

# PICTURE COVERS – REAL CAVES

## THAILAND

### Tham Tapu

Khoa Ping Kan, Ao Phang-nga National Park, Phang-nga

**PC-RE20** Thailand ca.Late 1970s

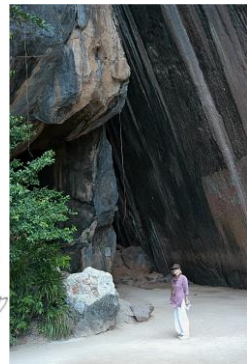
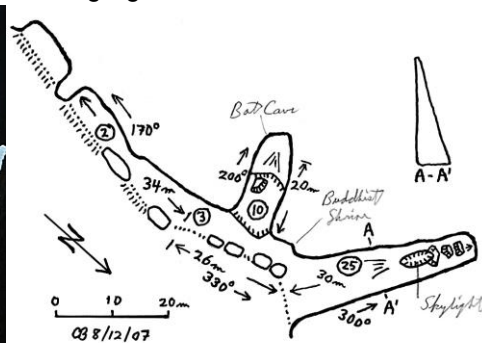
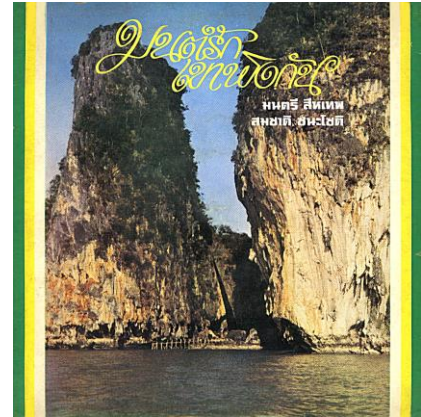
**EP:** MON RAK KHAO PING KAN

**Perf:** (?) (World)

**Label:** Supanahong KTE-090

**Photo:** (?)

**Notes:** A view of the limestone cliffs and beach at the southeast end of Khoa Pink Kan (also known as James Bond Island) in the period before the beach became infested with tourist souvenir stands. The name of this island translates as “Two Lovers Together,” which refers to the two karst towers that almost touch. A shallow cave runs about 60 meters along the base of the cliff (bottom left on cover) with several massive stalactites and flowstone hanging from the dripline. It links with a high fault cave (seen in center of cover photo & shown in photo below right), which is 30m deep, 25m high with skylight, and bears west-northwest. A huge flat-surfaced slab leaning against the cliff seems to have created this section of the cave by displacement along a fault zone. Another branch passage heads southwest for 20m into the dark zone and bats manage to sleep here during the day despite the huge influx of tourists that come by boat from three directions – Phuket, Krabi, and Phang-nga.



My sketch map (dated Dec. 12, 2007) shows the littoral solution cave pockets that stretch along the base of the cliff, the 20m deep bat cave, and the 30m deep fault cave.

For the James Bond film, “The Man with the Golden Gun,” (1974) scenes of the entrance to a secret laboratory were filmed at this cave [fault cave]. (Dunkley 1995)

**Ref:** Dunkley, John R. 1995, *The Caves of Thailand*, Speleological Research Council Ltd., Sidney, p. 111

Khoa Ping Kan, History & Geography, [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Khoa_Ping_Kan)