

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

Date: 17 July 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

| Squares | A0/A1/A2 | C4 | C5 | C1 |
|---------|---|------|-------|----|
| Loci | 1226 (A0W) 1226 (A1E) 1260 (cistern) | L595 | L1255 | |
| Baskets | 5485 5486 5487 | 5488 | 5489 | |
| Walls | W558, W559, W1218, W1223, W1229, W1231, W1267 | | | |
| Floors | F538, F1265 | | | |

- Continued work in A1 and A2
 - Starting elevation = 129.893 (street in AOA1), 130.334 (A1 east), 130.338 (A2 average)
 - Ending elevation = 130.411 (A1 east)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Continued work on east side of W1267
 - Leveled the area in A1 East.
 - Still have not determined what is on the east side of W1223 near the north edge of A1. Although the feature is exactly in the center between the other two pilasters and so will likely be a pilaster.
 - A Corinthian capital (top is 55 x 45 cm) and two drums are appearing in the fill.
 - Removed fill from the cistern to a depth of 1.4 m. Sides of the cistern are curving inward, indicating that we have almost reached the bottom.
- Continued work in Square C5
 - Starting elevation = 129.841
 - Ending elevation = 129.502 (top), 129.365 (paving next to W1229)
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Removed heavy fill from south section of C5.

- W1229 sits on bedrock where it abuts W1231.
- A 10 cm nail (Item #286) was recovered near the paved surface (F1265).
- In the last 15 cm of the square, recovered three items of significance, all within a meter of each other and all sitting on the paving surface
 - A basalt mortar and pestle (two other pestles in the fill) with a bowl-like base (Item # 287).
 - A basalt bowl on three legs and a central shaft. We thought it was a mortar, but its smooth surface and the bowl-like reverse ridge argue for a different function (incense altar?) (Item #288).
 - Bronze burning pan with hollow handle (somewhat similar to an incense shovel but with 4 sides) (Item # 289).
- Some of this material is suggestive of religious practice.
- Continued work in Square C4
 - Starting elevation = 130.010
 - Ending elevation = 130.334 (bedrock)
 - Soil is horizon B
 - Excavation is below floor level as is clear from the line of the first course of W559
 - A segment of lead pipe was found in the fill. It is 55cm long with an outside diameter of 13cm and an inside diameter of 11 cm (thickness reflects corrosion). The pipe does not seem to have run under the floor, as only a small segment remains. Stone fill would block its continuation.
 - Bedrock reached about 20 cm below the level of the floor.
 - Plaster on the face of W558 attests to decoration of these rooms.
 - Clearing continued west of W1218.
- Conservation of floor in C1
 - Worked on conserving the north aisle mosaic.

Observations

Daily Drawing

