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GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS

BY NORRIS AND
ROSS McWHIRTER

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Duration. The endurance record for staying in a cave is 463 days by Milutin Veljkovic in the Samar Cavern, Kopajkosari, Yugoslavia from June 24, 1969 to September 30, 1970.

World's Deepest Caves

According to the latest available revised measurements, the deepest caves in the world are:

Feet	Cave	Location
4,300	Gouffre de la Pierre Saint Martin (1966)	Básses-Pyrénées, France/ Spain
3,750	Gouffre Berger	Sornin Plateau, Vercors, France
3,051	Réseau Trombe	Pyrénées, Haute-Garonne, France
2,906	Spluga della Preta	Lessinische Alps, Italy
2,641	Antro di Corchia	Apuanian Alps, Italy
2,573	Grotta del Monte Cucco	Perugia, Italy

Note: The Provetina Cave, Greece, has the world's longest vertical pitch of 1,298 feet. The highest known cave entrance in the world is that of the Rakhiot Cave, Nanga Parbat, Kashmir, at 21,860 feet.

Chess

Origins. The name chess is derived from the Persian word *shah*. It is a descendant of the game *Chaturanga*. The earliest reference is from the Middle Persian *Karnamak* (c. 590-628). It reached Britain in c. 1255. The *Fédération Internationale des Echecs* was established in 1924. There were an estimated 7,000,000 registered players in the U.S.S.R. in 1972.

World Champions. François André Danican, *alias* Philidor (1726-95), of France claimed the title of "world champion" from 1747 until his death. World champions have been generally recognized since 1843. The longest tenure has been 27 years by Dr. Emanuel Lasker (1868-1941) of Germany, from 1894 to 1921. The youngest was Paul Charles Morphy (1837-84) of New Orleans, who won the title in 1858, when aged 21, and held it until 1862.

The women's world championship was won three times by Yelizaveta Bykova (U.S.S.R.) in 1953, 1958, and 1960. (See photo, next page.)

The world team championship (instituted 1927) has been won most often by the U.S.S.R.—11 times consecutively since 1952.

Longest Games. The most protracted chess game on record was one drawn on the 191st move between H. Pilnik (Argentina) and Moshe Czerniak (Israel) at Mar del Plata, Argentina, in April, 1950. The total playing time was 20 hours. A game of 21½ hours, but drawn on the 171st move (average over 7½ minutes per move), was played between Makagonov and Chekover at Baku, U.S.S.R., in 1945. A game of 221 moves between Kenneth Rogoff (U.S.) and Arthur Williams (U.K.) was played in Stockholm, Sweden, in August, 1969, but required only 4 hours 25 mins.