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Arch 1121 Fall 2011

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12-12-2011

Final Paper

Mosaic is the art of creating images with small pieces of colored glass, stone, or other materials. It is a technique and aspect of decoration. In the Roman Empire, the mosaic art represented the high aesthetics of the Roman society, and it was essential for the decoration of early Christian basilicas and Byzantine churches. You can see that the mosaic placed over the inside decoration, and it impacted by the Christian religion in the patterns. Mosaics play a very important role in the decoration during the Roman Empire.

The earliest known mosaic appeared in Abra around 3000B.C. During that time, mosaics were not used commonly. Until in the late 4th century, it was adopted for Christian basilicas in Early Christian Rome. It mostly applied for the floor decorations; and the color for mosaics were light that most color they used were gray and coffee. In the following century, it became the center of decoration art. People used the depiction of Christ in mosaics, and started to use bright colors in it. It employed in the nave and walls of the basilicas. Mosaics became more central and flourished in the Byzantine Empire from the 6th to the 15th centuries. Byzantine church interiors were generally covered with mosaics. They decorated with images extracted from the Bibles in mosaics that contained more figures, detail, landscape and settings. In this period, mosaic became the major decoration of the churches, and people made it vivid.

The patterns shown in mosaics started from geometry shapes such as circles, squares and triangles. The figure shown below is one of mosaic work in the roman floor



decoration. The materials used in it are marble and other stones. Just like I mentioned before, people adapted from Bibles shown in mosaics.



The pictures in the left, is one of the mosaic works during the Roman Empire. They were the decoration of ceilings; they were used glass and pottery. The most commonly used during Roman times are marble and glass. Each piece of material is a tessera. And how they placed these small tesserae together to create pictures or figures have to use technique skills. There are three technique methods which are direct method, indirect method and the double indirect method. The direct method just like the direct on the name is directly placing the individual tesserae onto the supporting surface. This method is well suited to surfaces that have a three-dimensional quality. This was used for the wall and ceiling mosaics. The second method is indirect method which is applying tesserae used for very

projects that need specific shapes, such as the murals. This is advantage for the smoother and more even surface in results. The last method, double indirect method is placed the tesserae face-up on a medium, when the mosaic is complete, a similar medium is placed atop it. This is used to see the work during the creation process. This method is advantage for the operator directly controlling the final result of the work. How to arrange the shape of the mosaic on a surface is very complicated. Thus, it has to use mathematical calculations to count the shapes of surface and combine these shapes use various patterns. And have to cut and trim very precise. The mosaics in Christian and Byzantine churches decoration were applied these methods well. They were looked very beautiful with every piece tessera together, and they seem like paintings.

Mosaic influences the decoration in Christian and Byzantine churches, and it applied inside over most of the churches. For example, the Hagia Sophia, one of the cathedral in Byzantine; the inside decoration is covered by mosaics where are the dome, ceiling, apse, columns and so on. Therefore, mosaics are very important in the decoration in Christian and Byzantine churches.