

Contents

List of illustrations	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	1
1. ‘The great fragments of antiquity’: ruins and recovery of the past in Giambattista Vico’s <i>New science</i>	17
2. ‘The ruined cities lie desolate’: natural catastrophe and historical change in eighteenth-century Italy	43
3. Time of nature, time of man: ruins and the materiality of the historical imagination	79
4. Melancholies of the modern: nature and history in the late eighteenth-century Picturesque	119
5. The ghostly ruins of Neoclassicism: Alessandro Verri’s <i>Roman nights</i> and the posthumous life of the ancient	153
6. The shipwrecks of time: Giacomo Leopardi’s poetics of ruins	187
Epilogue: a glance back	225
Bibliography	231
Index	251