



Street life: Bars and inns

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

Bars and inns as community hubs



Bar of Lucius Vetutius Placidus (I.8.9).

- Trying to identify types of establishments: *popina*, *caupona*, *hospitium* and *stabulum*.
 - Inn of Hermes (I.1.6-9) a *stabulum*?
- Establishments containing masonry counters, with sunken dolia, and sometimes ovens.
 - Carbonised nuts and bar attached to House of Neptune and Amphitrite (Herculaneum).
 - Food hooks (VI.10.1) and wine racks (Asellina (IX.11.2), Salvius (VI.14.35-36)).
- To be able to cook at home a sign of wealth?
 - Trimalchio episode in Petronius' *Satyricon*.

News and gossip

Caupona of Salvius: lovers
with graffito (CIL 04-
03494b): *Nolo cum Myrtale*

- Juvenal and the rich man trying to keep his affairs secret (*Satires* 9.102-110).
 - “By the second cock-crow what the man does will still be known to the nearest tradesman, well before dawn...”
- “Mercury's pet” (*Satires* 2.3.25) and Juvenal's (*Satires* 6.408-412):
 - “she picks up the latest rumours and gossip, down by the City gates...”
 - Street benches near bars and other such places (Hartnett, 2017: 54).
- Graffito from region I: “I hope you get punished for your lies, innkeeper, you sell water and drink pure wine yourself” (CIL 4.3948).



Gambling

- Gambling hugely popular, if technically illegal (outside *Saturnalia*).
 - Suetonius *Divus Claudius* 33.2.
 - Common games, dice, *latrunculi* and *tabula*.
- Bars and taverns particularly associated within drinking and gambling.
 - Martial (*Epigrams* 5.84): “and the drunken gambler, betrayed by the rattling of his seductive dice-box, is imploring mercy of the magistrate, having, but a little while before, been dragged from some obscure tavern.” [cf. Ammianus Marcellinus 14.6.25]



[Man on the left]: “I’ve got it” ... [man on the right]: “Its two not three” (CIL IV 3494).

Artistic reconstruction below



Brawls

- Bar of Salvius (again) – scene of men getting into a brawl and been kicked out.

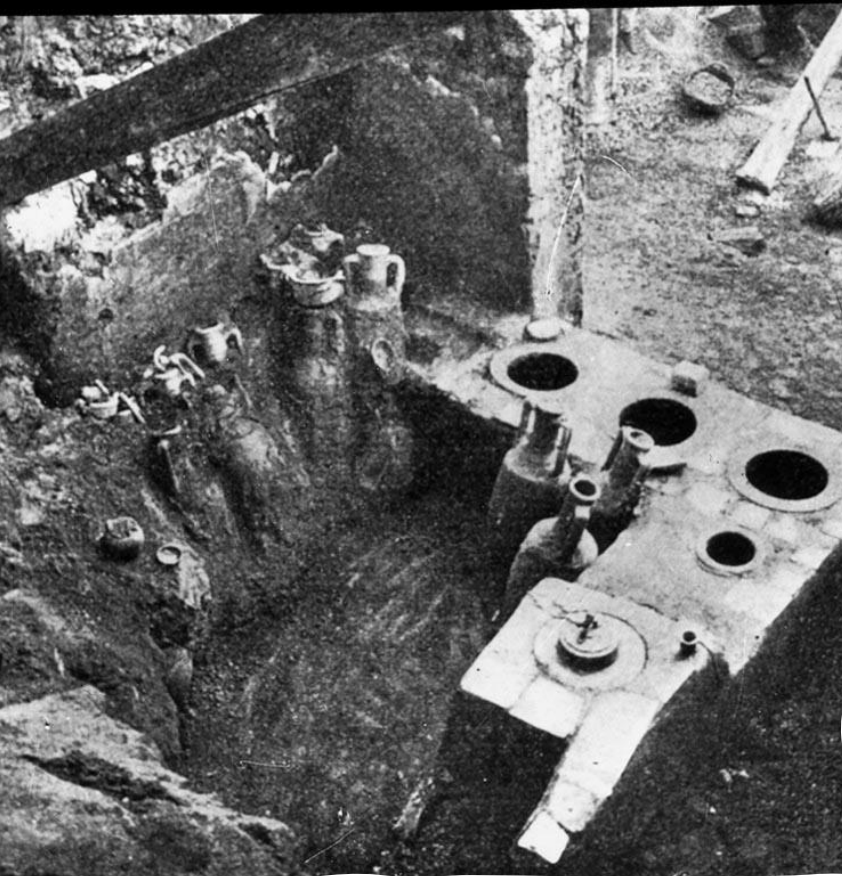
- See also Amm. Marc. 14.6.25.

“It is said, moreover, that he [Verus] used to dice the whole night through... [wandering] about at night through taverns and brothels... and [engaging] in brawls...’ – **SHA Lucius Verus 4.5-7.**



[Left man]: “not two but three, I was the winner” ... [right man]: “Ortus, you cock-sucker, I was (the winner)” ... [barkeep]: “Get out of here, you have been fighting”.





Barmaids and local politics

- A small bar room in region IX with an L-shaped marble counter inserted with dolia, plus a small oven (IX.11.2).
- The “barmaids”: Maria/Martha, Zmyrina, Aegle and Asellina.
- Zmyrina’s support the candidacy of Gaius Julius Polybius (CIL 4.7864).
 - See also Cuculla (CIL 4.7841).
- Gaius Lollius Fuscus endorsed by Asellina, “not without Zmyrina”.

