

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
--------------------------	----------

What is a dandy? • studies on dandyism from an historical and literary point of view • Brummell • “dandy” dress and manners • the crossing of the English Channel into France • “anglomania” and the figure of the “écrivain-dandy” • Barbey d’Aurevilly • “Du Dandysme et de George Brummell” • Baudelaire and “Le peintre de la vie moderne” • *Les Diaboliques* • “Le bonheur dans le crime”.

Chapter 1 The Functioning of Clothes as Signs in “Le bonheur dans le crime”	27
--	-----------

The symbolic value and narrative function of black clothing in the opening scene • dress in “Du Dandysme et de George Brummell” • misconceptions and definitions • Brummell’s clothes and their semiotic richness • utilitarianism and The Great Male Renunciation • the “detail” and its function • further descriptions of dress in “Le bonheur dans le crime”

Chapter 2 The Ambiguity of Dandy Sexuality	55
---	-----------

Brummell’s ambiguous sexuality • androgyny • gender-inversion in “Le bonheur dans le crime” • primordial scenes • Narcissism and Freud • Lacan and the “Miroir Stage”

Chapter 3 “Jeux de voile” or the Seduction Game	75
--	-----------

The image of the veiled woman • “jeux de voile” • the image of the masked fencer: provocation and dissimulation • George Brummell • impassivity • Baudelaire and “L’éloge du maquil-

lage" • the notions of self-as-art, spectacle/spectator and exhibitionism/voyeurism

Chapter 4 The Figure of Dr. Torty 103

The notion of "le désir triangulaire" • the "mise en abyme" and narrative layers • the double meaning of "corpus" as "text" and "body" • "jeux de voile"

Conclusion 129

Bibliography 133