

## Visions & Voices: The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection

 Tags: [ancient archaeology](#), [ancient art](#);

Exhibition at the Getty Villa September 12, 2012–January 7, 2013

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### Introduction

While certainly a disaster for its inhabitants, the volcanic destruction and burial of the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and its surroundings in 79 AD has been a boon for archaeologists who have found it to be a window into a long-vanished world. Since its rediscovery in the 18th century, the fate of Pompeii and the surroundings have captured the imagination of writers, artists and more.

For more information on Pompeii, the Roman Empire and its place in our culture and imagination, please explore the tabs at the top of this guide.

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### AIA Description of the Exhibition

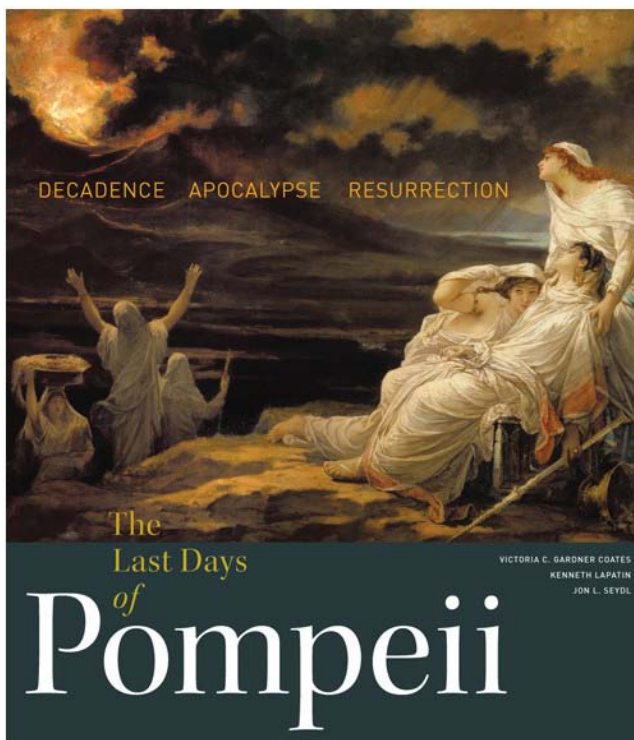
From the [Archaeological Institute of America](#):

Pompeii and the other ancient cities destroyed and paradoxically preserved by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 are usually considered the places where one can best and most directly experience the daily lives of ancient Romans. Rather than presenting these sites as windows to the past, this exhibition explores them as a modern obsession.

Over the three hundred years since their discovery in the early 1700s, the Vesuvian sites have functioned as mirrors of the present, inspiring foremost artists—from Piranesi, Fragonard, Ingres, and Alma-Tadema to Duchamp, Dali, Rothko, and Warhol—to engage with contemporary concerns in diverse media.

This international loan exhibition is co-organized by the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Cleveland Museum of Art in association with the Musée des Beaux-Arts de Québec

### Exhibition Catalog



The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection [Hardcover]  
 Victoria C. Gardner Coates (Author), Kenneth Lapatin (Author), Jon L. Seydl (Author)  
 Hardcover: 256 pages. Publisher: J. Paul Getty Museum; 1 edition (October 2, 2012)  
 Language: English. ISBN-10: 1606061151

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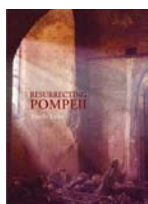
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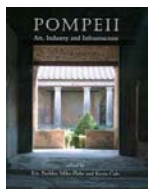
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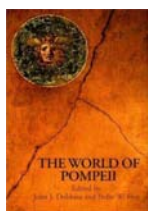
Books in the USC Libraries



**Resurrecting Pompeii - Estelle Lazer**  
Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7L39 2009  
Publication Date: 2009-09-24



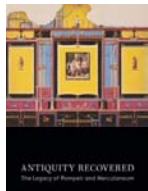
**Pompeii: art, industry, and infrastructure - Kevin Cole (Editor); Miko Flohr (Editor); Eric Poehler (Editor)**  
Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7 P665 2011  
Publication Date: 2011-06-22



**Pompeii and Ancient Settlements - John J. Dobbins (Editor); Pedar Foss**  
Call Number: AFA DG70.P7W77 2007  
Publication Date: 2007-08-20



