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“Cities on Volcanoes 10”

**Millenia of Stratification between
Human Life and Volcanoes:
strategies for coexistence**

2 | 7 September 2018, Napoli, Italy

43

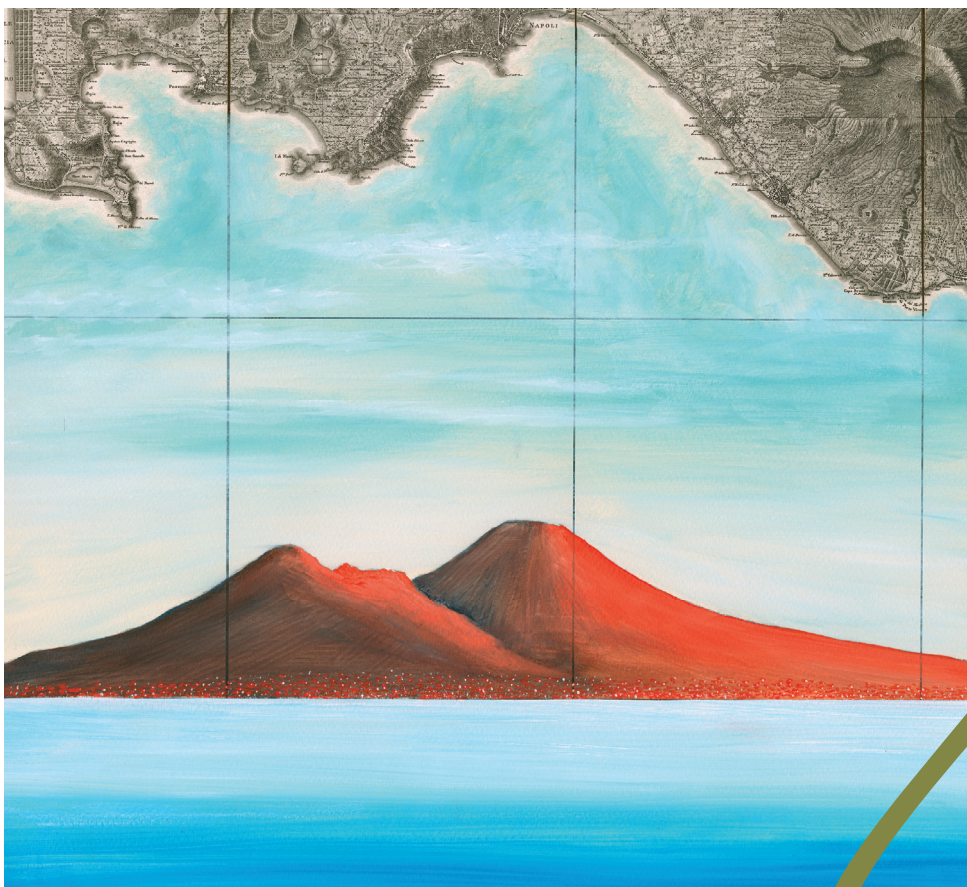


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Editors Rosa Anna Corsaro, Maria Giulia Di Giuseppe, Roberto Isaia, Angela Mormone, Rosella Nave



43

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Which eruption did see Cristobal Colón in Tenerife (Canary, Spain)?

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The very first written references about volcanic activity in Tenerife island comes from the period before the conquest of the island, in 1497 (Alonso de Plasencia 1490-91, Cristóbal Colón 1492 and Andrés de Bernáldez 1495). On August 24 1492, when Cristóbal Colón was travelling from La Gomera to Gran Canaria, and was passing by the Island of Tenerife, he indicated “...y pasó aquella noche cerca de Tenerife, de cuya cumbre... se veían salir grandísimas llamaradas... explicó el fundamento y la causa de tal fuego, aduciendo al respecto el ejemplo del monte Etna en Sicilia...”. Absolute dating with ¹⁴C of volcanic lavas in Boca Cangrejo volcano with age between 1430 and 1660 AD, has led Carracedo *et al.*, (2007) to point out that this volcano is the one that Colón observed. There is a chronicle from 1779-1780 that mentions the existence of an eruption produced after the conquest and refers to Boca Cangrejo volcano (Romero *et al.*, 2009). This fact converts this eruption in the first historic eruption of Tenerife but, obviously posterior to the one that Cristobal Colón has seen. The cinder cone Boca Cangrejo is a volcanic protected landscape and is an excellent example of the Canarian forests’ colonization after suffering a volcanic eruption in leeward sides of Tenerife. The monogenetic volcano possesses great value for geoturistic interests, as the first historic eruption of Tenerife, and localized within 4 km of the eruptions of 1706 and 1909. To this we must add the diversity of landscapes created by extended lava flows that expands from 1500 m of altitude, with open pinewood forest until almost the coast with xeric scrubs. The volcanic and geo-cultural heritage of Boca Cangrejo cinder cone possess high educative values and creates a place with opportunities for management, scientific research and geotourism.