

And so it is with this wonderful book. There is a yin and yang to the fashion and accessory industry that runs throughout. On one hand it's more egalitarian now, but one can't help but think that the industry, Ms. Thomas and maybe even those of us who have no right to be are snobs underneath. Like Henry Home, Lord Kames, who is quoted saying, "If there were no luxury, there would be no poor."

My money's on Socrates, "Contentment is natural wealth. Luxury is artificial poverty."

DELUXE: HOW LUXURY LOST ITS LUSTER

By Dana Thomas

Penguin Press, \$27.95, 389 pages
