



DANDEMONIUM: The Dandy Defined by Robin Dutt (Kerseymere, £100)

Who better to create an exquisite book about dandies than Robin Dutt, sometimes of these pages, a sublime example of this rare species?

He begins, wisely, by defining what a dandy is not: a cravat-wearing preening peacock does not a dandy make. The chapters that follow delve into the very essence of the dandy: his defiance of convention, his melancholy, his wit, his cruelty. The dandy's signature

traits are originality and confidence: self-doubt, if there is any, is well hidden under his velvet coat.

A visual guide to the species, it is also a wide-ranging study of male dress, from the Georgian period to the present day. At once scholarly and wickedly entertaining, this book is a must for elegantly curious minds and stylish coffee tables.

Juanita Coulson

