

## Impact of new research and technologies

- electrical measuring devices and recording devices
- found evidence of a comprehensive post-earthquake rebuilding plan that disproved Maiuri's theory
- technological advancements have assisted forward motion in the excavation and documentation of Pompeii
- Pompeii mainly remains a 'one layered' site providing a limited view of pre-roman colonization
- Unity of teams of archaeologists rather than individuals like previous digs means more recognition and funding as well as many more voices and ideas being expressed
- Role and responsibility of archaeologists have changed dramatically
- There has been a **'shifting away from the old certainties of fact and truth towards multiple and varied interpretations'**
- More work carried out in labs – less invasive techniques allow for better preservation

## ***Issues of Conservation and reconstruction: Italian and International contributions and responsibilities; impact of tourism***

- **PRESERVATION = TOTAL PROTECTION FROM HARMFUL AND DAMAGING FACTORS**
- **RESTORATION = ANY PROCESS WHICH CONTRIBUTES TO ENHANCING THE VISUAL OR FUNCTIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF AN OBJECT OR BUILDING. IT IS NEEDED TO AID INTERPRETATION OF OBJECTS**
- **CONSERVATION = THE ACT OF SAFEGUARDING THE OBJECTS AND STRUCTURES WHICH COMPRISE THE MATERIAL REMAINS OF THE PAST TO ENSURE THOSE REMAINS ARE AVAILABLE TO USE AND ENJOY TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE**
- International organizations designed to look after the conservation of Pompeii are:
  - 'the Pompeii trust'
    - objective – **"the preservation, restoration, improvement, and maintenance of all objects, artifacts, structures or antiquities of architectural, historical, or archaeological interest relating to Pompeii or its neighboring regions"**
  - 'World monuments watch'
  - 'The Kress foundation'
- international funds responsible for maintaining ethical issues such as:
  - role, standards and integrity of the archaeologists and conservators
  - degree and type of intervention at the sites
  - interests of specific groups and the greater public good

- analysis and documentation programs ran during the 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century
    - 'The houses in Pompeii' project – set up by Germany
      - investigate and salvage buildings 'at least on paper' which had not been recorded properly in preceding excavations
    - 'The insular of Menander' project – Britain
      - began 3stage analysis and documentation of a whole city block
      - aimed to readdress the deficiencies of past excavations conducted by maiuri
      - aimed to draw conclusions about the areas social structure
      - large team from various professions
      - stage 1 – architecture and structures, stage 2 – interior decoration, stage 3 – loose finds
      - problems:
        - inability to dig beyond existing walls and structures
        - reused building materials made new walls looks like old ones
        - early restorations and interventions that were rarely marked and hard to identify
      - highlighted changes in building structure over time
      - contradicts Maiuri's crisis theory believing owner of house of menander was actively repairing earthquake damage
      - rejected older beliefs
    - 'Pompeian forum' project
      - dependant on computer science
      - wide range of experts
      - initiated because:
        - existing plans for forum were inaccurate and incomplete
        - documented remains deteriorating
        - allowed to study response to earthquake and **“allowed to come face to face with civic aspirations, building techniques and urban design schemes of the third quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD”**
      - aimed to provide more accurate plans and documents for the surviving remains as well as provide computer models
      - used electrical measuring devices and recording devices
      - found evidence of a comprehensive post-earthquake rebuilding plan that disproved Maiuri's theory
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- **“by far the greatest negative impact on the sites are the millions of visitors each year, especially as they are confined to smaller and smaller areas”**
  - half of what could be seen in the 1950's can be seen today
  - wear down mosaics and street pavements
  - exposing lead pipes which crack and break up
  - humid breath and camera flashes deteriorate walls and pictures

- rubbish is dumped
- items taken as souvenirs
- **1986 – Blanquat declared that Pompeii was “an archaeological disaster of the first order”**

### ***Ethical Issues: Study and Display of Human Remains***

- issues of human remains arose through the concerns of indigenous people for whom it is taboo to disturb the dead
- values and attitudes change and therefore archaeologists constantly are infuriated over the treatment of human remains by the archaeologists before
- initially remains were treated with disrespect and discarded to make way for precious finds, or taken as souvenirs
- bones scattered making the study of a whole skeleton today very difficult
- many archaeologists believe all excavation of human remains should stop and those already unearthed should not be displayed
- some believe people should have access to the story human remains tells
- **source pg 197-198**
- generally agreed bodies pre-1000yrs are allowed to be exhumed for study so long as they are accounted respect
- scientists’ rights no not override the beliefs of present descendants
- issue of custodianship has two ends – cultural and direct descendants, and museums as custodians of the general public
- also question of analysis when that analysis may not be able to be repeated
- appropriate storage is crucial so that future analysis is possible
- the display of human remains should be avoided at all costs due to religious and cultural beliefs
- questions raised in ethical debate are:
  - Should bones be seen solely as artifacts that provide valuable information?
  - Should our view of human remains be a function of the age of the remains?
  - Should archaeologists have the freedom to pursue knowledge and scientific enquiry without political pressures and legal constraints?
  - Who should have custodianship over human remains?
  - What is the most appropriate way to store and display human remains?