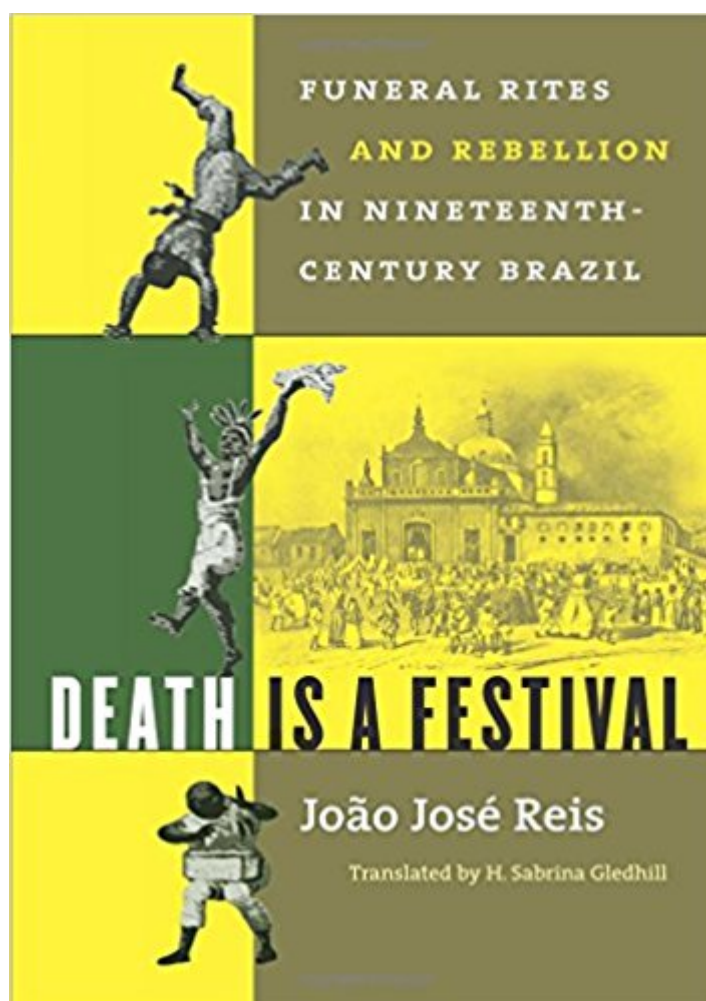


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Death Is A Festival: Funeral Rites And Rebellion In Nineteenth-Century Brazil



Synopsis

This award-winning social history of death and funeral rites during the early decades of Brazil's independence from Portugal focuses on the Cemiterada movement in Salvador, capital of the province of Bahia. The book opens with a lively account of the popular riot that ensued when, in 1836, the government condemned the traditional burial of bodies inside Catholic church buildings and granted a private company a monopoly over burials. This episode is used by Reis to examine the customs of death and burial in Bahian society, explore the economic and religious conflicts behind the move for funerary reforms and the maintenance of traditional rituals of dying, and understand how people dealt with new concerns sparked by modernization and science. Viewing culture within its social context, he illuminates the commonalities and differences that shaped death and its rituals for rich and poor, men and women, slaves and masters, adults and children, foreigners and Brazilians. This translation makes the book, originally published in Brazil in 1993, available in English for the first time.

Book Information

Series: Latin America in Translation/en TraducciÃfÂ n/em TraduÃfÂ§ÃfÂ£o

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: The University of North Carolina Press; New edition edition (June 30, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 080785445X

ISBN-13: 978-0807854457

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 1 customer review

Best Sellers Rank: #463,150 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #23 inÂ Books > History >

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