

Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2012 – 13th Season

Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 3 July 2012 Area: NIP Manager: Schuler

Squares	DI39	DJ39	DK40	DR41
Loci	1948	1238	1238	1226
Baskets	2474	2475	2476	2477
Walls 1244, 1261, 1286, 1910, 1945, 1949, 2007				
Floors				

1. West Zone

- a. Continued work in Squares DI39 (with the NE corner of DI38 and the west edge of DH39)
 - i. Goal = identify the south end of the Beta Building and the function of the space intervening between it and the Alpha Building to the south
 - ii. Basket = 2472
 - iii. Starting elevation = 129.841 (Average level south of W1286); 130.264 (Top of W1286); 129.876 (Average between W1945 and W1286); 130.081 (Top of W1945 [low section]); 130.291 (Top of Alpha Building lintel stone); 130.006 (Top of potential lintel stone)
 - iv. Ending elevation = 129.519 (Bottom of floating wall); 129.094 (First major step); 129.074 (Average level)
 - v. Soil is Horizon C
 - vi. Worked area to the east of the seeming lintel between W 2007 and W1286.
 - vii. The lintel stone, although perpendicular to W2007, does not seem to stand on columns.
 - viii. W1286 is a floating wall with three courses surviving. It likely comes from some pastoral occupation of the site in more recent times. The wall likely fenced in animals, as did other floating walls on the site.
 - ix. A step up from the paved plaza suggests a staircase, the seeming lintel stone could be the top of the staircase. If so, the rest of the treads have been robbed out.
 - x. Ceramic analysis
 1. Mainly dating from: 6th to 7th
 2. Stratigraphic context: Below the L.1237
 3. Description: Cooking pots, jars; a lot of Beisan jars fragments (8th cent.)
Shards of the jars with combing lines

4. Indicative wares: Dark brown cooking pot from the 8th cent.(Beth Shean, fig11.15\15)

xi. Item 613

1. Category: Ground stone
2. Material: Basalt
3. Shape: Grinding Bowl
4. State of Preservation: Fragment
5. Width: 15.0
6. Length: 21.0
7. Depth: 5.0
8. Elevation: 129.75
9. From east edge of square: 2.75
10. From north edge of square: 4.5
11. Description: Fragment of a grinding bowl, approximately 1/6 of a circle large. Top portion of the fragment contains edge of bowl, no base is present.

b. Continued work in Square DJ39.

- i. Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
- ii. Basket = 2475
- iii. Starting elevation = 129.771 (average next to pile of rocks)
- iv. Ending elevation = 129.454
- vi. Soil is horizon B
- vii. Removed a significant amount of heavy fill: basalt and limestone blocks, door jambs, and other large stones. Three column drums have been identified, one of which may be tilted from a base. Should this possibility prove true, it would suggest that the room was held up by columns.

viii. Item 612

1. Category: Architecture
2. Material: Basalt
3. Shape: Column Drum
4. State of preservation: Nearly complete
5. Width: 37.0
6. Length: 35.0
7. Depth/Thickness: 30.0
8. Elevation: 129.77
9. From east edge of square: 1.0

10. From north edge of square: 0
11. Description: Drum tapers from end with diameter of 37cm to end with diameter of 30cm.

ix. Item 614

1. Category: Metal
2. Material: iron?
3. Shape: Nail
4. State of Preservation: More than half
5. Width: 0.8
6. Length: 5.5
7. Depth/Thickness: 0.8
8. Elevation: 129.45
9. From east edge of square: 3.90
10. From north edge of square: 1.60
11. Description: Nail, with head (2.7 cm diameter)

x. Item 615

1. Category: Ground stone
2. Material: Basalt
3. Shape: Base of
4. State of Preservation: Fragment
5. Width: 11.0
6. Length: 14.0
7. Depth/Thickness: 3.0
8. Elevation: 129.35
9. From east edge of square: 4.25
10. From north edge of square: .95
11. Description: diameter of leg: 5.5 cm. Roughly 1/4 of round grinding stone with leg intact.

xi. Item 617

1. Category: Architecture
2. Material: Basalt
3. Shape: Column Drum
4. State of Preservation: Nearly complete
5. Width: 37.5
6. Length: 50.0

7. Depth/Thickness: ---
8. Elevation: 129.5
9. From east edge of square: .80
10. From north edge of square: .30
11. Description: Diameter at first end, 37.5 cm, diameter at second end: 39 cm

xii. Item 618

1. Category: Architecture
2. Material: Basalt
3. Shape: Column Drum
4. State of Preservation: Nearly complete
5. Width: 37.0
6. Length: 75.0
7. Depth/Thickness: ---
8. Elevation: 129.5
9. From east edge of square: 1.15
10. From north edge of square: .30
11. Description: Diameter at first end: 37 cm, diameter at second end: 37 cm

