



The final years of Pompeii

Pompeii: The life, death and
rediscovery of a Roman town
(HPAH5078/HPAH6078)

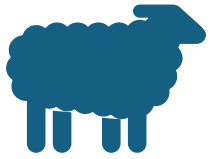


The earthquake of AD 62/63

“...on the 5 February in the consulship of Regulus and Verginius...” (**Sen. NQ 6.1.2**)

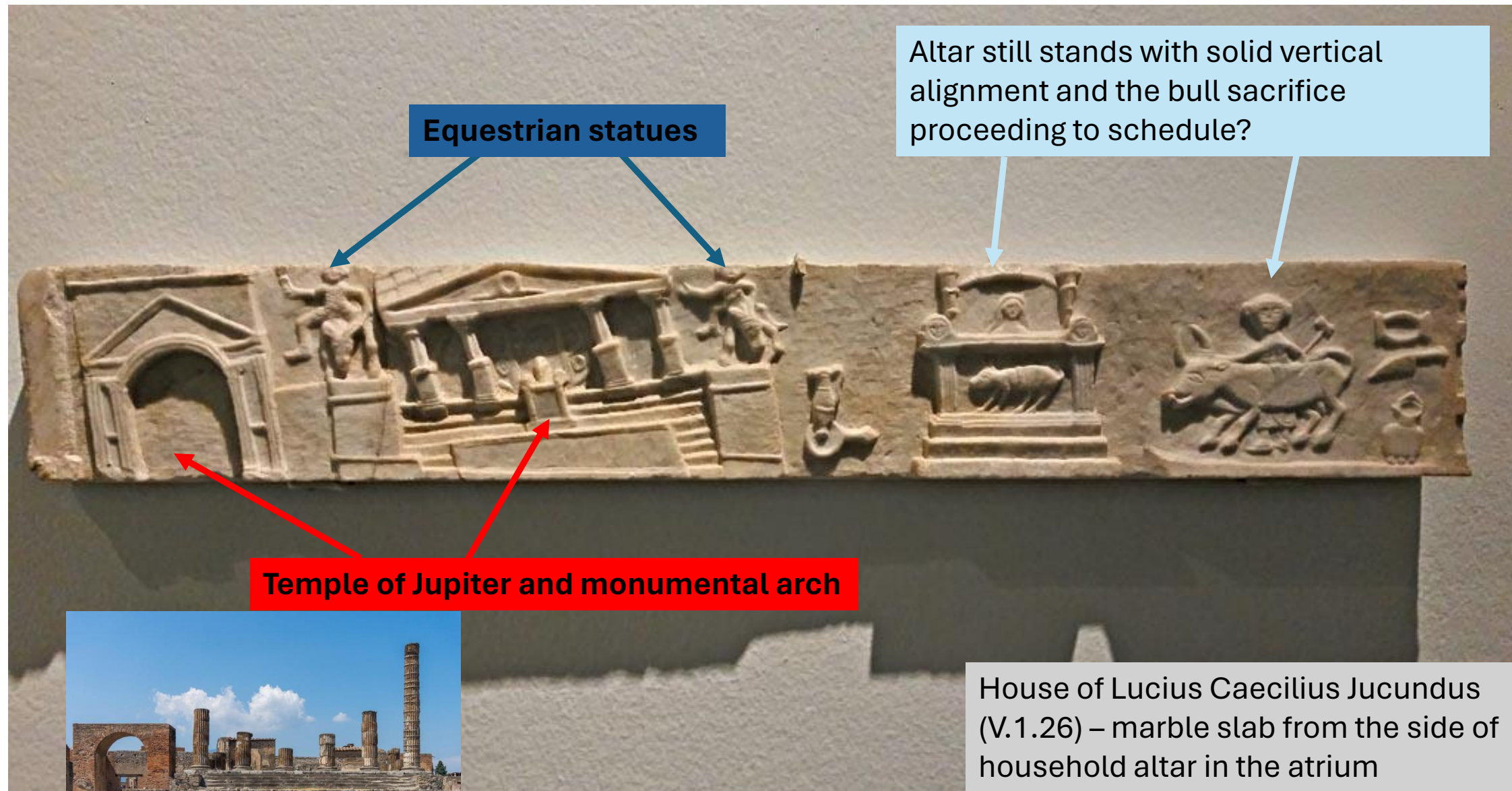
Are we dealing with just the one main event, or did subsequent tremors and minor quakes take place subsequently?

- Mentioned by both Tacitus and Seneca the Younger.
 - “...and the densely settled town of Pompeii was mostly ruined by an earthquake” (**Tac. Ann. 15.22**).
 - “For part of the town of Herculaneum too fell down and even the structures that remain are unstable...” (**Sen. NQ 6.1.2**).
- The aftereffects clear from physical and epigraphic evidence.
 - “Numerius Popidius Celsinus, son of Numerius, rebuilt at his own expense from its foundations the Temple of Isis, which had collapsed in an earthquake...” (**CIL 10.846 = ILS 6367**).
- Support from the Vespasian (who took power 6-7 years after the major event):
 - “Imperator Caesar Vespasian Augustus, supreme pontiff, holding tribunician power for the 7th time, hailed victorious commander 17 times, father of the fatherland, consul 7 times, designated consul for the 8th time, restored the temple of the Mother of the Gods which had collapsed in an earthquake (**CIL 10.1406 = ILS 250**).



