



The Corpse: A History

By Christine Quigley



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Throughout the centuries, different cultures have established a variety of procedures for handling and disposing of corpses. Often the methods are directly associated with the deceased's position in life, such as a pharaoh's mummification in Egypt or the cremation of a Buddhist. Treatment by the living of the dead over time and across cultures is the focus of study. Burial arrangements and preparations are detailed, including embalming, the funeral service, storage and transport of the body, and forms of burial. Autopsies and the investigative process of causes of deliberate death are fully covered. Preservation techniques such as cryonic suspension and mummification are discussed, as well as a look at the "recycling" of the corpse through organ donation, donation to medicine, animal scavengers, cannibalism, and, of course, natural decay and decomposition. Mistreatments of a corpse are also covered.

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Review

"Fascinating and well-researched...a compelling topic" --Library Journal

"Well referenced...comprehensive" --Science and Justice

"Detailed and scholarly dissertation on the A to Z of the dead body...a must...highly recommended" --
Westgateneomantic.com

About the Author

Christine Quigley is Assistant Director for Academic Affairs in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Georgetown University. She is also the author of *Conjoined Twins* (2003), *Skulls and Skeletons* (2001), *Modern Mummies* (1998) and *Death Dictionary* (1994). She lives in Alexandria, Virginia.

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