

# Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2012 – 13th Season

## Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 8 July 2012 Area: NIP Manager: Schuler

Squares	DH39	DI39	DJ39	DJ40	DR41
Loci	1948	2101		2112 2106	2102
Baskets	2488	2489		2490 2492	2491
Walls	1250, 2103				
Floors	2105				

### 1) West Zone

a) Continued work in Squares DH39 (with the NE corner of DH38 and the west edge of DG39)

- i) Goal = identify the south end of the Beta Building and the function of the space intervening between it and the Alpha Building to the south
- ii) Basket = 2488
- iii) Starting elevation = 129.248 (average); 129.439 (top of blocking W2103 between Alpha and Beta buildings)
- iv) Ending elevation = 129.052
- v) Soil is horizon b
- vi) Brought average level down.
- vii) Not certain that broken lintel stone was a step. Perhaps it was the west end of a platform. It aligns with the single stone wall in the alpha building
- viii) Ceramic analysis
  - (1) Mainly dating from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
  - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DH39
  - (3) Description: A lot of pottery, especially cooking pots, lids and casseroles, made from black or brown material, dating to BYZ/ UMM; ARS
  - (4) Indicative wares: Beisan jars from 6th-7th AD; 2 fragments of different lamps (Hadad 2002, type 32, from UMM period)
- ix) Item 637
  - (1) Category: Architecture
  - (2) Material: Basalt

- (3) Shape: Foot
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: 8.5
- (6) Length: 10.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 4.3
- (8) Elevation: 129.15
- (9) From east edge of square: 5
- (10) From north edge of square: 3.5
- (11) Description: Base of foot is half a semi-circle with a radius of 4.5 cm. The back (where it is broken) is roughly flat. From the front to the back the foot is filled in (like a triangle) with a smooth corner in the center.

x) Item 638

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Ring
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 1.5
- (6) Length: 2.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.7
- (8) Elevation: 129.8
- (9) From east edge of square: 5.1
- (10) From north edge of square: 4.3
- (11) Description: Badly corroded, the top 1/3 of the band and flat decoration (indistinguishable) are present. Top portion of ring measures 1.4 cm x 1.1 cm.

xi) Item 647

- (1) Category: Unique item
- (2) Material: Marble
- (3) Shape: Table
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: 13.0
- (6) Length: 26.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 3.5
- (8) Elevation: 129.4
- (9) From east edge of square: 6
- (10) From north edge of square: 4.8

(11) Description: Found upright, resting on rock. One side appears to be the edge of the table, the other three are broken.

i) Item 650

(1) Category: Metal

(2) Material: Iron?

(3) Shape: Nail?

(4) State of Preservation: Fragment

(5) Width: 1.7

(6) Length: 5.5

(7) Depth/Thickness: 1.7

(8) Elevation: 129.05

(9) From east edge of square: 3.3

(10) From north edge of square: 3.7

(11) Description: Long fragment with head somewhat intact. Appears to have a small rectangular pottery sherd plastered to it. Diameter of head is roughly 2.5 cm.

a) Continued work in Square DI39.

