

# Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2006 – 7th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 4 July Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	B2	C/D2	C4	E0	E5	F4
Loci	L543	<u>F589</u> F544	L503 L587	L563	L505	L563
Baskets	2039	none	2036 2040	2037	2035	2038
Walls	W510, W539, W553, W585, W586					
Floors	F544, F589					

- Continued work in Square B2
  - Ending elevation = 129.499
  - Removed all but a small southern section of L543. We sifted the contents using a 2 mm screen.
  - Worked two 3000Kg straps under the sarcophagus. Using the backhoe of a tractor, we lifted the sarcophagus from the masonry chamber. It is of unremarkable form, similar to others in use at Hippos.
  - Below the sarcophagus we observed snail shells, at least 10 human bone fragments, pottery shards, small fragments of painted plaster, and a nail.
  - Initial analysis of bone fragments retrieved so far indicates that at least two different age groups are represented: adolescent and adult.
- Continued conservation work in Square C/D4 (Nave)
  - Removed the covering in the northwest quadrant of the nave.
  - There are two layers of mosaic toward the west end of the nave. The top layer has larger (industrial) tesserae (1.2-2 x 1.5-2 cm). The field is white. There are two rows of individual dark grey tesserae. Below is evidence of a repeating diamond pattern. The top layer is identified as F589 (the lower floor is F544). A collection of loose tesserae were bagged.
- Continued work in Square C4
  - Starting elevation = 131.88
  - Ending elevation = 131.838 for the building; 131.403 for the passageway
  - Soil is Horizon B

- Continued to expose the passageway and the exteriors of W510 and W539. Large quantity of glass fragments and numerous roof tiles were recovered in the passageway next to W539.
- Continued work in Square E0
  - Starting elevation = 131.23
  - Ending elevation = 131.12 (one of these two is wrong)
  - Soil is Horizon A shifting to B
  - Continued to articulate W586 and W553. At the east end of W553 is another column base. The stylobate seems to continue to the north. There also may be a wall from the same column base on the line of the stylobate.
- Continued work in Square E5
  - Starting elevation = 131.571
  - Ending elevation = 131.283
  - Soil is Horizon A
  - May have found the corner of the building first identified in E4. This point would be the south end of W585. The wall would then measure 6 meters from north to south.
  - Other assorted rubble.
- Continued work in Square F4
  - Starting elevation = 131.538
  - Ending elevation = 131.389
  - Soil is Horizon A
  - Several lines of stones possibly indicating N/S and E/W walls are beginning to appear.

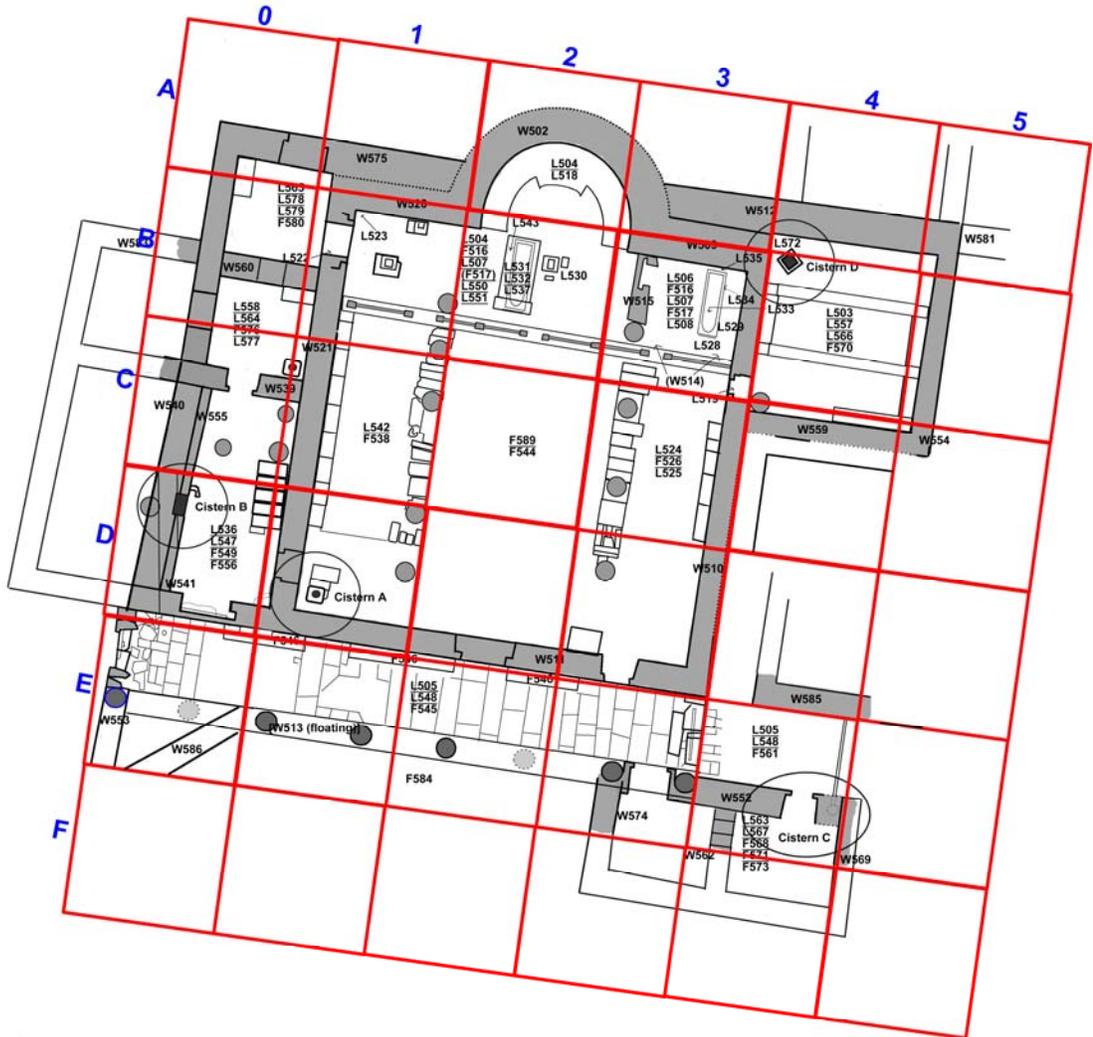
#### Observations

Two very significant finds from today:

- The column base at the east end of W553 reinforces the theory that the stylobate preceded the church. Of what was it apart?
- Finding that two different age groups in the small collections of bone fragments recovered near the sarcophagus is most significant. But the frequency of such finds must be analyzed. Could not some of the adolescent fragments have come from the latest burial in the sarcophagus (having been

moved by rodents/water?). Some of these fragments came from L543. Others came from lower levels. If the mixture continues to the bottom of the chamber, then we could make a case for multiple burials.

Daily Drawing



2m

Northeast Church Complex  
Hippios 2006



M. Schuler