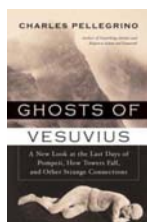
**The Complete Pompeii - Joanne Berry**  
Call Number: Doheny & Leavey: DG70.P7B468 2007  
Publication Date: 2007-11-01



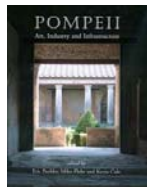
**Antiquity Recovered - Victoria C. Gardner Coates; Jon L. Seydl (Editor)**  
Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7A73 2007  
Publication Date: 2007-06-18

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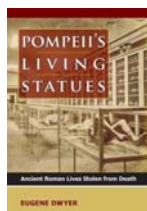
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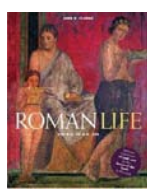
**Ghosts of Vesuvius - Charles R. Pellegrino**  
Call Number: Doheny & Leavey: DG70.P7P44 2004  
Publication Date: 2004-08-01



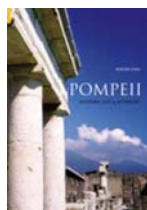
**Pompeii - Kevin Cole (Editor); Miko Flohr (Editor); Eric Poehler (Editor)**  
Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7 P665 2011  
Publication Date: 2011-06-22



**Pompeii's Living Statues - Eugene Dwyer**  
Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7D89 2010  
Publication Date: 2010-05-17



**Roman Life - John R. Clarke; Michael Larvey (Photographer)**  
Call Number: Doheny DG78.C577 2007  
ISBN: 9780810993396  
Publication Date: 2007-11-01

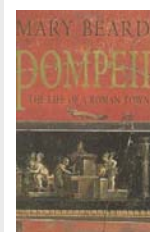


**Pompeii - Roger Ling**  
Call Number: Doheny DG70.P7L56 2005  
ISBN: 0752414593  
Publication Date: 2005-05-01

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eBooks on Pompeii

Click on the title of the ebook to bring up the catalog record and then click on the link for "Electronic Access" to view the book.



**Pompeii: the life of a Roman Town - Beard, Mary**  
Publication Date: 2008  
EBOOK



**Pompeii awakened: a story of rediscovery - Harris, Judith**  
Publication Date: 2007



**Intimită a Pompei - Anna Anguissola**  
Publication Date: 2010-12-15

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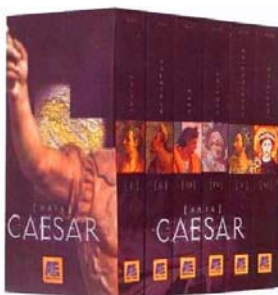
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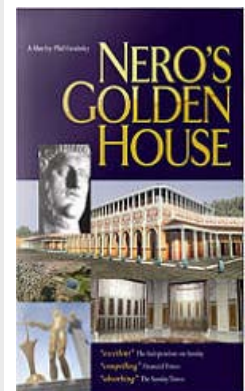
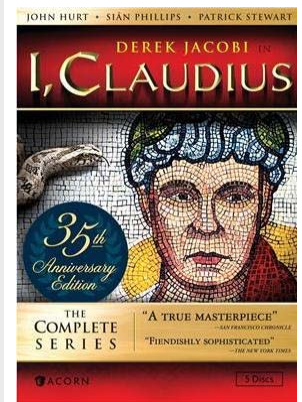
Movies on Pompeii and Ancient Rome in the USC Libraries

These movies are available for checkout. Click on the links for the library catalog record.

