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Ezio Burri (1946-2021)

Jo De Waele

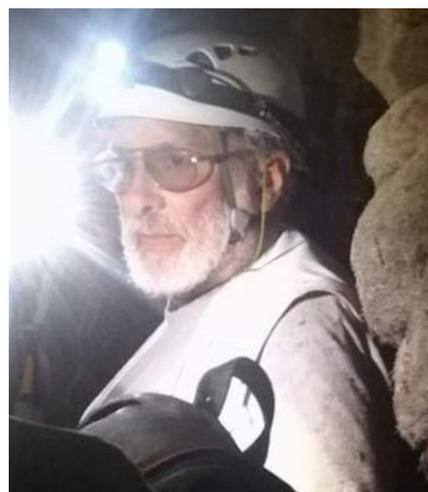
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Ezio Burri, the former Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Speleology (IJS), has died from complications after a routine surgery on July 2021. With Ezio's passing, the speleological and karst community lost an important colleague.

I took over Ezio's editorship of the IJS in 2004. Finding papers to be published and ways of raising funds to secure its printing, was a titanic effort, and Ezio has been capable of doing this from the mid 90's to 2004. Especially thanks to his efforts the IJS survived during those difficult times. When I stepped in, the solidity of internet and e-mails made my job much easier. If IJS is still being published and has gained its authority in the cave and karst science world, it is also thanks to the passion and work of Ezio during those "dark ages".

Besides being editor of IJS, Ezio has been the Vice-president of the Italian Speleological Society, and an important founder and organizer of speleology in his own territory, Abruzzo. He taught *Geography* and *Landscape and Geomorphology* for over 25 years at L'Aquila University, guiding many students into the fields of speleology. The final part of his career was especially dedicated to exploration and study of artificial caves and urban speleology, with expeditions in Iran (Fig. 1) and Turkey (Capadocia); Ezio was one of the greatest experts on *qanats* (i.e., a system for transporting water via an underground aqueduct from an aquifer or well to the surface). His main efforts were dedicated to the illustration and description of the wonders of his home region (Abruzzo) and the Majella Mountains, as well as the plain of Fucino and its historical meaning. Reading and browsing through his well-illustrated books (Ezio was an excellent photographer!) are a nice way of remembering him; they contain breathtaking images of mountains, and the relationships between local people and the natural landscape.

Have a safe "voyage", Ezio.



Ezio Burri



Fig. 1. Ezio Burri in Iran during his last expedition.