



Herculaneum: Past and Future

By Andrew Wallace-Hadrill

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"One could hardly ask for a clearer, more comprehensive, and better illustrated guide to Herculaneum." – *Publishers Weekly*

Winner of the Felicia A Holton Book Award 2013, from the Archaeological Institute of America

On 24 August A.D. 79, the volcano Vesuvius erupted, burying the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum under ash and rock and leaving them remarkably well preserved for centuries. While Pompeii has been extensively written about and popularized, the remains of its sister city, a smaller yet wealthier community close to the sea, are less widely known. This significant addition to the few available books focusing on Herculaneum is the first major study of the spectacular archaeological findings there since Joseph Jay Deiss' book, published in 1966 and last revised in 1993. It is based on the latest excavation work and incorporates much new material that has revolutionized our understanding of the site. Illustrated with 300 recent color photographs, it is the definitive overview for the general public of what we know and understand about Herculaneum, of what is still unknown and mysterious, and of the potential for future discoveries in both archaeological and political contexts.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Located between Naples and Pompeii, the town of Herculaneum was also destroyed by Mount Vesuvius' eruption in 79 C.E. This sumptuously illustrated book—including panoramic views stretching across four pages—provides an in-depth geological, architectural, and historical look at what is known about the town and its inhabitants, constituting the first book of its kind since Joseph Jay Deiss's 1966 study. The head of the Herculaneum Conservation Project, Wallace-Hadrill illustrates how its villas and apartments reflect status differences, how the numbers of freed slaves exceeded the freeborn so that Romans "fretted about the excessive number of ex-slaves making their way into citizenship, not unlike European anxieties about illegal immigration." Also included are a history of architectural efforts at Herculaneum, dating back to the early 18th century; a comparison of the city and Pompeii—Herculaneum is portrayed as "a place of greater wealth and sophistication"; and a discussion of conservation efforts. As important as the text are the color photographs of streetscapes, homes, and other buildings, and art (some of the latter seem strikingly modern, such as a silver portrait bust of the Emperor Galba). Perhaps the book's only flaw is the occasional unexplained reference, such as the intriguing "three good luck phalli" found in a bakery. Overall, however, one could hardly ask for a clearer, more comprehensive, and better illustrated guide to Herculaneum. (May)

Review

Andrew Wallace-Hadrill knows more about Herculaneum than anyone since AD 79.

Here he distils that expertise to get right to the heart of this little Roman town. It's a must-read not just for anyone who plans to visit this amazing site, but for anyone who want to understand how the ordinary Roman world worked.

It would be hard to imagine a more informative study of Herculaneum.

Will remain the essential reference point for the study of Herculaneum for the foreseeable future.

It would be hard to imagine a more informative study of Herculaneum.

'this is a fantastic book ... the photograph is spectacular. Author Andrew Wallace-Hadrill has copious credentials to make him an authority on this subject making it pretty hard to beat in this area.'

'A comprehensive and beautifully illustrated account of what we know and understand about Herculaneum'

"shows how important this Roman town is to our understanding of everyday Roman life'

'beautifully illustrates the history of the excavations and vividly brings to life the stories of the slaves and the elite.'

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About the Author

Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, OBE, was the Director of the British School at Rome and is now Master of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. He is Director for the Packard Humanities Institute of its Herculaneum Conservation Project. His books include Suetonius: The Scholar and his Caesars (1985), Augustan Rome (1993) and Houses and Society in Pompeii and Herculaneum (1994), and he will be featured in an upcoming Discovery Channel film on Pompeii debuting Sunday, March 13, 2011.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Virginia Scheffer:

The ability that you get from Herculaneum: Past and Future will be the more deep you digging the information that hide within the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to recognise but Herculaneum: Past and Future giving you thrill feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by anyone who read the item because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This specific book also makes your vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We highly recommend you for having this Herculaneum: Past and Future instantly.

Daniel Adams:

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