- [Rome et Pompeii \[videorecording\] \(1993\)](#)  
The grandeur of Imperial Rome and Pompeii is reconstructed by archeologists, historians, and video artists.  
Leavy Library LUY VID 12
- [Pompeii and the Roman villa \[videorecording\] : a National Gallery of Art presentation \(2008\)](#)  
AFA Library AFA DVD 505
- [Viaggio nell'antica Pompei \[videorecording\] = Journey to ancient Pompeii \(2004\)](#)  
Uses archaeological evidence to re-create daily life in the town of Pompeii at the time Mt. Vesuvius erupted. Gives an historical overview of the urban, political and cultural organizations of Pompeii.  
AFA Library AFA DVD 558
- [Fellini Satyricon \[videorecording\] \(2001\)](#)  
Fellini recreates the bawdy and lecherous days of Nero's reign in ancient Rome and its lack of concern with human dignity and obsession with perverse sex. The film is also an allegorical satire of the self-indulgence of modern society.  
Leavy Library LUY DVD 898
- [The Aeneid of Virgil. \[videorecording\] \(1997\)](#)  
Professor Elizabeth Vandiver presents 12 lectures on this great epic of ancient Rome. The lectures provide detailed examination of the most important episodes and address various critical and interpretative issues.  
Leavy Library LUY VID 1284
- [I, Claudius \[videorecording\]: the complete series \(1976\)](#)  
An epic tale of ambition, debauchery, and intrigue, the Emmy-winning BBC series is one of the most popular and acclaimed dramas in Masterpiece Theatre history. Based on the novels by Robert Graves, spanning the history of the Roman Empire from Augustus to Nero.  
Leavy Library LUY DVD 6143
- [Nero's Golden House \[videorecording\] \(2009\)](#)  
Examines the reality behind the myth of this extraordinary building that played host to violence, sexual perversion, and great beauty. Investigators attempt to distinguish fact from fiction.  
AFA Library AFA DVD 937
- [Spartacus \[videorecording\] \(2001\)](#)  
Spartacus, a Thracian gladiator raised as a slave, leads his fellow slaves in an uprising again the corrupt Roman Empire. This edition includes the following supplements: the restored 1991 Super Technirama version of Spartacus; and much more.  
Leavy Library LUY DVD 697
- [Gladiator \[videorecording\] \(2000\)](#)  
A Roman general refuses to transfer his loyalty to the new Emperor, Commodus. He becomes a slave and then a gladiator, fighting in the Roman Colosseum in defiance of the Emperor. Directed by Ridley Scott and starring Russel Crowe.  
Leavy Library LUY DVD 102
- [Hail Caesar \[videorecording\] \(1998\)](#)  
Originally produced in 1997 for the television series: Biography. Volume titles: v.1. Julius - v.2. Augustus -- v.3. Nero -- v.4. Hadrian -- v.5. Constantine -- v.6. Justinian.  
Leavy Library LUY DVD 929

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### General Information

The Getty Villa is located at  
17985 Pacific Coast Highway  
Pacific Palisades, California 90272  
(310) 440-7300

[Hours, Directions, and Parking](#)

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### Collections

The [Permanent Collection](#) of the Getty Villa is comprised of approximately 44,000 Greek, Roman, and Etruscan antiquities; more than 1,200 items are on exhibit in 23 galleries. There is also a small collection of Cycladic objects, dating from 3000-2200 BCE.

Many of the [galleries](#) are arranged by themes, including Women and Children in Antiquity, Stories of the Trojan War, Monsters and Minor Deities, and Wine in Antiquity.

Please see Further Reading at the [Find Books](#) tab for a brief list of books about the Getty.

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### Exhibitions

#### Current Exhibitions



[The Sanctuaries of Demeter and at Morgantina](#)  
April 14 - January 21, 2013

A cache of over 30 votive offerings excavated from the sanctuaries of the ancient city of Morgantina. The Museo Archeologico Regionale of Aidona, Italy, has loaned these objects, which date from 400 to 200 B.C., to the Getty Villa. They were given as gifts by worshippers to Demeter and her daughter Persephone, goddesses of agricultural fertility who also preside over the feminine sphere. Ranging from brightly painted

### Introduction

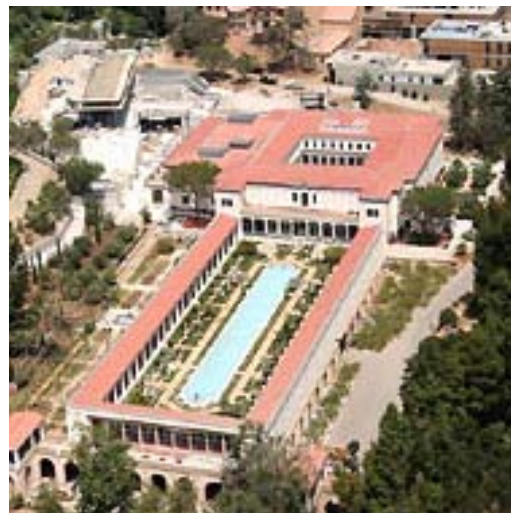
The Getty Villa, the original site of the J. Paul Getty Museum, is a museum dedicated to the study of the arts and cultures of ancient Greece, Rome, and Etruria. The design is based on the Villa dei Papiri, a 1st century Roman estate in Herculaneum, Italy, which was partially excavated in the 18th century. It is the only museum in the U.S. dedicated exclusively to ancient art. It underwent a major renovation project and reopened in 2006.

