 12 July 1880, **Sir Frederick Aloysius WELD** (1832 - 1891) along with Douglas, Swettenham and others went on a shooting party near Batu Caves. They did not find any seladang but had lunch at the mouth of the main cave, along with Dr. MacKinnon, Miss Douglas, Captain Rhodes, Dr. Barrington of the Buffs, and Mr. Taylor, an officer of the Ordnance Dept. and with some Malays and Sakais.

After lunch the party explored the cave. Weld shot one or two bats for Barrington. The 'Governor' was cheered in the caves as he was the first one to penetrate these wilds. Weld's description of the cave was written in his journal which was printed in Lady Alice Lovat's book, 1914. He likened the Batu Caves hill to Gunong Pondok in Perak.

Weld visited the Malay states in the 1880's, having arrived in Singapore on 6 May 1880. Although born in England, he began his career as a sheep farmer in New Zealand where he



*Fig. 3: Portret of Isabela Bird who, after a lifetime of extraordinary adventures, claimed that her gender was a protection rather than a danger.*



became premier. He was later governor of Western Australia and Tasmania. He was the Colonial Governor of the Straits Settlements 1880 - 1887 before retiring to England. Port Weld in Perak is named after him. He travelled by elephant in Perak in 1881, although elephants were being replaced by pony or horse drawn vehicles. (Douglas had used ponies in 1879.) Although Weld suffered from gout, he could ride a horse, and made numerous tours throughout the Malay states. In August 1880 he travelled from Klang to Penang and Kedah. He and Swettenham set up the Selangor railway.

The SBRAS published a map of the Klang River and area around Kuala Lumpur in 1879, which featured the limestone caves at Bukit Batu. On the 1887 map, limestone caves are marked at Batu Caves, and at Bukit Takun a "remarkable limestone crag". Bukit Takun is now situated in Templers Park, to the north of Batu Caves, but was not mentioned by any of those early explorers, including Leech., yet it lies on the old trunk road from Kuala Lumpur to Perak.

Leech wrote about the limestone hills in Kinta and said "but further east they are not to be found, nor I believe to the south, as I have never met them or heard of them in Selangor, although I saw a good deal of that country while in the service of the Selangor government". This was published in a report in December 1878, but was probably written before the discovery of Batu Caves in July of that year.

One of the next people to write about Batu Caves was **Ambrose B. RATHBORNE**. He was an Australian mining engineer and later moved to Ceylon to plant coffee, and then onto Malaya in the 1880's. He was a planter and entrepreneur. He wrote about his life in Malaya and his contact with the villagers. He visited Batu Caves in 1883 and describes the cave in his book. He only mentions one cave, so presumably the general public only went into one cave, situated up the hillside.

Rathborne became a business partner for fifteen years with **Thomas Heslop HILL**, also a planter. Together they were leading contractors for road works and were invaluable to Swettenham in his overwhelming desire to open up the state. They were responsible for a road to Batu in April 1883, and played a leading part in the European incursion into Selangor tin mining in the 1880's. Hill and Rathborne formed a firm which was regarded as an offshoot of the Selangor PWD. In the late 1880's they were involved with railway construction. And at that same time they acquired 8000 acres of land in Selangor for coffee. They had 300 acres of land at Batu Road, two miles out of town, and 10 acres of this was taken back for a hospital site.

Liberian coffee was planted in large areas around Batu Caves, 1882 - 1883, and in 1885 there is mention of padi areas around Batu. Indian immigrants had settled around Batu Caves, and by the late 1880's refused to move from there. Swettenham wanted them to work under Hill and Rathborne. The coffee industry failed but around the same time there was an increased demand for rubber.

The man responsible for the rubber industry was **Hugh LOW**, and not Ridley as is commonly thought. Sir Hugh Low (1824 - 1905) spent many years in Labuan, then served as British Resident of Perak from 1877 until his retirement in 1889, when he returned to England. He was considered one of the best residents in the history of the country. In March 1884 when he was overdue for leave after seven years in Perak, Swettenham went there to act for him, as Resident in Kuala Kangsar. Low was a keen naturalist, unlike Swettenham who only liked shooting. Low probably helped Swettenham to plan the museum being constructed in Taiping. This museum was for many years the outstanding institution of its kind in the Malay states, attracting some of the most distin-

guished naturalists of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Low was responsible for the construction of the first railway in Perak, between Port Weld and Taiping. Low along with Swettenham and Maxwell were the three most able British administrators in the Malay Peninsula, and Low was the mentor.

