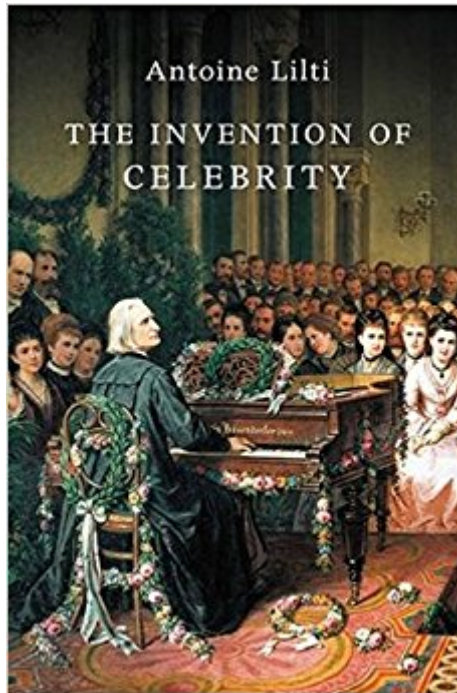




The book was found

# The Invention Of Celebrity



## Synopsis

Frequently perceived as a characteristic of modern culture, the phenomenon of celebrity has much older roots. In this book Antoine Lilti shows that the mechanisms of celebrity were developed in Europe during the Enlightenment, well before films, yellow journalism, and television, and then flourished during the Romantic period on both sides of the Atlantic. Figures from across the arts like Voltaire, Garrick, and Liszt were all veritable celebrities in their time, arousing curiosity and passionate loyalty from their "fans." The rise of the press, new advertising techniques, and the marketing of leisure brought a profound transformation in the visibility of celebrities: private lives were now very much on public show. Nor was politics spared this cultural upheaval: Marie-Antoinette, George Washington, and Napoleon all experienced a political world transformed by the new demands of celebrity. And when the people suddenly appeared on the revolutionary scene, it was no longer enough to be legitimate; it was crucial to be popular too. Lilti retraces the profound social upheaval precipitated by the rise of celebrity and explores the ambivalence felt toward this new phenomenon. Both sought after and denounced, celebrity evolved as the modern form of personal prestige, assuming the role that glory played in the aristocratic world in a new age of democracy and evolving forms of media. While uncovering the birth of celebrity in the eighteenth century, Lilti's perceptive history at the same time shines light on the continuing importance of this phenomenon in today's world.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Polity; 1 edition (July 5, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1509508740

ISBN-13: 978-1509508747

Product Dimensions: 5.9 x 1.1 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.3 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 2.5 out of 5 stars 2 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #399,567 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #136 in Books > Biographies &

Memoirs > Reference & Collections #1263 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders &

Notable People > Rich & Famous #4617 in Books > History > Historical Study & Educational

Resources

## Customer Reviews

“Lilti’s achievement is highly impressive. He provides a new perspective on the transformations of Western culture in the age of revolutions, and on the genesis of modern notions of selfhood and personal authenticity. And he reminds us that even as we laugh at contemporary celebrity culture, we need to take it seriously, and not merely as an excrescence or a pathology, but as a constituent element of political and cultural modernity.”

David A. Bell, Princeton University

“With *The Invention of Celebrity*, Antoine Lilti has established himself as one of the most significant and talented historians of eighteenth-century France. It is an imaginative study, at once audacious and theoretically grounded, that establishes celebrity as an object of historical analysis and lays the groundwork for further studies of the phenomenon.”

Colin Jones, Queen Mary University of London

“Exhaustively researched, with in-depth analysis, this book is not a light read, but is definitely an interesting read for those who have more than a passing curiosity for the history behind the rise of ‘celebrity.’”

Feathered Quill Book Reviews

Literary Review

Antoine Lilti is Professor of History at the *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales*, Paris, and former editor-in-chief of the journal *Annales*.

