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Titolo	In the maw of the earth monster : mesoamerican ritual cave use // edited by James E. Brady and Keith M. Prufer
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Collana	The Linda Schele series in Maya and pre-Columbian studies
Altri autori (Persone)	BradyJames Edward <1948-> PruferKeith M <1960-> (Keith Malcolm)
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Introduction : a history of Mesoamerican cave interpretation / James E. Brady and Keith M. Prufer -- Rites of passage and other ceremonies in caves / Doris Heyden -- The cave-pyramid complex among the contemporary Nahua of northern Veracruz / Alan R. Sandstrom -- Constructing mythic space : the significance of a chicomoztoc complex at Acatzingo Viejo / Manuel Aguilar ... [et al.] -- Pre-Hispanic rain ceremonies in Blade Cave, Sierra Mazateca, Oaxaca, Mexico / Janet Fitzsimmons -- Sacred caves and rituals from the northern Mixteca of Oaxaca, Mexico : new revelations / Carlos Rincon Mautner -- Some notes on ritual caves among the ancient and modern Maya / Evon Z. Vogt and David Stuart -- Shamans, caves, and the roles of ritual specialists in Maya society / Keith M. Prufer -- Cave stelae and megalithic monuments in western Belize / Jaime J. Awe, Cameron Griffith, and Sherry Gibbs -- A cognitive approach to artifact distribution in caves of the Maya area / Andrea Stone -- Cluster

concentrations, boundary markers, and ritual pathways : a GIS analysis of artifact cluster patterns at Actun Tunichil, Muknal, Belize / Holley Moyes -- Ethnographic notes on Maya Q'eqchi' cave rites : implications for archaeological interpretation / Abigail E. Adams and James E. Brady -- A Lacandon religious ritual in the cave of the god Tsibana at the holy lake of Mensabok in the rainforest of Chiapas / Jaroslaw Theodore Petryshyn -- Beneath the Yalahau : emerging patterns of ancient Maya ritual cave use from northern Quintana Roo, Mexico / Dominique Rissolo -- Caves, karst, and settlement at Mayapan, Yucatan / Clifford T. Brown -- Concluding comments / Keith M. Prufer and James E. Brady.

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### Sommario/riassunto

As portals to the supernatural realm that creates and animates the universe, caves have always been held sacred by the peoples of Mesoamerica. From ancient times to the present, Mesoamericans have made pilgrimages to caves for ceremonies ranging from rituals of passage to petitions for rain and a plentiful harvest. So important were caves to the pre-Hispanic peoples that they are mentioned in Maya hieroglyphic writing and portrayed in the Central Mexican and Oaxacan pictorial codices. Many ancient settlements were located in proximity to caves. This volume gathers papers from twenty prominent Mesoamerican archaeologists, linguists, and ethnographers to present a state-of-the-art survey of ritual cave use in Mesoamerica from Pre-Columbian times to the present. Organized geographically, the book examines cave use in Central Mexico, Oaxaca, and the Maya region. Some reports present detailed site studies, while others offer new theoretical understandings of cave rituals. As a whole, the collection validates cave study as the cutting edge of scientific investigation of indigenous ritual and belief. It confirms that the indigenous religious system of Mesoamerica was and still is much more terrestrially focused that has been generally appreciated.

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