

2 *The Complete Costume History*
by Auguste Racinet (Taschen, \$330)

Some books just scream out to be bought; this is one of them. Originally published in France between 1876 and 1888, Monsieur Racinet's *Le Costume Historique* is credited with being one of the most wide-ranging and intelligent studies of fashion ever. The years have been kind to it and its exquisite vintage illustrations tracking trends from the ancient world to the 19th century.