

# A DAY IN POMPEII

## **Joseph Andrew Smith, Ph.D., Exhibition Curator**

Joseph Andrew Smith (Ph.D., University of Southern California, 1997) is Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Classics and Humanities at San Diego State University (SDSU) where he has taught since 1997. At SDSU he teaches a wide variety of reading courses in the language and literature of ancient Greek and Latin, as well as lecture courses on ancient civilization and culture. His dissertation focused on the plays of the imperial Roman tragedian, Seneca the Younger, and he has pursued research interests on ancient drama and, specifically, the theatrical world of Nero and the post-Neronian emperors.

Smith has combined his professional concerns in ancient dramatic texts with his love of theater by supervising several student productions of classical plays at SDSU, including, most recently, a world premier of a new edition of the Roman history drama, *Octavia*. Smith's work in computer-drawn maps has allowed him to explore the relationship between Roman literature and the landscape of the empire; his projects in the mapping of the urban landscape of Rome have shown up, among other places, in the Penguin edition of Ovid's *Fasti*. Smith has dedicated himself professionally to academic projects which create fresh perspectives and insights on the classical world.

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