i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building

ii) Basket = 2489

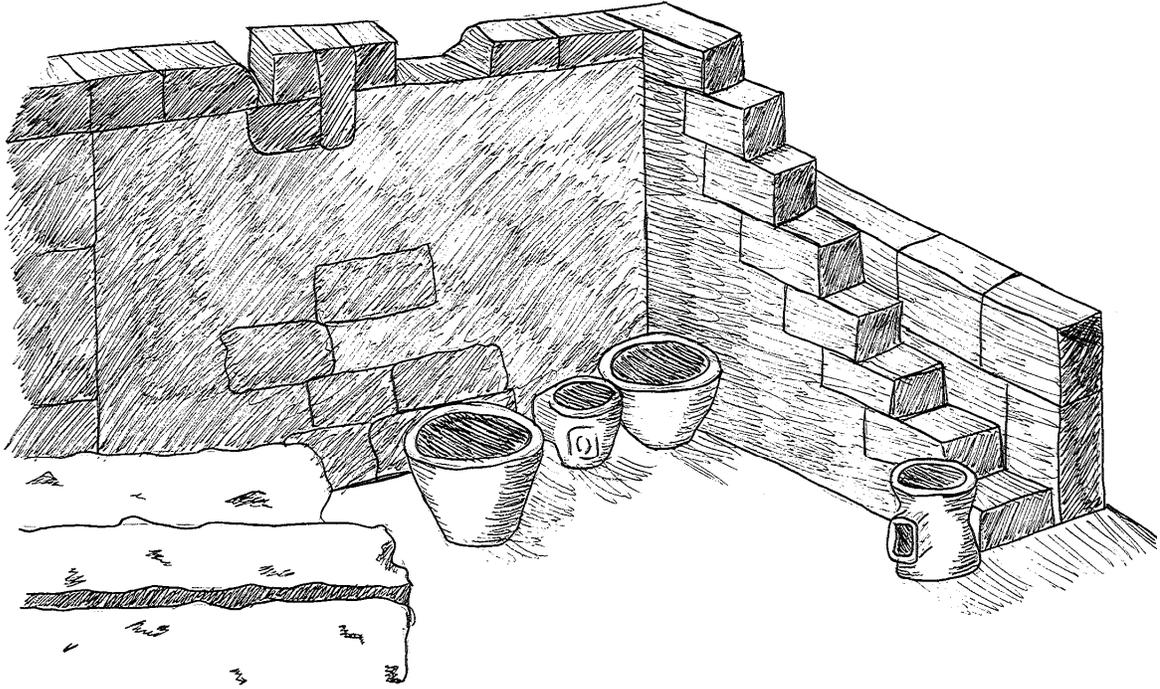
iii) Starting elevation = 128.793; 128.578 (next to column base)

iv) Ending elevation = 128.611 (paver south of column base);

v) Soil is Horizon c (sandy with pebbles).

vi) Exposed floor. Most pavers are rectangular in basalt. Some are basalt building stones. In the eastern part of the square, some of the floor is plaster/mud over cobbles

vii) A narrow limestone stairway rises to the east in the south east corner of the room. Eight stairs remain. Tread 15-22, rise 22-24. Elevations of the steps are: 128.766 (Bottom step); 129.041 (Step 2); 129.214 (Step 3); 129.451 (Step 4); 129.636 (Step 5); 129.881 (Step 6); 130.095 (Step 7); 130.272 (Step 8)



viii) There is a doorway in W1250, exterior to the south; 128 cm wide is the opening. The door was 138 wide.

ix) Numerous nail fragments were discovered near the door.

x) Two coins also turned up. A Byzantine M coin in the fill and an Umayyad coin in the doorway. A third coin (? Very light) was found in front of the stairs.

xi) Ceramic analysis

(1) Mainly dating from 7th to 8th

(2) Stratigraphic context: Layer above the floor in the sq. DI39

(3) Description: Small amount of pottery, fragments of cooking vessels and jars

(4) Indicative wares: Casserole (Mangess, form 1; late 3rd\ early 4th-late 8th AD); bowl dated from to late 7th century, parallel to Bar Natan 2012, fig.11.37\8), cooking pot with triangular rim that dated to the 8th century)

xii) Item 634

(1) Category: Metal

(2) Material: Iron

(3) Shape: Nail

(4) State of Preservation: More than half

(5) Width: 0.8

(6) Length: 6.5

- (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.4
- (8) Elevation: 128.6
- (9) From east edge of square: 2.2
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.5
- (11) Description: Found at the same elevation as floor, but to the south away from exposed stones. End of nail is bent. Head is missing.

