



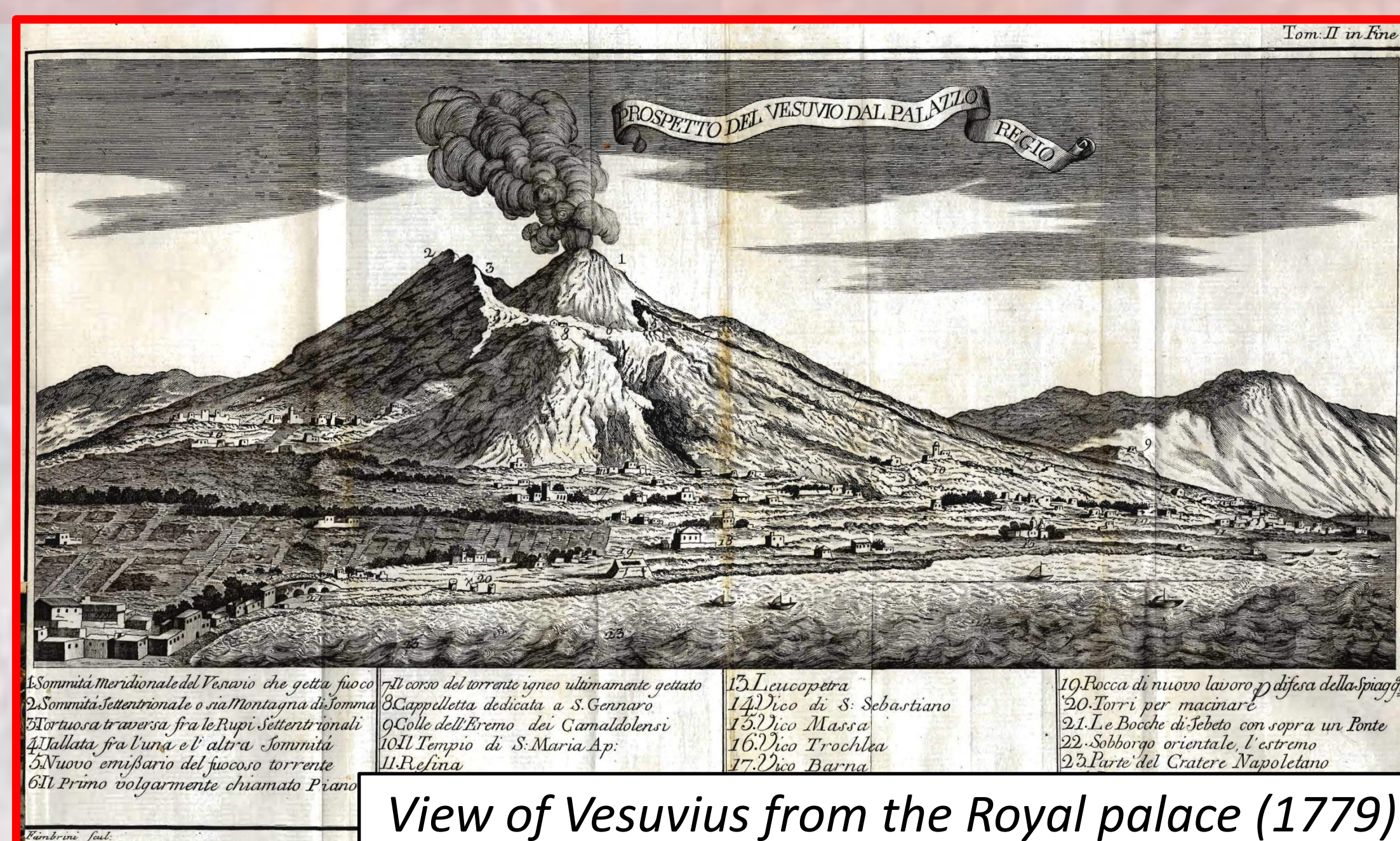
Volcanoes in Italy: Vesuvius

Early days of cartography

Volcanoes of the
Campania district (1859)
