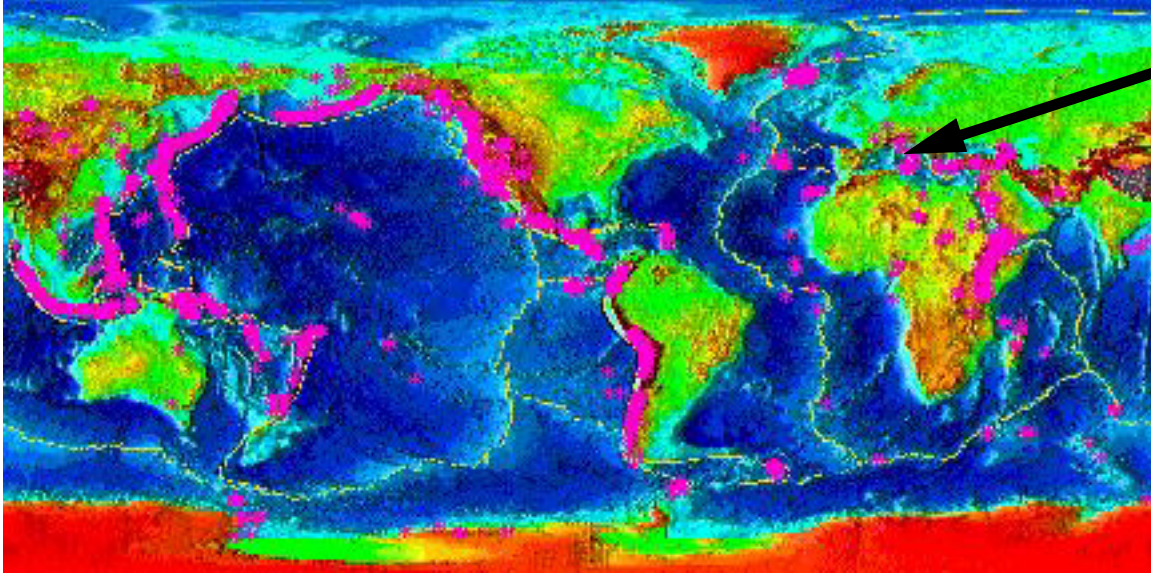


THE LACRIMA CHRISTI OF MOUNT VESUVIUS NEAR NAPLES



This is an attempt to create what Edward L. Ayers refers to, in his piece "Mapping Time," as "deep contingency": "layers of events, layers of the consequences of unpredictability." Precisely as the **lava flows** accumulate on the flanks of Vesuvius, we will attempt to depict how **centuries** accumulate.



July 7, Monday, 1851: ...Even the facts of science may dust the mind by their dryness –unless they are in a sense effaced each morning or rather rendered fertile by the dews of fresh & living truth. Every thought that passes through the mind helps to wear & tear it & to deepen **the ruts which as in the streets of Pompeii evince how much it has been used**. How many things there are concerning which we might well deliberate whether we had better know them. Routine –conventionality manners &c &c –how insensibly and undue attention to these dissipates & impoverishes the mind –robs it of its simplicity & strength emasculates it. Knowledge doe[s] not cone [come] to us by details but by lieferungs from the gods. What else is it to wash & purify ourselves? Conventionalities are as bad as impurities. Only thought which is expressed by the mind in repose as it wer[e] lying on its back & contemplating the heaven's –is adequately & fully expressed– What are side long –transient passing half views? The writer expressing his thought –must be as well seated as the astronomer contemplating the heavens –he must not occupy a constrained position. The facts the experience we are well poised upon –! Which secures our whole attention!



**[Bulfinch's MYTHOLOGY]**

The region where [Virgil](#) locates the entrance to this abode is perhaps the most strikingly adapted to excite ideas of the terrific and preternatural of any on the face of the earth. It is the volcanic region near [Mount Vesuvius](#), where the whole country is cleft with chasms, from which sulphurous flames arise, while the ground is shaken with pent-up vapours, and mysterious sounds issue from the bowels of the earth. The lake Avernus is supposed to fill the crater of an extinct volcano. It is circular, half a mile wide, and very deep, surrounded by high banks, which in [Virgil's](#) time were covered with a gloomy forest. Mephitic vapours rise from its waters, so that no life is found on its banks: and no birds fly over it. Here, according to the poet, was the cave which afforded access to the infernal regions, and here [Aeneas](#) offered sacrifices to the infernal deities, [Proserpine](#), Hecate, and the Furies. Then a roaring was heard in the earth, the woods on the hill-tops were shaken, and the howling of dogs announced the approach of the deities. "Now," said the [Sibyl](#), "summon up your courage, for you will need it."

[Portion of paragraph 60 of Thoreau's "What Shall It Profit"]

I cannot take up a newspaper but I find that some wretched government or other, hard pushed, and on its last legs, is interceding with me, the reader, to vote for it,—more importunate than an Italian beggar; and if I have a mind to look at its certificate, made, perchance, by some benevolent merchant's clerk, or the skipper that brought it over, for it cannot speak a word of English itself, I shall probably read of [the eruption of some Vesuvius](#), or the overflowing of some Po, true or forged, which brought it into this condition.¹ I do not hesitate, in such a case, to suggest work, or the almshouse; or why not keep its castle in silence, as I do commonly?

[From Emerson's ESSAYS: SECOND SERIES of 1844: "Manners"]

Fashion has many classes and many rules of probation and admission; and not the best alone. There is not only the right of conquest, which genius pretends, — the individual, demonstrating his natural aristocracy best of the best; — but less claims will pass for the time; for Fashion loves lions, and points, like Circe, to her horned company. This gentleman is this afternoon arrived from Denmark; and that is my Lord Ride, who came yesterday from Bagdat; here is Captain Friese, from Cape Turnagain; and Captain Symmes, from the interior of the earth; and Monsieur Jovaire, who came down this morning in a balloon; Mr. Hobnail, the reformer; and Reverend Jul Bat, who has converted the whole torrid zone in his Sunday school; and [Signor Torre del Greco, who extinguished Vesuvius by pouring into it the Bay of Naples](#); Spahi, the Persian ambassador; and Tul Wil Shan, the exiled nabob of Nepaul, whose saddle is the new moon. — But these are monsters of one day, and tomorrow will be dismissed to their holes and dens; for, in these rooms, every chair is waited for. The artist, the scholar, and, in general, the clerisy, wins its way up into these places, and gets represented here, somewhat on this footing of conquest. Another mode is to pass through all the degrees, spending a year and a day in St. Michael's Square, being steeped in Cologne water, and perfumed, and dined, and introduced, and properly grounded in all the biography, and politics, and anecdotes of the boudoirs.

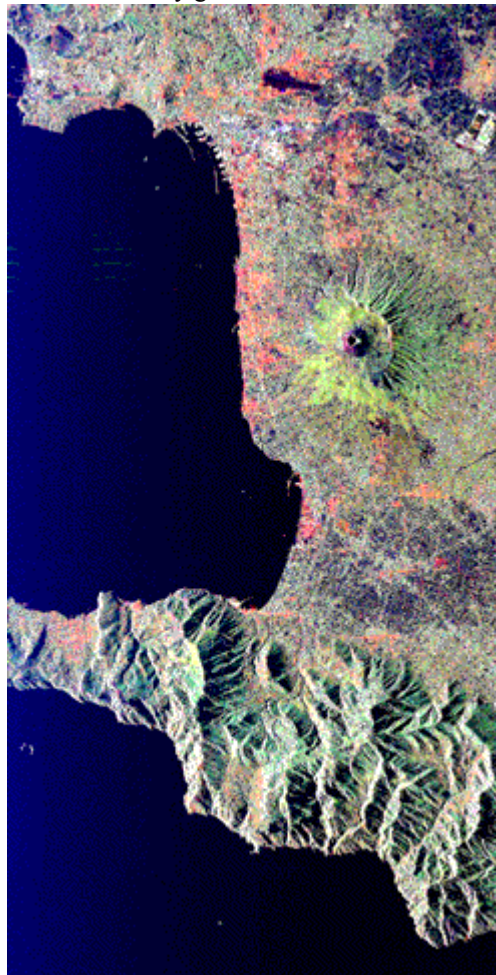
[From Emerson's "The American Scholar" lecture of August 31, 1837]

The human mind cannot be enshrined in a person, who shall set a barrier on any one side to this unbounded, unboundable empire. It is one central fire, which, flaming now out of the lips of Etna, lightens the capes of Sicily; and, now [out of the throat of Vesuvius, illuminates the towers and vineyards of Naples](#). It is one light which beams out of a thousand stars. It is one soul which animates all men.

1. Thoreau drew the images in this sentence from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, *DIE ITALIANISCHE REISE*, in *WERKE: VOLLSTÄNDIGE AUSGABE LETZTER HAND* (Stuttgart and Tübingen: J.G. Cotta, 1828-33), volume 27.

[From Hawthorne’s “A Visit to the Clerk of the Weather” story]

“Let no one call himself happy before death,” said Solon; and he said wisely. The ides of March were not yet over. Before us stood a dish of cauliflower, nicely done in butter. This I naturally enough took for a custard-pudding, which it sufficiently resembled. Unfortunately, my vocabulary was not yet extensive enough to embrace all the technicalities of the table; and when my fair neighbor inquired if I were fond of *chou-fleur*, I verily took it to be the French for custard-pudding; and so high was my panegyric of it, that my plate was soon bountifully laden with it. Alas! one single mouthful was enough to dispel my illusion. Would to heaven that the *chou-fleur* had vanished along with it. But that remained bodily; and, as I gazed despondingly at the huge mass, that loomed up almost as large, and as burning, as Vesuvius, my heart died within me. Ashamed to confess my mistake, though I could almost as readily have swallowed an equal quantity of soft soap, I struggled manfully on against the diabolical compound. I endeavored to sap the mountainous heap at its base; and shutting my eyes and opening my mouth, to inhume as large masses as I could without stopping to taste it. But my stomach soon began, intelligibly enough, to intimate its intention to admit no more of this nauseous stranger beneath its roof, if not even of expelling that which had already gained unwelcome admittance.



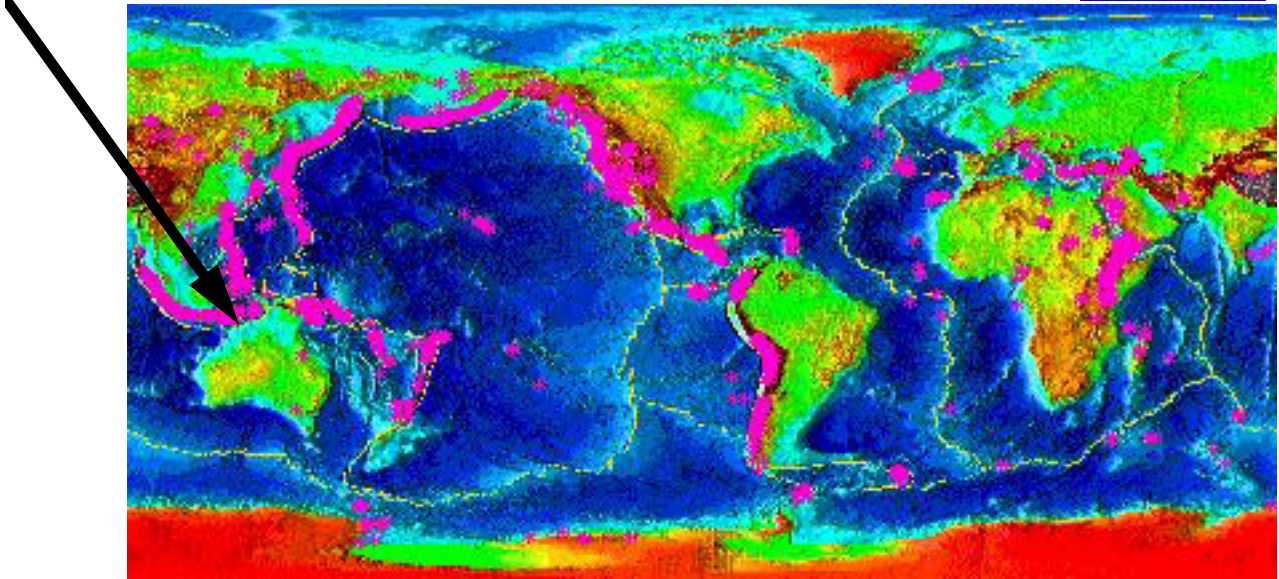
300,000 BCE

The oldest dated rock from the region of Mount Vesuvius comes from a well drilled near the volcano, and has been dated to this 300,000 BCE period. The material was probably part of the Somma volcano, the one that would collapse in 15,000 BCE even before the present "Vesuvius" cone would begin to form.

72,000 BCE

Miles down into the earth's crust beneath what is now Sumatra in Indonesia, a large bubble of molten rock had formed, containing lots of dissolved gasses that had no way to vent up through the cap of crust and into the earth's atmosphere. When the pressure had built up to the point at which a vent opened, these gasses all came out of solution in the molten rock at one time, causing an enormous thrust up through the crust, spewing millions of tons of magma into the atmosphere and creating a huge hollow void inside the crust. When the earth above this void collapsed, Lake Toba was formed. The dust in the earth's atmosphere probably lowered the worldwide average temperature by five degrees Celsius, for a period of six years. Anthropologist Stanley Ambrose infers that this may have brought about the practically simultaneous deaths of all but a very few thousand of the earth's human population. Is this the explanation for the fact that at the present time, all earth's humans very closely resemble one another in genetic structure? —That we all derive from the few thousand survivors of this Sumatra supervolcano event of 72,000 BCE? Some geneticists infer that, worldwide, "no more than 15,000 to 40,000 people survived" this sudden release of 2,800 cubic kilometers of magma and 800 cubic kilometers of ash into their niche's life support systems. In a worst-case scenario this would mean approximately 833 family groups living over 52,500 square miles of land surface. Each such group would have been isolated, approximately 63 miles on average from a nearest neighbor group.

VOLCANISM



[However, this just in: the July 6, 2007 issue of Science reports the discovery, in the southern part of the Indian subcontinent, of a series of stone blades that exhibit continuity of cultural tradition across this boundary — in other words, contrary to what had been expected, a number of locals did manage to survive the blast.]



VOLCANIC EXPLOSIVITY INDEX (Logarithmic)

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| 5,600 BCE | Mazama (forming Crater Lake) | VEI-7 |
| 1,620 BCE | Thera | VEI-7 |
| 79 CE | Vesuvius | VEI-5 |
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15,000 BCE

The Somma volcano collapsed and the present “[Mount Vesuvius](#)” cone began to form.

According to Heinrich Events, the beginning of one of the two “coldest phases,” which would last until *circa* 12,500 BCE:

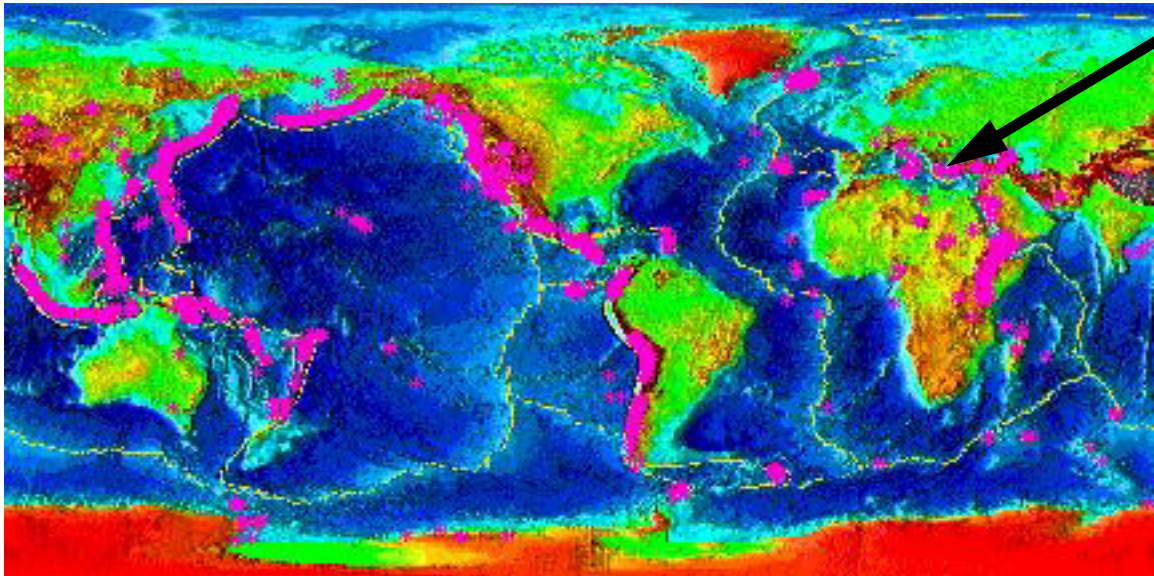
<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/paleo/slideset/heinrich.html>

The Lascaux cave paintings:



6,200 BCE

The earliest know documentation of “volcanism” is a wall painting in Anatolia (present-day Turkey) of a nearby cinder cone eruption.²



VOLCANISM

Durham (macaroni) wheat was cultivated in Anatolia and domesticated cattle were to be found in southeastern Anatolia.

PLANTS

5,960 BCE

Mount Vesuvius had an eruption that remains among the largest known to have occurred in Europe.




5,700 BCE

When, in what is now Oregon, Mount Mazama was replaced by Crater Lake, now the deepest lake in the USA, everyone on the continent would have heard this boom.

2. Our term “volcano” derives from Vulcano, a small island at the southern boundary of the Aeolian Islands about 25 kilometers from northern Sicily. This last erupted in 1888-1890. Vulcanello, the youngest part of Vulcano Island, began to form only about 2,100 years ago as an isolated island that later became connected with the main island. The latest activity at Vulcanello occurred in the 16th Century — its lava flows now host large hotel complexes.





This was an event an order of magnitude larger than the eruption of [Mount Vesuvius](#) in 79 CE,  and more than twice as powerful as the explosion at Krakatau in 1883,  and 40 times as large as the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens. 

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3,580 BCE

Mount Vesuvius had another eruption that remains among the largest known to have occurred in Europe.

1,780 BCE

Mount Vesuvius erupted, burying in more than three feet of ash a region extending 15 miles in all directions, including what is now the downtown of the modern metropolis of Naples. Scorched human skeletons have been found here:



There are thousands of human footprints recoverable from the ash layer, all trending away from this volcano caldera:

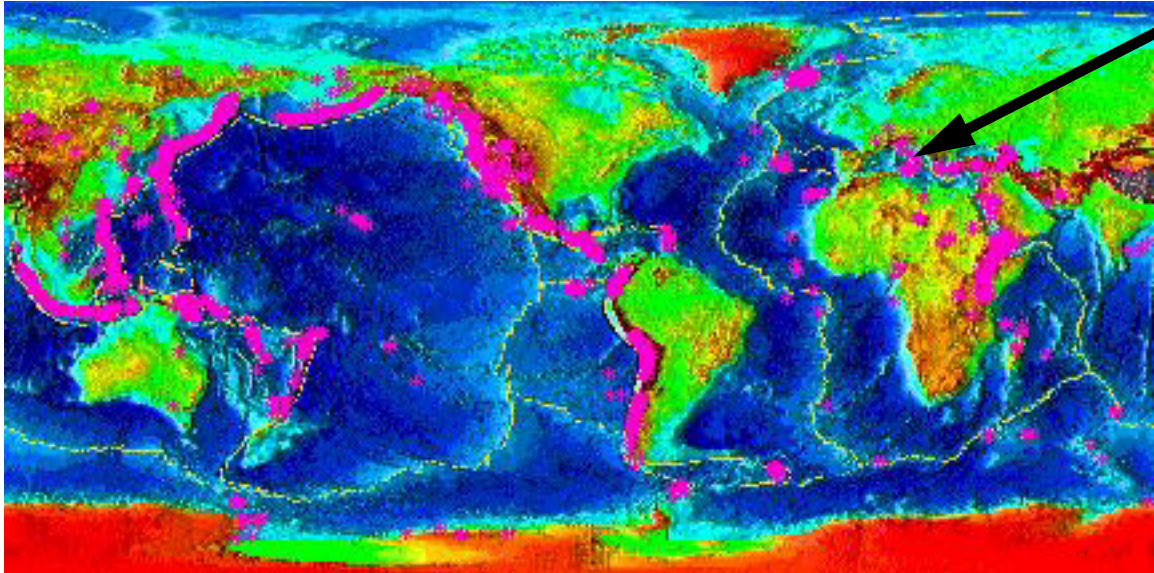


“It is almost as if these Early-Bronze-Age peoples were fleeing.”

VESUVIO

NAPLES

Our earth scientists are now telling us that they consider Vesuvius to have been generating major eruptions at



intervals of about 2 to 3 millennia, and are pointing up the raw fact that again now there has not been a major eruption for about 2 millennia (the eruption of 1945, during WWII, having been orders of magnitude too small to have been one of these major events). They are suggesting that maybe we should be preparing to leave human footprints trending away from this volcano caldera.

VOLCANISM



NAPLES

VESUVIO

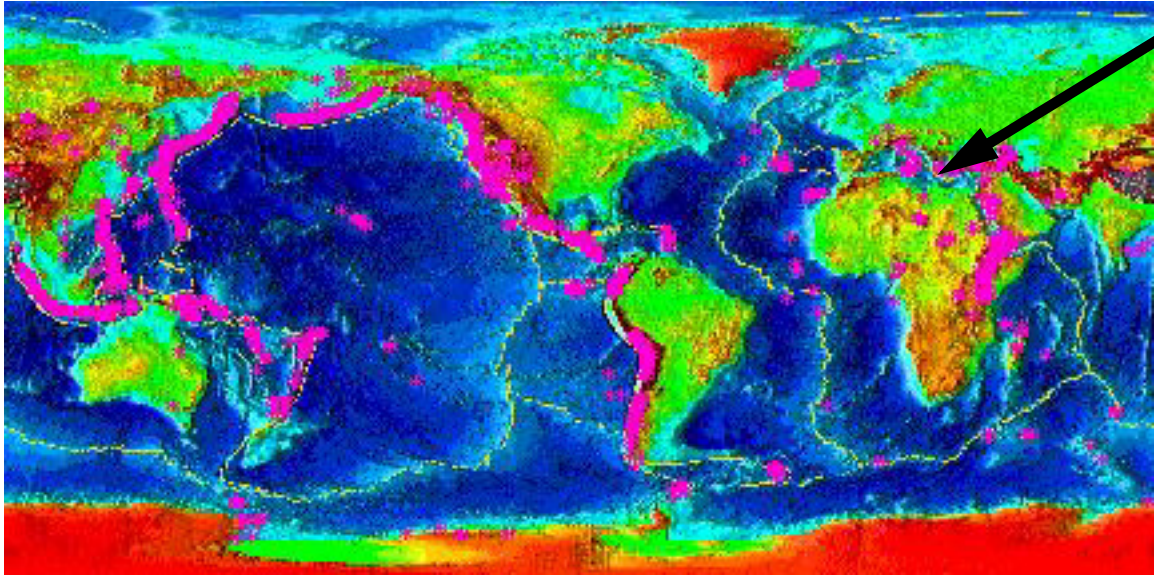
1,645 BCE

The volcanic island of Thera in the Aegean Sea exploded somewhere between 1,660 BCE and 1,613 BCE, according to radiocarbon dating of tree-ring fractions and harvested seeds from Santorini, Crete, Rhodes, and Turkey done by Professor Sturt Manning of the Laboratory for Aegean and Near Eastern Dendrochronology at Cornell University (this eruption had been conventionally placed at 1,550 BCE largely on the basis of cultural evidence, but that date now seems about a century off). What happened was that the Santorini volcano there blew its top off in one of the largest eruptions of the past 10,000 years, of 7.0 on the VEI scale. This explosion was many times greater than that at Krakatoa in 1883, which was itself equivalent to the detonation of 200 million tons of TNT. About seven cubic miles of magma were vented, and ash up to ten feet deep was scattered over much of the eastern Mediterranean and Turkey, quite burying the Minoan city of Akroteri on the southern part of Thera. The crater left behind was initially perhaps 80 square kilometers in area, and waves of up to 50 feet in height probably were generated. The eruption of Tambora volcano in Indonesia in 1815 would cause summer frost in New England and produce the latest wine harvest since 1482 — but it seems that

VESUVIO

NAPLES

this Santorini eruption had been even larger and even more disruptive.



VOLCANISM



1921 The covenant of God made with Abram, when he leaves Haran to go into Canaan, which begins the 430 years of sojourning.

1897 The cities of Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed for their wickedness by fire from Heaven.

1856 The kingdom of Argos, in Greece, begins under Inachus.

1822 Memnon, the Egyptian, invents the letters.

1715 Prometheus first struck fire from flints.

1635 Joseph dies in Egypt, which concludes the book of Genesis, containing a period of 2369 years.

1574 Aaron born in Egypt: 1490, appointed by God first high priest of the Israelites.

1571 Moses, brother to Aaron, born in Egypt, and adopted by Pharaoh's daughter, who educates him in all the learning of the Egyptians.

1556 Cecrops brings a colony of Saïtes from Egypt into Attica, and begins the kingdom of Athens in Greece.

1546 Scamander comes from Crete into Phrygia, and begins the kingdom of Troy.

1493 Cadmus carried the Phœnician letters into Greece, and built the citadel at Thebes.

1491 Moses performs a number of miracles in Egypt, and departs from that kingdom, together with 600,000 Israelites, besides children: which completed the 430 years of sojourning. They miraculously pass through the Red Sea, and come to the desert of Sinai, where Moses receives from God, and delivers to the people, the Ten Commandments, and the other laws, and sets up the tabernacle, and in it the ark of the covenant.

1485 The first ship that appeared in Greece, was brought from Egypt by Danaus, who arrived at Rhodes, and brought with him his fifty daughters.

1453 The first Olympic games celebrated at Olympia, in Greece.

1452 The Pentateuch, or five first books of Moses, are written in the land of Moab, where he died the year following, aged 110.

1451 The Israelites, after sojourning in the wilderness forty years, are led under Joshua into the land of Canaan, where they fix themselves, after having subdued the natives: and the period of the sabbatical year commences.

1406 Iron is found in Greece from the accidental burning of the woods.

1198 The rape of Helen by Paris, which, in 1193, gave rise to the Trojan war, and siege of Troy by the Greeks, which continued ten years, when that city was taken and burnt.

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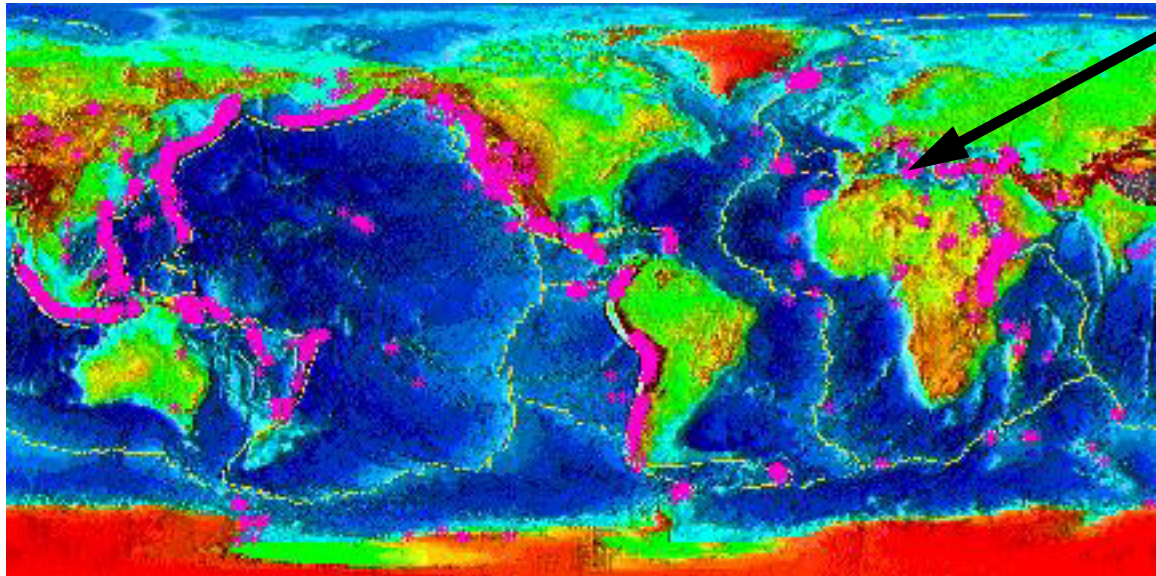
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1,500 BCE

The historical record of Ætna “volcanism” begins at this point.³



VOLCANISM

During the following 500 years in [Egypt](#), the Cleopatra’s Needle obelisk would be erected. In the tomb of Amenhotep III, a water flow meter or “Nilometer” would be installed. The Phoenicians would be mining tin for their bronze in, of all places in the world, Cornwall, England, and the Dorians would be conquering the

3. Our term “volcano” derives from Vulcano, a small island at the southern boundary of the Aeolian Islands about 25 kilometers from northern Sicily. This last erupted in 1888-1890. Vulcanello, the youngest part of Vulcano Island, began to form only about 2,100 years ago as an isolated island that later became connected with the main island. The latest activity at Vulcanello occurred in the 16th Century — its lava flows now host large hotel complexes.



Peloponnesus.



In the Hittite library there would be tablets inscribed in eight languages. A sun pyramid would be being raised at Teotihuacan, Mexico.

790 BCE

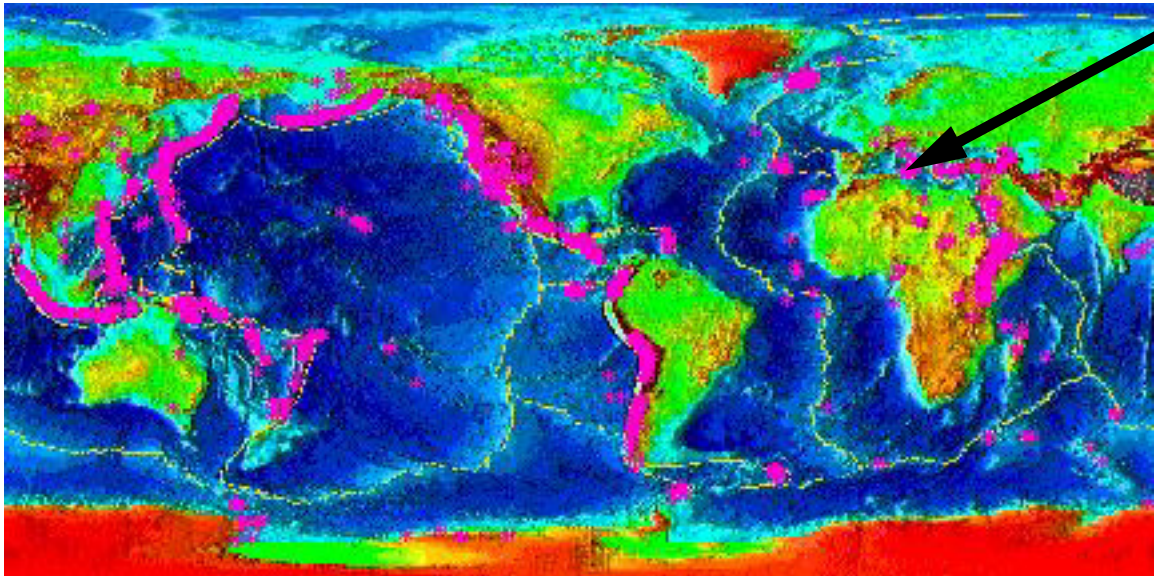
Small villages of primitive thatched huts began to appear on the Palatine and neighboring hills overlooking the Roman countryside. The founding of [Rome](#) was still some two generations of human life in the future — and already the latest big burp of the Vesuvius volcano was almost an entire millennium into the forgotten past.

During this century [Pompeii](#) and Herculaneum and nearby towns populated by Oscan-speaking descendants of the Neolithic inhabitants of Campania would be coming within the sphere of influence of Greeks who were settling across the bay.



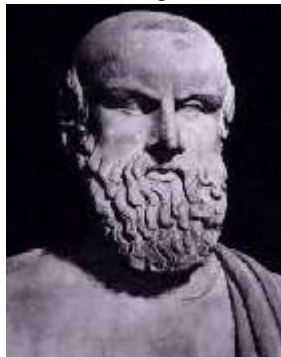
475 BCE

We know that the volcano Etna on the island of Sicily had been active for at least a millennium. At this point the town of Ætna was destroyed in an eruption.



VOLCANISM

Because [Æschylus](#)'s plays were evolving out of songs sung to the gods, his drama usually involved some tale of heroism or the celebration of a historic event. His plays would begin with one actor speaking or singing the narrative, after which a chorus of approximately fifty people would continue the story. He would produce WOMEN OF AETNA to commemorate the re-founding of this Sicilian colony of Aetna.





310 BCE

The town of Pompeii was first mentioned in written history at this point, during the 2d Samnite War when a Roman fleet landed at a nearby port, Sarnus, in order to stage an unsuccessful attack on the neighboring town of Nuceria.

THE PAX ROMANA

135 BCE

Rome's first servile insurrection began when slaves on large estates in Sicily revolted under the leadership of a Syrian named Eunus, styling himself "King Antiochus."

THE PAX ROMANA

269 The first coining of silver at Rome.

264 The first Punic war begins, and continues 23 years. The chronology of the Arundelian marbles composed.

260 The Romans first concern themselves in naval affairs, and defeat the Carthaginians at sea.

237 Hamilcar the Carthaginian causes his son Hannibal, at nine years old, to swear eternal enmity to the Romans.

218 The second Punic war begins, and continues 17 years. Hannibal passes the Alps, and defeats the Romans in several battles; but being amused by his women, does not improve his victories by the storming of Rome.

190 The first Roman army enters Asia, and from the spoils of Antiochus brings the Asiatic luxury first to Rome.

168 Perseus defeated by the Romans, which ends the Macedonian kingdom.

167 The first library erected at Rome, of books brought from Macedonia.

163 The Government of Judea under the Maccabees begins, and continues 126 years.

146 Carthage, the rival to Rome, is razed to the ground by the Romans.

135 The history of the Apocrypha ends.

52 Julius Cæsar makes his first expedition into Britain.

47 The battle of Pharsalia, between Cæsar and Pompey, in which the latter is defeated.

The Alexandrian library, consisting of 400,000 valuable books, burnt by accident.

45 The war of Africa, in which Cato kills himself.

The solar year introduced by Cæsar.



134 BCE

From this year into 132 BCE, the 1st of the Roman “Servile Wars” — putting down a slave uprising in Sicily.

SERVILE INSURRECTION
THE PAX ROMANA

132 BCE

Rome’s 1st slave war ended with the capture of the Syrian Eunus, otherwise known as King Antiochus. He was then, as you might imagine, savagely executed, along with his supporters.

SERVILE INSURRECTION
THE PAX ROMANA

103 BCE

Rome’s 2d slave war began when slaves in Sicily revolted under the leadership of Tryphon and Athenion.

SERVILE INSURRECTION
THE PAX ROMANA

102 BCE

The 2d of the Roman “Servile Wars” would go on into 99 BCE — putting down another slave uprising in Sicily. (The 1st such servile insurrection had occurred in 135-132 BCE.)

89 BCE

At the end of the Samnite wars, Campania had become a part of the Roman confederation and its towns had become therefore “allies” of Rome. Pompeii, however, joined in a revolt against Rome and was in this year besieged by the Roman general Lucius Cornelius Sulla. (At the conclusion of these hostilities, all free persons south of the Po River would receive Roman citizenship, including the inhabitants of Pompeii.)

THE PAX ROMANA

80 BCE

At [Pompeii](#), the builders of the Small Theater dug out a larger amphitheater at the extreme east of the city. The earth removed from the hole was used to fashion bleachers for the crowd. Awnings were placed over it to protect audiences from the sun, and refreshment booths were placed outside its gates. While theatricals were staged there, boxing matches and wild animal shows were more popular. This is now the oldest known such amphitheater — far, far older than the [Colosseum](#) at [Rome](#). (This would be the arena in which would break out, in 59 CE, the riot between the Pompeians and the Nocerians that would be followed by a famous massacre.)

THE PAX ROMANA

73 BCE

For the 3d and final Roman “Servile War,” during this year and the following two years, Crassus and Pompey



put down a [slave](#) uprising led by a popular former gladiator, the Thracian prisoner of war [Spartacus](#) who had escaped along with about 70 other slave gladiators in training from the training camp of Lentulus Batiatus at Capua. (The 1st such servile wars had occurred in 134-132 BCE, and the 2d in 102-99 BCE.)



After failing to break through northern Italy to the safety of the barbarian world, the gladiators fighting in this 3d servile war would take refuge on the slopes near [Mount Vesuvius](#) with the intent of holding out as long as possible before they were defeated in battle and then crucified.

In the 2004 made-for-TV version of the Howard Fast epic, Goran Visnjic offers the following as what the escaped gladiators were fighting for:

"There'll be no more slaves and no more masters."

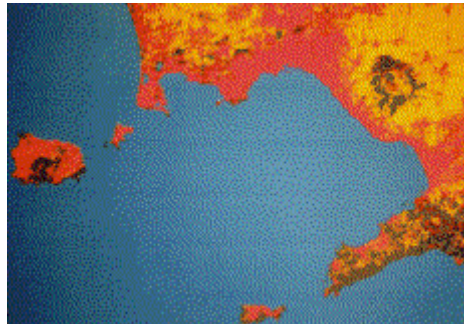


That would amount, of course, to the sheerest presentism. Spartacus might have been able to conceive of an alternative universe in which he was the master, and somebody else the slave, but it would never have crossed his mind that there might be an alternative universe in which there were neither slaves nor masters.

As Sir Charles Lyell would point out, this volcano actually posed its maximal danger to the Romans in general not when lavas and poisonous gases were erupting from its crater in 79 CE, but when an escaped slave established its more quiescent side crater as his fortress:



When Spartacus encamped his army of ten thousand gladiators in the old extinct crater of Vesuvius, the volcano was more justly a subject of terror to Campania than it has ever been since the rekindling of its fires.



"The capacity to get free is nothing; the capacity to be free, that is the task."

- André Gide, THE IMMORALIST
translation Richard Howard
NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1970, page 7



(Some of the buildings that would be excavated in the

SERVILE INSURRECTION
THE PAX ROMANA

ruins of Pompeii had been originally erected during this timeframe of the Servile Wars.)

HDT

WHAT?

INDEX

VESUVIO

NAPLES



72 BCE

[Cato the Younger](#) enlisted in the [Roman](#) army raised to fight against the [slave](#) army of [Spartacus](#).

SERVILE INSURRECTION



71 BCE

Yet another battle involving our favorite pushy people, the [Romans](#): at the Silarus River the legions of M. Licinius Crassus wounded [Spartacus](#) in the thigh and then finished him off, and dispersed the [slave](#) army he had led. Pompey returned from the Hispanic provinces to mop up the remnants, restoring [the Pax Romana](#).



Some 6,000 survivors of the final battle would be rounded up and crucified alongside the Via Appia between Capua and Rome — which according to a back-of-the-envelope calculation would have resulted in approximately a cross each 120 running feet. Spartacus's body would not be distinguishable, among the corpses.



In an encampment outside of [Rome](#), according to director Stanley Kubrick, general Lawrence Olivier

confronted captured slave/gladiator Kirk Douglas. “I am Marcus Licinius Crassus,” Olivier declared, “You must answer when I speak to you.” When Douglas wouldn’t say his lines, Olivier slapped him, so then of course Douglas spat in his face. (When you go to the movies, you really go — which means of course that movies are a part of reality.)

SERVILE INSURRECTION

59 BCE

At [Pompeii](#) in 80 BCE, the builders of the Small Theater had dug out an amphitheater at the extreme east of the city. The earth removed from the hole had been used to fashion bleachers for the crowd — this is now the oldest known such amphitheater. In this year there broke out in this arena a riot between the Pompeians and the Nocerians that was completed by a famous massacre. After a fight of gladiators organized by the Livineis Regolo who had been banished from the Senate, the incident began as rock throwing and went on to the use of metal weapons to destroy trapped spectators. In result the [Roman](#) Senate would exile those who had been prominent in the massacre and, for the following decade, ban all such exciting spectacles.

THE PAX ROMANA



[Cato the Younger](#) opposed [Gaius Iulius Cæsar](#)’s laws.

Politically, [Marcus Terentius Varro](#) had supported Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus, reaching the office of praetor after having been tribune of the people, quaestor, and curule aedile. In this year he was one of the 20-member commission that was carrying out the great agrarian scheme of [Cæsar](#) for the resettlement of Capua and Campania.



VESUVIO

NAPLES

50 BCE

Publius Vergilius Maro ([Virgil](#)), though not a botanist, gave descriptions and information concerning 164 different plants known to the Greeks in his *GEORGICA*. Advice included laying fields fallow and allowing a crop of vetch and lupine (legumes) to mature before sowing wheat. Virgil recommended the scattering of manure as well as ashes.

PLANTS

Vergil had it that Mount Etna was the abode of the giant Enceladus while [Mount Vesuvius](#) was the abode of the giant Alcyoneus.

49 BCE

2d Period of the Roman Civil Wars (Caesar versus Pompey, until 45 BCE).



The siege of Massilia (Vitruvius offers us some information about this siege).

At the beginning of the civil war between the party of Gaius Julius Caesar and the party of Gnaeus (Cneius) Pompeius Magnus, Iulius would drive Pompeius out of Italy, conquering his forces in Spain and then passing into Greece, where Pompeius and the other aristocratic chiefs had assembled a large army. Iulius would give them a decisive defeat at the great battle of Pharsalia. Pompeius would flee for refuge to Alexandria, where he would be assassinated. Iulius, who followed him there, would become involved in a war with the Egyptians, in which finally he would be victorious. Cleopatra would become Queen of Egypt. Iulius would go into Pontus



and defeat the son of Mithridates, who had taken part in the war against him. He would then proceed to the Roman province of Africa, where some of the Pompeian chiefs had established themselves, aided by Juba, a native prince. He would overthrow them at the battle of Thapsus. He would again be obliged to lead an army into Spain, where the sons of Gnaeus (Cneius) Pompeius Magnus had collected the wrecks of their father's



party. He would crush the last of his enemies at the battle of Munda. Under the title of Dictator (which is amusing, because we don't ordinarily think highly of dictators), Iulius would make himself sole master of the Roman world, and would make his given name, Caesar, a synonym for "Emperor of the Romans."

Here three full centuries shall Hector's race
have kingly power; till a priestess queen,
by Mars conceiving, her twin offspring bear;
then Romulus, wolf-nursed and proudly clad
in tawny wolf-skin mantle, shall receive
the sceptre of his race. He shall uprear
and on his Romans his own name bestow.
To these I give no bounded times or power,
but empire without end. Yea, even my Queen,
Juno, who now chastiseth land and sea
with her dread frown, will find a wiser way,
and at my sovereign side protect and bless
the Romans, masters of the whole round world,
who, clad in peaceful toga, judge mankind.
Such my decree! In lapse of seasons due,
the heirs of Ilium's kings shall bind in chains
Mycenae's glory and Achilles' towers,
and over prostrate Argos sit supreme.
Of Trojan stock illustriously sprung,
lo, Caesar comes! whose power the ocean bounds,
whose fame, the skies. He shall receive the name
Iulus nobly bore, great Julius, he.
Him to the skies, in Orient trophies dress,
thou shalt with smiles receive; and he, like us,
shall hear at his own shrines the suppliant vow.
Then will the world grow mild; the battle-sound
will be forgot; for olden Honor then,
with spotless Vesta, and the brothers twain,
Remus and Romulus, at strife no more,
will publish sacred laws. The dreadful gates
whence issueth war, shall with close-jointed steel
be barred impregnably; and prisoned there
the heaven-offending Fury, throned on swords,
and fettered by a hundred brazen chains,
shall belch vain curses from his lips of gore.
— Publius Vergilius Maro ([Virgil](#)), sucking up big time in 19 BCE
in the *AENEID* (as translated here by Theodore C. Williams),
would praise the carnage of this civil war as bringing forth [the Pax Romana](#)
(while he was at it he should have praised [Mount Vesuvius](#) as
the cat's pajamas of human population control)

37 BCE

The mandate of the 2d Triumvirate ([Octavian](#) Caesar, Mark [Antony](#), and Lepidus, although this third member was no longer around) was renewed by the Senate of [Rome](#) for an additional 5 years.

Romans legions subdued Judaea and Antigonus was executed, ending the Hasmonean Dynasty. [Herod the Great](#), who had been named by the Roman Senate as King of the Jews, took up his duties as sole ruler in Judaea and assumed for himself the title *basileus*, beginning a Herodian Dynasty. He would rule there for 34 years.



Mark [Antony](#) sent Octavia, pregnant with their 2d child, back to [Italy](#), and [Cleopatra](#) joined him in Antioch.



At the naval base of [Naples](#) Marcus Vispanius Agrippa was training a great new fleet.

24 CE

It was at about this point that the Greek geographer [Strabo](#) wrote his “*GEOGRAPHIA*.”⁴



He makes it very clear that [Mount Vesuvius](#) was known to be a volcano, describing it as “...well cultivated and inhabited all round, except at its top, which is for the most part level, and entirely barren, ashy to the view, displaying cavernous hollows in the cineritious rocks, which look as if they had been eaten in fire; so that we may suppose this spot to have been a volcano formerly, with burning craters, now extinguished for want of fuel.”

In regard to the question, why were people taking the risk of living near this mountain when they knew it to be a volcano, we should acknowledge that they were taking a risk, but also acknowledge that as risks go, this one was a fairly safe bet: the indications are that lava had not flowed in this vicinity in like a millennium, and after the disastrous eruption of 79 CE, would not flow again for like another millennium. The event of 79 CE was a disaster — but not really an expectable one.

27 CE

At about this point the Emperor [Tiberius](#) moved from the Campagna to the island of Capri in the Bay of [Naples](#), leaving [Rome](#) under the control of Lucius Aelius Sejanus.

4. Thoreau would study *STRABONIS RERUM GEOGRAPHICARUM LIBRI XVII...* (Amstelaedami: apud Joannem Wolters, 1707).

READ IN STRABO TEXT



62 CE

There was a great earthquake in the vicinity of [Mount Vesuvius](#). The temple dedicated to the goddess Venus, protectress of the city of [Pompeii](#), was destroyed.⁵

77 CE

Gaius Plinius Secundus or [Pliny](#) the Elder was a maker of detailed notes. He never married. He left 160 volumes of such material, on all kinds of scientific and antiquarian subjects — and that was over and above his NATURAL HISTORY. In that encyclopedia, released in this year, he was considering the following topics, declaring his opinion as to what constituted “the best” of each category of being:

- [astronomy](#) and meteorology
- geography of the Western Mediterranean
- geography of the Eastern Mediterranean, the Black Sea, continental and northern Europe
- geography of Africa, the Middle East and Turkey
- geography of Asia; summary overview and wrap-up of world geography⁶
- anthropology and human physiology
- land animals:
 - elephants, lions, tigers, panthers; cows, horses, asses, mules, sheep, goats; mice, dormice, etc.
- marine animals: whales, dolphins, fish, shellfish, etc.
- birds; animal reproduction; the senses
- insects; comparative zoology; fumbblings toward a taxonomy
- exotic plants, spices, and perfumes from India, Egypt, Mesopotamia, etc.
- more plants, such as aquatic plants
- plants: the vine and wine
- plants: the olive tree; oil and its uses; fruit and nut trees
- more trees (mostly evergreens)
- fruit trees and vines, and the art of planting them
- how to run a farm
- garden plants, with a long section on flax
- more about the garden plants, mostly vegetables
- flowers
- miscellaneous plants, including those that produce dyes
- medicinal properties of wine, vinegar, oil, nuts, and fruit
- medicinal properties of trees and herbs
- medicinal properties of herbs
- major medicinal herbs (begins with a section on new diseases)
- minor medicinal herbs, approximately in alphabetical order
- medicinal uses of the human body’s own products (with a discussion of charms); medicinal uses of animal products

5. There is a story being told, that the inhabitants of [Pompeii](#) and Herculaneum had been unaware that they were situating their lives on the slopes of a volcano — that they were supposing [Mount Vesuvius](#) to be merely another mountain. This hardly seems plausible. They supposed the volcano to be quiescent — for good reason since it seems to have been nonproductive of lava for perhaps a millennium— but they did indeed recognize the structure as volcanic, and described it as the abode of the giant Alcyoneus.

6. Pliny knew of the existence of 10 volcanos, one of which was [Mount Vesuvius](#).



- medicinal uses of animal products, continued
(beginning with a long expression of hostility toward those who were styling themselves doctors)
- medicinal uses of animal products, continued (beginning with a consideration of magic)
- medicinal uses of marine products: salt, plants, sponges, etc.
- medicinal uses of marine animals
- metals (mostly gold, silver, and mercury)
- metals: bronze and lead (but most of this is in fact a treatise on statuary)
- the uses of earth substances, beginning with pigments
(this is mostly a discussion of painters, although toward the end he gets back to sulphur)

The first half of this section has to do with stone sculpture;

then there is a bit on the architecture of obelisks, the Pyramids, and the Cretan labyrinth;

there is an analysis of the various building materials, such as plaster, sand, and stone;

finally there is a consideration of glass that leads into a paean to fire, with in the last paragraph an utterly peculiar story:

A WEEK: The true finish is the work of time, and the use to which a thing is put. The elements are still polishing the pyramids.

then there is more about stones (rock crystal, amber, gemstones and semi-precious stones):

Pliny. NATURAL HISTORY III.v.66-67: Romulus left the city of Rome, if we are to believe those who state the very greatest number, with only three gates, and no more. When the Vespasians were Emperors and Censors in the year of the building of the city, 826 [73 CE], the circumference of the walls which surrounded it was thirteen and two-fifths miles. Surrounding as it does the Seven Hills, the city is divided into fourteen districts, with 265 crossroads under the guardianship of the Lares [i.e., a little shrine to the Lares would stand at each crossing]. If a straight line is drawn from the mile column placed at the entrance of the Forum to each of the gates, which are at present thirty-seven in number –taking care to count only once the twelve double gates, and to omit the seven old ones, which no longer exist– the total result will be a straight line of twenty miles and 765 paces. But if we draw a straight line from the same mile column to the very last of the houses, including therein the Praetorian camp [in the suburbs] and follow throughout the line of the streets, the result will be something over seventy miles. Add to these calculations the height of the houses, and then a person may form a fair idea of this city, and surely he must confess that no other place in the world can vie with it in size.

On the eastern side it is bounded by the mound (agger) of Tarquinius Superbus – a work of surpassing grandeur; for he raised it so high as to be on a level with the walls on the side on which the city lay most exposed to attack from the neighboring plains. On all the other sides it has been fortified either with lofty walls, or steep and precipitous hills; yet it has come to pass, that the buildings of Rome –increasing and extending beyond all bounds– have now united many outlying towns to it.

