




# Occupations within Pompeii and Herculaneum

## Evidence

Gabby

# Popular Occupations Within Pompeii & Herculaneum

- Fishermen
  - Agricultural work
  - Bath attendants/slaves
  - Prostitution
  - Shopkeepers/ bar owners
  - Wine Makers
  - Grape/Oil Presses
  - Wheat Harvesters
  - Bakeries
- 

# Fishermen

- Fishermen were an important part of the commercial industry, particularly in Herculaneum
- Evidence for fishermen as an integral part of the industry in Herculaneum include:
  - Bronze fish hooks
  - Fishing boats facades found at Herculaneum
  - Various bodies have also been found in Herculaneum boat sheds as they sought refuge from the eruption
  - Boat sheds
  - Fish nets
  - Fish skeletons
  - Wood architecture of vaulted chambers suggests the capacity for boat storage
  - An abundance of garum jars (fish sauce) were found in Pompeii and Herculaneum
  - A wall painting in a house at Herculaneum depicts a fishermen carrying products onto boats



# Prostitution

- An everyday part of life for men
- Prostitutes were taxed for their services
- Graffiti reveals that prostitutes were often from lower class families
- Evidence
  - Indicated by the graffiti throughout the towns
  - Graffiti in the Stabiae baths of Pompeii and suburban Herculaneum suggests members of both party groups had food and prostitutes brought into the baths
  - Brothels in towns have been found to have the names of prostitutes and their visiting clients inscribed on the walls
  - Frescoes on the walls of the alleyways of brothels advertised the services provided by prostitute
  - 26 brothels found in Pompeii
  - Little to no mention of prostitution in Herculaneum



# Shopkeepers/Bar Owners (Cauponae)

- Shopkeepers/bar owners were an integral part of the economy
- Various shopkeepers/bar owners were often involved in the political environment, with electoral posters found in bars and taverns
- Shopkeepers/ bar owners:
  - Fast food snacks bars with a marble covered counter
  - Graffiti in Pompeii, “Cheers! We like to drink wineskins!”
  - 200 places to “dine” within Pompeii have been found
  - Tavern in Pompeii confirms there was a wide variety of wines available, “drink here for just one as; for two you can drink better”
  - The Villa Regina was able to hold around 10,000 of wine within its premise
  - Herculaneum wine bar inviting patrons to “Come to the Sign of the Bowls” and advertising half a dozen types of wines

# Laundries (Fulleries)

- The manufacturing of wool, as well as the washing and dyeing of wool was one of the most important industries in Pompeii and was carried out in laundries (fulliconaes/fulleries)
- The finished product was then distributed to cloth merchants
- Laundries would usually use either camel or human urine in order to clean the garments
- Evidence included:
  - 18 fulleries found in Pompeii
  - 4 fulleries owned by the 'Fullery of Stephanus' (the most prominent fullery owner)
  - A clothes press was discovered in a shop attached to the House of the Wooden Partition in Herculaneum
  - Statue of Eumachia - patron of cloth makers and dyers were found in the building



# Wine Makers

- Both local and imported wine was a popular commodity in Pompeii
- It was easy to grow as a result of the fertile soil and climate the region provided
- Wine Makers:
  - Wine presses found throughout Pompeii and Herculaneum
  - Various wineskins found both in Pompeii and Herculaneum
  - Vineyards found in the town and in the country
  - Wine villas in the country had rooms for pressing grapes, fermentation and storage
  - Herculaneum: epigraphic evidence of a sign on a wine bar inviting patrons to 'Come to the Sign of the Bowls' advertised half a dozen types of wines
  - Pliny the Elder's writings told that "Pompeian wines are rather dangerous" and can "cause a headache"



# Fish Sauce (Garum)

- Garum was a popular fish sauce condiment in Pompeii and Herculaneum and was used to add flavour to foods
- It was made from different types of fish that fermented over 1-3 months
- Evidence for garum includes
  - Pliny's quote, "no other liquid... has come to be more highly valued"
  - Evidence of trade from Pompeii garum jars have even been found in France suggesting international trade of the product
  - Scaurus was a renowned producer of garum with 30% of the garum jars sealed with his
  - Mosaic of garum was found in the House of Umbricius Scaurus with the inscription, "flower or liquamen"
  - Hundreds of labeled garum containers of a distinctive shape were found in Pompeii



# Bakeries (Pistrina)

- Bread was a staple food of the Romans
- Baking ovens were rarely found in houses, suggesting almost everyone went to a bakery
- Bread was either sold at the premise it was made, or in the town at stalls/markets
- Evidence for bakeries included
  - 81 carbonised loaves found in the Bakery of Modestus
  - 33 bakeries have been found in Pompeii
  - Small mills were turned by donkeys and two donkey skeletons were found still harnessed to mills in Herculaneum
  - Baker's shop in Herculaneum held 25 different baking pans of various sizes (suggesting the baker specialised in cakes)

