



## **Hippos (Sussita) 2003 – 4<sup>rd</sup> Season**

### **Locus Card**

Locus No. L532

#### **Archaeological Context**

Locus Status: closed

Locus Type: fill

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church:

Opening Date: 23 July

Opening Height: 130.48

Closing Date: 31 July

Closing Height: 129.96

#### **Locus Location**

General Description of Borders:

Inside a frame of basalt ashlar that make up the cist tomb, just north of the central axis in the chancel

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
L531	L537	Basalt ashlar	Basalt ashlar	Basalt ashlar	Basalt ashlar	

	X coordinate	Y coordinate
North East	518.09	610.09
South West	518.41	607.41

#### **General Description and Soil Analysis**

The soil was redder in color and more compacted. It appeared to be more developed. The soil dug easily.

#### **Chronology of Excavation**

23 July

- In Square B2A
  - Starting elevation = 130.48
  - Ending elevation = 130.48
  - Little work done due to opening of exposed sarcophagus

27 July

- In Square B2A
  - Starting elevation = 130.48

- Ending elevation = 130.2
- Excavated to 42cm below the covering stones.
- Soil was rather loose; there were some larger stones toward the east end (collapse).
- Within the soil were scattered bones, tesserae, and pottery chips.
- Lead pipe exposed to a length of 55cm
- While it is possible that this area is a robbed out tomb, the depth of the pipe argues against such an interpretation.

28 July

- In Square B2A

- Starting elevation = 130.2
- Ending elevation = 129.96
- Excavated about 60cm below the stones covering the cist tomb. The soil is soft, mixed with pottery, a few bones, and many pieces of painted plaster.
- The side walls are two runs of nicely laid stones. The top run is 18-27cm deep and the bottom run is 34-44cm deep.
- At elevation 102.33 is a limestone sarcophagus box of identical orientation and construction to the box in the south burial. It however was covered by six stones 4-9cm thick (secondary use; two were marble). Between the second and third stones from the west, two triangular stones and plaster connected the lead pipe to the burial below. The fifth stone from the west (a piece of marble in secondary use) broke during excavation revealing the tomb below.
- One larger piece of painted plaster (in several sections) showed a dark band, yellow background and the four fingers of a left hand (outlined in red) on a parallel line to and below the dark band was recovered just above the stones covering the sarcophagus. Both the stones covering the sarcophagus and the side walls show bits of plaster adhering, so the hand was likely part of a fresco in the area above the sarcophagus but below the original covering stones that were just below floor level.
- The lead pipe is rolled, not melted. It was not meant to guarantee delivery of all the oil to the burial. Its top was hammered into a funnel. The pipe is 72cm long (partly broken at 16 and 35cm from the top). The exterior diameter of the pipe is 2.44cm. The thickness of the lead is .37cm. The funnel end has a diameter of 4.58cm.

## Pottery and Small Finds

1866 L532	NEC	B2A	130.48	130.48	23-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L final reading incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ <input type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL
1873 L532	NEC	B2A	130.48	130.2	27-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill	<input type="checkbox"/> FL <input type="checkbox"/> W <input type="checkbox"/> BS <input type="checkbox"/> Z <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> L final reading incomplete <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> V <input type="checkbox"/> BR <input type="checkbox"/> LT <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> ST <input type="checkbox"/> LP <input type="checkbox"/> HZ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NP <input type="checkbox"/> CU <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MS <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> IN <input type="checkbox"/> BL

1877 L532	NEC	B2A	130.2	129.96	28-Jul-03	Schuler	destruction fill	<input type="checkbox"/> FL	<input type="checkbox"/> W	<input type="checkbox"/> BS	<input type="checkbox"/> Z	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PL	<input type="checkbox"/> I	<input type="checkbox"/> L	final reading incomplete	
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### Concluding Remarks

All soil was sifted for small finds.