

## Historie – Otázky – Problémy 11, 2019, č. 2

**Topic of the issue:** “Totenkultur: The dead and the revived grave”

**Scientific editors of the issue:** Mgr. Eva Jarošová and Mgr. Helena Chalupová

For modern society, the suggestive and powerful topic of death and dying is to some extent still a taboo subject. It has explicative potential and is an attractive topic for comprehension across humanities fields, as well as for the use of various analytical tools. The purpose of the monothematic issue of the journal *Historie – Otázky – Problémy* (2/2019), published by the Institute of Czech History of the Charles University Faculty of Arts, will be to bring forth new perspectives on selected problems associated with the topic of funeral culture in the Czech Lands of the pre-industrial modern age.

One of the key concepts is the grave as a manifestation of the togetherness of the living and the dead. The “fellowship” of the real world and the world beyond functioned in the modern age on significantly different principles than it does today. Until the inception of the modern cemetery in the late 18th century, the funereal monument was a partial presentification of the deceased in his original company; he was a communicator, a sort of boundary marker that connected the two worlds. The editors of this issue are interested in the forms and methods of such communication and connection, and the expressive motif of the grave as a means of sharing certain social information.

The connection of this manifestation of funeral culture with ideas about the afterlife, especially with the concept of this issue in the area of folk spirituality, should not be left aside. A very specific example is the phenomenon of resurrection. On the line “funeral culture-specific grave-revenant”, the editors want to see: What was the significance of funeral culture, especially the phenomenon of the grave, in people’s thinking and their imagination about the world beyond and the afterlife? What does the form of a deceased person’s monument and the formulation of the textual part of such monument say about him/her? What are the main issues of the boundaries of the terrestrial world and the world beyond, the moral and value aspects that the individual stories about revenants bear? Is there a motif of crime and punishment? Is it possible to formulate differences between higher and folk culture on their basis? What, ultimately, is the significance of funeral culture, particularly the phenomenon of the grave, in people’s thinking and their imagination about the world beyond and the afterlife?

Keywords: death, dying, graves, views on the afterlife, supernatural

Editorial deadline: **31 August 2018**

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Publication languages: **Czech, English, German**

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