

7 What do Sources D, E and other sources reveal about social class in Pompeii and Herculaneum?

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Sources D, E and other sources reveal the extent and rights social class played in the society of Pompeii and Herculaneum. There was a five class range of the social elite, wealthy land owners and members of the council, common man (allowed to vote), freedman and slaves. One would be born into their social class, yet it was not uncommon for them to excel in social position through ~~owning~~ earning more rights. For example a slave to a family could buy their freedom and take the family name to become a freedman and continue to represent that family which could position them to a common man owning his own property. There was also a guideline to social classes allowances for women. Women would own land if it was left to them by a man mostly, thus crediting her purpose and achievement to have her equal to ^{the} man. Source D represents the recognition of a woman's contribution to Pompeian life. Whereas Source E shows the concept of one being able to earn the right to represent themselves genuinely and with dignity showing that freedmen were allowed to be buried with the common social class. The social elite would also contribute to the life of common man by erecting buildings for the public in their honour. Freedom of speech and human rights seemed to play a part in Pompeii and Herculaneum as social classes are presented to support each other and integrate regardless of their difference in social status. They have different responsibilities allowances and rights but they are dependant on one another for a balanced society.

End of Question 7