

Abstract (in English)

Combs are used as toilet objects for adjustment of hair and beard, or as a decoration of hairstyle all over the world. Combs have also a number of symbolical and magical significances. The aim of this work is a comprehensive view on combs as a one part of medieval material culture. The first part deals with the manufacture of medieval combs, particularly materials used for comb making, manufacturing processes, decoration, the degree of specialization of bone and antler objects manufacturing and manufactures in which bone and antler objects were produced. The second part is applied to the function of combs, evolution of hairstyles in the Middle Ages, symbolical significance and the associated magical significances of human hair and beard and different rituals connected with their cutting and combing. The core of this thesis is analysis, synthesis and interpretation of selected finds of medieval combs from what now is the territory of the Czech Republic. The aim of the analysis, synthesis and interpretation is the comparison of morphology and decoration of combs from different periods of Middle Ages. Chapters, which are devoted to chronology, morphology and typology of medieval combs and social-representational aspects of using combs are largely based on this part.