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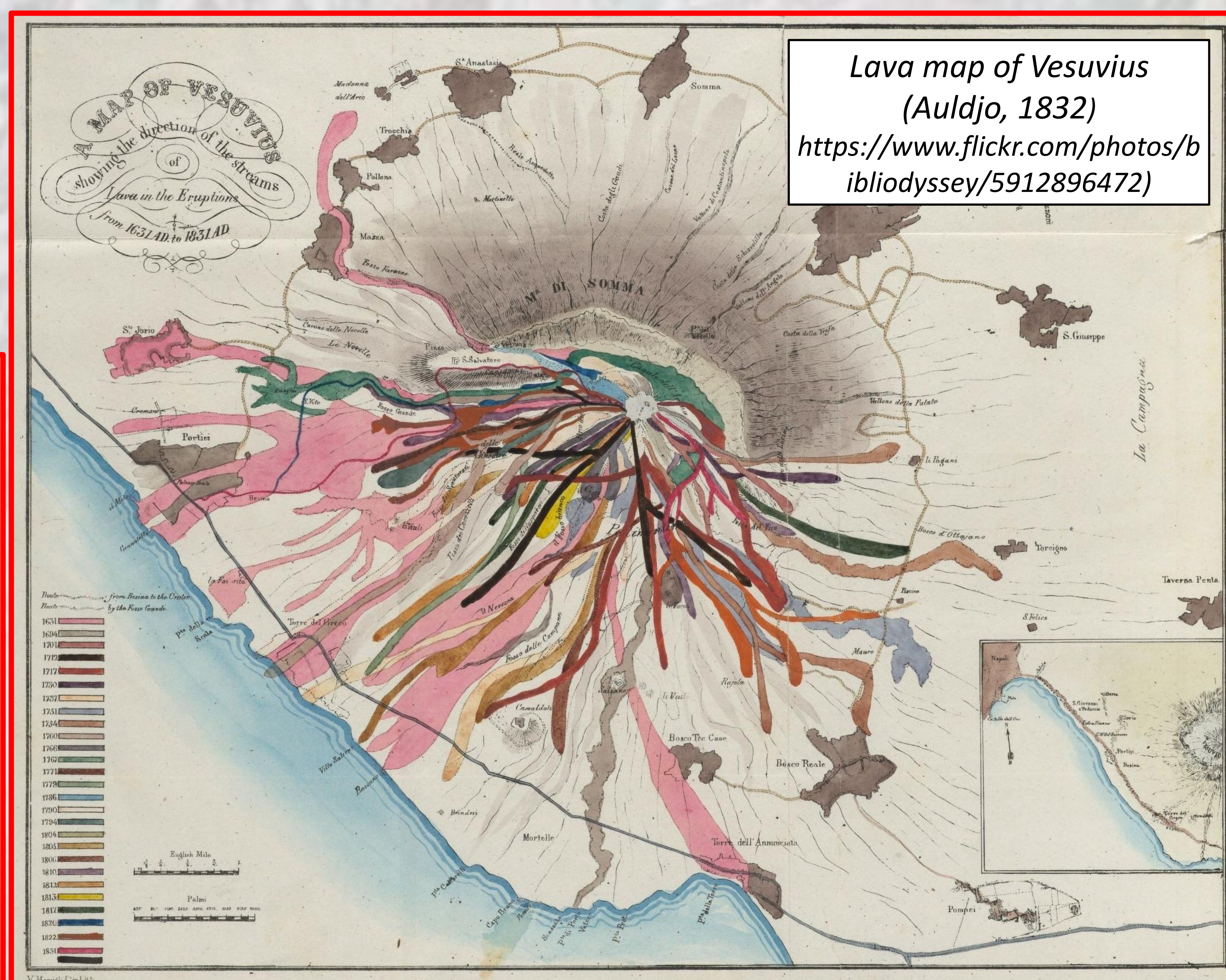
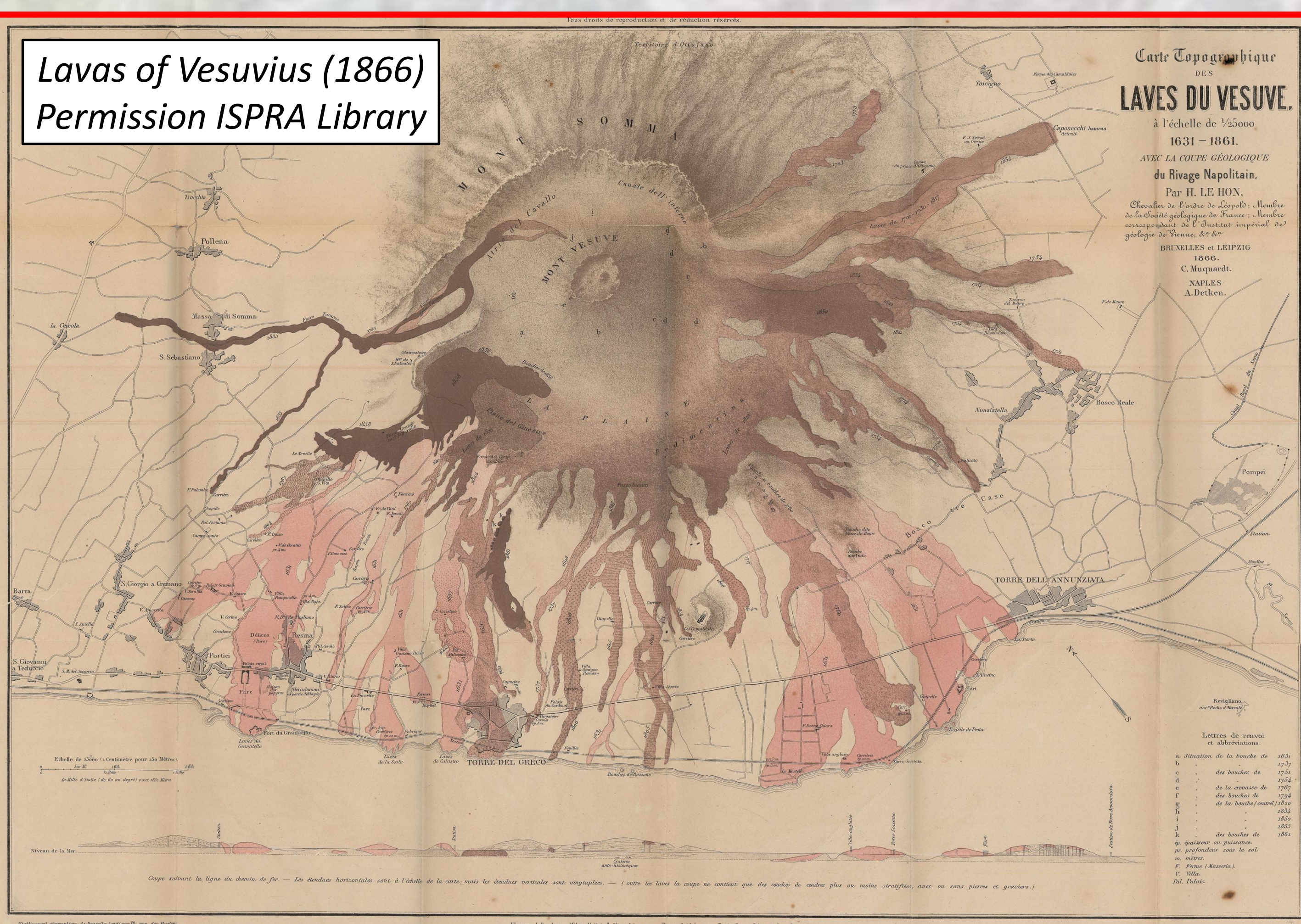
Volcanology was born in Italy, when Plinio il Giovane, in his letters to Tacitus, described the 79 A.D. eruption of Vesuvius that buried Pompeii.