As social animals, people have always been fascinated in other people. Today’s unrelenting monopoly by people, many who are not known for accomplishment or talent, is something new, the author would argue that it is simply the evolution of a concept that dates back in time. This is a scholarly take on the concept of celebrity. Focusing on 1750-1850, the author examines individuals who were simultaneously blessed and cursed by celebrity. Although the bulk of the book is centered on Europe, primarily France and England, he does cross the pond to look at luminaries such as Washington and Franklin. He opens with a chapter on Voltaire but also includes Rousseau, Samuel Johnson, Byron, Chateaubriand and Lizst as well as lesser known subjects from the theater and elsewhere. Some of the stories are entertaining. He addresses the impact the development of celebrity especially in terms of economics. There is a generous Notes section. I most enjoyed the photos in this book. They certainly enlivened the rather dry text. I suppose one with a burning interest in the subject would find this book more compelling than I. I do appreciate the research and ambition but wonder whether less is more. That being said it does provide an interesting perspective both on the history and development of celebrity and the challenges the earliest ones confronted. It is not a light and easy read but worth it for those with a strong interest in historical underpinnings of celebrity culture.

Voltaire was the first superstar of modernity. Thus he rightly comes first in this book. However, Lilti's assessment of Voltaire's importance in what he calls the "invention of celebrity" fails to mention his battle against l'infamie or his defense of Calas and other victims of intolerance. Voltaire had a life-long thirst for fame – or, if you will, celebrity – but the enduring measure of both that Voltaire earned as the Patriarche de Ferney rests in large part on his defense of religious freedom and the right to speak one's mind. He was, as Auden put it, "one of the greatest fighters for democracy." Lilti favors Voltaire's neurotic hâte noire, Rousseau, which is fair enough. But the broader picture the author paints is all the poorer for that bias. ... Also, as a minor factual note: the Genevan artist Jean Huber produced many cut-out silhouettes of Voltaire, clipped out of playing cards or paper, but never "out of fabric," as Lilti mistakenly states.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Celebrity Black Book 2010: Over 60,000+ Accurate Celebrity Addresses for Autographs, Charity Donations, Signed Memorabilia, Celebrity Endorsements, Media Interviews and More! The Celebrity Black Book 2012: Over 60,000+ Accurate Celebrity Addresses for Autographs, Charity Donations, Signed Memorabilia, Celebrity Endorsements, Media Interviews and More! Celebrity: The Advocate Interviews, Vol 1 (Advocate Celebrity Interviews) The Celebrity Black Book 2015: Over 50,000 Celebrity Addresses Las Vegas Celebrity Mail Addresses: Over 150 Las Vegas & Nevada Celebrity Postal Addresses for Autographs, Fan Mail, Event Managers, Agents, and Journalists. The Celebrity Black Book 2014: Over 50,000 Celebrity Addresses The Celebrity Email Address Directory: 500+ Celebrity Email Addresses For Autograph Hunters, Fan Mail, Agents, and Journalists The Celebrity Black Book 2013: Over 67,000 Accurate Celebrity Addresses, Deluxe Edition The Beverly Hills Celebrity Address Book: 1000+ Beverly Hills Celebrity Mail Addresses for Celeb Spotters, Autograph Hunters, Fan Mail, Casting Agents, Charity Fundraisers, and Journalists! Autograph Collector Celebrity Autograph Authentication Guide: Authentic Examples of Over 1,000 Celebrity Autographs The Celebrity Black Book: Over 40,000 Celebrity Addresses The New York Celebrity Address Directory: 1000+ Celebrity Mail Addresses for Autograph Hunters, Fundraisers, Event Managers, Agents, and Casting Calls. The Celebrity Black Book 2009: Over 55,000 Accurate Celebrity Addresses for Fans, Businesses, Nonprofits, Authors and the Media The Celebrity Black Book 2008: Over 55,000 Accurate Celebrity Addresses for Fans, Businesses & Nonprofits Florida Celebrity Addresses: 300+ Celebrity Mail Addresses For Agents, Autograph Collectors, Event Organizers, Charity Fundraisers, Journalists, and More! The Invention of Celebrity Grace Hopper and the Invention of the Information Age (Lemelson Center Studies in Invention and Innovation

series) Summary - The Invention Of Wings: Novel By Sue Monk Kidd --- An Incredible Summary  
(The Invention Of Wings: An Incredible Summary-- Paperback, Hardcover, Summary, Audible,  
Novel, Audiobook Book 1) About Face: Amazing Transformations Using the Secrets of the Top  
Celebrity Makeup Artist The Cheeky Skinny Vegan Diet: 21 days Celebrity Detox & Diet Plan -  
Nutrition, Diet and Lifestyle Secrets

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)