## xiii) Item 635

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Ring
- (4) State of Preservation: Perfect
- (5) Width: 6.7
- (6) Length: ---
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.8
- (8) Elevation: 128.6
- (9) From east edge of square: 2
- (10) From north edge of square: 3.3
- (11) Description: Large metal ring, greenish in color. Outer diameter: 6.7cm, Inner diameter: 5.2

## xiv) Item 639

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: 1.3
- (6) Length: 5.3
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.7
- (8) Elevation: 128.7
- (9) From east edge of square: 1.7
- (10) From north edge of square: 3.9
- (11) Description: Somewhat nail-like in shape, but without head or point. Appears to be metal, but there is little to no corrosion. Found in dirt pulled slightly out of square, so location is approximate. In two pieces.

## xv) Item 641

- (1) Category: Coin

- (2) Material: Metal
- (3) Shape: Coin
- (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
- (5) Width: 2.6
- (6) Length: 3.2
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.1
- (8) Elevation: 28.62
- (9) From east edge of square: 1.7
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.9
- (11) Description: Byzantine M Coin. Impression is clear, edge of coin is rough.

xvi) Item 642

- (1) Category: Coin
- (2) Material: Metal
- (3) Shape: Coin
- (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
- (5) Width: 2.8
- (6) Length: 3.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.2
- (8) Elevation: 128.82
- (9) From east edge of square: .7
- (10) From north edge of square: 1
- (11) Description: Byzantine M coin. Impression is fairly worn. The M is clear on one side, the stamp on the other is hard to discern.

i) Item 643

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: 1.4
- (6) Length: 15.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.4
- (8) Elevation: 128.6
- (9) From east edge of square: 1.7
- (10) From north edge of square: 3.2

(11) Description: In 3 pieces. 1 Piece: Head of nail with diameter of 2.5 cm, fragment is 3.5 cm long. 2 Piece: 9.3 cm long, approximately 1.4 cm across throughout. 3 Piece: 2.7 cm long, possible point of nail, though the larger end is much smaller than the smaller end of the second piece.

i) Item 644

(1) Category: Metal

(2) Material: Iron?

(3) Shape: Hook

(4) State of Preservation: Less than half

(5) Width: 1.5

(6) Length: 3.3

(7) Depth/Thickness: 1.2

(8) Elevation: 128.73

(9) From east edge of square: 1.5

(10) From north edge of square: 3.2

(11) Description: Piece of metal with a curve of approximate radius 1.5 cm. Seems to come to a slight point in the center rather than being perfectly circular.

i) Item 645

(1) Category: Metal

(2) Material: Iron?

(3) Shape: Nail?

(4) State of Preservation: Fragment

(5) Width: 1.8

(6) Length: 6.4

(7) Depth/Thickness: 1.5

(8) Elevation: 128.73

(9) From east edge of square: 1.5

(10) From north edge of square: 3.2

(11) Description: Possible nail fragment. Head and point are both missing, but the fragment does seem to taper like a nail.

i) Item 646

(1) Category: Architecture

(2) Material: Marble

(3) Shape: Edging

(4) State of Preservation: Fragment

- (5) Width: 7.0
- (6) Length: 9.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 3.8
- (8) Elevation: 128.77
- (9) From east edge of square: 2.4
- (10) From north edge of square: 1.3
- (11) Description: Edging forms an L-Shape. The back is flat and the depth varies from 1.5 cm to 5.5 cm. The flow of the front follows a long inward bevel, then a short outer bevel, followed by a larger outward bevel.

ii) Item 648

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail?
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: 1.0
- (6) Length: 4.4
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.7
- (8) Elevation: 128.57
- (9) From east edge of square: 1.8
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.2
- (11) Description: Small fragment, no clear head or point. Depth varies from roughly .5cm on one end to 1 cm on the other.

i) Item 649

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 1.4
- (6) Length: 0.8
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.4
- (8) Elevation: 128.57
- (9) From east edge of square: 1.5
- (10) From north edge of square: 3.2
- (11) Description: Long fragment including point of nail. Broken end begins with depth/width of 1.4 cm, and then tapers to a point.

