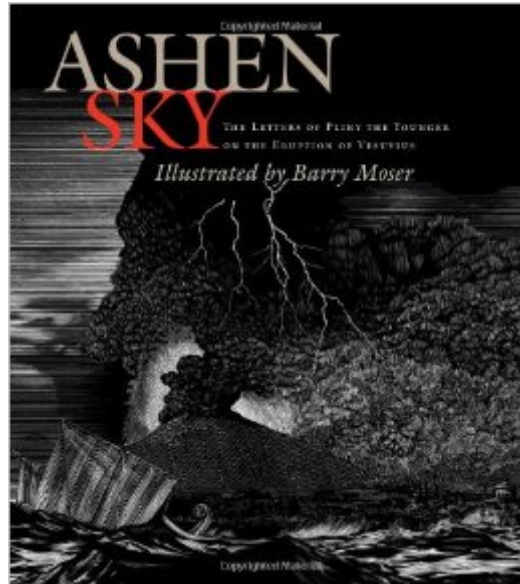


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Ashen Sky: The Letters Of Pliny The Younger On The Eruption Of Vesuvius



Synopsis

Barry Moser's extraordinarily detailed and evocative relief engravings decorate this translation of Pliny the Younger's two famous letters to Tacitus about the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79 and the death of his uncle, Pliny the Elder. The text includes a brief description of the eruption of the volcano, concise biographies of Tacitus and of both Plinys, and a summary of how the texts of the two letters have survived until today.

Book Information

Hardcover: 40 pages

Publisher: J. Paul Getty Museum; 1 edition (September 17, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0892369000

ISBN-13: 978-0892369003

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (8 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 - 13 years

Grade Level: 5 - 8

Customer Reviews

Much of what we know about the A.D. 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius - the eruption that sealed Pompeii and Herculaneum in time and volcanic ash - comes from the letters written by Pliny the Younger to his friend Tacitus. Pliny was an eyewitness, and his uncle died in the eruption.

I bought this as an 'extra' book to help me in the final year of my Open University History BA. I had hoped that it would help with a particular assignment but sadly it didn't. Some interesting stuff though

The text of *Ashen Sky* contains fascinating background information, including short biographical information about Tacitus, Pliny the Elder and Pliny the Younger. The letters of Pliny the Younger send the reader back to share the frightening experience of the eruption of Vesuvius with an eye witness in AD 79. But the value of the book is overwhelmingly the magnificent relief engravings of

Barry Moser. The frightening scenes of not only the eruption but the effect on the people is presented with power in Mr. Moser's superb prints. He has the ability to set a mood and bring light from darkness in the most dramatic way and he does it so well here.

It will be easy to find a more comprehensive edition of Pliny's letters but hardly a more beautiful and touching one than this production of the Getty Museum that combines the two rather short letters on the eruption of Vesuvius with thoughtful introductions on the event and the persons involved (Pliny the Older and Pliny the Younger, Tacitus) and - most important - Barry Moser's woodcuts that catch the horror of the eruption expressively.

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