

Abstract:

Murder and violence in general have always been, and unfortunately will probably always be, one of the great problems of humanity. From time immemorial, however, the most serious act of violence – murder – has been punished. The most perverted cases were punished by the so-called "eye for an eye" principle, i.e. by sentencing them to death. After the establishment of the First Czechoslovak Republic, it was discussed whether to continue to retain the death penalty as part of criminal law. The capital punishment remained enshrined in law until 1990. There were quite a few murderers punished in this way during the interwar period. The presented work focuses on the case of the sexual serial murderer Svatoslav Štěpánek (1911-1938), who started his killing spree in 1928. His last victim was murdered in 1936, the year he was arrested. In a trial that took place from 12 to 17 May 1937 at the Regional Court in Litoměřice, he was found guilty of the murders of Bedřich Brožovský, Františka Třísková and Jiřinka Šťastná, and sentenced to death. The sentence was carried out the following year in the Pankrác prison, where Štěpánek was relocated to after the occupation of Litoměřice, where he was imprisoned after the verdict was handed down. The aim of this work is to describe in detail the life and case of the serial killer Svatoslav Štěpánek.

Keywords:

Svatoslav Štěpánek, Roudnice nad Labem, serial murders, sexual murders, death penalty, execution, executions carried out during the Second Czechoslovak Republic