

# Hippus (Sussita) Excavations 2003 – 4th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 22 July 2003 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	B3		B2A	B2B	D3
Loci	L507	L534	L531	L530	L524
Baskets	PC1863	PC1869	PC1862	PC1858	PC1861
Walls	W509, W510				
Floors	F516, F517, F526				

- Continued work in Square B3
  - Starting elevation = 130.88
  - Ending elevation = 130.73
  - Soil in L507 is redder than others cited and compacted. It underlays the plaster base of F516.

**Basket** 1863      **Area** NEC      **Locus** F507      **Square** B3      **Opening elevation** 130.88  
**Closing Elevation** 130.77      **Weight** 0.54      **Date** 22-Jul-03      **Manager** Schuler      **Loci Type** sealed under floor

Yes **Ceramic**      No **Plaster**      No **Human Bones**  
 No **Ceramic non-pottery**      No **Architectural Item**      No **Iron**  
 Yes **Tessera**      No **Lamp**      No **Lead**  
 Yes **Glass**      No **Inscription**      No **Inscription**

**Remarks**

final reading incomplete

**FW Bowl/Plate Base**    **FW Bowl/Plate Rim**    **FW Bowl/Plate Handle**    **FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard**  
 0                            0                            0                            0

**FW Juglet Base**    **FW Juglet Rim**    **FW Juglet Handle**    **FW Juglet Body Shard**    **CCW Pot Base**  
 0                            0                            0                            0                            0

**CCW Pot Rim**    **CCW Pot Handle**    **CCW Body Shard**    **CCW Casserole Base**    **CCW Casserole Rim**  
 0                            0                            18                            0                            0

**CCW Casserole Handle**    **CCW Bowl Base**    **CCW Bowl Rim**    **CCW Bowl Handle**    **CCW Lid Base**  
 0                            0                            0                            0                            0

**CCW Lid Rim**    **CCW Lid Handle**    **OCW Jar Base**    **OCW Jar Rim**    **OCW Jar Handle**    **OCW Jar Body Shard**  
 0                            0                            0                            0                            0                            9

**OCW Other Base**    **OCW Other Rim**    **OCW Other Handle**    **OCW Other Body Shard**    **Lamp Base**  
 0                            0                            0                            0                            0

**Lamp Rim**    **Lamp Handle**    **Lamp Body Shard**  
 0                            0                            0

**Analysis**

1 piece of marble

small pieces of plaster with brown, yellow, and red paint

tesserae:

1.5 cm -- 2 white

1 cm -- 28 red, 8 yellow, 29 white, 32 black

**Basket** 1869      **Area** NEC      **Locus** L534      **Square** B3      **Opening elevation** 130.88  
**Closing Elevation**      **Weight**      **Date**      **Manager**      **Loci Type**

130.73 0.1 22-Jul-03 Schuler plaster layer  
 Yes **Ceramic** Yes **Plaster** No **Human Bones**  
 No **Ceramic non-pottery** No **Architectural Item** No **Iron**  
 No **Tessera** No **Lamp** No **Lead**  
 No **Glass** No **Inscription** No **Inscription**

**Remarks**

plaster on sarcophagus; final reading incomplete

<b>FW Bowl/Plate Base</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Rim</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Handle</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard</b>		
0	0	0	0		
<b>FW Juglet Base</b>	<b>FW Juglet Rim</b>	<b>FW Juglet Handle</b>	<b>FW Juglet Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Pot Base</b>	
0	0	0	0	0	
<b>CCW Pot Rim</b>	<b>CCW Pot Handle</b>	<b>CCW Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Base</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Rim</b>	
0	0	1	0	0	
<b>CCW Casserole Handle</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Base</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Rim</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Handle</b>	<b>CCW Lid Base</b>	
0	0	0	0	0	
<b>CCW Lid Rim</b>	<b>CCW Lid Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Base</b>	<b>OCW Jar Rim</b>	<b>OCW Jar Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Body Shard</b>
0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>OCW Other Base</b>	<b>OCW Other Rim</b>	<b>OCW Other Handle</b>	<b>OCW Other Body Shard</b>	<b>Lamp Base</b>	
0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lamp Rim</b>	<b>Lamp Handle</b>	<b>Lamp Body Shard</b>			
0	0	0			

