

Objects and Mosaics

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

Pygmies sailing on the Nile – *cubiculum* by
the Peristyle, House of Menander (I.10.4)





Mosaics at Pompeii

- Mosaics, popularised during the Hellenistic period.
 - Shift from the *opus vermiculatum* to *opus sectile* style.
- House of the Faun (VI.12.2).
 - Many mosaics stripped in 1830-1832; allied bombing in 1943.
 - Various themes: “Have”, Bacchus riding a lion-headed tiger, cat and bird, etc.





The Alexander Mosaic

- A 20 odd metre *opus vermiculatum* style mosaic, original now in Naples.
- Pliny the Elder (*Natural History* 35.36.110) and the painting by Philoxenos of Eritrea.

A dark, heavily carved wooden door, likely from an ancient Egyptian tomb. The door features a decorative border with a repeating geometric pattern of triangles and diamonds. The central panel is divided into four quadrants by a cross-shaped frame. The wood is dark and shows signs of age and wear.

Objects and furniture

Studying Household Artifacts

- Variably quality of “excavations” over a two-and-a-half to three century period.
 - Compare the House of the Faun initially excavated around 1830-1832, with the House of Menander, initially excavated in 1928-1932.
- The House of the Fruit Orchard (I.9.5).
- Huge range of utilitarian objects found: cooking ware, lamps, dice, spindle whorls, etc.; but also objects d’art and jewellery and items for clothing.



House of the Second Fountain (VI.8.23)

Furniture and domestic activities

- House of Ceres (I.9.13).
 - Plaster casts of furniture.
 - Wooden remains at Herculaneum include:
- Evidence for cooking activities in/near atrium and porticoed garden.



A painted panel from the coffered ceiling of the House of the Telephus Relief



Bed from the House of the Wooden Furniture (V.5)

Where do we draw the line between religion and magic?

- Ivory statuette of a *yakshi* found in the House of the Indian Statuette (I.8.5).
 - Part of the upper leg of mensa Delphica table, tripod or stool?
- So-called “Sorceress’ Kit” from the House of the Garden (V.3).
 - The material consists of:
 - beads, seashells, bones, 2 mirrors, a skull, a dog, a female figurine, bone buttons, scarab beetles, phallic amulets, miniature fists, depictions of Dionysus and a satyr on glass pastes, a figure of Harpocrates, a gem depicting a seated woman, pendants including a image of Bes, and spindle and bells.