- ii) Item 651
  - (1) Category: Metal
  - (2) Material: Iron?
  - (3) Shape: Hook
  - (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
  - (5) Width: 2.0
  - (6) Length: 4.0
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.7
  - (8) Elevation: 128.57
  - (9) From east edge of square: 1.5
  - (10) From north edge of square: 2.4
  - (11) Description: Appears to be a hook with part of the hook and part of the "bracket" it is mounted to in place. The hook itself seems to have a radius of about 1.5 cm and a depth of .7 cm. The end of the hook is slightly flattened.
- i) Item 652
  - (1) Category: Ground stone
  - (2) Material: Stone
  - (3) Shape: Coin-like
  - (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
  - (5) Width: ---
  - (6) Length: ---
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: ---
  - (8) Elevation: 128.6
  - (9) From east edge of square: 1.3
  - (10) From north edge of square: 2.2
  - (11) Description: Very thick coin - After cleaned discovered to be stone.
- ii) Item 653
  - (1) Category: Metal
  - (2) Material: Iron
  - (3) Shape: Nail
  - (4) State of Preservation: More than half
  - (5) Width: 1.4
  - (6) Length: 6.7
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.3
  - (8) Elevation: 128.6

(9) From east edge of square: 2.1

(10) From north edge of square: 2.8

(11) Description: Long fragment with end of nail, bent to an approximately 90 degree angle. Head is missing.

a) Opened DJ39

i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building

ii) Basket = none collected

iii) Starting elevation = 130.604

iv) Ending elevation = 130.272

v) Soil is tractor fill

vi) Cleared the top of the stairs

b) Continued work in Square DJ40

i) Plaster floor F2105

ii) Basket = 2490, 2492

iii) Lower courses of the north wall are a previous wall that proceeds under the street. The east wall abuts the north wall

iv) Ceramic analysis (Locus 2112)

(1) Mainly dating from 4th to 8th

(2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DJ40; mixed context

(3) Description: A lot of body shards mainly of jars and cooking vessels, among them round bowl with a two rim grooves

(4) Indicative wares: Beisan jars, ARS, cooking bowls (Bayovitz 1B late1\early 2-mird.3rd), casserole (Magness, form 1; 3rd-9th AD), cooking pot dated to late ROM \ UMM

(5) Residual: ESA

v) Ceramic Analysis (Locus 2106)

(1) Mainly dating from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>

(2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DJ40 (probe under the floor)