Visit the TimeScope Room, containing interactive exhibits that focus on time, place, and artistic style in the ancient Mediterranean, and the [Family Forum](#) for some hands-on activities.

[Performances and films](#) are available (student rate tickets), as well as free [lectures](#) (tickets required).

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### Bird's Eye View



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### General Information

Watch a 12 minute video introduction on the history of the Villa.

<http://www.getty.edu/art/gettyguide/videoDetails?cat=4&segid=3729>

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### Amphitheatre

### Architecture

A Roman Villa Recreated  
The Getty Villa is modeled after a first-century Roman country house, the Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, Italy.

The J. Paul Getty Museum building was constructed in the early 1970s by the architectural firm of Langdon and Wilson. Architectural consultant Norman Neuberger worked closely with J. Paul Getty to develop the interior and exterior details.

The Villa dei Papiri was buried by the eruption of Mt. Vesuvius in A.D. 79, and much of it remains unexcavated. Therefore, Neuberger based many of the Museum's architectural and landscaping details on elements from other ancient Roman houses in the towns of Pompeii, Herculaneum, and Stabiae—from bronze lanterns like those carried along the streets of Pompeii to herbs and shrubs grown by the Romans for food and ceremony.

The Getty Villa Reimagined  
Boston-based architects Rodolfo Machado and Jorge Silvetti began renovating the Getty Villa site in 1997.

Visitors now start their visit in a spectacular open-air Entry Pavilion, then progress along a scenic pathway to the heart of the site, a 450-seat outdoor classical theater, based on ancient prototypes.

[http://www.getty.edu/visit/see\\_do/architecture.html](http://www.getty.edu/visit/see_do/architecture.html)

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### Gardens

Gardens are integral to the setting of the Getty Villa, as they

bejeweled) terracotta figures of the deities ornaments such as bone hair pins and oil nocturnal rituals, the artifacts reveal relig highlight the vibrancy of local craftsmansh



**Roman Ephebe from Naples**  
Ongoing

*Youth as a Lamp Bearer* is on long-term k Archeologico Nazionale in Naples



**Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity**  
Ongoing

Over 180 ancient glass objects made in Mesopotamia, Egypt, the Greek world, and the Roman Empire. The exhibit spans the entire period of ancient glass production, from its origins in Mesopotamia in about 2500 B.C. to Byzantine and Islamic glass of the eleventh century A.D.

#### Forthcoming Exhibitions

**Lion Attacking a Horse from the August 10, 2012–February 4, 2013**

**The Last Days of Pompeii: Deca Resurrection**  
September 12, 2012–January 7, 2013

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#### Further Reading

All of the following are available in the Helen Topping Architecture and Fine Arts Library (AFA).

Bowe, Patrick. *Gardens and plants of the Getty Villa*. 2011  
AFA: SB466.U7G482 2011

Hackman, William R. *Inside the Getty*. 2008  
AFA: N582.M25157 2008

Getty, J. Paul. *As I See It: The Autobiography of J. Paul Getty*. Rev. ed., 2003  
AFA and Grand: HD9570.G4A26 2003

J. Paul Getty Museum. *Guide to the Getty Villa*. 2005  
AFA Reference and Leavey: N582.M25A87 2005

*J. Paul Getty Museum handbook of the antiquities collection*. 2010  
AFA: N5603.M36J25 2010  
2002 ed. in AFA: N5603.M36J25 2002

J. Paul Getty Museum. *Handbook of the Collections*. 7th ed., 2007  
AFA Reference: N582.M25A627 2007  
Previous editions in AFA and Grand; check Homer

Ross, Richard. *Seeing the Getty Villa*. 2005  
AFA and Leavey: N582.M25R68 2005

Spier, Jeffrey. *Ancient Gems and Finger Rings: Catalogue of the Collection*. 1992  
AFA: NK5565.S68 1992

True, Marion. *The Getty Villa*. 2005  
AFA and Leavey: N582.M25T78 2005

For additional books, search Homer.

#### Currently on Exhibit

Molten Color: Glassmaking in Antiquity  
Related book:  
*Glass Throughout Time*. 2003.  
AFA: NK5106.G5413 2003x

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were in the ancient Roman home. Open spaces around the site feature bronze sculptures, fountains, and lush plantings of trees, herbs, and flowers used by the Romans.

