

Pageantry on the page



Images from *Pageantry & Performance*, clockwise from the right: misty and moody – an early-morning ride in the park; captured in close-up – sheepskin blanket and battle honours forming part of the ornate saddlery; colour, movement and splendour – the Queen's Birthday Parade; golden glory – the State Trumpeters



Regiment celebrated by a photographer's art

Pageantry & Performance: The Household Cavalry in a Celebration of Pictures by Henry Dallal (published by the author; £45 from Waterstone's bookshops nationwide).

Review: Chris Horrocks

IF the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment epitomises British excellence and tradition, then this work of art in book form is a fitting celebration of its qualities.

And if you think it is a tad pricy, read on. The individually laminated images which grace its pages are more suited to be framed in gilt to adorn the picture gallery of a palace than lie idly on a coffee-table.

It is a book to be wondered at rather than just perused and those fortunate enough to open its covers will feel guilty not to be wearing silk gloves as they gingerly turn the pages.

Henry Dallal spent six years photographing the Household Cavalry from dawn to dusk and in this distillation of that painstaking work he has captured from every aspect the regiment's activities throughout a typical year, from ceremonial to operational (in its armoured reconnaissance role).

A son et lumière spectacle projecting his



photography, including images from the book, onto the walls of Windsor Castle, with an exhibition of his pictures, took place last month during the Windsor Festival.

Dallal writes in his introduction of his first visit to the regiment's home in Knightsbridge, home to 250 horses and 350 officers, soldiers and their families.

"The closer I looked, the more I realised what a rich and vivid world it was. Every detail on the uniforms and every piece of polished brass on the saddlery had a reason. Behind every minute detail there was a story

– and 350 years of the Household Cavalry's history was woven into crests, sheepskin blankets, gold outfits and helmets, for display to visiting heads of state or on ceremonial processions.

"My challenge as a photographer has been to capture something of this symbolism, to convey a little of my own love of horses and their individual personalities, and to explore the intricacies behind the scenes."

He has succeeded with flying colours.

● Books in brief – Page 71