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LARGEST PROJECT LAUNCHED

The Reconstruction of the Great 1816–1821 Lodge



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Brief Reminder

The great fire 2004. In the night between March 3 and 4, 2004, Hilandar monastery was caught up in a great fire. The flame started from one of the chimneys belonging to the northwestern Abbot's Lodge (Hegumenariya) and the fire quickly swept over the stone-coated wooden roof, spreading onto the entire northern half of the monastery complex. The devastating blaze inflicted grave damage, completely destroying 54.5% of the complex, or 5897 out of 10,813 square meters of usable space. Tiers of spiritual, architectural and artistic heritage laid down mostly between the end of the 16th and the mid-19th century, with certain, especially lower parts, built much earlier, perished in flames, one after another. As many as four chapels (pareklisia) were severely damaged or completely destroyed, along with the oldest building with monastic cells on Mount Athos, known as the White Lodge, dating back to the end of the 16th century. The 2004 fire was the worst disaster since 1722, when almost the entire southern wing of the monastery had been burnt to the ground.

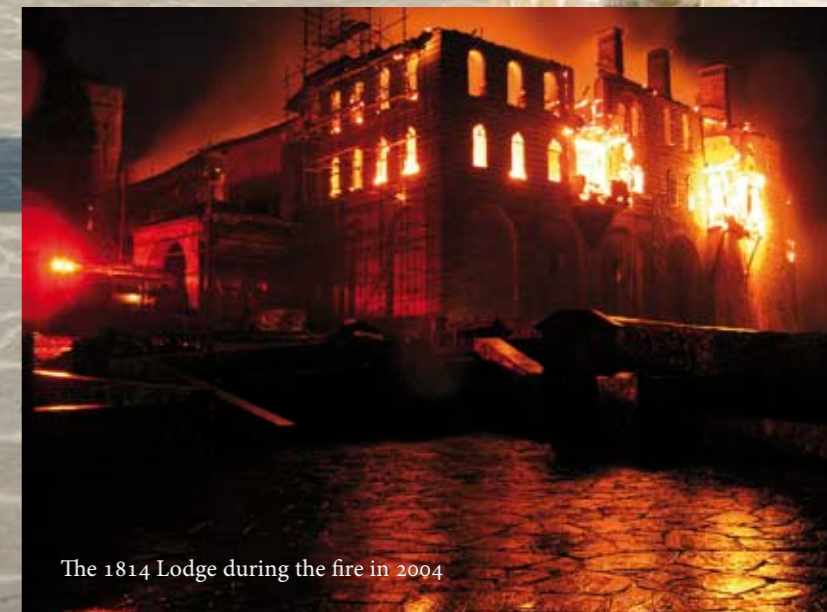
The grand venture of restoring Hilandar to its original state started immediately after the fire. Simultaneously, the aim of this complex enterprise is to prevent similar catastrophes from happening ever again, and, generally speaking, to preserve and improve all vital capacities of the monastery together with its invaluable heritage. The complete reconstruction of the portion of the monastery destroyed in the fire is projected to last till 2014. Total costs are estimated at around 25,000,000 euros.



The fire stopped near Holy Archangels' Church and Saint Sava's Tower



Successful reconstruction of the first edifice, the 1814 Lodge



The 1814 Lodge during the fire in 2004

Most Important Projects Completed in 2004–2007



Clearing the ruins

2004/2005 – Clearing the ruins – saving the survived objects from heaps of rubble, restoring the basic infrastructure, securing conditions for basic activities of the Monastery and preparing the ground for the proper reconstruction work.



Worker's Lodgings, the new Bakery in upper left corner

2004 – The Workers' Lodgings, Workshops and the Bakery – building the necessary workshops and dormitories just outside the monastery walls, as well as the Bakery to replace the one destroyed in the fire. *(The new Bakery has been completely built thanks to the magnanimous contribution of Friends of Mount Athos from Great Britain.)*



Heybarn Complex after reconstruction

2006/2007 – Reconstruction of all three buildings of the Heybarn Complex (Senara) placed under the northern walls of Hilandar. The complex is set to replace the destroyed lodgings for visitors and can accommodate more than 100 persons.