Pliny. NATURAL HISTORY XXXVI.xxiv.101-110 (a rather free



translation): In great buildings as well as in other things the rest of the world has been outdone by us Romans. If, indeed, all the buildings in our City are considered in the aggregate, and supposing them –so to say– all thrown together in one vast mass, the united grandeur of them would lead one to imagine that we were describing another world, accumulated in a single spot.

Not to mention among our great works the Circus Maximus, that was built by the Dictator Caesar –one stadium broad and three in length– and occupying with the adjacent buildings no less than four iugera [about 2 acres] with room for no less than 160,000 spectators seated – am I not, however, to include in the number of our magnificent structures the Basilica of Paulus with its admirable Phrygian columns [built also in [Julius Caesar's](#) day], the Forum of the late Emperor Augustus, the Temple of Peace erected by the Emperor Vespasian Augustus – some of the finest work the world has ever seen? [and many others].

We behold with admiration pyramids that were built by kings, while the very ground alone that was purchased by the Dictator Caesar, for the construction of his Forum, cost 100,000,000 sesterces. If, too, an enormous expenditure has its attractions for any one whose mind is influenced by money matters, be it known that the house in which Clodius [Cicero's enemy] dwelt was purchased by him at a price of 14,800,000 sesterces – a thing which I for my part look upon as no less astonishing than the monstrous follies that have been displayed by kings.

Frequently praise is given to the great sewer system of Rome. There are seven "rivers" made to flow, by artificial channels, beneath the city. Rushing onward like so many impetuous torrents, they are compelled to carry off and sweep away all the sewerage; and swollen as they are by the vast accession of the rain water, they reverberate against the sides and bottoms of their channels. Occasionally too the Tiber, overflowing, is thrown backward in its course, and discharges itself by these outlets. Obstinate is the struggle that ensues between the meeting tides, but so firm and solid is the masonry that it is able to offer an effectual resistance. Enormous as are the accumulations that are carried along above, the work of the channels never gives way. Houses falling spontaneously to ruins, or leveled with the ground by conflagrations are continually battering against them; now and then the ground is shaken by earthquakes, and yet –built as they were in the days of Tarquinius Priscus, seven hundred years ago– these constructions have survived, all but unharmed.

Passing to the dwellings of the city, in the consulship of Lepidus and Catulus [78 B.C.] we learn on good authority there was not in all Rome a finer house than that belonging to Lepidus himself, but yet –by Hercules!– within twenty-five years the very same house did not hold the hundredth rank simply in the City! Let anybody calculate –if he please– considering this fact, the vast masses of marble, the productions of painters, the regal treasures that must have been expended in bringing these hundred mansions to vie with one that in its day had been the most sumptuous and celebrated in all the City; and then let him reflect that, since then and down to the present, these houses had all of them been surpassed by others without number.



There can be no doubt that the great fires are a punishment inflicted upon us for our luxury; but such are our habits, that in spite of such warnings, we cannot be made to understand that there are things in existence more perishable than even man himself.

Pliny. NATURAL HISTORY XXXVI.xxiv.121-123: But let us now turn our attention to some marvels that, if justly appreciated, may be pronounced to remain unsurpassed. Quintus Marcius Rex [praetor in 144 B.C.] upon being commanded by the Senate to repair the Appian Aqueduct and that of the Anio, constructed during his praetorship a new aqueduct that bore his name, and was brought hither by a channel pierced through the very sides of mountains. Agrippa, during his aedileship, united the Marcian and the Virgin Aqueducts and repaired and strengthened the channels of others. He also formed 700 wells, in addition to 500 fountains, and 130 reservoirs, many of them magnificently adorned. Upon these works too he erected 300 statues of marble or bronze, and 400 marble columns, and all this in the space of a single year! In the work which he has written in commemoration of his aedileship, he also informs us that public games were celebrated for the space of fifty-seven days and 170 gratuitous bathing places were opened to the public. The number of these at Rome has vastly increased since his time.

The preceding aqueducts, however, have all been surpassed by the costly work which has more recently been completed by the Emperors Gaius [Caligula] and Claudius. Under these princes the Curtian and the Caerulean Waters with the "New Anio" were brought a distance of forty miles, and at so high a level that all the hills —whereon Rome is built— were supplied with water. The sum expended on these works was 350,000,000 sesterces. If we take into account the abundant supply of water to the public, for baths, ponds, canals, household purposes, gardens, places in the suburbs and country houses, and then reflect upon the distances that are traversed from the sources on the hills, the arches that have been constructed, the mountains pierced, the valleys leveled, we must perforce admit that there is nothing more worthy of our admiration throughout the whole universe.

79 CE

August 24: Mount Vesuvius, known to be volcanic in origin but perhaps reasonably quiescent for at least a millennium, and not having had a really really big blast since about 1,760BCE, all of a sudden became intensely active between noon and 1PM, blasting a column of pumice twelve miles into the air. The wind happened to be blowing from the northwest at the time, so the volcanic matter began to fall toward the southeast, the direction of Pompeii. The eruption of course produced total darkness, except of course for electrical discharges from the atmospheric disturbances. Ash, pumice, and rock piled up in the streets and on the rooftops, falling into the houses through every open space. Some roofs began to collapse under this weight, and falling debris may also have caused injury — but there was nothing at this point to indicate the total devastation that was to come. This continued for the remainder of the day. The inhabitants of the region wandered around in darkness, pushing their way through the accumulating pumice and debris.⁷ Some made their way out of the region, while

others attempted to stick it out near their homes. Shortly after midnight, however, there were ground surges of magma and volcanic mud as well as pyroclastic surges (avalanches of noxious gases and ash rushing from the cone of Vesuvius with terrific force at over 100 kilometers an hour). At the base of Vesuvius, Herculaneum was hit with such a surge and was entombed in volcanic mud. Several pyroclastic surges went toward Pompeii but got stopped at the northern wall of the town. At about 7:30AM, enough pumice and debris had piled up against this northern wall that the next pyroclastic surge rolled up over the top of it, shearing off any buildings that were not already buried by volcanic matter. All those who were still present in the town at this point died, literally baked alive by the hot air of this surge (which is why on many of the plaster casts we have recovered from voids in the deposit, the limbs of the victim are pulled in toward the body — this heat contracted the flexor muscles). [Pompeii](#) was beneath 60 feet of ash and mud.



Some 16,000 people living in cities and towns around the base of the volcano had been killed, most of them during the first 30 seconds of that thermal blast. Walnuts were left on a table, uneaten, by priests whose meal had been rudely interrupted. A dog would be found, still chained to a post.

PLANTS

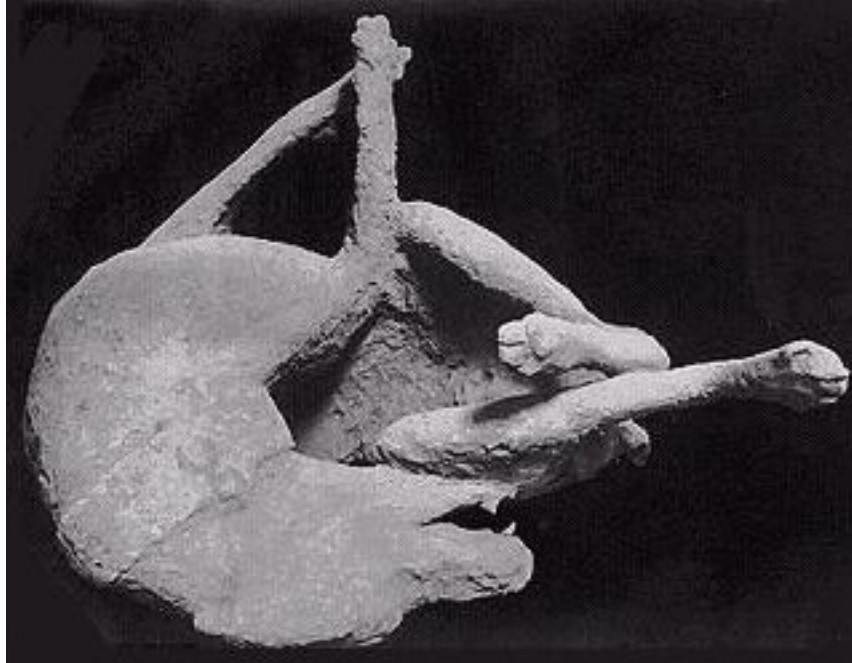
So much new surface material had been deposited in the Gulf of Naples that the remains of city, which had

7. There is a story being told, that the inhabitants of Pompeii and Herculaneum had been unaware that they were situating their lives on the slopes of a volcano — that they were supposing Vesuvius to be merely another mountain. This hardly seems plausible.

VESUVIO

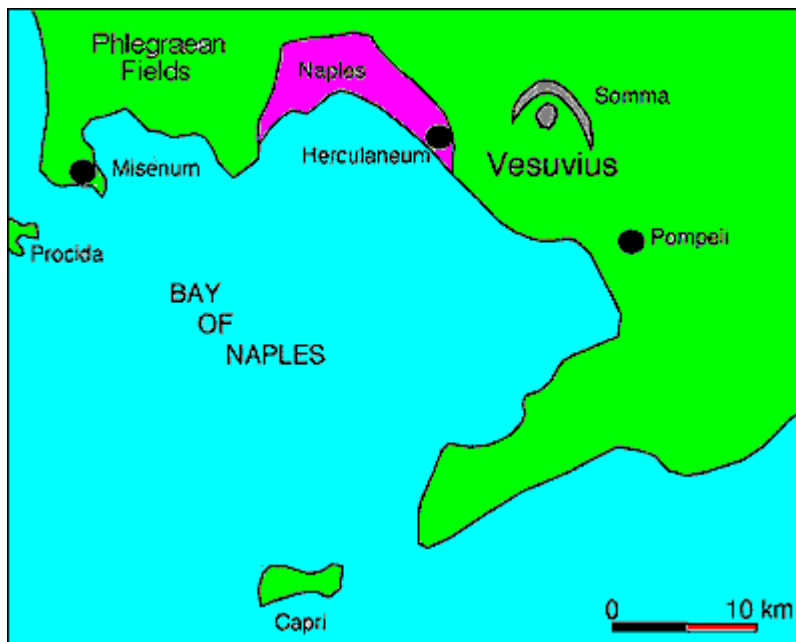
NAPLES

been only a third of a mile or so from its port, had come to be almost two miles from the open water.

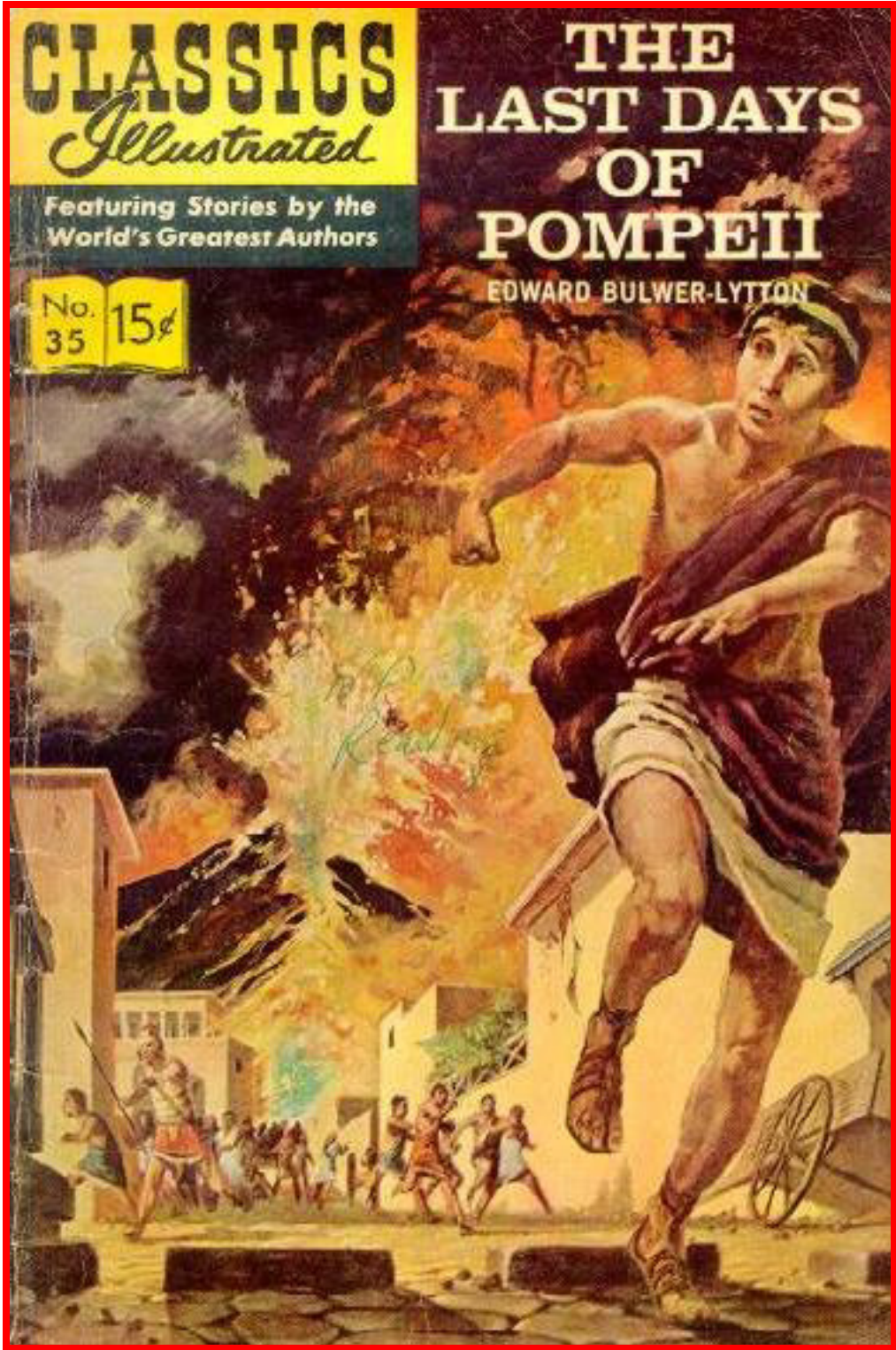


[Pliny the Elder](#), naturalist and author born in 23 CE, who was living with his sister at Misenum, died during this eruption. He had written of the Essenes, and had created ten volumes of NATURAL HISTORY. He had described how local farmers would auction their immature fruit while it was on the trees, a practice still followed in some Kent orchards in England.

APPLES



How it was that Pliny came die during this eruption despite the fact that Misenum was unaffected, we know from a detailed account that his teenage nephew [Pliny the Younger](#) would send to the historian Cornelius Tacitus. What happened was due to the fact that Pliny was not only a Roman senator but also commanded the





imperial fleet at the naval base of Misenum. (Two Roman naval bases protected Italian shipping from [pirate](#) activity, this one dominating [Naples](#)⁸ and the Bay of Naples and another other at Aquileia, dominating the Adriatic.) That morning, when his sister had noticed an unusual cloud (now termed the “Plinian column,” he had pulled rank and commandeered a naval vessel to go take a closer look. As the boat was being readied, a messenger brought a plea for help from a friend’s wife who lived at the foot of Vesuvio. The strange cloud covered an immense eruption, escape by land had become impossible, she was trapped. The “volcano”⁹ was releasing as much heat energy as [100,000 atomic bombs](#) the size of the one that we would drop on the city of [Hiroshima](#). As the ship approached the beach below where Pompeii had been (the friend’s wife was by this point almost certainly already lost), bits of ash and pumice were landing on the deck. As they drew closer, chunks of blackened rock were pounding the planks. There being so much debris that the sailors could not beach the boat, Pliny told the rowers to make for the harbor at Stabiae a few miles to the south, where Pomponianus, another of Pliny’s friends, had a house, and there they were able to get onto the beach. Pliny found that they also would be unable to escape by land. The sea having become too rough to attempt a launch, Pliny ate, bathed, and lay down to sleep while his friends stayed up throughout the night, watching as the ash rose higher and higher outside their door.

A darkness overspread us, not like that of a cloudy night, or when there is no moon, but of a room when it is shut up and all the lights are extinguished. Nothing then was to be heard but the shrieks of women, the screams of children, and the cries of men ... some wishing to die from the very fear of dying,¹⁰ some lifting up their hands to the gods; but the greater part imagining that the last and eternal night had come, which was to destroy both the gods and the world together.

“Fear of Fear” Trope

As dawn approached it seemed the ash was going to trap Pliny in his bedroom, so they woke him and the party headed for the beach where the ships were waiting. The air was so full of poisonous gases that the corpulent old man, a lifelong asthmatic, needed to lie down to rest on a sheet his friends stretched out for him on the beach. Then, when he tried to rise, he was overcome and died in the arms of his two slaves. Not only should you not be around smokers if you are an asthmatic, you also should plan not to be around any smoking volcanos. When the eruption subsided after a couple of days, his body would be recovered for burial.

It would appear that although this eruption had devastating consequences locally, it was not what you’d term a world-class event. It doesn’t seem to have had much influence, for instance, on the weather even in the Mediterranean region:

VOLCANIC EXPLOSIVITY INDEX (Logarithmic)

| Timing | Volcanic Event | Logarithmic Explosivity Index |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 640,000 years ago | Yellowstone, Wyoming | VEI-8 |
| 74,000 years ago | Toba, Sumatra (the largest caldera in the world) | VEI-8 |
| 5,600 BCE | Mazama (forming Crater Lake) | VEI-7 |
| 1,620 BCE | Thera | VEI-7 |
| 79 CE | Vesuvius | VEI-5 |

8. At this point, although hegemony had come to pertain to the Romans, the locals of [Naples](#) were still Greek-speakers.

VOLCANIC EXPLOSIVITY INDEX (Logarithmic)

| Timing | Volcanic Event | Logarithmic Explosivity Index |
|------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| April 10, 1815 | Tambora, Indonesia | VEI-7 |
| January 20, 1835 | Cosigüía, Nicaragua | Very large |
| August 26, 1883 | Krakatau | VEI-6 |
| July 15, 1888 | Bandaisan, Japan | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| May 10, 1902 | Mt. Pelée, Martinique | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| January 30, 1911 | Taal, Philippines | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| June 6-8, 1912 | Novarupta (near Mt. Katmai), Alaska | VEI-6 |
| 1919 | Kelud, Java | Apparently not that much of an explosion |

9. Our term “volcano” derives from Vulcano, a small island at the southern boundary of the Aeolian Islands about 25 kilometers from northern Sicily. This last erupted in 1888-1890. Vulcanello, the youngest part of Vulcano Island, began to form only about 2,100 years ago as an isolated island that later became connected with the main island. The latest activity at Vulcanello occurred in the 16th Century — its lava flows now host large hotel complexes.





VOLCANIC EXPLOSIVITY INDEX (Logarithmic)

| Timing | Volcanic Event | Logarithmic Explosivity Index |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|--|
| 1932 | Quizapú, Chile | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1947-1948 | Hekla, Iceland | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1956 | Bezmianny, Kamchatka | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| June 15, 1991 | Pinatubo, Philippines | VEI-6 |
| May 18, 1980 | Mount Saint Helens, USA | VEI-5 |
| March 20-October 2010 | Eyjafjallajökull | VEI-4 |

- VEI5** = Event of a size to be expected about once per decade
- VEI6** = Event of a size to be expected about once per century
- VEI7** = Event of a size to be expected every other millennium or so
- VEI8** = Event of a size to be expected every 10,000 years or so

It is to be noted that after this enormous eruption, Vesuvius would return to behaving in a rather benign manner. There had not seemed to have been any eruptions of significance for at least a millennium, and subsequent to 79 there would be only six eruptions of significance for nearly another millennium, eruptions involving only pyroclastic fragments — none of them producing any lava flows whatever.

Eventually (and here’s the nub of it), a pen with a bronze nib would be found among the volcanic residues.

Under the lava at Herculaneum we have discovered a symbol of a cross, leading to speculation that Roman-Christianity was practiced in secret. The cross could be from 64 CE as it appeared to be covered probably during the period of persecution. The cross at this time was, however, the symbol of slavery, whereas the fish was the symbol of Christianity (freedom). To consider the cross as a Christian symbol at this time doesn’t compute. To ask someone to take up your cross and follow you would have been like asking someone to take up your gallows and follow you.

10. “Some wishing to die from the very fear of dying” — doesn’t that sound familiar?

Maxim 511 of Publilius Syrus: “The fear of death is more to be dreaded than death itself.”






VESUVIO

NAPLES

268 CE

At some point between 260 CE and 269 CE, perhaps during this year, in what is now El Salvador, the Mount Ilopango volcano erupted. The early Maya civilization would be driven away by several hundred miles, and it would require some 200 years before their culture would revive. (The event seems to have been much more significant for human history, therefore, than the explosion of [Mount Vesuvius](#) that had merely buried [Pompeii](#) and Herculaneum on  August 24th in 79 CE.)¹¹

The Goths sacked Athens, Sparta, and Corinth. Yet more battles involving our favorite pushy people, the [Romans](#): at Naissus the Romans led by Gallienus defeated these nasty Goths, creating [the Pax Romana](#), at Mediolanum the Romans led by Claudius II Gothicus defeated the Romans led by M. Acilius Aureolus, disrupting [the Pax Romana](#), and at Lake Benacus (Lake Garda) the Romans led by Claudius II Gothicus defeated the Alemanni, restoring [the Pax Romana](#).

11. It is to be noted that after the eruption of 79 CE, Vesuvius had returned to behaving in a rather benign manner. There had not seemed to have been any eruptions of significance during the historical period before 79, and subsequent to 79 there would be only six eruptions of significance for nearly a millennium, involving only pyroclastic fragments — none of them producing any lava flows whatever.

553 CE

Yet another battle involving our favorite pushy people, the Romans: at the Draco River south of Naples, now the Sarno River, the legions of the Romanized Armenian eunuch Narses (a fine guy whom everybody trusted) defeated the Ostrogoths and killed their leader Teias (Teia), creating the Pax Romana. That is to say, there were some people left over, still alive, from having struggled to off one another in the previous year, 552 CE, and so some of these leftover still-alive people got together at Mons Lactarius, the modern Monti Lattari in Campania (it doesn't make a difference whether you describe this battle as taking place at the river Sarno or at the hill Lattari, as the river and the hill are right next to one another), to struggle again against one another in what has otherwise been described as the Battle of Mount Vesuvius (a more noticeable geographic feature on the local skyline) to make the world be a decent place through this process of repeatedly offing one another (this is a project that keeps coming up in people's minds, more or less spontaneously it would seem):



(I'm sorry it's so difficult to describe all this stuff. It's sorta like the US Civil War, where Americans can never agree over whether one of the episodes of nastiness is to be called the Battle of Bull Run after a little stream that runs through the locale, or the Battle of Manassas after a nearby railroad station — all we can agree on is that we experienced an unproblematic impulse to kill each other to make America be a superior place for decent folks to live in.)

1036 CE

Mount Vesuvius had been producing only pyroclastic fragments for nearly a millennium. In this eruption it produced also quantities of lava. Between this year and 1631 there would be only four eruptions, the last of them in 1139 CE.



VESUVIO

NAPLES

1266

As a sequel to the defeat of Manfred at Benevento, Charles of Anjou conquered [Naples](#) and Sicily. Until 1442, the Angevin Dynasty at [Naples](#).

The Guelf faction of Firenzi, supported by papal and French armies, defeated the Ghibelline faction at Benevento and exiled them forever from their native city. The Guelphs, to whose party [Dante Alighieri](#)'s family adhered, at this point became able themselves to return to their homes in Firenzi. (Dante's father had evidently not been of sufficient influence to have himself been sent into this exile.) Dante would thus grow up as an entitled member of a proud and expanding city-state as it sought to dominate the region of Tuscany.

1272

Father Thomas Aquinas was sent to the University of [Naples](#) as regent of theology, and there he would complete his *SUMMA THEOLOGICA*.

1294

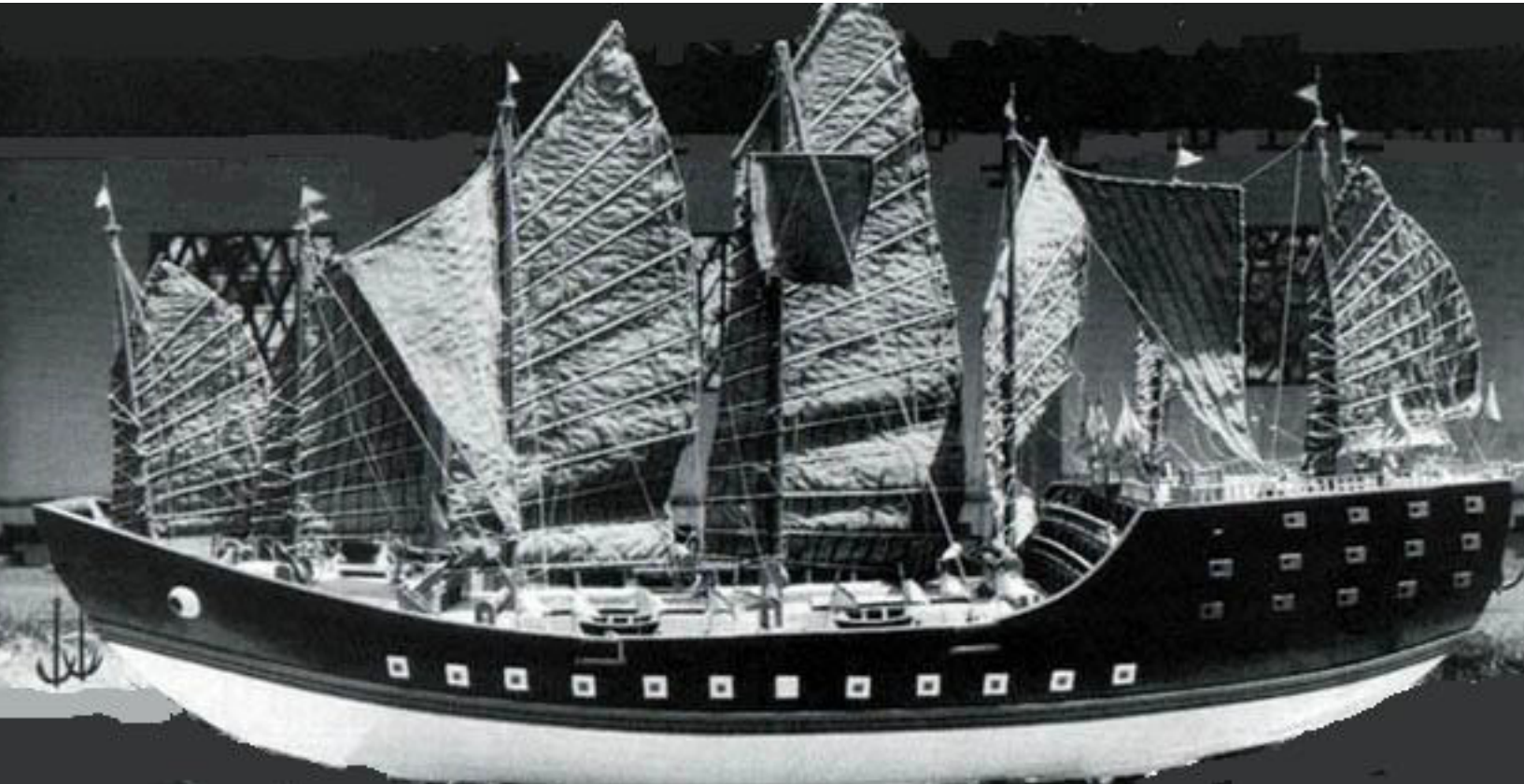
[Dante Alighieri](#) met Charles Martel, King of Hungary and heir to the kingdom of [Naples](#) and the country of Provence (he would report this meeting in *PARADISO* VIII).



Supremacy of the Visconti at Milan.

1300

During this century, the [Chinese](#) would be sailing around in ships that looked like this:



Chronological observations of America

Flavio of Malphi in Naples invented the Compass in our Edward the firsts time.

From the year of the World *to the year of Christ 1673.*

BY John Josselyn Gent.

NAPLES

(Actually, the compass had been invented in [China](#) some 23 centuries earlier, give or take a lifetime. Is that a long time, would you say, 2.3 millennia?)

1453

November or December: In the New Hebrides chain of islands of the South Pacific the volcano Kuwae exploded with the impact of 2,000,000 [Hiroshima](#)-type [A-bombs](#). The crater, is still there to be explored, eight miles across, although the explosion shattered the previous island into two smaller remaining islands — Epi and Tongoa.

VOLCANISM



VESUVIO

NAPLES

1494

Piero de Medici was defeated by Charles VIII of France.

Ferdinand I of [Naples](#) died.

When the Catholics of the Iberian Peninsula determined to attack the Catholics of the Italian Peninsula, [Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba y Aguilar](#) was sent off as one of their conquistadores.

Double-entry bookkeeping appeared in [Italy](#).

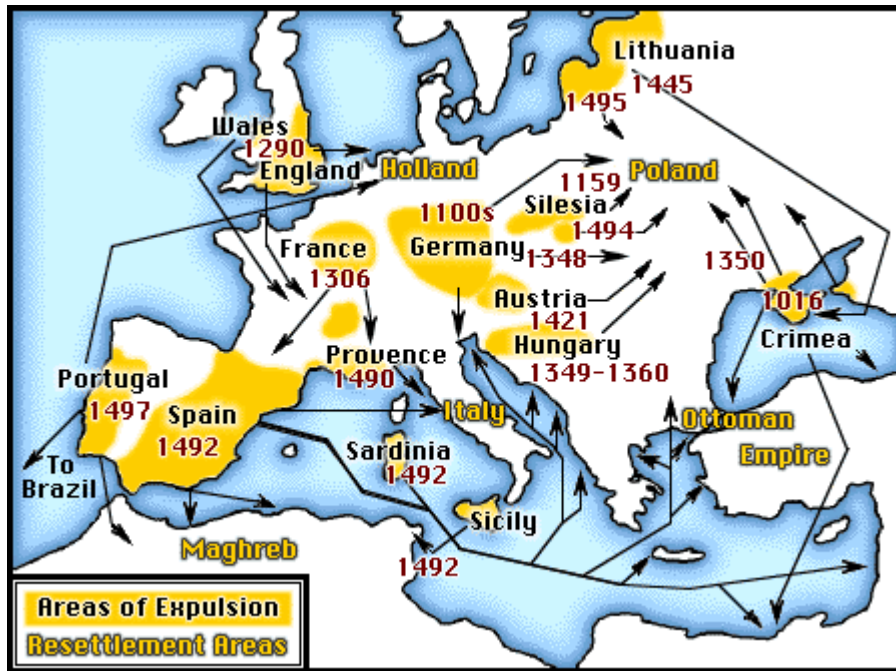
By running his finger down a line of longitude on a map, Pope Alexander VI (formerly Rodrigo Borgia of Spain) divided the non-Christian world between Spain and Portugal (Spain was to have everything west of the line, Portugal everything to the east — this would turn out to be a really really good deal for Portugal, because nobody was able to measure longitude very well at sea in those days and that map line would turn out to have been drawn way, way to far to the west).

Christopher Columbus introduced cucumbers and other vegetables from Europe to Haiti. Columbus's physician, Chanea, described Mexican capsicums (red peppers).

PLANTS

1495

Jews were expelled from Lithuania. By order, all Jews were to be gone from Portugal by 1497.



ANTISEMITISM

A [syphilis](#) epidemic spread outward from [Naples](#) to all of Europe.



When the Catholics of the Iberian Peninsula determined again to attack French Catholics on the Italian Peninsula, [Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba y Aguilar](#) was put in command of the expedition and would achieve

the sobriquet “*El Gran Capitán*.”



Looking Just Grand

Charles VIII entered [Naples](#) and was crowned King of the Neapolitans. He then retreated to northern [Italy](#). Pope Alexander VI formed the Holy League which aimed at expelling Charles VIII from the peninsula. This alliance was defeated at the Battle of Fornovo. Ferdinand II reconquered [Naples](#). The French fleet was defeated at Rapallo, and the French army surrendered at Novara. The Holy League ended. Charles VIII returned to France. A peace was negotiated between Spain and France in [Italy](#), with Lodovico Sforza as its agent. This was the first indication of what would become a tradition of a balance of power in European politics.

NAPLES

VESUVIO



What goes around keeps coming around and around and around...



1496

Ferdinand II of [Naples](#) was succeeded by Frederick III (-1501).

1497

Just like on the Showtime TV series “The Borgias,” Lucrezia Borgia divorced Giovanni Sforza and married Alfonso of [Naples](#).



1500

Alfonso of [Naples](#), husband of Lucrezia Borgia, was murdered.

1501

The French entered [Rome](#).



In the “Peace of Trent” between France and Emperor Maximilian I, the French conquests in [Italy](#) were formally recognized. The Pope declared Louis XII to be King of [Naples](#).

1503

Gonzalo de Córdoba defeated the French army at Garigliano, and entered [Naples](#). From this point into 1707, Naples would be ruled by the Spanish Viceroy.

Pope Alexander VI died. Francesco Todeschini-Piccolomini of Siena was elected Pope Pius III but soon died. Then Giuliano della Róvere of Albissola was elected Pope Julius II.

Venice abandoned Lepanto and signed a peace treaty with the Turks.

Leonardo da Vinci was painting the Mona Lisa (this was taking him forever and a day).

Lucrezia Borgia got married with the Duke of Ferrera.



1504

In the Treaty of Lyon, Louis XII ceded [Naples](#) to Ferdinand II of Aragón.

1505

[Michelangelo](#) began carving a “St. Matthew” on a project for a set of twelve Apostles for the cathedral in Florence, of which only this statue would ever even be begun. Pope Julius II called him to [Rome](#). The [Swiss Guard](#), which is to say, the papal guard of the Vatican in Rome made up all and only of tall Swiss males, was being formed. The privates would not be allowed to marry, a detail of their life at the Vatican which would prove intriguing to Michelangelo (although some would tell you that the artist designed their colorful uniform, there is no reason to suppose that the artist ever took any interest in the clothes they had on).

[Gonzalo Fernández de Córdoba y Aguilar](#) became Viceroy of [Naples](#).

In about this year Amerigo Vespucci got married with Maria Cerezo.

[Giovanni Battista Ramusio](#) became secretary to [Venice](#)'s ambassador to France, Alvise Mocenigo. He would begin to compile intelligence reports from travelers, and translate them into Italian.

1507

The remains of [Nero](#)'s [Rome-to-Naples canal](#) were discovered.

1513

After serving as ensign at Gaeta outside [Naples](#), Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca returned to Spain and to the service of the Duke of Medina Sidonia in Seville. In the Duke's service, he survived the Comuneros civil war.



NAPLES

VESUVIO

1516

The Imperial mail service was extended to [Rome](#) and [Naples](#).

Giuliano, of the Medici family, died and the family needed a place to put him. (What do you do for a family that has everything? –You build them a container to put it all in.)

1521

April 27, Wednesday, Ferdinand Magellan had taken his ships eastward from Guam to Cebu in the Philippines, where, in an effort to gain the favor of a local ruler, he had become embroiled in a local war. On this day he fell in combat on the island of Mactan. Duarte Barbosa and João Serrão would shortly thereafter also be killed. Wasting with sickness, the survivors of Magellan's crews would be forced to destroy the *Concepción*, and the great circumnavigation of the globe would be brought to completion by a former mutineer, Juan Sebastián de Elcano, commanding the *Victoria*.



What we mean, when we go “Magellan was 1st to circumnavigate the globe,” is two things: one thing we mean is that it matters very much who the boss is, and the other thing that we mean is that 18 of his crewmen were still alive when this vessel, the “nao” *Victoria* (a carrack?), docked at Seville in this year:

- the new captain, a Basque, Juan Sebastián de Elcano of Greece
- the pilot Francisco Albo
- a “maestre” (master seaman?) Miguel de Rhodas
- a sailor
- a man of Genoa
- the “alguacil” (policeman of the ship?), Martin of Yudicibus
- the boatswain Juan of Acurio, a Spaniard
- a “paje” (page?) boy, Spaniard
- the barber, Bustamante, a Spaniard
- a gunner, of Germany
- two sailors from Portugal
- a sailor of Naples
- a “sobresaliente,” Antonio Lombardo (: Pigafetta)
- two sailors, Spaniards
- two “grumetes” (sailor boys), Spaniards
- and evidently one man more, for the total of 18



VESUVIO

NAPLES

Another different listing is to be found on page 175 of the book of Lord Stanley of Alderley, First Voyage Round The World, By Magellan:

- 1) Miguel de Rodas, master
- 2) Martin de Insaurraga, pilot
- 3) Miguel de Rodas, seaman
- 4) Nicolas Griego
- 5) Juan Rodriguez
- 6) Vasco Gallego (Portuguese)
- 7) Martin de Judicibus
- 8) Juan de Santander
- 9) Hernando de Bustamante
- 10) Antonio Lombardo (Pigafetta)
- 11) Francisco Rodriguez;
- 12) Antonio Fernandez
- 13) Diego Gallego
- 14) Juan de Arratia
- 15) Juan de Apega
- 16) Juan de Acurio
- 17) Juan de Zubieta
- 18) Lorenzo de Iruna
- 19) Juan de Ortega
- 20) Pedro de Indarchi
- 21) Ruger Carpintete
- 22) Pedro Gasco
- 23) Alfonso Domingo, seaman
- 24) Diego Garcia
- 25) Pedro de Valpuesta
- 26) Ximeno de Bargas
- 27) Juan Martin
- 28) Martin de Magallanes
- 29) Francisco Alvaro (probably Albo, the pilot)
- 30) Roldan de Argote (from whom must be named the mountain which in the Strait of Magellan, is now called the Campana de Roldan)
- 31) Juan Sebastian del Cano.

Magellan's servant, Enrique, apparently had begun his circumnavigation at the place of his birth, travelled with Captain Magellan to Malacca, then Europe, then the South Atlantic, etc. When the Magellan expedition reached the place of his birth, Enrique would have completed his circumnavigation.

1538

There was an eruption west of [Naples](#), near Pozzuoli, that created a 450-foot mound of cinders that would come to be referred to (naturally) as Monte Nuovo.

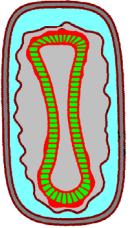
VOLCANISM

NAPLES

VESUVIO

1544

A very virulent form of the [small pox](#) appeared in [Naples](#).



1570

In [Naples](#), [Miguel de Cervantes](#) joined the Spanish regiment for the naval battle against the Turks in Lepanto, and was shot in the left hand and twice to the chest while on board the *La Marquesa*. Although he would recover sufficiently to take part in further battles, he would lose the use of his hand.

1594

From this point until 1600, the architect Domenico Fontana, effecting some land improvements in the valley of the Sarno River, would be having a tunnel excavated. The diggers would come upon inscriptions near [Mount Vesuvius](#) that the locals referred to as La Cività. (Who would have suspected at this point, that they were in the process of creating a lucrative tourist industry?)

1598

January 9: [Jasper Heywood](#) died at the age of 63 at [Naples](#) while still in “perpetual exile from England on pain of death.”

1631

December 16: Until 1036 CE, when it produced quantities of lava, [Mount Vesuvius](#) had for nearly a millennium been producing only pyroclastic fragments. Then there had been four eruptions, the last in 1139 CE, and after 1139, for five centuries the volcano had been entirely quiescent. However, at this point there had been some six months of gradually intensifying earthquakes, and suddenly the mountain erupted and again buried villages upon its fertile slopes, villages dedicated to the cultivation of the grapes for the popular wine Lagrima Christi (“Tears of Christ”), villages rather more similar to than different from the Roman towns of Pompeii and Herculaneum.¹²



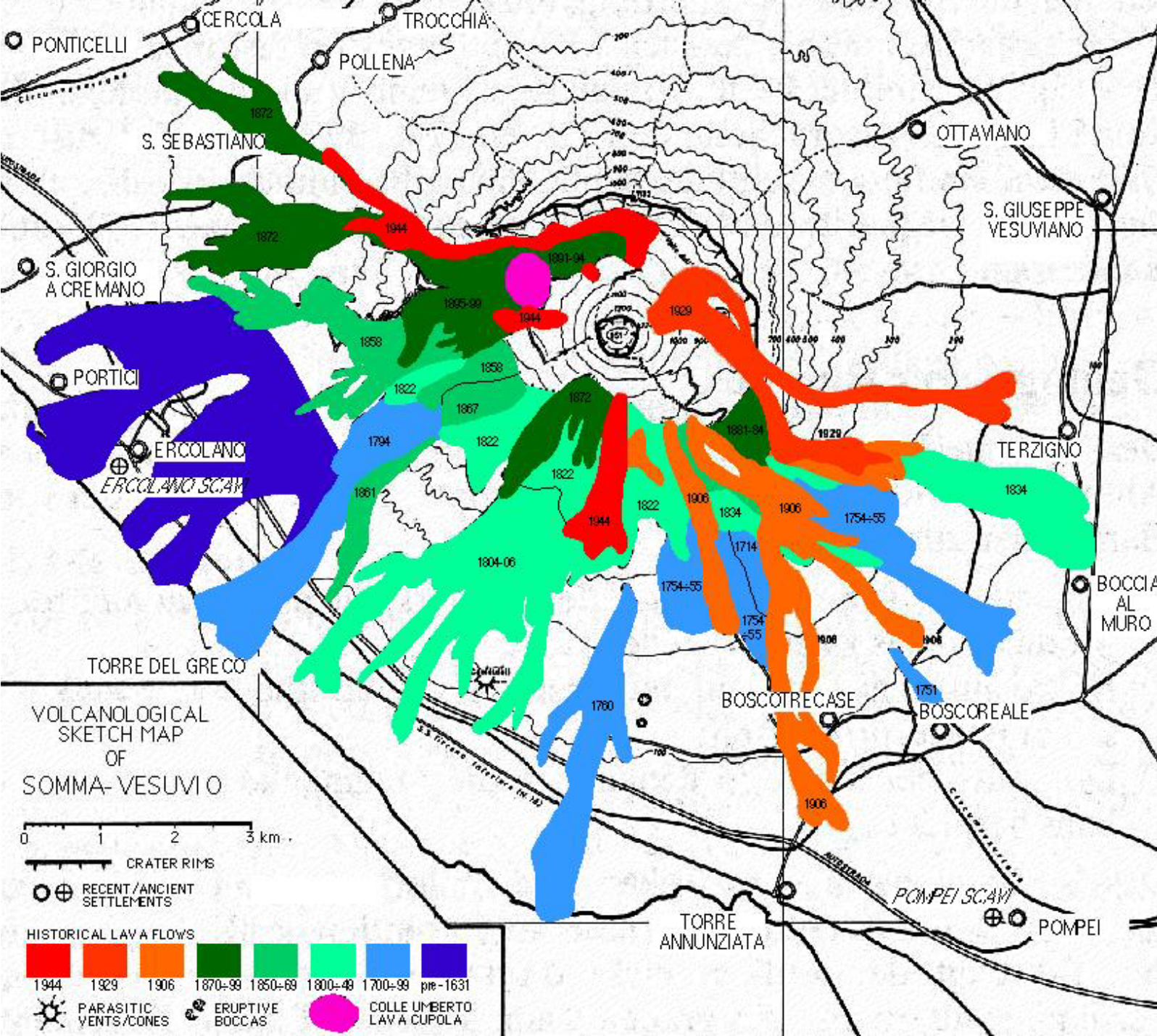
Lava flowed 3 miles, reaching the sea in about 2 hours. More than 4,000 persons died horribly.

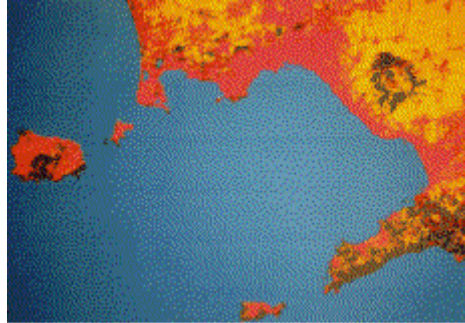
12. In the literature, you will find repeated references to [Mount Vesuvius](#) being a volcano on a 31-year cycle. Although those references are correct for the period subsequent to 1631, they are entirely incorrect for the period prior to 1631. (Also, you’ve heard the one about the guy who drowned in a river that was on average only eight inches deep, I’m sure.)

NAPLES

VESUVIO

The area in deep blue on this map indicates a lava flow which had already been in existence as of this 1631 eruption, dating to some unknown prior eruption, a flow which still remains at the surface, not as yet having been covered over by any of the subsequent flows:





1644

December 24: Father Bartoli of [Naples](#) viewed what appeared to him to be two patches on the lower part of the disk of Mars.

ASTRONOMY

1647

July 7: Tommaso Aniello (1620?-1647), known as “Masaniello,” would be noted by the propagandist Thomas Paine as “a fisherman of Naples, who, after spurring up his countrymen in the public market-place against the oppression of the Spaniards, to whom the place was then subject, prompted them to revolt; and, in the space of a day, became king.” It was on this day that this man sparked his protest, which was occasioned upon a new tax on fruit. The Spanish viceroy came to terms with Masaniello, promised the reforms demanded, and recognized him as captain general. The viceroy was deposed and a Francophile republic was declared. The success of his insurrection going to his head, he urged his followers to slaughter the Spanish nobility of [Naples](#), whereupon they hired assassins to off him. Either these assassins would get to him, or he would be done in by his own disillusioned supporters, or he would be turned over to the authorities and executed, on July 16th. His life-span as a revolutionary leader thus would turn out to be ten days. The revolution would soon be repressed and Spanish rule would be restored in April 1648. This would become the subject of an opera, *LA MUETTE DE PORTICI*. For the Masaniello revolt and its possible influence on the English Revolution, refer to Peter Linebaugh and Marcus Rediker’s *THE MANY-HEADED HYDRA* (Boston: Beacon Press, 2000, pages 112-116).

1650

An image of [Mount Vesuvius](#) made in this year:



1660

The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.

1682

The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.

1684

An image of [Mount Vesuvius](#) made in this year:



1685

October 26: Domenico Scarlatti, who would become a virtuoso harpsichordist and composer, was born in [Naples](#).

1689

An image of [Mount Vesuvius](#) made in this year:



1694

The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically was obtaining for this particular volcano during this particular period for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.



'T is the voice of the sluggard; I heard him complain,
"You have wak'd me too soon, I must slumber again."
— The Sluggard.

1698

The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.

1701

January 15: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted, sending a lava flow to destroy Boscotrecase and Ottaviano.



NAPLES

VESUVIO

1706

The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.

1707

In [Japan](#), Mount Fuji erupted (it has only smoked and rumbled, since).



VOLCANISM

[Naples](#) would be under Austrian viceroys from this point until 1748.

July 28: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lava ad W e SE. Caduta abbondante di piroclasti a Torre del Greco, Striano, Scafati e Boscotrecase. Danni alle coltivazioni. Feriti. Costruzione dell’edicola di S. Gennaro a S. Caterina a Formiello (Porta Capuana).”



NAPLES

VESUVIO

August 13, day: [Mount Vesuvius](#) again erupted: “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lava ad W e SE. Caduta abbondante di piroclasti a Torre del Greco, Striano, Scafati e Boscotrecase. Danni alle coltivazioni. Feriti. Costruzione dell’edicola di S. Gennaro a S. Caterina a Formiello (Porta Capuana).”

1709

Excavation of the buried Campanian towns around [Mount Vesuvius](#) began with the remains of Herculaneum.

1713

Under the terms of the treaty of Utrecht,¹³ the French Acadians (Cajuns) were to be driven from Nova Scotia to Louisiana:



13. There is not just one date associated with the Peace of Utrecht because this was not one but a complex series of treaties. The April 11th date was when Louis XIV recognized the English succession as established in the house of Hanover and confirmed the renunciation of the claims to the French throne of Louis's grandson, Philip V of Spain. The French fortifications of Dunkirk were to be razed and the harbor filled up, and the Hudson Bay territory, Acadia, St. Kitts, and Newfoundland were ceded to England. By a commercial treaty England and France granted each other most-favored-nation treatment. By a treaty with the Netherlands France agreed to surrender to Austria the Spanish Netherlands still in French hands; these were to be held in trust by the Netherlands until the conclusion of a treaty between the Netherlands and the Holy Roman emperor. A commercial treaty between France and the Netherlands was also signed. France furthermore restored Savoy and Nice to Victor Amadeus II, recognizing him as king of Savoy. France also signed a treaty with Portugal and one with Prussia confirming the kingship of the Prussian rulers. The July 13th date, on the other hand, was when an Anglo-Spanish treaty confirmed the clauses of the Anglo-French treaties relating to the English and French successions. Spain ceded Gibraltar and Minorca to Great Britain and ceded Sicily (to be exchanged in 1720 for Sardinia) to Savoy. Britain and Spain signed the Asiento, an agreement giving Britain the sole right to the slave trade with Spanish America. The March 7th, 1714 date was when Louis XIV and Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI made their peace, and the September 7th, 1714 date was when the Treaty of Baden completed the settlement, restoring the right bank of the Rhine to the empire and confirming Austria in possession of the formerly Spanish Netherlands, of Naples, and of Milan. The November 15th, 1715 date was when the Third Barrier Treaty regulated trade relations between the Dutch and Austrian Netherlands.

By this act King Frederick William I of Prussia and the Duke of Savoy each acquired considerable additional territory. Philip remained in possession of the throne of Spain but [Naples](#), Milan, the Spanish territories on the Tuscan coast, the Spanish Netherlands, and some parts of the French Netherlands were transferred to Austria. England acquired, from France, Hudson’s Bay and Straits, the Island of St. Christopher, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland, and from Spain, Gibraltar and Minorca which the English had seized during the war.

To implement this plan, the British army took over part of Acadia. Figure [skating](#) would begin to get organized in North America, introduced by British officers in Halifax, and in Philadelphia in the mid-1700s. These officers followed rigid precepts of elegance. The first challenge in such High Dutch ice skating was to make each edge a perfect semicircle. As that style would evolve, skating technique would degenerate into jerky moves lacking in gracefulness. Each stroke required effort, breaking the even flow intended by earlier Dutch skaters and producing an unnatural appearance on the ice. Just as the Victorians, arms glued to their sides, would take the poetry of motion out of skating in England, Philadelphians were on their way to nearly ruining figure skating in North America. Devoid of emotion in their superficially elegant attitude, their only demonstration was of pride in having accomplished a perfect figure.

1714

January 6-16: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lave verso SW, SE (sulla colata del 1701), N e NE. Danni a Ottaviano, Somma V.S. Anastasia, Torre Annunziata e Boscotrecase.”

June 15-30: [Mount Vesuvius](#) again erupted: “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lave verso SW, SE (sulla colata del 1701), N e NE. Danni a Ottaviano, Somma V. S. Anastasia, Torre Annunziata e Boscotrecase.”

1716

For the next four years [George Berkeley](#) would be again traveling in Europe, this time as the traveling companion of a Mr. Ashe who stood to inherit a great fortune. While traveling he would be working on a 2nd part to his PRINCIPLES, but then would lose this manuscript during the sea passage from Sicily to [Naples](#) — and abandon the effort. Let the fishes be alone ideally wise!



