

Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2012 – 13th Season

Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 4 July 2012 Area: NIP Manager: Schuler

Squares	DH39	DI39	DJ40	DR41
Loci	1948	1243	2111	1226
Baskets	2478	2479	2480	2481
Walls 1239, 1244, 1261, 1285, 1286, 1945, 1949				
Floors				

1) West Zone

- a) Continued work in Squares DH39 (with the NE corner of DH38 and the west edge of DG39)
- 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 = 2478
 - iii) Starting elevation = 129.519 (Bottom of floating wall); 129.094 (First major step); 129.074 (Average level)
 - iv) Ending elevation = 129.549 (high); 129.104 (low)
 - v) Soil is horizon 2
 - vi) Removed floating W1286 in order to level area south of W1945
 - vii) Still think a staircase went up from W1285 to the lintel stone. Will look for structure in the future.
 - viii) Ceramic analysis (Locus 1948)
 1. Mainly dating from 6th to 8th
 2. Stratigraphic context: Below B.2474
 3. Description: Number of casseroles with horizontal handles, Beisan jars from BYZ up to UMM period.
 4. Indicative wares: LRC bowl (Hayes, form C, type F; 6th cent.)
 - ix) Ceramic analysis (Locus 1238)
 1. Mainly dating from 7th to 8th
 2. Stratigraphic context: Under the B.2471
 3. Description: Small amount of pottery, Beisan and others storage jars fragments
 4. Indicative wares: no

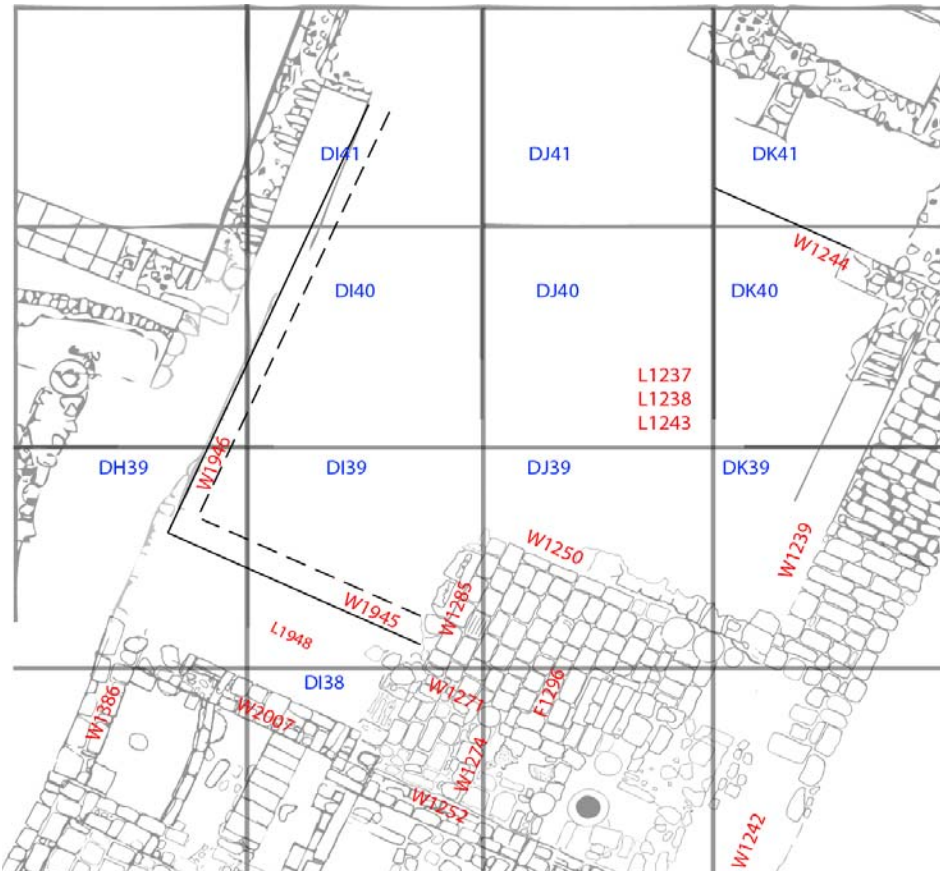
- b) Continued work in Square DI39.
- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
 - ii) Basket = 2479
 - iii) Starting elevation = 129.454
 - iv) Ending elevation = 129.099
 - v) Soil is horizon B and then changed to horizon C
 - vi) Ceramic Analysis
 1. Mainly dating from 6th to 7th
 2. Stratigraphic context: Sq. DI 39 (under the B.2478)
 3. Description: Small amount of pottery. Body shards of cooking vessels and Beisan jars, LRC bowl fragment.
 4. Indicative wares: LRC bowl (form 3, type F, dated to 6th cent)
 - vii) Item 620
 1. Category: Ground stone
 2. Material: Basalt
 3. Shape: Ballista Ball
 4. State of Preservation: Perfect
 5. Width: 6.5
 6. Length: ---
 7. Depth/Thickness: ---
 8. Elevation: 129.15
 9. From east edge of square: 1.8
 10. From north edge of square: 1.6
 11. Description: Not perfectly spherical, but close. Diameter ranges from approximately 6-7 cm.
 - viii) Item 622
 1. Category: Metal
 2. Material: Iron?
 3. Shape: Nail
 4. State of Preservation: Less than half
 5. Width: 1.5
 6. Length: 5.5
 7. Depth/Thickness: 1.2
 8. Elevation: 129.1
 9. From east edge of square: .9

10. From north edge of square: 1.5

11. Description: One end of metal shaft comes to a point while the other bends to a 90 degree angle. Quite badly corroded and dirty.

c) Continued work in Square DJ40

- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
- ii) Basket = 2480
- iii) Starting elevation = 129.714
- iv) Ending elevation = 129.604 (high); 129.394 (low)
- v) Soil is mixed
- vi) Continued to excavate lower. Removed significant amounts of destruction fill. More limestone blocks 40x60. Possible parts of a column.
- vii) Identified the interior corner of WW1244 and W1239.
- viii) Still at a level significantly above the level of the plaza (129.39 vs 128.60)
- ix) Ceramic analysis
 1. Mainly dating from 6th to 8th
 2. Stratigraphic context: Sq. DJ 40
 3. Description: Small amount of pottery; Beisan jar and casserole fragments
 4. Indicative wares: Cooking pot (Ben Arie 1997, plate III\ 22 dated to 6th-mid.8th AD



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 = 2481
- iii) Starting 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)
- iv) Ending elevation = 131.220 (top of based section of window wall 1922); 131.200 (average)
- v) Soil is horizon b
- vi) Found wall below window wall. Cleared top of W1949 to near corner.
- vii) Identified interior corner of W1261 and W1949.
- viii) Continued to find fragments of plaster moldings, red and green painted plaster fragments, and individual and blocks of tesserae. The room seems to have had a decorative past.

ix) Ceramic Analysis

1. