

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

Date: 8 July 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A0	A1	A2	B5	D5	E8	F1	B0
Loci	L1226	L1219 L1226	L1226	L1205	L1205	L1238	L1248 L1228 L1247 F1214	
Baskets	5441	5442 5450	5443	5444	5445	5446	5447 5448 5449 5451	
Walls	W553, W575, W581, W583, W594, W1221, W1229, W1234, W1245, W1246, W1249, W1252, W1253, W1267							
Floors	F580							

- Continued work in Square A0
 - Starting elevation = 129.935 level of mosaic floor between W583 and W575
 - Ending elevation = 129.935 level of mosaic floor between W583 and W575
 - Soil is Horizon C
 - Carefully removed remaining broken mosaic floor leaving surviving section intact. Very little of the floor survived.

- Continued work in A1
 - Starting elevation = 131.659 (east), 131.792 (west)
 - Ending elevation = 131.406
 - Soil is Horizon A
 - W1267 join the external apse wall with a basalt door jamb.
 - As in A0 so in A1, a reinforcing feature appears in W1267. It protrudes to the east 36cm and is 57cm north to south. It begins 3.15m from the north edge of the square.
 - A layer of rough plaster is appearing in the fill on top of and to the east of the line of W1267.

- Continued work in A2
 - Starting elevation = 131.589
 - Ending elevation = 131.540
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Lowered level of Horizon B soil
 - Continued work in B5
 - Starting elevation = 131.338
 - Ending elevation = 131.530 (east), 131.158 (west)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - W1234 is not continuous as previously thought. Rather it proceeds west from W1221 across the line of the street and across (??) W581 to form a corner with W1249. A different wall (W1253) is offset slightly to the north (15cm) from this corner and proceeds west toward W1245 and W1229.
 - The exact line of W1253 is still hard to distinguish.
 - Continued work in Square D5
 - Starting elevation = 129.935 (lower), 130.161 (upper) [floor in D4 is 130.118]
 - Ending elevation = 130.107 (high), 129.625 (low)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Revealed the level of the threshold.
 - Heavy fill including at least six door jambs were removed to the south.
 - Two nails (Item #s 267 and 269) were recovered.
 - Continued work in Square E8
 - Starting elevation = 128.764 (pavers of decumanus)
 - Ending elevation = 128.843 (expanded area to the south)
 - Soil is Horizon B/C
 - Expanded the square 1.3m south to W1252
 - Cleared fill down 2.5 courses to the top of the cistern.
 - Another column is visible to the west of the cistern head. A small wall fills the gap between it and W1252.
 - The cistern head is a limestone column base that is 65cm in diameter. The head is carved to have a 43x43cm lid. Its height is 50cm. It is notched for a
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bar. It shows a rubbed area for a rope, and a part of its base is cut to allow water to enter the cistern.

- A 7 cm nail (Item # 268) was recovered.
- Continued work in Square F1
 - Starting elevation = 129.140 (trench)
 - Ending elevation = 128.757 (hard limestone to west) , 129.382 (height of soft limestone), 129.033 (limestone level for foundation trench)
 - Soil is Horizon D (below floor)
 - Excavated the trench to a rough level, photographed, and continued.
 - Metal fragments (Item #s 266 and 270) were recovered.
 - Exposed bedrock through the length of the trench. Most of the bedrock is a soft marl/limestone, except at the west end, where the limestone is smooth and hard.
 - To the east, the builders cut a foundation trench in the marl, filled it with stones and then built a wall, only one course of which remains under the stylobate.
 - To the west, the builders erected a wall (W1246) on the hard limestone to create a level platform. That wall is visible to the north of W553.
 - In E0 we excavated west of W594 and found evidence of an east/west wall. To get a better sense of the space, we removed floating W594 in preparation to remove the balk at the north end of E0 and F0.
 - We trenched south on either side of the line of W1246. However, the wall seems to disappear about half way through F1. Perhaps the bedrock rises at this point.
- Conservation of floor in B0
 - Repair and cleaning continue.

Observations

- Daily Drawing