Hugh Low planted the first rubber in Perak in 1877, in the Government gardens at Kuala Kangsar. He continued to do test plantings over the following years. When he went to England in 1884 he left Swettenham with some 400 seeds to plant out.

**Henry Nicholas RIDLEY** (1855 - 1956) arrived in Singapore from England in 1888, some ten years after rubber. He was to become a successful tapper, whereas Low was the pioneer planter. Ridley was the Director of Gardens and Forests, Straits Settlements from 1888-1912 in the botanic gardens at Singapore. He was a plant geographer and economic botanist. He initiated the first really successful tapping of rubber in 1889.

One of Ridley's first recorded visits to Malaya was in June 1889 when he went to Batu Caves on a botanical collecting trip, travelling by bullock cart. Further visits to Batu Caves followed, including December 1896, July and August 1897, 1898, August 1908 and December 1920 when he travelled by car. The British Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) appointed a committee to explore the caves in the Malay Peninsula in 1896 and to collect their living and extinct fauna. Ridley undertook these investigations during two weeks in December 1896. In 1898 he made the first attempt to study the fauna of Batu Caves. In his report for that year, he indicated the general character of the caves and their fauna, but no attempt was made at a detailed study, although he listed the invertebrates. But he made the first thorough exploration of Dark Cave which was missed by the earlier European visitors.

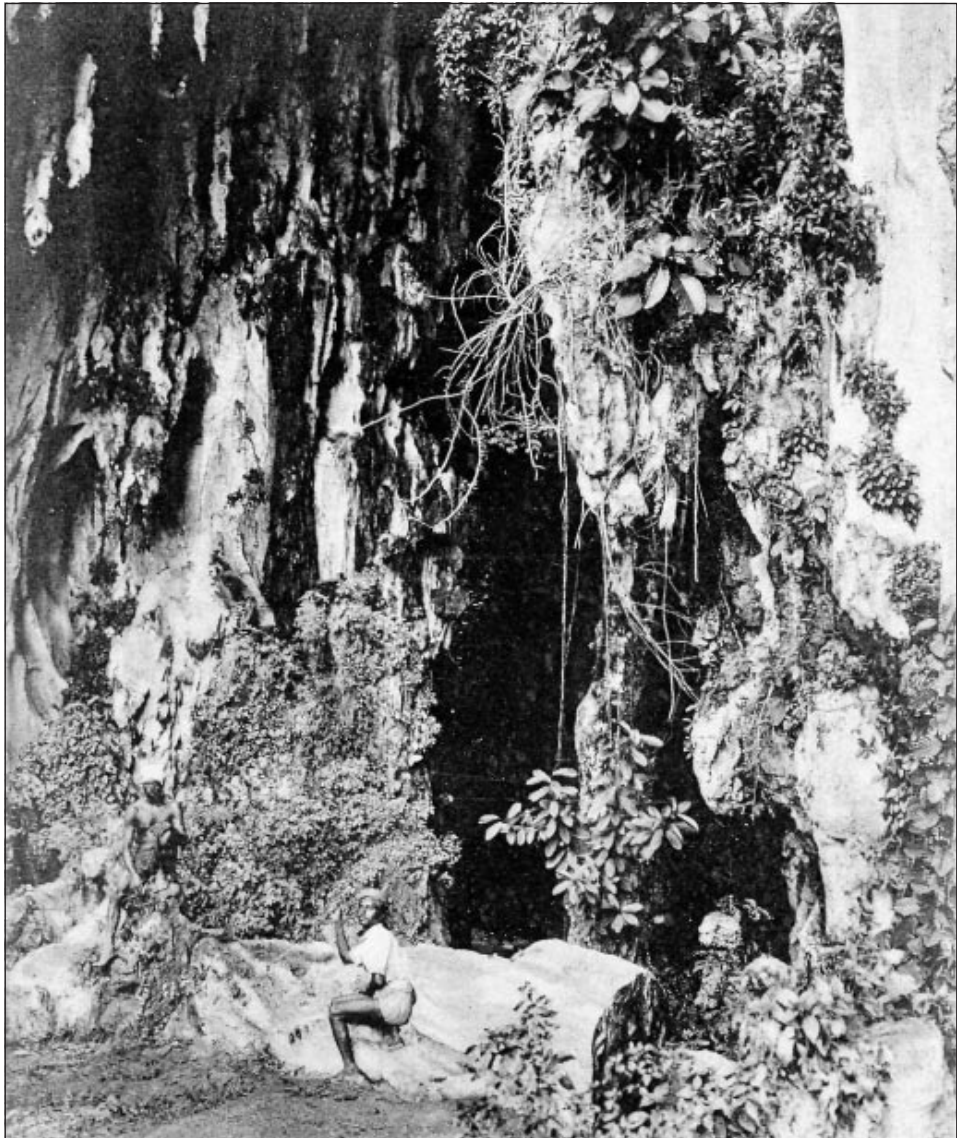
Ridley sent some animal specimens from the 1896 expedition to the British Museum in London, including invertebrates from Dark Cave and some molluscs from the limestone cliffs. However some were lost or muddled up in transit. In 1898 he published a paper on the white snake of the Selangor caves. He and Mr. C.B. Harvey captured several in December 1896 and sent them to the British Museum where they were identified by Mr. Boulenger.