REV. BERKELEY’S TRAVELS



VESUVIO

NAPLES

1717

June 6-18: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lava a SE (sopra la colata del 1714) e SW. Danni alle coltivazioni di viti a Trecase ed intorno ai Camaldoli. Tre bocche attive sulla piattaforma craterica.”

December 22: [Mount Vesuvius](#) again erupted: “Effusiva — Lava a SE (sopra la colata del 1714) e SW. Danni alle coltivazioni di viti a Trecase ed intorno ai Camaldoli. Tre bocche attive sulla piattaforma craterica.”

1723

June 28-July 4: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lave verso E e SE. Danni alle coltivazioni per la caduta di lapilli a Ottaviano, Nola, Palma C., Sarno, Gragnano, Nocera e Castellamare. Piroclastiti fino al Vallo di Diano.”

1725

Gennaio 16-Luglio: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Le lave formano cupole nell’Atrio. Il Vesuvio cambia aspetto.”

September: [Mount Vesuvius](#) again erupted: “Effusiva — Le lave formano cupole nell’Atrio. Il Vesuvio cambia aspetto.”

1727

Marzo-Maggio: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Si forma una cupola sul versante di Torre del Greco.”

July 29, 1727-July 29, 1728: [Mount Vesuvius](#) again erupted: “Effusiva — Si forma una cupola sul versante di Torre del Greco.”

1730

February-March: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Taglio dei boschi per evitare il propagarsi degli incendi. Le fontane di lava innalzano notevolmente la cima del vulcano¹⁴ e la rendono più acclive.”

1732

The Redemptorist order was founded by Saint Alfonso Maria de’Liguori at Scala, [Italy](#), near [Naples](#).

14. This term derives from Vulcano, a small island at the southern boundary of the Aeolian Islands about 25 kilometers from northern Sicily. This last erupted in 1888-1890. Vulcanello, the youngest part of Vulcano Island, began to form only about 2,100 years ago as an isolated island that later became connected with the main island. The latest activity at Vulcanello occurred in the 16th Century — its lava flows now host large hotel complexes.



1737

May 19-June 6: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiescent condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half a year and just shy of 31 years.¹⁵



1738

Don Charles of Bourbon, King of the Two Sicilies and founder of the House of Bourbon, restorer of the kingdom of [Naples](#), hired the antiquarian Marcello Venuti to reopen the treasure-hunter shafts at [Herculaneum](#) in order to supply his palace, the Palazzo Reale in Caserta, with ancient statues and other bric-a-brac niceties.

VOLCANISM

1748

March: Rocco Gioacchino de Alcubiere, a surveying engineer who had been granted a commission by don Charles of Bourbon, restorer of the kingdom of [Naples](#), to supply his palace, the Palazzo Reale in Caserta, with ancient statues and other bric-a-brac niceties, inspected the water channel dug in the previous century by the Italian architect Domenico Fontana and learned that at a place the locals called La Cività objects of antiquity had been retrieved. (The excavations at [Pompeii](#) have continued ever since.)

VOLCANISM

1749

The Redemptorist order avoided total control by the royal court of [Naples](#) by obtaining the sponsorship of Pope Benedict XIV.

15. “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lava ad W (verso Torre del Greco) e S (verso Boscotrecase). La lava interrompe la strada regia. Un flusso di lava invade Torre del Greco e avanza fino a veduta del mare. Caduta di cenere e lahar.”

1750

[Charles de Brosses](#)'s *LETTRES SUR L'ÉTAT ACTUEL DE LA VILLE SOUTERRAINE D'HERCULÉE ET SUR LES CAUSES DE SON ENSEVELISSEMENT SOUS LES RUINES DU VÉSUYE* offered a list of the archeological discoveries made in the excavation of [Herculaneum](#), discoveries which included some ancient inscriptions in the Oscan language.

1751

October 25, 1751-February 25, 1752: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: "Effusiva — Bocche a S nell'Atrio dalla sutura del 1631. Lave verso Boscoreale, Boscotrecase, Torre Annunziata e Ottaviano. Lave circa 10 volte più abbondanti del 1737. La lava del 25/10 verso SE percorre 4 miglia in 6 ore."



MOUNT VESUVIUS

1753

July 10: *L'eroe cinese*, an opera seria by Baldassare Galuppi to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

November 4: The second version of *Ricimero re dei goti*, an opera seria by Baldassare Galuppi, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

December 18: *Ifigenia in Aulide*, a pasticcio with some music by Tommaso Traetta to words of Verazi after Zeno, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1754

January 20: A 2d version of *Alessandro nelle Indie*, an opera seria by Baldassare Galuppi to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).



VESUVIO

NAPLES

December 2, 1754-March 17, 1755: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Bocche a S nell’Atrio dalla sutura del 1631. Lave verso Bosco di Ottaviano, Boscoreale e Boscotrecase (in parte sulle lave del 1737). Ingenti danni alle coltivazioni.”

1755

December 13: The Royal Herculaneum Academy was founded in [Naples](#).

1756

July 30: When Nicolò Piccinni got married with his 14-year-old singing student, Vincenza Sibilla, in [Naples](#), the ceremony took place in church despite the fact that the couple has eloped. Her father, a barber, furious at the engagement, at first consigned her to the Conservatorio del Rifugio. Finally he would relent, and invite the couple home to be married at her local parish church. The bride’s mother and godmother would attend this wedding.

December 18: Zenobia, an opera seria by Niccolò Piccinni to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1757

November 4: Niccolò Piccinni’s opera seria Nitteti, to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

La clemenza di Tito, a dramma per musica by Ignaz Holzbauer to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, at the Mannheim Hoftheater.

December 18: Niccolò Jommelli’s opera seria Temistocle to words of Metastasio was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1759

October 6: Burma attacked the East India Company fort at Negrais Island off the coast. The Burmese killed eleven British soldiers and many natives, which would require the company to leave Burma.

In the Pragmatic Sanction, King Carlos III of Spain abdicated his Sicilian throne in favor of his 8-year-old third son, who of course assumed his position as King Ferdinando III of [Naples](#) and King Ferdinando IV of Sicily under regency. Treaties forbade the union of Spain and [Naples](#).

November 4: Achille in Sciro, an opera by Johann Adolf Hasse to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#). The opera is hampered by a cast which is not up to the demands of the music.

December 26: *Ciro riconosciuto*, an opera seria by Niccolò Piccinni to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1760

May 30, Friday: The second version of *Il trionfo di Camilla*, an opera eroico by Nicola Porpora to words of Stampiglia revised by Lorenzi, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

December 23-January 5, 1761: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.¹⁶



MOUNT VESUVIUS

In this year Giovanni Arduino was proposing that the layers of rock in the earth might be distinguishable into categories, and he proposed, from bottom up, the nomenclature “Primary,” “Secondary,” and “Tertiary.” This early formulation would lead eventually to the modern paleontological timescale, from top/latest to bottom/earliest: Quaternary, Pliocene, Myocene, Oligocene, Eocene, Paleocene, Cretaceous, Jurassic, Triassic, Permian, Carboniferous, Devonian, Silurian, Ordovician, Cambrian, and Precambrian.

16. “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Bocche a circa 300 m s.l.m. in località Noto (Torre Annunziata). Lava verso S (si ferma a meno di 300 m dal mare). Interruzione della strada regia. Crolli per terremoti. Fratture del suolo fino al mare.”



1761

November 4: *Catone in Utica*, an opera by Johann Christian Bach to words after Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#), to celebrate the nameday of King Carlo III. This was well received.

Niccolò Jommelli's pastorale *L'isola disabitata* to words of Metastasio was performed for the initial time, in the Ducal Theater of Ludwigsburg.

1762

January 20: Two works by Johann Christian Bach were performed for the first time, at Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#), to honor the birthday of King Carlos III of Spain: the opera *Alessandro nell'Indie* to words after Metastasio, and the *Cantata a 3 voci per festeggiare il felicissimo giorno natalizio di sua Maesta cattolica*, to words possibly by Passeri.

October 12: Antonio Sacchini, secondo maestro at the Conservatorio Santa Maria di Loreto in [Naples](#), was granted leave to travel to Venice to produce an opera at the Teatro San Benedetto.

November 4: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart had recovered from scarlet fever, enough to go out of the house.

Niccolò Piccinni's opera seria *Antigono*, to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1763

December 26: *L'Issipile*, a pasticcio with music by several composers including Domenico Scarlatti, Johann Adolf Hasse, Baldassare Galuppi, Tommaso Traetta and Johann Christian Bach, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

A second version of *Ezio*, a *dramma per musica* by Christoph Willibald Gluck to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Vienna Burgtheater. The ballet music was by Florian Leopold Gassmann.



1764

November 4: Nicolò Jommelli's opera seria *Il re pastore* to words of Metastasio was performed for the initial time, for the opening of the new Ducal Theater in Ludwigsburg.

Lucio Vero, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini to words of Zeno, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1765

May 4: *Ripieno di una cantata in lode di San Gennaro* by Nicola Porpora to words of A. Gennaro, Duca de Belforte, was performed for the initial time, at Sedile di Portanova, [Naples](#).

November 4: Nicolò Jommelli's pastorale *Imeneo in Atene*, to words after Stampiglia, was performed for the initial time, in the Ducal Theatre, Ludwigsburg. On the same day was performed for the initial time, the 2d version of his *Temistocle* to words of Metastasio.

Il Creso, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini to words of Pizzi, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1766

November 4: *Il matrimonio per concorso*, an opera buffa by Nicolò Jommelli to words of Martinelli, was performed for the initial time, in the Ducal Palace of Ludwigsburg.

Il gran Cid, an opera seria by Niccolò Piccinni to words of Pizzi, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1767

September 9: *Partenope*, a festa teatrale by Johann Adolf Hasse to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna, as part of celebrations surrounding the betrothal of Archduchess Maria Josepha to King Ferdinando IV of [Naples](#).

September 11: The Mozart family departed from Salzburg in the direction of Vienna, hoping to gain from the demand for music surrounding the betrothal of Archduchess Maria Josepha to King Ferdinando IV of [Naples](#).

October 5: Johann Franz Wilhelm became Count of Salm Reifferscheid zu Dyck.

Florian Leopold Gassmann's opera seria *Amore e Psiche* to words of Coltellini was performed for the initial time, in the Burgtheater of Vienna as part of celebrations surrounding the betrothal of Archduchess Maria Josepha to King Ferdinando IV of [Naples](#) (ironically, the bride in this story dies).

October 19-27: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: "Effusiva — Colata di Lava a SW verso Ercolano e S. Giorgio a Cremano. Danni alle coltivazioni e agli edifici (anche per il tremore). Alla fine dell'eruzione il Vesuvio è più alto di prima. Si forma un piccolo cratere."



MOUNT VESUVIUS

1768

January 20: Two works by Giovanni Paisiello were performed for the first time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#): the *dramma per musica* *Olimpia*, to words of Trabucco, and the cantata *L'Ebone*, to words of Mattei.

March 3: Nicola Antonio Porpora died in [Naples](#), in poverty, at the age of 81.

April 6: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and his sister performed in Vienna during celebrations surrounding the wedding of Archduchess Maria Carolina to King Ferdinando of [Naples](#).

April 7: King Ferdinando of [Naples](#) got married with Archduchess Maria Carolina in Vienna — the wedding was by proxy, as the monarch was in [Naples](#).

William Boyce resigned his position at St. Michael's, Cornhill after the church wardens complained that "the playing of the Organ did not give the Satisfaction to the Parish which they had a Right to expect."

May 4: *Trattenimento sacro drammatico* by Nicola Porpora to words of di Gennaro, Duca di Belforte, was performed for the initial time, in [Naples](#).



NAPLES

VESUVIO

May 31: Johann Georg Albrechtsberger got married with Rosalia Weiss, daughter of a sculptor, in Vienna.

Giovanni Paisiello's *Festa teatrale in musica* to words of Basso-Bassi was performed for the initial time, at the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#) for the wedding of King Ferdinando IV and Maria Carolina. (The date could be May 25th.)

June 10: Construction began on the Forth and Clyde Canal in Scotland.

Li napoletani in America, an opera buffa by Niccolò Piccinni to words of Cerlone, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro Fiorentini of [Naples](#).

A Boston mob assaulted customs agents, protesting the seizure of John Hancock's ship *Liberty* for evading customs duties. Customs officials escaped to Castle William in Boston harbor.

September 15, Thursday: Giovanni Paisiello got married with Donna Cecilia Pallini in [Naples](#). She was pregnant, or was feigning pregnancy, and the Queen of [Naples](#) had imprisoned the composer until he fulfilled his contract to marry her.

The regency over Elector Friedrich August III of Saxony ended, and he ruled in his own right.

1769

January 18: Anton Ignaz Joseph, Count Fugger-Glött replaced Clemens Wenzel von Sachsen as Prince Bishop of Regensburg.

France, Spain, and [Naples](#) issued an ultimatum to Pope Clement XIII through their ambassadors in [Rome](#), to suppress entirely the Society of Jesus.

May 30: *Demetrio*, an opera seria by Niccolò Piccinni to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1770

April 19: Austrian [Archduchess Maria Antonia Josepha Johanna](#) got married by proxy with Louis, le Dauphin before the Papal Nuncio in Vienna. Louis was proxied by one of Maria's brothers. Maria would henceforward be known as [Marie Antoinette, Dauphine of France](#).

Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart were guests of Prince San Angelo of [Naples](#), in [Rome](#). They met the Scottish Pretender, Charles Edward Stuart.

Australia was "discovered" by the British (though the Dutch had already named the area New Holland and had experienced at least 15 landings since 1606). Captain [James Cook](#) had in 1768 set out on the *Endeavor* on a scientific mission, with the young naturalists Joseph Banks and Daniel Charles Solander (a pupil of [Carl von Linné](#)), as well as artists. On April 29, 1770, his ship stood into Botany Bay, which Cook originally called Sting Ray Harbor — but the great collection of new [botanical](#) materials by Banks and Solander provoked him to change the name.



BOTANIZING

JOURNAL: THURSDAY, 19th. In the P.M. had fresh Gales at South-South-West and Cloudy Squally weather, with a large Southerly Sea; at 6 took in the Topsails, and at 1 A.M. brought too and Sounded, but had no ground with 130 fathoms of line. At 5, set the Topsails close reef'd, and 6, saw land¹⁷ extending from



North-East to West, distance 5 or 6 Leagues, having 80 fathoms, fine sandy bottom. We continued standing to the Westward with the Wind at South-South-West until 8, at which time we got Topgallant Yards a Cross, made all sail, and bore away along shore North-East for the Eastermost land we had in sight, being at this time in the Latitude of 37 degrees 58 minutes South, and Longitude of 210 degrees 39 minutes West. The Southermost point of land we had in sight, which bore from us West 1/4 South, I judged to lay in the Latitude of 38 degrees 0 minutes South and in the Longitude of 211 degrees 7 minutes West from the Meridian of Greenwich. I have named it Point Hicks, because Lieutenant Hicks was the first who discover'd this Land. To the Southward of this point we could see no land, and yet it was clear in that Quarter, and by our Longitude compared with that of Tasman's, the body of Van Diemen's land ought to have bore due South from us, and from the soon falling of the Sea after the wind abated I had reason to think it did; but as we did not see it, and finding the Coast to trend North-East and South-West, or rather more to the Westward, makes me Doubtfull whether they are one land or no.¹⁸ However, every one who compares this Journal with that of Tasman's will be as good a judge as I am; but it is necessary to observe that I do not take the Situation of Vandiemens from the Printed Charts, but from the extract of Tasman's Journal, published by Dirk Rembrantse. At Noon we were in the Latitude of 37 degrees 50 minutes and Longitude of 210 degrees 29 minutes West. The extrems of the Land extending from North-West to East-North-East, a remarkable point, bore North 20 degrees East, distant 4 Leagues. This point rises to a round hillock very much like the Ramhead going into Plymouth sound, on which account I called it by the same name; Latitude 37 degrees 39 minutes, Longitude 210 degrees 22 minutes West. The Variation by an Azimuth taken this morning was 8 degrees 7 minutes East. What we have as yet seen of this land appears rather low, and not very hilly, the face of the Country green and Woody, but the Sea shore is all a white Sand.

HIS 3 VOYAGES, VOL. I

HIS 3 VOYAGES, VOL. II

May 8: After a month of performances, meetings with important people, and sightseeing, Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart departed from [Rome](#) heading toward [Naples](#).

May 28, Monday: Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart performed at the home of Count Ernst Christoph von Kaunitz, the Imperial ambassador, in [Naples](#). This was very successful and the Mozarts were well remunerated.

17. The south-east coast of Australia. See chart.

18. Had not the gale on the day before forced Cook to run to the northward, he would have made the north end of the Furneaux Group, and probably have discovered Bass Strait, which would have cleared up the doubt, which he evidently felt, as to whether Tasmania was an island or not. The fact was not positively known until Dr. Bass sailed through the Strait in a whale-boat in 1797. Point Hicks was merely a rise in the coast-line, where it dipped below the horizon to the westward, and the name of Point Hicks Hill is now borne by an elevation that seems to agree with the position.



May 30, Wednesday: *Armida abbandonata*, an opera seria by Nicolò Jommelli to words of de Rogati after Tasso, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#). The Mozarts would view a performance of this opera during its run. Wolfgang would describe it as “beautiful, but much too broken up and old-fashioned for the theatre.”

The Reverend Samuel Cooke, pastor at the 2d Church in Cambridge, preached on “The True Principles of Civil Government” in the audience of [before] His Honor [Thomas Hutchinson](#), Esq; Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief, plus the Honorable His Majesty’s Council, plus the Honorable House of Representatives of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England, on the anniversary for the election of His Majesty’s Council for that province (in simpler terms: it was the “Election Day” sermon). This important description of the beneficial effects of Prince William III of Orange-Nassau’s “Glorious Revolution” of 1688-1689, which Governor Jonathan Belcher’s father Captain Andrew Belcher helped bring about in New England, would promptly be published in Boston by Edes and Gill, printers to the Honorable House of Representatives.



Wednesday being the Anniversary of the Day appointed by the Royal Charter for the Election of Councillors for this Province, the Great and General Court or Assembly met at Harvard College, in Cambridge, at Nine o'clock in the Morning; when the usual Oaths were administered to the Gentlemen, who were returned to serve as Members of the Honorable House of Representatives, who also subscribed to the Declaration: The House, then made Choice of Mr. SAMUEL ADAMS for their Clerk; after which they chose the Hon. THOMAS CUSHING, Esq., their Speaker.

About Ten o'clock His Honor the Lieutenant Governor [[Thomas Hutchinson](#)], being escorted by the Troop of Guards from his Seat at Milton, arrived at Harvard College, and being in the Chair, a Committee of the House presented the Speaker elect to His Honor, who afterwards sent a Message in Writing, agreeable to the Royal Explanatory Charter, that he approved of their choice. The House then chose a Committee to remonstrate to His Honor the Calling of the Assembly at that Place.

At Eleven o'clock His Honor the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by the Honorable His Majesty's Council, the Honorable House of Representatives, and a Number of other Gentlemen, preceded by the first Company in Cambridge of the Regiment of Militia, commanded by the Honorable Brigadier Brattle, went in Procession to the Meeting House, where a Sermon suitable to the Occasion was preached by the Rev. Mr. SAMUEL COOKE, of Cambridge, from these words: 2 Sam. 23:3, 4. *The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God*, etc. After Divine Service the Procession returned to Harvard Hall, where an Entertainment was provided.

June 13: Henry Sampson Woodfall was tried in London for libel for the Letters of Junius, critical of King George. He was convicted only of publishing them, not of writing them — this amounting to an acquittal.

Much like tourists today, Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart took a trip from [Naples](#) to view Baia, the Roman baths, and the grave of Virgil.

June 18: Much like tourists today, Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart took a trip from [Naples](#) to view [Vesuvius](#), [Pompeii](#), and [Herculaneum](#).

June 25: After six weeks in the city, Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart departed from [Naples](#) on their way back to [Rome](#).

June 26: Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart arrived back in [Rome](#) from [Naples](#) after a journey of 27 hours, having on the way a coach accident in which Leopold had gashed his right leg.

November 4: A fourth version of the opera seria Demofonte by Nicolò Jommelli to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1771

February 16: French astronomer Charles Messier published his first catalogue of “nebulae” in the Memoirs of the French Academy of Sciences. These were 45 unexplained objects he had noticed while searching for comets. They would turn out to be galaxies and other celestial phenomena.

Niccolò Piccinni was appointed second organist of the Royal Chapel, [Naples](#). During his ten years as second organist, Piccinni would spend much of his time on leave and away at the opera centers of Europe, especially [Rome](#).

Maggio 1-11: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Colata di lava verso NW (Ercolano). Danni a vari poderi di Ercolano.”



MOUNT VESUVIUS

May 30: Nicolò Jommelli’s opera seria Ifigenia in Tauride to words of Verazi was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#). Finished on this day and hastily prepared, the work was such a complete failure that the embarrassed composer would return his payment.



August 13: Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart departed Salzburg for [Italy](#).

Nitteti, a dramma per musica by Pasquale Anfossi to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#). Also premiered was Anfossi's cantata I dioscuri to words of Mattei.

November 4: Ezio, an opera seria by Antonio Sacchini to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

November 27: Johann Adolph Hasse and his daughter reached Vienna from [Naples](#). On the following day he was to have an audience with Empress Maria Theresa.

1772

January 11: Nicolo Piccinni departed [Naples](#) for [Rome](#).

March 11: Niccolò Piccinni returned to [Naples](#) from [Rome](#).

September 14: Cerere placata, a serenata by Nicolò Jommelli to words of Sarcone, was performed for the initial time, in the Perrelli Palace, [Naples](#).

November 4: Leopold and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart arrived in Milan from Salzburg.

Niccolò Piccinni's opera seria Ipermestra to words of Metastasio was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

December 12: After being closed for 15 months due to an outbreak of plague, government offices in Moscow reopened.

Niccolò Piccinni departed [Naples](#) for [Rome](#) on his second leave of the year.

1773

February 4: Niccolò Piccinni returned to [Naples](#) from [Rome](#).

December 1773-January 1774: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lave nel Canale dell’ Arena (1774) e nel Fosso della Vetrana (1775-1776). Eruttate 20 milioni di mc di lave dal 1770 al 1776.”(In about this timeframe the



December 1773-January 1774; August-December 1774

[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)

villa of Diomedes, about a kilometer from [Pompeii](#), was being excavated, and 18 skeletons of volcano victims were discovered in an underground portico.)

1774

A [slaveholder](#) of Jamaica, Edward Long, argued in his HISTORY OF JAMAICA (which would for the most extended period be considered an authoritative source) that “there are extremely potent reasons for believing that the White and the Negro are two distinct species.” These extremely potent reasons of Long’s seem actually




to have had little to do with the slavemaster’s conviction that his African blacks represented “the vilest of the human kind, to which they have little ... pretension of resemblance,” for he was arguing that this was demonstrated by the putative fact that his mulattoes, crosses between white and blacks, ordinarily turned out to be sterile. Not only were the African women he owned “libidinous and shameless as monkeys, or baboons” (not only do they fuck like monkeys, we would say) but also they fuck monkeys, admitting “these animals frequently to their embrace.” For all the various false facts of this ilk to be found in this 1774 tome, Paul Fryer has recently awarded to Long a title of sorts: “the father of English racism.”¹⁹

What is noticeable here, as at almost every point, is Long’s predilection for expressing his racist views through comments about a repugnant sexuality.... 19th-Century theories of race did not just consist of essentializing differentiations between self and other: they were also about a fascination with people having sex – interminable, adulterating, aleatory, illicit, inter-racial sex.

The Abbé Guillaume-François Raynal and his ghost-writer Denis Diderot put out their *L’HISTOIRE DES DEUX INDES*, in which they raised the spectre of a black avenger for the racial sins of the whites in the New World. The colonies of “fugitive negroes” which, they indicated, had become established in Jamaica and in Guyana, were to be regarded as “flashes of lightning” preceding “the thunder.”

[T]he negroes lack only a chief courageous enough to drive them to revenge and to carnage. Where is he, this great man whom nature owes perhaps to the honor of the human species? Where is this new Spartacus?²⁰

19. Fryer, Paul. STAYING POWER: THE HISTORY OF BLACK PEOPLE IN BRITAIN. London: Pluto Press, 1984, page 70. It is worth noting, however, that this is a disputed title, for Philip Curtin, in THE IMAGE OF AFRICA. BRITISH IDEAS AND ACTION 1780-1850 (Madison WI: U of Wisconsin P, 1964, page 377) awards it to Doctor Robert Knox of Edinburgh for his 1850/1862 treatise THE RACES OF MEN: A PHILOSOPHICAL ENQUIRY INTO THE INFLUENCE OF RACE OVER THE DESTINIES OF NATIONS (London: Renshaw).  Young, Robert J.C. COLONIAL DESIRE: HYBRIDITY IN THEORY, CULTURE AND RACE. London: Routledge, 1995 (page 151, page 181).

Note that precisely when we of the British colonies in North America were casting our lot with France (the nation that was on its way to maintaining slavery in the Caribbean region of the New World for as long as it could), in order to defy our mother country England (the nation that was on its way toward eventual elimination of slavery in its portion of that region), these French apologists for human slavery Raynal and Diderot were praising us to the skies for having “refused slavery,” for having “burned our chains.”

–Of course, there was a reason why this was being said. The reason was that such badly needed to be proclaimed, it functioning as the Big Lie, the precise opposite of the truth of what we were doing, as a mask and a shield for the shameful truth of our maneuver. It is, in fact, inversion.

20. The authors of this histoire, clearly, have bought into the fantastical “Spartacus model” of the slave fighting for freedom, according to which this slave, rather than struggling to make himself the slavemaster, is dreaming a grand dream of the utter demise of all human slavery:



“...the slave, dreaming of the death of slavery...”
– Kirk Douglas,
preparing himself to play
the title role in the 1961
Hollywood movie “Spartacus”



January 12: A second version of *Alessandro nelle Indie*, an opera seria by Niccolò Piccinni to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#) to celebrate the birthday of King Ferdinando IV. This was a big success with press and public.

The citizens of [Newport, Rhode Island](#) boycotted all persons either buying or selling [tea](#).

March 30: The Royal Governor of Massachusetts dissolved that colony's General Assembly.

A setting of Psalm 50, *Miserere* by Nicolò Jommelli was performed for the initial time, at the home of Saverio Mattei in [Naples](#) on the Wednesday of Holy Week. The composer himself was at the harpsichord.

August-December: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lave nel Canale dell’Arena (1774) e nel Fosso della Vetrana (1775-1776). Eruttate 20 milioni di mc di lave dal 1770 al 1776.”



December 1773-January 1774; August-December 1774

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NAPLES

VESUVIO

August 25: After a 2d stroke, Nicolò Jommelli died in [Naples](#), at the age of 59. The body would be buried next to that of his wife, in the Chapel of San Tommaso da Villanova in the Church of San Agostino della Zecca.

The initial [North Carolina](#) Provincial Congress was convened at New Bern. They would resolve, as a good partner of the Virginia colony just to the north, “That we will not import any slave or slaves, or purchase any slave or slaves, imported or brought into this Province by others, from any part of the world, after the first day of *November* next.”²¹

[Mary Moody Emerson](#) was born (in just eight months she would be “in arms” at the Concord Fight):



November 11: A massive public funeral service in memory of Nicolò Jommelli took place in the Church of San Agostino della Zecca, [Naples](#).

December 4: Il divertimento de' numi, a scherzo rappresentativo per musica by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Lorenzi, was performed for the initial time, in the Royal Palace, [Naples](#).

1775

October 24: King Ferdinando IV of [Naples](#) ordered performance of Socrate immaginario by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Lorenzi to cease. He found the libretto “indiscreet.”

21. This had nothing whatever to do with the wellbeing of black people –this had nothing whatever to do with an antipathy toward human slavery –what it had to do with, unfortunately, was that a tax was being levied on such imports by the British crown:

“**No taxation (of black property) without representation (for white male citizens of property)!**”



VESUVIO

NAPLES

November 11: The [Naples](#) Cappella Reale granted Niccolò Piccinni a one-year leave of absence on condition that one-quarter of his salary go to a replacement. He would travel to [Rome](#) but would return by next March.

December 1775-April 1776: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lave nel Canale dell’Arena (1774) e nel Fosso della Vetrana (1775-1776). Eruttate 20 milioni di mc di lave dal 1770 al 1776.”



June 27, 1775

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December 5, 1775

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1775-1776

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Retrospective, done in 1777

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1776

Sir William Hamilton, British Envoy Extraordinaire to the two Sicilies from 1764 until 1800, would in his *CAMPI PHLEGRAEI (OBSERVATIONS ON THE VOLCANOES OF THE TWO SICILIES AS THEY HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON)*, an enormously expensive tome which would be published in London and in Italy in 1779, include a painting of an eruption of [Monte Vesuvio](#) dating to this period.



NAPLES

VESUVIO

The volume would describe not only [Mount Vesuvius](#) but also the volcanic areas around Pozzuoli (to the west of Naples), volcanic islands in the Aeolian group, and Etna in Sicily. (Sir William would eventually become famous, or infamous, by being featured in the triangular novel THE VOLCANO LOVER.)



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NAPLES

VESUVIO

July 29, Monday: The Dominguez-Escalante expedition began.

Giovanni Paisiello left [Naples](#) for St. Petersburg, where he would take up duties as *maestro di cappella* to the Russian court.

Daliso e Delmita, an azione pastorale by Antonio Salieri to words of De Gamerra, was performed for the initial time, in the *Burgtheater* of Vienna.

There was a public reading of the [Declaration of Independence](#) in Baltimore, [Maryland](#).

November 7: Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, declared Martial Law.

November 8: People were trying to kill each other at Mt. Washington, New York.

November 9: The [Naples](#) Cappella Reale granted Niccolò Piccinni a one-year leave of absence. He had been urged to go to Paris by the Neapolitan ambassador to France.

The Neues Theater opened in Pressburg.

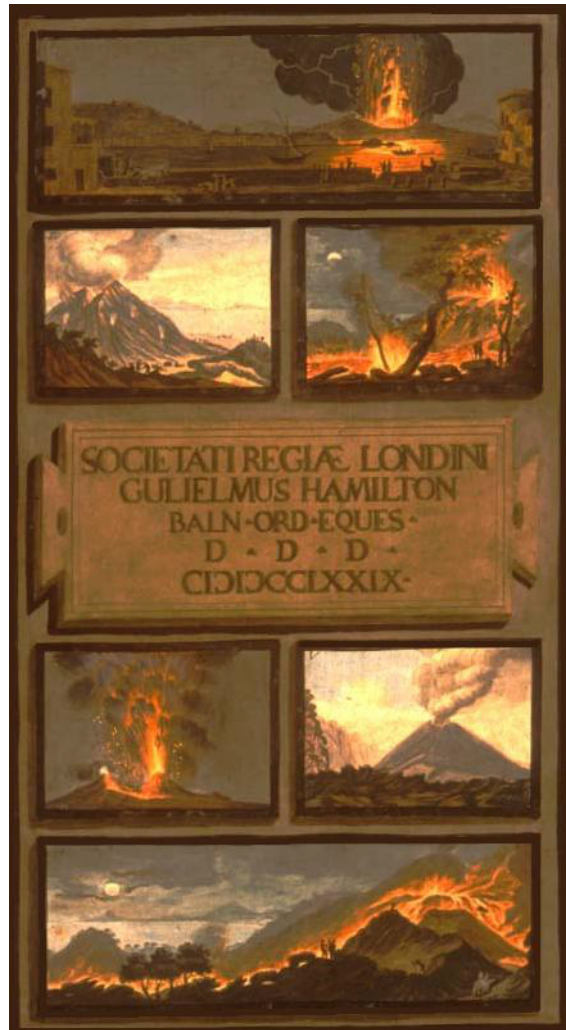
1777

April 27: People were trying to kill each other at Ridgefield, Connecticut. As they headed back to their ships from Danbury, British and loyalists were set upon by rebels. The British had the higher losses but managed an orderly evacuation.

Domenico Cimarosa got married with Costanza Suffi Palante, stepdaughter of a secretary to the Holy Roman Consul, in the Church of Santa Maria Maggiore, [Naples](#).

1779

Sir William Hamilton, British Envoy Extraordinaire to the two Sicilies from 1764 until 1800, published in London and in Italy his CAMPI PHLEGRAEI (OBSERVATIONS ON THE VOLCANOES OF THE TWO SICILIES AS THEY HAVE BEEN COMMUNICATED TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON), an enormously expensive tome depicting some of the phenomena of the eruption of 1776.



NAPLES

VESUVIO

The volume described not only [Vesuvius](#)'s 1776 activity but also that of the volcanic areas around Pozzuoli (to the west of [Naples](#)), the volcanic islands in the Aeolian group, and Etna in Sicily.



(Sir William would eventually become famous, or infamous, by being featured in the triangular novel THE VOLCANO LOVER.)

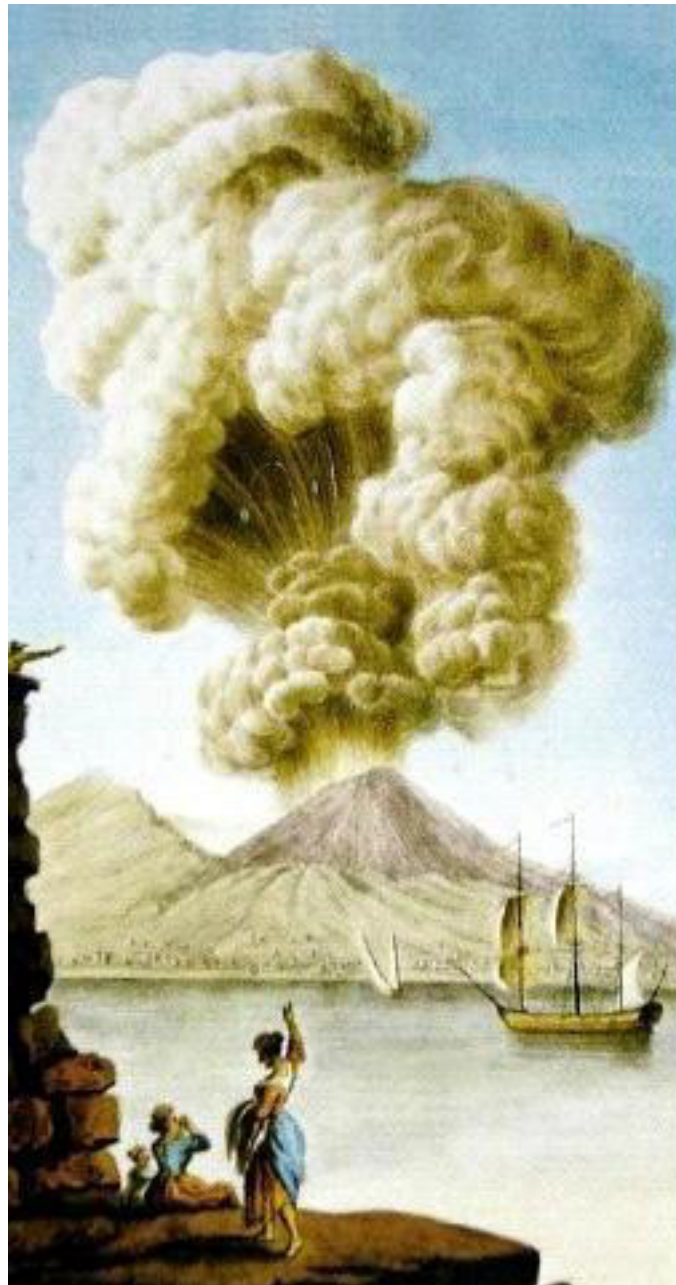




July 20: Tekle Giyorgis I Yohannes replaced Salomon II Adigo as Emperor of Ethiopia.

L'infedeltà fedele, a commedia per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Lorenzi, was performed for the initial time, at the opening of Teatro del Fondo, [Naples](#).

August 8: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened on the morning of the 8th and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half a year and just shy of 31 years.²²

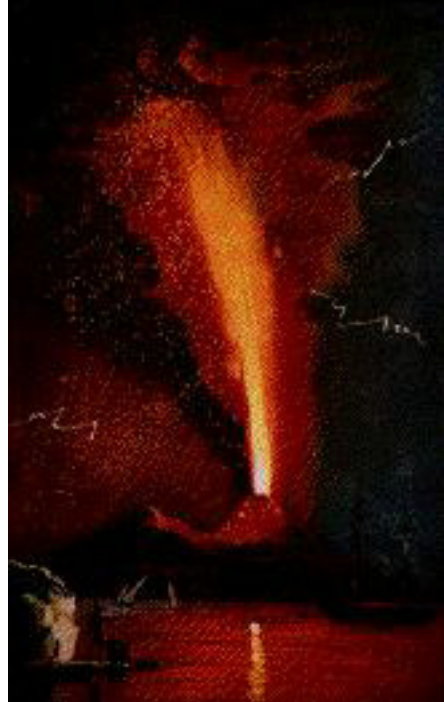


22. “Esplosiva — Lave ad W. Enorme quantità di piroclastiti (lapilli e scorie) a NNE e nell’Atrio che nel Vallone della Vetrana viene sollevato di 75 m. Cenere e proietti su Ottaviano. Notevolissime fontane di lava che superano l’altezza di 4 km.”

VESUVIO

NAPLES

On this occasion the eruptions would continue spectacularly until the 15th of the month.



November 29: Domenico Cimarosa was appointed as the organist for the Royal Chapel in [Naples](#), but with no salary.

1780

An image of [Mount Vesuvius](#) made in this year:



MOUNT VESUVIUS

March 18: After two years in [Italy](#), Antonio Salieri departed [Naples](#) for Vienna.



1781

December 3: Niccolò Piccinni had been living in Paris since 1776, when he had been granted a year's leave of absence from the [Naples](#) Cappella Reale, and they'd been renewing his leave of absence annually. At this point the Italians decided to give up and formally appointed Giuseppe de Magistris –who'd been doing the work for half-salary– as 2d organist.

1782

In [Naples](#), the Department of Public Health ordered that for control of the disease we now know as [tuberculosis](#):

- a) The physician shall report a [consumption](#) patient when ulceration of the lungs has been established under penalty of 300 ducats for the first offense and banishment for ten years for repetition of it.
- b) That the authorities make an inventory of the clothing in the patient's room to be identified after his death; and if any opposition shall be made the person doing so, if he belongs to the lower class shall have 3 years in the galleys or in prison, and if of the nobility, 3 years in the castle and a penalty of 300 ducats.
- c) That household goods not susceptible of contamination shall immediately be cleansed and that which is susceptible shall at once be burned and destroyed.
- d) That the authorities themselves shall tear out and replaster the house from cellar to garret, carry away and burn the wooden doors and windows, and put in new ones.
- e) That newly built houses shall not be inhabited within one year after their completion and 6 months after the plastering has been done and everything about the building operation has been finished.
- f) That superintendents of hospitals must keep clothing and linens for the use of [consumptives](#) in separate places.



In this year, however, Dr. Graumann demonstrated that [consumption](#) and syphilis were different diseases. In Prussia in August 1785, and in Austria in July 1788, therefore, the prohibition against the use of flesh of tubercular animals would be rescinded. By the close of the 18th Century use of the flesh of tubercular animals would be unrestricted.



August 13: [Henri-Louis Duhamel du Monceau](#) died in Paris.

L'eroe cinese, a dramma per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

October 6: La ballerina amante, a commedia per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Palomba, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro dei Fiorentini, [Naples](#). This was a great success.

December 26: Friedrich Wilhelm Baron of Westphalia replaced Wilhelm Anton, Count von der Asseburg as Prince-Bishop of Paderborn.

La Circe, a dramma per musica by Domenico Cimarosa was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro alla Scala, [Naples](#).

1783

February 21: The [Kingdom of the Two Sicilies](#) declared armed neutrality in the war between Great Britain and the United States.

August 13: Oreste, a dramma per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Serio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

Charles Town was incorporated as Charleston. South Carolina began to collect duties of £3 and £20 per head on the [importation](#) of [slaves](#).

"An Act for levying and collecting certain duties and imposts therein mentioned, in aid of the public revenue." Cooper, STATUTES, IV. 576.

December 9: Giovanni Paisiello was nominated compositore della musica de' drammi by King Ferdinando IV of [Naples](#). The composer was presently in Russia but had conducted an extensive campaign through friends to gain the position.

1785

January 12: Antigono, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#), to celebrate the birthday of King Ferdinando IV. In the wake of this success, Paisiello would approach the King for a regular stipend.



NAPLES

VESUVIO

March 7, Monday: Joseph Black read the first part of THEORY OF THE EARTH; OR AN INVESTIGATION OF THE LAWS OBSERVABLE IN THE COMPOSITION, DISSOLUTION, AND RESTORATION OF LAND UPON THE GLOBE by his friend James Hutton to the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Hutton postulates uniformitarianism, that is, the present surface of the earth was a result of long ages of uniform change, mostly under the sea, rather than catastrophic events.

Giovanni Paisiello was informed that King Ferdinando IV of [Naples](#) had awarded him an annual stipend of 1,200 ducats for the remainder of his life in return for one opera per year for Teatro San Carlo and other occasional music.

November: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lave a NW una lingua sorpassa il Fosso del Faraone, un'altra distrugge il Romitorio della Vetrana.”

October 6: At the age of 57, [Henry Headley](#)'s father the Reverend Henry Headley, died after being the Congregationalist vicar at North Walsham for 17 years. A monument to his memory would be placed in his church.

Giovanni Paisiello's cantata Il ritorno di Perseo, to words of Serio, was performed for the initial time, at the Accademia degli Amici, [Naples](#).

1786

January 20: Olimpiade, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, at Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

June 30: Giovanni Paisiello's favola boschereccia Amore vendicato to words of di Gennaro was performed for the initial time, at the Accademia dei Cavalieri, [Naples](#).

December 7: Le trame deluse, ossia I raggiri scoperti, a commedia per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Diodati, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro Nuovo, [Naples](#). It is a great success.

1787

January 12: Pirro, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello to words of de Gamerra was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

May 5: Giovanni Paisiello's Cantata fatta in occasione della translazione del sangue di San Gennaro, to words of Marchese di Gatalone, was performed for the initial time, in [Naples](#).



September 8: Giovanni Paisiello's componimento drammatico *Giunone Lucina*, to words of Sernicola, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

Andrew Law was ordained by a Council of Congregational ministers in Hartford. He planned to move south.

1788

January 1: An Imperial edict required all Austrian Jews to take on [German](#) surnames.

The name of The Daily Universal Register is changed to The Times or The Daily Universal Register, by its founder John Walter.

Fedra, a *dramma per musica* by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Salvioni after Frugoni, was performed for the initial time, at Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1789

February 5, Thursday: *Catone in Utica*, a *dramma per musica* by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Metastasio, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

February 11, Wednesday: A *Requiem* in c minor by Giovanni Paisiello was performed for the initial time, in [Naples](#).

Il pastor fido, a *dramma tragicomico* by Antonio Salieri to words of da Ponte after Guarini, was performed for the initial time, in the Burgtheater, Vienna. It would receive only three performances, be substantially revised by the composer, and would be presented again in October.

November 21: [William John Broderip](#) was born in Princes-street, Bristol, England, eldest son of William Broderip, a surgeon. After being educated at Bristol Grammar School by the Reverend Samuel Seyer (himself a published author), he would matriculate at Oriel College, Oxford. There he would attend the anatomical lectures of Sir Christopher Pegge and the chemical and mineralogical lectures of Dr. John Kidd.

I zingari in fiera, a *dramma per musica* by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Palomba, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro Fondo, [Naples](#).

The former English colony of [North Carolina](#) signed aboard the ship of state "United States of America":

READ THE FULL TEXT

RATIFICATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

December 8, 1787

Delaware

YES= 30

NO= 0



| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| December 12, 1787 | Pennsylvania | YES= 46 | NO= 23 |
| December 18, 1787 | New Jersey | YES= 38 | NO= 0 |
| January 2, 1788 | Georgia | YES= 26 | NO= 0 |
| January 8, 1788 | Connecticut | YES=128 | NO= 40 |
| February 6, 1788 | Massachusetts | YES=187 | NO=168 |
| April 28, 1788 | Maryland | YES= 63 | NO= 11 |
| May 23, 1788 | South Carolina | YES=149 | NO= 73 |
| June 21, 1788 | New Hampshire | YES= 57 | NO= 47 |
| June 25, 1788 | Virginia | YES= 89 | NO= 79 |
| July 26, 1788 | New York | YES= 30 | NO= 27 |

[HTTP://WWW.YALE.EDU/LAWWEB/AVALON/CONST/RATNC.HTM](http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/const/ratnc.htm)

JOINING LATER IN ADHERENCE TO THE US CONSTITUTION: 12

| | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|---------|--------|
| November 21, 1789 | North Carolina | YES=194 | NO= 77 |
|-------------------|----------------|---------|--------|

(The state motto would be *Esse quam videri*, “to be rather than to seem.”)

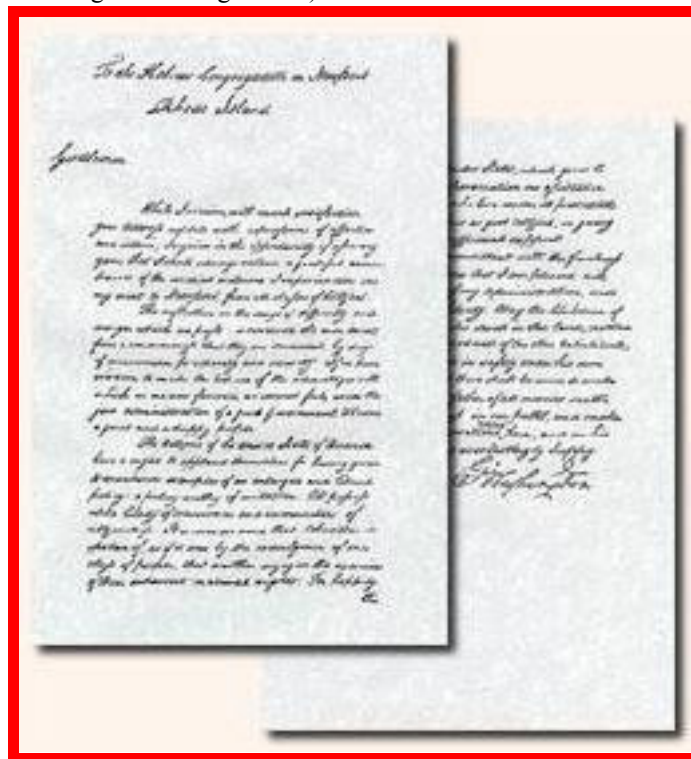
1790

May 30: *Zenobia in Palmira*, a *dramma per musica* by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Sertor, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

June 3, Thursday: *Cantata per la solennità del SS Corpo di Cristo* by Giovanni Paisiello was performed for the initial time, in [Naples](#).

August 17, Tuesday: Il genio poetico appagato, a cantata by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Pagliuca was performed for the initial time, in San Ferdinando, [Naples](#).

President George Washington had received a communication from Moses Seixas, warden (*shamash*) of the [Touro Synagogue](#) which he had visited in 1781, in [Newport, Rhode Island](#), rejoicing in the religious liberty afforded by the United States.²³ In reply the president sent the famous letter “To the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, R.I.” which since has been taken as the classical expression of religious liberty in America. In this response Washington politely observed “*For happily the Government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance requires only that they who live under its protection should demean [which is to say, conduct] themselves as good citizens in giving it on all occasions their effectual support*” (Edwin Gaustad, A RELIGIOUS HISTORY OF AMERICA. NY, 1966, page 125 — this letter is preserved at the B’ai B’righ Building in Washington DC).



RHODE ISLAND RELIGION

Note: If you have seen allegations concerning anti-Semitic remarks supposedly made by this politician general and by the politician printer [Benjamin Franklin](#) at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787, warning all Americans against the insidious influence of the Jews, please take into consideration that the

23.It was Moses Seixas who officiated at the Covenant of Circumcision (B’rith Milah), removing the foreskin of the male infant.



primary authoritative source at present for the proceedings at this convention, Max Farrand (ed.) RECORDS OF THE FEDERAL CONVENTION (Revised Edition, 4 volumes, New Haven and London, 1966; 1987) makes no reference to any such remarks by either individual.

ANTISEMITISM

As for Franklin's attitude toward American Jews in 1787, in the very next year he contributed to a fund to help pay off the debt of the Jewish Congregation Mikveh Israel in Philadelphia. The "text" of Franklin's alleged remarks originated in a magazine Liberation on February 3, 1934 and then began to be reprinted by any number of Nazi and anti-Semitic groups. Charles A. Beard, in the Jewish Frontier for March 1935, demonstrated that this had to have been a fabrication. The matter was further investigated by Julian P. Boyd in the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, LXI (1937), 233-234, who has concurred that the text was an entire fabrication.

JUDAISM

September 19: Three royal weddings took place in Vienna: Archduchess Marie Clementine got married with Prince Francesco of [Naples](#) (by proxy), Princess Maria Teresa of [Naples](#) got married with Archduke Franz of Austria, and Princess Lodovica Louisa got married with Grand Duke Ferdinando of Tuscany. In the evening, Antonio Salieri conducted a concert in the Redoutensaal during the public banquet, including a symphony by Joseph Haydn.

October 30, Saturday: King Ferdinando of [Naples](#) ordered that Giovanni Paisiello continue to receive his pension, without the requirement of an annual opera.

November 4: Das Singspiel ohne Titel, an operetta by Johann Schenk to words of Hiesberger, was performed for the initial time, in the Freihaus of Vienna.

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart took part in a concert in München organized by Karl Theodor, Elector of Bavaria for the visiting King Ferdinando IV of [Naples](#) and Queen Maria Carolina, sister of Emperor Leopold II.

1791

September 15: Niccolò Piccinni, with his wife and daughters, arrived home in [Naples](#) from Paris.

1792

March 4: Oranges were introduced into Hawaii.

Gionata, an oratorio by Niccolò Piccinni to words of Sernicola, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).



VESUVIO

NAPLES

November 4: Giovanni Paisiello's tragedia per music Elfrida to words of Calzibigi was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1793

January 12: Ercole al Termedante, an opera seria by Niccolo Piccinni was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

May 4: The French National Convention passed the First Maximum, taking control of grain prices.

Cantata per la traslazione del sangue del glorioso martire S Gennaro by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Pagliuca was performed for the initial time, in [Naples](#).

