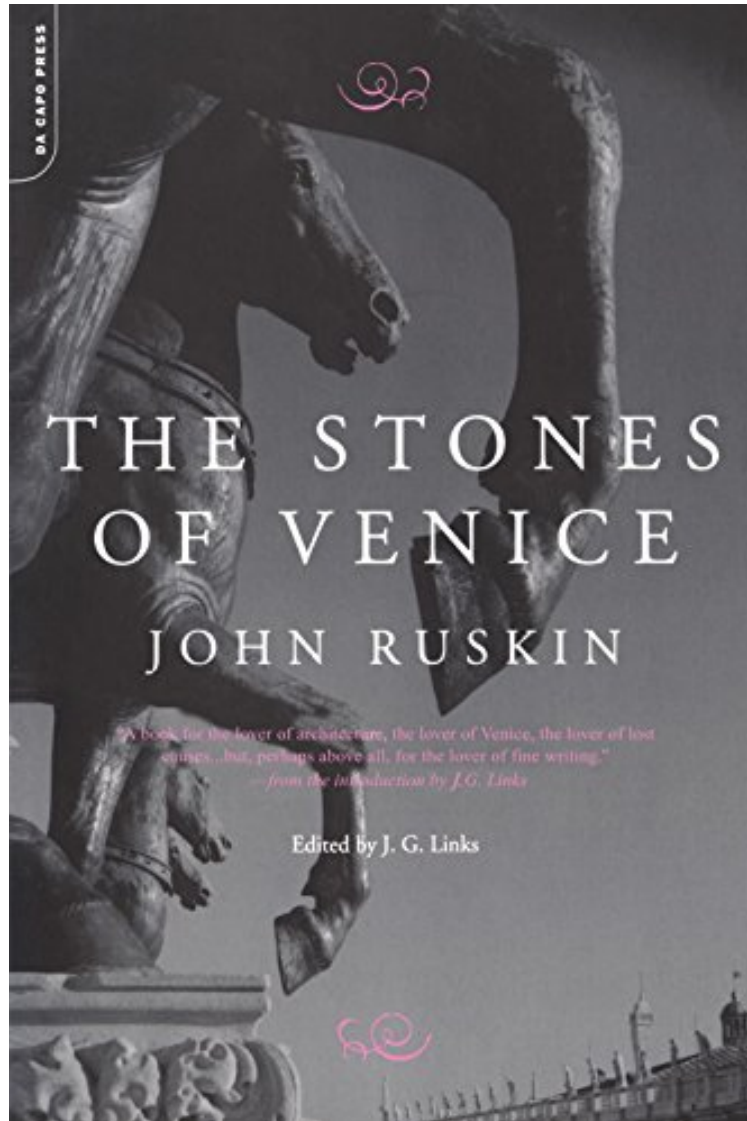


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The Stones Of Venice

John Ruskin

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John Ruskin : The Stones Of Venice before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Stones Of Venice:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good abbreviated editionBy ScottThis edition of Stones of Venice fills a real need: enough of the whole to give the reader a sense of continuity and arc of Ruskin's argument, but without the countless digressions and details. We get a good lesson in architecture, especially in the virtues of the gothic arch; we get the historical account of the Byzantine, Gothic, and Renaissance styles; and we see Ruskin's moral and

historical purposes, as he tells the story of Venice as a "rise and fall" narrative. There are some surprising omissions, namely, the famous excerpted passage from "Nature of the Gothic." But the editor, I think, wisely left that out, keeping everything focused on the historical perspective of Venice; and besides, it's so frequently found in collections of Ruskin's writings. So the immense work is boiled down to about 250 readable and engaging pages. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great insights into the spirit, ethos and values of art and Architecture. By Baregil de Gomesval Ruskin was the foremost art critic of the Victorian era. This Oxonian was a gentleman of universal and unusual talents. In 'The Stones of Venice' he reviews that fertile depository of so different cross currents of arts, the 'Serenissima Republica', which had no better exit than by sea through the Adriatic. When Marcel Proust visited Venice, hand in book as his guide, he walked and saw through the eyes of Ruskin. You should too and your scope of art appreciation will expand towards new frontiers. High art in Venice in particular and in Europe in general are no longer produced because the Spirit has left its carcass, which is rotting and decaying, just as Venice was by the time Ruskin walked its narrow alleys and across its street bridges. And because that Spirit has left Europe it no longer produces geniuses of the caliber of John Ruskin. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Well worth the journey. By P. HEIMAN This is abridged version, which is perfectly OK for most of us, as much of the complete version consists of very detailed and hard-to-follow architectural analysis. Some of the writing is brilliant and inspiring. I imagine some will take issue with Ruskin's basic thesis, that art and civilization have been on the decline since somewhere in the early 14th century. A lot of interesting history, well worth the journey.

John Ruskin, Victorian England's greatest writer on art and literature, believed himself an adopted son of Venice, and his feelings for this city are exquisitely expressed in *The Stones of Venice*. This edition contains Ruskin's famous essay "The Nature of Gothic," a marvelously descriptive tour of Venice before its postwar restoration. As Ruskin wrote in 1851, "Thank God I am here, it is a Paradise of Cities."

"The enduring, passionate classic on architecture and Venice." -- Washington Post Book World 10/19/03
About the Author John Ruskin wrote over forty volumes of art and architecture criticism during the nineteenth century. J. G. Links is the author of *Venice for Pleasure*.