Doorkeeper's Room, interior

2005 – The Doorkeeper's Room (Portarnitsa) – reconstructing the object on the left hand side of the monastery gates to serve temporarily as a reception area and a bookshop.



Treasury, an exhibition setting

2006 – The part of the Hilandar Treasury was reopened for visitors in April 2006 following a detailed reconstruction of the building that had started back in 2000.



Mulekeepers' House, interior



Heybarn Complex before reconstruction



The Cell of St Stefan on Samaria Hill before reconstruction



The Cell of St Stefan on Samaria Hill after reconstruction

Total reconstruction of the chapel of Saint Stefan on Samarija Hill (the single individual donation).



Barn edifice, interior



Heybarn Lodge after reconstruction, interior



The 1814 Lodge, the bookstore, ground floor

Alongside these projects, works on developing new ones, on improving the infrastructure, protecting and preserving the endangered static and movable heritage are all in full swing. A separate group of projects is underway on Monastery properties in Karyes, the capital of Mount Athos. The restoration of the cell of Saint Sava was completed in 2007, while the reconstruction of the great lodge and several smaller cells is in progress.



The great lodge in Karyes



The Flaska Cell, interior



The Cell of Saint Sava in Karyes



The 1814 Lodge after reconstruction, view from the Heybarn Complex

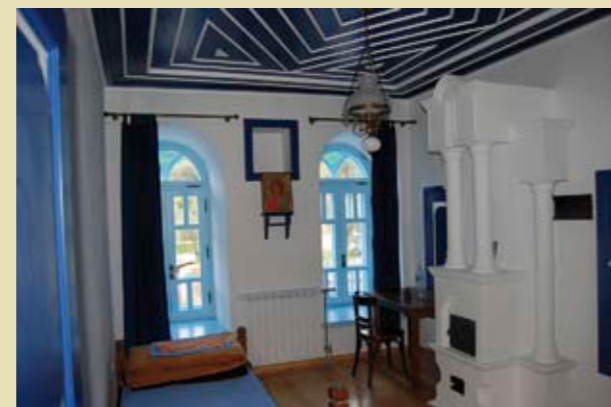
2006/2007 – Reconstruction of the 1814 Lodge. The lodge, situated inside the monastery walls at the northern side immediately after the entrance gates, comprises a basement, the ground floor hosting a new bookshop, the first floor containing cells for special guests, and the second floor with the assembly hall for the Monastery Synod (Synodik). The refurbishment of the second floor is to be fully completed this spring, once the adjacent Saint Nicholas' Chapel has been secured and the temporary steel braces supporting the walls removed.



The Flaska Cell, walls securing



The 1814 Lodge, cellar with preserved and exhibited remainings of old architecture details



The cell for special guests, the first floor



The Flaska Cell, walls securing

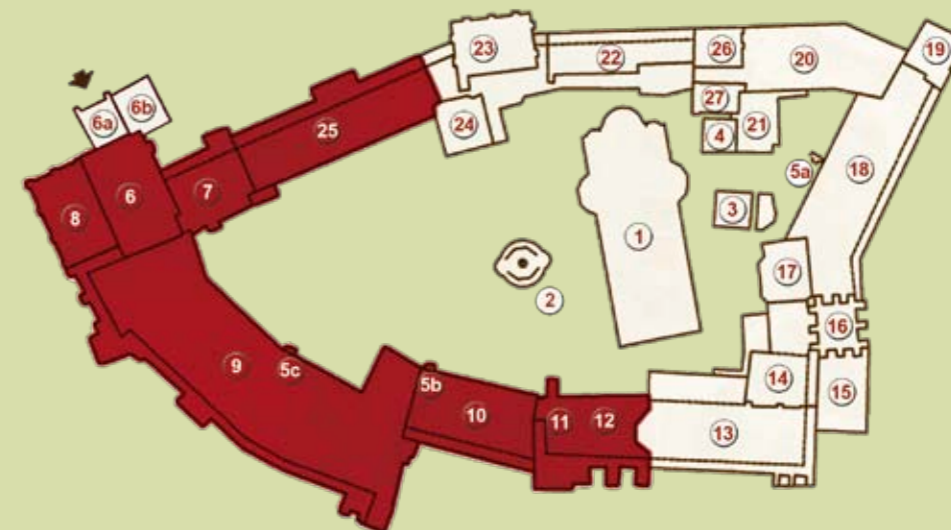


The chapel of Flaska Cell

Fire Damage and Main Works

The list of Hilandar's objects:

- 1 Main (Saint King Milutin's) church – beginning of the 14th century
- 2 Phiale – 1784, 1847
- 3 Cistern – 1682
- 4 Saint Sava's Well – probably from the time of the old monastery, floor before 1757
- 5a Drinking fountain in southern part
- 5b Drinking fountain near bakery – end of 18th century
- 5c Stone-clad drinking fountain – 1816
- 6 Entrance and gates – 1603, 1627/1628
- 6a Vestibule of the first gate – 1635
- 6b Doorkeeper's Room – probably after 1809
- 7 Old Lodge – beginning of the 14th century, 1816–1821.
- 8 1814 Lodge
- 9 1816–1821 Lodge
- 10 1640 Lodge (Dohia)
- 11 St. Dimitrios' and St. Sava's of Serbia chapels – 1652, 1774
- 12 Abbot's Lodge – 1651/1652, 1779, 1891
- 13 Refectory – around 1310, around 1620
- 14 Structures by the Refectory – around 1652
- 15 Large kitchen – 17th century
- 16 St. George's Tower – around 1200, 1671
- 17 Holy Apostles and the Nativity of the Theotokos chapels – 1784 or 1792–1804
- 18 Southern Lodge – 17th century, 1784
- 19 Paisie's Cell – before 1643
- 20 Hospital – 1646, 1893
- 21 Ecclesiarch's House – 1646, 1810–1812
- 22 Treasury – 1970
- 23 Saint Sava's Tower – around 1200, beginning of the 14th century, around 1680
- 24 Holy Archangels' Church – probably endowment of emperor Dusan, 14th century
- 25 "White Lodge" – renewed 1598
- 26 Bell Tower – 1757
- 27 Saint Simeon's Cell – around 1200



● damaged

○ undamaged

■ main works



Workers' Lodgings
Reconstruction (2004)

Doorkeeper's Room
Reconstruction (2005)

White Lodge
Temporary walls
securing & reinforcement
(2006–2007)

Treasury
Reconstruction
(2000–2006)

St. Nicholas' Chapel
Temporary construction
reinforcement & protective
roof construction
(2005–2006, 2008)

Heybarn Complex
Reconstruction (2005–2006)

1814 Lodge
Reconstruction
(2006–2007)

1816–1821 Lodge
Reconstruction (2007–2010)

Temporary construction
securing (2005)



Saint Nicholas' Chapel, after the fire, view from the south



St Nicholas' Chapel, entrance, before the fire



St Nicholas' Chapel, entrance, after the fire



Tightening of the object with steel braces in the base area

Ongoing Project Securing the Construction of Saint Nicholas' Chapel

February – June 2008

The chapel is situated on the second level, above the roofed portion of the monastery entrance, between the 2nd and the 3rd gate. The first Saint Nicholas' Chapel was most likely built in the 14th century, and its original location had been a couple of meters to the east, on top of St. Nicholas' Tower that collapsed in the 16th century when a powerful earthquake hit Mount Athos.

The inscription carved into a stone plate on the western wall reads that the chapel was built by Abbot Victor. Above the entrance inside the church, there is a caption saying that the church frescos were painted by Priest Danilo in 1667, with the support of the "ktitor hieromonk Victor", during the Patriarch Maksim of Serbia.

The gravest damage the building suffered in the 2004 fire, barring the frescos (which are mostly discoloured, preserving only the shades of grey and yellow, but still strangely radiating), occurred when a pillar at the southwestern corner of the chapel collapsed. The base of the pillar had most likely contained wooden beams that perished in the blaze. The southwestern part of the arch, right above the naos, together with the parts of the southern and western walls joined at the southwestern corner of the building, cracked in the upper area, shifting around 4cm in the southwestern direction. The mezzanine construction was burnt down so that the entire floor loosened and consequently collapsed. All wooden parts of windows and doors were completely incinerated. The iconostasis together with the seats (stasidias) was reduced to ashes as well. As a consequence, the largest portion of the mortar plastered in 1816–1821 fell off from the western facade.

