

Title: Portrait of a Married Couple Terentius Neo and his Wife

Date: 55-79 CE

Location: Pompeii Italy

In the double portrait, the man, Terentius Neo, is believed to own a bakery (he was wealthy enough to pay for a formal portrait). He wears a traditional Roman toga, the symbol of Roman politics and the *cursus honorum*, and holds a scroll, making him look important and educated. His skin is olive, and he has dark features and a wispy beard/mustache. His wife looks inquisitive like she's confronting and contemplating the viewer. She has broad eyebrows, a pale complexion, a curly hairstyle parted in the middle (like the bust of Young Flavian Woman), pearl earrings, and a still-vibrant red garment. She holds a stylus to her lips and an open diptych (two paneled item), meaning she is wealthy and educated. This fresco was located in the atrium, a formal entrance hall where guests were received. Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE, Pompeii and Herculaneum were buried. The ashes and soot preserved the community in such a way that we are afforded an informative glimpse of daily Roman life

<http://www.learntravelart.com/2014/01/portrait-of-baker-terentius-neo-and-his-wife.html>

