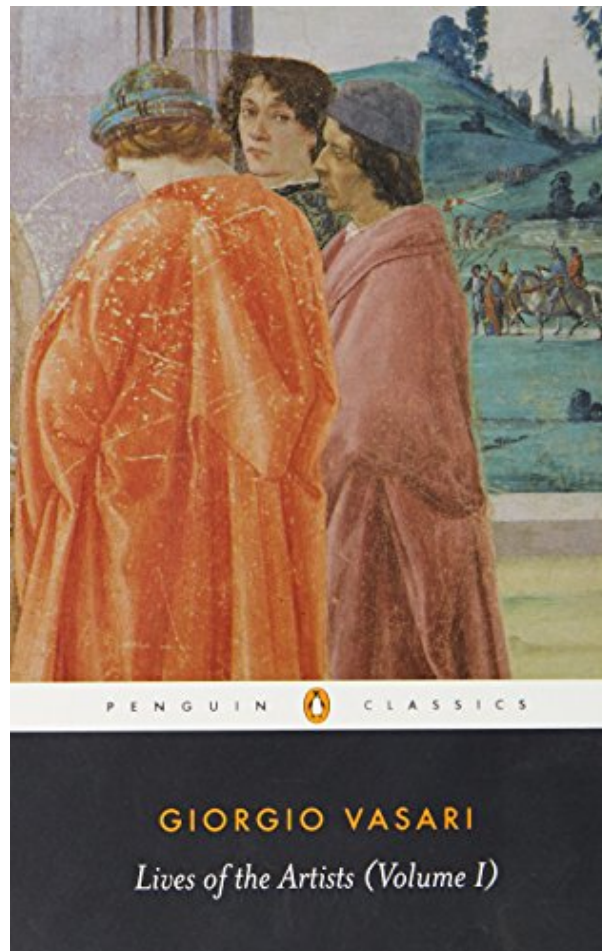


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Language Notes

Text: English, Italian (translation)

About the Author

George Bull is an Oxford-educated author and a journalist. He has been the foreign news editor of the "Financial Times". He is also a renowned translator and has written extensively on the Renaissance. He lives in London.

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In his Lives of the Artists of the Italian Renaissance, Vasari demonstrated a literary talent that outshone even his outstanding abilities as a painter and architect. Through character sketches and anecdotes he depicts Piero di Cosimo shut away in his derelict house, living only to paint; Giulio Romano's startling painting of Jove striking down the giants; and his friend Francesco Salviati, whose biography also tells us much about Vasari's own early career. Vasari's original and soaring vision plus his acute aesthetic judgements have made him one of the most influential art historians of all time.

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## Most helpful customer reviews

28 of 28 people found the following review helpful.

Extremely readable, contemporary account of his peers

By John L Haynes

Vasari was a life-long correspondent of Michaelangelo, a contemporary of Leonardo, etc., so the accounts are written about his friends and competitors, not 100+ years later, thru the prism of time. Yet this translation is in readable, 20th Century English.

The chapters on Brunelleschi, Donato, etc. are lively, entertaining as well as instructive. MUST reading for anyone going to Italy, or to see works of the Florentine artists.

(N.B. I am an engineer who never had a fine arts class, ever!)

11 of 13 people found the following review helpful.

Giorgio Vasari - Lives of the Artists Volume One

By Ayla M. Amon

A good introduction to Medieval, Renaissance, and Mannerist artists written by someone who lived around their time and had actual contact with some of the artists, as well as personal painting experience. He is,

however, colored by his personal relationships with the artists, hyperbolic, and constrained by the Zeitgeist of the era. In exploring the relationships of artist and patron he is able to shed light on their social situation and the constant struggle of the elevation of the art of painting among the liberal arts. In English, some of the grandeur of his writing is lost, and it lacks the poetic ease of the Italian original. If you want a fuller version, I suggest (especially for bilingual speakers) a translation with the Italian original on the other side of the page.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Lives of the Artists by Vasari

By S. Scott

Printed originally in Italian in the mid-sixteenth century, this book is considered not only the first history of art but also the first to put into words the process of growth and rebirth that characterized the Renaissance. Vasari writes about artists who were, for the most part, his contemporaries. He knew of their work and their lives, if not first-hand then by reputation or by association. The little stories he weaves into their lives give insight into each artist's personality. Though Vasari does try to make them all fit the mold of the Renaissance man, he shows us the chinks in the facade.

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