The project of securing the chapel's construction involves tightening of the object with steel braces on both top and base area, and installing braces in the southern wall using existing wall openings. Arches of the chapel will be additionally supported by iron braces at the southern and eastern wing of the chapel. The roof over the vestry next to the chapel will be rebuilt as well. This portion of the monastery will be fully restored once the projects of reconstructing the entrance and the Old Lodge from the 14th century are completed, which is planned for 2009 and 2010.

The Saint Nicholas' Chapel project was launched in February, marking the beginning of the 2008 working season, and is due to be finished in the spring of the same year. As soon as the project is completed, temporary steel braces going through the wall of the 1814 Lodge can be removed so as to enable the furnishing of the reconstructed second floor of the lodge hosting the assembly hall for the Monastery Synod (Synodik). The project is carried out by the Construction Department of the Holy Monastery Hilandar.

Ongoing Project The Reconstruction of the 1816–1821 Lodge

Autumn 2007 – Summer 2010

Following the prayer service, and the blessing of the successful beginning of the works on the reconstruction of the 1816–21 Lodge, the building site was officially opened on Monday, September 10, 2007. The works are expected to end by the summer of 2010.

In June 2007, the managing board of the Centre for the Preservation of Mount Athos Heritage (KeDAK) convened to approve the main architectural project for the reconstruction of the 1816–1821 Lodge. In accordance with the legal procedure, the project had previously obtained consent of the Technical Committee of the Holy Community (Iera Kinotita) of Mount Athos.

The 1816–21 Lodge reconstruction project was drafted by the Expert Council of the Hilandar Monastery headed by Prof. Dr Mirko Kovacevic, with the assistance of Greek experts, architect Christifor Paraskevopoulos and construction engineer Yannis Vakoufaris. According to the evaluation of the competent Greek bodies, the Expert Council handled the most demanding tasks: it envisaged the authentic reconstruction of the entire space so as to restore the original wooden construction that had been burnt down, without jeopardizing the static safety of the object. The 1816–21 Lodge has 2724m² of usable space out of the total 5897m² that had been destroyed in the fire. All four floors of the object will yet again hold monastery administration, reception area, and a great number of cells for the monks and visitors alike. The conservation workshops are planned to be placed here as well. Once the reconstruction of the 1816–21 Lodge, called the Great Lodge due to its dimensions, is completed, the Monastery shall regain most of its previous looks and distinctive features.



The main construction site



Installing of wood-coated stainless steel braces



Stiffening of the walls by reinforced bond beams



The 1816–1821 Lodge, the first reconstruction stage

The works began after the metal construction supporting the walls the Greek experts had installed sometime ago was disassembled and removed.

Due to the size of the building, the project has been divided into three stages. The first stage began in February 2008 and is set to end in the summer of 2009. Up to the end of the working season on December 4 2008, it will involve rough construction works and the embedding of outer wooden fittings (doors and windows) in the mid vertical section of the lodge. The rest of the reconstruction in this stage will be finished in 2009. Preparatory works for the 2nd stage will be carried out from June till December 4, 2008. This particular stage relates to the reconstruction of the southwestern part of the building and is expected to last till the end of 2009. The third stage (2009–2010) involves the restoration of the northeastern part of the lodge and its subsequent merging with the 1814 Lodge. The Construction Department of the Holy Monastery Hilandar has been engaged in this project as well.



The 1816–1821 Lodge, temporary shielding structure, detail



The 1816–1821 Lodge, view from the inner courtyard, before the fire



The 1816–1821 Lodge before the fire, view from the north



The 1816–1821 Lodge, detail, before the fire



The 1816–1821 Lodge after the fire, view from the north

The one of the most challenging segments of the project is securing steady supplies of quality, dry timber of appropriate dimensions, preferably chestnut wood. Having in mind that chestnut wood is a building material traditionally used in the monastery, and a necessary ingredient in all future works, a logistically complex project has been launched in order to acquire and transport the supplies to the building site. In 2008, fifty trailer trucks of wood will be unloaded at the monastery metoch of Milo – Arsenica, next to Ierissos, to be shipped via Ouranupolis to the Athonite port and on to the building site, which will take around one hundred separate ferry rides.