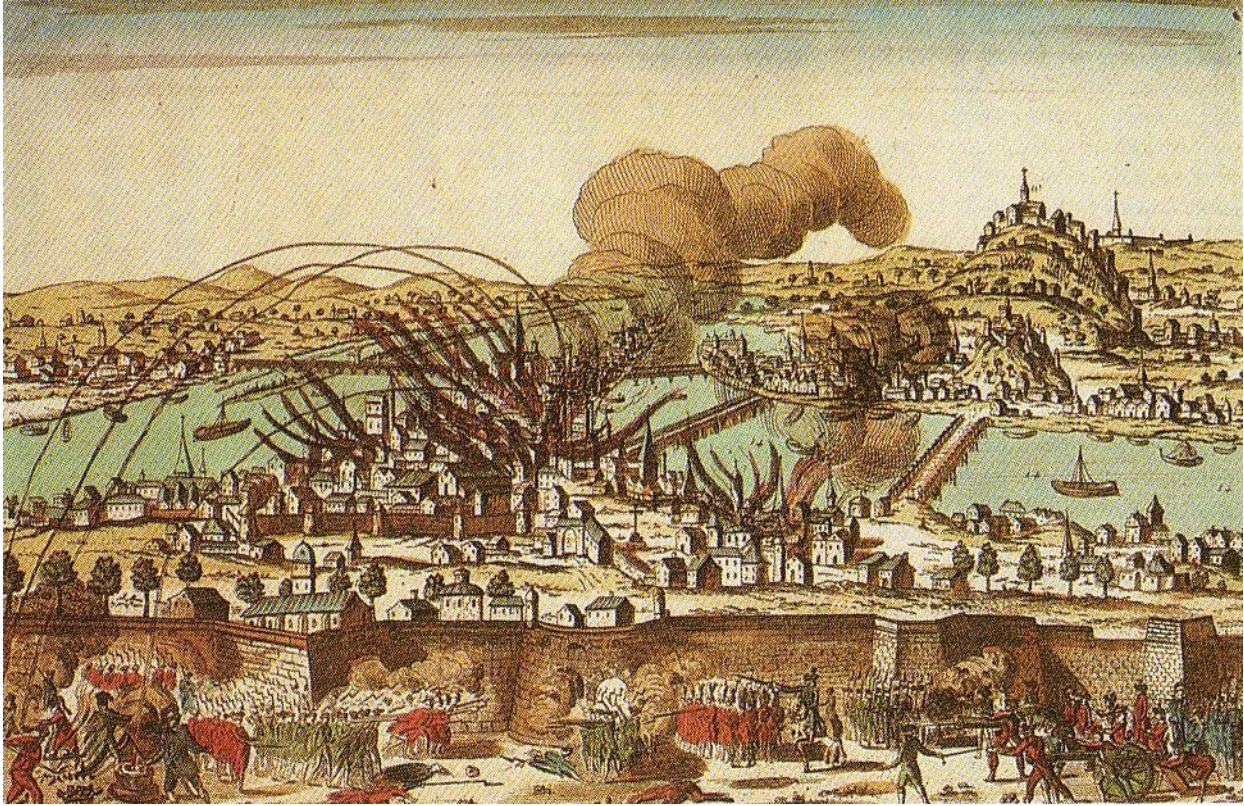
Lasset uns lobsingen for chorus and strings by Johannes Herbst was performed for the initial time.

June 19: Domenico Cimarosa's commedia per musica I traci amanti to words of Palomba was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro Nuovo, [Naples](#). This was his first opera produced in his home town since 1786.

NAPLES

VESUVIO

October 31: Lyon, the 2d city of France, had elected to support the Girondins. On this day, however, a number of Girondins were executed in Paris while others found themselves suddenly fleeing into the provinces. Lyon would be besieged by armies of the National Convention and would only be able to hold out for a few months.



[Baron Joseph-Marie de Gérando](#), age 21 and a member of the local militia, was captured after being shot in the leg, and came close to being among the thousands of Frenchmen executed immediately after this surrender.²⁴ He sought refuge in Switzerland and then at [Naples](#).

1794

January 12: *Elvira*, a tragedia per musica by Giovanni Paisiello to words of Calzabigi, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

24. The tribunal asked a question in regard to each prisoner, that determined his execution or release: “L’accusé a-t-il été pris les armes à la main?” (Was this one armed?)

VESUVIO

NAPLES

June 15-24: “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Bocche sul versante W tra 480 e 320 m s.l.m. Lava a SE, verso il Mauro di Ottaviano, e ad W, verso Torre del Greco (la popolazione fugge, danni ingenti) dove raggiunge il mare e vi si inoltra per oltre 100 m.”



MOUNT VESUVIUS





NAPLES

VESUVIO

June 16: Rocks don't fall out of a clear sky, everybody knows that. But at about 7PM in Siena, [Italy](#), marring a picture-perfect sky there arose this one dark high cloud which was approaching from the north. There was suddenly noise, which some residents remembered as having been like thunder, while others said it sounded to them like the firing of cannons. The dark cloud became tinged with red as stones thudded into the earth. Checking into this, the citizens of Siena discovered that indeed the maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) had opened some 18 hours before, and it had transited into its eruptive, non-quiescent condition (which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years) — but since the active volcano was 320 clicks to the **southwest** but this cloud had been observed to be approaching from the **north**, what to think? The Earl of Bristol, Frederick A. Hervey, visiting, commented that his first objection “was to the fact itself, but of this there are so many eyewitnesses, it seems impossible to withstand their evidence.” It would be some 70 years before astronomers discovered that the timing of the eruption of the volcano was just a coincidence, and that this sort of thing is what happens when a stray [asteroid](#) wanders into a trajectory crossing the orbit of the earth.

The stones, constituted of a material which came to be termed “soldanite,” including counterfeit ones, would sell briskly to generations of English tourists.

[ASTRONOMY](#)

August 26: *Le astuzie femminili*, a commedia per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Palomba, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro dei Fiorentini, [Naples](#).

November 4: Russian forces demolished all Polish resistance in the “Massacre at Praga” in which somewhere between 10,000 and 15,000 Polish civilians were slaughtered. Maastricht surrendered to the French.

Giovanni Paisiello’s drama per musica *Didone abbandonata* to words of Metastasio was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

Upon the fall of Robespierre, in response to a belated appeal by American minister to France James Monroe, Thomas Paine was released from French prison — but he would go back to America harboring an enormous grudge against President George Washington for having previously neglected to intercede in France at a diplomatic level on his behalf, when he had the status of an American citizen being endangered by a foreign government.²⁵



The understanding of Colonel Timothy Pickering, commissioner to the Native Americans, was that he had succeeded in soothed Indian feelings over the issues of Presque Isle and land along the [Niagara River](#) in upstate New York.

December 26: Parson Woodforde (again): “...Thank God! had a pretty good Night, and I hope am something better, but rather languid and low. Could eat but very little for dinner today. Appetite bad. ...Dinner to day, Calfs Fry & a Rabbit roasted. I drank plentifully of Port Wine after dinner, instead of one Glass, drank 7. or 8. Wine Glasses, and it seemed to do me much good, being better for it.”

CHRISTMAS

Penelope, a drama per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Diodati, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro del Fondo of [Naples](#).

1795

November 21: *L'impegno superato*, a commedia per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Diodati, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro del Fondo of [Naples](#).

25. Because he would go public with his complaint about the unfaithful conduct of the “father of our country,” who was because the ceremonial head of the nation was immune to all possibility of censure, Paine would be roundly excoriated and condemned by the American news media, for the remainder of his life, as a “dirty little atheist” —he was not, nor had he ever been, an atheist— and in fact he would be shot at in his own home in the countryside, from which danger and exposure he would need to flee to the anonymity of a city-flat hideout in New-York.



1796

October 10: [Napoléon Bonaparte](#) concluded a treaty with [Naples](#), thus denying Neapolitan aid to the Pope.

November 8: Domenico Cimarosa was promoted to the post of 1st organist at the Royal Chapel, [Naples](#) (he has served as 2d organist for 11 years).

1797

June 25: *Artemisia regina di Caria*, a dramma serio per musica by Domenico Cimarosa to words of Marchesini, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#). This was a royal commission for the wedding of Francesco Borbone, Prince of [Naples](#) to Maria Ferdinando, Archduchess of Austria. King Ferdinando, unhappy with the opera but reluctant to act against a popular composer, held the theater director and six of his staff in prison for 24 hours.

November 18: The Spanish crown opened all Spanish ports to neutral shipping.

Andromaca, a dramma per musica by Giovanni Paisiello, was performed for the initial time, in the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#).

1798

June 17: The British fleet reached [Naples](#) in its search for [Napoléon Bonaparte](#)'s ships.

November 29: [Naples](#) declared war on France and King Ferdinando IV entered [Rome](#) at the head of his troops.

December 4: France declared war on [Naples](#).

December 15: French forces recaptured [Rome](#) and pushed on to [Naples](#).

December 23: King Ferdinando IV of [Naples](#) and his household fled to Sicily in the face of the French invasion. They established court at Palermo.



December 24: The Second Coalition against [Napoléon Bonaparte](#) was formed by Austria, Great Britain, Russia, the Ottoman Empire, Portugal, and [Naples](#). French troops occupied Pescara.

The Virginia Resolution.

READ THE FULL TEXT

1799

January 23, Wednesday: A French army entered [Naples](#). A group of Neapolitan aristocrats, under French protection, formed the Repubblica Partenopea. Carlo Lauberg headed the provisional government.

February 19: After a furious ten-day battle, El Arish fell to the French.

Ignazio Ciaja replaced Carlo Lauberg as head of the provisional government of [Naples](#).

April 15: Ercole D'Agnesse became President of the Executive Commission of the Parthenopean Republic ([Naples](#)).

May 4: Austrian forces entered Modena and Reggio.

Giovanni Paisiello was appointed direttore di cappella nazionale to the Parthenopean Republic in [Naples](#). He would later claim that he had not wanted the post.

May 23: [Thomas Hood](#) was born in London.

Antonio Salieri's cantata Der Tyroler Landsturm to words of Ratschky was performed for the initial time, in Vienna. It was in honor of "the little land which successfully and heroically resisted [Napoléon](#)."

Giovanni Paisiello conducted music at a religious service in [Naples](#) attended by members of the republican government.

June 13: An army of Neapolitan peasants loyal to King Ferdinando entered [Naples](#) and overthrew the republic. Republican government members and the French took refuge in the fortress of Sant'Elmo.

June 23: After a siege of ten days in the fortress of Sant'Elmo, the French and [Neapolitan](#) republicans surrendered to the peasant army. The French were allowed to return to France and King Ferdinando IV, currently taking refuge in Palermo, was restored to the throne.

July 8: King Ferdinando IV returned to [Naples](#) and initiated against members of the republic a course of executions, imprisonments, exiles, and a stripping of rank. Giovanni Paisiello was removed as royal maestro di camera and his annual stipend from the king was discontinued.

September 23: Louis-Jerome Gohier replaced Emmanuel Joseph Sieyes as President of the Executive Directory of France.

The infant Wilhelm Friedrich Karl August replaced Karl Ludwig Wilhelm Theodor as Count of Salm-Grunbach (under regency).

Domenico Cimarosa's cantata beginning No che piu lieto giorno to words of Barbarotta for three solo voices and chorus, was performed for the initial time, in [Naples](#), for the return of King Ferdinando IV (the composer, a member of the republican government, was attempting to ingratiate himself with the royal family).

December 9: An arrest warrant was issued in [Naples](#) for Domenico Cimarosa, by order of King Ferdinando, for his part in the Parthenopean Republic. He would hide for several days before being captured. He would spend four months in prison and probably would have been executed except for the intervention of powerful friends. Upon release he would be banished from [Naples](#).

1800

→ July 7: [Michele Felice Cornè](#) arrived in Salem, Massachusetts from [Naples](#) aboard the *Mount Vernon*, Captain Elias Hasket Derby, Jr. He would reside and paint in the captain's father's mansion in Salem until 1806, and then relocate to Boston.



1801

→ July 7: Giovanni Paisiello was granted a full pardon by the King of [Naples](#) for any part he may have played in the Parthenopaeian Republic, and reinstated in his former court posts.

[John Aitken Carlyle](#) was born at Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, in southern Scotland, 3d son among the nine children of stonemason James Carlyle (1757-1832) with Margaret Aitken (1771-1853), his 2d wife. Due to the shape of his face, he would be called "Lord Moon" by the family (when they didn't refer to him as "Jack").

1802

➡ In Salem, [Michele Felice Cornè](#) planted some [tomatoes](#) – but they failed to survive.



The story that he had a tomato seed in his pants pocket when he came over from [Naples](#) in 1800 is presumably just that, a story.

1804

August 14, Tuesday, 1804 Admiral Louis Latouche-Tréville died of natural causes, inducing [Napoléon](#) to postpone his invasion of Britain.

➡ August 15, Wednesday-October 5: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lava a SW attorno ai Camaldoli tra Torre del Greco e Torre Annunziata. Danni alle colture.”

➡ November 22, Thursday: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lava a SW attorno ai Camaldoli tra Torre del Greco e Torre Annunziata. Danni alle colture.”

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

5 day 22 of 11 M 1804 / Our Meeting to day was much disturbed by a drunken Man who came in soon after the Meeting & gathered took his seat young womens quarter which discomposed them & the whole Meeting, by coughing & speaking so loud as to be heard over the whole house, yet to me it was a time of quiet, & I was refreshed & comforted - In the preparative Meeting Richard Mitchell Obadiah Williams & Jonathon Dennis were proposed as overseers, & the account sent to the M Meeting. In my shop this evening one of the most remarkable opportunities that perhaps ever has taken place in the whole course of my experience, was between a dearly beloved young friend of mine &

myself – As we were talking on many things, I was led to express myself in a degree of Zeal to a considerable length. – When the conversation ended we were both evidently under good impressions, & took our seats & centered down into an awful stillness of mind in which I felt desirous that all which I might do for the promotion of the cause of truth may be to the Honor & Glory of God alone, & that I might not vaunt anything of my own when I have been favored to speak to the convincement of any mind. – The power of the Lord God Almighty had wrought so powerfully between us that he kneeled in supplication to the Almighty in much brokenness of spirit, craving our preservation, & that we might be strengthened to run the row that is set before us with acceptance. – It was such a time that I desire may never be forgotten by him nor me –

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1805

February 13: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lava a SW (sopra la colata del 1804) in direzione dell’Epitaffio (Torre del Greco). Uno dei 5 rami raggiunge il mare in circa 4 ore in corrispondenza della cosiddetta Torre Scassata (Torre Annunziata).”

August 12: Meriwether Lewis reached the source of the Missouri River and climbed a peak at the Continental Divide (Lemhi Pass), from which he was able to view — yet more mountains.

[Mount Vesuvius](#) again erupted: “Effusiva — Lava a SW (sopra la colata del 1804) in direzione dell’Epitaffio (Torre del Greco). Uno dei 5 rami raggiunge il mare in circa 4 ore in corrispondenza della cosiddetta Torre Scassata (Torre Annunziata).”



Afterward, October 25, 1805

MOUNT VESUVIUS


September 21: From this point into December, [Samuel Taylor Coleridge](#) would be traveling in Sicilia (Syracuse), in [Napoli](#), and in Roma, Firenze, Pisa, and Livorno, [Italy](#).



VESUVIO

NAPLES

1806

 [Napoléon Bonaparte](#) was bringing the Holy Roman empire to an end. His Berlin Decree began the “Continental System” (closing Continental ports to British vessels). He declared Joseph Bonaparte to be King of [Naples](#) (Joseph would rule until 1808, when Joachim Murat would acquire that title). He declared Louis Bonaparte to be King of Holland. Prussia declared war on France. Britain blockaded the French coast. A French army under General Joachim Murat entered Warsaw. A [German](#) heard the pounding of Nappy’s cannon in the distance and then witnessed the French conqueror’s triumphal ride through Jena. This now-famous German heard the thumps in the distance, and “flashed” on the fact that this represented — the unwitting realization of Reason! Reason had been rapping on the door and asking “Please let me in, please let me in.” While they were in town the French troops stole all this famous German’s money. This now-famous German philosopher thus had two ways to go, he could either detest such a dangerous and powerful leader — or might bring himself to adore him. He chose to adore and later this man would become the publisher of a pro-French newspaper in Stuttgart, the *Bamberger Zeitung*. He came to perceive the French commander who had robbed him as what he termed the *Weltseele*, the personification of reason. (Yes, go figure.) His name was [G.W.F. Hegel](#) and at this point he was writing away at his influential THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF MIND. The foundation-stone of his philosophy, upon which everything else evidently was to be predicated, was “Nothing succeeds like success.” (Can you tell how impressed I am?)

[Giacomo Costantino Beltrami](#) became a Vice-Ispettore delle Armate. When he began to do bookkeeping work for the Beretta Enterprise, which had a contract to provide rations for 2 divisions of Napoleon’s troops, his position would enable him, it seems, to very rapidly accumulate a great deal of money.

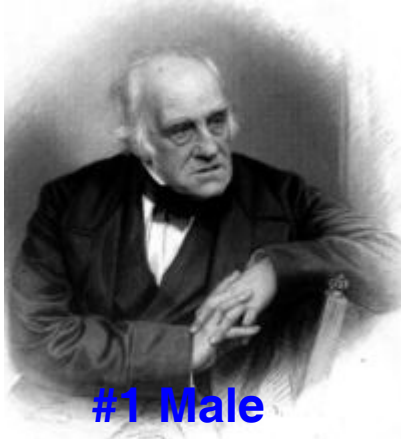
Napoleon’s invasions formed the Confederation of the Rhine and destroyed the remnants of the Holy Roman Empire. Francis II, the former Emperor, renounced the title in favor of a new one: Emperor of Austria.

 May 31-June 5: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lava a SW (Camaldoli). Fontane di lava.”

[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)

1808

➔ The French army occupied Rome, and invaded Spain seizing Barcelona and Madrid. Joseph Bonaparte, who had been King of [Naples](#), became King of Spain, and General Joachim Murat, began to rule in Naples in his stead (he would hold that job until 1815). There were widespread uprisings in Spain, and British troops landed in Portugal. [Henry Crabb Robinson](#), sent by the [Times](#) of London to report on the Peninsular War, became the 1st war correspondent ([Margaret Fuller](#), 1st female war correspondent, wasn't yet born).

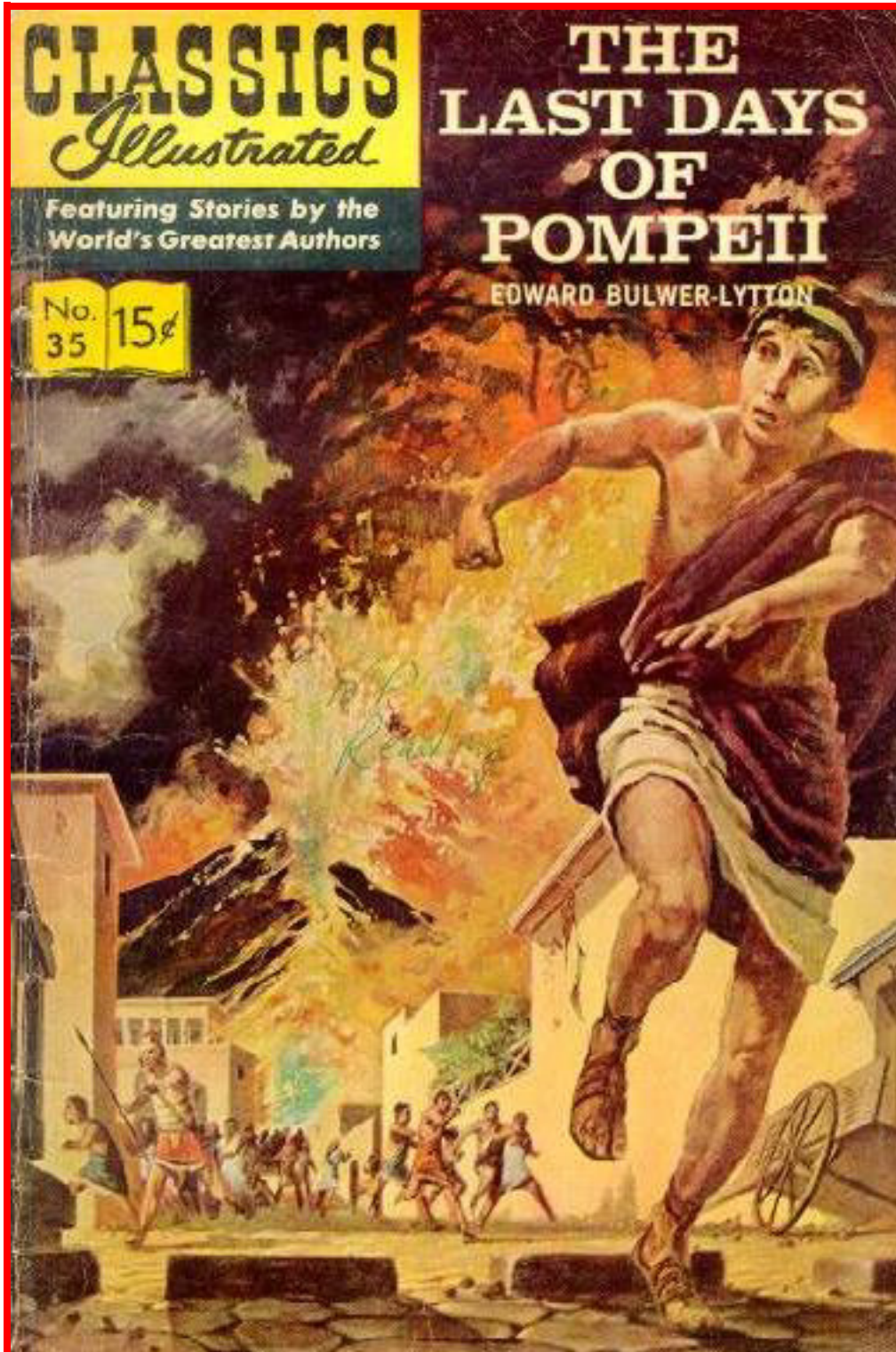


#1 Male



#1 Female

→ Extensive excavation began at [Pompeii](#) near [Naples](#). A bronze Roman pen would be among the objects recovered from the volcanic pumice.



The English engineer Bryan Donkin, who had five years earlier perfected the papermaking machine invented

by Nicholas-Louis Robert, patented a steel pen nib. He would not commercially exploit this patent.

1810

September 11, Tuesday: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Bocche alla sutura del 1631. Lave a W, SE verso Ercolano, Boscotrecase ed Ottaviano. Danni ai campi coltivati.”



MOUNT VESUVIUS

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

3rd day 11 of 9 Mo// Jonathan Dennis’s daughter came to live with us a little while this morning, for the benefit of J Rodmans School who will probably be agreeable company for my H. - Several friends called at the Shop to see me this mornng among whom was Samuel Thurston who inform’d me that A Woman friend was every day expected to arrive in NYork from England on a religious visit - he also mentioned that he had heard that Our friend John Hall of England had departed from this World. I remember him well he was in this Country in the time of my apprenticeship & lodged at David Williams’s with whom I lived. - I well remember the Savor of his Ministry - Thus the Ancient Standard bearers are removed & who are there among us to rise up in their places, Surely I believe they will be found, however low the State of Society may get in particular places, yet Truth I believe will not only hold its own but increase in the World-

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

September 12, Wednesday: Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

4th day 12 of 9 Mo// The day has passed with the usual rounds, except that Our friend D Buffum & Wife & E Hosier spent the Afternoon with us & in the eveng my H & myself went to J Peckhams to see John’s Child -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1812

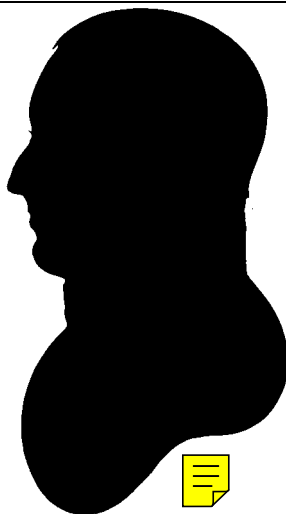
➔ January 1, Wednesday: For four days, [Mount Vesuvius](#) would be in eruption: “Effusiva — Lava ad W verso Torre del Greco.”

The Austrian Empire’s new Civil Code went into effect.

Dr. Benjamin Rush, a mutual friend, had been attempting to get former President John Adams to reconcile with former President [Thomas Jefferson](#). Adams had been bitterly resentful of Jefferson’s claim that he was of uniquely importance as the author of a foundational document, the [Declaration of Independence](#). That document had in fact not been a foundational document of the United States of America at all, but a mere piece of political theatre, nor in fact had Jefferson, low man on the totem pole, had that much of a hand in the creation of it. “The Declaration of Independence I always considered as a theatrical show,” he wrote at this point. “Jefferson ran away with all the stage effect ... and all the glory of it.” However, on this day for the first time in 11 years, Adams did send off a letter to Jefferson.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:


1st of 1 Mo 1812// I commence the new Year under feelings of depression, & seriousness on various subjects - And a concern renewed on my mind this evening, that I may double my dilligence in labor to dwell near the life & not suffer it to be lessened by neglect. Altho I have not expressed much for a long time in my journal relative to my progress in religious matters yet I have not been unmindful of them, but there is Such a Sameness in each days experience that it seems like unnecessary repitition to express how it is with me daily - When I do well I feel peace & in proportion to my neglect of duty in my condemnation²⁶



26. Stephen Wanton Gould Diary, 1812-1815: The Gould family papers are stored under control number 2033 at the Division of Rare and Manuscript Collections of Cornell University Library, Box 7 Folder 10 for May 1, 1809-June 30, 1812 and Folder 11 for July 1, 1812-August 20, 1815. Series 7 Microfilm Reel #3, positive, is made up of Friend Stephen Wanton Gould’s Diary #11, 1812-1815 (July 1, 1812-August 20, 1815, of which the original is held by the Quaker Collection of Haverford College)



1813

 December 25: At the Bay of Islands, the Reverend Samuel Marsden offered the 1st Christian service in New Zealand (this was the initial one of seven evangelizing missions that Marsden and his fellows would make there).

During [Christmas](#) celebrations at Fort Niagara, British troops and their native American allies attacked across the river from Canada. After 67 in the fort were killed, the United States forces surrendered.


[Mount Vesuvius](#) began three days of eruption: “Effusiva — Lava a W, attraversa il Fosso Bianco in direzione di Torre del Greco.”

1815


 [Giacomo Costantino Beltrami](#) received the Medaglia d’Onore di [Napoli](#) from the Istituto da Napoleone.²⁷

The attorney [Pietro Bachi](#), implicated in General Joachim Murat’s failed attempt to seize the throne of the two Sicilies, was forced to flee Palermo, [Sicily](#). He would wind up in England and then in the United States. Since we have a notation that sometimes Bachi was known as “Ignasio Batolo,” we may suspect that some of this traveling was accomplished, for safety, under an assumed name.

1817

 December 22-26: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lava a SE verso il Mauro di Ottaviano si ferma a poche decine di metri dalla strada Torre Annunziata-Ottaviano.”

1819

 January 26, Tuesday: [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) wrote to [Thomas Love Peacock](#) after an initial visit to [Pompeii](#) (he would visit again, several times, during February):

We have been to see Pompeii, and are waiting now for the return of spring weather, to visit, first, Paestum, and then the islands; after which we shall return to Rome. I was astonished

27. Note that if Giacomo was already sporting his signature red umbrella during this period –something which we do not know– then its bright color, since the color associated with the clergy was black, would have been taken on the Italian peninsula to be an assertion of an anticlerical politics — and indeed Giacomo’s politics were anticlerical (as anticlerical as, in a later generation, the politics of the red-shirted supporters of Giuseppe Garibaldi).



at the remains of this city; I had no conception of anything so perfect yet remaining. My idea of the mode of its destruction was this: First, an earthquake shattered it, and unroofed almost all its temples, and split its columns; then a rain of light small pumice-stones fell; then torrents of boiling water, mixed with ashes, filled up all its crevices. A wide, flat hill, from which the city was excavated, is now covered by thick woods, and you see the tombs and the theaters, the temples and the houses, surrounded by the uninhabited wilderness.

We entered the town from the side toward the sea, and first saw two theaters; one more magnificent than the other, strewn with the ruins of the white marble which formed their seats and cornices, wrought with deep, bold sculpture. In the front, between the stage and the seats, is the circular space, occasionally occupied by the chorus. The stage is very narrow, but long, and divided from this space by a narrow enclosure parallel to it, I suppose for the orchestra. On each side are the consuls' boxes, and below, in the theater at Herculaneum, were found two equestrian statues of admirable workmanship, occupying the same place as the great bronze lamps did at Drury Lane. The smallest of the theaters is said to have been comic, tho I should doubt. From both you see, as you sit on the seats, a prospect of the most wonderful beauty.

You then pass through the ancient streets; they are very narrow, and the houses rather small, but all constructed on an admirable plan, especially for this climate. The rooms are built round a court, or sometimes two, according to the extent of the house. In the midst is a fountain, sometimes surrounded with a portico, supported on fluted columns of white stucco; the floor is paved with mosaic, sometimes wrought in imitation of vine leaves, sometimes in quaint figures, and more or less beautiful, according to the rank of the inhabitant. There were paintings on all, but most of them have been removed to decorate the royal museums. Little winged figures, and small ornaments of exquisite elegance, yet remain. There is an ideal life in the forms of these paintings of an incomparable loveliness, tho most are evidently the work of very inferior artists. It seems as if, from the atmosphere of mental beauty which surrounded them, every human being caught a splendor not his own.

In one house you see how the bed-rooms were managed; a small sofa was built up, where the cushions were placed; two pictures, one representing Diana and Endymion, the other Venus and Mars, decorate the chamber; and a little niche, which contains the statue of a domestic god. The floor is composed of a rich mosaic of the rarest marbles, agate, jasper, and porphyry; it looks to the marble fountain and the snow-white columns, whose entablatures strew the floor of the portico they supported. The houses have only one story, and the apartments, tho not large, are very lofty. A great advantage results from this, wholly unknown in our cities.

The public buildings, whose ruins are now forests, as it were, of white fluted columns, and which then supported entablatures, loaded with sculptures, were seen on all sides over the roofs of the houses. This was the excellence of the ancients. Their private expenses were comparatively moderate; the dwelling of



one of the chief senators of Pompeii is elegant indeed, and adorned with most beautiful specimens of art, but small. But their public buildings are everywhere marked by the bold and grand designs of an unsparing magnificence. In the little town of Pompeii (it contained about twenty thousand inhabitants), it is wonderful to see the number and the grandeur of their public buildings. Another advantage, too, is that, in the present case, the glorious scenery around is not shut out, and that, unlike the inhabitants of the Cimmerian ravines of modern cities, the ancient Pompeians could contemplate the clouds and the lamps of heaven; could see the moon rise high behind Vesuvius, and the sun set in the sea, tremulous with an atmosphere of golden vapor, between Inarime and Misenum.

We next saw the temples. Of the temples of Æsculapius little remains but an altar of black stone, adorned with a cornice imitating the scales of a serpent. His statue, in terra-cotta, was found in the cell. The temple of Isis is more perfect. It is surrounded by a portico of fluted columns, and in the area around it are two altars, and many ceppi for statues; and a little chapel of white stucco, as hard as stone, of the most exquisite proportion; its panels are adorned with figures in bas-relief, slightly indicated, but of a workmanship the most delicate and perfect that can be conceived.

They are Egyptian subjects, executed by a Greek artist, who has harmonized all the unnatural extravagances of the original conception into the supernatural loveliness of his country's genius. They scarcely touch the ground with their feet, and their wind-uplifted robes seem in the place of wings. The temple in the midst raised on a high platform, and approached by steps, was decorated with exquisite paintings, some of which we saw in the museum at Portici. It is small, of the same materials as the chapel, with a pavement of mosaic, and fluted Ionic columns of white stucco, so white that it dazzles you to look at it.

Thence through the other porticos and labyrinths of walls and columns (for I can not hope to detail everything to you), we came to the Forum. This is a large square, surrounded by lofty porticos of fluted columns, some broken, some entire, their entablatures strewed under them. The temple of Jupiter, of Venus, and another temple, the Tribunal, and the Hall of Public Justice, with their forest of lofty columns, surround the Forum. Two pedestals or altars of an enormous size (for, whether they supported equestrian statues, or were the altars of the temple of Venus, before which they stand, the guide could not tell), occupy the lower end of the Forum. At the upper end, supported on an elevated platform, stands the temple of Jupiter. Under the colonnade of its portico we sat and pulled out our oranges, and figs, and bread, and medlars (sorry fare, you will say), and rested to eat.

Here was a magnificent spectacle. Above and between the multitudinous shafts of the sun-shining columns was seen the sea, reflecting the purple heaven of noon above it, and supporting, as it were, on its line the dark lofty mountains of Sorrento, of a blue inexpressibly deep, and tinged toward their summits with streaks of new-fallen snow. Between was one small green island. To the right was Capreae, Inarime, Prochyta, and



Misenum. Behind was the single summit of Vesuvius, rolling forth volumes of thick white smoke, whose foam-like column was sometimes darted into the clear dark sky, and fell in little streaks along the wind. Between Vesuvius and the nearer mountains, as through a chasm, was seen the main line of the loftiest Apennines, to the east.

The day was radiant and warm. Every now and then we heard the subterranean thunder of Vesuvius; its distant deep peals seemed to shake the very air and light of day, which interpenetrated our frames with the sullen and tremendous sound. This sound was what the Greeks beheld (Pompeii, you know, was a Greek city). They lived in harmony with nature; and the interstices of their incomparable columns were portals, as it were, to admit the spirit of beauty which animates this glorious universe to visit those whom it inspired. If such is Pompeii, what was Athens? What scene was exhibited from the Acropolis, the Parthenon, and the temples of Hercules, and Theseus, and the Winds? The island and the Ægean sea, the mountains of Argolis, and the peaks of Pindus and Olympus, and the darkness of the Boeotian forests interspersed?

From the Forum we went to another public place; a triangular portico, half enclosing the ruins of an enormous temple. It is built on the edge of the hill overlooking the sea. That black point is the temple. In the apex of the triangle stands an altar and a fountain, and before the altar once stood the statue of the builder of the portico. Returning hence, and following the consular road, we came to the eastern gate of the city. The walls are of an enormous strength, and enclose a space of three miles. On each side of the road beyond the gate are built the tombs. How unlike ours! They seem not so much hiding-places for that which must decay, as voluptuous chambers for immortal spirits. They are of marble, radiantly white; and two, especially beautiful, are loaded with exquisite bas-reliefs. On the stucco-wall that encloses them are little emblematic figures, of a relief exceedingly low, of dead and dying animals, and little winged genii, and female forms bending in groups in some funereal office. The high reliefs represent, one a nautical subject, and the other a Bacchanalian one.

Within the cell stand the cinerary urns, sometimes one, sometimes more. It is said that paintings were found within, which are now, as has been everything movable in Pompeii, removed, and scattered about in royal museums. These tombs were the most impressive things of all. The wild woods surround them on either side; and along the broad stones of the paved road which divides them, you hear the late leaves of autumn shiver and rustle in the stream of the inconstant wind, as it were, like the step of ghosts. The radiance and magnificence of these dwellings of the dead, the white freshness of the scarcely-finished marble, the impassioned or imaginative life of the figures which adorn them, contrast strangely with the simplicity of the houses of those who were living when Vesuvius overwhelmed them.

I have forgotten the amphitheater, which is of great magnitude, tho much inferior to the Coliseum. I now understand why the Greeks were such great poets; and, above all, I can account, it



seems to me, for the harmony, the unity, the perfection, the uniform excellence, of all their works of art. They lived in a perpetual commerce with external nature, and nourished themselves upon the spirit of its forms. Their theaters were all open to the mountains and the sky. Their columns, the ideal types of a sacred forest, with its roof of interwoven tracery, admitted the light and wind; the odor and the freshness of the country penetrated the cities. Their temples were mostly upathric; and the flying clouds, the stars, or the deep sky, were seen above.



February 28, Sunday: Former President [Thomas Jefferson](#) presided over the foundation of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. (He had designed the first buildings of the campus. The first classes would not begin until 1825.)

[Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) and [Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft Shelley](#) left [Naples](#).

At Vienna's Redoutensaal, Die Huldigung, a cantata by Johann Baptist Schenk to words of Hölty, was performed for the initial time.

Schäfers Klagelied D.121 to words of [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#), the first of Franz Schubert's lieder to be presented in public, was performed for the initial time, in the Gasthof "zum römischen Kaiser."

A total of 66 students were registered at the [Yearly Meeting School](#) of the [Religious Society of Friends](#) in [Providence, Rhode Island](#).

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 28th of 2nd M 1819 / Our morning Meeting was silent & rather smaller than usual owing to a number of friends & attenders of our meeting having gone to [Portsmouth](#) to attend the funeral of Mary Mott daughter of our late friend Jacob Mott who departed this life the 26th inst at the old Mansion house, her remains were carried to friends Meeting house & after Meeting interd

In the Afternoon father Rodman deliverd a few words very appropriate & to me savory. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

December 1, 1819-May 31, 1820: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lava da 6 bocche sul versante NW del Gran Cono. Nel gennaio 1820 nuova frattura ad W e lava verso il Colle del Salvatore.”



December 18, 1819

MOUNT VESUVIUS

1820

The Contessa Giulia Spada dei Medici died at the age of 39. [Giacomo Costantino Beltrami](#) would edit a collection of writings in her honor, *UNA VISITA AL CIMITERO DI MACERATA*, by various authors.²⁸

There were revolts in Spain and [Italy](#) against the rule of the Bourbons. In Madrid, there was a mutiny by troops who refused to go to South America to oppose revolution. Spanish liberales continued opposition against the Bourbons in Spain, and King Ferdinand VII was forced to restore the constitution of 1812. Palermo revolted briefly. [Naples](#) formed a Republic. There was revolution in Portugal. In England, there was the dissolution of Parliament, and the Cato street conspiracy. Throughout Europe, there were Royalist reactions.

[Mount Vesuvius](#) was also obviously in revolt, or had indigestion or something:



July 2, Sunday: John Brown of [Concord](#) got married with Clarissa Harmon.

Two junior officers, members of the Order of the Carbonari, led their troops on [Naples](#) in an attempt to force King Ferdinando to grant a constitution (other army units would soon join them).

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 2nd of 7th M 1820 / Our morning meeting was not a very

28. Beltrami, G.C. “Una Visita al Cimitero di Macerata.” *COMPONEIMENTI IN PROSA ED IN VERSA DE CATENATI RECITATI NELLA STRAORDINARIA ADUNANZA DEI 18 AGOSTO AD ONORARE LA MEMORIA DELL'ILLUSTRE ACCADEMICA CONTESSA GIULIA SPADA DEI MEDICI DAMA DELLA CROCE STELLATA* (Macerata: Stamperia Cortesi, 1820).





NAPLES

VESUVIO

lively time but better than some others. J Dennis bore a short testimony - In the Afternoon Father Rodman & D Buffum were lively in testimony - Went in the evening down to Wm Lees & set with them very pleasantly. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

 July 7, Friday: King Ferdinando of [Naples](#) promised a liberal constitution.

 July 9, Sunday: General Guglielmo Pepe, leader of the [Neapolitan](#) revolt, enters the city at the head of his rebel troops.

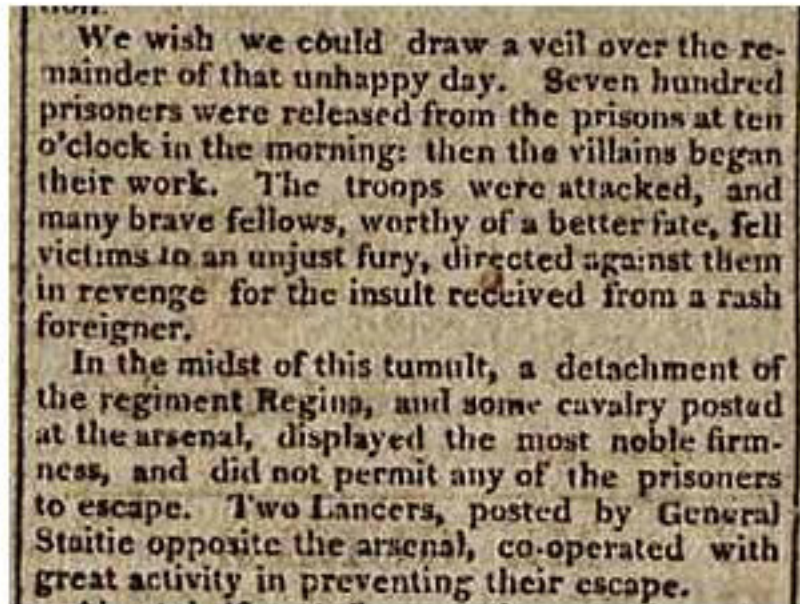
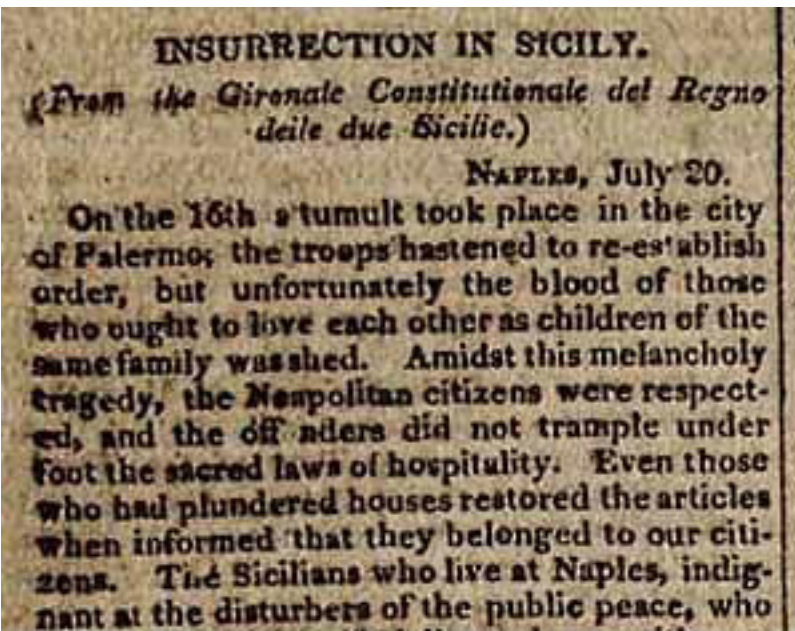
Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 9th of 7 M 1820 / In the forenoon meeting Jonathon & Hannah both preached a little, in the Afternoon father Rodman said a little & I think both the preaching & the life & all, was by the little I desire however to be thankful for an evidence in my own mind of being favord to partake of a degree of the little life among us. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

→ July 20, Thursday: In Glasgow, Scotland, James Wilson and six of his colleagues in the “[Radical War](#)” went on trial for treason. Five of the colleagues were found Not Guilty and the 6th was discharged. The jury found Wilson Not Guilty on three counts of treason but Guilty on the fourth, “compassing to levy war against the King in order to compel him to change his measures,” recommending mercy. The judge sentenced Wilson to execution.

There was an insurrection in Palermo, [Sicily](#) that would be reported in the USA on October 3rd in the Philadelphia newspaper [The Union — United States Gazette and True American For the Country](#). The insurrection was said to have begun because a general named Church caused a “yellow cockade” to be removed from the hat of a Sicilian:



→ July 26, Wednesday: Complete freedom of the press was proclaimed in [Naples](#). At the same time, Prince Metternich announced that the [Neapolitan](#) revolt would not be allowed to persist.

→ August-October: At Bagni di San Giuliano (Bagni di [Pisa](#)), [Percy Bysshe Shelley](#) wrote “Witch of Atlas,” “Ode to [Naples](#),” and “Swellfoot the Tyrant” (the last published and suppressed in November or December).

→ October 1, Sunday: A member of the Harris family drowned at Pigeon Cove, Rockport, Gloucester.

The 1st constitutional parliament for [Naples](#) met.

Fanny and Felix Mendelssohn entered the Berlin Singakademie as altos.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 1st of 10th M 1820 / In our Mornng Meeting D Buffum &



father Rodman were both engaged in testimony – In the Afternoon father was twice engaged. – both to me were seasons of favor for which I desire to be thankful. – With Lewis L C Clarke went out to David Buffums, took tea & spent the evening with him-


RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

 October 6, Friday: [Johanna Maria “Jenny” Lind](#) was born in Stockholm.


A visiting dignitary, Jack Snake, one of nine Cherokees visiting Philadelphia for purposes of a negotiation, died. Since his body could not be buried in any consecrated cemetery, he being a heathen and all, it would be interred somewhere in [William Bartram](#)’s garden. (We do not know precisely where. Be on the lookout for especially fertile spots.)

Two British frigates entered the bay of [Naples](#) in support of the status quo.

Charles Valentin Alkan was admitted to the Paris Conservatoire.

 November 20, Monday: King Ferdinando of [Naples](#) was summoned to Laibach (Ljubljana) to confer with Emperor Franz I of Austria, King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia and Tsar Alyeksandr I of Russia.


Elections were held by the revolutionary government of Portugal to a new Cortes.

 December 3, Sunday: Maometto II, a drama by Gioachino Rossini to words of della Valle, was performed for the initial time, in Teatro San Carlo, [Naples](#), but was not well received.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 3rd of 12 M 1820 / Several of our friends went to [Portsmouth](#) to attend the funeral of our fr Susannah Freeborn, which made the rising seats thin - The London Epistle was read in the Morning & in the Afternoon father Rodman bore a short testimony. –

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

 December 6, Wednesday: Upon receiving the letter of November 20th inviting him to confer with Emperor Franz I of Austria, King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia and Tsar Alyeksandr I of Russia, King Ferdinando of the Two Sicilies immediately consulted his Parliament in [Naples](#) and was granted leave to travel to Laibach (Ljubljana).


It was a landslide victory for the re-election of President James Monroe for a 2d 4-year term of office — only one estranged electoral vote out of a total of 232 had declared for John Quincy Adams for President.

Our Fearless Leaders


| NAME | BORN | INAUGURATED | EX OFFICIO | DIED |
|-----------------------------------|------|-------------|------------|------|
| GEORGE WASHINGTON | | 1789 | | |
| | | 1792 | | |

Our Fearless Leaders

| NAME | BORN | INAUGURATED | EX OFFICIO | DIED |
|-------------------------|----------------|-------------|------------|--------------|
| JOHN ADAMS | | 1796 | | JULY 4, 1826 |
| <u>THOMAS JEFFERSON</u> | APRIL 13, 1743 | 1800 | | DITTO |
| | | 1804 | | |
| <u>JAMES MADISON</u> | | 1808 | | |
| | | 1812 | | |
| JAMES MONROE | | 1816 | | |
| | | 1820 | | |
| JOHN QUINCY ADAMS | | 1824 | | |
| ANDREW JACKSON | | 1828 | | |
| | | 1832 | | |
| MARTIN VAN BUREN | | 1836 | | |
| WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON | | 1840 | | |
| JAMES K. POLK | | 1844 | | |
| ZACHARY TAYLOR | | 1848 | | |
| FRANKLIN PEIRCE | | 1852 | | |
| JAMES BUCHANAN | | 1856 | | |
| ABRAHAM LINCOLN | | 1860 | | |
| | | 1864 | | |

 December 13, Wednesday: King Ferdinando left [Naples](#) for his big conference with the biggies at Laibach (Ljubljana).

1821

 [Walter Savage Landor](#)'s *POCHE OSSERVAZIONI, ETC., DI WALTER SAVAGE LANDOR* ([Naples](#)). He settled his family in apartments in the Medici Palace in [Florence](#).

 John Martin's illustration of the darkness of noon at the Roman village of [Pompeii](#):

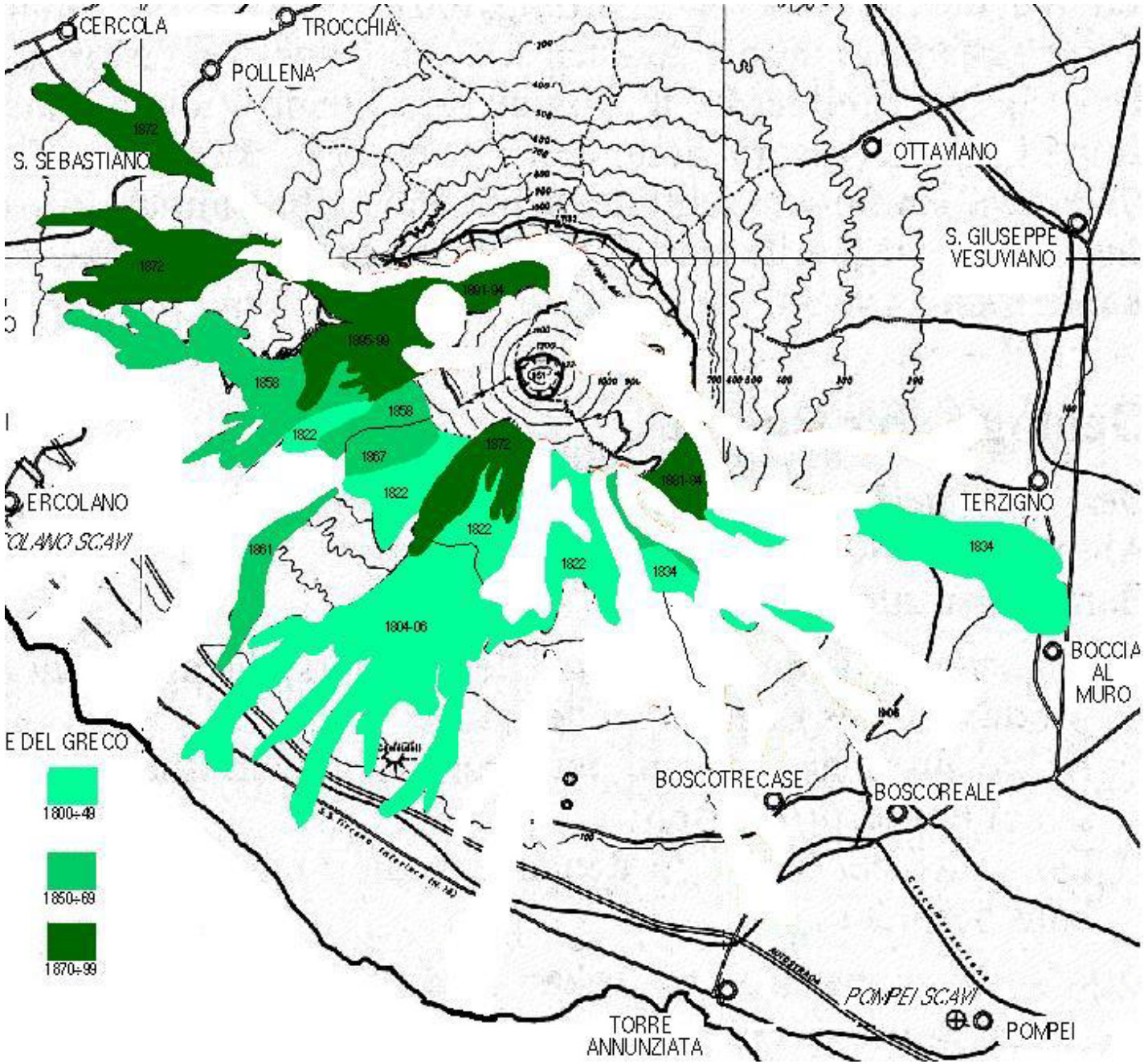


(Whether this artist was intending a political parallel with the current crushing of the Republic of [Naples](#) by Austrian troops in support of the Bourbons is a matter better left to our imaginations.)

