

ANCIENT HISTORY: *POMPEII/HERCULANEUM*

Changing Methods and Contributions of Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Archaeologist to our Understanding of Pompeii and Herculaneum

- 19th century: saw a revolution in methods and contributions of archaeologists at P&H
- Giuseppe Fiorelli: interested in a systematic and scientific approach
 - Mapping of regions and insulae. He numbered these in a systematic way and also so houses didn't adopt a name which may alter/ portray a particular interpretation
 - Under his superintendency, each house was excavated from top to bottom, strata by strata, room by room, worked methodically and with great care. Buildings were then shored up and consolidated
 - Continued the publication of his findings: meant that his new discoveries were known to other scholars
 - Plaster casts of victims' bodies: easier to relate to than skeletons because even facial features and details of clothing survived on some casts. BUT bones are not visible. His technique is still used, but instead of plaster they use translucent resin
- 20th century: further improvements in methods used, yet there has been criticism of some archaeologists. Adopted the importance of scientific and methodical excavation
- Vittorio Spinazzola: reconstructed streetscapes and facades of buildings, especially upper storeys of houses. BUT there was much guesswork and his reconstructions radically altered our concept of the way the houses and streetscapes may have looked
- Amedeo Maiuri: was the main superintendent of the 20th century
 - New excavations unearthed the amphitheatre, palaestra, Villa of the Mysteries, city walls, estate of Julia Felix
 - Considerably extended our knowledge of Pompeii BUT excavations between 1951-1961 were done in great haste with increased number of tourists and much of what was unearthed began to decay
 - Initiated a series of stratigraphic studies: helped clarify the sequence of the eruption and the historical development of Pompeii before the Romans
- Internationals: Dutch, Italian and British in Region 1 and Anglo-American project in region IV
 - Cooperative studies done systematically to construct a detailed picture of the history and life of that area
 - Much of the archaeology is now carried out in the laboratory and the contribution of specialists helps greatly
 - Documentation of protects
 - Use of computers and other technology