Funds needed for the realization of the Great Lodge project are estimated at around EUR 6mn, according to the calculation adopted by KeDAK. The Serbian Government has secured a part of the funds for the reconstruction venture from the state budget. KeDAK is expected to make a considerable contribution as well. Financially speaking, the Great Lodge reconstruction project brings the restoration of Hilandar into a phase where existent sources of funding will not suffice to cover all expenses. Therefore, the need to launch a fund-raising campaign in 2008 has become a necessity.



The 1816–1821 Lodge, interior, before the fire



The 1816–1821 Lodge, interior, before the fire

Ongoing Project

The New Vineyard and Economy Improvement

Ever since the days of yore the Athonite monasteries have had in its possession a land which is being cultivated to bring in revenues necessary for the maintenance of monastic communities. Nowadays, the agricultural production and other authentic Athonite products play a major role in the upkeep of each monastery. When it comes to Hilandar, the fraternity has been expanding ever since the great fire. It now numbers more than 40 monks and apprentices. Moreover, the number of visitors to Mount Athos, including Hilandar, is on the rise as well. If we take into account the workers of the Construction Department and those engaged in the Economy Department, the number of people accommodated in Hilandar often exceeds one hundred.

In view of all this, projects for improving the monastery economy have been launched. On one hand, the quantity of produced goods for the monastery's own needs has risen, and on the other, the remaining products are placed on the market so as to obtain additional funds to cover the expenses of both the reconstruction and everyday life in the Monastery. A new garden has been planted spreading over 2 hectares. It is situated 2km to the north of the Monastery and is used for the growing of organic vegetables and fruits.

Lying dormant for over three decades, the vineyard of Savino Polje (St. Sava's Field), near the old-guardian Tower of St. King Milutin alongside the road connecting the Monastery with the sea, has as of March 2008 been returned to its historic use. The Hilandar Monastery, with the support of the Foundation, has launched the project of planting the new vineyard at the old spot. More than 12 hectares of land were planted with 47,000 high quality grape plants of Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Cabernet Franc. The vineyard project is carried out according to the highest standards of viticulture, using the most modern technology, under the guidance of Prof. Nebojsa Markovic from the Belgrade's Faculty of Agriculture. Since the existing vineyard is not large enough to meet the requirements of the monastery and it needs thorough rejuvenation, the new grapevine plantation, together with the construction of a new winery, will enable the production of the quality wine, the portion of which will be put on the market.



