Modern state and death matters: issues on Romanian legislation concerning burials and burial grounds in the 19th and at the end of the 20th century

Abstract:

The urban areas of Transylvania and the Old Kingdom, though having distinct ethnic and denominational features, gradually assumed a certain common characteristic through the joint action of civic and ecclesiastic authorities in the interval 1850–1918. In line with the modernizing tendencies of the State, in this period profound changes took place aimed at the functionality of modern cemeteries, these being conformed to the modern European system. Starting with penal codes to public health laws and medical discourses, regulations and different other laws referring to burials and cemeteries, during the whole analyzed period, we can perceive a constant effort by authorities to move the cemeteries from the centre towards the peripheries, to banish death outside the communal urban area. The precincts of modern necropolises demonstrate the changes produced on the basis of the decisions enforced and communicated preventively as unavoidable and necessary stages in defining the modern state.

Keywords: *Transylvania, Old Kingdom, Modern Age, legislation, corps, burial, cemeteries.*