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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

With the tinsel safely tucked away and New Year’s resolutions afoot, the remaining months spread ahead in monolithic white. Keeping a warm heart and light step during the dark doldrums of winter takes some fortitude. To that end, our editors got together to give you a nip of sartorial suggestions to brighten the days. Our themes are accessories and colors.

As the snow continues to pile up, the urge to hunker down inside the same parkas, hats clamped firmly to our heads, presses more than ever. Our reliance on impenetrable overcoats attests to good sense your mother would rightly praise, but it limits the amount of visual space one has to work with in dressing. Sticking with solid boots and coats; scarves, hats, and gloves each provide opportunities for some diversity. Whether finding refuge in cozy Mongolian cashmere, or the heartiness of Scottish Highland wool, winter accessories come in a range of both colors and weaves suitable to all whims and occasions. Toward this end, we’ve put together a sampling of styles in this issue we hope you will find interesting and inspiring.

Finally, with the inevitable promise of the coming change in seasons, we review a relative newcomer to menswear: Indochino. In previous issues we strove to address quality and basics in men’s work wear. Here we work toward questions of availability and the practicality of cost. With our eye toward a potential source of summer internship wardrobe staples, we spoke with the firm’s co-founder and CEO to get an inside look at their operations, and got a taste of their tailoring.

I should note that over the past few months, our readers have given us valuable feedback on issues they would like us to explore in the future. We appreciate hearing back from all of you, and are thrilled to learn of topics of new interest. As the thaw sets in, we’ll return with more answers, insights, and musings.

Till then, thanks and happy reading.

Ethan Schmertzler
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
For those of us who want to appear a bit taller, establishing visual continuity in one’s profile will do a lot for perceived height. Aspects of one’s attire that divide the body—a belt, for example—shortens one perceptually. Relying on more traditional divisions, such as a shirt and pant combination, cause this same issue; the body is divided for the eye.

For men, this is most easily avoided through the use of pairing slacks and jacket, as one would find on a suit. More realistically, since college students aren’t often clad in worsted wool, a similar effect can be achieved through the layering of progressively shorter items. An example of this is shown here on the left: the addition of a scarf of the same color pallet carries the eye smoothly from her legs, hem, to scarf, which leads up to, and blends in with, her hair. By keeping colors similar, no major visual blocks are incurred.
Ethan J. Schmertzler
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WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO

GANT
INDOCHINO
KAT CARTER
MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
The necktie occupies the unique position in menswear of being simultaneously derided as the working man's noose, or the mark of stature and success. Opting for the positive perspective on things, the necktie should be considered an opportunity to accomplish something visually interesting and aesthetically pleasing.

Broadly, three types of necktie styles exist: stripes, geometric, and whimsical. The heritage of the striped tie comes from regimental and university colors in the British Empire, signifying one's affiliation through service or education. When importing the striped tie to the United States, Brooks Brothers took the matter seriously enough to reverse the angle of the stripes so no accidental relationships could be attributed. Even still, stripes give the wearer an opportunity to show their roots, and thus, conversely, wearing an inappropriate tie might constitute flying under false colors.

The geometric and whimsical provide an individual full breadth and free range to explore combinations of pattern, color, and weave. Complementary aesthetics are paramount. Thoughtfully pair small with large, thin with fat, and avoid an overabundance of any particular shade in your haberdashery. The point and joy if neckties is, after all, expressing one's individuality.
The “universal wardrobe shorthand for sloth and lassitude” also known as the sweat pant first made its way out of the locker rooms and on to the fashion scene in the 1980’s and 90’s when rap artists popularized the tracksuit as a type of urban street fashion. Upon this trend’s inevitable death, the sweat pant slowly became the go-to trouser of choice for bad days, errand runs, and the ever so popular ‘late for my 8:00 am’ college student. Today, this “sloth” is not only sweeping the streets of Europe but also, filling up the paparazzi pages and strutting down the catwalks.

Originally gray and intended for athletic use, the sweat pant was invented in France in the 1920’s by the founder of the French athletic shop Le Coq Sportif Emile Camuset. Variations of this once recreation and leisure-only, elasticized cuff and waist trouser, now feature drop crotches and tapered leg openings that are pulled up and scrunched around the shin. Pair that with a cute tank, layered long necklaces, peep toe booties and a blazer and voilà!, the runways of Isabel Marant, Rag & Bone, Bottega Veneta, Alexander Wang and Marc Jacobs.
A Glimpse Into Indochino
By Ethan Schmertzler
THE BEDROCK OF ANY MAN’S WARDROBE, THE SUIT, comes in countless iterations, and no matter what the style, a suit’s fit remains the paramount feature. Elevating any garment in sartorial stature, a proper fit demands a skilled tailor with a thoughtful eye. Embracing the internet over the past few years, several firms began to offer their services through limited online platforms. A relative newcomer, Indochino emerged on the web without the brick and mortar background, and attracted our attention for both their affordability and the solidity of their ordering platform.

Located in Victoria, Canada, Indochino began in 2007 founded by Kyle Vucko and Heikal Gani. Providing a strictly made-to-measure program, the company offers suits at prices ranging from $300 to $500, making them competitive with our recommended entry-level suits. In the relative price range of $400, the selection in stores is often of poor cut and quality. Often the salespeople have little experience, or simply do not care. Previously, our recommendation at this cost has been pay a visit to J. Crew, where a young buyer can expect better value and some sartorial panache for their money. Knowledgeably staffed, the J. Crew Men’s Shop at 484 Broadway in New York City offers their largest suit selection and experienced eyes to help suitably nip in the jacket. Indochino provides an attractive alternative, with ordering and fitting based entirely online. But could a firm, at such low production cost, actually deliver a quality product?

We had an opportunity to chat with co-founder Kyle Vucko to discuss their garments. Their intent, he affirmed, was to speak to student budgets while providing tasteful styles. Moreover, they offer affordable suits from any location; the entire measuring and ordering process occurs online and the company ships globally. With target turn around times of two weeks (time from ordering to delivery), Indochino has structured themselves to compete against off-the-rack tailoring.

Production is entirely Chinese-based. Sourcing fabrics from Chinese mills dramatically reduces material costs for the company. Indochino manufactures in Shanghai, further suppressing production cost. Canvassing is fused, not uncommon in this price range. Jackets employ horn button with surgeon’s cuffs, two nice points of detailing. In similar prices, only Rugby makes their cuffs similarly.

The real key to Indochino’s appeal remains the fit, presenting a real promise to outclass most peers at a very attractive price. The firm guarantees the fit, offering a $75 reimbursement at a local tailor. If the damage exceeds that cost, they offer to remake the garment from scratch. This is an uncommon service in this industry, and worth respect.

To test their services, we placed an order for a blazer and white button down (disclosure: paying full price for both). With a full review coming in spring, we recommend Indochino’s product. For the price, the fit, customization options, and durability of the stitching, Indochino provides an enormously compelling series of products.
Cumbres, divinas cumbres, excelsos muros.
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