

Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2011 – 12th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 27 July 11 Area: NIP Manager: Schuler

Squares	G9	XXYY0	G9	XXYY0	G9	XXYY0
Loci	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1938
Baskets	2462	2463	2464	2465	2466	2467
Walls	1298, 1892, 1910, 2002, 2007					
Floors						

1) Northeast Zone

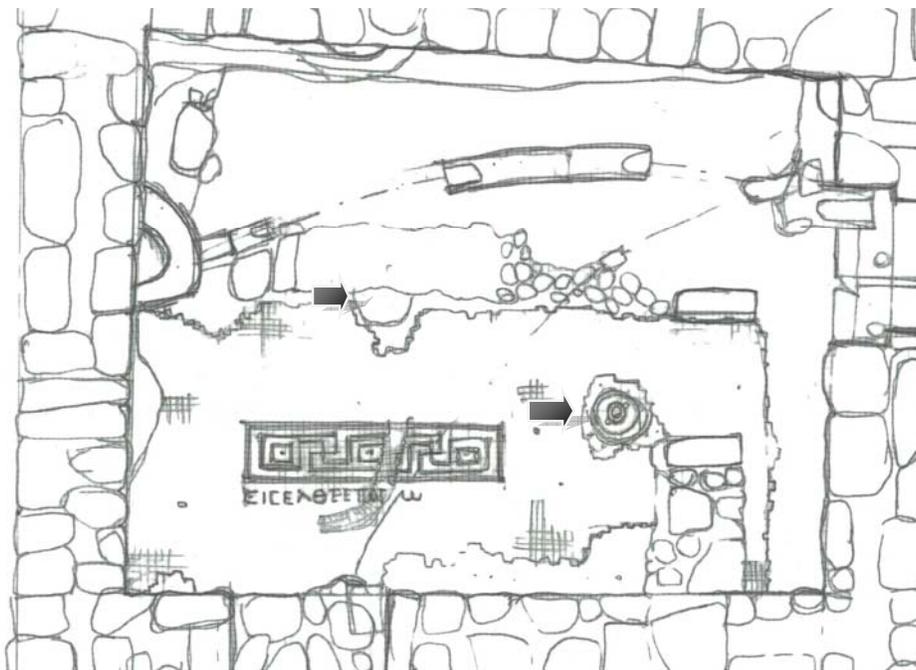
a) Continued work in Square XXYY0

- i) Conserve mosaic floor
- ii) Basket = 2463
- iii) Basket = 2465
- iv) Basket = 2467
- v) Starting elevation = 129.84
- vi) Ending elevation = 129.84
- vii) Location of pot in hole cut through the floor
 - (1) 1.17 m from W1266
 - (2) 3.24 m from W1298
 - (3) 1.37 m from W1910
 - (4) 2.33 m from W 1913
 - (5) 5.7 cm below top of mosaic
 - (6) Interior mouth diameter of pot is 11 cm

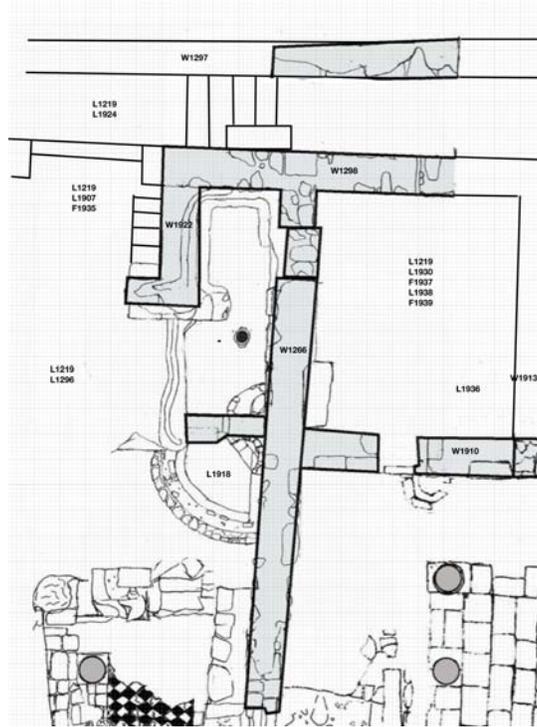
viii) Began extraction and pot was removed intact. First layer of soil like surface with tesserae and some plaster. At 6 cm down a more ashen soil occurred with greater sand content. A harder sloping layer appears at 10.5 cm. The soil is quite ashen (cremains?). At 13.9 cm below the top of the pot a nail and a chunk of burnt wood were recovered. At 14 more glass, bone, and some seeds?

ix) Subsequently, the lacuna cleaned to a depth of 20 cm high and 30 cm low. The dimensions of the lacuna are 40 cm (north to south) and 42 cm (east to west). The hole is oblong to the northeast with a diagonal of 48 cm.