VESUVIO

NAPLES

Here are the 19th-Century lava flows which even now remain on the surface of this volcano's slopes, color-coded to differentiate between those that occurred in the 1st half of the century, those that occurred around the middle of the century, and those that occurred toward the end of the century:



➡ January 8, Monday: King Ferdinando arrived from [Naples](#) at Laibach (Ljubljana), where he was to meet with other crowned heads of Europe.

KENILWORTH by [Sir Walter Scott](#) was published by Constable & Co.

In the 97th year of his age a Mr. Huddy, on a wager, made his way the 15 miles from Lismore in Ireland (A), where he was postmaster, to Fermoy (B) with a large red night-cap on his head, in a Dungarvan oyster-tub, drawn by a pig, a badger, two cats, a goose, and a hedgehog, by the application of a pig-driver's whip and a common cow's horn. The newspapers recorded that as "one fool makes many," the penalty of this wager was well observed along the way.²⁹



➡ March: [Julia Thuillier Savage Landor](#) gave birth to a female infant that would be christened as [Julia](#).

Austrian troops crushed the Neapolitan republic and restored the hegemony of the Bourbons throughout [Italy](#).

[NAPLES](#)

➡ March 23, Friday: Austrian troops entered [Naples](#) to restore King Ferdinando to absolutism, sparking widespread uprisings.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

6th day 23rd of 3rd M / Wrote this forenoon to cousin Lewis L Clarke & in the letter was favored to address Cousin Hannah & her daughters Hannah & Mary Ann much to my own satisfaction.

[RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS](#)

29. This was "Plough Monday," marking the end of the Christmas holidays and the need for husbandmen to return to their labors. In some regions, especially the north counties, a plough would be pulled on long ropes by teams of men in their shirtsleeves decorated with gay ribbons, to the doors of the villagers and townspeople. There would be music and morris-dancers, a youth would dress up as an old woman and be addressed as "Bessy," and money would be collected which was usually spent on a supper.

➡ May 15, Tuesday: [Sarah Moore Grimké](#) left Charleston to live in Philadelphia with the family of Friend Israel Morris at “Greenhill Farm.” She was accompanied by her sister Anna Grimké Frost, the widow of an Episcopal clergyman and a determined defender of the slavery status quo, and her sister’s child, because this sister needed to support herself by teaching school — and was unable to perform this sort of work in her home city since such activities would do such damage to her family of origin’s high social standing.

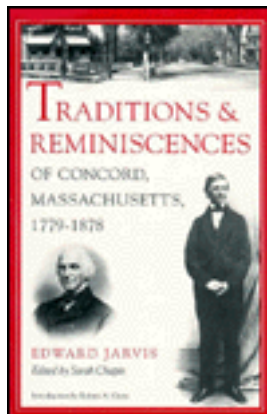
In this year Sarah began a diary that eventually would amount to more than 500 closely written manuscript pages.

King Ferdinando returned to [Naples](#), to restore absolutism.

➡ May 30, Wednesday: On the King’s nameday, at the Teatro San Carlo in [Naples](#), Vincenzo Bellini and a fellow student, Francesco Florimo, publicly proclaimed “Long Live our King Ferdinand, consecrated by God and by Right.” They had been suspects in the recent uprising of the Carbonari, had confessed, and had been required to make this public proclamation.

This “Election Day,” according to Dr. Edward Jarvis’s TRADITIONS AND REMINISCENCES OF CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS 1779-1878, would be the last one on which the populace of [Concord](#) would conduct their traditional general bird slaughter:

Fortunately for the morals and sensibilities of our boys and youth, Election Day with its corrupting and demoralizing influences occurred but once a year, and in 1821 it ceased entirely.



➡ December 27, Thursday: At a benefit for Gioachino Rossini in the Teatro San Carlo, [Naples](#), attended by the king, royal family, ministers, and many members of the nobility, the composer’s cantata La riconoscenza to words of Genoino was performed for the initial time.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

5th day 27 of 12 M 1821 / Last evening rode to [Portsmouth](#) with Uncle Stanton, lodged at his House & found my Mother in pretty good health – This morning walked to meeting – the first was Silent & tho’ I believe generally a pretty dull time yet my mind was in some good degree favour’d, at least with some feelings of a right kind – In the last (Monthly) our buisness went on pretty well. – among the concerns that came before us was the

pleasant & encouraging circumstance of a request for membership from Eliza P Burrington wife of John Burrington of [Portsmouth](#).
- Dined at Uncle Saml Thurstons & Walked home -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1822

➡ The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quietent condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.

➡ October 21-November 11: [Mount Vesuvius](#) underwent the most forceful eruptions of the 19th Century: "Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lave in tutte le direzioni nell’Atrio; colate più lunghe verso Boscotrecase ed Ercolano. Forti danni per i lahar e la caduta di lapilli e scorie. Piogge posteruttive."



MOUNT VESUVIUS

1826



➡ December: Alexis de Tocqueville and his brother Edouard visited [Rome](#), [Naples](#), and [Sicily](#). He began writing *VOYAGE EN SICILE*.



1828

An image of [Mount Vesuvius](#) made in this year:



MOUNT VESUVIUS

1829

February 14, Saturday: Prime Minister Karl Ludwig Wilhelm von Grolman of Hesse-Darmstadt died (and Karl Wilhelm Heinrich du Bos Du Thil stepped into his shoes).

In Milan, at the Tietatro alla Scala, “La straniera,” a melodramma by Vincenzo Bellini to words of Romani after Prevot, was performed for the initial time, and was even more successful than last year’s “Il pirata.”

February 15, Sunday: An image was made of an eruption of [Mount Vesuvius](#):



MOUNT VESUVIUS

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 15th of 2 M 1829 / I have Written but little in my Journal a week or two past. I may acknowledge that as the many cares which seem to devolve upon me here often disincline me to Keep it up - & yet I do not feel satisfied to wholly omit it. -Last

first day Avis Keene attended Meeting with us in the Morning & Deborah Otis in the Afternoon - both had good & pertinent testimonys - & This Afternoon Wm Almy was with us & delivered a suitable testimony. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

1830

➡ In Rome, the painter Karl Briullov, who is said to have become the first internationally known Russian, began his "The Last Day of Pompeii":



1831

➡ August 14, Sunday: [Robert Schumann](#) played through the 1st movement of a piano concerto in F major for friends in Leipzig. They were very supportive, but he would never finish the work. “This seems to me like the 1st thing written in my style that inclines toward the romantic.”

[Mount Vesuvius](#) began to go through a period of activity that would last until December 23, 1832: “Effusiva — Terremoto il 14 agosto ed emissione intracraterica. Lave a SE verso Bosco (August 20, 1831); a SSE (September 20, 1831, continuing through 1831 unless otherwise indicated); verso Torre del Greco (November 20, 1831), Ercolano (December 25, 1831), Boscotrecase e Piano delle Ginestre (February 27, 1832), Ottaviano ed Eremo (July 23, 1832); verso W (August 8, 1832); verso Bosco (October-November 15, 1832); verso Torre del Greco (December 16-23, 1832).”



MOUNT VESUVIUS



Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 14 if 8 M – Yesterday Brother David Rodman i& family were here & set our on their way to Lynn where they expect to reside for the present in hopes of getting into buisness – I do most affectionately wich them well & good success. – Morning Meeting Silent Wm Almy had good Service in the Afternoon – & Benjamin Clarke a [?end] Lawyer of New York attended – he appears to be a sound friend & tho’ engaged in Law is said to support well his good standing in society

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

➡ October 13-17: The following, about Robert Montgomery Bird’s melodrama *The Gladiator* in which the role of [Spartacus](#) was played by [Edwin Forrest](#), is a snippet from Charles Haskell’s REMINISCENCES OF NEW YORK BY AN OCTOGENARIAN:

Late in September, [Forrest](#) was first seen in “The Gladiators,” the well-known play written for him by Dr. Bird of Philadelphia. A Mr. Anderson, an English actor, on his arrival here was charged

by a fellow-passenger, an American, with having made some very unjust and ill-natured remarks during the passage regarding Americans. Upon the announcement of his engagement at the Park Theatre the charges were publicly reported, and as a result, the house on the evening of his appearance, October 13, was filled with some of our indignant citizens who had individually assembled, without any previous association, and upon the entrance of Anderson on the stage he was greeted with hisses, missiles, etc., so persistently maintained that the performance was arrested. Nevertheless, Anderson was announced for the evening of October 15, in the same part (Henry Bertram, in the opera "Guy Mannering.") On this occasion the theatre was filled to overflowing with men only, who were determined to prevent Anderson's performance. When it was attempted to read his apology, a riot broke out which was not the least diminished by announcement that the actor's engagement had been cancelled and that the play would be changed. As usual in such cases, the riot spread far beyond the designs of its originators and became the causeless, silly, or malicious outbreak of evil-disposed persons. It continued during the next day (Sunday). And in the evening of that day an attack was made on the theatre, the doors and windows being battered in. "Old Hays" and his men after a time restored comparative order, and on Monday the mob was appeased by sight of the front of the theatre covered with American flags, patriotic transparencies, etc., and no further violence occurred.



➡ August 14, Sunday: [Robert Schumann](#) played through the 1st movement of a piano concerto in F major for friends in Leipzig. They were very supportive, but he would never finish the work. “This seems to me like the 1st thing written in my style that inclines toward the romantic.”

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MOUNT VESUVIUS



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RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS


➡ August 20, Saturday: A flow of lava came out of [Mount Vesuvius](#) toward the South-East, headed toward the village of Bosco downhill.

MOUNT VESUVIUS

Feeling neglected by his teacher Friedrich Wieck, Robert Schumann wrote to Johann Nepomuk Hummel asking to be his pupil (nothing would come of this).

French forces entered Belgium to counter the Dutch, who were forced to withdraw.

[Nicolò Paganini](#) offered the last of his 14 concerts in England (most of them had been in London).

 September 20, Tuesday: A flow of lava came out of [Mount Vesuvius](#) toward the South-South-East.



[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)



Alexis de Tocqueville had an interview with “Mr. Quincy, President of Cambridge University.”

[HARVARD COLLEGE](#)

➡ October: On medical advice, [Sir Walter Scott](#) began an overseas tour, sailing from Portsmouth in the *Barham*, provided by the government. He sailed past Cape St. Vincent, Trafalgar, and Gibraltar to [Naples](#) and to [Rome](#), where he visited the monument to Bonnie Prince Charlie in St. Peter's. He went north to the Tyrol, west across Germany, and then down the Rhine into Holland.



During this month, in Lyon, France, manufacturing was so depressed that artisans were able to earn only eightpence by working an 18-hour day.

➡ October 1, Saturday: [Hector Berlioz](#) and two colleagues arrived in [Naples](#) where he immediately visited the tomb of [Virgil](#).

Alexis de Tocqueville had an interview with John Quincy Adams. He made a journal entry about the criminal justice system and other issues.


Clara Wieck played for [Johann Wolfgang von Goethe](#) at his home in Weimar. He provided a cushion for her, since the piano bench was too low. She performed two works by Henri Herz, La Violetta and Bravura Variations op.20. He complimented her warmly and invited her back.

➡ November 20: Andrew Jackson, Jr. left Washington for Philadelphia, where he would wed Sarah Yorke.

A flow of lava came out of [Mount Vesuvius](#) toward Torre del Greco.

[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)



 December 25, Sunday: Concert Overture no.1 in d WWV 20 by Richard Wagner was performed for the initial time, in the Royal Saxon Hoftheater, Leipzig.

A flow of lava came out of [Mount Vesuvius](#) toward Ercolano.


[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)

In [Providence, Rhode Island](#), Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 25 of 12 M / Both meetings silent In the Afternoon Abel W Townsend & wife attended - They expect to set out tomorrow for home they have gone to Wm Almys to lodge & will take the Stage in the Morning -

[RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS](#)


1832

 February 27, Monday: John Field made his 1st appearance in England since leaving 30 years ago.

The publisher Aristide Farrenc met [Frédéric François Chopin](#) and obtained the copyright to five of his compositions: the two piano concertos, the Trio in g op.8, the Rondo a la Krakowiak op.14, and the Fantasy on Polish Airs op.13.

A flow of lava came out of [Mount Vesuvius](#) toward Boscotrecase and toward Piano delle Ginestre.

[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)


 July 23, Monday: A flow of lava came out of [Mount Vesuvius](#) toward Ottaviano ed Eremo.

[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

2nd day 23 of 7 M 1832 / No other person appearing to be a leisure to accompany Joseph Bowne on his proposed visit to the Meetings to the South in this Qrty Meeting I set out with him this Morning & attended Meeting at Cranston & then rode to Asa Sissons to dinner & attended another appointed Meeting in the Afternoon at [Greenwich](#) & lodged at Daniel Howlands. -

[RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS](#)

 August 8, Wednesday: A flow of lava came out of [Mount Vesuvius](#) toward the West.

[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)

The Greek National Assembly voted Prince Otto of Bavaria as King of Greece.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

4th day 8 M 1 1832 / Rode to [Portsmouth](#) this Mornng & attended the Select Quarterly Meeting - We went to Uncle Stantons Dined




VESUVIO


NAPLES

& lodged - 5th day attended the Meeting at large & then returned to [Providence](#). - In our Absence several cases of Cholera appeared in the town near the Steam Factory on the West side of the River - this appeared Serious & Alarming. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

 August 9, Thursday:


 August 10, Friday:


 August 11, Saturday: King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia granted [Giacomo Meyerbeer](#) the title of court conductor (*Hofkapellmeister*).

 August 12, Sunday: Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

1st day 12th of 8th M 1832 / Our family Meetings have been poor & low seasons this week - At our collection in the boys School room this evening my mind was favoured with more of a Solemn covering than I have experienced in some time for which I desire to be thankful

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS


 August 13, Monday:

 August 14, Tuesday: Melchor Eca y Muzquiz replaced Anastasio Bustamante y Osegera as acting President of Mexico.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

3rd day 14th of 8 M 1832 / Thomas Howland came last evening, staid all night, & this Morning set out in the Stage for Lynn to attend The Quarterly Meeting to be held there this Week. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

 October-November 15: A flow of lava came out of [Mount Vesuvius](#) on the South-East, threatening the village of Bosco.

MOUNT VESUVIUS



December 10, Monday: [Waldo Emerson](#), suddenly no longer a minister of the gospel with responsibility for a flock, and suddenly a gentleman of leisure without any need of gainful employment, determined to make use of his new-found self by embarking on the sort of grand European tour that was elevating the social standing of so many new gentlemen of his era, “a purpleal vision of [Naples](#) & [Italy](#) & that is the rage of yesterday & today in Chardon St.”

President Andrew Jackson declared any act of nullification to be an act of rebellion and threatened to use force against South Carolina or any state which neglected to uphold federal law.

READ THE FULL TEXT

In Paris on the eve of his 29th birthday, [Hector Berlioz](#) was officially introduced to Harriet Smithson, the English actress with whom he had for five years been infatuated.

[Sam Houston](#) crossed the Red River, entering [Texas](#).



December 16, Sunday, 3PM: Duelists arrived in [Rhode Island](#) by post chaises along the road from Massachusetts. After making certain that they were demonstrably no longer within the state of Massachusetts where dueling was a criminal offense, they walked into a field of the Cyrus Cook farm and began removing items of clothing. When it became evident that there was not only a herd of cows in that field, but that among these cows was a bull, the dueling party repaired to a nearby hollow, where the principals continued stripping to the waist (this made for a more sanitary puncture wound). When the seconds placed them back to back the younger man began to sob and needed the fortification of several drinks. On the initial exchange they both missed, so wildly that one of the seconds became frightened and for the remainder of the encounter would be witnessing from behind a tree. On the 2d exchange, one of the duelists shot himself in the leg and, honor being satisfied, the [duel](#) ended. Local lads would take custody of a shirt they had left behind.

On this day lava erupted from [Mount Vesuvius](#) and began to flow toward Torre del Greco. The flow would continue for eight days.

MOUNT VESUVIUS



December 23, Sunday: [Mount Vesuvius](#) completed a period of activity that had begun on August 14, 1831: “Effusiva — Terremoto il 14 agosto ed emissione intracraterica. Lave a SE verso Bosco (August 20, 1831); a SSE (September 20, 1831, continuing through 1831 unless otherwise indicated); verso Torre del Greco (November 20, 1831), Ercolano (December 25, 1831), Boscotrecase e Piano delle Ginestre (February 27, 1832), Ottaviano ed Eremo (July 23, 1832); verso W (August 8, 1832); verso Bosco (October-November 15, 1832); verso Torre del Greco (December 16-23, 1832).”



MOUNT VESUVIUS



An 18-page biography of [Hector Berlioz](#) appeared in the Revue de Paris. Signed by Joseph d’Ortigue, it was written mostly by the subject.

After a month-long siege, French forces captured Antwerp, forcing the Netherlands to recognize the independence of Belgium.

1833

→ Publication, during this year and the following one, of THE COMPLETE WORKS OF [SIR WALTER SCOTT](#), by Conner & Cooke in New-York. Out of this collection [Henry Thoreau](#) would mention “Lady of the Lake” in his journal on May 21, 1839 And “Thomas the Rhymer” on September 28, 1843. There would be a mention in A WEEK ON THE CONCORD AND MERRIMACK RIVERS, and in EXCURSIONS there would be casual mention of a category that would include IVANHOE, QUENTIN DUNWARD, and THE TALISMAN. In [Rome](#), the painter Karl Briullov (Carlo Brullo) –who is said to have made himself the first internationally known Russian– completed his “The Last Day of [Pompeii](#)”:

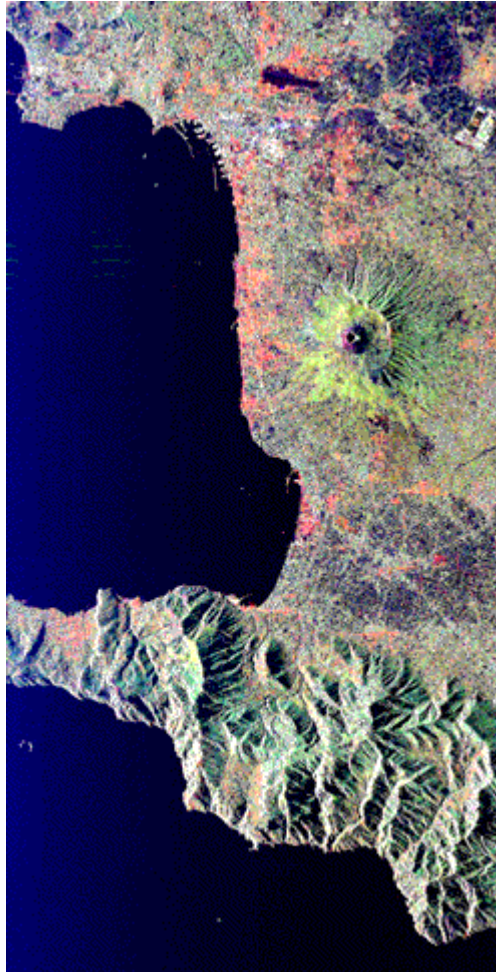


Reportedly [Sir Walter Scott](#), after having stared at this Disneyish fantasia for all of an hour at the studio during the process of its composition, had declared it to be not so much a painting as an epic. (Part of this may have been politeness toward his host, of course, but surely a small part of this would have been the enormous doses of [opiates](#) that Scott was needing to rely upon in order to live in his pain-wracked body.)

VESUVIO

NAPLES

➡ March 10, Sunday: [Waldo Emerson](#) sailed from Palermo to [Naples](#), to visit [Pompeii](#)/Herculaneum and ride a donkey up [Mount Vesuvius](#) while it (the mountain, and hopefully the donkey as well) was in a quiescent phase.



In a letter, he would refer to its caldera as “a fearful place.” We have reason to suspect that he did the usual tourist thing, or saw some other tourist doing the usual tourist thing, boil an egg over a fissure, for in his 1836 essay NATURE he would write “We are like travellers using the cinders of a volcano to roast their eggs.” (At any rate, if he did not boil an egg on the volcano, Harriet Beecher Stowe did on her day trip to the site, as she jotted down that her egg was “very nicely boiled.”)

Eventually the Reverend Emerson would have a touristy painting of this prominence in his study in Concord, not in the condition in which he had himself experienced it but in dramatic full eruption.³⁰



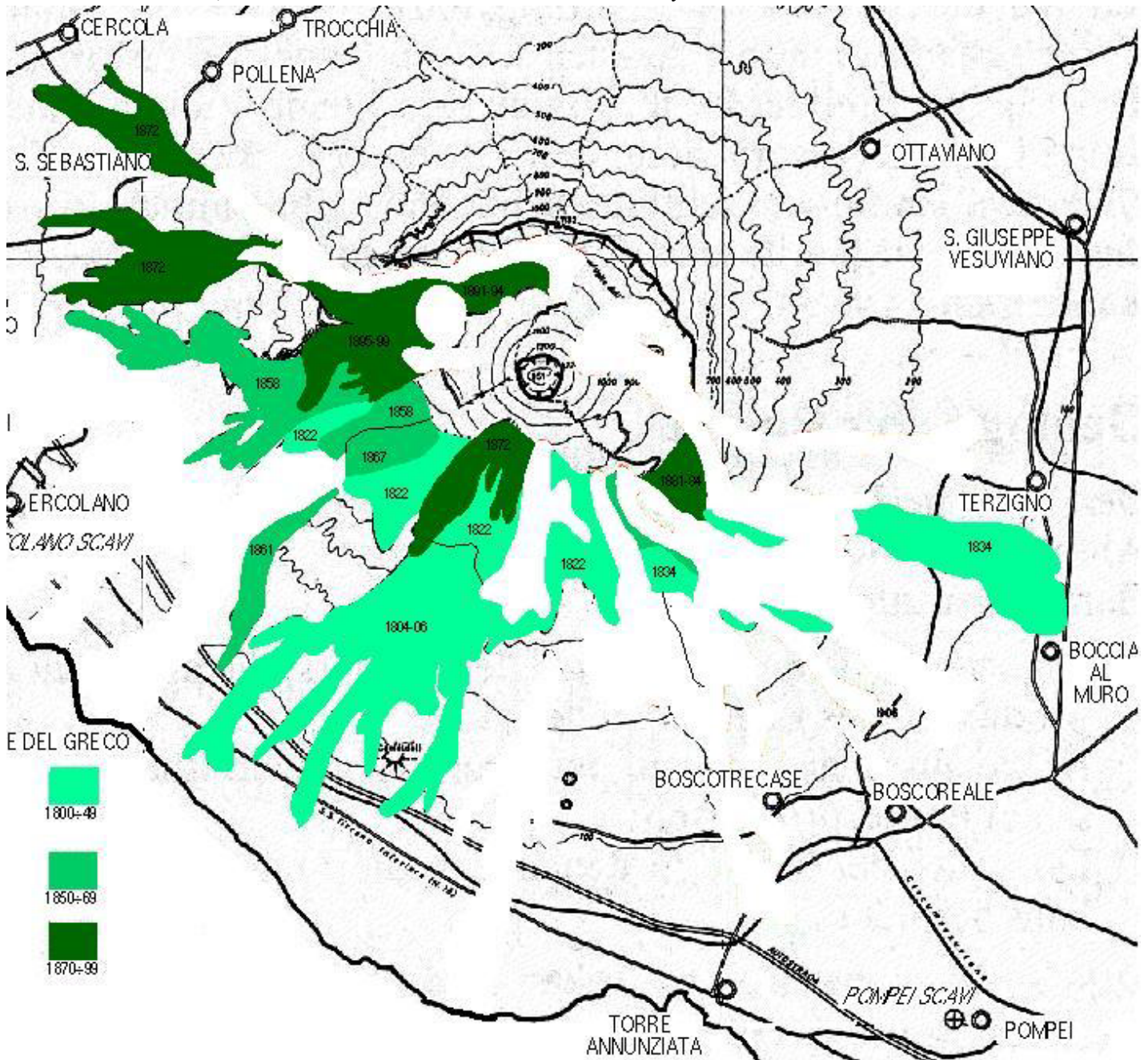
Eventually, after another visit in 1873, he would purchase one of these donkeys of the region, Graciosa, for his

NAPLES

VESUVIO

daughter Ellen.

Here are the 19th-Century lava flows which even now remain on the surface of this volcano's slopes, color-coded to differentiate between those that had occurred in the 1st half of the century and were present during Emerson's first visit, those that occurred around the middle of the century and would have occurred before his 2nd visit, and those that occurred toward the end of the century:



30. The creation of these images for sale to the tourists is quite an activity in [Naples](#). It is sufficient to mention that the drama of the eruptions in such portrayals has never been understated. (The Kouroo database uses any number of these depictions, done of the years, to track the chronological changes in the volcano cone and caldera.)

VESUVIO

NAPLES

➡ March 25, Monday: [Waldo Emerson](#) left [Naples](#) and [Mount Vesuvius](#), and would arrive at [Rome](#) on March 26th.

1834

➡ C.L. von Buch's THEORY OF VOLCANISM.


VOLCANISM

➡ [Edward George Earle Bulwer](#)'s THE LAST DAYS OF [POMPEII](#) was inspired by the famous painting by Karl Briullov (Carlo Brullo), which he had seen on display in Milan:



(Also, during this year, Bulwer-Lytton's THE PILGRIMS OF THE RHINE and his FALKLAND. Upon the dismissal of the Whig government, he authored a pamphlet A LETTER TO A LATE CABINET MINISTER ON THE CRISIS. Prime Minister Lord Melbourne tried to appoint him as a lord of the admiralty but his consideration was that this might impede his literary career.)

[Benjamin Robert Haydon](#) completed his "Reform Banquet," for Lord Grey (this contained 597 individual portrayals).

 March 26, Wednesday: [David Henry Thoreau](#) checked out, from [Harvard Library](#), [Thomas Gray](#)'s THE VESTAL, OR A TALE OF POMPEII, which although it was a historical novel offered more than 35 pages of explanatory notes in the 1830 edition published in Boston by the firm of Gray and Bowen.³¹

THE VESTAL ... OF POMPEII

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

4th day 26 of 3 M 1834 / Attended Moy [Monthly] Meeting held in Town -Wm Greene preached - followed by Wm Almy. - In the last there was considerable buisness & a time of exercise & some distress but things ended pretty well.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

On the north boreal slope of Canada, Commander [George Back](#) received news from York Factory.

(Page 240) ... a person arrived late in the evening with the packet from York Factory, which we had been expecting daily for the last six weeks. The happiness which this announcement instantly created can be appreciated by those only who, like us, 31. Would this have been where Thoreau learned of the ruts of [Pompeii](#), which in 1851 he would mention in his journal?



July 7, Monday, 1851: ...Even the facts of science may dust the mind by their dryness –unless they are in a sense effaced each morning or rather rendered fertile by the dews of fresh & living truth. Every thought that passes through the mind helps to wear & tear it & to deepen the ruts which as in the streets of Pompeii evince how much it has been used. How many things there are concerning which we might well deliberate whether we had better know them. Routine –conventionality manners & c & c –how insensibly and undue attention to these dissipates & impoverishes the mind –robs it of its simplicity & strength emasculates it. Knowledge doe[s] not cone [come] to us by details but by lieferungs from the gods. What else is it to wash & purify ourselves? Conventionalities are as bad as impurities. Only thought which is expressed by the mind in repose as it wer[e] lying on its back & contemplating the heaven's –is adequately & fully expressed– What are side long –transient passing half views? The writer expressing his thought –must be as well seated as the astronomer contemplating the heavens –he must not occupy a constrained position. The facts the experience we are well poised upon –! Which secures our whole attention!

have been outside the pale of civilisation, and felt the blessing of communication with their friends but once through a long twelvemonth.

THE FROZEN NORTH

➡ August 23-September 10: “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lava a SE tra Boscoreale ed Ottaviano. Distrutto il borgo di Caposecchi e di S. Giovanni (800 persone senz’atetto).”



MOUNT VESUVIUS

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

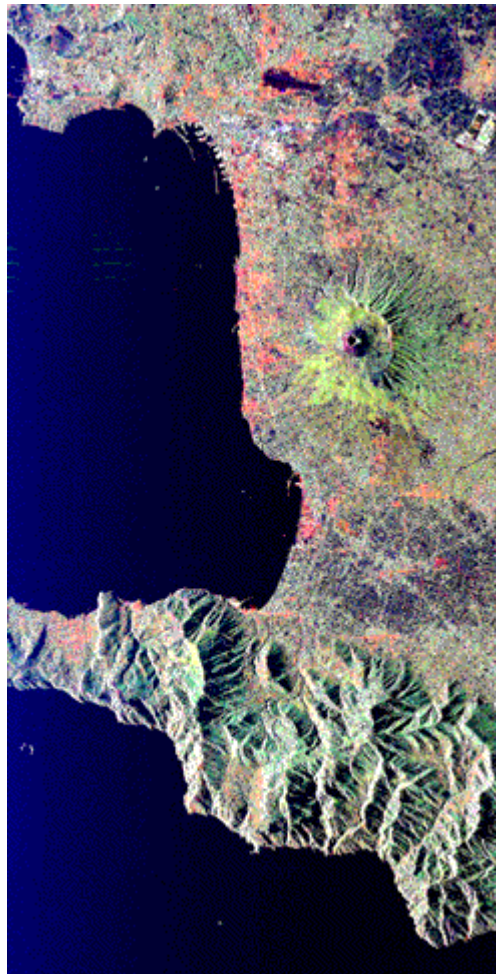
7th day 23 of 8 M / Rode into Town this Morning & soon after I got there was informed by Arnold Congdon that our dear friend & faithful labourer in the Gospel Daniel Howland of East [Greenwich](#) - he died last night in a fit & is to be buried tomorrow - the particulars I have not learned, but conclude it must be very sudden, he was at [Providence](#) on the 8 & 9 of this Month & attended the School committee & Meeting for Sufferings - he then appeared to be as well as usual, tho' I recollect of noticing a flush in his face, & heft of countenance, which I thought might be indicative of a repeated attack of a fit having had one some Months or a year ago. - He was indeed what may well be denominated a lovely & very loving friend - but few of my acquaintance

possessed more of the milk of human Kindness, or was more devoted in the cause of Truth & deeper in concern for the welfare of our poor society. Altho' in point of matter there was not that variety of subject & expression in his Ministry yet I can truly testify that his Offerings never seemed to me as old Manna, but if his matter was similar to what we had often heard, it seemed to be renewedly sanctified & seldom failed to produce some baptism in the auditory & were sometimes very reaching - his loss will be deeply felt among a numerous acquaintance by whom he was unusually beloved, & also in Society where his public labours & usefulness in our Meetings for discipline will be greatly missed - He had arrived at an age when according to the course of nature it could not be expected that he could continue much longer, having attained the [blank] Year of his Age, but it is hard to part with such dear friends & valued pillars in the Church.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



September: Jack, [Thomas Carlyle's](#) brother, witnessed the eruption of [Mount Vesuvius](#):





VESUVIO

NAPLES

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| <200,000 BCE | Eruptions began in a fold of the ocean floor between the island of Capri and Mt. Massico |
| x BCE | eruption (Avellino pliniana) |
| 25,000 BCE | eruption (Codola pliniana) |
| 17,000 BCE | eruption (Sarno-Pomici Basali pliniana) |
| 15,500 BCE | eruption (Pomici Verdoline pliniana) |
| 7,900 BCE | eruption (Mercato pliniana) |
| 5,960 BCE | eruption, one of the largest known of Europe |
| 3,580 BCE | eruption (Avellino pliniana), one of the largest known of Europe |
| 1,000 BCE | eruption (subpliniana) |
| 700 BCE | eruption (subpliniana) |
| 73 CE | The escaped gladiator Spartacus was trapped for a time by the praetor Publius Claudius Pulcher on the barren wasteland of Mount Somma, the high ridge next to Mount Vesuvius , which at that time amounted to a wide, flat depression walled by rugged rocks coated over by wild vines. Spartacus would manage to escape this trap by stealth. |
| 79 CE | Explosion buried Pompeii and Stabiae under ashes and lapilli and buried Herculaneum under a mud flow (the pit left in the side of the cone by this explosion has long since disappeared). |
| 203 CE | explosive eruption |
| 472 CE | eruption (Pollena subpliniana) |
| 512 CE | eruption so severe Theodoric the Goth temporarily released inhabitants of slopes from taxation |
| 685 CE | strong eruption |
| 787 CE | grand eruption |
| 968 CE | strong eruption |
| 991 CE | eruption |
| 999 CE | strong eruption |
| 1007 CE | strong eruption |
| 1036 CE | a grand eruption followed by a long period of quiescence during which there would be forests inside the crater, and three lakes there from which pasturing herds might drink |
| 1139 CE | explosive eruption |
| 1500 CE | strong eruption |
| December 16, 1631CE | A devastating explosion after six months of gradually intensifying earthquakes marked a major change in the behavior of this volcano. From this point to the present the behavior would be characterizable as stages of quiescence during which the volcano's maw was obstructed, alternating with stages of eruption during which its maw would be almost continuously open. Recording of eruptions began, and it would be noted that the eruptive stages would be varying from $\frac{1}{2}$ year to almost 31 years, while the quiescent stages would be varying from $1\frac{1}{2}$ years to $7\frac{1}{2}$ years. |




NAPLES

VESUVIO

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| 1660 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1682 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1694 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1698 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1707 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1737 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1760 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1767 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1779 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1794 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1822 CE | eruptive stage |
| September 1834 CE | eruptive stage witnessed by Thomas Carlyle 's brother Jack |
| 1839 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1845 CE | the local Mount Vesuvius volcano-watch station opened |
| 1850 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1855 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1861 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1868 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1872 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1906 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1944 CE | eruptive stage |
| May 11, 1964 CE | Mount Vesuvius signalled the beginning of a new eruptive stage (during such periods the vegetation on the slopes typically dies off due to poisonous gasses). |



October 18, Saturday: At the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#), *Buondelmonte*, a tragedia lirica by Gaetano Donizetti to words of Salatino, was performed for the initial time. The opera was to have been *Maria Stuarda* but when the censors had objected to the tragic ending two weeks earlier, Salatino had taken the libretto of Bardari and rewritten it. Donizetti then quickly fitted his music to the new words. Needless to say, the production was a disaster and would have but one performance.

**1835** March 25, Wednesday: Gaetano Donizetti departed from Paris after modest success, to return to [Naples](#).

When he would get back in [Newport](#) on the evening of the 27th from this trip to [Providence](#), Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) would write of the events of this day in his journal:

4th day 25th of 3 M 1835 / This morning rose by 4 O'clock & got breakfast & went to the head of the Long Wharf to wait for the Steam Boat which arrived in season for me to get to [Providence](#) by 9 O'clock after attending to a little business I went to the Monthly Meeting held there - which to me was a season of favour, of Memorable favour - Hannah Robinson appeared in a very satisfactory testimony to me - Then Dorcas Paine in testimony of solid weight & good savour & then H Robinson appeared in supplication & if it was not attended with life I do not understand what the life is - In the last meeting the business was conducted well - I had asked the preceeding Preparative Meeting for a Certificate directed to [Rhode Island](#) Moy [Monthly] Meeting which request was recognized & Enoch Breed & Arnold Congdon appointed to make the necessary inquiry & prepare one to be presented next Month

Report was made by a committee that they had laboured with John Albertson & considered further labour useless - this was an Ancient plain friend & who I knew had been useful in society & served as an overseer - not understanding by the report what the nature of the complaint was I requested to have the minute of last Month read by which I found [that he] had petitioned for & received the allowance which government had made to the old revolutionay Officers & Soldiers, he having been one - when I found the nature of the Offense a conversation which I had at last Yearly Meeting with Old Thomas Davis of Weare Moy [Monthly] Meeting who was himself a Soldier & was engaged in Service at Bunker Hill - occurred to me with so much weight that it seemed as if I should be short in duty not to in Form the Meeting of it & requested the Youth present to mark the expressions Thos told me that ne never had any disposition to receive the Stypend allowed by government - for the little payment he had received seemed like a curse upon him. - After Meeting I went up to the School House & dined & spent the Afternoon then went down to [Moses Browns](#) drank tea spent a pleasant evening & lodged I found him sick with a cold & hard cough & If I had not seen him recover from a much worse state, I should conclude it was the last time I should ever see him in mutability - After breakfasting with my Aged & dearly beloved friend I went to Town - visited Mary Griscom & then walked out to see my dear friend Wm Almy who has recently had an attack of Paralysis & lost the use of his left side, but has recovered so as to walk with help, but his hand is nearly useless - his mouth considerably drawn & his speech rather thick - his mind was clear, & his conversation correct, & his feelings very tender & loving - he wept frequently in speaking of subjects, & individuals that interested him, particularly of the departure of our late dear friend Abigail



Robinson. Soon after dinner I prepared to leave him when in speaking of some subject we both were much tenderd & after I had got out the door, he sent for me back to request me to send his love to our Son John at Hudson - that he should remember him at that time, in so affectionate a manner & so much brokenness of spirit was very affecting to my feelings, & quite broke me into tears, which I could not surpress till I got considerable distance from his house.

When I got into Town I call & set an hour at Dr Tobey & then went out to the School House - spent the Afternoon took tea & lodged there - on 6th day Morning the 27th - I came into town, & called a while at Jon[athon] Congdons - then on my way to the boat attended to a little buisness, & called on several of my old friends - we had a slow time down the River in very thick fog & some rain - it was so thick a fog that the boat was obliged to Stand Still several times, & we did not get to Newport till 4 O'clock. -

While I was at Providence I thought if I never went there again, I could say my last visit was a good one. -

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS



September 26, Saturday: Elisha Reynolds Potter, Senior died in South Kingstown, Rhode Island. His grave is in the Potter family burial ground in Washington County.

(This datapoint helps us understand how Cato Pearce's book A BRIEF MEMOIR OF THE LIFE AND RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE OF CATO PEARCE, A MAN OF COLOR: TAKEN VERBATIM FROM HIS LIPS AND PUBLISHED FOR HIS BENEFIT could be printed in Pawtucket. By the point at which this small book describing the misconduct was put into circulation, 1842, the important citizen had been out of circulation for at least six years.)

In the Teatro San Carlo of Naples, Lucia di Lammermoor, a dramma tragico by Gaetano Donizetti to words of Cammarano after Scott, was performed for the initial time. The composer reported that "It has pleased, and pleased very much."



VESUVIO

NAPLES



Lecture Season: The 7th course of lectures offered by the Salem Lyceum consisted of:



The Salem Lyceum — 7th Season

James Flint of Salem
Poem, Change

Sylvester Graham
Capabilities of the human frame in respect to the duration of life

W.B.O. Peabody
Hebrew Commonwealth

Samuel M. Worcester of Salem
James Otis and Patrick Henry

B.B. Thatcher
Boston Tea Party

O.W.B. Peabody
British Poetry during the latter part of the last century

Leonard Withington
Dangers of Republicanism

George Putnam
Water

Jeremiah Smith
Washington

John Appleton
Sir Humphrey Davy

William H. Simmons
Education

[Charles Chauncy Emerson](#)
[Socrates](#)

Abel L. Peirson of Salem
St. Peter's Cathedral

George S. Hillard
Living too fast

Jonathan F. Worcester of Salem
China

A.M. Quimby
Electricity

Ralph Waldo Emerson of Concord
Martin Luther

William Silsbee of Salem
Study of the Beautiful

B.B. Thatcher
Philosophy of Self-Education

Henry R. Cleveland
[Pompeii](#)

Charles G. Page of Salem
Heat


Charles T. Brooks of Salem
Character




VESUVIO

NAPLES

1836

 June 1, Wednesday: [Charles Darwin](#) returned to Capetown.

At the Teatro Nuovo of [Naples](#), Gaetano Donizetti's melodramma giocoso *Il campanello di notte* to words of the composer after Brunswick, Troin, and Lherie was performed for the initial time to a good reception.

 August 21, Sunday: In the Teatro Nuovo of [Naples](#), *Betly, ossia La capanna svizzera*, a dramma giocosa by Gaetano Donizetti to his own words after Scribe and Melesville, was performed for the initial time.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

*1st day 21 of 8 m 1836 / We had good solid Meetings & I thought
Father Rodman was favoured in testimony in both Meetings. -*

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

November 19, Saturday: [David Henry Thoreau](#) supplemented his borrowings from the [Harvard Library](#) by checking out, from the library of the "[Institute of 1770.](#)" George W. Haven's translation of [Heinrich Heine](#)'s LETTERS AUXILIARY TO THE HISTORY OF MODERN POLITE LITERATURE IN GERMANY (Boston: J. Munroe, 1836).



MODERN POLITE GERMAN ...

At the Teatro San Carlo of [Naples](#), Gaetano Donizetti's *dramma lirico* L'assedio di Calais to words of Cammarano after DuBelloy was performed for the initial time. The work, produced for the nameday of the Neapolitan queen mother, was well received.

Friend [Stephen Wanton Gould](#) wrote in his journal:

7th day 19th of 11 M / More than a week ago I heard transiently that Elisha Bates had been Baptized in Water – today it is confirmed - Dr Tobey having sent me a copy of a letter from him



VESUVIO

NAPLES

to some person in England wherein he acknowledges the fact & undertakes an explanation of his conduct - but had he have been a thorough [Quaker](#) & stable minded man he would never have resorted to the beggarly elements, which was never designed for any thing but a Sign & to fulfill the Law for all righteousness - all which we hold & I do most assuredly believe was fulfilled in the coming of Christ & who by his appearance in the flesh put an end to all Shadows & introduced the Gospel in a more spiritual manner than it was before known, & it is also my unshaken faith that Jesus Christ is still known in spirit & that we, of this day know nothing more of him that will be of saving virtue - We read of him in The Scriptures, & it is a great favour, that record is preserved to us, but we may read them, & read them again, & know nothing of him that will save us, & it is by & thro' him, by the operation of his spirit in our hearts that we are saved with an everlasting Salvation. Our young friend Gilbert Congdon from [Providence](#) called & set the evening with us - he gave us much information of our friends in [Providence](#), & his visit to us was pleasant & interesting - he seems to be a young man well engaged & I hope will be of use in Society - & greatly do I desire there were a great many More such than there is. -

1839

Walter Savage Landor's ANDREA OF HUNGARY AND GIOVANNA OF [NAPLES](#).

The first railway in what would become Italy, an 8-kilometer track between [Naples](#) and Portici.

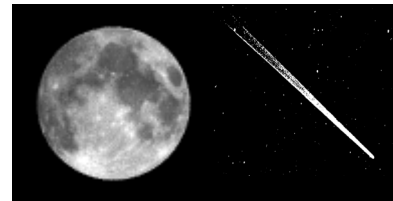
Gennaio 1-5: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years. “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Formazione di un piccolo cratere profondo 285 m. Lave a SW (sopra la colata del 1767 e del 1810) e SE verso Boscotrecase ed Ercolano. Boscotrecase e Castellamare coperti da uno strato di scorie. Danni per caduta di lapilli.”



MOUNT VESUVIUS

1843

March 18: Tail lengths reports for the new comet generally were ranging from 34° to 40°. By this point the comet had come far enough north that its entire tail was visible in the evening skies over most of Europe and the United States. In [Naples](#), one Peters noted that straight above Vesuvius some 40° to 45° of tail were visible despite competition from the light of a full moon. (A tail like this you would be able to view even from the streets of one of today's immense, light-polluted cities.)



SKY EVENT



NAPLES

VESUVIO

1845

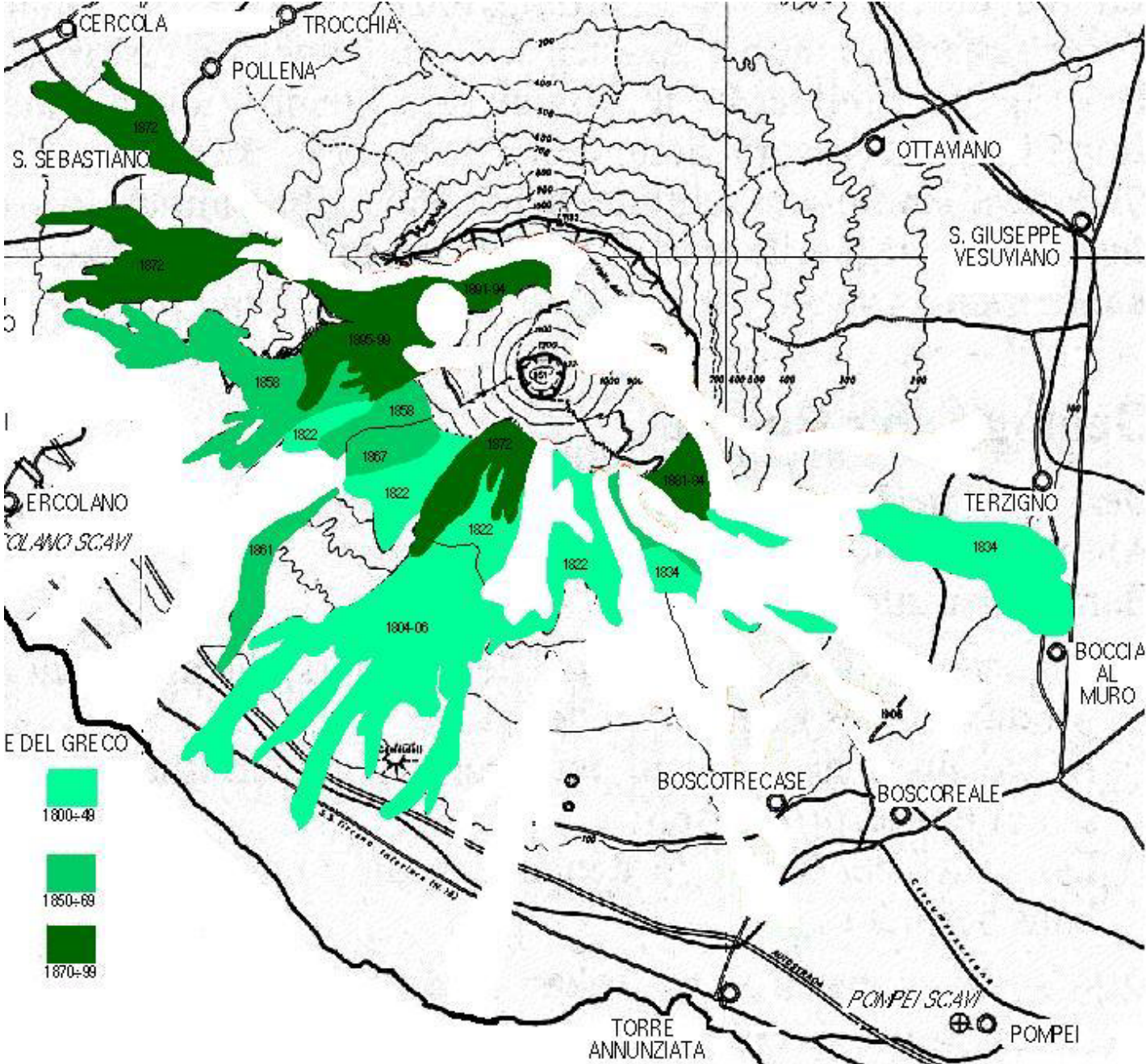
The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiescent condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.

Here are the 19th-Century lava flows which even now remain on the surface of this volcano's slopes, color-coded to differentiate between those that occurred in the 1st half of the century, those that occurred around the

VESUVIO

NAPLES

middle of the century, and those that occurred toward the end of the century:



Dr. Marion Sims began to use a bent spoon handle as a speculum, to inspect the interiors of the vaginas of his patients (this good man was in the process of re-inventing an instrument which already had been fully developed at the time of [Pompeii](#), the 1st Century CE).

December 1, Monday: At [Naples](#), the signing of a treaty between the United States of America and the monarch of kingdom of the Two Sicilies.

READ THE FULL TEXT

Documentation of the [international slave trade](#), per W.E. Burghardt Du Bois: “Report of the Secretary of the Navy.” –HOUSE DOCUMENT, 29 Cong. 1 sess. I. No. 2, p. 645.

