

# The New Criterion

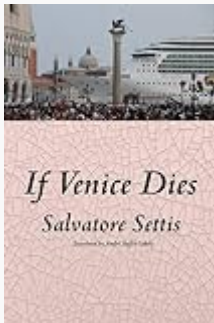
Books March 2017

## La Serenissima no more?

by Mary Campbell Gallagher

A review of *If Venice Dies* by Salvatore Settis

### BOOKS IN THIS ARTICLE



Salvatore Settis

*If Venice Dies*

New Vessel Press, 180 pages, \$16.95

The stunning news came in mid-February that Italy's gigantic Mose project—building underwater barriers to save Venice from catastrophic flooding—might be doomed to fail. This bombshell fell after decades of planning, construction starting in 2003, 5.5 billion euros of investment, and, with greed playing a front-page role, the criminal prosecutions for corruption of numerous political figures. As revealed in the February 6, 2017 issue of the Italian periodical *Espresso*, a forthcoming report from Gian Mario Paolucci, a former Professor of Metallurgy at the University of Padua, targets among other defects the fact that while the hinges submitted to initial tests were of high quality, manufactured in Vicenza, the hinges actually to be installed are manufactured in Eastern Europe and of possibly fatally inferior quality.

A threatened...

The rest of this article is locked. Please make sure you are logged in to view the full article.

---

**Mary Campbell Gallagher** (1938–2021) was the President of the International Coalition for the Preservation of Paris, ICPP. She edited *Paris Without Skyscrapers* (ICPP & SOS Paris).

This article originally appeared in The New Criterion, Volume 35 Number 7 , on page 72

Copyright © 2024 The New Criterion | [www.newcriterion.com](http://www.newcriterion.com)

<https://newcriterion.com/issues/2017/3/la-serenissima-no-more>