- x) A second lacuna in the mosaic is located half way between W1910 and W1298 on the south edge of the surviving mosaic. A metal detector indicated something in the second lacuna, so the lacuna was opened (L1943). However, no pit was discovered. There was just the hard plaster below the level of the mosaic and then the pebble base layer. The locus was closed.
- xi) Also recovered a nail #603 (Head length: 2.5 cm, Head width: 3 cm, Thickness: 1 cm, Shaft length: 8 cm, Shaft width: 1.5 cm that tapers do .3 cm at the tip)
- xii) Conservation continued on the mosaic floor.



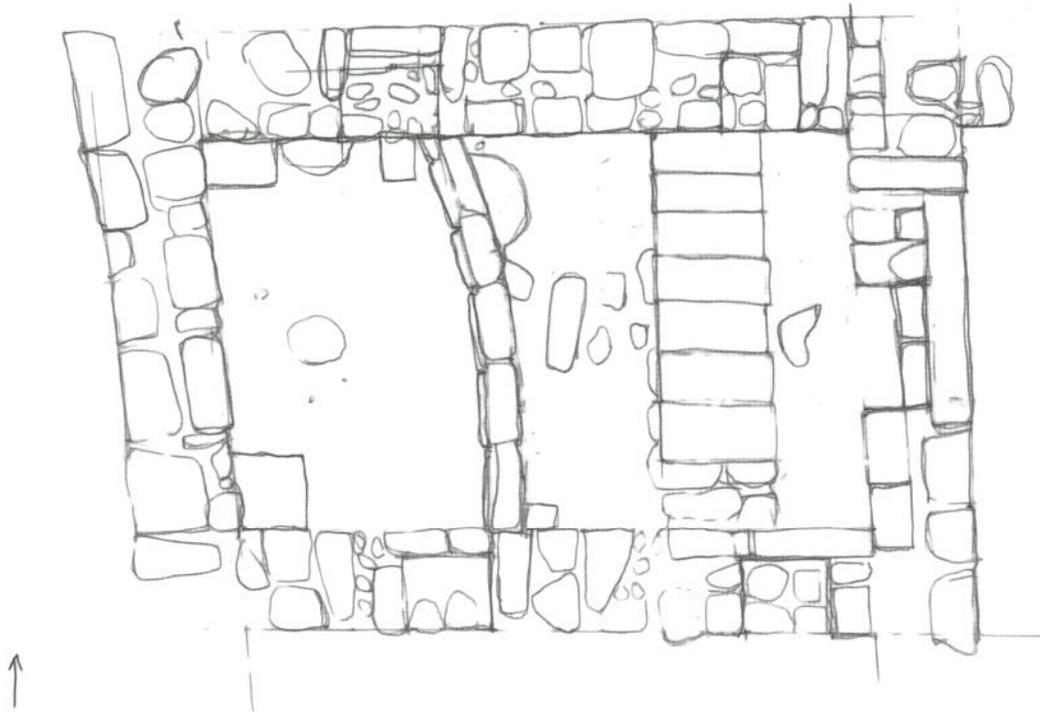
- b) Continued work in Square YY99.
 - i) Goal = Excavate and conserve the fountain pool
 - ii) 4.5 cm pipe was discovered in fountain in SW corner on west side. Whether it served as a drain or as a means of keeping a level with the cistern in the peristyle court is uncertain.



2) Southwest Zone

a) Continued work in Square G9.

- i) Goal = Excavate NW room of alpha complex
- ii) Basket = 2462, 2464, 2466
- iii) Starting elevation = 128.78
- iv) Ending elevation = 127.76 (top of foundation of stylobate), 127.86 west of W2002
- v) Soil is Horizon B/C.
- vi) Removed remain soil from room in G9.
- vii) Exposed a stylobate running north to south that continues under W2007. It likely formed a corner with the east to west stylobate in F10. The outward face of the stylobate is to the west and is 4.12 from the line of the east face of the wall of the Roman basilica. The stylobate is 33 cm thick and sits on a foundation base. In the Roman period, a large public building likely stood in this location.
- viii) Exposed a second niche in the south face of W2007 toward the east end of the wall (paralleling the niches in W1982. The niche contains two nearly complete pots dated to the late seventh or early eighth centuries.



- ix) The room is G9 is subdivided by a limestone wall constructed of a single row of blocks set on end.
- x) In front of the western niche in W2007 and west of W2002, there seems to be a low bench (dimensions 155 cm x 46 cm deep x 24 cm high). The top of the bench is 81 cm below the top of W2002.
- xi) Of note, the alpha building has no external entrance to the occupational level represented by the current remains. The most plausible location for a staircase to the level from above is the space between the north to south stylobate and W2002. Many limestone blocks were recovered from the area tipped to the east. But there were no clear remains of a staircase.

