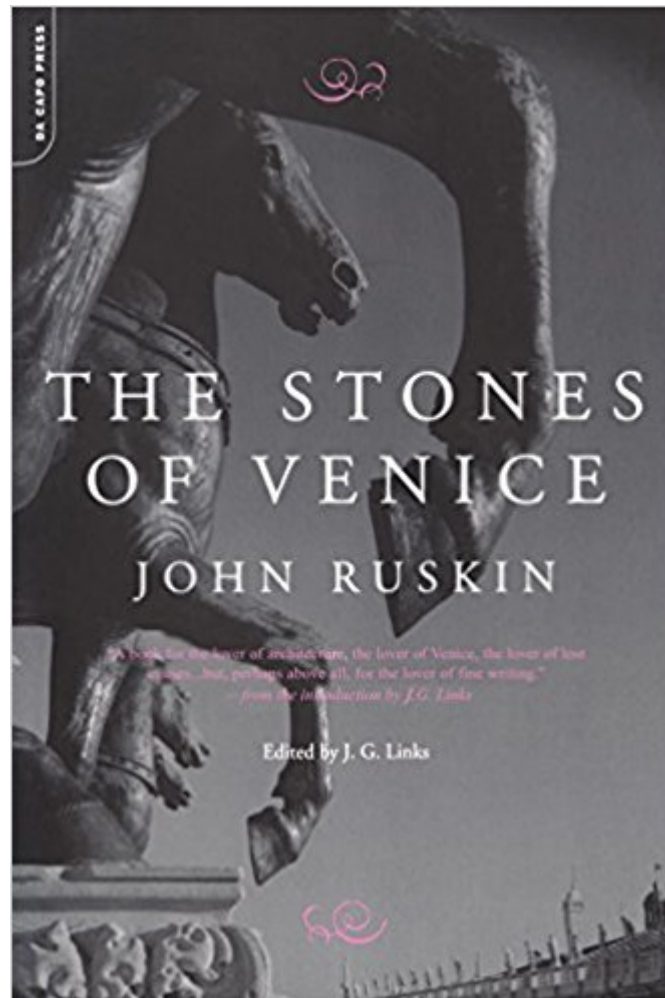




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# The Stones Of Venice



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## Synopsis

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."

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The enduring, passionate classic on architecture and Venice." -- Washington Post Book World  
10/19/03

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*.

This 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.

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.

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.

This edition is a highly abridged version of this classic. Many of Ruskin's best passages have been completely removed. This should have been stated up front in the description of the book, but it is not.

You can't go two sentences without finding words erroneously mashed together without a space separating them. The kindle edition isn't worth a dollar for how annoying it is to attempt to read it with all the missing spaces. Whoever digitized this needs to get their act together.

Watch out - extremely Victorian writing style. Many disagree with Ruskin but the fact remains that he delivers an aesthetic algorithm that prepares the reader to think about architecture and other art forms.

a total dud. not even close, so abridged it should be called "the st of v" or maybe "just a few pebbles

of venice." bought this as i was needing to reference two passages re: giovanni bellini. you guessed it, neither are in this version Shame on amzn for selling such utter crap with no warning. Total ripoff!

An excellent and accessible intro to ruskins thought. It makes you see Venice with new eyes. Buy it now and go see Venice

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