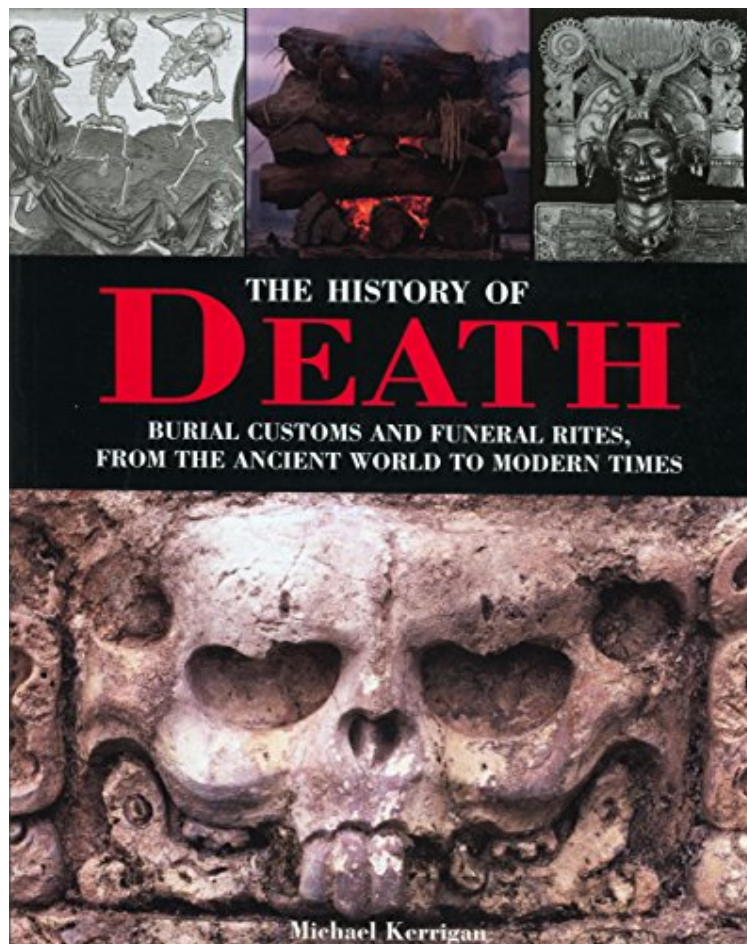


[Free and download] The History of Death: Burial Customs and Funeral Rites, from the Ancient World to Modern Times

The History of Death: Burial Customs and Funeral Rites, from the Ancient World to Modern Times

Michael Kerrigan

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Michael Kerrigan : The History of Death: Burial Customs and Funeral Rites, from the Ancient World to Modern Times before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The History of Death: Burial Customs and Funeral Rites, from the Ancient World to Modern Times:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Details of a culture -By C. Bryan Not a new topic; death has been with us since there was life. This book is about what humans do (and have done) when those close to us die. Close emotionally or just close by (as on the battlefield). The book also reveals what certain benefits have come to those who capture the spirits or special attributes of an enemy or a beloved relative when they die. Certain murders are revealed to be a complicated confirmation in the belief we benefit from the intercession of the dead. The book cover is sensational for sales sake (and a little off-putting), but the narrative is studied, complex, and very thorough. The topics

include 'spectacle, grief, ritual, heroes, mourning, the theory of rebirth, funerary fun, afterlife, sacred places and spiritual homes, mummies, graves and cremation, limbo, ancestral assistance, dissection and medical science, and, lastly, the concept of the cemetery.' Each section is short, concise, and well written. Advanced genealogy or the documentation of family resting places (Find-a-Grave, for one) often leads to questions of why we do what we do when a love one passes. This little book gives some interesting insights. 1 of 10 people found the following review helpful. Thanks By Brian I would like to thank you for selling books. Some say books are boring, others say that they are filthy, but most say they are windows to the world. Your book taught me that. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Memento mori -- remember, you're going to die. By Pumpjack Death is such a cheery topic. This is a light and lively tour through the ages and across cultures exploring funerary customs, concepts of the afterlife and our usually uneasy relationship with death. The author is a skilled writer adept at distilling information down into powerful, occasionally wry (bordering on the irreverent) insights. I was struck by the similarities at the heart of so many shared beliefs, perceptions and fears related to our own mortality reflected in a thousand variations adjusted for scientific advancement and social norms. Preserving the entrails of an Egyptian ruler in Canopic jars centuries ago really doesn't seem that much different than preserving the remains of a loved one in a porcelain vase (hopefully with a lid). If you like death, and who doesn't, this is a fun read with some amazing photos.

In the bestselling tradition of *Stiff*, this book expands on the subject of death, traveling across continents and centuries to reveal how distinctively various cultures react to the human's final act. From the medieval French funerals of kings and the Sudanese Dinka burying alive its masters of the spear to the great Berawan tombs of Borneo and the catacombs of Paris, Kerrigan shares fascinating details of death that are as revealing as details of the living. A rich and comprehensive history of the world, with photos and illustrations throughout, from a wonderful storyteller. Michael Kerrigan is a London historian who writes for the *Times* and the *Scotsman*, and is currently editing the *Reader's Digest Illustrated History of the World*.

From the Back Cover Death may be universal, but just as every culture has found ways of living life differently, each has also found different and sometimes extraordinary ways to deal with dying and the effects that it has on the people left behind. This wide-ranging book examines the compelling subject of death and burial in varied cultures, societies, and ages. It considers the rituals surrounding death, from the drama of medieval French royal funerals to the live burials of the Dinka in the Sudan, and from facing death, with the 5,000 strong terra-cotta army, as the first Chinese emperor Shihuangdi did in 260 B.C., to the elaborate mausolea of wealthy Victorians.