

1. Pliny, Ep. 6.16.8

accipit codicillos Rectinae Tasci imminenti periculo exterritae, **nam villa eius subiacebat**, nec **ulla nisi navibus fuga**, ut se tanto discrimini eriperet orabat.

He received a note from Rectina, wife of Tascus, who was terrified at the imminent danger, (**for her villa was situated under it, nor was there any escape except by boats**), asking that he rescue her from such a great danger.¹

2. Pliny Ep. 6.16.9

Deducit quadriremes, ascendit ipse non Rectinae modo sed multis, **erat enim frequens amoenitas orae**, laturus auxilium.

He launched the quadriremes, and he himself boarded to bring aid not only to Rectina but to many people, **for the lovely coast was populous**.

3. Pumice fall deposit during initial Plinian phase of the eruption:

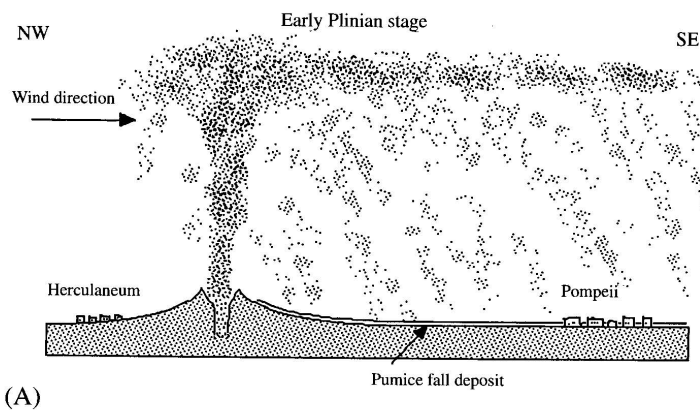


Image (A) shows the pumice and ash fallout during the initial Plinian stage of the eruption, which was characterized by a high eruption column (15-30 km) and prevailing winds from the NW.

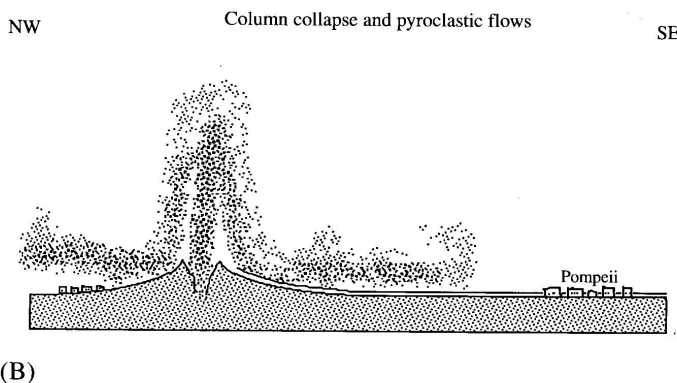
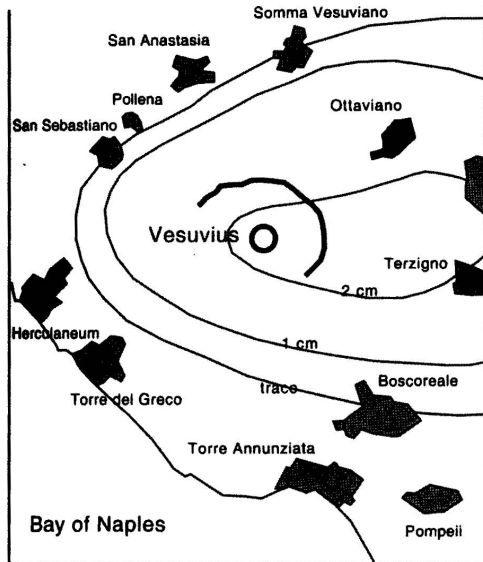


Image (B) depicts the second stage of the eruption: column collapse, resulting in lethal pyroclastic surges and flows (*nuées ardentes*) down the sides of the mountain.

From Sigurdsson and Carey (2002), 42.

¹ All translations are my own unless noted otherwise.

4. Ash fallout preceding the main eruption event:



Measurements of ash fallout during the initial explosive phase. Contours are lines of equal thickness.

Note that the wind direction dispersed most of the ash to the east of the crater, leaving trace amounts around Herculaneum and Oplontis (Torre Annunziata).

From Sigurdsson and Carey, 2002: 47.

5. Pliny, Ep. 6.20.10:

Si frater, inquit, tuus, tuus avunculus vivit, vult esse vos salvos; si periit, superstites voluit. **Proinde quid cessatis evadere?**

He said, "If your brother, and your uncle is alive, he wants you to be safe; if he has died, he wanted you to survive. So then **why do you delay your escape?**"

6. Pliny, Ep. 6.20.5

Ecce **amicus avunculi** qui nuper ad eum ex Hispania venerat...

There was my **uncle's friend** who had recently come to him from Spain...

7. Pliny, Ep. 6.16.5; 6.20.4-5

- **Poscit soleas, ascendit** locum...
- **Resedimus** in area domus...**posco** librum

- He **asks for his shoes** and **ascends** to a place...
- We **sat down** in an area of the house...I **ask for my book**...

8. Pliny, Ep. 6.16.8-9; 6.20.8

- **Egrediebatur** domo...**deducit** quadriremes...
- **Egressi tecta consistimus.**

- He **left the house** (and) **launched** quadriremes...
- Once **we left** the buildings, **we stopped.**

9. Pliny, Ep. 6.16.9; 6.20.7

- ...ascendit ipse non Rectinae modo...sed **multis laturus auxilium...**
- He himself boarded to **bring aid** not only to Rectina, but also **to many people...**
- **Sequitur vulgus attonitum...** ingentique agmine abeuntes premit et impellit.
- A **stupified crowd followed...**and with a huge column it pressed and urged us on as we departed.

10. Pliny, Ep. 6.16.10; 6.20.13-14

- **Properat** illuc unde alii fugiunt...
- He **hastened** where others were fleeing...
- '**Deflectamus**' inquam 'dum videmus...' Vix **consideramus**, et nox...
- I said, "**Let's turn aside** while we can see..." **We had scarcely sat down**, and suddenly night...

11. Pliny, Ep. 6.16.12; 6.20.5

- ...utque timorem eius **sua securitate** leniret, deferri in balineum iubet.
- He ordered a bath to be prepared, in order to **alleviate his friend's fear by his own composure.**
- ...ut me et matrem sedentes, me vero etiam legentem videt, illius patientiam **securitatem meam** corripit.
- When he saw my mother and myself sitting, and me even reading, **he rebuked** her indolence and **my indifference.**

12. Pliny, Ep. 5.8.2

Me autem nihil aeque ac diuturnitatis amor et cupido sollicitat, res homine dignissima, eo praesertim qui nullius sibi conscius culpa posteritatis memoriam non reformidet.

Moreover, **nothing urges me on as much as the longing and desire for lasting fame**, a very worthy interest for a person, especially for someone who does not fear being remembered by posterity because he is conscious of committing no wrong.

13. Pliny, Ep. 6.16.3

Equidem beatos puto, quibus deorum munere datum est aut **facere scribenda** aut scribere legenda, beatissimos vero quibus utrumque. **Horum in numero avunculus meus et suis libris et tuis erit.**

The fortunate man, in my opinion, is he to whom the gods have granted the power either **to do something which is worth recording** or to write what is worth reading, and most fortunate of all is the man who can do both. **Such a man was my uncle**, as his own books and yours will prove (Radice 1969).

Select Bibliography

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