1846

A top-hatted English gentleman was photographed at [Pompeii](#), with an again quiescent [Mount Vesuvius](#) in the background:



ITALY

1850

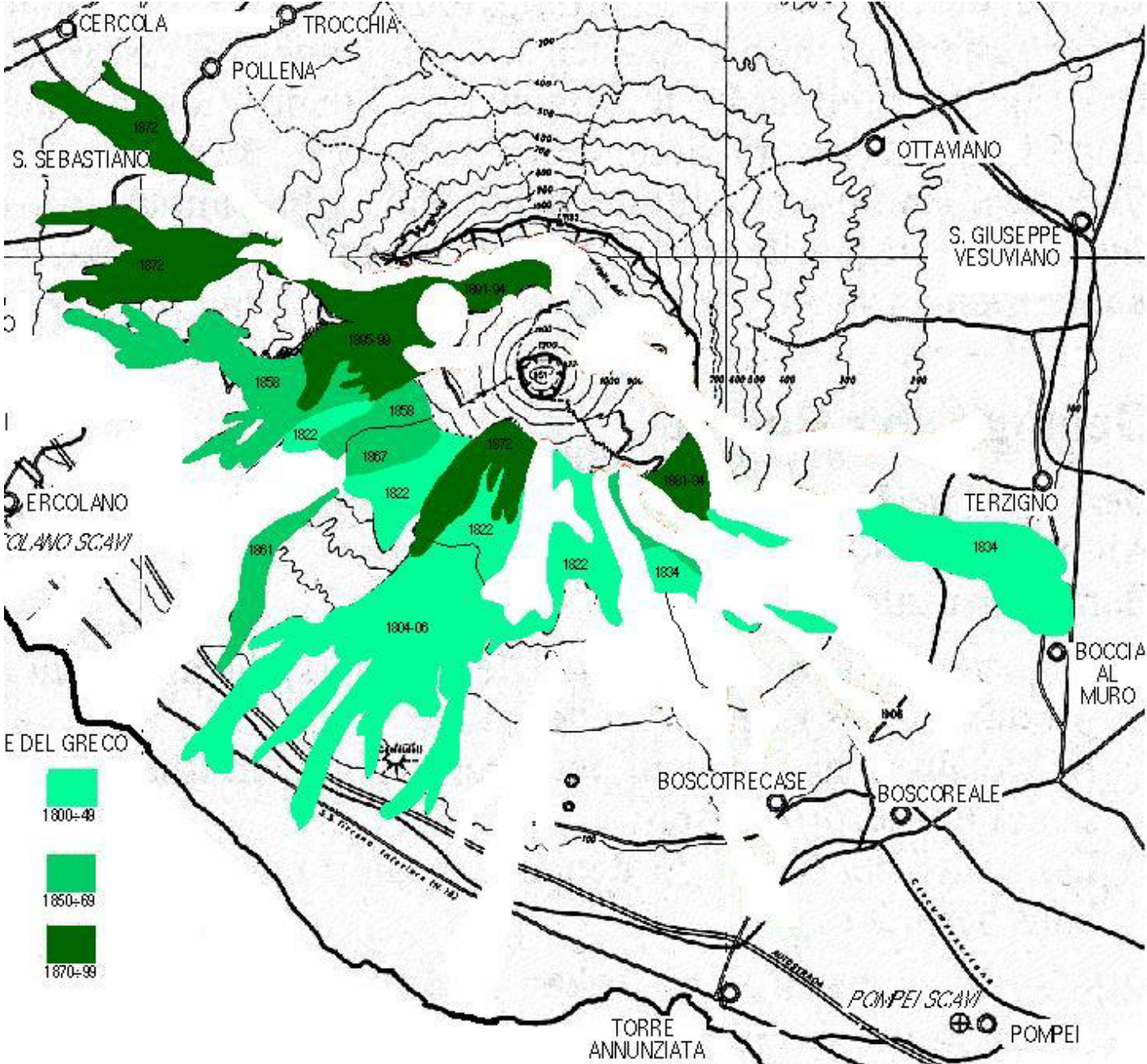
February 5-March 2: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.³²



Here are the 19th-Century lava flows which even now remain on the surface of this volcano's slopes, color-coded to differentiate between those that occurred in the 1st half of the century, those that occurred around the

32. "Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lava a SE verso Boscoreale (in parte sopra e accanto alla colata del 1834) lunga circa 9 km. Danni alle colture a Torre Annunziata ed Ottaviano. Forte attività esplosiva. Il cratere si innalza di diverse decine di metri."

middle of the century, and those that occurred toward the end of the century:



**1853**

After [Professor Louis Agassiz](#) savaged his assistant [Charles Frédéric Girard](#), the man had obtained a science job at the Smithsonian Institution, working for [Spencer Fullerton Baird](#). Professor Agassiz, outraged that any part of the scientific establishment would make any use of someone of whom he personally had blacklisted, continued relentlessly to pursue his former assistant:

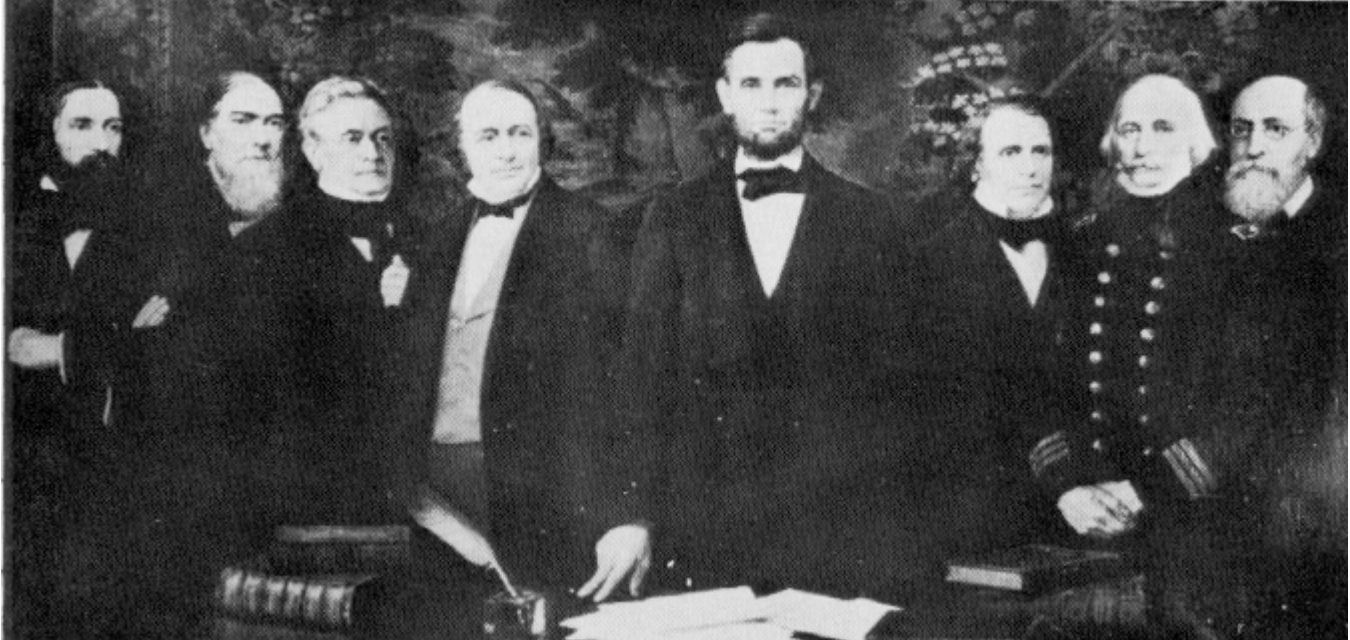
If you had been willing to listen to my advise [sic] before, you should have known that Girard, though capable of sustained work and endowed with considerable ability in distinguishing the peculiarities of animals, has no judgement, and is utterly unable to trace original researches without supervision. Moreover he is as obstinate as a mule, if contradicted, which makes it necessary that he should be led with a high hand and kept in an entirely subordinate position. Now this supervision of his work you have not made; you have not tested the value of the characters upon which he has based his generic and specific distinctions. I recognize his hand both in the style of the language used, and in the scientific character of the work. In the hurry of your many engagements you have entrusted to him a task to which he is not equal; and there goes forward from the Smithsonian Instit. a production which in quality is far inferior to what is done elsewhere, though by the quantity of the materials you had the means of surpassing every work of that kind.

[Girard](#) collected specimens in Maine, Massachusetts, and South Carolina. [Baird](#) created the CATALOG OF NORTH AMERICAN REPTILES with Girard's assistance. Robert Kennicott, Girard, and other young naturalists were urged to form an informal group, known as the "Megatheria."

It was in approximately this time period that [Professor Agassiz](#) of [Harvard College](#) began to organize the scientific pressure group of schemers and administrators he referred to as his "Lazzaroni."³³ The work of this group would continue behind the scenes until the creation, in the wee small hours of the 37th Congress, on March 3, 1863, after a decade of plotting and conspiring, of a new disciplinary "jury" (the professor's term) to be known as the National Academy of Sciences. Here they are depicted attempting to acquire respectability

33. The Lazzaroni of [Naples](#) are gangs of pickpockets and con artists who work the street crowds for what they can get. (One of them once tried to sell me a Rolex® for like \$40, while I was waiting for a boat at the docks, but I pointed out to the man that my wristwatch had an Indiglo® dial which his Rolex® lacked, that my wristwatch had a day-of-the-week indicator which was practically all I ever looked at on the dial which his Rolex® lacked, that my wristwatch had also cost me about \$40 on sale at K-Mart when it had been new a number of years before, and besides **the brand name of my wristwatch also ended in "-ex"!** I suggested to this gent "Nevertheless, I will be willing to trade you, even-Steven!" –Meanwhile, I was keeping my arm pressed firmly against my wad of cash in the side pocket of my pants under my comb and handkerchief, just in case he was working as a team.)

by rubbing against a respectable person (or maybe they're just trying to distract him and pick his pocket):



At some point during this year Professor [Agassiz](#) wrote from Cambridge to Henry Thoreau among others:

To: HDT
From: Louis Agassiz
Date: [1853]

{No MS — printed copy — Thoreau's copy of this form is at Widener Library}

DEAR SIR,—

Having been engaged for several years in the preparation of a Natural History of the Fishes of the United States, I wish, before beginning the printing of my work, to collect as extensive materials as possible, respecting the geographical distribution of these animals. It has occurred to me, that by means of a circular containing directions for collecting fishes I might obtain the information required. I should, indeed, like to secure separate collections of our fishes from every bay and inlet along the coast, and from every stream, river, creek, lake, and pond upon the mainland, throughout the whole country, and am satisfied that such collections would furnish invaluable information respecting the geographical distribution of our aquatic animals. I would thank you for any assistance and contribution you can furnish from your quarter of the country, and duly acknowledge it in my work; and since I extend my investigations to all the branches of Natural History, any specimens besides fishes, which may be obtained, would be equally acceptable, including geological specimens and fossil remains. In return I would propose exchanges of other specimens if desired, or reciprocate the favor in any other way in my power, and pay the expenses incurred in making collections for me. Specimens from foreign countries are also solicited, especially when their origin is satisfactorily ascertained. Any person into whose hands this circular may come, feeling inclined to correspond with me upon these subjects, is requested to address me under the following direc-



tion:—

L. AGASSIZ,
Professor of Zoology and Geology in the Lawrence Scientific School, at CAM-
BRIDGE, MASS.

[We may suppose that, in the above, in the original printing, the second “o” of the word Zoology would have had an umlaut over it.]

[include Directions?]

1855

Maggio 1-28: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years: “Effusiva — Bocche sul versante N tra 898 e 1068 m s.l.m. Colata a NW verso S. Sebastiano, Massa e le Novelle di S. Vito. Distruzione di case e danni alle colture.” During the course of the eruption, Charles Sainte-Claire Deville went into the caldera any number of times to collect gas samples.

1856

[Herman Melville](#)’s THE PIAZZA TALES included a slightly edited reprinting of [BARTLEBY, THE SCRIVENER: A STORY OF WALL STREET](#). In addition, this year Melville finished THE CONFIDENCE MAN: HIS MASQUERADE and in October began to journey abroad alone, for his health.³⁴ From Scotland he went to Liverpool where he attempted one last meeting with [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#) (whom he told he had “pretty much made up his mind to be annihilated”), and then sojourned on in Malta, Greece, [Egypt](#), Palestine, and [Italy](#). “Give me a condor’s quill! Give me [Vesuvius](#)’ crater for an inkstand!”

VOLCANISM

December 7, Sunday: The USS *Constellation* was in the bay of [Naples](#): “At 9 saluted the Neapolitan Flag with 21 guns, which was returned by the Fort. Saluted the Neapolitan Admiral with 15 guns, letting fall the Fore Topsail at the same time. The salute was returned by the Neapolitan Barque of War. The American Consul visited the ship.”

Thoreau referred to “the holes where men have dug for money.”



December 7, Sunday: ...As I enter on F. H. Pond I see already pickerel fishers retreating from it drawing a sled thro the Baker Farm — & see where they have been fishing, by the shining chips of ice about the holes — Others were here even yesterday — as it appears The pond must have been frozen by the 4th at

34. His father-in-law Lemuel Shaw loaned him \$1,500 for this journey, which would be the equivalent today of loaning someone \$150,000 without security so that they could go off on a world tour (in other words, this was not something that anyone in their right mind would contemplate doing without having some really good reason—even if they never tell anyone what their reason is—some reason such as “I need to get you the hell away from my daughter.”). You may consult a record of this journey in JOURNAL UP THE STRAITS, OCTOBER 1, 1856-MAY 5, 1857, which has been published in 1935.



least Some fisherman or other is ready with his reels & bait as soon as the ice will bear — whether it be saturday or sunday. Theirs too is a sort of devotion — though it be called hard names by the preacher, who perhaps could not endure the cold & wet any day. Perhaps he dines off their pickerel on Monday at the hotel — The ice appears to be but 3 or 4 inches thick.

That grand old poem called Winter is round again without any connivance of mine —

As I sit under Lees Cliff where the snow is melted — amid sere penny royal & frost-bitten catnep — I look over my shoulder upon an arctic scene. & I see with surprise the pond a dumb white surface of ice speckled with snow, just as so many winters before, — where so lately were lapsing waves or smooth I see the holes which the pickerel fisher has made — & I see him too retreating over the reflecting water. ^ It seemed as if hills drawing his sled behind him. The water is already skimmed over again there. I hear too the familiar belching voice of the pond. water had come without any interval since mid-summer & I was pre- pared to see it flit away by the time I again looked over my shoulder. It was as if I had dreamed it. But I see that the farmers have had time to gather their harvests as usual, and the seasons have revolved as slowly as in the first autumn of my life. The winters come now as fast as snow-flakes —

It is wonderful that old men do not lose their reckoning. It was summer — & now again it is winter. Nature loves this rhyme so well that she never tires of repeating it. So sweet & wholesome is the winter — so simple & moderate — so satisfactory & perfect that her children will never weary of it. What a poem! An epic, in blanc verse enriched with a million tinkling rhymes. It is solid beauty. It has been subjected to the vicissitudes of millions of years of the gods & not a single superfluous ornament remains — The severest & coldest of the immortal critics have shot their arrows at & pruned it till it cannot be amended.

The swamp white oak leaves are like the shrub oak in having 2 colors above & beneath. They are considerably curled so as to show their silvery lining though firm. Hardy & handsome with a fair silver winter lining.

Am pleased to see the holes where men have dug for money — since they remind me that some are dreaming still like children — though of impracticable things — dreaming of finding money — & trying to put their dream in practice. It proves that men live Arabian nights & days still. I would they should have even that kind of faith, than none at all. If any silly or abominable or superstitious practice ever prevailed among any savage race — just that may be repeated in the most civilized society today.

You will see full grown woods where the oak & pines or birches are separated by right lines — growing in squares or other rectilinear figures — because different lots were cut at different times.

1857

Mid-February through Mid-April: [Herman Melville](#) toured [Italy](#). He must have been feeling grand: “Give me a condor’s quill! Give me [Vesuvius](#)’ crater for an inkstand!”

VOLCANISM

1858

Sir Charles Lyell revisited Sicily, making observations upon the structure of Mount Etna that in the following year he would employ to refute the theory of “craters of elevation” that had been being upheld by Von Buch and Élie de Beaumont.



VOLCANISM

Spring: [Brownson's Quarterly Review](#), No. 9

CATHOLICISM

- I. *Conversations of our Club*
- II. *England and [Naples](#)*
- III. *Common Schools*
- IV. *The Church an Organism*
- V. *Literary Notices*

ORESTES AUGUSTUS BROWNSON

May 27: [Mount Vesuvius](#) began to erupt. It would be in a state of almost constant activity until April 10, 1861:
 “Effusiva — Bocche nell’Atrio. Apertura di 6 fenditure tra la base del Gran Cono e l’Atrio. La lava emessa dalla IV fenditura riempie il Fosso Grande e scende fin quasi a S. Vito (Ercolano). Ingrottamento delle lave nel Piano delle Ginestre.”



MOUNT VESUVIUS



VESUVIO

NAPLES



1859

December: An anonymous missive to Governor Henry A. Wise of Virginia, undated, presumably sometime during December:



Gov. Wise

Hon Sir

As Virginia has received from her Sister State Pennsylvania a peace offering flag, it is no more than fair that another sister should be presented in her peculiar way, please therefore accept the accompanying appropriate design.


The flag pictured here is the "New England Black Republican, Abolition Rule or Ruin, Disunion Flag" destined to take the place of the present Glorious Eagle, Stars & Stripes Flag of this Great Republic and that no mistake may occur as to the Emblems a description is added.

In lieu of the usual spear on the head of the flag & staff (which is in form of a cross) a Gallows with a John Brown embellishment is substituted. A wooden Ham & 32 wooden Nutmegs on a Blood red field take the place of the Eagle and stars. The ballance of the flag being black is quite suggestive of the general intention of the Party of which this is the Standard

The Republicans were being referred to as the Black Republicans, in order to indicate the general sense of the

country, that these were people who harbored an unsavory prejudice in favor of the unworthy, blacks and Irish:



The long autobiographical letter which John Brown had written on July 15, 1857  to George Luther Stearns was made available to [Waldo Emerson](#), who would use the allegations and much of their phrasing in

his speech of January 6, 1860  in Salem on the history of Brown's abolitionism.

AUTOBIOGRAPHY



According to Seymour Drescher's "[Servile Insurrection](#) and John Brown's Body in Europe":



The most famous and graphic European image to appear in the wake of the raid on Harper's Ferry was an engraving, entitled *John Brown*. Against a dark landscape and a dull, cloudy sky a small human figure hangs from a gallows. The body's features are almost completely blanketed in shadow. From the heavens alone come shafts of light, breaking through the dreary obscurity to fall upon the gallows and the figure. Beneath this bleak illustration initially appeared the words: "*Pro Christo-Sicut Christus, John Brown, - Charleston. Designed by Victor Hugo.*"

The engraving was the frontispiece to the most widely publicized commentary on John Brown to reach America from across the Atlantic. Victor Hugo's letter on John Brown, originally written in early December 1859, was reprinted in newspapers and pamphlets on both sides of the Atlantic and was viewed by American abolitionists as a document that "will be read by millions with thrilling emotions." In it, France's most famous contemporary writer declared in exclamatory prose that the whole civilized world (namely, England, France, and Germany) was witnessing with horror a travesty of justice - "not in Turkey, but in America!" "The champion of Christ ... slaughtered by the American Republic," "the assassination of Emancipation by Liberty," ... "something more terrible than Cain slaying Abel ... Washington slaying [Spartacus](#)!" Hugo had written the letter as an impassioned public plea to save Brown from execution. The engraving was appended to later publications of the letter to portray Brown as a crucified Christian martyr and slave emancipator, with the gibbet as his cross.

HDT

WHAT?

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VESUVIO

NAPLES





I don't know when he wrote this, but Bronson Alcott would write a "Sonnet XXIV, Addressed to John Brown, Harper's Ferry":

Bold Saint, thou firm believer in the Cross,
Again made glorious by self-sacrifice,—
Love's free atonement given without love's loss,—
That martyrdom to thee was lighter pain,
Since thus a race its liberties should gain;
Flash its sure consequence in Slavery's eyes
When, 'scaping sabre's clash and battle's smoke,
She felt the justice of thy master-stroke:
Peaceful prosperity around us lies,
Freedom with loyalty thy valor gave;
Whilst thou, no felon doomed, for gallows fit,
O Patriot true! O Christian meek and brave!
Throned in the martyrs' seat henceforth shalt sit;
Prophet of God! Messiah of the Slave!

I don't know when she wrote this, but [Louisa May Alcott](#) would write a poem "With a Rose, That Bloomed on the Day of John Brown's Martyrdom":

In the long silence of the night,
Nature's benignant power
Woke aspirations for the light
Within the folded flower.
Its presence and the gracious day
Made summer in the room.
But woman's eyes shed tender dew
On the little rose in bloom.

Then blossomed forth a grander flower,
In the wilderness of wrong.
Untouched by Slavery's bitter frost,
A soul devout and strong.
God-watched, that century plant arose,
Far shining through the gloom.
Filling a nation with the breath
Of a noble life in bloom.

A life so powerful in its truth,
A nature so complete;
It conquered ruler, judge and priest,
And held them at its feet.
Death seemed proud to take a soul
So beautifully given,
And the gallows only proved to him
A stepping-stone to heaven.

Each cheerful word, each valiant act,
So simple, so sublime,
Spoke to us through the reverent hush
Which sanctified that time.
That moment when the brave old man
Went so serenely forth
With footsteps whose unfaltering tread
Reëchoed through the North.

The sword he wielded for the right
Turns to a victor's palm;
His memory sounds forever more,
A spirit-stirring psalm.
No breath of shame can touch his shield,
Nor ages dim its shine;
Living, he made life beautiful,—
Dying, made death divine.

No monument of quarried stone,
 No eloquence of speech
 Can grave the lessons on the land
 His martyrdom will teach.
 No eulogy like his own words,
 With hero-spirit rife,
 "I truly serve the cause I love,
 By yielding up my life."

1860

At around this point in time, [Edwin Forrest](#) commissioned the Matthew Brady studio to depict him in his most popular roles. Portraits of Forrest attired for his roles as Macbeth and as [Spartacus](#) and as [Metamora](#) (the sachem [Metacom](#) of the [Wampanoag](#)) reveal how, in very different costumes, he presented one unchanging heroic image, an image which this bulky actor preserved even when attired for the street. He was the man's man, the John Wayne, of that era. When the actress Fanny Kemble saw him as Spartacus in "The Gladiator," she called Forrest "a mountain of a man!" He became famous not only for his outsized heroes but also for his accumulating wealth and his estate on the palisades of the Hudson River, and over the years the formula that had brought this success was never altered.³⁵



"What the American public always wants is a tragedy with a happy ending."

— William Dean Howells



Daniel Pierce Thompson (1795-1868)'s THE DOOMED CHIEF; OR, TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO, about "[King Phillip's War](#)", was published in Philadelphia.

35. Here Forrest is posed in the studio of Mathew B. Brady in costume as the tragic hero "[Metamora](#)" of the oft-staged play about Metacom designed for him by Concord's John Augustus Stone ([METAMORA: OR THE LAST OF THE WAMPANOAGS](#)). Brady used his impressive Imperial format, with a collodion negative that measures 20 x 17 inches uncropped, a format that needed to be prepared and exposed while still wet. This is a bitmapped image of a modern salted paper print from that original collodion negative, which is a gift of The Edwin Forrest Home in our National Portrait Gallery.



NAPLES

VESUVIO



"The People make their recollection fit in with their sufferings."

— Thucydides, HISTORY OF THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR



Use of the [guillotine](#) ceased in the Papal States near [Rome](#), and in the kingdoms of Piedmont and Bourbon [Naples](#). (You don't suppose, do you, that they might have come, after due reflection, to think of this sort of activity as somewhat inconsistent with the spirit of Jesus Christ?)

HEADCHOPPING

[Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) and C. di Cavour: Final battles for [Italian](#) unification; Garibaldi took southern [Italy](#); most of Italy was unified; an Italian parliament met in Turin. Although [Giuseppe Mazzini](#) was not involved in this expedition to [Sicily](#), he had plotted out how such an operation could be performed. While Garibaldi was dictator of Southern [Italy](#), he visited Mazzini in [Naples](#).

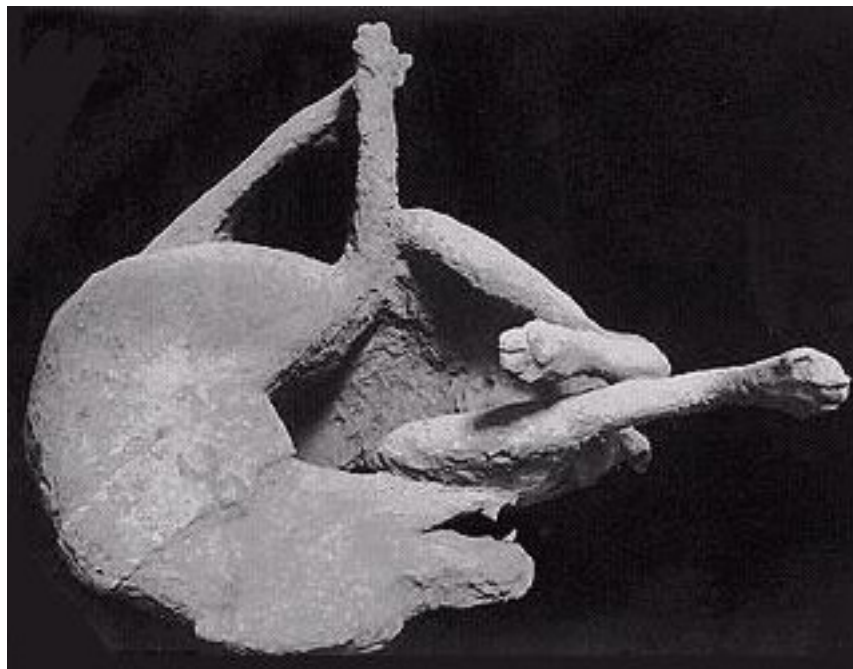
Savoy and Nice were ceded to France. Tuscany, Modena, Parma, most of the States of the Church, and [Naples](#) were joined to Sardinia.

At about this point [Richard Hildreth](#) prepared a biographical sketch of his father the Reverend [Hosea Hildreth](#), for ANNALS OF THE AMERICAN PULPIT. The [tuberculosis](#) had progressed to the point at which he was unable any longer to put pen to paper. Hoping that a warmer climate would again restore him, as it had helped so much in the past on the [slave](#) plantation in Florida and then in British Guiana, his wife [Caroline Gould Negus Hildreth](#) enlisted the aid of US Senator Charles Sumner and the Massachusetts Governor to get her husband appointed as consul to Trieste (more or less an honorary position). William Dean Howells, visiting him in [Italy](#), would report that his friend had been reduced to "a phantom of himself, but with a scholarly serenity and dignity amidst the ruin."

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Giuseppe Fiorelli (1823-1896) became director of the excavations at [Pompeii](#). He realized that a corpse would have left its bones lying on the floor of a shaped void in the layer of quickly solidified tuff. By pouring liquid plaster-of-Paris into any void as it is discovered, one might be able to produce a cast of the victim perhaps even including evidence of his or her items of clothing. The primary distortion in these remains would be caused by the fact that as flexor muscles cooked they would have tightened, slightly altering the positions of the extremities.





May 6: The Olympic Club, 1st athletic club in US, was founded.

About a thousand poorly armed men under [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) boarded two steamers in Genoa and sailed for Sicily.

A declaration appeared in the [Berliner Musik-Zeitung Echo](#) signed by [Johannes Brahms](#), Joseph Joachim, Julius Otto Grimm, and Bernhard Scholz attacking Wagner's ideals and the "Music of the Future." It offered, in part, "The undersigned ... declare ... that they can only lament and condemn the productions of the leaders and pupils of the so-called New German School ... which necessitate the constant setting up of new and exorbitant theories which were contrary to the very nature of music" (their declaration has been leaked, and already was being parodied in the [Neue Zeitschrift für Musik](#)).

Die Pariserin op.238, a polka française by Johann Strauss, was performed for the initial time, in Ungers Casino.

"There is so fine a ripple on White Pond that it amounts to a mere imbrication, very regular."



May 6. River three and one fourth inches below summer level. Why is it only three eighteenths of an inch lower than last Sunday (April 29)? For we are in the midst of a remarkable drought, and I think that if there had been any rain within a week near the sources of the river I should have heard of it. Is it that these innumerable sources of the river which the springs in the meadows are, are able to keep up the supply? The river had been falling steadily a good while before. Why, then, has it not fallen more the past week? The dog's-tooth violet was sent from Cambridge in flower, May 1st.

2 P. M.—To Second Division.

74°; wind southeast; and hazy.

A goldfinch apparently not quite in summer dress; with a dark-brown, not black, front.

See a song sparrow's nest with four eggs in the side of a bank, or rather ditch. I commonly find the earliest ones in such sheltered and concealed places. What did they do before the white man came here with his ditches and stone walls? (Methinks by the 13th I hear the baywing sing the oftenest.)

As I go down the warm sandy path in the gully behind J. P. Brown's, I see quite a number of *Viola pedata*, indigo-weed shoots six inches high, a prenanthes leaf eight inches high, and two-leaved Solomon's-seal pushing up,—all signs of warm weather. As the leaves are putting forth on the trees, so now a great many herbaceous plants are springing up in the woods and fields.

There is a peculiar stillness associated with the warmth, which the cackling of a hen only serves to deepen, increasing the Sabbath feeling.

In the Major Heywood path see many rather small (or middle-sized) blackish butterflies. The *Luzula campestris* is apparently in prime.

Oryzopsis grass well out, how long?

Now at last we seek the shade these days, as the most grateful. Sit under the pines near the stone guide-post on the Marlborough road. The note of the pine warbler, which sounded so warm in March, sounds equally cool now.

The Second Division rush is not yet out. It is the greatest growth of what you may call the grass kind as yet, the reddish tops, say sixteen inches high (above the now green), trembling in the wind very agreeably. The dark beds of the white ranunculus in the Second Division Brook are very interesting, the whitish stems seen amid and behind the dark-brown old leaves.

The white-throated sparrow, and probably the 28th of April. The large osmunda ferns, say one foot high, some of them; also a little brake one foot high. Hear probably a yellow-throated vireo in the woods. A creeper (black and white) yesterday.

Sit on the steep north bank of White Pond. The *Amelanchier Botryapium* in flower now spots the brown sprout-land hillside on the southeast side, across the pond, very interestingly. Though it makes but a faint impression of color, I see its pink distinctly a quarter of a mile off. It is seen now in sprout-lands half a dozen years old, where the oak leaves have just about all fallen except a few white oaks. (It is in prime about the 8th.) Others are seen directly under the bank on which we sit, on this side, very white against the blue water.

Many at this distance would not notice those shadbush flowers on the hillside, or [would] mistake them for whitish rocks. They are the more interesting for coming thus between the fall of the oak leaves and the expanding of other shrubs and trees. Some of the larger, near at hand, are very light and elegant masses of white bloom. The white-fingered flower of the sprout-lands. In sprout-lands, having probably the start or preëminence



over the other sprouts, from not being commonly, or [at] all, cut down with the other trees and shrubs, they are as high or higher than any of them for five or six years, and they are so early that they feel almost the full influence of the sun, even amid full-grown deciduous trees which have not leafed, while they are considerably sheltered from the wind by them.

There is so fine a ripple on White Pond that it amounts to a mere imbrication, very regular.



The song of the robin heard at 4.30 P. M., this still and hazy day, sounds already vespertinal. Maple keys an inch and a half long.

Mists these mornings.

Our second shad-bush out, how long? It is generally just beginning in the woods.

My chamber is oppressively warm in the evening.

May 11: [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#)'s makeshift army landed at the westernmost point of Sicily, Marsala.



May 11. The river no lower than yesterday.

Warbling vireo.

2 P. M.—77°. Very warm. To factory village.

Redstart. Red-wings do not fly in flocks for ten days past, I think.

I see at Damon's Spring some dandelion seeds all blown away, and other perfectly ripe spheres (much more at Clamshell the 13th). It is ripe, then, several days, or say just before elm seed, but the mouse-ear not on the 13th anywhere.

The senecio shows its yellow.

The warmth makes us notice the shade of houses and trees (even before the last have leafed) falling on the greened banks, as Harrington's elm and house. June-like.

See some large black birch stumps all covered with pink scum from the sap.

The *Ranunculus abortivus* well out; say five days? Red cherry in bloom, how long? Yellow violet, almost; say to-morrow.

William Brown's nursery is now white (fine white) with the shepherd's-purse, some twelve to eighteen inches high, covering it under his small trees, like buckwheat, though not nearly so white as that. I never saw so much. It also has green pods. Say it is in prime.

E. Hosmer, as a proof that the river has been lower than now, says that his father, who was born about the middle of the last century, used to tell of a time, when he was a boy, when the river just below Derby's Bridge did not run, and he could cross it dry-shod on the rocks, the water standing in pools when Conant's mill (where the factory now is) was not running. I noticed the place to-day, and, low as the river is for the season, it must be at least a foot and a half deep there.

May 15: [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#)'s army defeated Neapolitan royalist forces at Calatafimi, which would allow them to advance on Palermo, 50 kilometers to the northeast.



May 15. P. M.—To sedge path and Cliffs.

Yesterday afternoon and to-day the east wind has been quite cool, if not cold, but the haze thicker than ever. Too cool, evidently, and windy for warblers, except in sheltered places; too cool in tops of high exposed trees.

The *Carex stricta* and *C. vulgaris* both are common just beyond the English brook cress, and many of both are still in bloom.

I noticed on the 13th my middle-sized orange butterfly with blackish spots.

Noticed on the 6th the largest shrub oak that I know in the road by White Pond, just before getting to the lane.

The *Salix humilis* is going to seed as early as the discolor, for aught I see; now downy.

Oaks are just coming into the gray.

Deciduous woods now swarm with migrating warblers, especially about swamps.



Did I not hear part of a grosbeak's strain?
Lousewort flower some time, and frost-bitten.
Under the Cliffs, edge of Gerardia quercifolia Path, the C. varia, gone to seed (vide press), and, on top of Cliffs near staghorn sumach, C. Pennsylvanica, gone to seed and ten or more inches high, also still apparently in bloom (vide press).
Looking from the Cliffs through the haze, the deciduous trees are a mist of leafets, against which the pines are already darkened. At this season there is thus a mist in the air and a mist on the earth.
Rye is a foot or more high, and some [?] two feet,— the early. The springing sorrel, the expanding leafets, the already waving rye tell of June.
Sun goes down red, and did last night. A hot day does not succeed, but the very dry weather continues. It is shorn of its beams in the mist-like haze.
Ranunculus bulbosus begins in churchyard to-day.

May 27: [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#)'s army entered Palermo.

Kibrisli Mehmed Pasha replaced Mütercim Mehmed Rüstü Pasha as Grand Vizier of the Ottoman Empire.

In a letter to her sister Anna "Meg" Alcott Pratt, [Louisa May Alcott](#) described the family's reception for the Browns:

Thursday we set our house [Orchard House] in order, and at two the rush began. It had gone abroad that Mr. M [the Reverend Samuel Joseph May] and Mrs. Captain Brown [Mary Ann Day Brown] were to adorn the scene, so many people coolly came who were not invited, and who had no business there. People sewed and jabbered till Mrs. Brown, with Watson Brown's widow [Isabella Thompson Brown] and baby came; then a levee took place. The two pale women sat silent and serene through the chatter; and the bright-eyed handsome baby received the homage of the multitude like a little kind, bearing the kisses and praises with the utmost dignity. He is named Frederick Watson Brown, after his murdered uncle and father [Frederick Brown was killed in 1856 in "Bleeding Kansas", Watson Brown at Harpers Ferry], and is a fair, heroic looking baby with a fine head, and serious eyes that look about him as if saying, "I am a Brown! Are these friends or enemies?" I wanted to cry once at the little scene the unconscious baby made. Some one caught and kissed him rudely; he didn't cry, but looked troubled, and rolled his great eyes anxiously around for some familiar face to reassure him with its smile. His mother was not there; but though many hands were stretched to him, he turned to Grandma Bridge, and putting out his little arms to her as if she was a refuge, laughed and crowed as he had not done before when she danced him on her knee. The old lady looked delighted, and Freddy patted the kind face, and cooed like a lawful descendant of that pair of ancient turtle doves.

When he was safe back in the study, playing alone at his mother's feet, C. and I went and worshipped in our own way at the shrine of John Brown's grandson, kissing him as if he were a little saint, and feeling highly honored when he sucked our fingers, or walked on us with his honest little red shoes, much the worse for wear.

Well, the baby fascinated me so that I forgot a raging headache and forty gabbling women all in full clack. Mrs. Brown, Sen., is a tall stout woman, plain but with a strong, good face, and a natural dignity that showed she was something better than a





"lady" though she did drink out of her saucer and used the plainest speech.

The younger woman [Isabella Thompson Brown] had such a patient, heart-broken face, it was a whole Harpers Ferry tragedy in a look. When we got your letter, Mother [Abba Alcott] and I ran into the study to read it. Mother read aloud, for there were only C, A, I and Mrs. Brown Jr. in the room. As she read the words that were a poem in their simplicity and happiness, the poor young widow sat with tears rolling down her face; for I suppose it brought back her own wedding-day, not two years ago, and all the while she cried the baby laughed and crowed at her feet as if there was no trouble in the world.

The preparations had been made for twenty at the utmost; so when forty souls with the usual complement of bodies appeared, we grew desperate, and our neat little supper turned out a regular "tea fight". A., C, B, and I rushed like comets to and fro trying to fill the multitude that would eat fast and drink like sponges. I filled a big plate with all I could lay hands on, and with two cups of tea, strong enough for a dozen, charged upon Mr. E [[Waldo Emerson](#)] and Uncle S [the Reverend Samuel Joseph May] telling them to eat, drink, and be merry, for a famine was at hand. They cuddled into a corner and, feeling that my mission was accomplished, I let the hungry wait and the thirsty moan for tea while I picked out and helped the regularly Antislavery set.

We got through it but it was an awful hour; and Mother wandered in her mind, utterly lost in a grove of teapots, while B. pervaded the neighborhood demanding hot water, and we girls sowed cake broadcast through the land.

When the plates were empty and the teapots dry, people wiped their mouths and confessed at last that they had done. A conversation followed, in which Grandpa B. and EPP [Elizabeth Palmer Peabody] held forth, and Uncle and Father [[Bronson Alcott](#)] mildly upset the world, and made a new one in which every one desired to take a place. Dr. Bartlett [[Dr. Josiah Bartlett](#)], Mr. B., Thoreau [Henry David Thoreau], etc, appeared and the rattle continued till nine, when some Solomon suggested that the Alcotts must be tired, and everyone departed by C. and S. We had a polka by Mother and Uncle, the lancers by C. and B. and an etude by S., after which scrabblings of feast appeared and we drained the dregs of every cup, all cakes and pies we gobbled up, etc., then peace fell upon us, and our remains were interred decently.

THE ALCOTT FAMILY



May 27. Fire in house again.

The *Sylvia striata* are the commonest bird in the street, as I go to the post-office, for several days past. I see six (four males, two females) on one of our little fir trees; are apparently as many more on another close by. The white bars on the wings of both sexes are almost horizontal. I see them thus early and late on the trees about our houses and other houses the 27th and 28th and 29th also,—peach trees, etc., but especially on the firs. They are quite tame. I stand within seven or eight feet while they are busily pecking at the freshly bursting or extending glaucous fir twigs, deliberately examining them on all sides, and from time to time one utters a very fine and sharp, but faint tse tse, tse tse, tse tse, with more or less of these notes. I hear the same in the woods. Examining the freshly starting fir twigs, I find that there are a great many lice or aphides amid the still appressed leaflets or leaves of the buds, and no doubt they are after these. Occasionally a summer yellowbird is in company with them, about the same business. They, the black-polls, are very numerous all over the town this spring. The



female has not a black, but rather, methinks, a slate-colored crown, and is a very different bird,—more of a yellowish brown.

Eleocharis acicularis, not long, on the low exposed bank of the river; if [?] it is that that greens the very low muddy banks.

J. Farmer found a marsh hawk's nest on the 16th,—near the Cooper's hawk nest,—with three fresh eggs.

July 20: Garibaldist forces defeated the Neapolitans at Milazzo, 25 kilometers west of Messina.



July 20, Friday: 2 P.M.—To Walden.

Warm weather,—86 at 2 P.M. (not so warm for a good while).

Emerson's lot that was burnt, between the railroad and the pond, has been cut off within the last three months, and I notice that the oak sprouts have commonly met with a check after growing one or two feet, and small reddish leaflets have again put forth at the extremity within a week or so, as in the spring. Some of the oak sprouts are five to six feet high already.

On his hill near by, where the wood was cut about two years ago, this second growth of the oaks, especially white oaks, is much more obvious, and commenced longer ago. The shoots of this year are generally about two feet long, but the first foot consists of large dark-green leaves which expanded early, before the shoot met with a check. This is surmounted by another foot of smaller yellowish-green leaves. This is very generally the case, and produces a marked contrast. Dark-green bushes surmounted by a light or yellowish-green growth.

Sometimes, in the first-mentioned sprout-land, you see where the first shoot withered, as if frost-bitten at the end, and often only some large buds have formed there as yet. Many of these sprouts, the rankest of them, are fated to fall, being but slightly joined to the stump, riddled by ants there; and others are already prostrated.

Bathing on the side of the deep cove, I noticed just below the high-water line (of rubbish) quite a number of little pines which have just sprung up amid the stones and sand and wreck, some with the seed atop. This, then, is the state of their coming up naturally. They have evidently been either washed up, or have blown across the ice or snow to this shore. If pitch pine, they were probably blown across the pond, for I have often seen them on their way across.

Both *Seirpus subterminalis* and *debilis* are now in bloom at the Pout's Nest, the former the longest time, the water being very low and separated from the pond. The former out for some time, the latter not long.

Great numbers of pollywogs have apparently just changed into frogs. At the pondlet on Hubbard's land, now separated from the main pond by a stony bar, hundreds of small frogs are out on the shore, enjoying their new state of existence, masses of them, which, with constant plashing, go hopping into the water a rod or more before me, where they are very swift to conceal themselves in the mud at the bottom. Their bodies may be one and a half inches long or more. I have rarely seen so many frogs together. Yet I hardly see one pollywog left in this pool.

Yet at the shore against Pout's Nest I see many pollywogs, and some, with hind legs well grown beside their tails, lie up close to the shore on the sand with their heads out like frogs, apparently already breathing air before losing their tails. They squat and cower there as I come by, just like frogs.

August 8, Wednesday: During this night, 200 members of [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#)'s forces would make a crossing from Faro on Sicily to Altifiumara on the Italian mainland.

In regard to the visit and speech by fugitive editor Sherman M. Booth, the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Sentinel offered a brief editorial:

This is a base libel upon the people of Ripon. There is not, in all Wisconsin, a more intelligent, moral, and orderly population than in Ripon. That a large majority of the electors of the town are zealous Republicans is very true; but that fact furnishes no excuse for the partisan slanders of the News and its correspondent.

Quoting the News, the Waupun, Wisconsin Times printed:

In the following style talks the News of what Marshal Lewis done [*sic*] and how he acted after Booth had left Salsman's: "Booth had gone, and the Marshal stood looking at the hole which he was



seen last to pass through, in a state of delicious uncertainty as to the Martyr's whereabouts, and what to do regarding it. As a dernier resort, however, he stationed three or four small boys around the house to watch it, while he went to consult his political confreres and order out the military. Previous to this, Salsman had announced that Booth would speak from the steps of that building at four o'clock; but he couldn't fool the officers with such stuff as that. — As he departed an anxious spectator inquired of Jehu [U.S. Marshal Jehu H. Lewis] what course he was going to pursue, when he feelingly replied with a deep drawn sigh: "I'll be d----d if I know what to do," and we are fully convinced that he didn't.



August 8, Wednesday: 8.30 A. M. Walk round the west side of the summit. Bathe in the rocky pool there, collect mountain cranberries on the northwest side, return over the summit, and take the bearings of the different spurs, etc. Return to camp at noon. Toward night, walk to east edge of the plateau.

August 18, Saturday: During this night, [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) and 3,400 of his troops would make a crossing from Giardini in Sicily to Melito on the Italian mainland.

The [Chinese Christian Army](#) besieged Songjiang. Despite the fact that the area outside the city's walls comprised the bulk of the [Chinese](#) city, to frustrate the invading Christians the foreign devils in charge of the defense put everything outside those walls to the torch. (The defense of what remained of this city would persist for some time, and then the Christians would desist and march upon Hangchow.)



August 18, Saturday: The note of the wood pewee sounds prominent of late.

August 20, Monday: British and French land and naval forces pushed back the Taiping rebels at Shanghai.

During this night, 1,500 of [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#)'s men crossed in rowboats from Faro in Sicily to Favazzina on the Italian mainland.

Henry Thoreau surveyed, for [Nathaniel Hawthorne](#), his estate on Lexington Road known as "The Wayside." [Julian Hawthorne](#), then 14 years of age, watched him, and on three occasions in his later life he would write about his having watched Thoreau during this survey. This survey shows two pieces of land and measures about 20 acres in all. Thoreau made a note that there was a hedge of osage orange.



View Henry Thoreau's personal working drafts of his surveys courtesy of AT&T and the Concord Free Public Library:

http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_Surveys/Thoreau_Surveys.htm

(The official copy of this survey of course had become the property of the person or persons who had hired this Concord town surveyor to do their surveying work during the 19th Century. Such materials have yet to be recovered.)

View this particular personal working draft of a survey in fine detail:

http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_Surveys/51a.htm

[THOREAU MADE NO ENTRY IN HIS JOURNAL FOR AUGUST 20]



On three successive confabulations in later life, [Julian Hawthorne](#) would report about his having watched Thoreau survey on this day. We can see how utterly fabulistic these progressive confabulations were, by noticing that Julian backdates a survey made on August 20, 1860, after his return to Concord from Liverpool when he was at the age of 16 and about to enter Harvard College as a student of civil engineering, to the year 1852, while he was at the tender age of 8, prior to his sailing for Liverpool:

Pasadena Star-News, December 12, 1923: "My first distinct recollection of him was when he surveyed our little estate at Concord, some twenty acres of hill, meadow and woodland. I saw the rather undersized, queer man coming along the road with his long steps carrying on his shoulder a queer instrument and looking very serious. I got down from the mulberry tree in which I was perched and watched his doing in silent absorption. Wherever he went I followed; neither of us spoke a word from first to last. Up the terraces with their apple trees, over the brow of the hill, into the wood and out again, down into the meadow to the brook, and so back to the house again. Finally my father came out and they talked a little, and my father paid him ten dollars, and Thoreau strode away, after remarking, with a glance at me, 'That boy has more eyes than tongue.'"³⁶

Dearborn Independent, August 20, 1927: "'Good boy! sharp eyes, and no tongue!' On that basis I was admitted to his friendship."

THE MEMOIRS OF JULIAN HAWTHORNE (as reprocessed by his widow Edith Garrigues Hawthorne for Macmillan in 1938): "Once, when I was nearly seven years old, Thoreau came to the Wayside to make a survey of our land, bringing his surveying apparatus on his shoulder. I watched the short, dark, unbeautiful man with interest and followed him about, all over the place, never losing sight of a movement and never asking a question or uttering a word. The thing must have lasted a couple of hours; when we got back, Thoreau remarked to my father: 'Good boy! Sharp eyes, and no tongue!' On that basis I was admitted to his friendship; a friendship or comradeship which began in 1852 and was to last until his death in 1862."³⁷

In our walks about the country, Thoreau saw everything, and would indicate the invisible to me with a silent nod of the head. The brook that skirted the foot of our meadow was another treasure-house which he discovered to me, though he was too shy to companion me there; when he had given me a glimpse of Nature in her privacy, he left me alone with her ... on a hot August day, I would often sit, hidden from the world, thinking boy thoughts.

I learned how to snare chub, and even pickerel, with a loop made of a long-stemmed grass; dragon-flies poised like humming-birds, and insects skated zigzag on the surface, casting odd shadows on the bottom.... Yes, Thoreau showed me things, and though it didn't aid me in the Harvard curriculum,³⁸ it helped me through

36. It is extremely unlikely that Thoreau actually said anything at all like "That boy has more eyes than tongue," because although one might imagine such a comment being made about one or another tongue-tied 8-year-old, it is not the sort of remark that anyone would ever make about any teener — no matter how sullen and comatose.

37. Actually we do not know of a single other occasion on which Julian came within eyesight of Thoreau.

38. Julian became a student of civil engineering, but the college asked him to leave and there would be no diploma.



life.

Truly, Nature absorbed his attention, but I don't think he cared much for what is called the beauties of nature; it was her way of working, her mystery, her economy in extravagance; he delighted to trace her footsteps toward their source.... He liked to feel that the pursuit was endless, with mystery at both ends of it....

September 6: 5,000 Bavarians, constituting the Royal Neapolitan Army, fled from [Naples](#) before an [Italian](#) army of about a tenth their size led by [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#).

Friedrich Wilhelm replaced Georg Wilhelm as Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Strelitz.

At about this point Henry Thoreau was being written to by Charles P. Ricker in Lowell, Massachusetts.

*Lowell, Sept. [6.] '60
Mr. H. D. Thoreau:
Yours of the 31st [] is received. We shall expect you to address our people next Sabbath. Arriving at Lowell, you will find me at No 21 Central Street, or at residence No. 123 East Merrimack Street, or you can take a [coach] direct to Mr. Owen's, No 52 East Merrimack Street, who will be in readiness to entertain you, and with whom you will find a pleasant home during your stay among us[.]
Hoping to see you soon I remain
Yours Respectfully
Charles P. Ricker*



September 6, Thursday: The willows and button-bushes have very rapidly yellowed since I noticed them August 22d. I think it was the 25th of August that I found the lower or older leaves of the willow twigs decidedly and rapidly yellowing and decaying on a near inspection. Now the change is conspicuous at a distance.

NAPLES

VESUVIO

September 7, Friday: Anna Mary “Grandma Moses” Robertson was born. (At the age of 92 she would publish an autobiography, *My Life’s History*.)

Only a few hours after King Francesco II fled to Gaeta, [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#)’s forces entered [Naples](#):



Garibaldi’s government would begin to allow people to view the pornographic images excavated at [Pompeii](#). (The Savoy kings, and, in a later timeframe, [Benito Mussolini](#)’s government, would suppress such embarrassing images from the time of the [Roman](#) empire.)

On a Friday, two days before Henry Thoreau was scheduled to deliver Sunday lectures at Welles Hall in



Lowell, Massachusetts, the Lowell Weekly Journal ran this article:

HENRY D. THOREAU, one of the most original and radical thinkers and free-speakers that we know anything about, is expected to lecture at Welles Hall next Sunday, September 9th. Mr. Thoreau is the author of several volumes of some note, and is an attractive contributor to the Atlantic Monthly. One of his books relates his experience, while living one year solitary and alone, on the shores of Walden Pond, a body of water lying in the towns of Concord and Lincoln. During the period named, he proved to his own satisfaction that a man could live and have all the real necessities of life, for \$15 a-year. The volume is an entertaining one, and no contributor to the Atlantic writes more interestingly. We shall expect to hear something original at least in the two lectures he will read next Sunday before our Spiritualistic friends. We do not know [sic], however, that Thoreau is a Spiritualist; rather think he is not; but, the believers in that doctrine said that they did not employ Mr. Emerson to come here and talk their ideas and beliefs, but his own. The same, we suppose, is the condition on which Mr. Thoreau lectures to them. [page 2, column 6]



September 7, Friday: P.M.—To Cardinal Shore.

I see many seedling shrub oaks springing up in Potter's field by the swamp-side, some (of last year) in the open pasture, but many more in the birch wood half a dozen rods west from the shrub oaks by the path. The former were dropped by the way. They plant in birch woods as in pines. This small birch wood has been a retreat for squirrels and birds. When I examine the little oaks in the open land there is always an effete acorn with them. Common rose hips as handsome as ever.

October 1, Monday: Bedrich Smetana reopened his music institute in Göteborg.

Giuseppe Garibaldi's forces defeated the royal army of Naples at the Volturno.

In Syracuse, New York, the 9th annual "Jerry Celebration" sponsored by the Unitarian congregation of the Reverend Samuel Joseph May, honoring the freeing of Jerry McHenry from the federal marshals who had been seeking to "return" him to his "owner" on October 1, 1851.

Henry Thoreau sketched, for Mr. Rhodes representing the Town of Concord, the boundaries of the eight towns in Concord area (Concord, Carlisle, Lincoln, Boxborough, Acton, Littleton MA, Stow, and Bedford, totaling 127.49 square miles).



View [Henry Thoreau](#)'s personal working drafts of his surveys courtesy of AT&T and the Concord Free Public Library:

http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_Surveys/Thoreau_Surveys.htm

(The official copy of this survey of course had become the property of the person or persons who had hired this Concord town surveyor to do their surveying work during the 19th Century. Such materials have yet to be recovered.)

