

Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2012 – 13th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 12 July 2012 Area: NIP Manager: Schuler

Squares	DH39	DI40	DJ40	DR42
Loci	2107	2138	2106 2109	1914
Baskets	3110	3111	3112 3113	3114
Walls 1224, 1244, 1266, 1285, 1386, 1945, 1949, 2007				
Floors 2110				

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 = 3110
- iii) Starting elevation = 128.234 (average of probe); 128.346 (top of corner fixture)
- iv) Ending elevation = 127.863 (average in probe)
- v) Soil is horizon C
- vi) Continued to lower probe in L2107 (2 x 1.4m).
- vii) Inside is a square basin 46 cm across and 20 cm tall
- viii) Also a grinding bowl (shallow)
- ix) Two flat stones of indeterminate function sit west and south of the basins in a perpendicular form
- x) Coarse ware and moderate quantities of bone with small quantities of glass fragment and a few tesserae were recovered from the fill.
- xi) Repairs were conducted on the collapsed corner of W1386 and W2007. Slanted foundation stone was reset and the initial course above it to the west.
- xii) The weakened junction between W1285 and W1945 received two courses are reinforcement. A doorjamb was set on the south end of W1285
- xiii) Ceramic analysis
 - (1) Mainly dating from 6th to 8th
 - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DH39

(3) Description: Fragments of Beisan jars, cooking vessels, large bowl with an out turned rim

(4) Indicative wares: ARS (forum 1069; near 600 AD), ampul fragment from the 7-8th century (Magness 1993, pp.259)

xiv) Item 699

(1) Category: Metal

(2) Material: Iron?

(3) Shape: Door

(4) State of Preservation: More than half

(5) Width: 3.5

(6) Length: 8.0

(7) Depth/Thickness: 3.2

(8) Elevation: 128.23

(9) From east edge of square: 3.6

(10) From north edge of square: 5.2

(11) Description: A flat, rectangular piece with a hook of some sort on one side and a protrusion on the other (possibly a bent nail through the flat piece of metal).

xv) Item 706

(1) Category: Ground stone

(2) Material: Basalt

(3) Shape: Square Bowl

(4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete

(5) Width: 60.0

(6) Length: 41.0

(7) Depth/Thickness: 8.0

(8) Elevation: 127.85

(9) From east edge of square: 1.8

(10) From north edge of square: 4.5

(11) Description: Large square bowl found in northeast corner of room in probe.

Assumed to be sitting on floor. Walls of bowl have a thickness of 8 cm, depth of bowl measures to 27 cm.

i) Item 707

(1) Category: Ground stone

(2) Material: Limestone

(3) Shape: Bowl

- (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
- (5) Width: 44.0
- (6) Length: ---
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 22.0
- (8) Elevation: 128.20
- (9) From east edge of square: 2.3
- (10) From north edge of square: 5
- (11) Description: Found directly south of square bowl in northeast corner of the room.
Sitting on large, flat rock.

a) Continued work in Square DI40.

- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
- ii) Basket = 3111
- iii) Starting elevation = 130.296
- iv) Ending elevation = 129.963
- v) Soil is Horizon A
- vi) Lowered the south half of the square about thirty cm.
- vii) Ceramic analysis
 - (1) Mainly dating from 6th to 8th
 - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DI40
 - (3) Description: Small amount of pottery; some Beisan jars and casserole fragments
 - (4) Indicative wares: Casserole (Magness form 1); LRC (Hayes, form 3, dated to 6th AD);

b) Continued work in Square DJ40

- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
- ii) Basket = 3112, 3113
- iii) Starting elevation = 128.471 (north probe); 128.508 (south probe)
- iv) Ending elevation = 128.218 (north probe); 128.362 (south probe)
- v) Soil is moist.
- vi) Lowered both probes to the approximate level of the top of the foundation trench for the three lower courses of W1224. A cobble base with packed spoil and perhaps some plaster is likely the floor level of the earlier building (F2110). In the south probe (L2109), some layering is evident in the east profile.
- vii) Ceramic analysis (basket 3112)
 - (1) Mainly dating from 3rd to 7th
 - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DJ40 (probe under the floor)

(3) Description: Some bodyshards of jars, ARS fragment from the previous basket

(4) Indicative wares: Jar fragment (3rd-4th AD)