Ridley made the first floral studies of the area. In the 1890's there was still forest up to the base of the Batu Caves hill. The jungle still housed tigers, elephant, seladang, deer and pigs. Many animals used the caves as shelters. The only cleared area was the Jackson's Coffee Estate, also known as the Batu Caves Estate. Ridley stayed there in December 1896. He collected plants from around the Temple Cave, and found many rare species. He also described the topography.

During his investigations Ridley looked at Fallen Cave, Sakai Cave, High Cave and Quarry Cave, although the latter was destroyed before he left Malaya. He did brief archaeological investigations and describes his findings. He saw the Semang rock shelters at Batu Caves, with bamboo beds, screens of palm leaves, and the walls decorated with charcoal sketches, as noted by



*Fig. 4: Hugh Low, 1848.  
J. Soc. Bibliophy nat. Hist. (1968) 4 (7).*



*Fig. 5: Kuala Lumpur - Entrance to Batu Cave (after the postcard G. R. Lambert & Co., Singapore).*

Daly. Ridley also collected in other parts of the country, such as Perak and Perlis. He died less than two months before his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday.

In 1889 Swettenham refused to allow Batu Caves to be turned into a place of worship. A month or two later he refused permission for the Chinese to erect a joss-house at the foot of the caves. Shortly after he denied an application to burn lime there. In 1891 however, the Temple

Cave became the Sri Subramaniam Swamy Temple. The first Thaipusam was held in 1892. Quarrying had begun at Batu Caves by 1896 and destroyed some of the caves.

Meanwhile other caves in the country were still receiving attention. **J. Errington de la CROIX**, who was half English and half French, was sent by the French government in the early 1880's to study the tin industry and geology of Perak. He became a big name in the mining industry.

**Arthur T. DEW** was in northern Perak in November 1883 and went past Bukit Wang with its numerous caves as reported by James Low in 1849, and by William Maxwell. Dew also mentions Batu Chigar near Baling.

The first cave archaeologist in Peninsula Malaya was **Leonard WRAY** junior. He was also the first Curator of the Perak Museum, Taiping, which was set up by Low and Swettenham. Wray pioneered cave explorations and excavations in Perak whilst collecting for the museum. He noted shell and bone deposits in 1880 when he dug Gunung Pondok. In 1891 he dug at Lenggong, but not much is recorded. He excavated Gunung Cheroh for several years and found deposits of shells, bones, stone implements, skeletons, during 1886-1891. He also visited the Kota Gelanggi caves in Pahang, but did not appear to dig there.

Other people had been to Kota Gelanggi. **William CAMERON** mentions four caves there and recorded the stories. Cameron travelled all over Selangor doing survey work, and explored the hills behind Kuala Lumpur. He discovered the Cameron Highlands. He was said to be impractical, especially refinance of his expeditions. He died in Singapore of a fever picked up on one of his trips.

In 1885 and 1888 **Abraham HALE** wrote about the stone age discoveries in Perak.

**Sir Hugh Charles CLIFFORD** (1866-1941) in his stories of 1897, referred to Gunung Senyum and Kota Gelanggi in Pahang. He first came to Malaya at the age of 17, having arrived in Singapore at the end of August 1883. He was posted to Perak where Swettenham found him in 1884, and the two men developed a considerable admiration for each other. They spent Christmas 1885 together in Singapore. Clifford served as an administrator in Perak. On a trip up the Sungkai River he was charged by an elephant and fled panic stricken only to trip up over the roots of a tree to his companions amusement. He visited Kelantan and Terengganu in 1895 on an expedition in pursuit of Pahang Malay rebels.

