

1911 Encyclopædia Britannica, Volume 26 — Symposium



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SYMPOSIUM (Gr. συμπόσιον, a drinking party, from συμπίνειν, to drink together, σύν, with, and πίνειν, to drink, root πο, cf. Lat. *potare*, to drink, *poculum*, cup), the convivial drinking which took place after a great banquet, accompanied by intellectual or witty conversation, and by music or dancing performed by slaves or attendants. The term has been applied in modern usage, due to Plato's *Symposium*, to a collection of opinions of different writers on a given subject.

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