



## **Inventory and Provenance of decoration stones in the interior of the Teplá**

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Since the foundation of the Norbertine (Premonstratensian) monastery of Teplá in 1193, several construction-phases occurred, which make the buildings an exceptional example for the usage of natural stones throughout the centuries and the economic development of the monastery itself. The main construction phases were in the Romanic-Gothic period, when the church was erected and then during Baroque times, when the majority of the convent buildings were built. A major extension of the monastery with the new library and a museum dates to the end of the 19th and the early years of the 20th century.

The interior of the church contains mostly rocks from nearby quarries (trachyte from the Špičák hill, Permocarboniferous conglomerate from the Manětín basin, marble from Výškovice and serpentinite from Mníchov). Additionally limestones from the Barrandian near Prague, from Germany, Austria and Italy were used.

In the baroque edifices natural stones are sparsely used. Door-frames, window-frames and the frames of the access-panels for the ovens were constructed of trachyte. The floor is covered by either concrete-stones containing serpentinite or by terrazzo. The floor of the newly renovated convent building is covered by trachytic slabs.

The neo-baroque buildings constructed at the beginning of the 20th century are richly decorated with natural stones. The floors are covered by concrete-stones, the stairs consist of trachyte. The columns and balustrades are made from different combinations of limestones from Adnet and Untersberg (Austria), from Verona (Italy) and marble from Carrara (Italy). The window-sills in these buildings deserve special at-

tention. In the library they were made of black golden-veined Portoro limestone from Porto Venere (Italy), in the neighbouring rooms a yellow, red-veined limestone from Siklos (Hungaria) was identified. Limestone from Untersberg was also used for the window-sills in the library, while in the museum they were made of Slivenec limestone from quarries near Prague.

The example of the Teplá monastery shows that the use of valuable decoration stones was limited to local resources in the first centuries of the development of the monastery. In Baroque times the wealth of the monastery allowed to use imported limestones of the Barrandian zone in Central Bohemia around Prague and later on the modern infrastructure allowed to import “exotic” stones from far sources.