Trauma

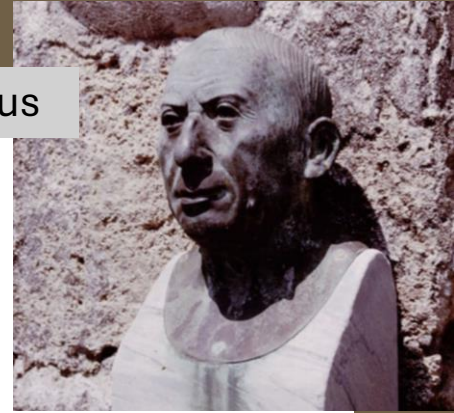
- Shock caused during and immediately after the earthquake:
 - “In addition, the following events occurred: a flock of 600 sheep died and statues split, some people have lost their minds and wander about in their madness.” (**Sen. NQ 6.1.2**).
 - “A number of people ran off as though mad or stupefied: this was the result of fear, which causes mental disturbance... .is it surprising that minds deprived of support in the midst of grief and fear became deranged? It is not easy to stay sane in the midst of great disasters. (**Sen. NQ 6.29**).
- Emigration: “those who have given up on Campania and have emigrated following this catastrophe’ (**Sen. NQ 6.1.10**).
- *lararium* of Caecilius Iucundus: a religious memorial to the earthquake?





The Castellum Aquae

Bust of Caecilius Iucundus



**Two mules and a cart
(nearly crushed)**



Collapse of the Vesuvian Gate

Vesuvian Gate: looking south-west across gate area towards Sorrentine peninsula



Domus L. Caecili Iucundi, Lararium earthquake frieze (V.1.26)

Repairing and rebuilding: public spaces

- **A Sisyphean task?**
 - Seismic activity leading up to an earthquake common.
- **Varied restoration:**
 - Temple of Jupiter: partial repairs, still without a roof.
 - Tremors during the eruption or earlier damage?
 - Temple of Apollo, still under repair?
 - Large Theatre: rear of lower seats and stage, but upper cavea still damaged?
 - Lack of statues in the Forum:
 - Looters? Contrast with Herculaneum.
 - Macellum and Eumachia building largely repaired.
 - Amphitheatre and Temple of Isis completely restored.
 - Temple of Venus replaced by a larger temple.
- **New constructions: Central Baths (IX.4).**



Repairing and rebuilding: private spaces

- Renovating house.
 - House of the Chaste Lovers (IX.12.6).
 - Wall-paintings in Triclinium.
 - House of the Painters at Work (IX.12.9).
 - Pile of lime, compasses, mortars, pestles and tools.
- Rebuilt: House of the Vettii (VI.15.1).
- Abandoned repairs: House of Amarantus (I.9.12).
 - Mortar, blocks of limestone, wall-plaster.
 - Stacks of amphorae.

Bronze compass, 1st century AD,
National Archaeological Museum of
Naples: MANN 76679



Small cup Egyptian
blue pigment, 1st
century AD, Pompeii,
Archaeological
Museum of Naples:
MANN 117338



Underpainting with grid and sketches of architecture, 1st
century BC, plaster, Oplontis Villa A ("Villa of Poppaea"), atrium
5, east wall. Archaeological Museum of Naples: MANN 155730.

The water supply

- Systems of aqueducts in Campanian in Augustan period.
 - At Pompeii it flowed into the Castellum Aquae (just inside the Vesuvian Gate).
- Linked to baths, houses and public fountains.
 - Secondary water towers.
 - At over 90 houses connected via pipes.
- Damage caused by earthquake.
 - Replacement of pipes.
 - Via dell' Abbondanza.



A social revolution?

- Theory of Amedeo Maiuri.
 - Earthquake exacerbating decline of “traditional elite”.
 - New commercial and artisan “class”
 - “Merchants” buying up cheap properties or elites renting out parts of their property.
 - Earning money to finance repairs.
 - House of Vettii
 - Aulus Vettius Restitutus and A. V. Conviva
 - Villa of the Mysteries
 - Lucius Istacides Zosimus.
- Political ascendance of the “nouveaux riches”?
- Problems:
 - Difficult to compare pre- and post-AD 63 social stratification.
 - Limited stratigraphic excavations.
 - Elites at other properties will restoration work underway?



On the authority of Caesar Vespasian Augustus, Titus Suedius Clemens, tribune, restored the public lands of the Pompeian state that had been taken over by private individuals, having investigated the cases and carried out (appropriate) surveys. (***CIL* 4.1018**).