**Analysis**

1 piece of bone

1 piece of plaster from outside tomb; 1 piece from between box and lid

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- Removed plaster and side pieces from sarcophagus.
  - At east end of the sarcophagus, three phases are visible:
    - The final phase in which the gap between the sarcophagus and W509 is filled with plaster to the top of the sarcophagus. This heavy use of plaster is similar to the use of plaster on W514 to seal it to the top of the chancel screen channel and to fill in where the chancel screen posts and screen once were. It is also similar to the use of plaster to repair damage at the east end of the tomb (see below).
    - A secondary phase is that of F516 which surrounded the tomb (also on the east side). Some residual wall plaster from W509 overlays the edge of F516 east of the tomb.
    - An original phase with mosaic floor F517, although to the east of the tomb, F517 was stone, not mosaic.
  - Side marble pieces were removed from the tomb. These side pieces were clearly embedded into the plaster of F517. After the sarcophagus and its lid were put in place, the marble side pieces were placed into the wet plaster base of F517.
  - The sarcophagus was faced on all sides:

- East – a single piece of unadorned marble 3.5cm thick and 65cm wide. The top portion is broken and missing.
- South – two thicker pieces faced the tomb to the level of the top of the lid (142x45x6.5cm and 63x44x6.5cm)
- West – a single piece of marble 3.5 cm thick and 65 cm wide. It too was broken at the level of the top of the sarcophagus box, with the top pieces coarsely plastered back. A inscribed cross was discovered under the crude plaster.
- North – Four pieces of marble faced the north side. From east to west
  - 57x45x3.5 broken in three pieces and plastered back in place
  - 34.5x29(45?)x2.5 – the top half is missing and was filled in by plaster
  - 61x51.5x4.5 inscribed with teutonic cross and alpha and omega
  - 56x47x4.5 broken horizontally and repaired by plaster.
- Extensive use of plaster in the final phase:
  - Filled gap between east end (missing marble piece) and W509
  - On north side, plaster repaired broken pieces and filled in missing piece
  - On east side, plaster repair broken marble and obscured cross.
  - Plaster leveled top of sarcophagus
  - Plaster sealed W514 over chancel screen channel
- A rather large gap in the NW corner of the sarcophagus suggest a previous opening of the tomb
- Continued work in Square B2A
  - Starting elevation = 130.54
  - Ending elevation = 130.48
  - Below the floor in square B2A, the soil was redder in color and more compacted. It appeared to be more developed but not enough was observed to make a detailed examination. The lighter colored C horizon lies on the floor of the church. The lower soil dug more easily.

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*Basket*

*Area*

*Locus*

*Square*

*Opening elevation*

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1862	NEC	L531	B2A	130.54
<b>Closing Elevation</b>		<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Manager</b>
130.48		0.15	22-Jul-03	Schuler
Yes <b>Ceramic</b>		Yes <b>Plaster</b>	No <b>Human Bones</b>	
No <b>Ceramic non-pottery</b>		No <b>Architectural Item</b>	No <b>Iron</b>	
No <b>Tessera</b>		No <b>Lamp</b>	No <b>Lead</b>	
Yes <b>Glass</b>		No <b>Inscription</b>	No <b>Inscription</b>	
<b>Remarks</b>				
under F516 but not sealed, final reading incomplete				
<b>FW Bowl/Plate Base</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Rim</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Handle</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard</b>	
0	0	0	0	
<b>FW Juglet Base</b>	<b>FW Juglet Rim</b>	<b>FW Juglet Handle</b>	<b>FW Juglet Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Pot Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>CCW Pot Rim</b>	<b>CCW Pot Handle</b>	<b>CCW Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Base</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Rim</b>
0	0	6	0	0
<b>CCW Casserole Handle</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Base</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Rim</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Handle</b>	<b>CCW Lid Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>CCW Lid Rim</b>	<b>CCW Lid Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Base</b>	<b>OCW Jar Rim</b>	<b>OCW Jar Handle</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>OCW Other Base</b>	<b>OCW Other Rim</b>	<b>OCW Other Handle</b>	<b>OCW Other Body Shard</b>	<b>Lamp Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lamp Rim</b>	<b>Lamp Handle</b>	<b>Lamp Body Shard</b>		
0	0	0		
<b>Analysis</b>				
1 piece of bone				
1 piece of glass				
plaster fragments: one with yellow paint, one with white				

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- Exposed the rest of the top of the collapsed tomb.
  - Sides are of stone blocks. East end is capped by three layers of thin stone slabs.
  - Re-opened Square B2B (the southern half)
    - Starting elevation = 130.93
    - Ending elevation = 130.73
    - Soil is the same as in B2A.

