

Contents

<i>Preface and Acknowledgements</i>	ix
Introduction	1
Part I Social Theory and Elite Distinction	
1 Classical Approaches to Social Emulation and Distinction	7
Precursors	7
Spencer	13
Tarde	14
Veblen	16
Simmel	20
Weber	22
Sombart	24
2 Major Subsequent Contributions	26
(Neo-)Marxist views	26
The functionalist school	28
Elias	31
Goffman	33
Bourdieu	35
Baudrillard	36
Analysts of postmodernity	37
Psycho-sociological perspectives	39
Elements of socio-economics	41
3 Grand Theories: Limits and Merits	44
Endless rediscovering	44
On dubious generalisations and extrapolations	46
The analytical models confronted with comparative research	52
Part II Key Manifestations	
4 External Signs of Superiority	61
Some premises about prestigious goods	61
Adornment	64
Residence	68

Vehicles	73
Culinary aspects	77
5 Embodied Signs of Superiority	81
Self-confidence and assertiveness	81
Distinguished manners	84
Physical appearance	88
Cultivation and linguistic competence	91
6 Vicarious Display	94
Relatives	94
Flaunting elitist connections	96
Glamorous female company	100
Servants	105
Art patronage	108
 Part III Variability	
7 The Historicity of Elite Distinction: Selected Themes	115
Early stages: accounts from anthropological works	115
Sumptuary laws compared	117
Revolutionary reactions	120
Processes of (in)formalisation	123
The outcome of mass consumer society	125
8 Tradition, Fashion, Borrowing and Syncretism	129
Distinction through antiquity – distinction through novelty	129
Adoptions – adaptations	133
The advent of globalised patterns?	135
9 Beyond Reductionism	139
On profusion and sophistication	139
On dominant codes and styles	143
Conclusion	150
<i>Notes</i>	151
<i>Works Cited</i>	177
<i>Name Index</i>	199
<i>Subject Index</i>	207