Working in the new vineyard



Working in the new vineyard



The new vineyard



The new garden



Olive yard near the Monastery



The new vineyard and olive yard

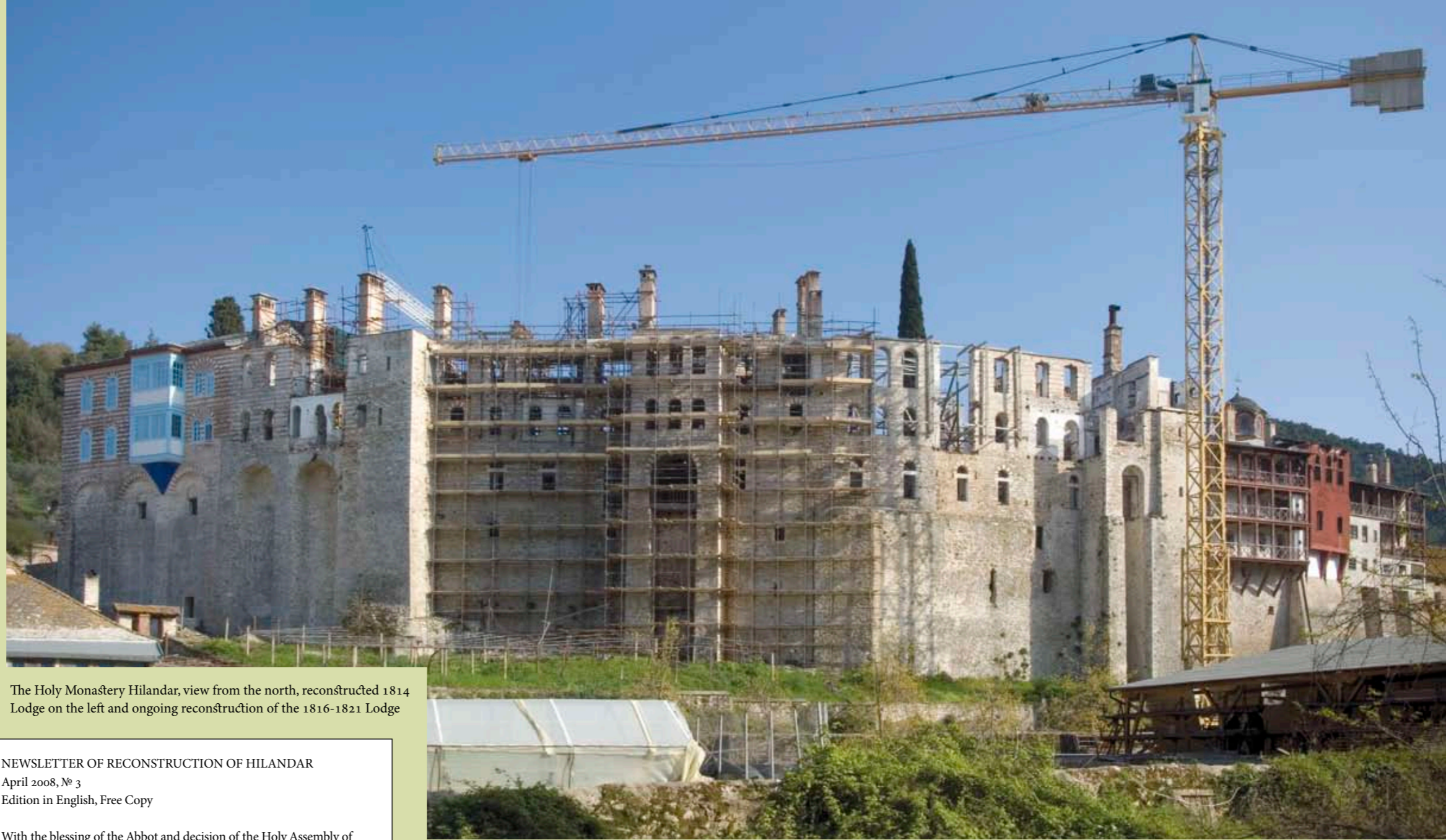
The following projects will be also carried out in 2008

- The improvement of conditions in the exhibition hall and the storage space of the monastery's Treasury Lodge.
- Research work on the roof concerning the damages on the windows belonging to the Cathedral Church.
- The reconstruction of stone seats and tables of the original Saint King Milutin's refectory from the 14th century.
- The sanation of the White Lodge walls.



Cooperation

The Reconstruction of Hilandar is a multidisciplinary activity. It involves experts of various vocations, such as architects, civil engineers, archeologists, art historians, restorers, agricultural engineers and others, gathered under the umbrella of the Holy Monastery Hilandar, with the operative coordination of its Foundation. Some of them are permanent members of the Expert Council of the Hilandar Monastery, while the others are engaged in individual projects. Furthermore, the reconstruction projects have brought together a number of individual experts and competent institutions, first and foremost the Greek Centre for the Preservation of Mount Athos Heritage (KeDAK). As for the institutions in Serbia, productive cooperation has been established with the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of the Republic of Serbia, National Library of Serbia, the Archive of Serbia, and in 2008 also with Museum of Applied Arts, Belgrade-based Faculties of Architecture, Agriculture and Forestry, Novi Sad – based public enterprise “Water Supply and Sewage”, Roads of Serbia, Public Water Management Company “Srbijavode”, Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, National Park Fruška Gora and many others.



