

# Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2012 – 13th Season

## Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 10 July 2012 Area: NIP Manager: Schuler

Squares	DH39	DJ39	DJ40	DR41	DR42
Loci	1948	1243	2112	2102	1226
Baskets	2497	2498	2499	3101	3102
Walls	1244, 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 = 2497
- iii) Starting elevation = 128.976 (high); 128.61 (low)
- iv) Ending elevation = 128.810 (remains of staircase); 128.570 (possible floor in NE corner of space)
- v) Soil is horizon 2
- vi) Cleaned square for photography and in preparation for the removal of the remainder of the stairway. High confidence that the stairway was disassembled to build blocking wall to the west. Ashlars are of similar length.
- vii) 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 cooking vessels and Beisan jars from UMM period, some juglets and lamps; handle of a cooking pot with a stamp (probably a horse)
  - (4) Indicative wares: jar from the 7th AD (Hadad type 35)
  - (5) Residual: KFH cooking pot type 1E (mid.3th-early 5th AD)
- viii) Item 679
  - (1) Category: Coin
  - (2) Material: Metal
  - (3) Shape: Coin
  - (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete

- (5) Width: 2.0
- (6) Length: ---
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.1
- (8) Elevation: 128.55
- (9) From east edge of square: 5.9
- (10) From north edge of square: 4.1
- (11) Description: Small coin, possibly with portrait on one side. Easy to see there is a pattern, hard to decipher picture.

## i) Item 684

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: More than half
- (5) Width: 3.6
- (6) Length: 5.7
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.4
- (8) Elevation: 129.3
- (9) From east edge of square: 5.8
- (10) From north edge of square: 5
- (11) Description: Nail without a head, but with point well intact. Bent to a 90 degree angle roughly 5 cm from point.

## i) Item 685

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 1.5
- (6) Length: 3.4
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.8
- (8) Elevation: ---
- (9) From east edge of square: ---
- (10) From north edge of square: ---
- (11) Description: Head of nail found in bone bag for square.

## b) Continued work in DJ39

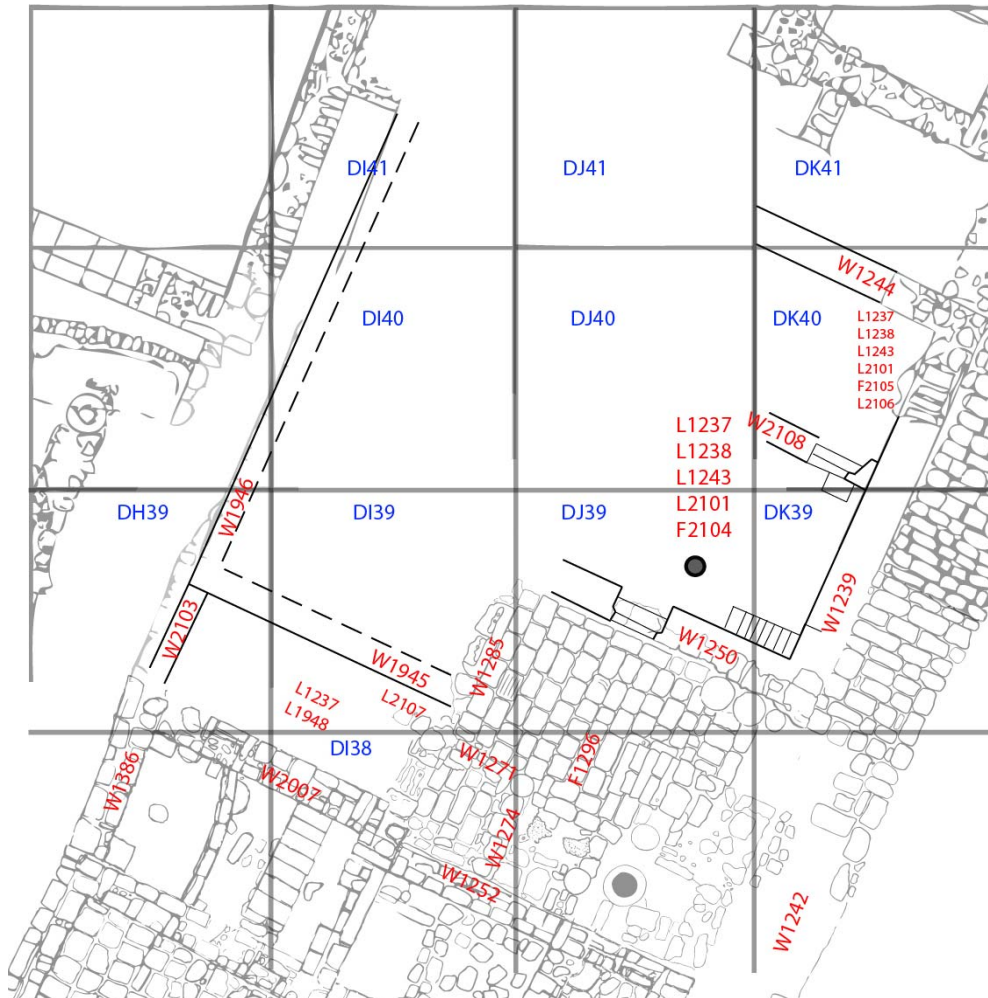
- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building

