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Autore	Weiss-Krejci Estella
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Thomas Dekker's Plague Pamphlets -- Chapter 10. Shakespearean Exhumations: Richard III, The Princes in the Tower, and the Prehistoric Romeo and Juliet -- Chapter 11. Cemetery Enchanted, encore: Natural Burial in France and Beyond -- Chapter 12. The Cemetery and Ossuary at Sedlec near Kutná Hora: Reflections on the Agency of the Dead.

Sommario/riassunto

In the present as in the past, the dead have been deployed to promote visions of identity, as well as ostensibly wider human values. Through a series of case studies from ancient Egypt through prehistoric, historic, and present-day Europe, this book discusses what is constant and what is locally and historically specific in our ways of interacting with the remains of the dead, their objects, and monuments. Postmortem interaction encompasses not only funerary rituals and intergenerational engagement with forebears, but also concerns encounters with the dead who died centuries and millennia ago. Drawing from a variety of disciplines such as archaeology, bioarchaeology, literary studies, ancient Egyptian philology, and sociocultural anthropology, this volume provides an interdisciplinary account of the ways in which the dead are able to transcend temporal distances and engender social relationships. Until quite recently, literary sciences and archaeology were generally regarded as incommensurable in their aims, methodologies, and source material. Although archaeologists and literary critics have been increasingly willing to borrow concepts and terminology from the other discipline, this book is one example of a genuinely collaborative endeavor. This is an open access book.