View of Vesuvius from the Royal palace (1779)
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Many researchers were attracted to Vesuvius, especially after the archaeological excavations that discovered the ancient towns buried by the Pompeii eruption. The first cartographic products mainly dealt with Geomorphology, and at the beginning of the 19th century also hystorical lava flows had been mapped.

Lavas of Vesuvius (1866)
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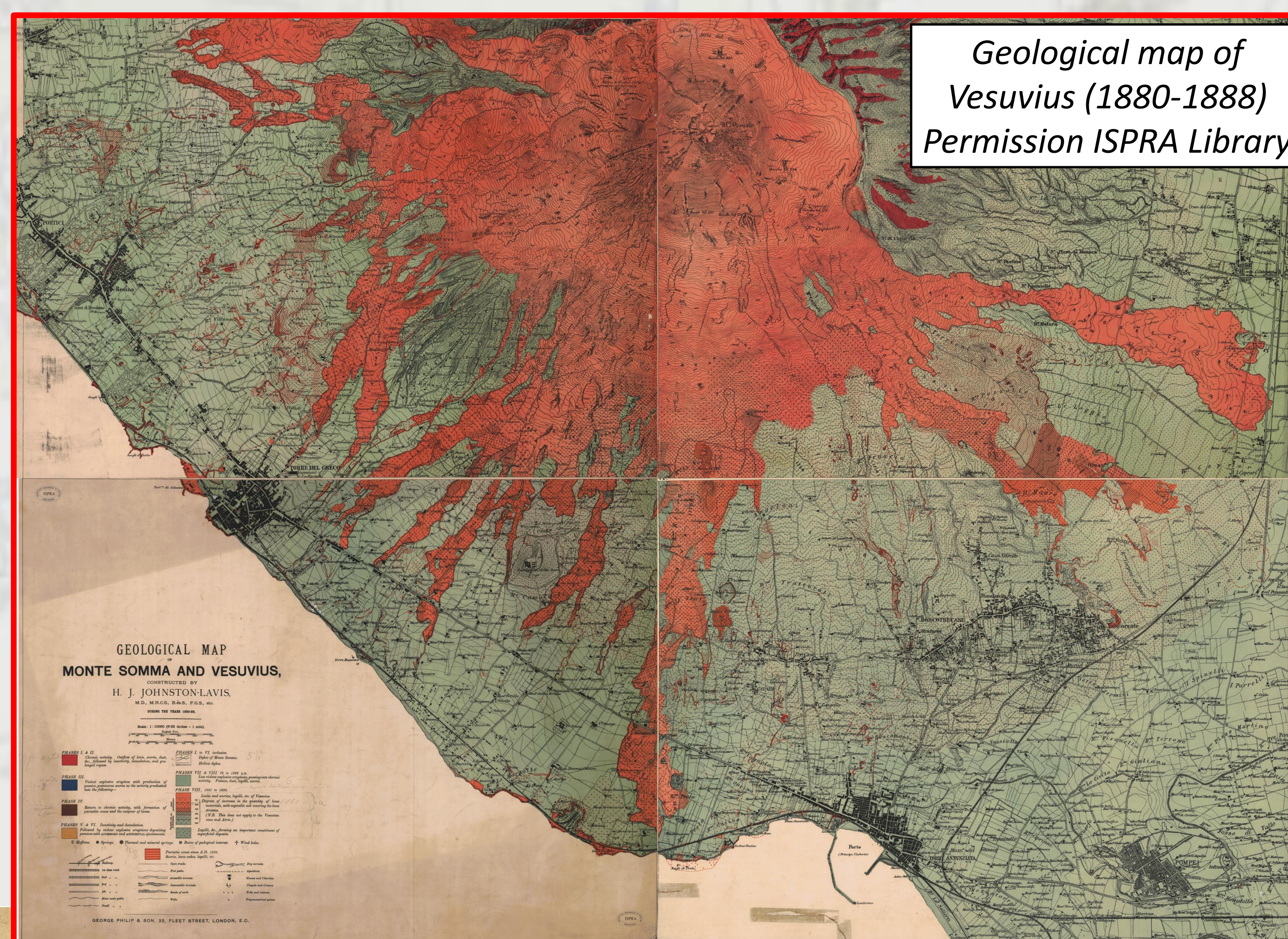


Lava map of Vesuvius
(Auldjo, 1832)
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/ibiodyssey/5912896472>