- ii) Basket = 2498
  - iii) Starting elevation = 129.403 (high); 129.261 (low)
  - iv) Ending elevation = 129.045 (top of step south of threshold); 128.676 (average of fill)
  - v) Soil is horizon B mixed
  - vi) Identified threshold for north wall of square
  - vii) There seems to be one step (at least) to the south of the threshold on the eastern half
  - viii) Two basalt stone bowls sit next to the east wall. One smaller bowl is in between
  - ix) Kept removing heavy fill. Approaching floor
  - x) Ceramic analysis
    - (1) Mainly dating from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
    - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DJ39
    - (3) Description: Beisan jars, cooking vessels, some basin fragments
    - (4) Indicative wares: Casserole (Magness, form 1, dated up to early 9th)
- c) Continued work in Square DJ40
- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
  - ii) Basket = 2499
  - iii) Starting elevation = 129.806 (high); 128.849 (low)
  - iv) Ending elevation = 129.231 (top of threshold in W2108); 128.810 (packed earth floor next to W1244 in west part of square); 128.983 (possible stone platform north of threshold)
  - v) Soil is horizon c
  - vi) Removed heavy fill from square.
  - vii) Began to clear floor from known area into the rest of the square
  - viii) Floor is significantly below the threshold. There may be a layer of stones to the north of the threshold providing a transition to the threshold.
  - ix) Lots of bones and pottery at the floor level
  - x) Ceramic analysis
    - (1) Mainly dating from 6<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>
    - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DJ40
    - (3) Description: A lot of body shards mainly of jars and cooking vessels
    - (4) Indicative wares: Beisan jars, Galilean cooking bowl from second half of 5th cent. to UMM period (Ben Arie 1997, plate I / 15-18), ARS imitation (?) (Hayes, form 106, dated to 600 AD)
  - xi) Item 680
    - (1) Category: Ground stone

- (2) Material: Basalt
- (3) Shape: Grinding
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 8.0
- (6) Length: 14.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 5.5
- (8) Elevation: 129.40
- (9) From east edge of square: 3.5
- (10) From north edge of square: 3
- (11) Description: Roughly half of a grinding stone with a base slightly smaller than the rim, walls which curve slightly inward, and a rim of 3 cm angled back toward the center of the bowl.

i) Item 683

- (1) Category: Coin
- (2) Material: Metal
- (3) Shape: Coin
- (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
- (5) Width: 1.6
- (6) Length: ---
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.2
- (8) Elevation: 128.87
- (9) From east edge of square: 3.4
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.6
- (11) Description: Small coin, no clear image on either side



## 2) 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 = 3101
- iii) Starting elevation = 130.500 (average of plaster floor)
- iv) Ending elevation = 130.282 (mosaic floor?? Seems off); 131.806 (balk in DR42)
- v) Soil is horizon B
- vi) Cleared room to floor level.
- vii) A few fragments of mosaic are still intact. Rest of the floor is broken.
- viii) One clump of tesserae indicated a merging of two flows of white tessera. There is a single border of black tesserae. To the border cling a red, yellow, and red tesserae. The colors coordinate with the fresco fragment found in the room.
- ix) Ceramic analysis

- (1) Mainly dating from 2nd to 4th
- (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DJ41, above the floor
- (3) Description: Small amount of pottery, mostly body shards of jars
- (4) Indicative wares: KFH 3B (early 2nd - end 4th); jar fragment from the late ROM

x) Item 676

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron
- (3) Shape: Eye Hook
- (4) State of Preservation: More than half
- (5) Width: 2.3
- (6) Length: 8.2
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.6
- (8) Elevation: 130.55
- (9) From east edge of square: 4.5
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.3
- (11) Description: Shaped like a nail, with head (diameter 1.5 cm), but with a loop instead of a point. Some sort of eye hook.

i) Item 677

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 1.6
- (6) Length: 2.8
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.5
- (8) Elevation: 130.55
- (9) From east edge of square: 3
- (10) From north edge of square: 2.5
- (11) Description: Small portion of nail with head and part of shaft.

ii) Item 678

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron
- (3) Shape: Pin
- (4) State of Preservation: More than half
- (5) Width: 2.2

- (6) Length: 4.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.7
- (8) Elevation: 130.55
- (9) From east edge of square:
- (10) From north edge of square: 3
- (11) Description: End of eye hook with part of shaft and metal loop.

iii) Item 681

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Eye Hook
- (4) State of Preservation: More than half
- (5) Width: 1.9
- (6) Length: 6.8
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.6
- (8) Elevation: 130.3
- (9) From east edge of square: 3.3
- (10) From north edge of square: 3
- (11) Description: Eye hook, similar to others found in the square. Approximately .5 cm metal rod bent into a circle at one end.

i) Item 682

- (1) Category: Metal
- (2) Material: Iron?
- (3) Shape: Nail
- (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
- (5) Width: 1.8
- (6) Length: 4.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.8
- (8) Elevation: 130.3
- (9) From east edge of square: 3.3
- (10) From north edge of square: 3
- (11) Description: Mostly complete nail head (diameter of 1.8 cm) and about 3.75 cm of shaft.

b) DR42

- i) Goal = Excavate and identify the function of the eastern room of the peristyle house
- ii) Basket = 3102

- ix) Starting elevation = 132.02
- iii) Ending elevation = 131.806
- iv) Soil is Tractor fill
- i) Ceramic analysis
  - (1) Mainly dating to 5<sup>th</sup>
  - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DR42
  - (3) Description: Small amount of pottery, mostly body shards of jars
  - (4) Indicative wares: ARC bowl (Hayes, form 75, 420 - 450 AD)

