

Satirizing consumer society

Ce sujet comprend 3 documents :

- Document 1 : Poème "The Unknown Citizen", W. H. Auden, 1940
- Document 2 :
 - 2a) Paroles de "Shangri-La" – The Kinks, 1969
 - 2b) Enregistrement de la chanson "Shangri-La" – The Kinks, 1969
- Document 3 : Extrait du film Edward Scissorhands – Tim Burton, 1990

Document 1 :

THE UNKNOWN CITIZEN

***(To JS/07/M/378
This Marble Monument
Is Erected by the State)***

- 1 He was found by the Bureau of Statistics to be
One against whom there was no official complaint,
And all the reports on his conduct agree
That, in the modern sense of an old-fashioned word, he was a saint,
5 For in everything he did he served the Greater Community.
Except for the War till the day he retired
He worked in a factory and never got fired,
But satisfied his employers, Fudge Motors Inc.
Yet he wasn't a scab or odd in his views,
10 For his Union reports that he paid his dues,
(Our report on his Union shows that it was sound)
And our Social Psychology workers found
That he was popular with his mates and liked a drink.
The Press are convinced that he bought a paper everyday
And that his reactions to advertisements were normal in every way.
15 Policies taken out in his name prove that he was fully insured,
And his Health-card shows he was once in hospital but left it cured.
Both Producers Research and High-Grade Living declare
He was fully sensible to the advantages of the Instalment Plan
And had everything necessary to the Modern Man,
20 A phonograph, a radio, a car and a frigidaire.
Our researchers into Public Opinion are content
That he held the proper opinions for the time of year;
When there was peace, he was for peace; when there was war, he went.
He was married and added five children to the population,
Which our Eugenist says was the right number for a parent of his generation,
25 And our teachers report that he never interfered with their education.
Was he free? Was he happy? The question is absurd:
Had anything been wrong, we should certainly have heard.

W.H. (Wystan Hugh) AUDEN, "The Unknown Citizen", *Another Time*, 1940

<http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/unknown-citizen>

Document 2a :

"Shangri-La"

- 1 Now that you've found your paradise
This is your Kingdom to command
You can go outside and polish your car
Or sit by the fire in your Shangri-La
- 5 Here is your reward for working so hard
Gone are the lavatories in the backyard
Gone are the days when you dreamed of that car
You just want to sit in your Shangri-La

CHORUS:

- 10 Put on your slippers and sit by the fire
You've reached your top and you just can't get any higher
You're in your place and you know where you are
In your Shangri-La
Sit back in your old rocking-chair
- 15 You need not worry, you need not care
You can't go anywhere
Shangri-La, Shangri-La, Shangri-La

- The little man who gets the train
Got a mortgage hanging over his head
- 20 But he's too scared to complain
'Cause he's conditioned that way
Time goes by and he pays off his debts
Got a TV set and a radio
For seven shillings a week
- 25 Shangri-La, Shangri-La, Shangri-La, Shangri-La, Shangri-La, Shangri-La

- And all the houses in the street have got a name
'Cause all the houses in the street they look the same
Same chimney pots, same little cars, same window panes
The neighbours call to tell you things that you should know
- 30 They say their lines, they drink their tea and then they go
They tell your business in another Shangri-La
The gas bills and the water rates and payments on the car
Too scared to think about how insecure you are
Life ain't so happy in your little Shangri-La
- 35 Shangri-La, Shangri-La, la, la, la, la

CHORUS

The Kinks, Arthur, or the Decline and Fall of the British Empire (1969)

Document 2b : annexe (document mp3)

Song (5'20): The Kinks, "Shangri-La" (Arthur, or the Decline and Fall of the British Empire, 1969)

Document 3 : annexe (document video)

Excerpt of a film (2'35): a scene from Edward Scissorhands (Tim Burton, 1990)