

## Objects from Pompeii and Herculaneum at the Ashmolean

- Objects or casts of sculpture from Pompeii and Herculaneum are on display in cases in Gallery 13: Rome and Gallery 14: The Cast Gallery. They are made of metal and glass and plaster and help to create a picture of life at the time of the eruption of Vesuvius in AD 79.
- Wider themes covered by gallery displays include; moving around the Roman Empire; Roman religion; gods and goddesses; decorating a Roman home; drinking and dining; Roman Oxfordshire ; countryside, farming; the Roman army; Roman sculpture; Italy before Rome and Roman coins.
- The objects on display show a wide range of materials and designs and include examples of sculpture, pottery, metalwork, glass, jewellery, building materials and inscriptions.

## Other galleries containing Roman objects

Gallery 21: Greek and Roman sculpture, including Roman inscriptions

Gallery 14: Cast Gallery

Gallery 7: Money

Gallery 6: Reading and Writing

Gallery 15: Italy before Rome

## Gallery 13: Rome

1. Two bronze casserole pans, Pompeii, AD50-150



One of two cast bronze casserole pans. The handle is inlaid with silver, stamped 'made by Nigellus', from the House of Flores, Pompeii. It carries the stamp of Lucidus Diodorus, freedman of Ansius, AD1-70.

AN1932.163,166

## Gallery 13: Rome

2. Small bronze jug, Herculaneum, AD50-75



This jug may have been used for wine or water.

AN1879.374

### Gallery 13: Rome

3. Tall glass bottle, Pompeii, about AD70



Tall glass bottle possibly used for water or wine.

AN1943.54

### Gallery 13: Rome

4. Bronze lamp, Pompeii, AD50-70



Bronze, boat shaped lamp with an ivy leaf on the handle, a mark of the wine-god Bacchus

ANFORTNUM B.186

### Gallery 13: Rome

5. Fresco, House of Meleager, Pompeii, AD65-75



In this image, Cupid reveals the contents of a gilded box to a seated woman. Fresco is a technique of mural painting executed upon freshly-laid or wet lime plaster and becomes an integral part of the wall. There are further examples of frescoes in the gallery.

AN1990.80

### Gallery 13: Rome

6. Bronze askos, Pompeii, AD50-75



This bronze askos is a metal version of a wineskin, typically made of animal skin.

AN1932.191

### Gallery 13: Rome

#### 7. Bronze and gold bulla AD1-80



Gold bulla, an amulet worn by a free born Roman male child on a cord around the neck to protect against evil spirits and forces. This example is from Rome.

AN1953.131

### Gallery 14: Cast Gallery

#### 8. Peplophorus, from Herculaneum, later first century BC



One of a group of five similar statues found in the small garden peristyle of the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum. Peplophorus means a figure wearing a peplos, a thick, classical-style dress.

C 65 (Naples Archaeological Museum)

### Gallery 14: Cast Gallery

#### 9. Doryphorus herm, from Herculaneum, later first century BC



The bronze herm reproduces the head of the Spear bearer, an athletic statue by Polykleitos of c440BC. The herm carries the 'signature' of its maker, Apollonius of Athens. Found in the small peristyle of the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum. C 34 (Naples, National Archaeological Museum)

### Gallery 14: Cast Gallery

#### 10. Amazon Herm, from Herculaneum, late first century BC



The bronze herm reproduces the head of an Amazon of c440 BC which is known in one other marble version. Found in the small peristyle of the Villa of the Papyri at Herculaneum.

C 90 (Naples, National Archaeological Museum)



Artist's impression of Pompeii before the eruption of Vesuvius in AD79

### Lines of enquiry: Classics

- Social life in the Roman empire.
- Family relationships including the roles of men, women and children.
- Home and domestic life; eating and drinking, recreation and leisure.
- God and goddesses; sanctuaries, temples, sacrifice and worship in the home.
- The archaeology of Roman Britain.
- Evidence of buildings and the range of materials used.

### Lines of enquiry: Art & Design

- Explore different styles of domestic ware; glass, pewter, silver and pottery. Compare and contrast with today's designs and materials and design your own piece of Roman table ware reflecting these designs.
- Learn about fresco techniques, find examples and try painting directly onto a wet surface.
- Explore the range jewellery on display and design your own pieces.
- Explore clothing using sculpture and objects.

### Working with objects: key questions

- Who made it?
- Where and when was it made?
- What materials is it made from?
- How was it made?
- What was it used for? How was it used?
- Who used / owned it?
- How might it be interpreted by different people? at different times?

### Further resources

The Ashmolean Latin Inscriptions Project:  
[latininscriptions.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/](http://latininscriptions.ashmus.ox.ac.uk/)

Ashmolean online learning resources  
[www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources](http://www.ashmolean.org/learning-resources)

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