



MEN IN BLACK

From TOP Spanking Ritual 2, published in 1965. Photography: Niels Jorgensen, printed in Denmark.

Despite the fact that I happen to know a mistress who actually prefers white latex, it's safe to say that black tends to be the colour of choice in the shady world of S&M. Latex-donning women and rubber-clad men usually opt for black (although, transparent latex is apparently all the rage these days). Why? Partly because black is such an anonymous colour - anonymity being an important constituent of role-playing. But perhaps even more so because black is the colour of alluring and forbidden sex. Still, the question remains: when and where did it all start? It is said that it all began as a male black leather thing, right after World War

II. From there it grew into latex and rubber as it was much cheaper to produce, easier to work with and above all more apt for the games people wanted to play (and then there's the supposedly arousing smell). In any case, the latex subculture really took off in the '70s with fashion designers like John Sutcliffe and his infamous fetish magazine *Atomage* and trashier derivatives like this Danish magazine dating from 1970. Curiously, what you see in these fine pics is exactly what you get: throughout the magazine there is no actual depiction of sex, nor are there any titillating texts to be found.