Quotidian rituals in an age of mobility

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Auteur(s) (texte brut)

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Chapô

It is often quotidian details that best reveal the vital pulse of the times, the sensuous, emotional and moral textures of e
such as smoking and drinking.

Présentation longue

<blockquote> While capital ... must strive to tear down every barrier ... to exchange and conquer the whole earth fo
                &
than a hundred and fifty years since Karl Marx wrote these lines in his Grundisse (1857), social scientists
nineteenth century, most analyses in mobilities and transport studies, however, gravitate around social practices and sp
fundamental aspects of more quotidian and seemingly unimportant details of everyday life in the nineteenth century. F
involved in making a pie at home were considered to be part of cultivating a new modern self.   It is oft
rhythm of life associated with the new culture of mobility gained expression in quotidian rituals such as smoking and d
after the appearance of the cigar, the acceleration process advanced still further with the cigarette. Like the cigar, it car
‘smoke’, as this new informal unit of time is called, is as different from the time it takes to smoke a cigar as the velocit
cigar or pipe smoker in the nineteenth century. In the twentieth century, cigar and pipe smoking enjoy special
Pipe and cigar smokers are as important, or rather unimportant, to an understanding of our era as are, say, antique car b
century cigarette that takes five to seven minutes to be thoroughly smoked is meant to give all the leisure and concentr
start of the twentieth century the cigarette was a potent symbol of the new velocity of modern life precisely because th
something that spread to other areas, as Schivelbusch goes on to discuss in relation to drinking. <blockquote> I
In liquor this relationship to nature was severed. Distillation raised the alcohol content far beyond the natural limits. To
off, and intoxication is more or less instantaneous. Liquor thus represents a process of acceleration of intoxication, intr
had formerly taken. The maximized effect, the acceleration, and the reduced price made liquor a true child of the Indus
on the craft of weaving. In fact, liquor and the mechanical loom worked hand in hand, as it were, in eighteenth-century
be compressed through the beverage itself, but new behaviours, shaping the modern citizen, were fostered through spa
Industrial Revolution. In this respect it could be compared to distilled spirits, or be termed their architectural equivalen
can be performed standing up. Because of their bars, the gin places that were springing up like mushrooms in Manches
served 270,000 guests –almost a metropolis unto itself. This it seems no exaggeration to characterize the bar as a traffi
flow of the gin palace. It sped up drinking, just as the railroad sped up travel and the mechanical loom sped up textile p
Penguin. Schivelbusch, W. (1986) The Railway Journey. Bergh, London. Schivelbusch, W

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