

# Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2012 – 13th Season

## Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 9 July 2012 Area: NIP Manager: Schuler

Squares	DH39	DJ39	DJ40	DR41	
Loci	1948	1238	2112	2102	
Baskets	2493	2494	2495	2496	
Walls	1239, 1244, 1250, 2108				
Floors					

### 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 = 2493
  - iii) Starting elevation = 129.052
  - iv) Ending elevation = 128.976 (high); 128.61 (low)
  - v) Soil is horizon 2
  - vi) Continued lowering the level. Possible stairs from the west. Only pieces of eastern steps remain. Steps may have been robbed for western blocking wall.
  - vii) Toward the end of the day, a possible level appearing in the northeastern corner.
  - viii) Ceramic analysis
    - (1) Mainly dating from 6th to 8th
    - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DH39
    - (3) Description: A lot of pottery, especially casseroles, cooking pots, lids. There are also Beisan jars.
    - (4) Indicative wares: FBW bowl (6th-late 7/8th AD), lid from the end of BYZ/ UMM (6-mid 8th AD); ARS (7th AD)
    - (5) Intrusive: Two pieces from Abassi (?) vessels (white material)
  - ix) Item 655
    - (1) Category: Unique item
    - (2) Material: Marble
    - (3) Shape: Table
    - (4) State of Preservation: Fragment

- (5) Width: 11.0
- (6) Length: 24.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 3.6
- (8) Elevation: 128.95
- (9) From east edge of square: 5.8
- (10) From north edge of square: 4.6
- (11) Description: Somewhat triangular in shape, thought to be part of same table as earlier item (number 647)

## i) Item 656

- (1) Category: Unique item
- (2) Material: Marble
- (3) Shape: Table
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: 9.5
- (6) Length: 18.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 3.5
- (8) Elevation: 128.95
- (9) From east edge of square: 5.1
- (10) From north edge of square: 4.5
- (11) Description: Roughly shaped like a parallelogram, but with one side more curved than straight. Thought to be part of the same table as items 647 and 655.

## i) Item 658

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: More than half
- (5) Width: 1.8
- (6) Length: 8.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.8
- (8) Elevation: 129.1
- (9) From east edge of square: 3
- (10) From north edge of square: 4.2
- (11) Description: Nail with head intact but no point. Diameter of head is roughly 2.5 cm (diameter not consistent across head). Nail is relatively straight.

## ii) Item 671

- (1) Category: Ground stone
- (2) Material: Basalt
- (3) Shape: Grinding
- (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
- (5) Width: 5.5
- (6) Length: 6.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 4.5
- (8) Elevation: 128.74
- (9) From east edge of square: 2.5
- (10) From north edge of square: 3.4
- (11) Description: Small handheld grinding stone. Shaped like a slightly flattened circle.  
One side has a light circular imprint.

b) Continued work in DJ39

- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
- ii) Basket = 2494
- iii) Starting elevation = 130.272
- iv) Ending elevation = 129.403 (high); 129.261 (low)
- v) Soil is horizons A and B mixed
- vi) Removed tilting heavy stone from top of square, including one lintel stone 155 x 23 x 40
- vii) A thin wall of limestone blocks may face the western side of W1239 (these may be the interior face of the wall also) and seem to allow upward continuation of the stairs.
- viii) As the day progressed, these limestone blocks appear to be the inside of W1239.
- ix) At the north end of the square, the wall tips inward toward the room some 30 cm.
- x) Again, very little pottery in the fill.
- xi) By end of the day, excavation of the area was about half done and be were into L1243
- xii) Ceramic analysis
  - (1) Mainly dating from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
  - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DI39
  - (3) Description: Beisan jars, cooking vessels
- i) Item 663
  - (1) Category: Architecture
  - (2) Material: Basalt
  - (3) Shape: Lintel
  - (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
  - (5) Width: 43.0

- (6) Length: 153.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 23.0
- (8) Elevation: 129.3
- (9) From east edge of square: 4.5
- (10) From north edge of square: 4.5
- (11) Description: Large basalt lintel, found higher than, but across, what was later found to be W2108.

i) Item 669

- (1) Category: Architecture
- (2) Material: Marble
- (3) Shape: Carved
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: 7.0
- (6) Length: 10.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 6.0
- (8) Elevation: 129.8
- (9) From east edge of square: 3.5
- (10) From north edge of square: .4
- (11) Description: Carved piece of marble. Hard to discern pattern. Possible leaf design.

b) Continued work in Square DJ40

- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
- ii) Basket = 2495
- iii) Starting elevation = 128.826 (mud/plaster floor)
- iv) Ending elevation = 129.806 (high); 128.849 (low)
- v) Soil is horizon b
- vi) Removed more of the upper level material from the square/
- vii) Discovered a door jamb 4.98m from the exterior of W1250. The exterior of the door is to the south. At least two courses sit next to W1239 (an addition?). The western jamb is not yet visible.
- viii) Continued to follow the interior of W1244 to the west. The better constructed earlier wall continues to supply the lower courses of the wall
- ix) Ceramic analysis
  - (1) Mainly dating from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
  - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DJ40
  - (3) Description: A lot of body shards mainly of jars and cooking vessels