<b>Basket</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Locus</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>Opening elevation</b>
1858	NEC	L530	B2B	130.93
<b>Closing Elevation</b>		<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Manager</b>
130.73		0.4	22-Jul-03	Schuler
Yes <b>Ceramic</b>		Yes <b>Plaster</b>	No <b>Human Bones</b>	
No <b>Ceramic non-pottery</b>		No <b>Architectural Item</b>	No <b>Iron</b>	
Yes <b>Tessera</b>		No <b>Lamp</b>	No <b>Lead</b>	
No <b>Glass</b>		No <b>Inscription</b>	No <b>Inscription</b>	
<b>Remarks</b>				
final reading incomplete				
<b>FW Bowl/Plate Base</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Rim</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Handle</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard</b>	
0	0	0	0	
<b>FW Juglet Base</b>	<b>FW Juglet Rim</b>	<b>FW Juglet Handle</b>	<b>FW Juglet Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Pot Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>CCW Pot Rim</b>	<b>CCW Pot Handle</b>	<b>CCW Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Base</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Rim</b>
0	0	7	0	0
<b>CCW Casserole Handle</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Base</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Rim</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Handle</b>	<b>CCW Lid Base</b>

BBBBB

0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CCW Lid Rim</b>	<b>CCW Lid Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Base</b>	<b>OCW Jar Rim</b>	<b>OCW Jar Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Body Shard</b>
0	0	0	0	0	8
<b>OCW Other Base</b>	<b>OCW Other Rim</b>	<b>OCW Other Handle</b>	<b>OCW Other Body Shard</b>	<b>Lamp Base</b>	
0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lamp Rim</b>	<b>Lamp Handle</b>	<b>Lamp Body Shard</b>			
0	0	0			

**Analysis**

2 pieces of marble

1 piece of white plaster

tesserae:

1 cm -- 2 black, 1 yellow, 8 white

1 block w 13 white

- 
- Removed destruction fill to the level of the plaster base for F517
  - Continued work in Square D3
    - Starting elevation = 130.78
    - Ending elevation = 130.73
    - Soil is Horizon C -- dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) dry, very stony sandy loam, very dark brown (10YR 2/2) moist; weak fine granular structure; friable; 10 percent pebbles, 15 percent cobbles, 30 percent stones.
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<b>Basket</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Locus</b>	<b>Square</b>	<b>Opening elevation</b>
1861	NEC	L524	D3	130.78
<b>Closing Elevation</b>		<b>Weight</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Manager</b>
130.73		0.65	22-Jul-03	Schuler
Yes <b>Ceramic</b>		No <b>Plaster</b>		No <b>Human Bones</b>
No <b>Ceramic non-pottery</b>		No <b>Architectural Item</b>		No <b>Iron</b>
Yes <b>Tessera</b>		No <b>Lamp</b>		No <b>Lead</b>
No <b>Glass</b>		No <b>Inscription</b>		No <b>Inscription</b>

**Remarks**

final reading incomplete

<b>FW Bowl/Plate Base</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Rim</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Handle</b>	<b>FW Bowl/Plate Body Shard</b>	
0	0	0	0	
<b>FW Juglet Base</b>	<b>FW Juglet Rim</b>	<b>FW Juglet Handle</b>	<b>FW Juglet Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Pot Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>CCW Pot Rim</b>	<b>CCW Pot Handle</b>	<b>CCW Body Shard</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Base</b>	<b>CCW Casserole Rim</b>
0	0	10	0	0
<b>CCW Casserole Handle</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Base</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Rim</b>	<b>CCW Bowl Handle</b>	<b>CCW Lid Base</b>
0	0	1	0	0
<b>CCW Lid Rim</b>	<b>CCW Lid Handle</b>	<b>OCW Jar Base</b>	<b>OCW Jar Rim</b>	<b>OCW Jar Handle</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>OCW Other Base</b>	<b>OCW Other Rim</b>	<b>OCW Other Handle</b>	<b>OCW Other Body Shard</b>	<b>Lamp Base</b>
0	0	0	0	0
<b>Lamp Rim</b>	<b>Lamp Handle</b>	<b>Lamp Body Shard</b>		
0	0	0		

**Analysis**

2 pieces of bone

tesserae:

