

The Vesuvius Shape Before 79 aD Eruption According to a New Finding from a Pompei Fresco

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We announce here the discovery of a new image representing Vesuvius before 79 aD. eruption identified in a fresco of the National Archaeological Museum of Naples coming from the Citarista House of Pompei excavations (Loves of Ares and Aphrodite, m 2.5 x 1.5).

Getting back to the shape of Vesuvius before the 79 aD. eruption, in the last century some frescos from Pompei excavations were thought to represent the volcano as it was at that time and in particular a fresco from the so called Centenario House (m 1.4x1.0) which represents Bacchus near a isolated mountain covered by grape vines. Even if this fresco is still today believed to represent Vesuvius, we have to say that only archaeologists and philologists, but no volcanologists, are of this opinion.

On the contrary we advocate the existance at that time of a very sunken and low-lying caldera and that there was no central cone in the Vesuvius. This shape in fact has been well supported by my discovery of this very believable, from a volcanological point of view, new image of Vesuvius from the Citarista house.