

# MOSAICS IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

## From Late Antiquity to the Fifteenth Century



In this book, Liz James offers a comprehensive history of wall mosaics produced in the European and Islamic Middle Ages. Taking into account a wide range of issues, including style and iconography, technique and material, function and patronage, she examines mosaics within their historical context. She asks why mosaic was such a popular medium and considers how mosaics work as historical ‘documents’ that tell us about attitudes and beliefs in the medieval world. The book is divided into two sections. Part I explores the technical aspects of mosaics, including glass production, labour and materials, and costs. In Part II, James provides a chronological history of mosaics, charting the low and high points of mosaic art up until its abrupt end in the late Middle Ages. Written in a clear and engaging style, her book will serve as an essential resource for scholars and students of medieval mosaics.

Liz James is a Byzantine art historian with a train-spotter mentality for mosaics. Her ambition is to see at first hand all the mosaics discussed in this book: she reckons she is about three-quarters of the way there. Professionally, she is Professor of Art History at the University of Sussex where she teaches courses on Byzantine art.



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WORLD

*From Late Antiquity to the  
Fifteenth Century*

LIZ JAMES

University of Sussex



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For George and Alex, and for Sharon

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## A NOTE ON NAMES

I HAVE BEEN CONSISTENTLY inconsistent in my use of names. I have mixed modern and ancient, Italian and English, Greek and Latin, but I have aimed to use a name under which an area, a building or a person might be familiar to the reader.



## ABBREVIATIONS

<i>ActaNorv</i>	<i>Acta ad archaeologiam et artium historiam pertinentia, Institutum Romanum Norvegiae</i>
AISCOM	<i>Atti del Colloquio dell'Associazione italiana per lo studio e la conservazione del mosaico</i>
Andaloro/Romano A1	M. Andaloro and S. Romano, <i>La pittura medievale a Roma 312–1431, Corpus e Atlante: M. Andaloro, Vaticano, Suburbio, Rione Monte, Atlante</i> , vol. 1 (Milan, 2006)
Andaloro/Romano C1	M. Andaloro and S. Romano, <i>La pittura medievale a Roma 312–1431, Corpus e Atlante: M. Andaloro, L'orizzonte tardoantico e le nuove immagini 312–468, Corpus</i> , vol. 1 (Milan, 2006)
Andaloro/Romano C4	M. Andaloro and S. Romano, <i>La pittura medievale a Roma 312–1431, Corpus e Atlante: S. Romano, Riforma e tradizione 1050–1198, Corpus</i> , vol. 4 (Milan, 2006)
Andaloro/Romano C5	M. Andaloro and S. Romano, <i>La pittura medievale a Roma 312–1431, Corpus e Atlante: S. Romano, Il Ducente e la cultura gotica 1198–1287, Corpus</i> , vol. 5 (Rome, 2012)
<i>CahArch</i>	<i>Cahiers archéologiques</i>
DOP	<i>Dumbarton Oaks Papers</i>

## XXVIII ~ LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>EHB</i>	A. Laiou (ed.), <i>The Economic History of Byzantium: From the Seventh through the Fifteenth Century</i> (Washington, DC, 2002)
<i>LP</i>	<i>Liber Pontificalis: Le Liber Pontificalis, texte, introduction et commentaire par L. Duchesne</i> (Paris, 1955–57) and the three volumes of translation by R. Davis: <i>The Book of Pontiffs (Liber Pontificalis): The Ancient Biographies of the First Ninety Roman Bishops to AD 715</i> (Liverpool, 1989); <i>The Lives of the Eighth-century Popes (Liber Pontificalis): The Ancient Biographies of Nine Popes from AD 715 to AD 817</i> (Liverpool, 1992); <i>The Lives of the Ninth-century Popes (Liber Pontificalis): The Ancient Biographies of Ten Popes from AD 817–891</i> (Liverpool, 1995)
<i>PG</i>	J.-P. Migne (ed.), <i>Patrologiae cursus completus, Series Graeca</i> , 161 vols. in 166 parts (Paris, 1857–66)
<i>PL</i>	J.-P. Migne (ed.), <i>Patrologiae cursus completus, Series Latina</i> , 221 vols. in 222 parts (Paris, 1844–80)
<i>RACAR</i>	<i>Revue d'art canadienne/Canadian Art Review</i>