1 cm -- 3 yellow, 5 black, 49 white

1.5 cm -- 14 white

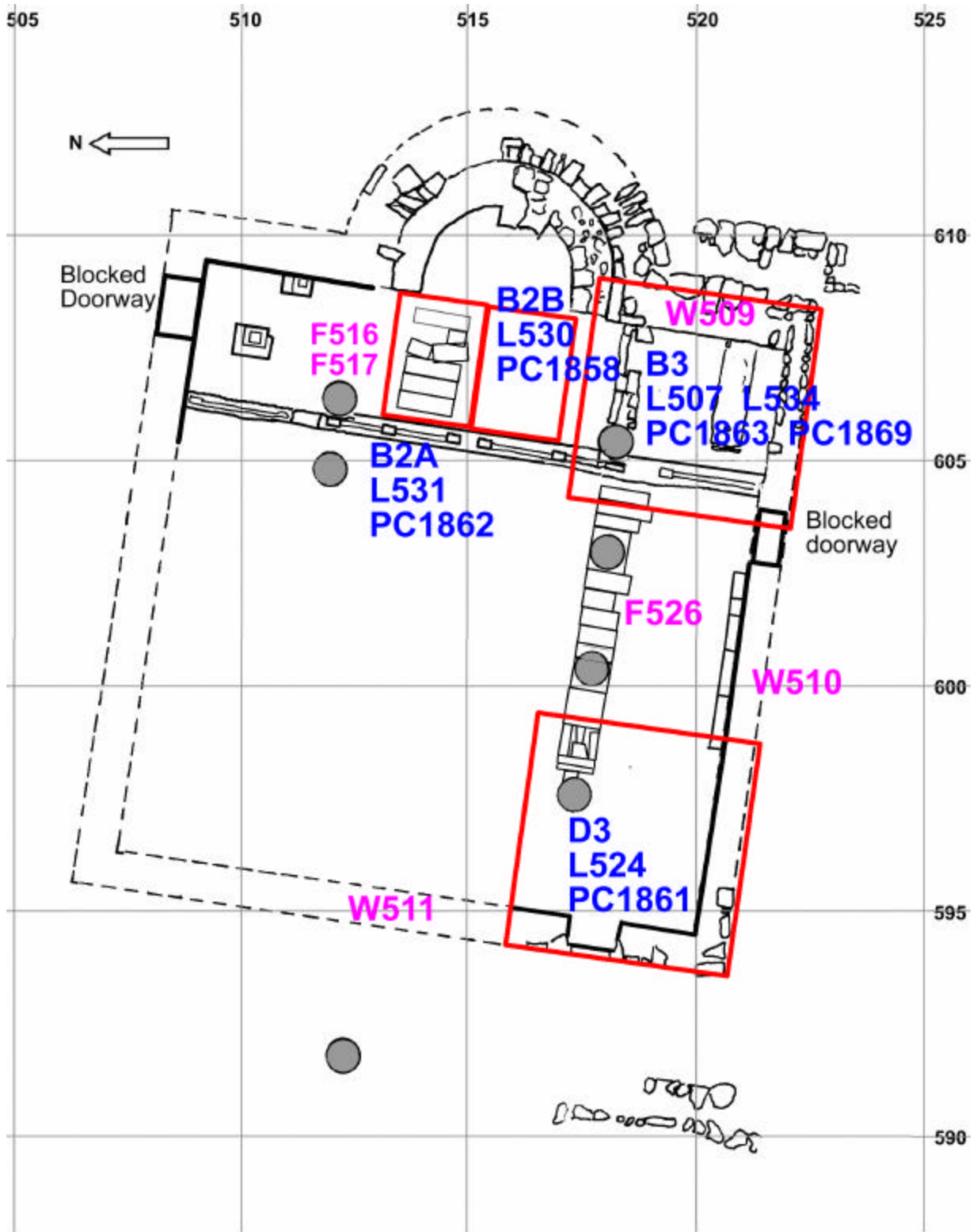
2 cm -- 5 white

- 
- Cleaned W510 and W511
  - Began to expose fragments of mosaic floor
  - A border pattern identical to the NW church continues west from under the bench next to W510. It then turns north 1.13m west of the bench
  - A 80x50cm segment of tesserae laid in a circular pattern is visible (parts of 4 circles)

#### Observations

- The location where the basalt cross was recovered did not show damage (i.e., the cross did not crash from a significant height to its resting position). Perhaps the NEC did not experience the significant earthquake damage visible elsewhere, or had already fallen into disuse. At the west end of the aisle, plain white tesserae (about 1.5cm across) suggest a later repair. Two patches of similar tesserae are visible next to the stylobate in the south aisle.
- There seem to be two phases in the south aisle. The original mosaic was as in the NW church, the baptistery of the cathedral, and the baptistery at Kursi of a late six-century date (580-595). A second phase followed of larger plain white mosaic.

Daily Drawing 22 July



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