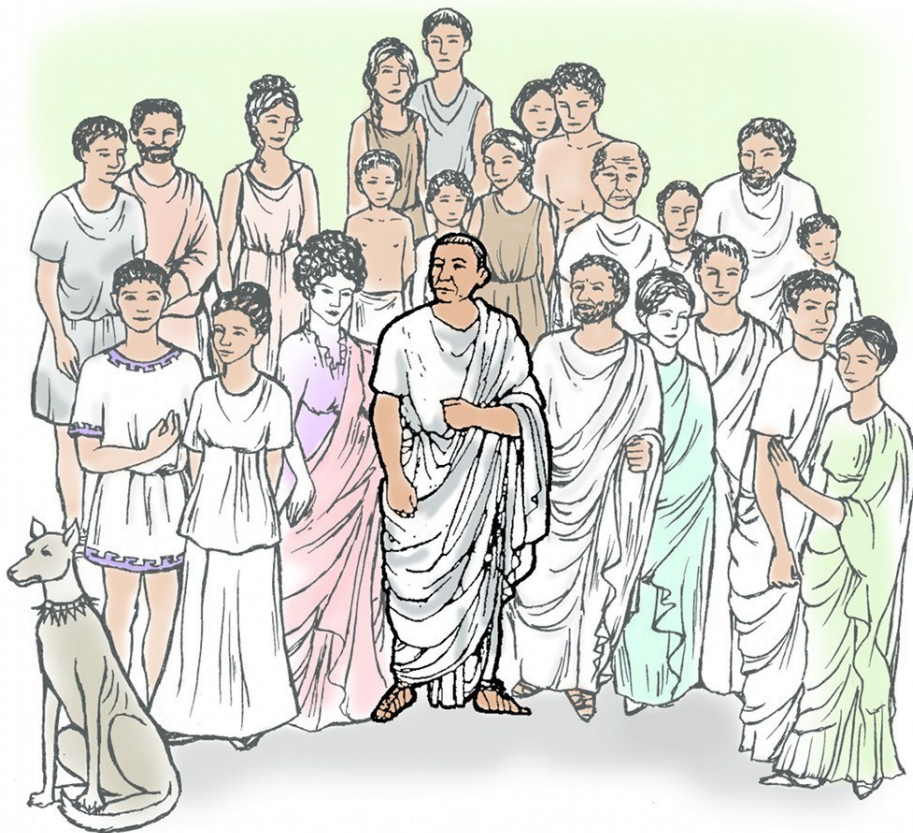


Navigation



familia



1 Caecilius est pater.



2 Metella est mater.



3 Quīntus est fīlius.



4 Lūcia est fīlia.



5 Clēmēns est servus.



6 Grumiō est coquus.



7 Cerberus est canis.

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Navigation



8 Caecilius est in tablīnō.



9 Metella est in ātriō.



10 Quīntus est in tricliniō.



11 Lūcia est in hortō.



12 Clēmēns est in cubiculō.



13 Grumiō est in culinā.



14 Cerberus est in viā.



15 pater est in tablīnō.
pater in tablīnō scribit.



16 Metella est in ātriō.
māter in ātriō sedet.



17 filius est in tricliniō.
filius in tricliniō bibit.



18 filia est in hortō.
filia in hortō legit.



19 servus est in cubiculō.
servus in cubiculō labōrat.



20 coquus est in culinā.
coquus in culinā labōrat.



21 canis est in viā.
canis in viā dormit.

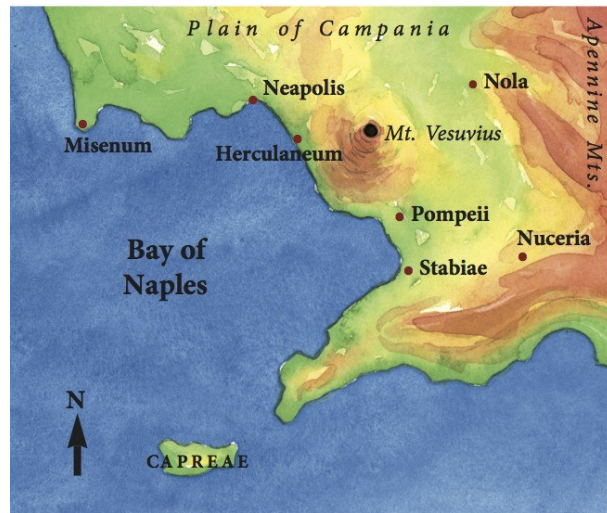
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Caecilius

Caecilius lived in Italy during the first century AD in the town of Pompeii. The town was situated at the foot of Mount Vesuvius on the coast of the Bay of Naples, and may have had a population of about 10,000. Caecilius was a rich Pompeian banker. When archaeologists excavated his house they discovered his accounts in a strongbox. These documents tell us that he was also an auctioneer, tax collector, farmer, and moneylender.

