

Anotace v anglickém jazyce

Funeral art of the first third of the 20th century

My work deals with the sepulchral art and I go on with my previous attempt to describe the funeral art of the turn of the 19th and 20th century. Unlike some other people I do admire the atmosphere of cemeteries. The way they can make me contemplate. I am also fascinated by the wide scale of artistic monuments we can find among the graves. The first third of the 20th was a fascinating period when different styles had been changing but also could have been coexisting next to each other. My work wants to show the artistic trends and tendencies, taste of the architects as well as the ordinary people. I also want to give information about the types of graves or tombs which can be found in cemeteries. To show the important and fascinating works of our main artists like František Bílek and Jan Kotěra etc. is needed too. I also want to introduce couple of artists who are not as famous but their master pieces of sepulchral art should not be overlooked. Then I want to speak about works of our artists who used funeral motives as means of expression.

The cooperation between different artists was a common thing in the world of art and the situation in the funeral art is a good evidence of results of it. It is also needed to concern with the topic of the funeral art because unfortunately it stands on the outskirts of people's interests. The strongest accent I put on Prague's necropolises Olšanský, Vyšehradský, Vinohradský or Malvazinky. My favourite one is Olšanské cemetery which was founded in the 17th century as a large necropolis for the victims of plague epidemic. It used to be and still is the largest and most outstanding place where people dream their eternal dreams one can ever imagine. Visitor can be surprised by the wide variety of different styles of simple crosses which decorate old graves of unknown deads as well as pompous and self confident rich architectures that remind important persons of the Bohemian history. Olšanské hřbitovy is the place where many of Czech politics, scientists and artists are buried.

Vyšehradský cemetery has the similar purpose. It is also the pantheon where the most outstanding Czechs were buried so that anybody could come to their graves and honour their deeds. The most important place of Vyšehradský cemetery, Slavín was founded at the end of the 19th century. It is a common burial area of the topgun Czech personalities

The vast majority of the tombs and tomb stones shown in my work I found during my plentiful visits in the cemeteries. I also run the photo documentation of them.

To explain the situation of the burrial art of those days is not a simple task. In the first decade of the 20th century the tombs are mostly built in the art nouveau style which used wide range of vegetable decoration. In the first half of the second decade of the 20th century the new architecture style - cubism came also into funeral production. After the world war the first cubism changed into the rondocubism – Czech fenomenon so called the „national style“ which was presented as an ofcial architectonical expression of our new born state. Those days a new and imporant fenomenon came and was solved and discussed very widly. The cremation which starded to be quite popular way of people´s burrial. Also new cemtries were founded or rebuilt and enlarged as a result of increasing population of the cities. All these facts had influenced the development of the funeral art.

My works includes chapters which deal with the wide range of topics like changes of burrial habbits, information about important Prague´s cemtries, symbolic of the decoration of tombs, funeral works by single artists and interesting graves of imporant figures of our art or other branches.

I tried to do some kind of system during my excursions to the cemtries. I devided the funeral production into couple of specific kinds with the own specific features. I devided those groups into common types and specific types of art nouveau and cubistic tombs and tomb stones. I brought the new view into the theory of funeral art with the chapter on companies which dealt in the funeral production.

I also tried to map the terraine of funeral symbolic which can be found on the graves. I came with some interesting information about the flowers and plants popular to express the topic of death. I tried to show lightly the storming atmosphere in the funeral art at the times of the passionative first third of the 20th century. The funeral topic may be slightly morbid for many people but I am sure that it is worth studying.

Pět klíčových pojmů

Five key expressions

Sepulcral/funeral art

Architecture and sculpture

Cemetery

Tomb/grave/vault

Decoration