#### Inner Peristyle

The Inner Peristyle provides an intimate resting spot at the center of the J. Paul Getty Museum.

Around a narrow reflecting pool sit replicas of finds from the Villa dei Papiri in Herculaneum, including square marble basins and bronze statues depicting women who have come to draw water from a stream.

#### Herb Garden

Outside the Museum entrance lies the Herb Garden, a mosaic of fruit trees and fragrant and colorful annuals and perennials used by the ancient Romans in cooking, ceremony, and medicine.

A small pool of water lilies forms the centerpiece of this quiet spot for strolling and birdwatching.

#### Outer Peristyle

The Museum's south doors open onto the Outer Peristyle, the largest garden at the Getty Villa. It is adorned with hedge-lined pathways and circular stone benches. Plants favored by the ancient Romans, such as bay laurel, boxwood, myrtle, ivy, and oleander, are planted around a spectacular 220-foot-long reflecting pool. Bronze sculptures, replicas of statues found at the Villa dei Papiri, are placed in their ancient findspots. A peristyle, or covered walkway, surrounds the formal garden and leads visitors past illusionistic wall paintings to spectacular views of the Pacific Ocean.

#### East Garden

Beyond the East stair in the Museum lies the East Garden, one of the most tranquil spaces at the Villa. This walled sanctuary is shaded by sycamore and laurel trees and animated by splashing water from two sculptural fountains. Theatrical masks adorn the mosaic-and-shell fountain on the east wall, while sculpted bronze civet heads spout playful streams from the fountain at the center of the space.

#### Plants

About 300 varieties of plant material are used in the landscaping of the Getty Villa.

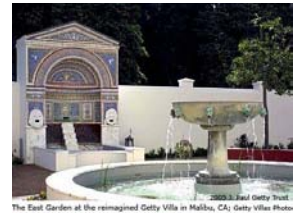
For more details, see [http://www.getty.edu/visit/see\\_do/](http://www.getty.edu/visit/see_do/)

[gardens.html](#)



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### East Garden



The East Garden at the reimaged Getty Villa in Malibu, CA; Getty Villa Photo

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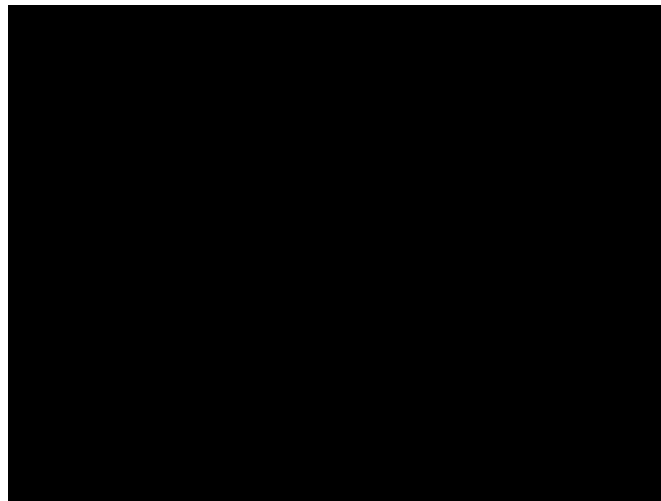
For more information on archaeology, ancient art and the classical world, please explore these online research guides:

- [Ancient Art and Archaeology](#)
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### YouTube Video

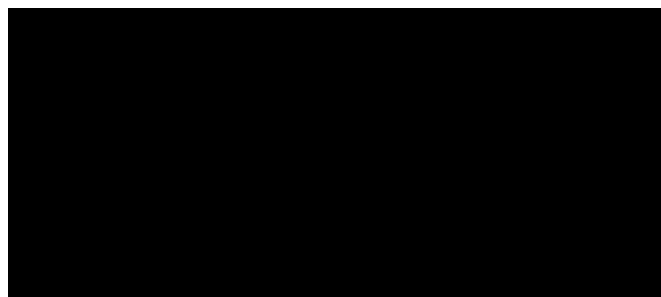
A dramatic rendering with readings from Pliny the Younger who witnessed the eruption.



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### YouTube Video: "The Wonders of Pompeii"

3 minute video with scenes of Pompeii.



### Images of Pompeii



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### Public Websites

- [Official Website of Pompeii Archaeological Site](#)
- [BBC: "Pompeii: Portents of Disaster"](#)
- [Discovery Channel: Pompeii](#)

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