He inherited some of his money, but he probably made most of it through shrewd and energetic business activities. He dealt in slaves, cloth, timber, and property. He also ran a laundry and dyeing business, grazed sheep and cattle on pastureland outside the town, and he sometimes won the contract for collecting the local taxes. He may have owned a few shops as well, and probably lent money to local shipping companies wishing to trade with countries overseas. The profit on such trading was often very large.



The Bay of Naples (Neapolis). The area covered by this map is about 40 miles (60 kilometers) wide.



The front of Caecilius' house. The spaces on either side of the door were shops he probably owned.



A laundry like this was among his business interests.



Central and southern Italy.

Caecilius' full name was Lucius Caecilius Iucundus. Lucius was his personal name, rather like a modern first name. His second name, Caecilius, shows that he was a member of the "clan" of the Caecilii. Clans or groups of families were very important and strong feelings of loyalty existed within them. Caecilius' third name, Iucundus, is the name of his own family and close relatives. The word **Iucundus** means "pleasant" just as in English we find surnames like Merry or Jolly.

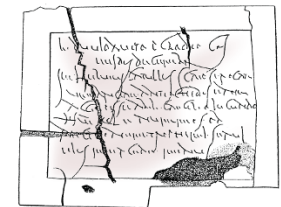
Only a Roman citizen would have three names. A slave would have just one, such as Clemens or Grumio. As a Roman citizen, Caecilius not only had the right to vote in elections, but also was fully protected by the law against unjust treatment. The slaves who lived and worked in his house and in his businesses had no rights of their own. They were his property and he could treat them well or badly as he wished. There was one important exception to this rule. The law did not allow a master to put a slave to death without showing good reason.



This head found in Caecilius' house may be a portrait of him.



This is one of the wooden tablets found in Caecilius' house. They recorded his business dealings. The writing was on wax in the central recess and when the tablets were discovered much of the writing could still be read. The tablets were tied together in twos or threes through the holes at the top.



One page of the writing: it records the sale at auction of a slave for 6,252 sesterces.



Caecilius kept his tablets and money in a wood and metal strongbox like this.



Roman coins: a bronze sestertius, a silver denarius, and a gold aureus.

Navigation



Metella

There is much less evidence available from the Roman world about women than there is about men, so what we know about Roman women is limited. For example, we know that Caecilius had at least two sons, Quintus and Sextus, but we do not know the name of their mother. Therefore we have imagined the character of Metella who appears in our stories as the wife of Caecilius.

A Roman girl was traditionally named after her father's clan. If Metella had been a real person, her name would indicate that she was a member of the clan of the Metelli. Similarly, a daughter of Caecilius would have been known as Caecilia. Sisters were distinguished by the addition of a second name, sometimes taken from a family member. We have imagined Caecilius' daughter to be Caecilia Lucia.

Romans did not expect women to have the same rights as men. A woman like Metella did not have full control over her own life. Her father would choose her husband, usually an older man, and she may have had little say in the decision. She would normally be married by the age of twenty, and daughters in upper-class or very rich families were sometimes given in marriage as young as twelve. At the time of our stories, the law gave most fathers control over their daughters, even after the daughter was married.

Yet Metella's role was an important one. Her main duty in her marriage would have been to produce children and help bring them up. A woman like Metella may have had ten or twelve children, only some of whom would have survived to adulthood. She was also responsible for the management of the large household, and had to supervise the work of the domestic slaves. In order to run the household successfully, she would need to be well organized, and firm but sensitive in her control of the slaves.

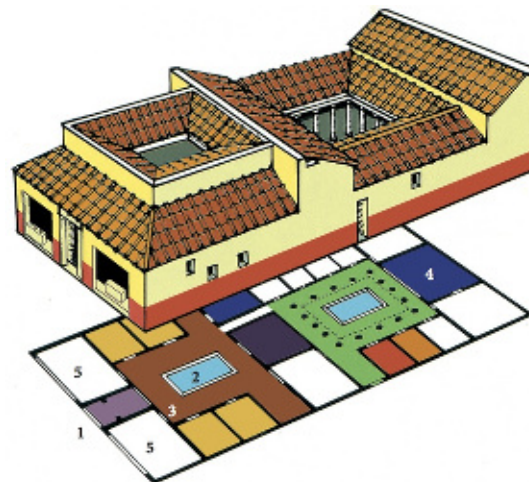
Houses in Pompeii









The house in which a wealthy man like Caecilius lived differed in several ways from an equivalent house today. The house came right up to the sidewalk; there was no garden or grass in front of it. The windows were few, small, and placed fairly high up. They were intended to let in enough light, but to keep out the heat of the sun. Large windows would have made the rooms uncomfortably hot in summer and cold in winter.

Women's hairstyles were often very elaborate. Many women were rich enough to own slave hairdressers.