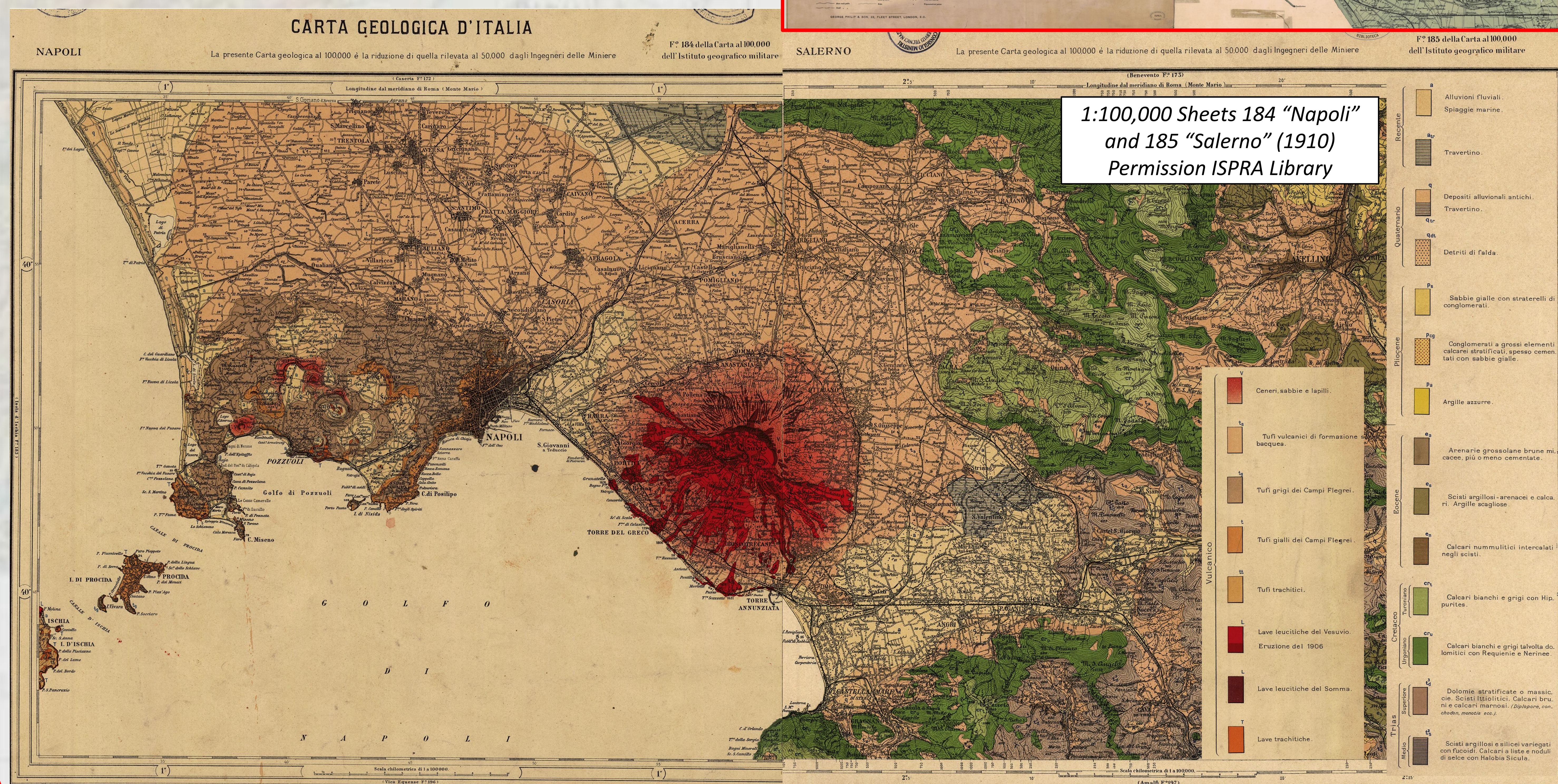
Main points:

- 1) lack of maps of non-volcanic rocks;
- 2) absence of deep geological sections (no basement data);
- 3) only hystorical lava flows (effusive products) were mapped and the shape and size of the volcanic cone were described; no care was taken to explosive products (i.e. regional distribution and thickness of pyroclastic deposits).

Some of these gaps were filled by the first 1:100,000 edition of the geological maps of Naples and Salerno (1910, see below) but a geological section and the age and thickness of pyroclastic deposits still were lacking.



Geological map of
Vesuvius (1880-1888)
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1:100,000 Sheets 184 "Napoli"
and 185 "Salerno" (1910)
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