

of investigation which has been going on for many years. One is an account of the development of the Monte Cucco caves, emphasizing the probable role of neotectonic movements in causing downward shifts of base level. The other details a series of micro-erosion meter measurements made over nine years on bare limestone near Trieste. The data in this study is outstanding for its completeness and for the length of time for which the experiment has been pursued. Though short, both papers deserve an international audience. I shall be referring to them both in my own work.

Overall, then, this double issue of the *International Journal of Speleology* is a mixture of the brief but concentrated and the brief but slight. Only one paper was out of place in an international journal, but I nevertheless hungered for more that I could get my teeth into. This begs the question, does speleology really need an international journal? Who reads it and why? Perhaps the longer contributions that are missing here have already appeared in the wider geological literature. I suspect that the uncertain tone which I have commented upon may result from speleology's ambiguous relationship with earth and biological sciences in general. If we are honest, we should see speleology as an interdisciplinary focus, not as a discipline in itself. Yet we want to retain a separate identity. Why? Perhaps it is because the exploration of caves, which is so necessary a first step in their study, really does set speleologists apart from other types of scientists. But in that case, the real discipline is the physical exploration, not the science which we conduct underground. So there is an argument for reporting the best of the science in the international literature of each scientific discipline, rather than in a journal labelled 'speleology' which only speleologists read. Where does that leave journals like this one? Well, there is a real need for periodic review papers of the various topics within the overall interdisciplinary field of speleology. Without such reviews, no one speleological specialist would be aware of what other specialists were doing in caves and karst. Such reviews, appearing regularly as a kind of 'Progress in Speleology', would make the *International Journal of Speleology*, essential reading rather than merely interesting.

*Naš Krš, Bulletin of the Speleological Society Bosansko-Hercegovački Krš* vols. 9-14, 1980-1988. ISSN 0351 1502. Obtainable from Speleoško Društvo 'Bosansko-Hercegovački Krš', Obala V. Stepe 21, YU-71000 Sarajevo, Yugoslavia at DM 10.—each.  
(reviewed by T. R. Shaw)

A journal of international relevance, published largely in the English language, deserves to be widely known. *Naš Krš* (Our Karst), published in Sarajevo by the Speleological Society of Bosnia and Hercegovina, had until 1987 all its main papers published bilingually, in Serbo-Croat or Slovene and in English. In the latest issue each paper has only a summary in English.

It is not surprising that in a country 25 per cent. of whose surface is karst, much research is continually going on—enough to support several journals of high calibre including *Acta Carsologica*, *Krš Jugoslavije*, *Naše jame*, and the *Naš Krš* under review. Because of the economic importance of karst research there, much of it is done by professional geographers, geologists, archaeologists, biologists and speleologists on the staffs of karst institutes and the like, many of them highly qualified and with access to good libraries. The economic and civil engineering aspects ensure that much of the work is in 'applied speleology' or the interaction of karst and man—the theme of

the 1987 International Geographical Union conference in Postojna. Ivory tower karst is rare in Yugoslavia.

The fact that the work reported is mostly done in southern Europe does not prevent its results being applicable elsewhere—the conclusions, the techniques, the data made available for incorporation in wider studies. Some typical subjects covered in the last nine years, including those of widest interest, are listed below:

dating of speleothems and hence of cave development stages	1980
equipment for water level measurement in caves	1980
legal protection of caves	1980
correlation of karst and tectonic features	1981
karst spring data 4th century B.C. to 1479 A.D.	1981
organisms as indicators of groundwater connections	1982
relation between thermal and cold waters in the same aquifers	1982
statistical interpretation of karst forms	1983
Pleistocene birds as food remains in caves	1983
modern development of cave tourism	1983
application of geophysical methods in karst areas	1984
caves in Columbia	1984 and 1986
speleothem deterioration by frost and from ground surface modification	1985
sewage contamination through cave roofs	1985
simulation of cave profile changes in speleogenesis	1985
cause of cave painting deterioration	1986
karst changes deduced from historic engravings and photographs	1986
climatic influence on karst process intensity	1986
acid rain on karst	1986
a precipitation/runoff model for karstic regions	1987
Fourier analysis of underground meanders (developed from Bristol work by Hanna and High)	1987
Martel in Yugoslavia	1988

The dangers of being unaware of a major foreign publication like this are obvious. A classic case of what can happen occurred when W. M. Davis reinvented the concept of speleogenesis by phreatic water, which had been published by Grund in Germany some twenty years earlier and widely discussed in the European literature. These days we are aided by *Current titles in speleology* and *Speleological abstracts*, but *Naš Krš* has evaded even one of them.

MAY, Fabienne. *Les sépultures préhistoriques*. Paris, Editions du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique. 1986. x, 264 pp. A4. ISBN 2 222 03730 1. Price FF 350 [£37.50 post free from Museum Bookshop, Great Russell Street, London W.C. 1].  
(reviewed by L. V. Grinsell)

This book would seem to be the first comprehensive study of burial in the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods (the French using the term 'protohistorique' for Neolithic to Iron Age). The text is in three parts: I, history of discovery of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic burials; II, types of receptacle and forms and postures of burial; and III, miscellaneous aspects including determination of sex and age and the use of ochre.

One gets the impression that the research for this volume has been done with unduly limited library facilities. The list of periodicals consulted does not include *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, let alone *Proceedings of the University of Bristol Speleological Society*. The bibliography lacks finish: for example Baudoin, Binford, Bouyssonie, Chauvet, Franchet, Leroy and several others are quoted without initials.