View this particular personal working draft of a survey in fine detail:

http://www.concordlibrary.org/scollect/Thoreau_Surveys/23.htm



October 1: Remarkable frost and ice this morning; quite a wintry prospect. The leaves of trees stiff and white at 7 A. M. I hear it was 21° this morning early. I do not remember such cold at this season. This is about the full of the moon (it full at 9 P.M. the 29th) in clear, bright moonlight nights. We have fine and bright but cold days after it. One man tells me that he regretted that he had not taken his mittens with him when he went to his morning's work,—mowing in a meadow,—and when he went to a spring at 11 A. M., found the dipper with two inches of ice in it frozen solid.

P.M.—Rain again.

Button-bush balls were fairly reddened yesterday, and the *Andropogon scoparius* looked silvery in sun. Gossamer was pretty thick on the meadows, and noticed the round green leafy buds of the *utricularia* in the clear, cold, smooth v water. Water was prepared for ice, and C. saw the first *Vanessa Antiopa* since spring.

October 26: [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) met King Vittorio Emanuele of Sardinia at Teano, north of [Naples](#), and proclaimed him to be King of [Italy](#).

Franz Liszt was granted the freedom of the city of Weimar.



October 26. P.M.—To Baker's old chestnut lot near Flint's Pond.

As I go through what was formerly the dense pitch pine lot on Thrush Alley (G. Hubbard's), I observe that the present growth is scrub oak, birch, oaks of various kinds, white pines, pitch pines, willows, and poplars. Apparently, the birch, oaks, and pitch pines are the oldest of the trees. From the number of small white pines in the neighboring pitch pine wood, I should have expected to find larger and also more white pines here. It will finally become a mixed wood of oak and white and pitch pine. There is much *cladonia* in the lot.

Observed yesterday that the row of white pines set along the fence on the west side of Sleepy Hollow had grown very fast, apparently from about the time they were set out, or the last three years. Several had made about seven feet within the three years. Do they not grow the fastest at just this age, or after they get to be about five feet high?

I see to-day sprouts from chestnut stumps which are two and a half feet in diameter (i. e. the stumps). One of these large stumps is cut quite low and hollowing, so as to hold water as well as leaves, and the leaves prevent the water from drying up. It is evident that in such a case the stump rots sooner than if high and roof-like.

I remember that there were a great many hickories with R. W. E.'s pitch pines when I lived there, but now there are but few comparatively, and they appear to have died down several times and come up again from the root. I suppose it is mainly on account of frosts, though perhaps the fires have done part of it. Are not hickories most commonly found on hills? There are a few hickories in the open land which I once cultivated there, and these may have been planted there by birds or squirrels. It must be more than thirty-five years since there was wood there.

I find little white pines under the pitch pines (of E.), near the pond end, and few or no little pitch pines, but between here and the road about as many of one as of the other, but the old pines are much less dense that way, or not dense at all.

This is the season of the fall when the leaves are whirled through the air like flocks of birds, the season of birch spangles, when you see afar a few clear-yellow leaves left on the tops of the birches.

It was a mistake for Britton to treat that Fox Hollow lot as he did. I remember a large old pine and chestnut wood there some twenty years ago. He came and cut it off and burned it over, and ever since it has been good for

nothing. I mean that acre at the bottom of the hollow. It is now one of those frosty hollows so common in Walden Woods, where little grows, sheep's fescue grass, sweet-fern, hazelnut bushes, and oak scrubs whose dead tops are two or three feet high, while the still living shoots are not more than half as high at their base. They have lingered so long and died down annually. At length I see a few birches and pines creeping into it, which at this rate in the course of a dozen years more will *suggest* a forest there. Was this wise?

Examined the stumps in the Baker chestnut lot which was cut when I surveyed it in the spring of '52. They were when cut commonly from fifty to sixty years old (some older, some younger). The sprouts from them are from three to six inches thick, and may average—the largest—four inches, and eighteen feet high. The wood is perhaps near half oak sprouts, and these are one and a half to four inches thick, or average two and a half, and not so high as the chestnut. Some of the largest chestnut stumps have sent up no sprout, yet others equally large and very much more decayed have sent up sprouts. Can this be owing to the different time when they were cut? The cutting was after April. The largest sprouts I chanced to notice were from a small stump in low ground. Some hemlock stumps there had a hundred rings.

Was overtaken by a sudden thunder-shower.

Cut a chestnut sprout two years old. It grew about five and a half feet the first year and three and a half the next, and was an inch in diameter. The tops of these sprouts, the first few inches, had died in the winter, so that a side bud continued them, and this made a slight curve in the sprout, thus:



There was on a cross-section, of course, but one ring of pores within the wood, just outside the large pith, the diameter of the first year's growth being just half an inch, radius a fourth of an inch. The thickness of the second year's growth was the same, or one fourth, but it was distinctly marked to the naked eye with about seven concentric lighter lines, which, I suppose, marked so many successive growths or waves of growth, or seasons in its year. These were not visible through a microscope of considerable power, but best to the naked eye. Probably you could tell a seedling chestnut from a vigorous sprout, however old or large, provided the heart were perfectly sound to the pith, by the much more rapid growth of the last the first half-dozen years of its existence.

There are scarcely any chestnuts this year near Britton's, but I find as many as usual east of Flint's Pond.

November 7: In a ceremony at [Naples](#), [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) officially handed Southern [Italy](#) and [Sicily](#) over to King Vittorio Emanuele of Sardinia.

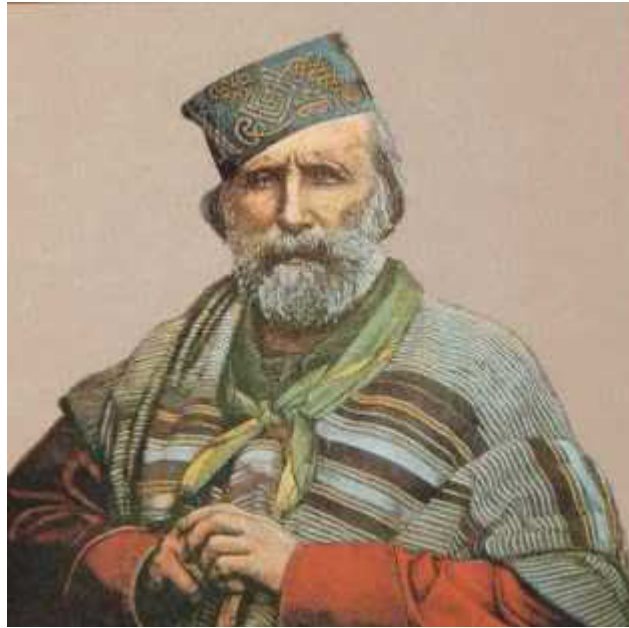


Nov. 7. To Cambridge³⁹ and Boston.

39. Was it on November 7, 1859 or November 7, 1860 that Henry David Thoreau checked out [Thomas Jefferson's](#) NOTES ON THE STATE OF VIRGINIA. WITH AN APPENDIX (8th American edition; Boston: Printed by David Carlisle, for Thomas & Andrews, J. West, West & Greenleaf, J. White & Co., E. & S. Larkin, J. Nancrede, Manning & Loring, Boston, Thomas & Thomas, Walpole, N.H., and B.B. Macanulty, Salem. 1801) from the Harvard Library? His notes on this reading are in Indian Notebook #12.



November 9: [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) and two close friends left [Naples](#) for his home in Caprera and intended obscurity. In spite of many successes he was bitter over the fact that he had failed to include [Rome](#) in the Kingdom of [Italy](#).



November 9: [Vide also November 16.] 12 M.—To Inches' Woods in Boxboro.

This wood is some one and three quarters miles from West Acton, whither we went by railroad. It is in the east part of Boxboro, on both sides of the Harvard turnpike. We walked mostly across lots from West Acton to a part of the wood about half a mile north of the turnpike,—and the woods appeared to reach as much further north. We then walked in the midst of the wood in a southwesterly by west direction, about three quarters of a mile, crossing the turnpike west of the maple swamp and the brook, and thence south by east nearly as much [QUERIED IN PENCIL] more,—all the way in the woods, and chiefly old oak wood. The old oak wood, as we saw from the bare hill at the south end, extends a great deal further west and northwest, as well as north, than we went, and must be at least a mile and a half [QUERIED IN PENCIL] from north to south by a mile and a quarter [QUERIED IN PENCIL] possibly from east to west. Or there may be a thousand [four or five hundred] acres [vide (PAGE 227)] of old oak wood. The large wood is chiefly oak, and that white oak, though black, red, and scarlet oak are also common. White pine is in considerable quantity, and large pitch pine is scattered here and there, and saw some chestnut at the south end. Saw no hemlock or birch to speak of.

Beginning at the north end of our walk, the trees which I measured were (all at three feet from ground except when otherwise stated): a black oak, ten feet [IN] circumference, trunk tall and of regular form; scarlet oak, seven feet three inches, by Guggins Brook; white oak, eight feet; white oak, ten feet, forks at ten feet; white oak, fifteen feet (at two and a half feet, bulging very much near ground; trunk of a pyramidal form; first branch at sixteen feet; this just north of turnpike and near Guggins Brook); white oak, nine feet four inches (divides to two at five feet); white oak, nine feet six inches (divides to two at five feet); red oak, eight feet (south of road); white pine, nine feet; a scarlet or red oak stump cut, twenty and a half inches [IN] diameter, one hundred and sixty rings.

I was pleased to find that the largest of the white oaks, growing thus in a dense wood, often with a pine or other tree within two or three feet, were of pasture oak size and even form, the largest commonly branching low. Very many divide to two trunks at four or five feet only from the ground. You see some white oaks and even some others in the midst of the wood nearly as spreading as in open land.

Looking from the high bare hill at the south end, the limits of the old oak wood (so far as we could overlook it) were very distinct, its tops being a mass of gray brush,—contorted and intertwined twigs and boughs,—while the younger oak wood around it, or bounding it, though still of respectable size, was still densely clothed with the reddish-brown leaves.

This famous oak lot—like Blood's and Wetherbee's—is a place of resort for those who hunt the gray squirrel. They have their leafy nests in the oak-tops.

It is an endless maze of gray oak trunks and boughs stretching far around. The great mass of individual trunks

which you stand near is very impressive.

Many sturdy trunks (they commonly stand a little aslant) are remarkably straight and round, and have so much regularity in their roughness as to suggest smoothness. The older or largest white oaks were of a rougher and darker bark than Wetherbee's and Blood's, though often betraying the same tendency to smoothness, as if a rough layer had been stripped off near the ground.

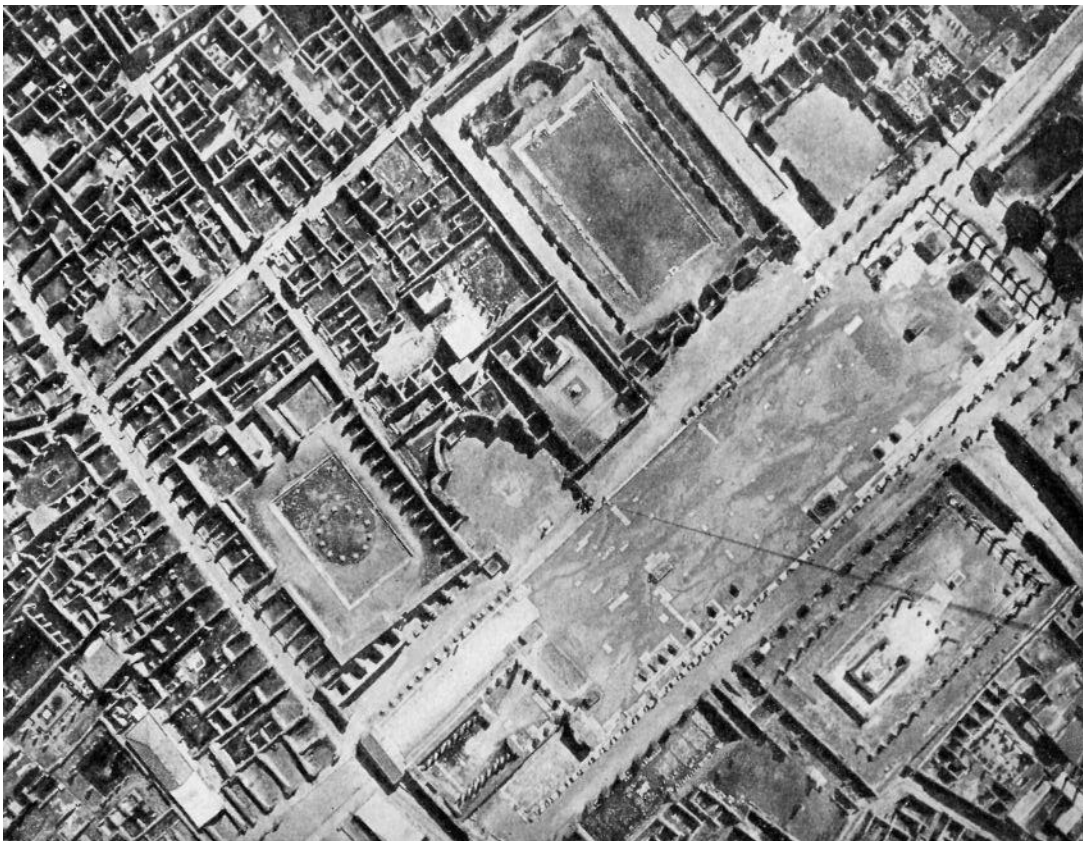
I noticed that a great many trunks (the bark) had been gnawed near the ground,—different kinds of oak and chestnut,—perhaps by squirrels.

1861

The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.

The four-room structure in [Pompeii](#) that is known as the “Antiquarium” was excavated (it would be, for some reason, bombed in 1943, and would then be rebuilt in 1948).

Perhaps it was in this year, and perhaps it was not, that the ruins at [Pompeii](#) were first photographed by use of a balloon:



(A balloon is so, so much more useful for this sort of thing, than a speculum!)

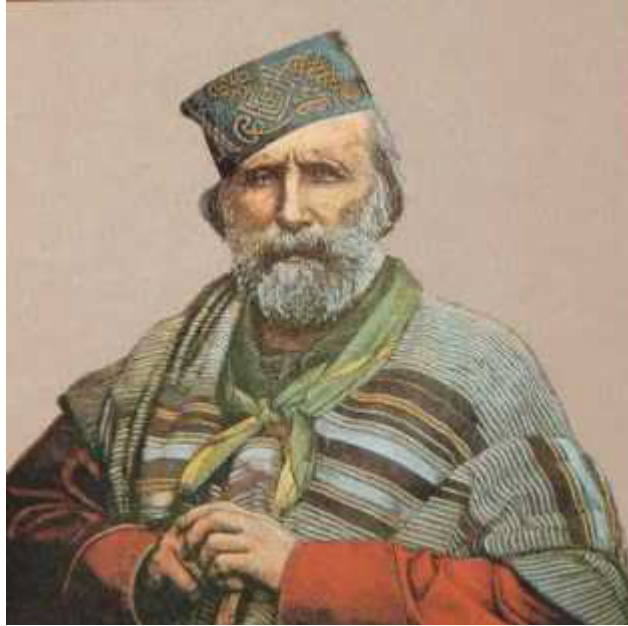


NAPLES

VESUVIO

June 8: An invitation was extended to [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#), who although [Italian](#) had once traveled on a US passport, to become a general in the Army of the North. The man was a force of nature, there was no more point in trying to resist him than in trying to resist [Mount Vesuvius](#). If such a man would lead our armies, without question we would in short order win this war.

June 27: [Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) responded to the overture of the federal government of the USA that he place his military genius at the disposal of the Army of the North, in accordance with his anti-slavery, pro-race-mingling ideas, inquiring “whether this agitation is the emancipation of the negroes”?



EMANCIPATION

The [Italian](#) dude in the red shirt didn't just want to come over and kill a whole bunch of Americans — unless there were some good reason to do so. Where was that guy's head at? In his old age he would read a book about Spartacus, who hadn't wanted to be a slave, but had instead wanted freedom, in order to be a slavemaster. But he would find that he had not been at all like [Spartacus](#) — while he was wearing his famous red shirt he had been more like the Spartacus-figure that would be created out of whole cloth by Kirk Douglas in the Hollywood movie “Spartacus,” who ahistorically would demand freedom not just for himself but for everyone. Since Garibaldi was a **real** freedom-fighter, not a mere scrapper like the historical Spartacus, he

would want no part in our civil war (which would amount to mere **pretend** freedom-fighting).



The Milwaukee & Prairie du Chien Railroad’s fare to Milwaukee was \$9.⁷⁵. About this trip on the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers, Henry Thoreau might have — but did not — quote his own journal: “It is pleasant to have been to a place by the way a river went.”



By cars to Milwaukee. 1st 60 miles up the valley of the Wisconsin which looked broad & shallow. Bluffs 2 or 3 miles apart.

“Dear Mother ... We left Red-wing yesterday at about 2 P.M. on the Steamer War Eagle and arrived in Prairie du Chien at 8 A.M. to-day. The train for Milwaukee ... passed through Madison at 1:30 P.M. and shall arrive in Milwaukee at 6 o’clock this evening If we can find a boat going to [Mackinaw](#) we shall take it immediately.... There has been a riot in Milwaukee of which I suppose you have read long before this, but the Milwaukee paper says to-day that the city is quiet.”

VESUVIO

NAPLES

December 8, Sunday: [Mount Vesuvius](#) began to erupt, and would continue to erupt into the 10th of the month:
“Effusiva-Esplosiva — Bocche nel rione Montedoro tra 300 e 218 m s.l.m., poco più a valle di quelle del 1794.
Lava ad W a monte di Torre del Greco dove si rilevano distruzioni e crolli (rione Capotorre). Sollevamento del suolo prima dell'eruzione.”



MOUNT VESUVIUS

1862

April 19: As part of the US Civil War, people were killing each other at South Mills / Camden.

Having traversed the deserts of Sinai and of Edom on his way from [Egypt](#) into Syria, on this day [Henry Thomas Buckle](#) arrived at Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the USS *Constellation* was proceeding from the Atlantic into the Mediterranean. Here is a painting, by DeSimone, of this vessel, anchored in [Naples](#) harbor during this year:



(This vessel was to assist in blockading the CSS *Sumter* in the port at Gibraltar.)

This was the day of Compensated Emancipation in the nation's capital, Washington DC. Slaveowners there, since they were influential people, would receive cash money from the federal government, and their slaves

VESUVIO

NAPLES

would be manumitted.



1867

March 11: Don Carlos, an opéra by Giuseppe Verdi to words of Méry and DuLocle after Schiller, was performed for the first time, at the Paris Opéra. In attendance were the Emperor [Napoléon III](#) and Empress Eugénie as well as many court and state officials and members of the diplomatic corps. The event was moderately successful but reviews would be mixed.

On the big island of Hawaii, there was a great eruption of Mauna Loa.

VOLCANISM

November 13: [Mount Vesuvius](#) would be eruptive until January 15, 1868: “Effusiva — Lave nell’Atrio ad E e W presso Crocelle e presso le bocche del 1794.”



MOUNT VESUVIUS

1868

January 15: [Mount Vesuvius](#), eruptive since November 13, 1867, again fell silent.

VESUVIO

NAPLES

November 15-30: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.⁴⁰



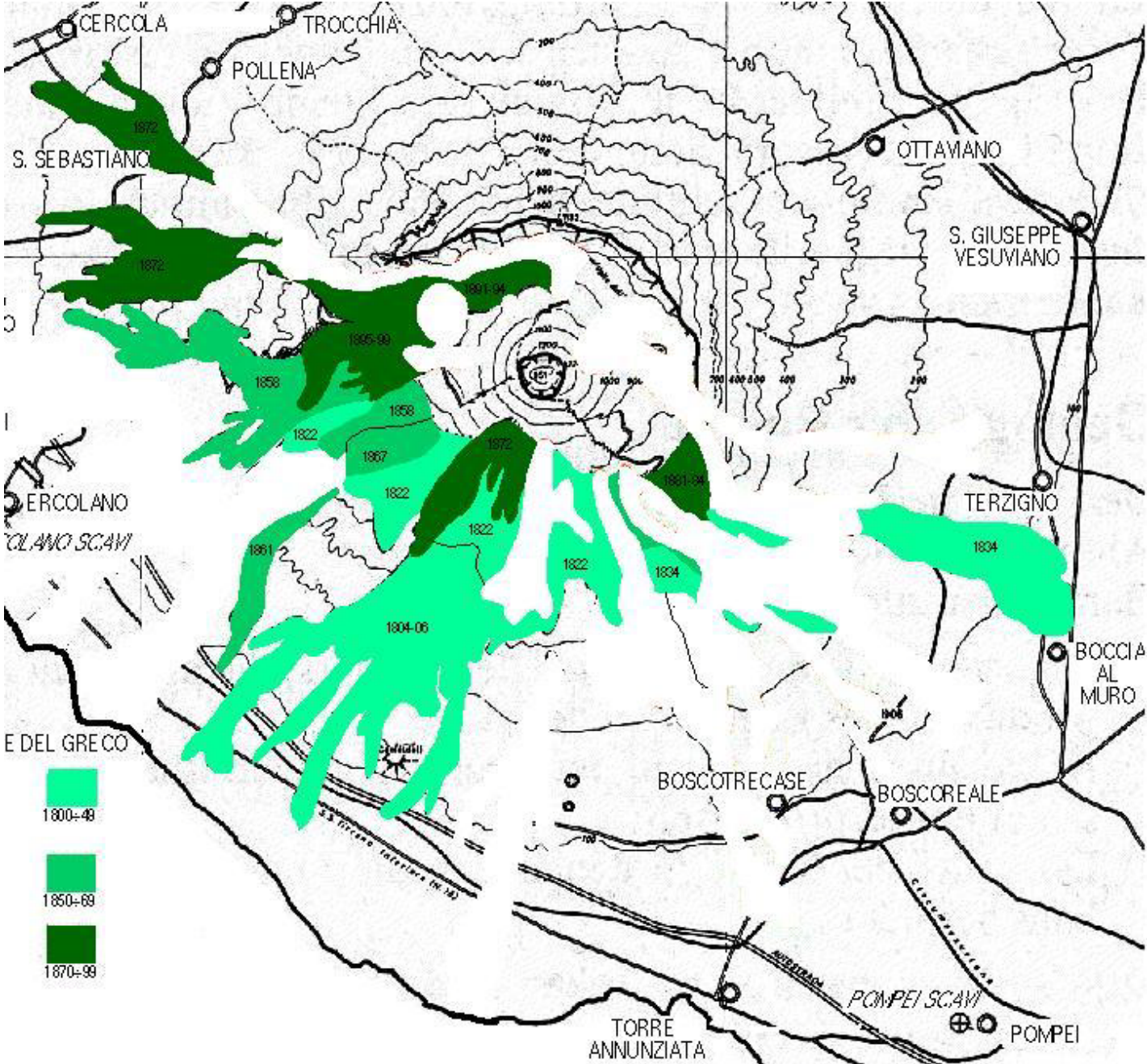
Here are the 19th-Century lava flows which even now remain on the surface of this volcano's slopes, color-coded to differentiate between those that occurred in the 1st half of the century, those that occurred around the

40. "Effusiva — Lava a NW attraverso il Fosso del Faraone verso Novelle di S. Vito e Cercola. Gravi danni alle colture."

NAPLES

VESUVIO

middle of the century, and those that occurred toward the end of the century:



1871

January 13-November 5: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Ingrottamento di lave fluide e veloci nell’Atrio della Vetrana fino ai Canteroni in corrispondenza dell’Osservatorio Vesuviano. Il 13 gennaio si forma un conetto sul bordo N del cratere che rimane attivo fino all’eruzione dell’aprile 1872.”

1872

April 24-May 2: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiescent condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years: “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Lava verso NW. Una colata attraversa l’Atrio, supera il Fosso del Faraone e discende verso Cercola, invade S. Sebastiano e Massa di Somma. Danni ingenti, 9 morti. Si forma un cratere di 250 m di diametro. Forte eruzione.”



Photo was taken on April 26th

MOUNT VESUVIUS



A number of tourists were lost to a stream of lava. The ashes that were washed out of the air by rain would cause damage to vegetation, due to their extreme salinity.



NAPLES

VESUVIO

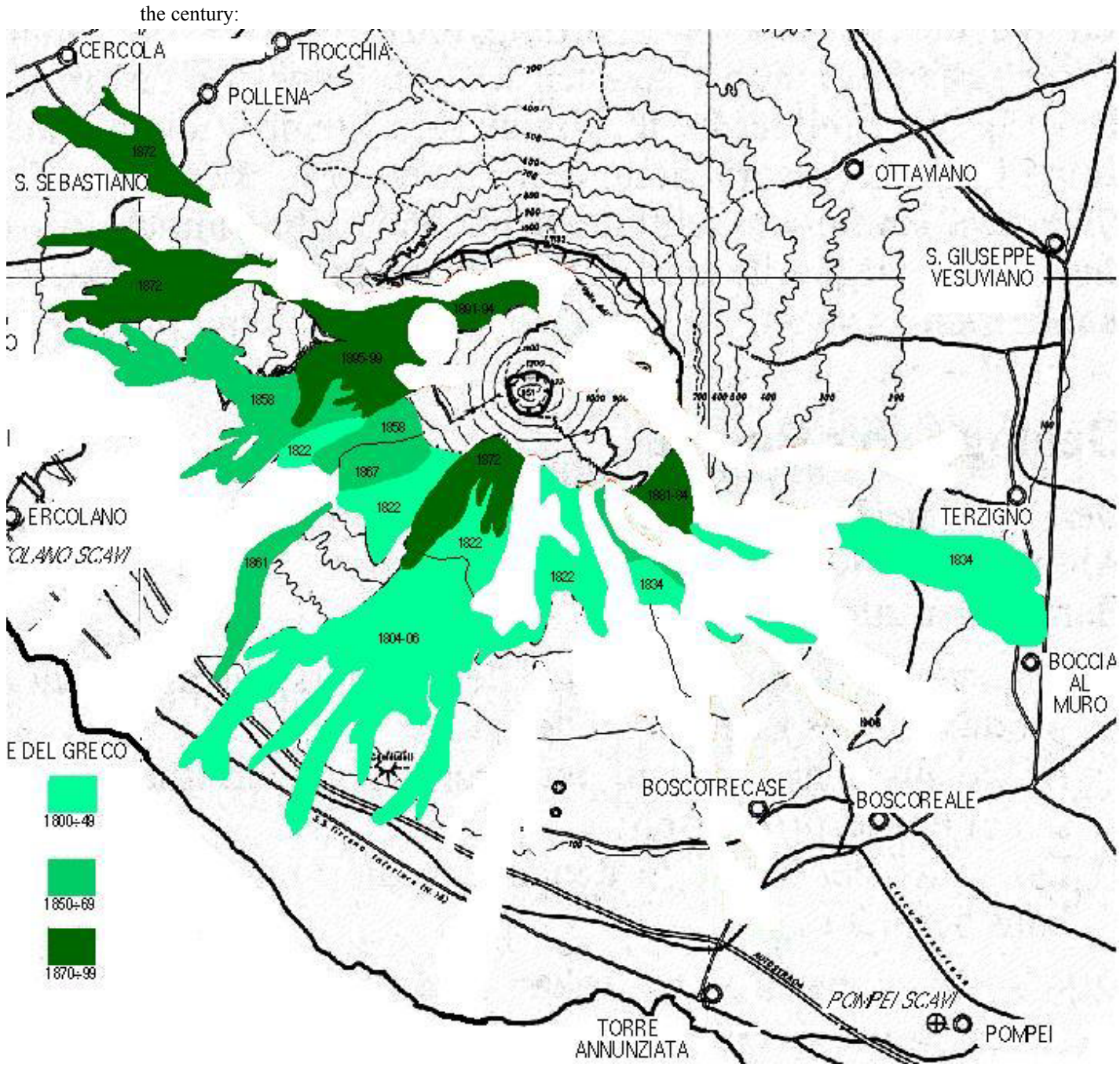
1873

May: On his way back home to the rebuilt “Bush” in Concord by way of [Egypt](#), [Waldo Emerson](#) revisited [Mount Vesuvius](#), which after an eruption in the previous year had again become quiescent. He purchased a local donkey for his daughter Ellen to enjoy back in Concord.

Here are the 19th-Century lava flows which even now remain on the surface of this volcano’s slopes, color-coded to differentiate between those that occurred in the 1st half of the century, those that occurred around the middle of the century, and those that just occurred prior to this visit or would occur in the subsequent years of

VESUVIO

NAPLES



1874

[Giuseppe Garibaldi](#) read a novel about [Spartacus](#).

We wonder what novel that was, and how it presented this non-Italian person. In the 2004 made-for-TV version of the Howard Fast epic, Goran Visnjic offers the following as what the escaped gladiators were fighting for:

“There’ll be no more slaves and no more masters.”



That would amount, of course, to the sheerest presentism. Spartacus might have been able to conceive of an alternative universe in which he was the master and somebody else the slave, but it would never have crossed his mind that there might be an alternative universe in which there were neither slaves nor masters. –So, was the sort of fantasy history that was served up on 1874 to Garibaldi the same sort of fantasy history that is now being presented to us now by Hollywood, or were they being less PC and more accurate back in 1874?

1881

December 1881-March 1884: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Dosso di lava sul fianco SE del Gran Cono.”



1883

[Dr. Samuel Kneeland, Jr.](#)'s THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS: THEIR PHYSICAL CHARACTERS, CUSTOMS OF THE PEOPLE, PRODUCTS, ETC. EARTHQUAKE PHENOMENA AND SAVAGE TRIBES (New York: Printed for Author). He would donate copies of this vanity press item to various libraries.

THE PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

Krakatau, an island in the Sunda Straits between Java and Sumatra, erupted in the greatest volcanic explosion in 400 years. Some 4 hours later the explosion was heard 3,000 miles away. 35,000 died, many as the result of the tsunami that was produced.⁴¹

VOLCANISM

VOLCANIC EXPLOSIVITY INDEX (Logarithmic)

| Timing | Volcanic Event | Logarithmic Explosivity Index |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 73,000 years ago, during Pleistocene | Toba, Sumatra (the largest caldera in the world) | VEI8 |
| Pleistocene | Yellowstone, Wyoming | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| April 1815 | Tambora, Indonesia | VEI7 |
| 1835 | Cosigüía, Nicaragua | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1883 | Krakatau | VEI?? |
| 1888 | Bandaisan, Japan | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1902 | Mt. Pelée, Martinique | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1911 | Taal, Philippines | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1912 | Novarupta (near Mt. Katmai), Alaska | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1919 | Kelud, Java | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1932 | Quizapú, Chile | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1947-1948 | Hekla, Iceland | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| 1956 | Bezmianny, Kamchatka | Apparently not that much of an explosion |
| DATE | Pinatubo, Philippines | VEI6 |
| DATE | Mount Saint Helens, USA | VEI5 |

41. For a comparison event within our own timeframe: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/indonesia/aceh-andaman-tsunami-imagery.htm>

- VEI5** = Event of a size to be expected about once per decade
- VEI6** = Event of a size to be expected about once per century
- VEI7** = Event of a size to be expected every other millennium or so
- VEI8** = Event of a size to be expected every 10,000 years or so



1883

July: Franklin Benjamin Sanborn’s “Comment by a radical Abolitionist” appeared in the Century Magazine, commenting upon the article immediately preceding it, by Alexander R. Boteler, entitled “Recollections of the John Brown Raid by a Virginian Who Witnessed the Fight” (Volume 26, pages 411-15, 399-411):

It is hard -nay, impossible- to carry the reader of these pages in 1883 back in memory to that period of our country’s history when John Brown captured the town and arsenal at Harpers Ferry, or make real to ourselves the despotism which a few slaveholders then exercised over the rest of mankind in this country. Though a meager minority in their own South, they absolutely controlled there not only four millions of slaves, but six millions of white people, nominally free, while they directed the policy and the opinions of more than half the free people of the non-slaveholding States. They had dictated the nomination and secured the election of James Buchanan as President, - the most complete servant of the slave power who ever held that office; they had not only refused to terminate the slave-trade (as by treaty we were bound to assist in doing), but they had induced the importation of a few cargoes of slaves into Carolina and Georgia; they had broken down the Missouri compromise of 1820



(imposed by themselves on the unwilling North), and had done their best to extend slavery over the new territories of the nation, and to legalize its existence in all the Free States. Through the mouth of Chief-Justice Roger Brooke Taney, who simply uttered the decrees of the slave-holding oligarchy, they had made the Supreme Court declare that four million Americans, of African descent, had practically "no rights which a white man was bound to respect"; and they exerted themselves in every way to give due effect to that dictum. The Dred Scott decision was given by Taney in 1857, and it led at once to the execution of John Brown's long-cherished purpose of striking a blow at slavery in its own Virginian stronghold. That decision flashed into the minds of Northern men the conviction which John Quincy Adams had long before formulated and expressed – that "the preservation, propagation, and perpetuation of slavery was the vital and animating spirit of the national Government." It was this conviction that led to the election of Abraham Lincoln in 1860, as it had led John Brown and his small band of followers to form their conspiracy and begin their campaign in 1858-'59. While the unpaid labor of the slaves was believed by the slaveholders to be the real source of our national prosperity, it was the merit and the fate of John Brown first to see and act upon the sad knowledge that slavery and our national existence were incompatible. Thirty years before he died for the blacks in Virginia, he chose the side of the nation against slavery; and in less than ten years after his death the whole people followed in the path he had marked out – the straight and thorny road of emancipation by force.

It is in this broad way that the Harpers Ferry raid must be looked at, – not as a midnight foray of robbers and murderers. It was an act of war, and was accepted by the South as a sure omen that war was at hand. Brown told the slave-holders this in his famous conversation with James Mason of Virginia and Vallandigham of Ohio. "I claim to be here," he said, "carrying out a measure I believe to be perfectly justifiable, and not to be acting the part of an incendiary or ruffian; on the contrary, I am here to aid those suffering under a great wrong. I wish to say, furthermore, that you had better –all you people of the South– prepare yourselves for a settlement of this question. It must come up for settlement sooner than you are prepared for it, and the sooner you commence that preparation the better for you. You may dispose of me very easily. I am nearly disposed of now. But this question is still to be settled; this negro question, I mean. The end of that is not yet." This was a veritable "Thus saith the Lord" – as his hearers and the whole world soon found out. But to such as then doubted the message of the prophet Brown condescended to verify his credentials in that wonderfully eloquent speech to the court that sentenced him to the gallows:

This court acknowledges, as I suppose, the validity of the Law of God. I see a book kissed here which I suppose to be the BIBLE or, at least, the New Testament. That teaches me, "that all things whatsoever I would that men should do unto me, I should do even so to them." It teaches me further, to "remember them that are in bonds as bound with them." I endeavored to act up to that



instruction. I say I am yet too young to understand that God is any respecter of persons. I believe that to have interfered as I have done –as I have always freely admitted I have done– in behalf of His despised poor, was not wrong but right.

There was John Brown’s authority for the capture of Harpers Ferry, – the same which Ethan Allen alleged, with less reason, a Ticonderoga, where he commanded surrender “in the name of the great Jehovah.” Brown “had gone to be a soldier in the army of the Lord” long before his death, and the song of the people marching to avenge that death were but the public proclamation of his commission from above. Since the details of that strange conversation with Mason of Virginia have faded from the popular memory, let me quote another passage in which Brown pursues the same line of reasoning he afterward held in court.

SENATOR MASON: How do you justify your acts?

CAPTAIN BROWN: I think, my friend, you are guilty of a great wrong against God and humanity –I say it without wishing to be offensive,– and it would be perfectly right for any one to interfere with you so far as to free those you willfully and wickedly hold in bondage. I do not say this insultingly.

SENATOR MASON: I understand that.

CAPTAIN BROWN: I think I did right, and that others will do right who interfere with you, at any time, and all times. I hold that the golden rule, “Do unto others as you would that others should do unto you,” applies to all who would help others to gain their liberty.

LIEUTENANT STUART: But you don’t believe in the BIBLE?

CAPTAIN BROWN: Certainly I do.

* * *

I want you to understand, gentlemen, that I respect the rights of the poorest and weakest of the colored people, oppressed by the slave system, just as much as I do those of the most wealthy and powerful. That is the idea that has moved me, and that alone. We expected no reward except the satisfaction of endeavoring to do for those in distress –the greatly oppressed– as we would be done by. The cry of distress of the oppressed is my reason, and the only thing that prompted me to come here.

Brown’s plan of action in Virginia was wholly his own, as he more than once declared; and it was not until he had long formed and matured it that he made it known (so far as an attack on slavery in Virginia was concerned) to the few friends who shared his confidence in that matter. I cannot say how numerous these were; but beyond his own family and the armed followers who accompanied him, I have never supposed that his Virginia plan was known to fifty persons. Even to those few it was not fully communicated, though they knew that he meant to fortify himself somewhere in the mountains of Virginia or Tennessee, and from that fastness, with his band of soldiers, sally out and liberate slaves by force. His plan to this extent was known, early in



1858, by Frederick Douglass, Gerrit Smith (at whose house and in whose presence I first heard Brown declare it), [Theodore Parker](#), [Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe](#), George Luther Stearns, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, and myself, and we all raised money to aid Brown in carrying this plan forward.

I know this, because some of the money and nearly all the correspondence relating to the contributions passed through my hands in 1858-9. I talked more than once in those years with all the persons above named, concerning Brown's Virginia plans and had letters from all except Douglass in regard to it. Brown's general purpose of attacking slavery by force, in Missouri or elsewhere, was known in 1857-8-9 to [Waldo Emerson](#), A. Bronson Alcott, Henry Thoreau, Wendell Phillips, Thomas Russell, John Albion Andrew, and others of the anti-slavery men of Massachusetts, none of whom discountenanced it, while most of them, in my hearing, distinctly approved it, generally, however, as a last resort or a measure of retaliation for the outrages of the slave-holders and their allies. Had these gentlemen known of the Virginia plan, most of them would have strongly disapproved it as premature or impracticable. Such, also, it seemed at first, and generally afterward, to those of us who contributed money to aid Brown in it. I speak particularly of Gerrit Smith, Theodore Parker, George L. Stearns, Dr. Howe, Col. Higginson, and myself. But we all felt, as Governor Andrew afterward said, that whatever the old worthy might plan or do, "John Brown himself was right," and upon that feeling we acted, in spite of doubts and many misgivings. The end has justified our instinctive sentiment; and it has more than justified, it has glorified Brown. I do not wonder that Virginians cannot all see this yet; but the world sees it, and Brown has become, to the world in general, one of the immortal champions of liberty—historical or mythical—among whom we reckon Leonidas, Maccabeus, Tell, Winkelried, Wallace, Hofer, and Marco Bozzaris. I knew John Brown well. He was often a my house and at the houses of my friends and I traveled with him for days. He was what all his speeches, letters, and actions avouch him—a simple, brave, heroic person incapable of anything selfish or base. The higher elements of his character are well seen in the portrait which accompanies these pages. There were darker and sterner traits which fitted him for the grim work he had to do and which are better shown in his bearded portraits, and in some which I possess, taken in the year 1857. But the face that here looks out upon us bespeaks that warm love for God's despised poor which was his deepest trait, and that noble disregard of everything but justice which distinguished his every action. But above and beyond these personal qualities he was what we may best term a historic character; that is, he had, like Cromwell and [Spartacus](#), a certain predestined relation to the political crisis of his time, for which his character fitted him and which, had he striven against it, he could not avoid. Like Cromwell and all the great Calvinists, he was an unquestioning believer in God's fore-ordination and the divine guidance of human affairs; but he was free from the taint of guile that disfigured Cromwell's greatness. Of course, he could not rank with Cromwell or with many inferior men in leadership; but in this God-



appointed, inflexible devotion to his object in life he was inferior to no man, and he rose in fame far above more gifted persons because of this very fixedness and simplicity of character. His renown is secure, and the artless (I must think prejudiced) narrative of Mr. Boteler does but increase it for those who read understandingly. As Tennyson said of the great Duke, we may say of Brown:

Whatever record leap to light,
He never shall be shamed.

Young men never knew, perhaps, and some old men have forgotten, that we once had statesmen (so called) who loudly declared that negro slavery was the basis not only of our national greatness, but of the white man's freedom. This groveling doctrine found favor in Virginia in John Brown's time, and it was his work, as much as any man's, to overthrow it. A hundred years ago one of the great Virginians, a statesman indeed by nature and by training, said:

With what execration should that statesman be loaded who, permitting one-half the citizens to trample on the rights of the other, transforms those into despots and these into enemies? Can the liberties of a nation be deemed secure when we have removed their only firm basis – a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God, that they are not to be violated without his wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country (Virginia) when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever; that, considering numbers, nature, and natural means only, a revolution of the wheel of fortune is among possible events; that it may become probable by supernatural interference. The Almighty has no attribute that can take sides with us in such a contest.

This was the language of Jefferson in his "Notes on Virginia," written in 1783, and it was in the county of Jefferson that Brown made his foray in 1859. He harbored in the county of Washington, in [Maryland](#), for three months. He descended upon Jefferson County in Virginia at the end of that time; and when the astonished successors of Washington and Jefferson saw him first, he held in his hand Washington's sword, and was enacting Jefferson's [Declaration of Independence](#) in favor of the slaves of Colonel Washington, – that the Scriptures might be fulfilled. And they were fulfilled to the utmost in the years of war and ruin that followed.

At the critical period of that Civil War when its issue was still undecided save in the councils of heaven, – at the close of the year 1862 Abraham Lincoln put forth his first edict of emancipation, and followed it up, January 1, 1863, with the final proclamation that the slaves in the rebellious States were from that day free. John Brown had been in his woodland grave among the Adirondack Mountains but little more than three years when we saw this triumph of his hopes, this crown of his toil and martyrdom. His friends gathered to celebrate so happy an event at the house of one of the most faithful and active of his supporters in the Virginia campaign, George Stearns, of Medford,



in Massachusetts. It was one of the last of those meetings in which the old anti-slavery men and women came together with hearts united, and rejoiced together face to face. Garrison and Phillips were there, [Waldo Emerson](#) and Bronson Alcott (Henry Thoreau had died eight months before), [Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe](#) and his poetic wife, Mrs. Child, Moncure Conway, Martin Conway of Kansas, and many others now dead or widely sundered. The host and his wife, Mrs. Mary Stearns, who also had been an enthusiastic friend of John Brown, could give their guests not only the graceful hospitalities of a house always open to the friends of freedom, but what was then a new sight, Brackett's marble bust of Brown, standing crowned with flowers in the wide hall. This is the only bust of Brown for which the sculptor studied the hero's own features, and it was made after a visit by Brackett to Brown in prison at Charlestown. Though not, in all respects, a portrait, it has the air of Brown, with a majesty that made Charles Sumner exclaim, when he first saw it: "This is like the Moses of Michael Angelo." And when a sibylline negress, a fugitive from [Maryland](#), saw it in my house, she went into an ecstasy of grief and adoration, declaring that Brown was not a mere man, but the Messiah of her people.

"In a great age," says Cousin, speaking of Pascal, "everything is great." John Brown came to prominence in an age by no means grand or noble; but such was his own heroic character that he conferred importance on events in themselves trivial. His petty conflicts in Kansas and the details of his two days' campaign in Virginia will be remembered when a hundred battles of our Civil War are forgotten. He was one of ten thousand, and, as Thoreau said, could not be tried by a jury of his peers, because his peers did not exist; yet so much was he in accord with what is best in the American character that he will stand in history for one type of our people, as Franklin and Lincoln do, but with a difference. He embodied the distinctive qualities of the Puritan, but with a strong tincture of the more humane sentiments of later times. No man could be more sincere in his faith toward God, more earnest in love for man; his belief in fore-ordination was absolute, his courage not less so. The emotion of fear seemed to be quite unknown to him, except in the form of diffidence, — if that were not rather a sort of pride. He was diffident of his power in speech or writing, yet who, of all his countrymen, has uttered more effective or immortal words?

Part of the service he rendered to his country was by this heroic impersonation of traits that all mankind recognize as noble. The cause of the poor slave had need of all the charm that romantic courage could give it; his defenders were treated with the contempt which attached to himself. They were looked upon with aversion by patriots; they were odious to trade, distasteful to fashion and learning, impious in the sight of the Church. At the single stroke of Brown, all this was changed; the cause that had been despised suddenly became hated, feared, and respected; and out of this new fear and hatred our national safety was born. Ten years more of disgraceful security, and the nation might have been lost; but the rash and frantic efforts of the South to defend its barbarous system brought on the revolution that

has regenerated us politically. No doubt the affair at Harpers Ferry hastened our political crisis by at least ten years, – and what fatal years they might have been but for John Brown! One evening in January, 1860, as I sat in Emerson’s study at Concord, talking of this old friend of ours, for whose widow and orphans we were then raising a fund, I spoke to Emerson about a



speech of his at Salem, a few weeks earlier, in which the poet-philosopher had renewed his homage to the memory of Brown. He went to one of the cabinets in which his manuscripts were kept, took out the half-dozen pages on which his remarks had been written down, and gave them to me for publication. I have ever since cherished the manuscript, in which, with bold strokes of his quill, Emerson had written these words at the close:

It would be nearer the truth to say that all people, in proportion to their sensibility and self-respect, sympathize with John Brown. For it is impossible to see courage and disinterestedness and the love that casts out fear, without sympathy. All gentlemen, of course are on his side. I do not mean by “gentlemen” people of scented hair and perfumed handkerchiefs, but men of gentle blood and generosity, “fulfilled with all nobleness”; who, like the Cid, give the outcast leper a share of their bed – like the dying Sidney, pass the cup of cold water to the wounded soldier who needs it more. For what is the oath of gentle blood and knighthood? What but to protect the weak and lowly against the strong oppressor?

* * *

Who makes the abolitionist? The slave-holder. The sentiment of mercy is the natural recoil which the laws of the universe provide to protect mankind from destruction by savage passions. The arch-abolitionist, older than Brown, and older than the Shenandoah Mountains, is Love, whose other name is Justice, – which was before Alfred, before Lycurgus, before Slavery and will be after it.

The generous, immortal traits which these words portray in Brown and bespeak in Emerson, are those which the artist has caught in the remarkable engraving of my old friend in this number of THE CENTURY.

F.B. Sanborn

1885

Brazil freed all [slaves](#) over the age of 60.

In the period after the US Civil War there was much reappraisal of that notion which had been so persuasive prior to the upheaval, that some heroic figures among humankind were animated by a “divine light” which released them from the constraints which ordinary mortals of limited vision were wise to operate in accordance with. Although citizens continued to think of rebellion as justified under the most oppressive regimes, the attempts to compare John Brown to [Spartacus](#)⁴² or Frederick Douglass to Toussaint Louverture had come to be regarded as the most abjectly erroneous of readings.⁴³ In [THE DIAL](#) for this period we find assertions that



the “great man” theory of history as found in the Secret “Six” conspiracy before the US Civil War was incompatible with the American belief in general progress:

Franklin Benjamin Sanborn wrote within [Thomas Carlyle](#)’s theory of Great men namely that the world runs down ... through the deficiencies of merely common men, and would go to the bad entirely only it is so arranged that just in the nick of time the Lord sends down a Hero ... so ... that we can then get along for ... a generation or two.

The story of Brown’s last stand as a martyr was under heavy attack. A certification written by Brown’s jailor, Captain John Avis, appeared as eyewitness testimony to counter the story that Brown had kissed a black child, to refute the story had grown up to the effect that Brown had exhibited cheerfulness as he walked toward his place of execution, and to refute the account that had him giving thanks to God for the opportunity to die in such a cause.

The family of the Reverend [Moncure Daniel Conway](#) returned to the United States, settling in New-York.

42. To attempt to compare Brown with Spartacus would be to attempt to compare a person who desired to eliminate the evil of [slavery](#) with a person whose desire it was to become himself the [slavemaster](#) — which would be, wouldn’t you say, the mother of all Hollywoodish-inane category mistakes?



“...the slave, dreaming of the death of slavery...”
— Kirk Douglas,
preparing himself to play
the title role in the 1961
Hollywood movie “[Spartacus](#)”





VESUVIO

NAPLES

1891

June 7: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Frattura a N del Gran Cono. Bocche tra i 825 e 850 m s.l.m. (sutura del 1631). Le lave a N nell’Atrio formano il Colle Margherita, una cupola alta 135 m.” This period of activity would continue until February 3, 1894.

43. Refer to Brown, David, “Sanborn’s Life of John Brown,” [Dial](#) 6 (1885-1886):139-40, to an editorial entitled “John Brown,” [New England and Yale Review](#) 45 (1886):289-302, and to Jenks, Leland H. “The John Brown Myth,” [American Mercury](#) (1924):268.

1892

February 21: At the Teatro Italiano in the Bowery, New-York's Italian-American Amateur Theatre Club presented a drama "[Garibaldi's](#) Entrance into [Naples](#)."



(September 7, 1860)

1894

February 3: [Mount Vesuvius](#), which had been active since June 7, 1891, again became quiescent.



1895

July 3: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Frattura a NW del Gran Cono. Bocche intorno ai 750 m s.l.m. (sutura del 1631). Le lave a NW nell’Atrio formano il Colle Umberto, una cupola alta 160 m.” The volcano would remain active until September 7, 1899.

1899

September 7: [Mount Vesuvius](#), which had been active since July 3, 1895, again became quiescent.

1903

August 27: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Le lave a E nella Valle dell’Inferno formano una cupola alta 50 m che contribuisce notevolmente a sollevare il livello dell’Atrio.” The volcano would remain active until September 1904.

1904

September: [Mount Vesuvius](#), which had been active since August 27, 1903, again became quiescent.

1906

April 4-22: The most forceful eruption of [Mount Vesuvius](#) of the 20th Century. “Effusiva-Esplosiva — Bocche sulla base S del Gran Cono (sutura del 1631) come le eruzioni del 1751-52 e 1754-55. Lave a S, asse di dispersione dei piroclasti verso ENE. Danni a Torre Annunziata. Boscotrecase invasa. Distruzioni ad Ottaviano e S. Giuseppe Vesuviano (cadute di solai). 227 morti (11 a Napoli per il crollo del mercato di Monteoliveto). Danni alle colture. Il vulcano⁴⁴ si abbassa notevolmente lasciando un grande cratere, che si riempie completamente durante l’attività stromboliana del luglio 1913.”

