

recitātiōnēs

1. Where different type of settings might be employed for an author's work to get its first audience?

- in the street to anyone who would listen
- before friends at the author's house
- for a patron and his family at their home

2. What was a " recitātiō"?

A formal recitation of a work for an invited audience at a advertised setting such as a public auditorium. slaves would be employed to hand out brochures and copies of the work might be offered for sale.

3. What happened at a "recitatio" held by the emperor Claudius when was reading one of his historical works?

A very fat man came in to listen to the "recitatio" and sat on a bench which broke under his weight and caused such a commotion and uncontrollable laughter in the audience that the "recitatio" had to be cancelled.

4. Why might an author be asked to cancel a "recitatio"?

If the subject of the author's work contained references to misdeeds by a person still in power, he might be asked to cancel his "recitatio".

5. What was the view of the "recitatio" of the following authors?

Pliny the Younger: considered the important and useful.

Martial: thought they were of no importance.

Seneca the Younger: considered the a nuisance and on a par with fires and falling buildings.

6. What real value did the "recitatio" serve?

In an age when books had to be made individually by hand and were therefore very expensive the "recitatio" told the author if his work was worth publishing and whether it need to

rewritten. It also helped the public determine what new works were worth acquiring as access to books was difficult for the general public.

*****This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading.*****