(3) Description: Three unindicative BYZ jar bodyshards

vi) Item 713

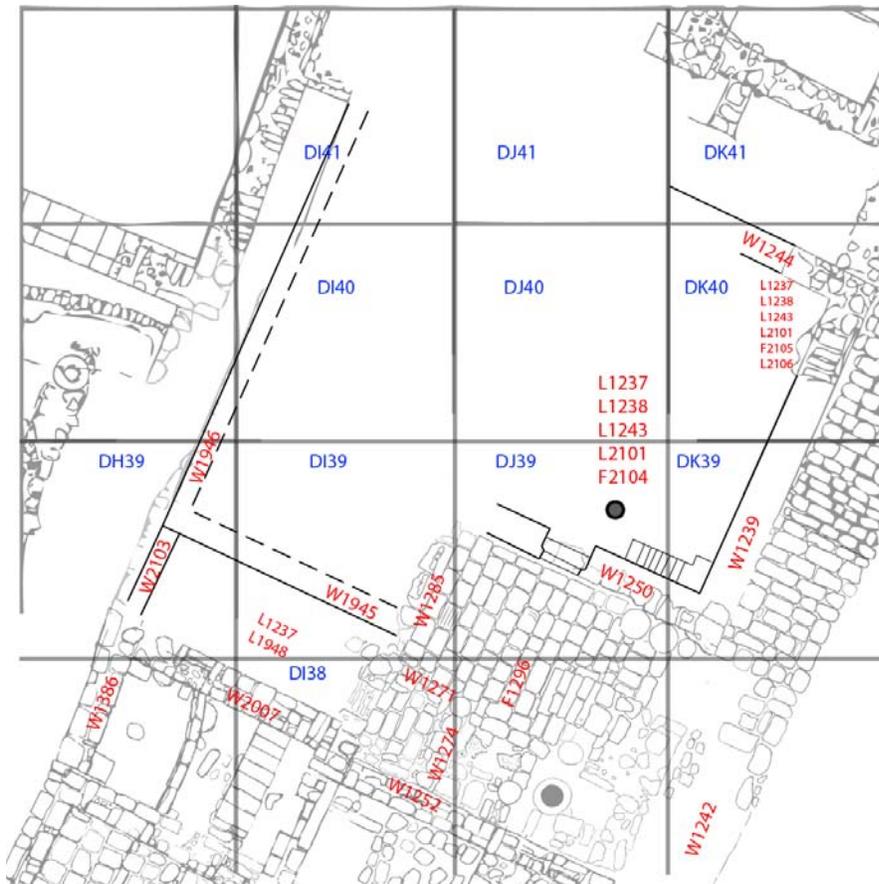
(1) Category: Worked bone

(2) Material: Bone

(3) Shape: Splinter with

(4) State of Preservation: More than half

- (5) Width: 0.5
- (6) Length: 3.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.3
- (8) Elevation: ---
- (9) From east edge of square: ---
- (10) From north edge of square: ---
- (11) Description: Found in bone bag for the square. Appears to be a long, thin bone with a hole carved in one end. Speculated that it may have been part of a necklace, with the bottom half broken off.



## 1) East Zone

### a) Continued work in Square DR41.

- i) Goal = Excavate and identify the function of the eastern room of the peristyle house
- ii) Basket = 2491
- iii) Starting elevation = 131.139

- iv) Ending elevation = 130.834(high); 130.593 (low)
- v) Soil is horizon B
- vi) Colored plaster green and red.
- vii) Several molders plaster sections
- viii) Pursuing floor between window wall and south wall.
- ix) Ceramic analysis
  - (1) Mainly dating from 6<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>
  - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DR41
  - (3) Description: Small amount of pottery, mostly body shards of jars
  - (4) Indicative wares: Beisan jars; LRC form 3F (Hayes, fig. 69 \ 25; 6th AD)
- x) Item 636
  - (1) Category: Architecture
  - (2) Material: Plaster
  - (3) Shape: Collection of
  - (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
  - (5) Width: ---
  - (6) Length: ---
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: ---
  - (8) Elevation: 131.2
  - (9) From east edge of square: 2.7
  - (10) From north edge of square: 2.3
  - (11) Description: A collection of 9 pieces of moulded and painted plaster. The two most prominent pieces have a double bevel near the top, followed by a longer inward bevel and one more outward bevel. One smaller piece may be the same double bevel as the top of the two prominent pieces. Other pieces in the collection appear to be painted, some with a dark color (either blue or black) or with a red color.
- xi) Item 640
  - (1) Category: Metal
  - (2) Material: Iron?
  - (3) Shape: Nail
  - (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
  - (5) Width: 4.5
  - (6) Length: 16.5
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.2
  - (8) Elevation: 131.2

(9) From east edge of square: 2.1

(10) From north edge of square: 1.7

(11) Description: Very large nail with head and point intact. Shaft is straight from head but bent after approximately 5 cm.

xii) Item 657

(1) Category: Ground stone

(2) Material: Limestone

(3) Shape: Trough

(4) State of Preservation: Less than half

(5) Width: 38.0

(6) Length: 43.0

(7) Depth/Thickness: 27.0

(8) Elevation: 130.6

(9) From east edge of square: 2

(10) From north edge of square: 3.1

(11) Description: The corner of a possible through, rectangular in shape with walls approximately 8 cm thick.