- vii) Various types of door hardware recovered: possible hinge, a latch, nails, etc.
- viii) Several pieces of painted fresco were recovered from the fill. They seem to portray portions of a disk or medallion with a gold center crossed by red lines (a sun disk?).
- ix) Toward the end of the day reached what seems to be a crude plaster floor (later?). Question: if it is a plaster floor, how did all the tesserae get into the fill above it?
- x) Ceramic analysis
  - (1) Mainly dating from mid-4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>
  - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DJ41; possibility of the mixed material because of the destruction of western wall
  - (3) Description: Small amount of pottery, mostly body shards of jars
  - (4) Indicative wares: KFH 1E (mid.3rd - early 5th), necklace cooking pot with triangular rim (parallel to late ROM \ BYZ; 4th-7th AD); ARS form 67 (Hayes pp. 112-116; 360-470 AD)
- xi) Item 654
  - (1) Category: Metal
  - (2) Material: Iron
  - (3) Shape: Nail
  - (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
  - (5) Width: 4.3
  - (6) Length: 10.3
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.6
  - (8) Elevation: 130.8
  - (9) From east edge of square: 4.8
  - (10) From north edge of square: 3.3
  - (11) Description: Nail with intact head. Shaft is fairly complete, though point is missing. Bent to an angle slightly larger than 90 degrees after approximately 5 cm. Diameter of nail head is 2.5 cm.
- i) Item 659
  - (1) Category: Metal
  - (2) Material: Iron
  - (3) Shape: Nail
  - (4) State of Preservation: More than half
  - (5) Width: 1.8
  - (6) Length: 10.0
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.6

- (8) Elevation: 130.75
- (9) From east edge of square: 2
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.5
- (11) Description: Nail with head and point. Shaft is slightly bent 3.5 cm from the head.  
Diameter of the head is roughly 1 cm.

## i) Item 660

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Hook/ring
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 2.0
- (6) Length: 4.4
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.6
- (8) Elevation: 130.7
- (9) From east edge of square: 4
- (10) From north edge of square: 2
- (11) Description: Metal pin which curves around to form a circular loop at one end.

## ii) Item 661

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Door Latch
- (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
- (5) Width: 2.5
- (6) Length: 15.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.5
- (8) Elevation: 130.8
- (9) From east edge of square: 4.2
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.2
- (11) Description: Appears to be some sort of door latch, with a pin in one end (3 cm long, possibly for pivoting) and a hook on the other end.

## i) Item 662

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Band with
- (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete

- (5) Width: 3.5
- (6) Length: 13.8
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 2.0
- (8) Elevation: 130.72
- (9) From east edge of square: 4.3
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.2
- (11) Description: Curved metal band with one two nails attached. One was found still attached, the other right next to the band. With both nails in place the item forms a "W" like shape with a smooth edge rather than a corner in the center. Each nail is 4.3 cm long with a head with a diameter of 2 cm.

i) Item 664

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron
- (3) Shape: Door material
- (4) State of Preservation: More than half
- (5) Width: 1.8
- (6) Length: 22.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.8
- (8) Elevation: 131.62
- (9) From east edge of square: 2.7
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.3
- (11) Description: Long, flat metal rod. Rectangular in shape except for one end which appears to be opening into a circle.

i) Item 665

- (1) Category: Ground stone
- (2) Material: Basalt
- (3) Shape: Sphere
- (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
- (5) Width: 1.5
- (6) Length: ---
- (7) Depth/Thickness: ---
- (8) Elevation: 130.58
- (9) From east edge of square: 3.2
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.1
- (11) Description: Very small circular ball, with a diameter of approximately 1.5 cm

## ii) Item 666

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Flat Rod
- (4) State of Preservation: More than half
- (5) Width: 2.0
- (6) Length: 12.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.6
- (8) Elevation: 130.62
- (9) From east edge of square: 4.2
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.6
- (11) Description: long, flat piece of metal. Very rectangular.

## iii) Item 667

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: More than half
- (5) Width: 1.5
- (6) Length: 4.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.8
- (8) Elevation: 130.5
- (9) From east edge of square: 4
- (10) From north edge of square: 2
- (11) Description: Top half of nail with head (roughly 1.5 cm across) intact.

## iv) Item 668

- (1) Category: Unique item
- (2) Material: Plaster
- (3) Shape: Fresco
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: ---
- (6) Length: ---
- (7) Depth/Thickness: ---
- (8) Elevation: 130.57
- (9) From east edge of square: 3
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.1

(11) Description: Several pieces of painted plaster. See photos for details.

v) Item 670

(1) Category: Architecture

(2) Material: Plaster

(3) Shape: Moulding

(4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete

(5) Width: 10.0

(6) Length: 13.0

(7) Depth/Thickness: 5.5

(8) Elevation: 130.72

(9) From east edge of square: 2.5

(10) From north edge of square: 1.8

(11) Description: Nearly complete section of moulding. Top has 3 nearly equal outward bevels, followed by a longer inward bevel than 2 more outward bevels roughly the filament size as the first 3. In 3 pieces.

i) Item 672

(1) Category: Metal

(2) Material: Iron

(3) Shape: Nail

(4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete

(5) Width: 4.7

(6) Length: 6.5

(7) Depth/Thickness: 0.7

(8) Elevation: 130.3

(9) From east edge of square: 3.2

(10) From north edge of square: 3.8

(11) Description: Nail with portion of head intact and no point. Head is only slightly larger than shaft of nail. Bent to a 90 degree angle 3 cm from head.

i) Item 673

(1) Category: Metal

(2) Material: Iron?

(3) Shape: Rod

(4) State of Preservation: Fragment

(5) Width: 2.0

(6) Length: 5.5

- (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.0
- (8) Elevation: 130.45
- (9) From east edge of square: 4.3
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.3
- (11) Description: Fragment of flat rod, parallelogram shape.

## ii) Item 674

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 1.8
- (6) Length: 4.5
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.7
- (8) Elevation: 130.45
- (9) From east edge of square: 4.5
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.5
- (11) Description: Thin nail with head (diameter of 1.8 cm) and no point.

## iii) Item 675

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 2.2
- (6) Length: 2.3
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.3
- (8) Elevation: 130.45
- (9) From east edge of square: 2.5
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.9
- (11) Description: Mainly head of nail (diameter of 2.2 cm) remains.

