

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

Date: 30 June 08 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A0	D5	E6	E8	F0	F1	B0
Loci	L1219	L503	L1237	L1238	L567	L563	L1240 L1241
Baskets	2195	2196	2197	5402	2198	2199 (nothing collected)	5401 5403
Walls	W553, W560, W575, W585, W1231, W1239						
Floors	F580						

- Continued work in Square A0
 - Starting elevation = 131.690
 - Ending elevation = 130.748
 - Soil is Horizon A
 - Except for the recovery of a corner pilaster base (item #251, 1.5m from the NE corner of the square, 3 m from the NW corner of the square), the square yielded only destruction fill.

- Continued work in Square D5
 - Starting elevation = 131.252
 - Ending elevation = 131.220
 - Soil is Horizon A
 - Similarly D5 yielded no evidence yet of any new walls. However, the line of the south face of W1231 became clear, as did the east face of W585.
 - A byzantine glass pendant was recovered from the fill (item #252, 3.12m south of W1231 and 1.52m west of W585). The pendant is 20.04mm in diameter and 22.5mm tall including the suspension eyelet. The pendant is 3mm thick. It is stamped on the obverse with a lion. The reverse is blank. The glass is brownish color with white streaks and partly translucent. The closest color is 2.5YR 4/2 in the Globe Program Edition of earth colors (Chicago: Color Communications, 1996). The suspension eyelet was drawn

out of the glass, bent forward over a rod, and reattached when the pendant was stamped.

Many pendants, like this one, bear images of gods or apotropaic symbols to be worn either to bring good fortune or to scare away evil. Almost all of these pendants come from the east of the Roman Empire, with a special concentration in the Syro-Palestinian region.

A scholar by the name of Barag has done extensive research into this type of glass and divides how the pendant was made into three types and what it was stamped with into six categories. According to Barag's findings, this pendant was made between 350 and 425 AD, and is considered a Type A, Category 5. This means that it was fashioned with a flat loop for hanging and was stamped VERY carefully with the image of an animal. Other images, for those curious, include classical themes (Medusa's head), biblical pictures (Daniel in the Lion's den), Jewish symbols (menorah) and Christian symbols (Good shepherd).

- Continued work in Square E6
 - Starting elevation = 130.970
 - Ending elevation = 130.768
 - Soil is Horizon A
 - Approaching the level of the top stones of the east wall (W1239).
 - A perpendicular east/west line of stone is visible 1.35m from the north edge of the square. It aligns roughly with the north edge of the seeming blocked doorway.
 - Continued work in Square E8
 - Starting elevation = 129.938
 - Ending elevation = 129.522
 - Soil is Horizon B
 - Identified a large east/west wall 1.2m from the north edge of the square. It is build of carefully hewn ashlar and is 1.16m wide. It may be the north wall of the south block building.
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- Just to the south of the wall is a column drum .5 m in diameter.
- There are other possible walls/fixtures. But they are still obscured by destruction fill.
- Continued work in Square F0
 - Starting elevation = 130.180
 - Ending elevation = 129.992
 - Soil is Horizon AB
 - Removed stones next to the south side of W553 (previously identified as a bench). Leveled the rest of F0 south of the wall to the level of E0. The final 15cm were plaster/mud mix.
 - A small flat fixture is appearing in the SW corner of the square. It is 15 cm from the west edge of the square and of a dimension .80 m from east to west and .75 m from north to south. Three long and narrow stones form the surface (stairs?).
- Started work in Square F1
 - Starting elevation = 130.524
 - Ending elevation = 130.513
 - Soil is Horizon A
 - Began removing destruction fill.
- Conservation of floor in B0
 - Continued clearing the covering dirt from F580 in the *skeuophylakion*.
 - Finished the cleanup of the blocked doorway in W560 (L1240). A marble decorative piece, perhaps a small section of a cornice, was recovered from the fill (Item #254).
 - Began removal of the blocked doorway in W575, again to preclude collapse.

Observations

Final Drawing

