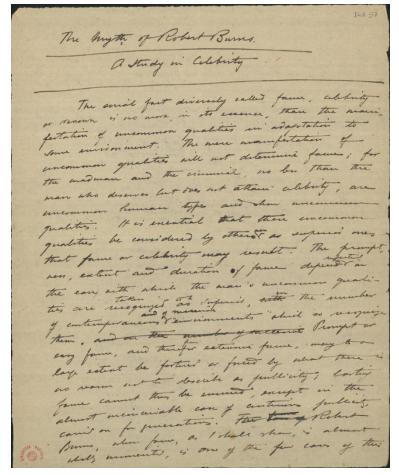
Arquivo Virtual da Geração de Orpheu

BNP/E3, $14A - 57^{r}$



Transcrição

The Myth of Robert Burns.
A Study in Celebrity

The social fact diversely called fame, celebrity or renown is no more, in its essence, than the manifestation of uncommon qualities in adaptation to some environment. The mere manifestation of uncommon qualities will not determine fame; for the madman and the criminal, no less than the man who deserves but does not attain celebrity, are uncommon human types and show uncommon qualities. It is essential that these uncommon qualities be considered by other men as superior ones that fame or celebrity may result. The promptness, extent and duration of fame depend respectively on the ease with which the man's uncommon qualities are recognized as /taken to be\ superior, with in the number of contemporaneous and of successive "environments" which so recognize them. and in the number of successive Prompt or easy fame, and therefor extensive fame, may to a large extent be fostered or forced by what there is no reason not to describe as publicity; lasting fame cannot thus be ensured, except in the almost inconceivable case of continuous publicity, carried on for generations. The fame of Robert Burns, whose fame, as I shall show, is almost wholly unmerited, is one of the few cases of this

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transcendental pulliat. It is, m' pent y fact an of the prates arresting things that the and has eve seen. There is an dont to the pulmining Constrations about all at once news, 3penally after the appearance yet and i pulice. it in the case. It will be argued that There 5'a limit to the renth of arresting. A work be article, it will be said, may be for the as the public only for a short time; caper. uni y it will show that it is writtle, and side practically operands, will increasely content to be pulling in the work. This is not universally time. It is time, or about time, of such, article or things of which there are dear and sorident standard of witherin. a hand of matiles sent of which so met starie, a havy metican the mer you've me how our a week aft initial we will not a few way lang on the acceptance of the public. Port eng on Knows what a weather is meant for, at its is required of a contra metalicale. The purpose of the object is clear; to standy g entire property spirit. It the moment

transcendental publicity. It is, in pursuit of fact, one of the greatest advertising triumphs that the world has ever seen.

There is one objection to these preliminary considerations which will at once occur, especially after the appearance of the word "publicity" in the case. It will be argued that there is a limit to the results of advertising. A worthless article, it will be said, may be foisted on the public only for a short time; experience of it will show that it is worthless, and will gradually spreading, will irreversibly counteract the best publicity in the world. This is not universally true. It is true, or almost true, of such articles or things for which there are clear and evident standards of criticism. A hand of matches most of which do not strike, a load of motorcars that most of which are broken once a week after initial use will not be found very long on the acceptance of a public. But every one knows what a match is meant for, or what is required of a motor vehicle. The purpose of the object is clear; the standard of criticism perfectly defined. Yet the moment

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Transcrição

be from from such definite cours to them about rappoint anyto specition, the face of the matter 5' charged. Publició no lenge suite cale attenti to the article; it parts creates The article itself. Every on will agree they the offer y misieni can til layer mening or Junior & to inteal fait a lace y finter of the war get. Every are will them -In ague to, mine the article is to be judger & it effet, & min it appear can be mined if morney west, & negat, pulling, alie is negeti! can ortenin to a lay enter, in for much or them, to ray affect ail is I will he prome. he for can, Thrufu, in which supplies In very during of supporter stalf. hung knows that the limit of report are the andress precioncis is to the contrary. A man who " hor a note dist to patent meericais s' an. peris to avantisat of the . The pures will not take his own pile, here h to the present in - with such, whi con . This my Brite as of Days - with anyil and

we pass from such |definite| cases to those where suggestion may be operative, the face of the matter is changed. Publicity no longer simply calls attention to the article; it partly creates the article itself. Every one will agree knows that the effect of medicine can be and is largely increased of diminished by the initial faith or lack of faith of the user of it. Every one will therefore agree that, since the article is to be judged by its effects, and since its effects can be increased, if not wholly created, by suggestion, publicity, which is suggestion, can determine to a large extent, in cases such as these, the very effects which it says \(\frac{1}{\cap claims} \) that the article will produce.

In such those cases, therefore, in which suggestion is operative, there are no limits to possible effect except the very limits of suggestion |itself|. Everyone knows that the limits of suggestion are the "subject's" preconceived ideas to the contrary. A man who has rooted objection to patent medicines is imperious to advertisement of them. The person will not take his own pills, because he has the preconceived idea - right enough, in his case - that they cannot cure, or, at least, that they cannot cure him. So in an a literary age such - such as that of Boileau or of Pope - with rigid and

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I he withis damains, so for y pulled can it as at , It his pris of h, or a man of finis, or en of test, on the was plei. Light is of the No als are menting u. Just it; in they and active mothers it is somit as changes time, and company form, who we are then my chart with he This , a so your me to the tents is right. It star thus down to worm that the Reaptance of an assartis article - and the fam y an autoty an artist is a particular upon it. When to stammed of enthurs is murtain as weak similal acceptability moreones in any con, to for any article But the quater it is it its elf, and apar sie a shen sicream of the lack The stansus

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firm critical standards, no fancy of publicity can foist an author, however great his genius may be, as a man of genius, or even of talent, on the reading public. Suggestion is for those who will not innately resist it; it is in literary and artistic matters it is easiest in changing times, in confused eras periods, when no one knowns very clearly what he thinks, or is intimately quite sure that what he thinks is right.

It thus stands clear to reason that the acceptance of an advertised article - and the fame of an author or of an artist is a particular case of that - depends on two factors - the initial acceptability of the article, and the degree and extent of intensity, continuity and extent which all attention called upon it. Where the standard of criticism is uncertain or weak, it is obvious that initial acceptability decre increases /so\ in any case, that is, for any article. But the greater it is in itself, and apart from the lack of such standards, the greater it will be then when increased by the lack of those standards.



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