



# Written in Stone

Minerals collected and described by Roger Caillois

**Roger Caillois**

**Marguerite Yourcenar**

**Carlo Ossola**

**Stefano Salis**

**François Farges**

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- Never-before-seen photographs of Roger Caillois' collection of semiprecious stones
- The volume combines Art, Nature, and Literature
- Deluxe edition for bibliophiles, silk binding

Even though they belong to the mineral kingdom, the stones in the collection of the French writer Roger Caillois appear miraculously similar to works of art. Beginning from this mysterious but captivating link between two such apparently distant universes, the book collects a carefully curated selection of the finest stones in the collection and recounts the life of Caillois (sociologist, member of the surrealist movement...), reviewing and presenting his essays on stones. The persona and the personality of this atypical 20th-century intellectual emerge from the essay by Stefano Salis, who introduces us to Caillois' world and that of Marguerite Yourcenar, who took his place in the Académie de France after his death with a speech reviewing his life and work. The literary critic Carlo Ossola traces the outlines of the cultural climate in which Caillois lived and operated, while François Farges, now in charge of the collection, illustrates it in the final essay.

**Carlo Ossola** is a philologist and literary critic. He teaches at the Collège de France, with a chair in Modern Literature of Neo-Latin Europe. His books and essays, brilliantly mixing philological research with the history of ideas, focus on both Renaissance culture and contemporary authors. **Stefano Salis** is the editor of the opinion desk of "Sole 24 Ore," with interests in publishing, literature, and music. He has taught classes and run workshops on cultural journalism in various Milanese universities. **Marguerite Yourcenar** was a French writer and poetess. She was the first woman elected to the Académie Française; for her masterpiece *Memoirs of Hadrian* she was a close contender for the Nobel Prize in Literature. **François Farges** is a mineralogist and a French academic. He is a professor at the Muséum national d'histoire naturelle in Paris. He specializes in environmental and patrimonial mineralogy (history and reconstruction of the great legendary gems of history).

