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The first truly comprehensive look at all aspects of the Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum, from its original Roman context to the most recent archaeological investigations

LOS ANGELES, CA—Despite never having seen it himself, the Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum exerted a strong hold over the imagination of J. Paul Getty, who modeled his own Getty Villa in Malibu after the site. On many occasions during his lifetime, he was able to visit the ancient Roman town of Herculaneum. But the Villa—what was once a luxurious and private seaside residence just outside the town—was still deeply buried from Mount Vesuvius's eruption in 79 CE; J. Paul Getty could only picture the site through excavators' accounts and the wealth of materials that had been unearthed during his time.

***Buried by Vesuvius: The Villa dei Papiri at Herculaneum* (Getty Publications, \$65.00, hardcover)** offers a sweeping yet in-depth view of all aspects of the Villa that had captivated J. Paul Getty. One of the world's earliest systematically investigated archaeological sites, the Villa dei Papiri was rediscovered in 1750, excavated under the auspices of the Neapolitan court, and explored further in the 1990s and early 2000s. Never fully unearthed, the site yielded spectacular colored marble floors and mosaics, frescoed walls, the largest known ancient collection of bronze and marble statuary, intricately carved ivories, and antiquity's only surviving library containing more than a thousand charred papyrus scrolls (from which the Villa gets its name). For more than two and a half centuries, the Villa dei Papiri and its contents have served as a wellspring of knowledge for archaeological science, art history, classics, papyrology, and philosophy.

Presenting the latest research, including recent attempts to unlock the Herculaneum scrolls, the essays in this authoritative and richly illustrated volume reveal the fascinating story of the Villa dei Papiri's ancient inhabitants and modern explorers.

This volume is published to accompany an exhibition at the J. Paul Getty Museum at the Getty Villa—the first major exhibition on the Villa dei Papiri—on view June 26 to October 28, 2019.

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Kenneth Lapatin is curator of antiquities at the J. Paul Getty Museum. He is the author or coauthor of numerous books and articles on ancient art and its modern reception, including *Guide to the Getty Villa* (Getty Publications, 2018), *Luxus: The Sumptuous Arts of Greece and Rome* (Getty Publications, 2015), *Power and Pathos: Bronze Sculpture of the Hellenistic World* (Getty Publications, 2015), and *The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection* (Getty Publications, 2012).

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J. Paul Getty Museum

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