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For the Salvation of the Soul – Predeath and Funeral Rituals in the Middle Ages

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No other period has been as permeated by thoughts about death as the Middle Ages. Death, being a part of everyday life, was omnipresent and perceived as an inseparable part of the world of the living. The rituals that accompanied the dying person, the burial as well as the requiem rites were not an individual but a societal matter. Death was a natural part of our ancestors' culture. Today, however, we seem to pay a price for our silence about death in many ways. Just as there is a lack of debate in today's society on dying and death, there is also a lack of scholarly publishing and reflection on this issue. In the western medieval studies, the research into historical changes in attitudes toward dying and death is well established not only through analytical studies but also through high-quality synthesizing monographs.

The main goal of the upcoming issue is to examine various aspects of predeath and funeral rituals in the Middle Ages within Central European context, as well as to reflect on the differences and similarities between the perceptions in the Kingdom of Hungary and surrounding countries (Czech Republic, Poland and Hungary).

The articles are supposed to focus on following topics:

- rituals and customs connected with dying, death and burial
- funeral ceremonies of monarchs as representations of power and majesty
- death and funeral rituals among the nobility
- death and dying in the municipal culture (private rituals related to the death of the burghers, burials, religious rituals connected with funerals, the perception of death in the municipal environment, last wills)
- material and spiritual conditions of dying, the needs of the dying
- fear of death in the Middle Ages
- notions of the human soul and afterlife
- “the art” of good dying and the preparations for it (in theological treatises, last wills, rules of a healthy lifestyle *Regimina sanitatis*)
- means to “ensure” the salvation of one’s soul: requiem rites, requiem masses, foundation, donations and last wills (that emphasized the themes of salvation) indulgence practice, pilgrimage
- funeral customs and burial manners within Central European context based on archaeological evidence (e.g. change in mortuary practices, etc.) or written documents; funeral archaeology

Submission deadline: 31. 8. 2022

Submissions

Language: English

Length: 15 to 30 standard pages (1800 characters per one page)

Style: submissions must follow the "Style Manual for the Authors"

(<http://www.forumhistoriae.sk/en/dokument/instructions-authors>)

(Manuscripts that do not comply will be rejected or returned upon receiving for correction)

Manuscripts submit to (both) email addresses:

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