The Holy Monastery Hilandar, view from the north, reconstructed 1814 Lodge on the left and ongoing reconstruction of the 1816-1821 Lodge

Impressum

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HOLY MONASTERY HILANDAR:

- President of the Executive Committee
Hieromonk Metodije Hilandarac, Head of the Reconstruction
- Ex Officio Member
Prof. PhD Mirko Kovacevic, Chief Architect
- Ex Officio Member
Milivoj Randjic, Foundation of Holy Monastery Hilandar CEO
- Member
Athanasios Vikas, Technical Adviser of the Holy Monastery

EXPERT COUNCIL FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF HOLY MONASTERY HILANDAR:

- Chief Architect
Prof. PhD Mirko Kovacevic, Engineer of Architecture
- Construction Manager and Structure Design
MSc Nenad Sekularac, Engineer of Architecture
- Architectural Design and Supervision Deputy Manager
Stevica Tripkovic, Engineer of Architecture
- Construction Deputy Manager
Dragomir Krivokuca, Engineer of Architecture
- Heating Engineering
Prof. PhD Branislav D. Zivkovic, Mechanical Engineer
- Telecommunications Engineering
† Prof. PhD Zoran Petrovic, Electrical Engineer
- Electrical Engineering
MSc Nikola Borovac, Electrical Engineer
- Water Supply and Sewage Engineering
Miodrag Comic, Civil Engineer

NEWSLETTER OF RECONSTRUCTION OF HILANDAR

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Edited & published by the Foundation of the Holy Monastery Hilandar, Bulevar Vojvode Misica 71, 11040 Belgrade, Serbia
Voice: ++381 11 3692004, 3690602; Fax: 3690792
zaduzbina@hilandar.org; www.hilandar.org

CEO: Milivoj Randjic
Editor: Stefan Srdjan Milenkovic
Layout: Aleksandar Ilcic
Translation by: Natasa Andrejic
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Front cover: The Holy Monastery Hilandar, view from the north, reconstructed 1814 Lodge on the left and ongoing reconstruction of the 1816–1821 Lodge

Back cover: The first Epitropos of the monastery and the Head of the Reconstruction, hieromonk Metodije, on the construction site

Financing

According to the joint evaluation of Greek and Serbian experts, the total cost of the reconstruction of Hilandar will amount to around 25 million euros. Thus far, the main patron of the venture has been the Serbian Government with one million euros from the state budget set aside each year. In the first two years following the fire, the Serbian Orthodox Church raised around 2 million euros. After financing works on the reconstruction in the amount of about 600,000 euros, Greece announced to contribute around 500,000 euros per year to the reconstruction of the 1816–1821 Lodge for the period of 2008–2010. Numerous institutions, companies and individuals, continue to aid the reconstruction of Hilandar, which confirms the fact that the awareness of the magnitude of the Athonite sanctuary is deeply ingrained in the collective conscience of the Serbian people, Orthodox believers, as well as all the admirers of the Athonite spirituality and the divine beauty of its monasteries.

In the period ahead, there will be a constant need for additional sources of funding. The opening of the large construction site for the restoration of the 1816–1821 Lodge brought about the considerable increase of the costs. For the first time since the beginning of the reconstruction, the existing inflow of money will not be sufficient. Therefore, an extensive fund-raising campaign is going to be launched in 2008. All who have the means and are willing to help can obtain all relevant information in the Foundation of Holy Monastery Hilandar seated in Belgrade. Additional information and contacts are available at the end of the Newsletter.

HELP HILANDAR

THE 12TH CENTURY MONASTERY ON MOUNT ATHOS



We express our gratitude to all people of good will who have so far selflessly and kindly aided the reconstruction of Hilandar. You can contribute your donations to the following bank accounts:

Account of the Holy Monastery Hilandar in Hellenic Republic:

Beneficiary customer: Holy Monastery Hilandar, Mount Athos, Hellenic Republic

Account (IBAN) number: **GR64 0110 8220 0000 8225 1600 068**

With: National Bank of Greece S.A., Athens, Greece

SWIFT (BIC): ETHNGRAA

Account of the Foundation of Holy Monastery Hilandar, Belgrade, Serbia

Beneficiary: Zaduzbina Svetog manastira Hilandara

Beneficiary's address: Bulevar Vojvode Misica 71, 11040 Belgrade, Serbia

Beneficiary's acc no.: **54280-4117462466**

Bank of Beneficiary: Eurobank EFG Stedionica a.d., Kolarceva 3, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

SWIFT: EFGBCSBGXXX

For all information, please contact us on:

Foundation of Holy Monastery Hilandar, Bulevar Vojvode Misica 71, 11040 Belgrade, Serbia

Voice: ++381 11 3692004, 3690602; Fax: 3690792; e-mail: zaduzbina@hilandar.org

Or visit our Website on www.hilandar.org