

Abstract

The dissertation presents monuments of material funerary culture, especially tombstones and stone epitaphs from the period 1500–1650 in the territory of Prague.

The work analyzes 592 records of these monuments and evaluates them from a functional and content perspective. It deals with their dating, location, and material, as well as their appearance, content of the inscription and script. The findings are put into the context of European and Czech funerary art. When compared with Czech, and especially foreign material, the culture of Prague tombstones appears to be very modest to indistinct, completely lacking some forms or even types of monuments.

One reason for this particularity is the character of Prague as a royal city, which provided an exclusive, but rarely continuous burial space. The second reason is the long-term Protestant environment in the city, which had a strong impact on moderation in the visual arts. This is also related to the non-development of portrait sculpture, which was considered too luxurious. On the other hand, confession as such plays a rather marginal role in the culture of Prague tombstones and stone epitaphs, and is expressed mainly by the choice of burial place.

Keywords: early modern period, epitaphs, funerary culture, Prague, tombstones