



Treatise on Elegant Living (Paperback)

By Napoleon Jeffries, Honoré de Balzac

Wakefield Press, Australia, 2010. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Honoré de Balzac's 1830 *Treatise on Elegant Living* was a keystone text on dandyism, preceding Jules Barbey d'Aurevilly's *Anatomy of Dandyism* (1845) and Charles Baudelaire's *The Dandy* (in *The Painter of Modern Life*, 1863), and marking an important shift from the early dandyism of the British Regency to the intellectual and artistic dandyism of nineteenth-century France. The *Treatise* is the first true philosophical expression of dandyism, and is full of well-crafted aphorisms: *Elegant living is, in the broad acceptance of the term, the art of animating repose*, runs one classic definition of dandyism, and *One must have studied at least as far as rhetoric to lead an elegant life* asserts the importance of verbal pirouette and dexterous quipping to the dandy. Further embellished with anecdotes and historical and personal illustrations, Balzac's *Treatise* even features a fictitious encounter with the original dandy himself, Beau Brummell. Never before translated into English, this witty tract makes for an illuminating cornerstone to Balzac's *Human Comedy* (which was originally to have included a never-completed four-part philosophical *Pathology of Social Life*). Above all, it represents a...

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