



Limestone resources for hydraulic lime production in medieval Bohemia (Czech Republic)

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Natural hydraulic binders were important for development of large engineering structures before invention of Portland cement. Hydraulic binders have been used from antiquity as documented by the use of Roman cement in ancient Rome, pozzolanic additives to lime binders for marine constructions in the Mediterranean, and hydraulic limes for engineering works in medieval Europe.

Historically, some areas of Bohemia (Czech Republic) are known to produce hydraulic limes of excellent quality. Limestone resources suitable for burning excellent hydraulic limes were quarried in the surroundings of Bohemia capital Prague. Their use can be documented from Romanesque period (Judita Bridge construction), through Gothic (Charles Bridge construction) and Baroque (construction of churches) periods till 19th century. According to written records Czech hydraulic limes were exported to many places in Europe, namely to Italy where it was known as *pasta di Praga*. This study gives overview of resources used for the production of hydraulic lime in the Czech Republic and presents some typical examples of their use in the old architecture.