



Socio-history of popular culture

- Gustave Lanson (1857-1934), French historian and literary critic, taught at the Sorbonne
- proposed the idea of „literary sociology“: relationship between social influences on an author, readers' expectations, and the text
- Literary can retroact on the audience, the society





Socio-history of popular culture

- Rudolf Schenda (1930-2000)
„Volk ohne Buch“
- Criticised the lack of consideration of social contexts and different types of audiences in German study of literature
- In Germany the investigation of the so called trivial/popular literature began not until the 1960s





Socio-history of popular culture

Schenda wanted to elaborate important details of the socio-history of popular literature (1770-1910)

- being able to read, being allowed to read
- different types of popular literature: cheap print works like thin booklets, calendars, entertaining publications (magazines)





Socio-history of popular culture

- special characteristics of popular literature: topics, stereotypes, narrative style,...
- Classification of readers
profession (working class), salary (less than 1000 Euros/month), sex (women), level of education, place of residence (rural areas)
- Schenda demanded to foster integration of popular literature into scientific studies and to motivate the „ruled class“ to express themselves via media

