

Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2008 – 9th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 6 July 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A0	A2	B5	D5	E8	F1	B0
Loci	L1226	L1219	L503	L1205	L1243	F1214 L1248 L1247	
Baskets	5423 (east) 5430 (west)	5424	5425	5426	5429	5427 5431 5432	
Walls	W553, W575, W583, W585, W1231, W1234, W1245, W1246, W1267						
Floors	F580, F1214						

Basket 5428 not used (assigned to E6).

- Continued work in Square A0
 - Starting elevation = 130.260 (east of wall), 130.380 (west of wall)
 - Ending elevation = 130.020 (east of wall), 130.215 (north of church)
 - Soil is Horizon B/C
 - Restricted work to the area north of the church between W575 and W583 and to the area east of W1267
 - North of the church, soil horizon is B. W583 seems to be particularly well constructed.
 - East of W1267, we reached the level of the base of the earlier fixture in the wall. The surface is paved to the east of the fixture only.
 - The fixture is 67cm north to south and at least 35cm east to west. The top course is 18cm deep and only the southern stone remains. The second course is 26cm deep. A single stone spans the fixture north to south. The third course is 18cm deep. Two stones stretch east to west with a space between. The fourth (bottom) course is 17cm deep. Again a single stone spans the east face north to south.

- A floor or roof roller was recovered from the fill. It is twenty-three centimeters in diameter and 66cm long. On each end is a 5 cm drilling that is 3cm deep.
 - Two large basalt “beams” were removed from the fill. Dimensions: 110x18x40cm and 110x18x33 cm
 - Began work in A2
 - Starting elevation = 132.420
 - Ending elevation = 131.589
 - Soil is Horizon A
 - W1234 is a floating was 1.15m wide. It was drawn in preparation for removal.
 - Began work in B5
 - Starting elevation = 132.162
 - Ending elevation = 131.682
 - Soil is Horizon A
 - A wall seems to be appearing 3.40m east of W1245. Some of it on the east side was picked out by the excavators.
 - With this wall, we now have a full picture of what structures are south of the church.
 - Continued work in Square D5
 - Starting elevation = 130.405 (east), 130.811 (west)
 - Ending elevation = 130.326
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Approaching the corner of W1231 and W585
 - Continued work in Square E8
 - Starting elevation = 128.720
 - Ending elevation = 128.757
 - Soil is Horizon B/C
 - Reached the level of the decumanus (Decumanus 1 North). Similar pavers to those in the street. Although some were robbed out at the entrance to the street, west of a large basalt beam, all are present.
 - Identified the wall line of the south wall of the northern block building. Restored some tipped wall stones to their original position.
 - Paving continues to the west of the steps.
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- Identified a cistern on the south edge of the square. The head of the cistern seems to be a column base the middle of which was drilled out.
- Recovered a piece of revetment from the fill (Item #263).
- We intend to expand the square an additional meter to the south and to the west.
- Continued work in Square F1
 - Starting elevation = 129.999
 - Ending elevation = 130.019 (east level of trench), 130.016 (cobbles next to wall)
 - Soil is Horizon D (below floor)
 - Opened a 1m trench running east to west from the stylobate to the west side of F1. The trench is 3.5 to 4.5m from the south edge of square F1
 - Removed the mud/plaster layer of F1214. It is about 35cm deep. Two nail were recovered from the floor remains (Item #261 and 262, the latter appears modern). At the east end of the trench, stones protrude from under the stylobate. Their protrusion is similar to the in the probe dug next to the stylobate in F2. They seem to be the inside surface of a wall over which the stylobate was laid down.
 - At the west end of the trench, the so-call stone fixture turns out to be an earlier wall (W1246) that runs north and south. Trenching on its western line reveals that its external surface is to the west and that it proceeds to the north under W553. The wall is 0.70m wide. To its east in the trench we left about 1 m of cobbles that may attest to an earlier floor. However, the cobbles do not occur further east in the trench.
 - After squaring up the trench, we identified a new locus (L1248). This locus was sealed by the mud/plaster floor. We began to excavate this locus and to sift it for small finds.
- Conservation of floor in B0
 - Repair and cleaning continue.
 - Identified an ancient repair to the floor just inside the doorway of W575

Observations

- If we are correct that the wall upper the stylobate had its external face to the east and the parallel W1246 had its external wall to the west, then both may have been part of a building that antedated the church and yet aligned with the city plan of Sussita. We will seek the north wall of this building with additional probes.

Daily Drawing