[MOUNT VESUVIUS](#)

NAPLES

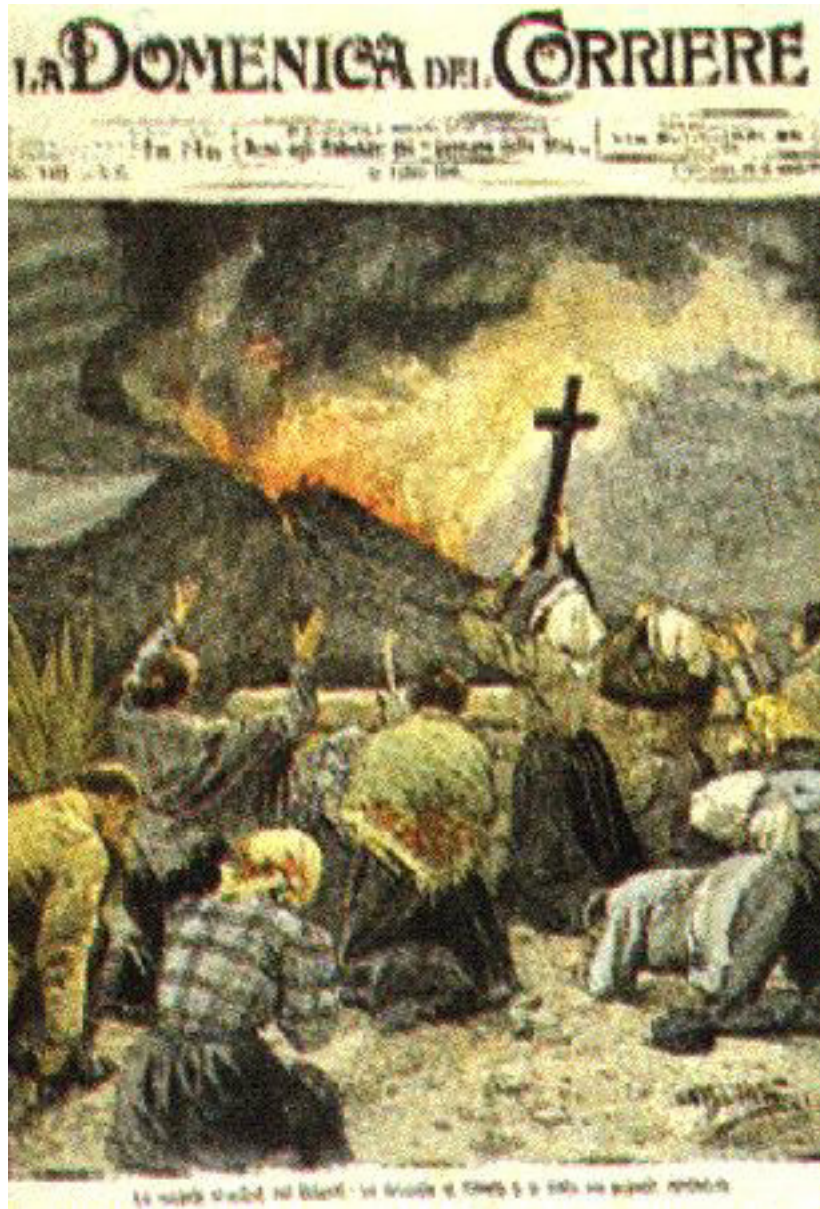
VESUVIO

44. This term derives from Vulcano, a small island at the southern boundary of the Aeolian Islands about 25 kilometers from northern Sicily. This last erupted in 1888-1890. Vulcanello, the youngest part of Vulcano Island, began to form only about 2,100 years ago as an isolated island that later became connected with the main island. The latest activity at Vulcanello occurred in the 16th Century — its lava flows now host large hotel complexes.



VESUVIO

NAPLES



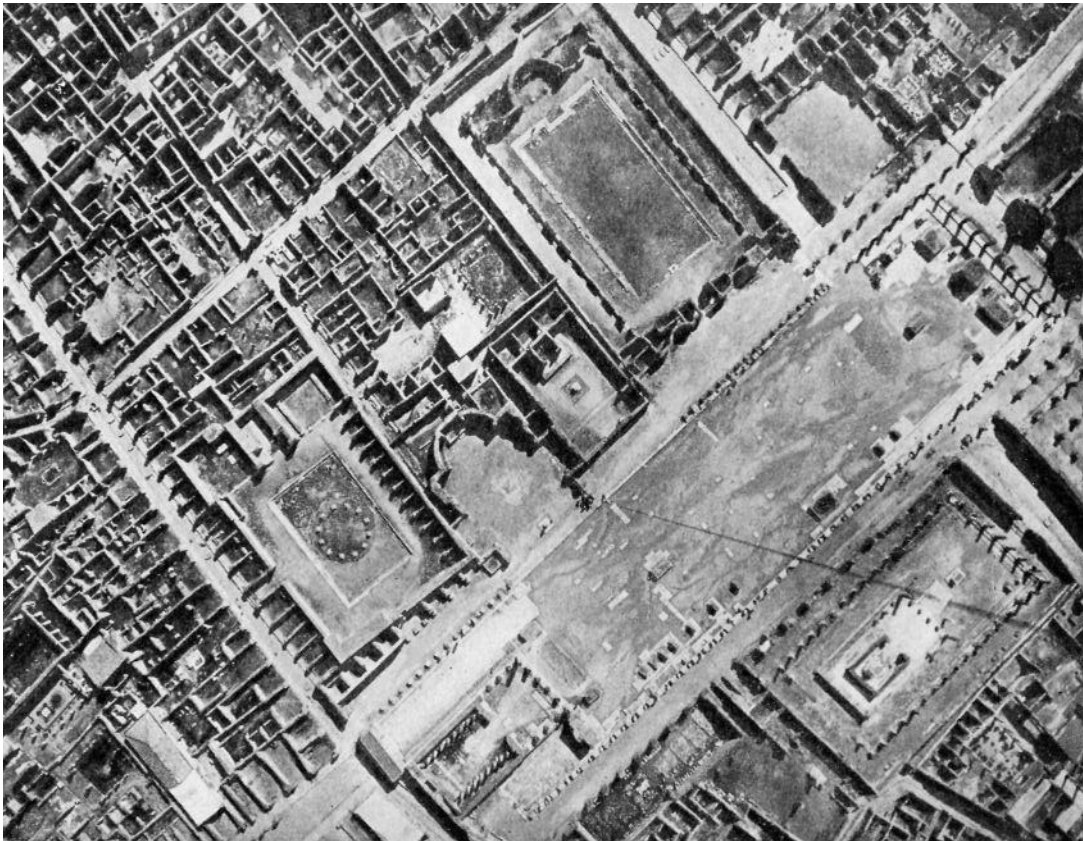


NAPLES

VESUVIO

1911

When the fullonica (laundry) of Stephanus was excavated at [Pompeii](#), it was discovered that during the eruption of Vesuvius they had closed the vertical wooden door covering the large front entrance, securing it on the outside with a large chain. The large door contained a smaller wooden door on hinges, and the smaller door was found to be open due to one of the hinges being broken. In the office of the laundry was found a human skeleton and the sum of 1,089½ sesterces.



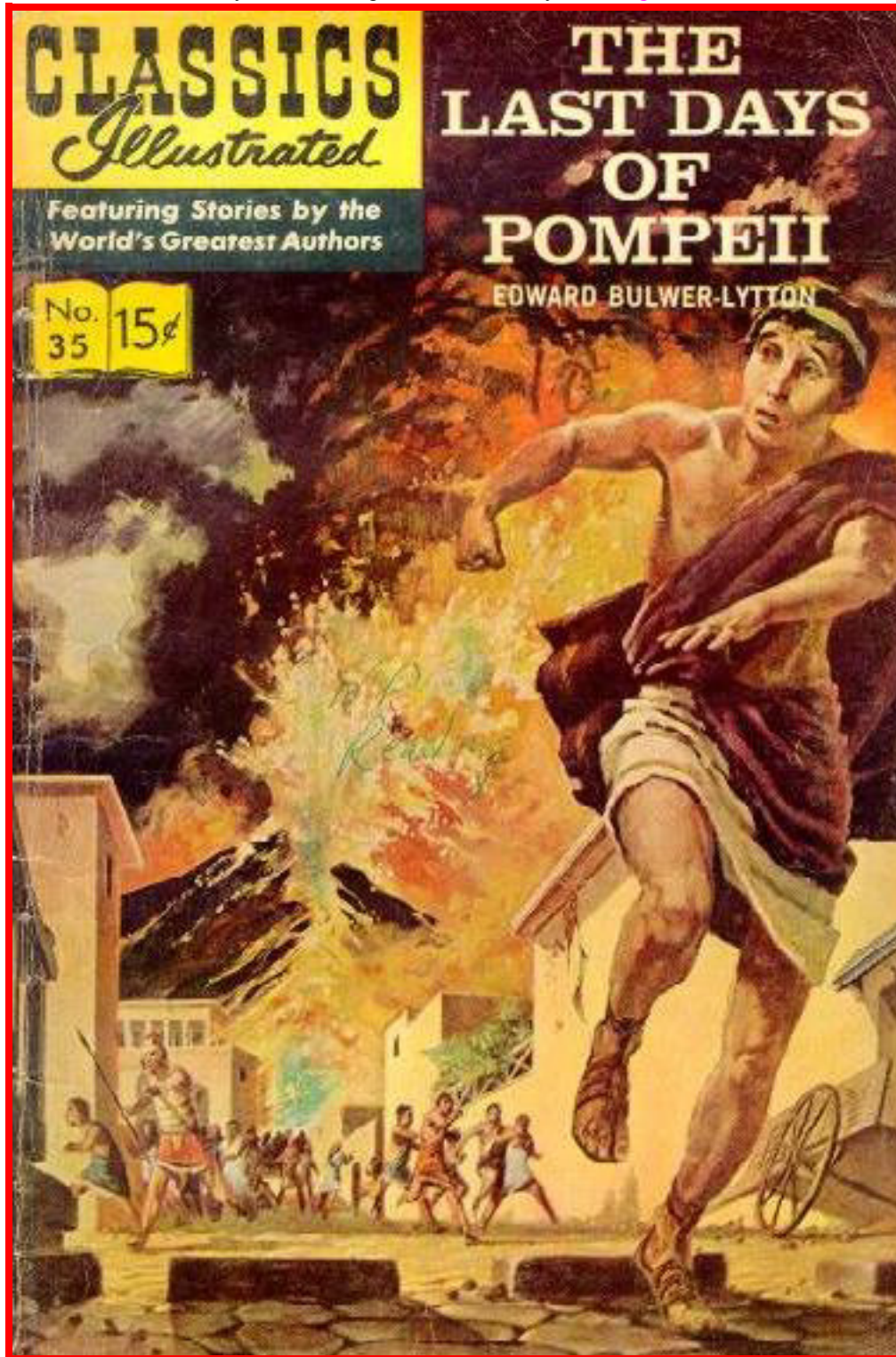


NAPLES

VESUVIO

1913

A silent movie was made by Ernesto Pasquali, of the last days of [Pompeii](#).



1922

October 31: [Benito Mussolini](#) became the youngest Premier in the history of [Italy](#), the youngest in the history of the country, replacing Luigi Facta.



[Giuseppe Garibaldi](#)'s government had allowed people to view the pornographic images excavated at [Pompeii](#), but when power passed to the Savoy kings, the images had been suppressed. Mussolini's government would also largely suppress these embarrassing ancient [Roman](#) images. (Even in the late 1940s, anyone wishing to see this special collection would need an official document attesting to serious purpose signed by a government official — and in the inevitable derivative Neapolitan cultural oscillation, there would of course arise a considerable market in counterfeit attestations. Although a special pornography room would open in the 1970s, it would then soon close “for renovations.”)

1929

June 4-10: [Mount Vesuvius](#) erupted: “Effusiva — Lave ad E verso Terzigno (Pagani e Campitelli) e, più a S, attraverso il burrone della Cupaccia, verso le lave del Mauro (1751 e 1754) e dei Caposecchi (1834). Distruzione di case e campi coltivati. Notevoli fontane di lava. Crollo del conetto.”⁴⁵

45. Subsequent to this eruption, the volcano went more or less quiet. There would be no activity of any significance until 1944: “Intervallo tra le eruzioni del 1929 e del 1944 Effusiva — Emissioni lente. Lave nell’Atrio.”

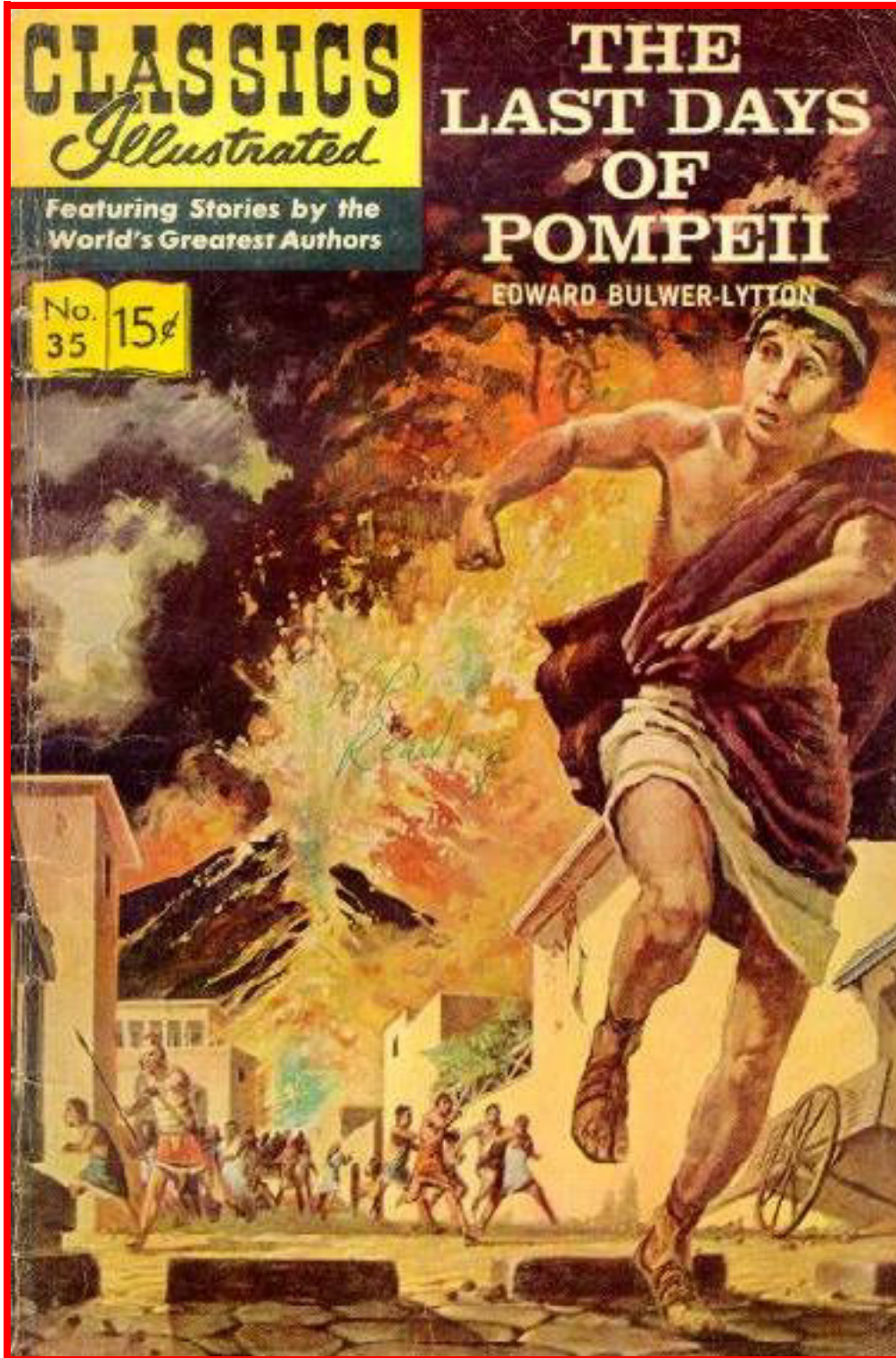


VESUVIO

NAPLES

1935

A movie was made, starring Basil Rathbone, of the last days of [Pompeii](#).



1941

This is what [Mount Vesuvius](#) looked like in 1941 and 1942:



VOLCANISM



NAPLES

VESUVIO

1943

October 1, Friday: In Denmark, Jews were removed to concentration camps.

ANTISEMITISM

Lieutenant (Junior Grade) [Richard Milhous Nixon](#) received an appointment as a Lieutenant in the US Naval Reserve.

Archibald Percival Wavell, Viscount Wavell replaced Victor Alexander John Hope, Marquis of Linlithgow as Viceroy of [India](#).

Over the next week, the Red Army would be crossing the Dnieper river at several places.

British and American forces entered [Naples, Italy](#). At some point in preparation for the Allied landings, the excavations at [Pompeii](#) had been, for some reason, bombed. A portion of the inscription in the House of the Moralists was destroyed:

| | |
|--|--|
| ABLUAT UNDA PEDES, PUER ET DETERGEAT UDOS. | The servant shall wash and dry the feet of the guest; |
| MAPPA TORUM VELET, LINTEA NOSTRA CAVE. | A cloth over the cushions, and linen well cared for. |
| LASCIVOS VULTUS ET BLANDOS AUPER OCELLOS | Abandon lascivious looks and do not cast sweet |
| CONIUGE AB ALTERNIUS: SIBI TIBI IN ORE PUDER. | glances at the women of others; be chaste in speech. |
| (UTERE BLANDIT) IIS, ODIOSAQUE IUGGE DIFFER | Abstain from anger if possible, |
| SI POTES, A UT GRESSUS AD TUA TECTA REFER. | if not return to your own home. |

(The four-room structure that is known as the “Antiquarium,” although bombed out, would be rebuilt in 1948.)

United States Naval Air Facility, Recife, Brazil was established.

The United States naval forces under Admiral H.R. Stark, Commander Naval Forces Europe, were redesignated as the 12th Fleet.

United States naval vessels damaged:

- Destroyer *Saufley* (DD-465), by horizontal bomber, Solomon Islands area, 7 degrees 42 minutes South, 160 degrees 14 minutes East
- LST448, by horizontal bomber, Solomon Islands area, 7 degrees 45 minutes South, 156 degrees 30 minutes East

[Japanese](#) submarine sunk:

- Submarine I-20, by destroyer *Eaton* (DD-510), Solomon Islands area, 7 degrees 40 minutes South, 157 degrees 10 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

1944

February 18, Friday: Soviet troops captured Staraya Russa and Shimsk, south of Novgorod.

A third successive attack in as many days by [Indian](#) forces failed to dislodge [Germans](#) defending Monte Cassino. New Zealanders forced their way across the River Rapido near the town of Cassino but were driven back.

Captain George D. Belben's cruiser HMS *Penelope* was returning from the Anzio beach-head to [Naples](#) when Oberleutnant Horst-Arno Fenski's U410 got it with a torpedo. It went down at 7:18AM. 417 out of 623 died.



(U410 would sink on March 11, 1944 during a US bombing raid on the Vichy Naval Base at Toulon.)

On the eve of the American carrier-borne air strike on the [Japanese](#) naval base at Truk Lagoon, the 1,270-ton destroyer *Oite* and the light cruiser *Agano* were due for a refit. They headed out together for Japan but only got about 200 miles before the *Agano* took a torpedo and had to be abandoned. Its crew of 523 piled on board the *Oite* and the vessel attempted to return to Truk. However, at this point Operation Hailstorm, an air attack against the ships anchored in Truk Lagoon, was taking place. As the *Oite* approached the entrance to the lagoon it was engaged by Avenger torpedo planes from the carrier USS *Yorktown*. The ship's back was broken and within minutes it plunged to the 240-foot bottom. As might be expected, just about everybody died.

Marines and Army forces land on Engebi Island, Eniwetok Atoll, in the Marshall Islands. Preliminary landings were made 17 February on several nearby islets. The operation was under the command of Rear Admiral H. W. Hill and was supported by naval gunfire and carrier-based aircraft.

Destroyers bombard enemy positions at Kavieng, New Ireland, and Rabaul, New Britain.

United States naval vessel sunk:

- Tug YT-198, by mine, Italian area, 41 degrees 27 minutes North, 12 degrees 38 minutes East

United States naval vessel damaged:

- Minesweeper *Pilot* (AM-104), by collision, Italian area, 40 degrees 48 minutes North, 14 degrees 16 minutes East

[Japanese](#) naval vessels sunk, Truk area, Caroline Islands:

- Destroyer *Fumizuki*, by carrier-based aircraft, 7 degrees 24 minutes North, 151 degrees 44 minutes East.
- Submarine chaser #29, by carrier-based #29, by carrier-based aircraft, 7 degrees 25 minutes North, 151 degrees 45 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

March 23, Thursday (25th anniversary of the Fascist Party): The 11th Company of the 3rd Battalion of the *Schutzstaffel Polizei* Regiment “Bozen,” consisting of 156 men, were on their regular daily march through the streets of [Rome](#) to the Macao Barracks and had reached the narrow Via Rasella when a partisan bomb exploded killing 26 and wounding 60, 2 mortally. Some civilians were also killed. The [German](#) Commandant of Rome, General Kurt Malzer, while inebriated, ordered the arrest of all [Italians](#) who lived on that street. Some 200 civilians were rounded up and turned over temporarily to the Italian authorities. *Führer* [Adolf Hitler](#), on hearing of this bomb placed in a road-sweeper’s cart, immediately ordered that 30 Italians be shot for each dead policeman, although later this number was reduced to 10 per dead policeman. The next day, the civilians would be loaded onto lorries and taken to some caves that had been discovered by the Germans on the Via Ardeatina in which the disbanded Italian army had stored barrels of petrol and vehicles. At 3:30PM execution would begin, with each victim ordered to kneel and shot in the back of the head. By 8PM this work would be completed.



This is a German Army action figure, complete with its tiny Luger, which you can purchase for your son to play with.

Schutzstaffel Obersturmbannführer Herbert Kappler, who had been in charge of the executions, would in 1947 be sentenced to life imprisonment — in 1972 he was allowed to marry his German nurse, Anneliese Wenger — in 1976, with her help, he would be able to escape from the prison hospital — seven months later in her home at Soltau in northern [Germany](#), he would die of cancer of the stomach. General Malzer would die in

prison. Today, the Ardeatina Caves are a memorial, and nearby is a mausoleum containing stone sarcophagi for 335 victims.

Near [Naples](#), Vesuvio blew its top:



MOUNT VESUVIUS

Destroyers bombarded enemy installations on Mussau Islands in the St. Matthias group of the Bismarck Archipelago.

United States Naval Air Facility, Dunkeswell, England was established.

A [Japanese](#) submarine was sunk:



NAPLES

VESUVIO

- Submarine I-42, by submarine *Tunny* (SS-282), off Palau Islands, 6 degrees 40 minutes North, 134 degrees 3 minutes East

WORLD WAR II

VESUVIO

NAPLES

April 4-22: The maw of [Mount Vesuvius](#) opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.⁴⁶ Professor Steven Jay Gould of Harvard's dad, as a GI in the WWII invasion of Italy, would observe the aftermath of this most recent eruption.

WORLD WAR II



46. "Effusiva-Esplosiva Lave a NW. Attraverso il Fosso del Faraone verso S. Sebastiano, Massa e Cercola si ferma a 120 m s.l.m. S. Sebastiano e Massa distrutte. 45 morti per crollo dei solai (Nocera, Pagani e Terzigno) e 2 per le mofete (Ercolano). Si forma l'attuale cratere di forma ellittica (580x480 m)."



NAPLES

VESUVIO

ENSO PHASES

| Cold Phase | Neutral Phase | Warm Phase |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| 1944 | | |
| 1945 | | |
| 1946 | | |
| 1947 | | |
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| | | 1969 |
| 1970 | | |
| 1971 | | |



VESUVIO

NAPLES

| Cold Phase | Neutral Phase | Warm Phase |
|------------|---------------|------------|
| | | 1972 |
| 1973 | | |
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| | 1995 | |
| | 1996 | |



1948

The four-room structure in [Pompeii](#) known as the “Antiquarium,” that had been, during the Allied landings of [World War II](#), for some reason bombed, was in this year being rebuilt.

Garibaldi’s government had allowed people to view the pornographic images excavated at [Pompeii](#), but when power had passed to the Savoy kings, the images had been suppressed. The Fascist government also had largely suppress these embarrassing ancient [Roman](#) images. In the capitalist economy of the late 1940s, however, anyone wishing to see this special collection, who had money to dispose of and the leisure to follow the procedure was able to obtain an official document attesting to serious purpose ostensibly signed by a government official — either a real such attestation or some counterfeit document. (Although a special pornography room would open in the 1970s, it would then soon close “for renovations.”)

1950

September: Howard Fast got out of the Mill Point Federal Prison, where he had been being held for refusing to answer the questions of the House of Representatives’s Un-American Activities interrogator. While in prison he had been daydreaming about [Spartacus](#) — and so, immediately that he had consulted an encyclopedia entry on this historical figure, he began to compose a novel.

1951

June: Howard Fast completed his prison-inspired MS on [Spartacus](#), and found that no publisher would touch it. After a number of years of trying, he would be forced to self-publish.

1953

A new Italian film on [Spartacus](#), that would within the next decade be followed by two others.

1954

Howard Fast, unable for four years to find a publisher who would touch such work, self-published his 1951 novel SPARTACUS — on the basis of which the Kirk Douglas movie “Spartacus” would be created in 1961 and the Goran Visnjic/Rhona Mitra made-for-TV special would be created in 2004.





December 2: A mutual defense treaty between the United States and Taiwan was signed in Washington.

Eight eastern European nations signed a declaration to form a defense pact similar to NATO, if West [Germany](#) was rearmed.

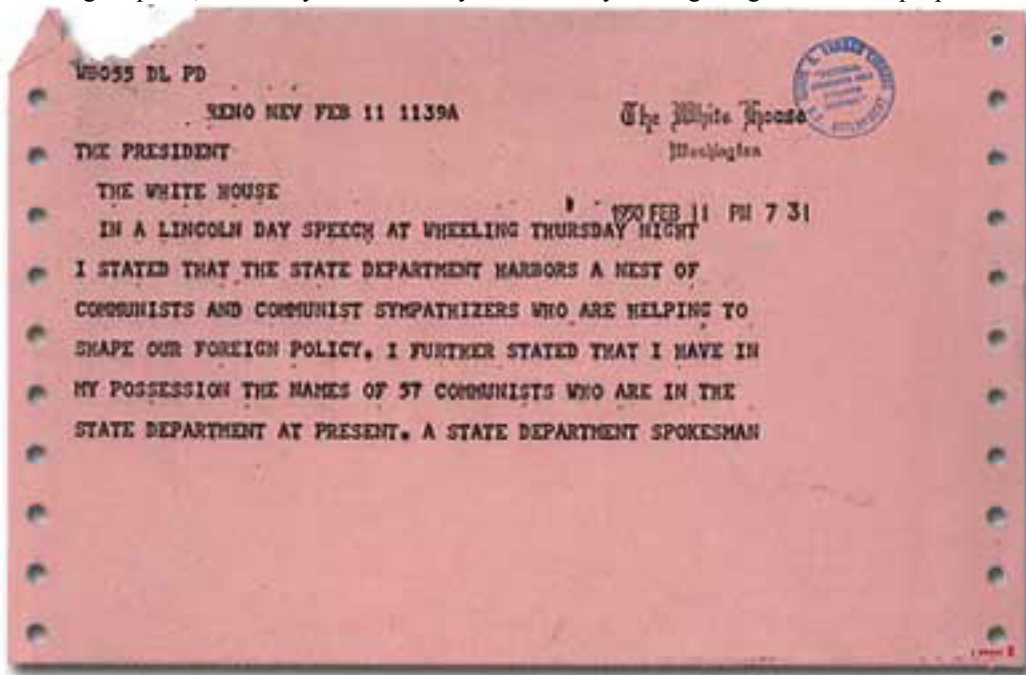
Arthur Honegger was raised to the rank of Grand Officer in the Legion of Honor.

Déserts for 14 winds, piano, five percussionists and two-track tape by Edgar Varèse, was performed for the initial time, at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées, Paris, and broadcast live. Pierre Henry was in charge of the tape. A scandal ensued with audience members of differing opinions hurling insults during the performance. These turned to fisticuffs and wrestling matches, with some patrons attempting unsuccessfully to use seats as weapons. The office of Prime Minister Pierre Mendès-France was inundated with phonecalls from angry listeners trying to get the music or the broadcast stopped. An order was issued to R.T.F. to stop the broadcast but the order is ignored.

It would at any point have been the simplest thing imaginable, to bring the rabid Catholic anti-Communist Republican Senator from Wisconsin, [Joseph R. McCarthy](#), under control.



Since in addition to being an alcoholic substance abuser, he also had a thing for jailbait teeners, all that would have been necessary would have been for either the Republican Party or the Democratic Party to obtain a hippie teener for him, and then blackmail him into silence. Certainly there would have been young people who would have volunteered for such service to their nation. The fact is, nobody had ever attempted this because in keeping the pot boiling, in keeping things in an uproar, in keeping the electorate in a state of confusion bordering on panic, McCarthy had been very satisfactorily serving the government's purposes.



However, at this point the senator began to go too far. Rather than limiting himself to attacking and abusing the government's Civil Service closet queers, he began to attack established power.



"Lists of the disloyal have been compiled!"
 – Roman Senator Crassus,
 played by Sir Lawrence Olivier
 in the 1961 Hollywood movie
 "[Spartacus](#)"



Therefore there was a 67-22 vote to condemn (not censure) him for conduct unbecoming a senator:

83rd Congress, 2nd Session, Senate Resolution 301

"Resolved, That the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. McCarthy, failed to cooperate with the Subcommittee on Privileges and Elections of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration in clearing up matters referred to that subcommittee which concerned his conduct as a Senator and affected the honor of the Senate and, instead, repeatedly abused the subcommittee and its members who were trying to carry out assigned duties, thereby obstructing the constitutional processes of the Senate, and that this conduct of the Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. McCarthy, is contrary to senatorial traditions and is hereby condemned.

"Sec 2. The Senator from Wisconsin, Mr. McCarthy, in writing to the chairman of the Select Committee to Study Censure Charges (Mr. Watkins) after the Select Committee had issued its report and before the report was presented to the Senate charging three members of the Select Committee with 'deliberate deception' and

‘fraud’ for failure to disqualify themselves; in stating to the press on November 4, 1954, that the special Senate session that was to begin November 8, 1954, was a ‘lynch-party’; in repeatedly describing this special Senate session as a ‘lynch bee’ in a nationwide television and radio show on November 7, 1954; in stating to the public press on November 13, 1954, that the chairman of the Select Committee (Mr. Watkins) was guilty of ‘the most unusual, most cowardly things I’ve ever heard of’ and stating further: ‘I expected he would be afraid to answer the questions, but didn’t think he’d be stupid enough to make a public statement’; and in characterizing the said committee as the ‘unwitting handmaiden,’ ‘involuntary agent’ and ‘attorneys-in-fact’ of the Communist Party and in charging that the said committee in writing its report ‘imitated Communist methods — that it distorted, misrepresented, and omitted in its effort to manufacture a plausible rationalization’ in support of its recommendations to the Senate, which characterizations and charges were contained in a statement released to the press and inserted in the Congressional Record of November 10, 1954, acted contrary to senatorial ethics and tended to bring the Senate into dishonor and disrepute, to obstruct the constitutional processes of the Senate, and to impair its dignity; and such conduct is hereby condemned.”⁴⁷

We may notice how similar this is in actuality to Arthur Miller’s *The Crucible*, which also was based upon a falsehood. In the play, the Salem [witchhunts](#) come to an end because some of the accused farm people stand up on the scaffold and tell the truth. That’s not history, it’s myth. What actually had brought the Salem witchhunt to an end had been that the haunted little girls had begun to accuse the rich and powerful — whereupon the rich and powerful had instantly brought the whole thing to a screeching halt. Here, in this Senate censure, we have the same thing happening over again. As long as McCarthy continued to abuse the powerless, everything was just fine, but as soon as he began to make himself a threat to the rich and powerful, his whole thing was brought to a screeching halt.



What had the McCarthy thingie been, actually? To learn that, we can turn to page 412 of Leo Braudy’s *FROM CHIVALRY TO TERRORISM: WAR AND THE CHANGING NATURE OF MASCULINITY* (NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 2003), where Professor Braudy contemplates the fact that physical homosexuality is often associated directly with treason:

In April 1916, Sir Roger Casement, an Irish nationalist who was negotiating with the Germans for aid in the cause of Irish independence, was arrested for gunrunning. After he was stripped of his knighthood and sentenced to death, intelligence officials in the British government circulated to journalists pages from his “black” diaries, which detailed a crowded life of homosexual encounters. In the circumstances it has been argued that this

47. The only Senator not on record for this vote was the Catholic senator John F. Kennedy, who was having back surgery and would refuse ever to indicate how he would have voted (Senator McCarthy was a long-term friend of the family, and had been a confidant of Jack’s father).



NAPLES

VESUVIO

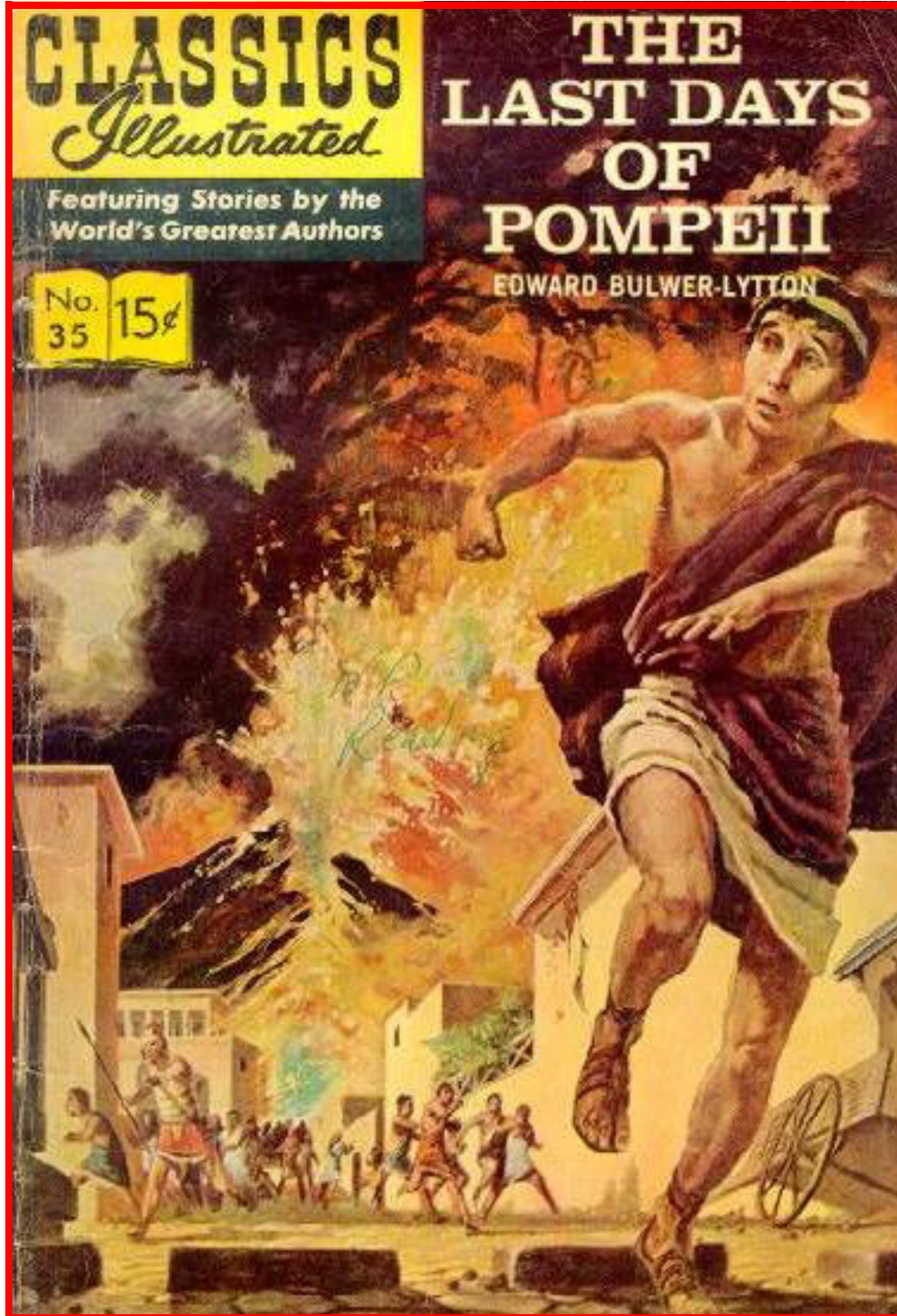
was a strategy to forestall sympathy, especially in the United States, with the Irish cause. But the general implication was much wider. Later in World War I a secret list was distributed in British Government circles naming homosexuals, usually the most obviously effeminate and often those connected to the aristocracy, who were considered to be potential subversives susceptible to blackmail by the German General Staff. In France what was widely known to be an actual homosexual relationship between the French and German spies in the Dreyfus case never became an important issue. But in England and the United States the association between sexual deviance and political unreliability continued to be a preoccupation – down to the absurdities of the McCarthy period in the United States after World War II, when right-wing homosexuals like Roy Cohn persecuted left-wing homosexuals to prove their own loyalty, just as right-wing Jews attacked left-wing Jews like the Rosenbergs to do the same.

UNAMERICANISM

1958

Early in this year Dalton Trumbo, who had been blacklisted because of his defiance of the House of Representatives's [Un-American Activities Committee](#), used a pseudonym when he turned Howard Fast's [Spartacus](#) into a movie script.

Another movie was made of the last days of [Pompeii](#), with Steve Reeves as a gladiator.



1961

In the orchard associated with the house at Pompeii that is now known as the Garden of the Fugitives, voids were discovered in the layer of lapilii and were carefully filled with liquid plaster of Paris. Graphic impressions of the bodies of thirteen fleeing Pompeians were recovered, casts which, although lacking archeological significance, are greatly fascinating to the hordes of tourists to the excavation site. "Oh, lookie, Mom, the little boy was trying to run away!"

On the basis of a movie script written (of necessity, under a pseudonym) by blacklisted Hollywood scriptwriter Dalton Trumbo, Howard Fast's 1951 novel SPARTACUS was made into a movie starring Kirk Douglas.⁴⁸

SPARTACUS



48. If you inspect this movie carefully, you will note that one of the extras is wearing a wrist watch. Otherwise, the movie is about as boring as Hollywood action movies can get. (Hollywood can make even lies boring — when it tries hard enough.)



"Lists of the disloyal have been compiled!"
 – Roman Senator Crassus,
 played by Sir Lawrence Olivier
 in the 1961 Hollywood movie
 "Spartacus"



1964

May 11: The maw of Mount Vesuvius opened and it transited into its eruptive, non-quiet condition, which phase typically obtains for this particular volcano for between half an year and just shy of 31 years.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| <200,000 BCE | Eruptions began in a fold of the ocean floor between the island of Capri and Mt. Massico |
| x BCE | eruption (Avellino pliniana) |
| 25,000 BCE | eruption (Codola pliniana) |
| 17,000 BCE | eruption (Sarno-Pomici Basali pliniana) |
| 15,500 BCE | eruption (Pomici Verdoline pliniana) |
| 7,900 BCE | eruption (Mercato pliniana) |
| 5,960 BCE | eruption, one of the largest known of Europe |
| 3,580 BCE | eruption (Avellino pliniana), one of the largest known of Europe |
| 1,000 BCE | eruption (subpliniana) |
| 700 BCE | eruption (subpliniana) |
| 73 CE | The escaped gladiator <u>Spartacus</u> was trapped for a time by the praetor Publius Claudius Pulcher on the barren wasteland of Mount Somma, the high ridge next to <u>Mount Vesuvius</u> , which at that time amounted to a wide, flat depression walled by rugged rocks coated over by wild vines. Spartacus would manage to escape this trap by stealth. |
| 79 CE | Explosion buried <u>Pompeii</u> and Stabiae under ashes and lapilli and buried Herculaneum under a mud flow (the pit left in the side of the cone by this explosion has long since disappeared). |
| 203 CE | explosive eruption |
| 472 CE | eruption (Pollena subpliniana) |
| 512 CE | eruption so severe Theodorich the Goth temporarily released inhabitants of slopes from taxation |
| 685 CE | strong eruption |
| 787 CE | grand eruption |
| 968 CE | strong eruption |



VESUVIO

NAPLES

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 991 CE | eruption |
| 999 CE | strong eruption |
| 1007 CE | strong eruption |
| 1036 CE | a grand eruption followed by a long period of quiescence during which there would be forests inside the crater, and three lakes there from which pasturing herds might drink |
| 1139 CE | explosive eruption |
| 1500 CE | strong eruption |
| December 16, 1631 CE | A devastating explosion after six months of gradually intensifying earthquakes marked a major change in the behavior of this volcano. From this point to the present the behavior would be characterizable as stages of quiescence during which the volcano's maw was obstructed, alternating with stages of eruption during which its maw would be almost continuously open. Recording of eruptions began, and it would be noted that the eruptive stages would be varying from $1\frac{1}{2}$ year to almost 31 years, while the quiescent stages would be varying from $1\frac{1}{2}$ years to $7\frac{1}{2}$ years. |
| 1660 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1682 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1694 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1698 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1707 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1737 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1760 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1767 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1779 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1794 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1822 CE | eruptive stage |
| September 1834 CE | eruptive stage witnessed by Thomas Carlyle 's brother Jack |
| 1839 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1845 CE | the local Mount Vesuvius volcano-watch station opened |
| 1850 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1855 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1861 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1868 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1872 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1906 CE | eruptive stage |
| 1944 CE | eruptive stage |



NAPLES

VESUVIO

May 11,
1964 CE

[Mount Vesuvius](#) signalled the beginning of a new eruptive stage (during such periods the vegetation on the slopes typically dies off due to poisonous gasses).

1970

A chairlift company was selling round-trip tickets to the lip of the caldera of [Mount Vesuvius](#). (Junk remains of such a chairlift may still be seen on the slope.)

At some point early in this decade the US Library of Congress acquired several manuscript maps that were thought to possibly have been sketched by Henry Thoreau. These materials would lie in a maps drawer there unexamined for something like three decades (historical materials being preserved for a grateful posterity, one supposes).

CARTOGRAPHY

During the 1970s, a special room would open in a [Naples](#) museum to display the [Roman](#) pornography of [Pompeii](#) but this room would soon be closed for a lengthy period of time “for renovations” (more historical materials being preserved for a grateful posterity, one supposes).

1980

France exploded a neutron bomb.

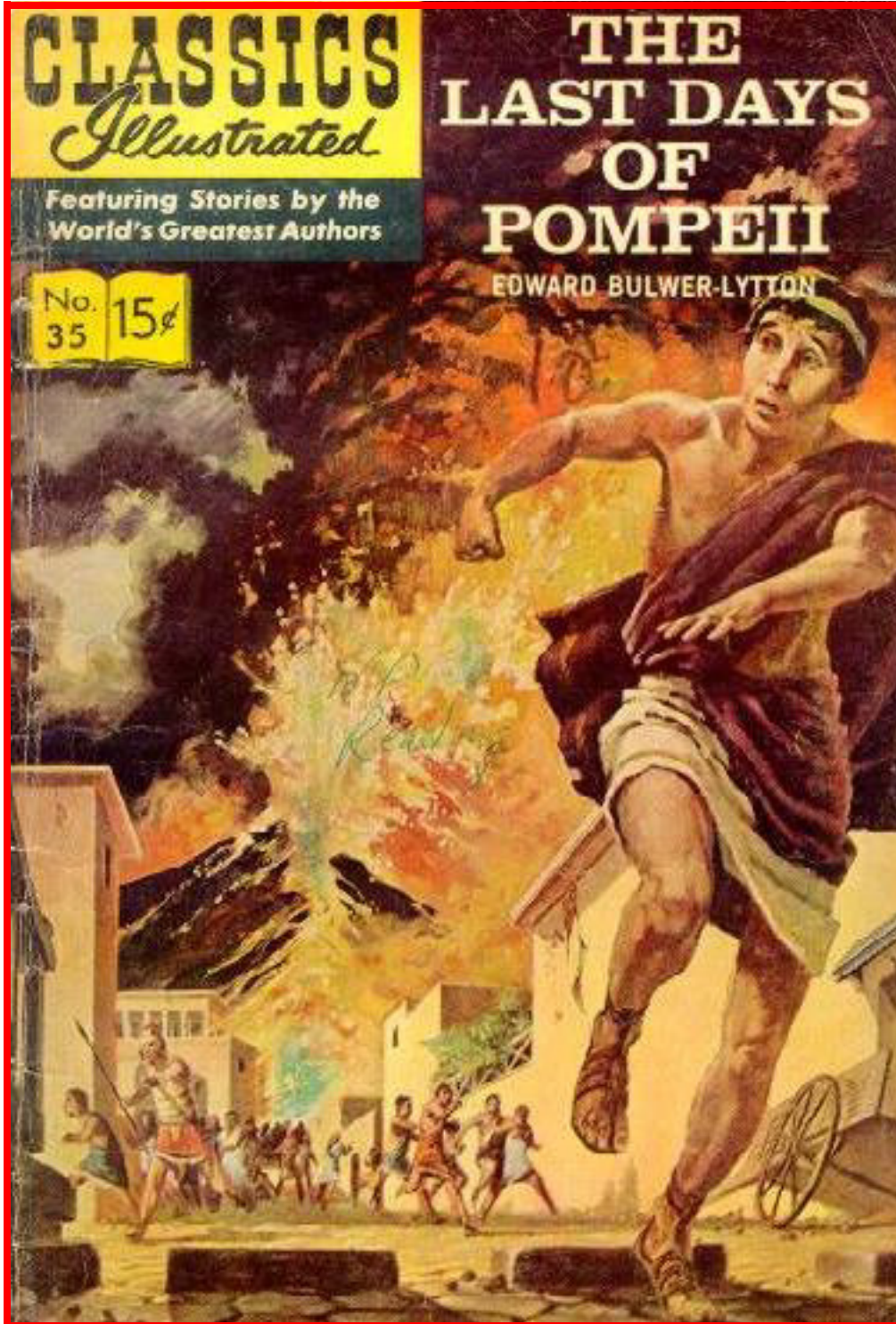
Mount St. Helens in the state of Washington erupted.

VOLCANISM

In the early 1980s, a separate Soprintendenza Archeologica di [Pompeii](#) was created, and this office became responsible for all the Vesuvian sites.

MOUNT VESUVIUS

The last days of [Pompeii](#) became a TV miniseries, featuring Sir Lawrence Olivier.





VESUVIO

NAPLES

1995

Pietro Giovanni Guzzo became the Soprintendente Archeologica di [Pompei](#).

MOUNT VESUVIUS

1997

An Italian law was enacted, that the Soprintendenza Archeologica di [Pompei](#) might retain all revenue from gate receipts at Pompeii.

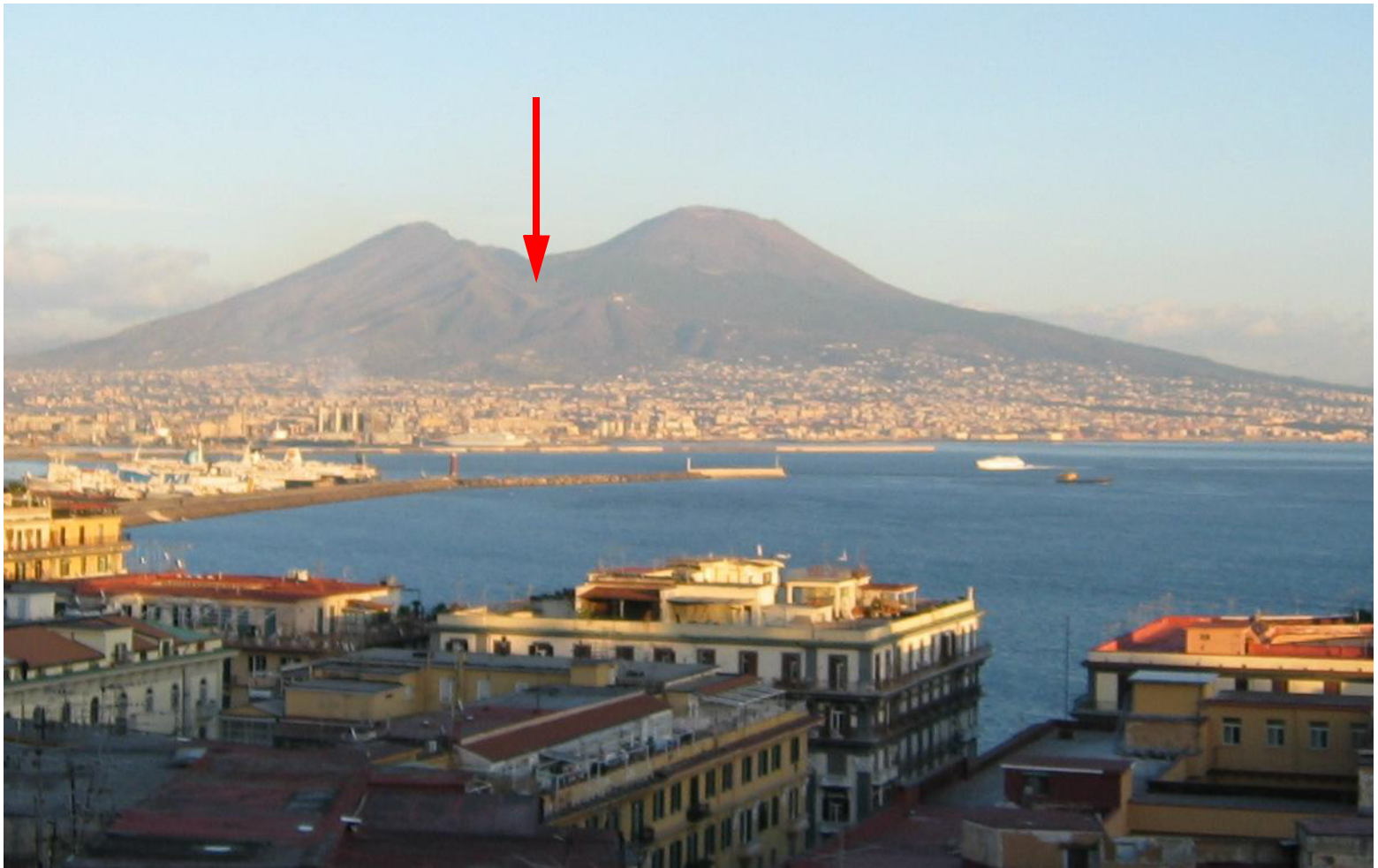
MOUNT VESUVIUS

2004

April: Fifty years after the novel by Howard Fast, SPARTACUS, had been rewritten by Dalton Trumbo into the Kirk Douglas movie "Spartacus," it was recycled as a Goran Visnjic/Rhona Mitra made-for-TV special.



By the way, here's a snapshot I took last year from the balcony of a friend's house. I've added an arrow pointing to the probable site of encampment of Spartacus's army:



(Volcanos make good neighbors, except when they don't.)



VESUVIO

NAPLES



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



Prepared: May 15, 2013

ARRGH AUTOMATED RESEARCH REPORT
GENERATION HOTLINE



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, upon someone's request we have pulled it out of the hat of a pirate that has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (depicted above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of data modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture. This is data mining. To respond to such a request for information, we merely push a button.



VESUVIO

NAPLES

Commonly, the first output of the program has obvious deficiencies and so we need to go back into the data modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and do a recompile of the chronology - but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary "writerly" process which you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place your requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>.
Arrgh.