

Rila Monastery

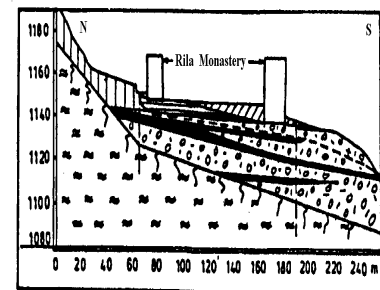
The monastery is located into the Rila Mountain, with the highest point of the Balkan Peninsula - Mousala Peak (2925 m). From geological point of view the mountain represents an uplifted tectonical block, which consists of crystalline rocks intruded by different in age granites. The intensive uplifting has determined a deep entrenchment of the river network and very active slope processes. The relief is of Alpine type. The monastery is built on a high river terrace (1100 m above s. l.) consisting of Quaternary alluvial and proluvial coarse sediments intercalated with plastic clays. The total thickness of the Quaternary is from 16 m to 45 m.

The Quaternary is placed on gneisses and amphibolites. The ground water level is between 6 and 11.5 m. High seismic activity - IX degree (MSK - 64), being at 50 km to the Kroupnik seismic fault (M=7.8). Some subsidence fracture into the bearing walls around the windows and beneath the perches have been formed.



Engineering geological and seismic studies and estimations on the building site as well as the localities have been carried.

Full scale dynamic tests have been performed. A local network of accelerometers for the monitoring of the strong ground motions was established.



This is the biggest and most representative monastery in Bulgaria, created in the Xth Century. The Monastery was a very important spiritual and literary center, of great historical significance. It is spectacular with its size, architecture and landscape. Numerous world value monuments of the history, culture, architecture, art of painting, wood-carving and music are preserved into the museum and the library.

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 Brouchev, Il., Frangov, G., Varbanov, R., Ivanov, P. Geological Hazards in the Western Peryphery of the Rhodope Region. 2001. Geologica Balcanica, Spec Issue "Geological Hazards, Late Alpine tectonics and neotectonics in the Rhodope Region" 31, 1-2.