

Erostratus.

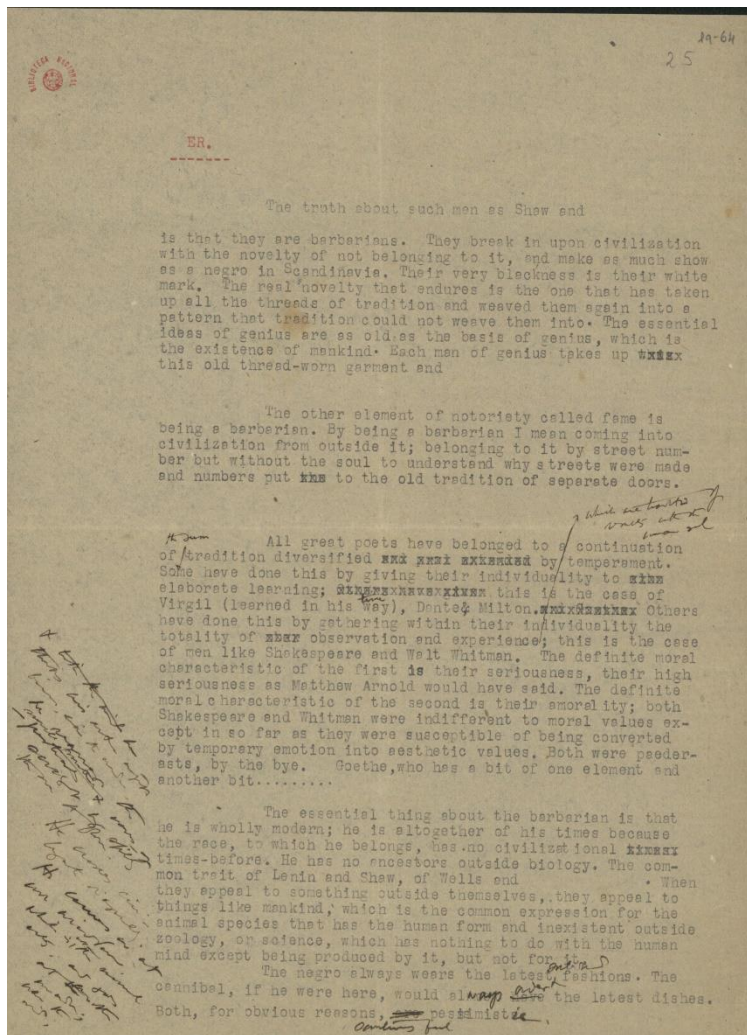
The truth about such men as Shaw and {...} is that they are barbarians. They break in upon civilization with the novelty of not belonging to it, and make as much show as a negro in Scandinavia. Their very blackness is their white mark. The real novelty that endures is the one that has taken up all the threads of tradition and weaved them again into a pattern that tradition could not weave them into. The essential ideas of genius are as old as the basis of genius, which is the existence of mankind. Each man of genius takes up ~~whos~~ this old thread-worn garment and {...}

The other element of notoriety called fame is being a barbarian. By being a barbarian I mean coming into civilization from outside it; belonging to it by street number but without the soul to understand why streets were made and numbers put ~~the~~ to the old tradition of separate doors. He crosses civilization diagonally. He comes in at our window, which is not the normal entry, and goes out ~~the~~ another window; when the wind, {...} I ~~think the mind~~ he thinks his act important because, like the wind, he rearranges the small furniture - portraits and vases - of civilization by spilling them on the floor.

All great poets have belonged to a continuation of the same tradition diversified ~~and~~ ~~prol~~ extended by temperament. Some have done this by giving their individuality to ~~elbe~~ elaborate learning; ~~Others have given~~ this is the case of Virgil (learned in his way ^{/time\}), Dante & Milton. ~~and Oother.~~ Others have done this by gathering within their individuality the totality of ~~elbe~~ observation and experience which are traditions of results within the human soul; this is the case of men like Shakespeare and Walt Whitman. The definite moral characteristic of the first is their seriousness, their high seriousness as Matthew Arnold would have said. The definite moral characteristic of the second is their amorality; both Shakespeare and Whitman were indifferent to moral values except in so far as they were susceptible of being converted by temporary emotion into aesthetic values. Both were pederasts, by the bye. Goethe, who was a bit of one element and another bit.....

The essential thing about the barbarian is that he is wholly modern; he is altogether of his times because the race, to which he belongs, has no civilizational ~~times~~ times-before. He has no ancestors outside biology. The common trait of Lenin and Shaw, of Wells and {...}. When they appeal to Something outside themselves, they appeal to things like mankind, which is the common expression for the animal species that has the human form and in-existent outside zoology, or science, which has nothing to do with the human mind except being produced by it, but not for it.

The negro always wears the latest introduced fashions. The cannibal, if he were here, would always ~~have~~ order the latest dishes. Both, for obvious reasons, ~~are~~ sometimes feel pessimistic.



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