The authors are well-known historians of speleology at a top level. They have produced a number of fascinating books both individually and together, but this one exceeds expectations.

The Introduction describes in detail the karst from a geological, historical, anthropological, and environmental point of view. This is followed by four sections dealing with the lakes of Cerknica and Rakov Škocjan, the caves of Postojna, the caves of Škocjan and Vilenica, and some other cavities.

The text in each of these sections is built on a tremendous amount of information from antiquity to the present. The documents consulted and duly reported were extracted from archives and libraries after an incredible effort to identify and trace them in dusty shelves. Anyone involved in similar activities is well aware of the amount of work beyond each single piece of paper. Therefore, this book is a gold mine to anyone searching for information on various aspects related to caves and karst environments of Slovenia. Since the region taken into account is the area where speleology developed, the book is a must for anyone interested in this branch of science. Its elegance and very accurate production should also be emphasized.

Arrigo A. Cigna