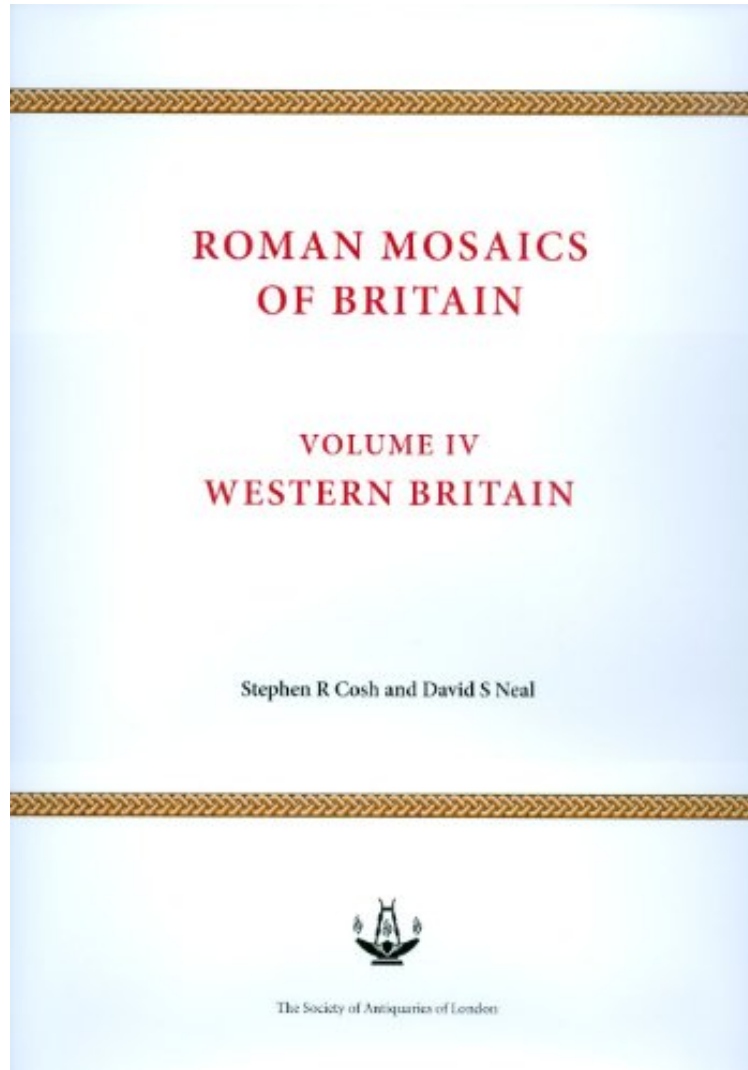


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## Roman Mosaics of Britain Volume IV: Western Britain

*Stephen R. Cosh, David S. Neal*

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**Stephen R. Cosh, David S. Neal : Roman Mosaics of Britain Volume IV: Western Britain** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Roman Mosaics of Britain Volume IV: Western Britain:

Volume IV: West Britain brings to a triumphant conclusion this monumental project to catalogue, describe and illustrate every Romano-British mosaic. The area covered by the fourth and final volume in the corpus is one of the richest regions of Britain in economic as well as architectural and artistic terms and this is reflected in the quantity and

quality of the region's mosaics, which include the largest figured mosaic ever found in Britain, the Woodchester Orpheus pavement. The catalogue follows the format of earlier volumes in providing an account of each mosaic's discovery and locating the mosaic within its building plan. Following the description are notable parallels and major references. As with previous volumes, the work is preceded with a substantial introduction.

The integration of information and illustrations from a wide range of sources, including details of the history of excavation and the context of the mosaics, are real strengths of all the volumes, as are the carefully thought out format and high production quality. The meticulous approach to recording and presentation sets them apart from catalogues for other Roman provinces, such as Gaul, and they will serve as a model for catalogues produced elsewhere and for other forms of classical art. Just as the work of Lysons is still an important point of reference for the study of Romano-British art, there is no doubt that these volumes will stimulate further research and become a fundamental reference source for anyone with an interest in Romano-British villas and their mosaics.' (Sarah Scott *British Archaeology*, Sept-Oct 2011) It is always a feast for the eyes and an important scholarly event to open a volume of the series dedicated to the corpus of Roman mosaics in Britain. The last in the series is an exemplary conclusion of a Herculean task, carried out by two respected specialists of mosaics in antiquity. ...[Taken collectively] the four volumes of the completed corpus constitute an indispensable work of reference. With over 2000 mosaics now carefully catalogued, it forms the basis for much future research.' (Michel E. Fuchs *Antiquity*)

About the Author David S Neal (b 1940), NDD, DLitt, FSA, MIFA, was first introduced to Roman mosaics and archaeology at Verulamium in 1957 while studying graphic design at Watford School of Art. In 1961 he joined the Ancient Monuments Inspectorate of the then Ministry of Works as an archaeological illustrator and for almost fifteen years supervised the archaeological drawing office. In this period one of his tasks was to record mosaics found on excavations conducted, or sponsored, by the Government. From 1963 he began his own series of excavations on Roman villas in Hertfordshire and in 1975 became a full-time archaeologist with the Department of the Environment (later English Heritage). He is now a freelance consultant. He was made a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1971 and awarded the degree of Doctor of Letters for his contribution to Romano-British villa studies in 1992. Stephen R Cosh (b 1950), BEd, DLitt, FSA, studied archaeology at Reading University before embarking on a career in teaching. As with David Neal, his interests in art and archaeology led to the study of Romano-British mosaics which he has illustrated since the 1970s, soon adopting Neal's technique. He has written numerous articles on Roman mosaics, particularly the study of regional groups. He was Honorary Secretary of ASPROM (the Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics) from 1993 until 2007 and is currently its Editor. In 2002 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and in 2006 Reading University conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Letters. The authors formally agreed to collaborate on the corpus in 1993.