Romanization Through Mosaics: Transition at Fishbourne and Colchester

Elizabeth Kurtulik Mercuri, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Date of Degree
5-2019

Document Type
Thesis

Degree Name
M.A.

Program
Liberal Studies

Advisor
Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis

Subject Categories
Classical Archaeology and Art History

Keywords
Romanization, Mosaics, Britain, Roman, Fishbourne, Colchester

Abstract
Romanization has been discussed extensively by scholars as a way to describe the acculturation of provinces under the Roman Empire. This thesis will look at mosaics from two early sites in southeast Britain and examine their connection to the Roman Empire. Fishbourne, Roman Palace presents us with a detailed view of a private villa from the first century. The city of Colchester provides a non-elite, urban perspective from the second century. Both sites contain surviving mosaics that provide a lasting imprint of the visual and material culture that was valued in Britain during its early years under Roman occupation.

In many ways, Romanization was not a result of influence from Rome alone. It was an amalgamation of cultures and influences from the other provinces within the Empire, not only Italy, but also in particular Gaul. Communication and trade with Gaul was already established at this time, so it is unsurprising that many first century mosaics found at Fishbourne have connections to this area of the continent. The mosaics at Colchester provide a smooth transition from the Fishbourne mosaics that rely heavily on imported artisans. The use of mosaics in the second century was more extensive in Britain and locally skilled mosaicists were used, as seen at Colchester.

Through the mosaics at these two sites, this thesis will look at the people who inhabited the villa and city, respectively, the iconography and design of the mosaics, and the connections they had to the continent, other cities in southwestern Britain, and each other. The fusion of ideas, workmanship, and themes within these Romano-British mosaics allow us to view the gradual Romanization taking place in southeastern Britain following Roman conquest.

Recommended Citation
https://academicworks.cuny.edu/gc_etds/3191
Mosaic images are captured by a single charge-coupled device/complementary metal-oxide-semiconductor (CCD/CMOS) sensor with the Bayer color filter array. We present a new quality-effective zooming algorithm for mosaic images. First, based on adaptive heterogeneity projection masks and Sobel- and luminance-estimation-based masks, more accurate gradient information is extracted from the mosaic. According to the extracted gradient information, the mosaic green (G) channel is first zoomed. To reduce color artifacts, instead of directly moving the original re Abstract. Romanization through mosaics: transition at. Fishbourne and colchester. by. Elizabeth Kurtulik Mercuri. Advisor: Elizabeth Macaulay-Lewis. Romanization has been discussed extensively by scholars as a way to describe the acculturation of providences under the Roman Empire. This thesis will look at mosaics from two early sites in southeast Britain and examine their connection to the Roman Empire. Fishbourne, Roman Palace presents us with a detailed view of a private villa from the first century. Fishbourne Roman Palace, the earliest Roman residential villa in England, has a number of well-preserved mosaics from the first century A.D. The massive villa provides insight. The Mosaic II reader differs from the Mosaic I reader in several ways. Mosaic II emphasizes the advanced skills of interpretation, inference, critical analysis, evaluation, and application; it presents but gives less weight to more basic comprehension skills like skimming, scanning, and guessing meaning from context. It includes more work with charts, tables, and graphs; more discussion of style and tone; more technical and literary terminology, and longer, more varied, and more difficult selections. It was inevitable that the military conquest of Britain should have been followed by the Romanization of the province. Where the Romans lived and ruled, there Roman ways were found. Four great highways soon spread fanlike from London to the north, the northwest, the west, and the southwest, while a fifth cut across the island from Lincoln to the Severn. Numerous lesser roads connected important military or civil centers or branched off as spurs from the main highways. A score of small cities and more than a hundred towns, with their Roman houses and baths, temples, and occasional theaters, tes