



## ***Ruined cottages, vestiges, and shipwreck in Bernardin de Saint-Pierre***

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Abstract: This article considers the symbolic function of the “ruined cottages”, plant-covered, dematerialized, and demonumentalized, scattered throughout the work of Bernardin de Saint-Pierre. These represent, along with the various “vestiges” that characterize the story of *Paul et Virginie* (shadows, echoes, inscriptions, traces. . . ), the border between two worlds, and temporal and spatial gaps linking past and future and allowing us to intuitively picture “the shoreless ocean of futurity”.

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