



THE LAST DAYS OF POMPEII

Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection

USC LIBRARIES RESOURCE GUIDE

JOHN JURICEK and **AMY CICCONE** of the USC Libraries have selected the following resources to help you learn more about Pompeii, the Roman Empire and its place in our culture and imagination. Visit the online version of this guide at libguides.usc.edu/pompeii for even more resources.

Introduction

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

Exhibition Description

From the Archaeological Institute of America:

Pompeii and the other ancient cities destroyed and paradoxically preserved by the eruption of Mt. 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 300 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, Dalí, 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 national des beaux-arts du Québec.

Selected Books

***Resurrecting Pompeii* (2009)**

By Estelle Lazer

Doheny Memorial Library: DG70.P7L39 2009

***Pompeii: Art, Industry and Infrastructure* (2011)**

Edited by Kevin Cole, Miko Flohr and Eric Poehler

Doheny Memorial Library: DG70.P7 P665 2011

***Pompeii and Ancient Settlements* (2007)**

Edited by John J. Dobbins and Pedar Foss

Architecture and Fine Arts Library: DG70.P7W77 2007

***The Complete Pompeii* (2007)**

By Joanne Berry

Doheny Memorial Library: DG70.P7B468 2007

Leavey Library: DG70.P7B468 2007

***Antiquity Recovered* (2007)**

Edited by Victoria C. Gardner Coates and Jon L. Seydl

Doheny Memorial Library: DG70.P7A73 2007

***Ghosts of Vesuvius* (2004)**

By Charles R. Pellegrino

Doheny Memorial Library: DG70.P7P44 2004

Leavey Library: DG70.P7P44 2004

***Pompeii's Living Statues* (2010)**

By Eugene Dwyer

Doheny Memorial Library: DG70.P7D89 2010

***Roman Life* (2007)**

By John R. Clarke

Doheny Memorial Library: DG78.C577 2007

***Pompeii* (2005)**

By Roger Ling

Doheny Memorial Library: DG70.P7L56 2005

Pompeii and Ancient Rome in Movies

The following films are available for checkout. DVDs from the USC Libraries circulate for three days.

Pompeii and the Roman Villa:

A National Gallery of Art Presentation (2008)

AFA Library: AFA DVD 505

Viaggio Nell'antica Pompei (2004)

This documentary uses archaeological evidence to re-create daily life in the town of Pompeii at the time Mt. Vesuvius erupted. It gives an historical overview of the urban, political and cultural organizations of Pompeii.

AFA Library: AFA DVD 558

Fellini Satyricon (2001)

Federico Fellini re-creates 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.

Leavey Library: LVY DVD 898

I, Claudius: The Complete Series (1976)

An epic tale of ambition, debauchery and intrigue, the Emmy Award-winning BBC series is one of the most popular and acclaimed dramas in Masterpiece Theatre history. Based on the novels by Robert Graves, it spans the history of the Roman Empire from Augustus to Nero.

Leavey Library: LVY DVD 6143

Nero's Golden House (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 (1960)

Spartacus, a Thracian gladiator raised as a slave, leads his fellow slaves in an uprising against the corrupt Roman Empire. This edition includes the restored 1991 Super Technirama version of *Spartacus* and other supplements.

Leavey Library: LVY DVD 697

Gladiator (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 Russell Crowe.

Leavey Library: LVY DVD 102

Hail Caesar (1998)

Originally produced in 1997 for the television series Biography. The imperial figures profiled include Julius Caesar, Augustus, Nero, Hadrian, Constantine and Justinian.

Leavey Library: LVY DVD 929