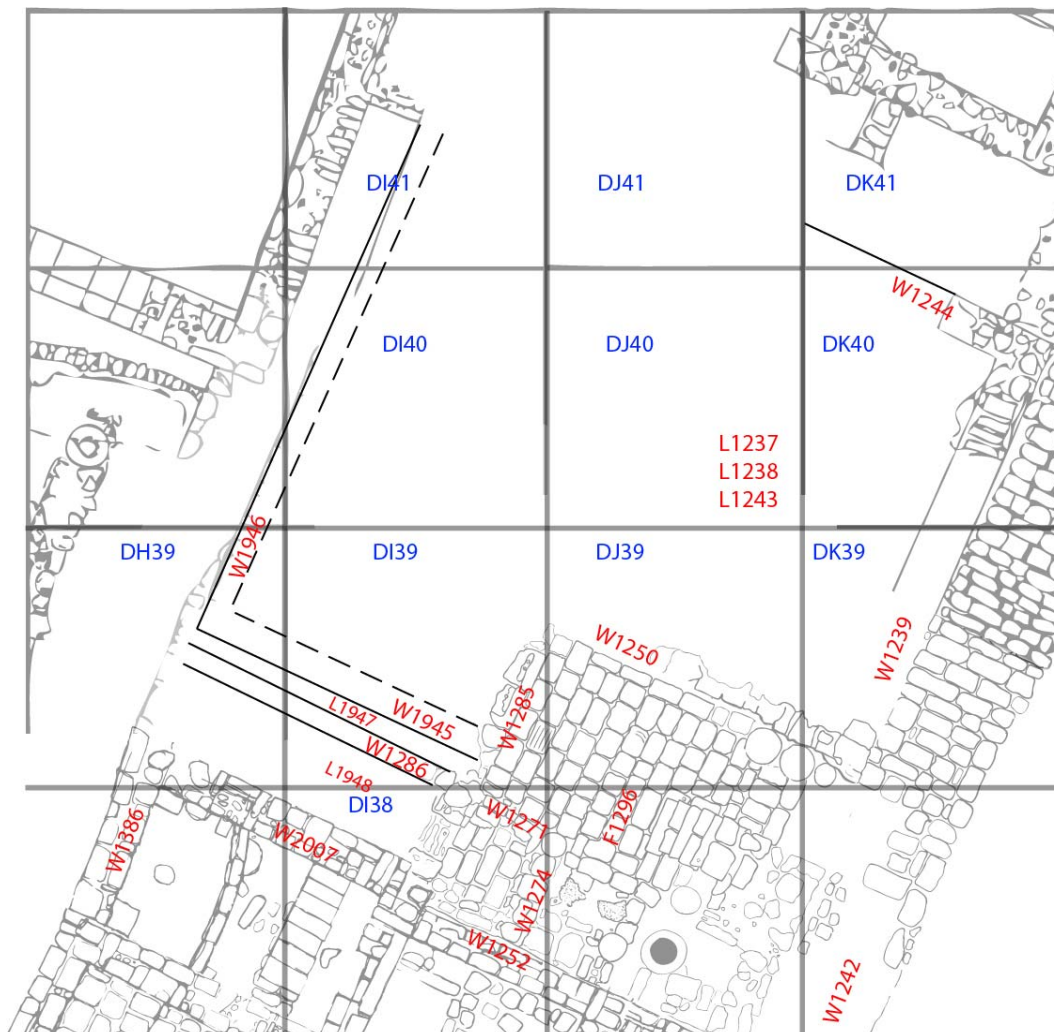
xiii. Item 619

1. Category: Architecture
2. Material: Basalt
3. Shape: Arch
4. State of preservation: Fragment
5. Width: 20.0
6. Length: 26.0
7. Depth/Thickness: 6.5
8. Elevation: 129.15
9. From east edge of square: 4.95
10. From north edge of square: 1.25
11. Description: Basalt arch, roughly the size of 1/4 a complete circle. The outside of the arch has a bulge in the center near the bottom.

c. Continued work in Square DK40

- i. Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
- ii. Basket = 2476
- iii. Starting elevation = 130.464 (average of high section on west of square); 130.229 (trench north of W1244)

- iv. Ending elevation = 129.7146667
- v. Soil is Horizon B
- vi. We have yet to define any interior structure.
- vii. Limestone blocks of similar size are stacked against each other.
- viii. Possible interior line of W1244 being revealed.
- ix. Ceramic analysis
 - 1. Mainly dating from: 4th to 5th
 - 2. Stratigraphic context: Sq. DK40 (corner). Can be mixed with the material from the previous dig. Under the B.2472
 - 3. Description: Small amount of pottery; LRC plate with rulated decoration, cooking pot lid
 - 4. Indicative wares: Cooking pot from the 4th-5th cent. (Hamat Gader 1997, fig.III\13)



2. East Zone

a. Continued work in Square DR41.

- i. Goal = Excavate and identify the function of the eastern room of the peristyle house
- ii. Basket = 2477
- iii. Starting elevation = 131.478 (trench south of W1261); 131.660 (average within square)
- iv. Ending elevation = 131.505 (Average elevation); 131.660 (Western column of window wall); 131.705 (Central column of window wall); 131.635 (Eastern column of window wall)
- v. Soil is
- vi. Identified a third column of the window wall
 1. Columns are west to east 57x17 cm, 56.5x20 cm, 57x19 cm
 2. Gap west to central is 77 cm; central to east is 83 cm
- ix. New doorway identified in W1261. Doorway is 92 wide; the west edge of the door is 280 cm from the west face of W1910. The exterior of the door is to the north.
- x. Excavation is following W1261 to find the corner with W1949.
- xi. Ceramic analysis
 1. Mainly dating from 2nd to 7th
 2. Stratigraphic context: Sq. DR 41
 3. Description: Cooking pots, Beisan jars body shards
 4. Indicative wares: ARS bowl (Hayes 1972 pp.130-133) dated to 440-500; cooking pots dated to mid.2nd-4th (form 4C)
- xii. Item 616
 1. Category: Architecture
 2. Material: Plaster
 3. Shape: Moulding, 3
 4. State of Preservation: Fragment
 5. Width: 9.0
 6. Length: 9.5
 7. Depth/Thickness: 4.0
 8. Elevation: 131.5
 9. From east edge of square: 5
 10. From north edge of square: 1.90
 11. Description: Top of plaster has two equal sized bevels then curves to a flat base.