Clifford later became Resident of Pahang. He and Swettenham produced the first part of a Malay-English dictionary in March 1894. Like Swettenham, he wrote a lot, especially short stories of the Malay Peninsula. In 1901 he was Governor of British North Borneo, and transferred to Trinidad in early 1902.

**W. Bertrand ROBERTS** wrote about the gold mines and limestone hills in Pahang, north of Kuala Lipis, in 1899. He mentions two caves, Gua Bumit and Gua Senoorat, not referred to by others.

**William Walter SKEAT** (14 October 1866 - 24 July 1953) (aka Walter William?) was the son of Walter William Skeat, the Professor of Anglo-Saxon. He was educated at Cambridge, and entered the Selangor Civil Service as an administrator in May 1891. In 1899-1900 he and **F.F. LAIDLAW** were joint leaders of the Cambridge University Expedition which was a party of scientists on an extensive tour of the north east Malay states, including those of southern Siam. Skeat was District Officer at Kuala Langkat around 1895. He was invalided out of service and left Malaya to return to England in April 1900, when he was seriously ill. He died in 1953, having written about the pagan races of Malaya.

Frank Fortescue Laidlaw (1876 - ? ) also went back to England after the Cambridge expedition.

**Thomas Nelson ANNANDALE** (1876 - 1924) was also a member of the Cambridge expedition, from February - August 1899. He was the son of Dr. Thomas Annandale, and was educated at Rugby and Balliol College, Oxford. After the expedition he visited Selangor, Perak and Trang with **H.C. ROBINSON** in 1901 - 1902. He then went on to become Curator of the Indian Museum at Calcutta, and Deputy Superintendent in 1904. He started the Records of the Indian Museum and Memoirs of the Indian Museum, and published a lot in Fasciculi Malayenses. He later made studies of cave fauna. He was founder and Director of the Zoological Survey of India in 1916.

Herbert Christopher Robinson (November 1874 - May 1929) was educated at Marlborough and New College, Oxford. He and Annandale carried out an anthropological and zoological expedition of the Malay Peninsula under the Universities of Edinburgh and Liverpool. The results were published in Fasciculi Malayenses 1903-1907. Robinson was the Curator of the Selangor Museum 1903. In 1908 he succeeded L. Wray as Director of Museums.

Looking through the Malaysian Cave Bibliography (Price 1997) there are other authors not mentioned in this article who have written about caves in the 19th century, especially those who have written in a language other than English. This paper covers the explorers more commonly known, and whose work is in English and readily available.

Spellings of names - people and places - vary throughout the text. These are not typing errors, but follow the spelling used by the original authors.

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## O OBISKOVALCIH JAM V POLOTOŠKI MALEZIJI V 19. STOLETJU

### Povzetek

Človek je poznal jame v Maleziji že od predzgodovinskih časov, ko jih je uporabljal kot zatočišča, taborišča ali skrivališča. Najstarejša taka sled s polotoške Malezije je popolno človeško okostje, tako imenovani Peraški človek iz Gua Gunung Runtuh (Perak), staro 11.000 let. Iz zadnjih 10.000 let poznamo kameno orodje, kosti in keramiko. V Gua Tambunu so tudi jamske slike, stare okoli 2000 let. Predvsem v času dinastije Ming so tukajšnje jame obiskovali Kitajci, zaradi lastovičjih gnezd.

Prvi zapisi o obiski teh jam pa izvirajo šele iz 19. stoletja, ko so jih obiskovali predvsem Evropejci za zabavo, iz vedoželjnosti ali zaradi raziskovanja. Prvi zapis o jamah v gori Keriang je zapustil T. Ward, ki jih je obiskal 1832 - in tudi odbil nekaj kapnikov za raziskave.

Z raziskavami so se v glavnem ukvarjali britanski kolonialni častniki, nastanjeni v Malaji, v 80-tih letih 19. stoletja. V prispevku je naštetih nekaj deset teh prvih raziskovalcev ter so na kratko opisani njihovi dosežki. Leta 1878 so »odkrili« najboljši znane malezijske jame Batu in z njimi seznanili Evropejce. 1898 je Ridley kot prvi raziskoval tamkajšnjo jamsko favno. Konec 19. stoletja so v teh jamah postavili prvi tempelj.

V Bibliografiji o jamah v Maleziji, ki jo je zbrala L. Price, je še več prispevkov iz teh časov, vendar so v tem članku podrobneje obdelani le tisti avtorji, ki so objavili svoja dela v angleščini in ki so razmeroma lahko dostopna.