Plan of a Pompeian house



	faucēs	<i>entrance hall</i>
	ātrium	<i>main room</i>
	cubiculum	<i>bedroom</i>
	tablinum	<i>study</i>
	peristĭlium	<i>garden court</i>
	triclinium	<i>dining room</i>
	culīna	<i>kitchen</i>
	latrīna	<i>lavatory</i>
1	iānuā	<i>front door</i>
2	impluvium	<i>pool for rainwater</i>
3	larārium	<i>shrine of the household gods</i>
4	<i>summer triclinium</i>	
5	<i>shops</i>	

Most houses stood only one story high, although some had a second floor above. Many had shops either side of the main door, which were rented out by the owner of the house. From the outside, with its few windows and high walls stretching all the way round, the house did not look very attractive or inviting.

The floor plan of the house shows two parts or areas of about equal size. They look like courtyards surrounded by rooms opening off the central space.

The main entrance to the house was on the side facing the street. It consisted of a tall double door. The Latin word for this door was **iānuā**. On passing through the door, the visitor came into a short corridor which led straight into the main room, the **ātrium**. This impressive room, which was used for important family occasions and for receiving visitors, was large and high. The roof sloped down slightly toward a large square opening called the **compluvium**. The light streamed in through the opening high overhead. Immediately below was the **impluvium**, a shallow rectangular pool, lined with marble, which collected the rain water.

In what ways is this house typical of houses in Caecilius' day?



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The atrium in Caecilius' house as it is today. We can see how spacious it was, but for a real sense of the dignity of an atrium we need to look at a better-preserved one (left). The visitor entering the front door would see, beyond the impluvium, the tablinum and the sunlit peristylum beyond.

A lararium.



One of the most striking things about the atrium was the sense of space. The high roof with the glimpse of the sky through the central opening and the large floor area helped to give this impression. The furniture would include a bronze or marble table, a couch, and perhaps a strongbox in which the family valuables were stored. In a corner, near the main door, was the **lararium**, a small shrine at which the family gods were worshipped. The floor of the atrium was paved with marble slabs or sometimes with mosaics. The walls were decorated with panels of brightly painted plaster. The Pompeians were especially fond of red, orange, and blue. On many of these panels there were scenes from well-known stories, especially the Greek myths.

Around the atrium were arranged the bedrooms, study, and dining room. The entrances to these rooms were usually provided not with a wooden door but with a heavy curtain.

From this first area of the house, the visitor walked through the **tablinum** (study), or a passage, into the second part. This was the **peristylum**, which was made up of a colonnade of pillars surrounding the **hortus** (garden). Like the atrium, the colonnade was often elaborately decorated. Around the outside of the colonnade were the summer dining room, kitchen, lavatory, slaves' quarters, and storage rooms. Some houses also had their own set of baths.

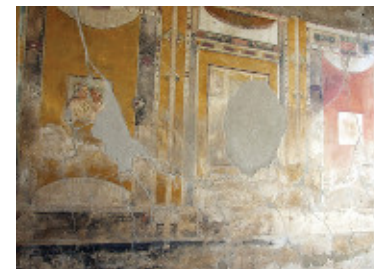
The garden was laid out with flowers and shrubs in a careful plan. In the small fishpond in the middle, a fountain threw up a jet of water, and marble statues of gods and heroes stood here and there. In the peristylum, the members of the family enjoyed the sunshine or shade as they wished; here they relaxed on their own or entertained their guests.

The Pompeians not only lived in houses that looked very different from modern ones, but also thought very differently about them. They did not expect their houses to be private places restricted to the family and close friends. Instead, the master conducted much of his business and social life from home. He would receive and do business with most visitors in the atrium. The more important ones would be invited into the tablinum. Certain very close business friends and high-ranking individuals would receive invitations to dine or relax in the peristylum with the family.

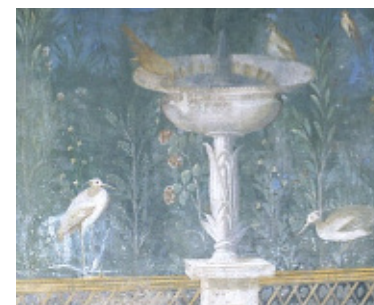
Even if there were no outsiders present, the members of the family were never on their own. They were surrounded and often outnumbered by their slaves. They did not attach as much importance to privacy as many people do today.

Only the wealthy lived like this; most people lived in much simpler homes. Some of the poorer shopkeepers, for instance, would have had only a room or two above their shops. In large cities such as Rome, many people lived in apartment buildings several stories high, some of them in very poor conditions.

A peristylum, with hanging ornaments between the columns.



Caecilius' tablinum was decorated with vibrant colors, including a particularly expensive shade of red paint.



A painting of a marble fountain in a garden.



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Vocabulary checklist 1

canis	<i>dog</i>
coquus	<i>cook</i>
est	<i>is</i>
filia	<i>daughter</i>
filius	<i>son</i>
hortus	<i>garden</i>
in	<i>in</i>
labōrat	<i>works, is working</i>
māter	<i>mother</i>
pater	<i>father</i>
sedet	<i>sits, is sitting</i>
servus	<i>slave</i>
via	<i>street</i>



Many wealthy Roman women were very fond of jewelry. Here are some examples of the things they might have worn.

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