

PICTURE COVERS – REAL CAVES

CHINA

Moon-in-Water Cave

Elephant Trunk Hill, Guilin

PC-RE-CN1 China ca.2000

CD: GUILIN SHAN SHUI

Perf: 余亦五 **YU Yiwo** (Yu Yi Wu) (Contemporary)

Label: Meika MKJP-0003D

Photo: (Color) (?)

Notes: Elephant Trunk Hill is a major, much-visited landmark located at the confluence of the Peach Blossom River and the Li River, practically in the center of the city. It is considered so significant that it has become the symbol of the city, depicted as a logo on the labels



of many commercial items such as local green tea and canned preserves. The “elephant trunk” is created by a cave remnant tunnel, called Moon-In-Water Cave, running through the north end of a tower karst hill. It can be reached by foot trails around the back end of the hill where there are two entrances; the large arched main tunnel entrance and a smaller phreatic tube, which breaks into the southwest wall of the tunnel. The tunnel itself is 25m long, 10m wide, and 12m high bearing northwest while the small side passage bearing north is 13m long and 2m in diameter. A shallow meter-wide water channel runs down the middle of the tunnel with ledges on either side. Inside and outside the cave are many stone inscriptions of poems by poets and painters of the Song Dynasty (960-1279 AD). Stone picnic tables and stools are set under a partially man-made

overhang at the south base of the hill next to the cave, where musicians sometimes come and play.

Further southwest and two-thirds of the way up the sheer wall is Elephant Eye Cave, another tunnel cave running right through the hill. On this photo it is the small dark entrance in the cliff beneath the pagoda, which is perched on top of the hill. This cave is 52m long, ranging from 5 to 10m wide.

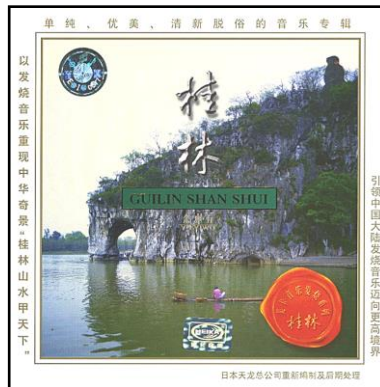
The same photo is reproduced on the CD label (see under Picture Discs – China).

For more information on the cave-inspired music on this album see under Contemporary Art Music – Fusion.

Ref: Brison, David N. 2008, Field Checking Some Chinese Cave Stamps, *Speleophilately International*, n. 83, Mar. 2008, p. 11-12

Elephant Trunk Hill, Description, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elephant_Trunk_Hill)

Elephant Trunk Hill, Guilin, [travelchinaguide](http://travelchinaguide.com)



Purple Dragon Cave

Hangzhou, [Huan Chou (sic)]

PC-RE-CN2 United States 1982

LP: SEASONS OF THE HEART

Perf: John Denver (Country)

Label: (LP) RCA LP 6032/PL14256

(Gatefold cover)

(CD) RCA PCLD 14319 (1990)

Photo: (Color) John Denver, Summer 1981

Title of Photo: John Denver / Self Portrait II

Notes: This photo was taken by John Denver on his trip to China in the summer of 1981. Then in October 1992, he undertook a multiple-city tour of the People's Republic of China.



The cover shows a long stone stairway leading down at the base of a sheer wall, all backlit by daylight from the cave entrance. A man with red shirt (John Denver), his face in shadow, descends the stairs. Paving slabs cover the cave floor.

So far all efforts to identify and locate this cave in guidebooks, maps, and Web sites have been unsuccessful. The location given on the inner sleeve notes is "Huan Chou," but this is obviously a phonetic spelling of Hangzhou. All attempts to find this cave have failed.

There is a Purple Cloud Cave in the Yellow Dragon Cave Park in Hangzhou, but this is a large shallow shelter cave in metamorphic rocks, which has been turned into a religious shrine. Could also be Yellow Dragon Cave, a vast formation cave situated on the rear hill of Xixialing in West Lake tourist zone in Hangzhou City. Then there is Purple Source Cave is one of the "seven ancient caves of The West Lake," a large, tranquil cave housing a number of Buddhist carvings. May be one of these or none of these.

Ref: John Denver, Seasons of the Heart LP, [Discogs](#)

Purple Source Cave, Jade Emperor Hill, [bamboocompass](#)

Seasons of the Heart (Album), [Wikipedia](#)

Yellow Dragon Cave, How to Visit Yellow Dragon Cave, [china-travel-blogs](#)

Yellow Dragon Cave, [zhangjiajie.gov.cn](#)

Likiang Tower Karst

Guangxi

PC-RE-CN3 West Germany 1987

LP: CHINA

Perf: Paul Horn (World)

Label: (LP) Kuckuck KUCK 080 & (CD) Kuckuck CD 080

Photo: (Color) Thomas **Nebbia**

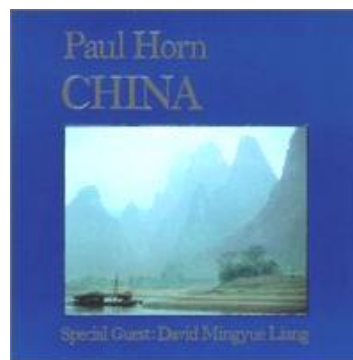
Notes: A special exception has been made here for an outstanding LP cover that shows no caves, only the renowned tower karst of south China. Seven steep-walled karst towers can be seen in the distance through a thick haze. In the left foreground a low-slung riverboat with one mast and a cabin in the stern is drawn up to the flat shore of the river. Up on the bank on the right is a small grove of trees. The low, sandy banks of the river, the trees, the vegetation, and the karst towers all correspond very well with the typical landscapes along the Lijiang River in the tower karst region south of Guilin, Guangxi province.

What makes this cover so special is that it is the only one known that shows this classic tower karst.

Ref: Drogue, C. & Bidaux, P. 1992, Structural & Hydrogeological Origin of Tower Karst in Southern China

(Lijiang Plain in the Guilin Region), Abstract, Karstbase, [speleogenesis.info](#)

Paul Horn, China LP, [Discogs](#)



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