

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

Date: 15 July 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A0/A1/A2		C5	C2		
Loci	L1226 (A0A1west) L1257 (A2) L1226 (A1 east)		L1205	L1256		
Baskets	5474 5473 5475		5477	5476		
Walls	W559, W575, W1229, W1231, W1239, W1267					
Floors	F538, F544, F589					

- Continued work in A0, A1 and A2
 - Starting elevation = 130.207 (A1 west average), 130.878 (A2 average), 130.898 (top of unknown feature)
 - Ending elevation = 129.996 (average street), 130.751 (A1 east), 130.400 (average of room in A2)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Continued work on both side of W1267
 - An upside down column base sits on the north side of the blocked doorway in W575. Was it a place to rest? A place for a guard or one who limited access to the *skeuophylakion*? The elevation of its top is 130.334.
 - We are not yet to the level of the threshold, but the fill is taking on the gravel-like composition of the street south of the apse. There were several large fragments of marble revetment in the fill (Item # 282), some red veined.
 - There may be a wall appearing going east from W1267 at the north line of A1. A basalt beam spans the width of the excavation area and is perpendicular to W1267.

- In A2, we reached the threshold of the north door. We may at this level be below the foundation level of the apse. We measured the inside height of the wall from the chancel floor (1.77m) and compared the outside depth. The threshold is some 30cm lower. In addition the lowest course of the exterior apse wall seems to rest upon less defined material (foundation trench?).
 - The top of the fixture in A2 seems to be below the level of that starting course and thus would seem unrelated to the church.
 - Two nails (Item # 281) were recovered from this fill.
 - Continued work in Square C5
 - Starting elevation = 129.389 (plaza F1256)
 - Ending elevation = 129.776 (average), 129.857 (paver or wall?), 129.532 (paver)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Began to lower the level of the destruction fill to about 10cm above the surface of pavers in D5. Removed most of the fill in the northern half of C5. The west face of W1229 continues to this level and abuts W1239.
 - Continued work in C2
 - Starting elevation = 129.687
 - Ending elevation = 129.687 (bedrock east)
 - Completed the probe in C2.
 - Bedrock is about 52cm below the top of the stylobate.
 - The original cross section would be
 - F589
 - F544
 - Cobbles
 - Heavier stone and earth
 - Bedrock
 - There is no indication of a previously existing structure.
 - Continued work in Square C4
 - Starting elevation = 130.45
 - Ending elevation = 130.225
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- Reopened the small room in C5 to lower its level to that of the small room to the north and to the threshold in W1231.
- There are no distinguishing feature to the fill, but the connection between W1231 and W559 is weak (mostly dirt and rubble fill).
- Conservation of floor in C1
 - Cleaning of mosaic is primary focus.

Observations

Daily Drawing