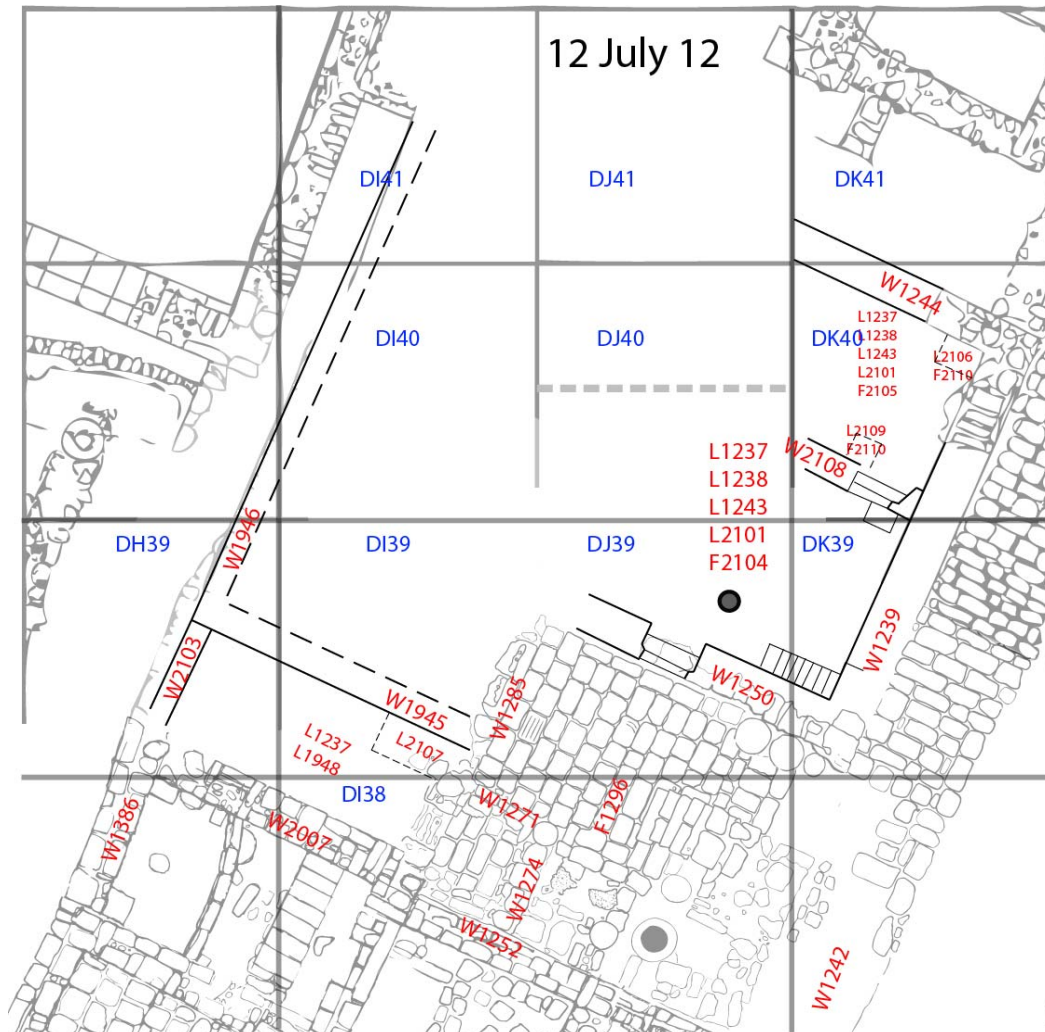
viii) Ceramic analysis (basket 3113)

(1) Mainly dating from 4th to 7th

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

(3) Description: Shards from the storage jars, cooking vessels and jug.

(4) Indicative wares: Cooking bowl KFH 1E (mid. 3rd - early 5th), cooking bowl (Hamat Gader, Ben Arie, 1997, plate I \ 22); cooking pot without a neck, with triangular rim (parallel to late ROM \ BYZ; 4th-7th AD)



2) East Zone

a) Continued work in Square DR42.

- i) Goal = Excavate and identify the function of the eastern room of the peristyle house
- ii) Basket = 3114
- i) Starting elevation = 131.132 (average)
- iii) Ending elevation = 130.883 (average level); 131.159 (shelf next to north W1266)
- iv) Soil is horizon B
- v) Leveled the north half of the room to about 1.5 m below the top of W1949, before closing work in the area for the season
- vi) Several more pieces of a large stamped plate similar to or part of one previous recovered were found in the fill.
- vii) A line of east to west stones immediately south of and parallel to W1266 seem to be a shelf of some sort. They seem too high to be a bench. Fragments of plaster and perhaps a few tesserae cling to the top of the shelf and may rise up the south face of W1244. Considerable loose tesserae were recovered above and in front of the shelf.
- viii) Ceramic analysis
 - (1) Mainly dating from 4th to 5th
 - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DR42
 - (3) Description: Mostly body shards of jars, some cooking vessel fragments
 - (4) Indicative wares: 2 ARS bowl fragments are from the B.3102 (L.1226) and B.3107 (L.1914) dated to the 5th AD; Beisan jars; lids from BYZ period vessels; KFH 1A (late 1st - late 3rd AD); CRS (Hayes, form 1, late 4th - end 5th AD)
- ix) Item 700
 - (1) Category: Metal
 - (2) Material: Iron?
 - (3) Shape: Nail
 - (4) State of Preservation: Nearly complete
 - (5) Width: 2.5
 - (6) Length: 11.2
 - (7) Depth/Thickness: 0.8
 - (8) Elevation: 131
 - (9) From east edge of square: 1.5
 - (10) From north edge of square: 7
 - (11) Description: Almost complete nail with head intact but no point. Nail is not bent to an angle, but is curved slightly.

i) Item 701

(1) Category: Metal

(2) Material: Iron?

(3) Shape: Nail

(4) State of Preservation: Less than half

(5) Width: 1.1

(6) Length: 5.2

(7) Depth/Thickness: 0.5

(8) Elevation: 131.09

(9) From east edge of square: 4

(10) From north edge of square: 2.6

(11) Description: Small nail with head intact. The shaft of the nail is off center on the head. The point is missing, but the shaft of the nail tapers off toward where the point would be.

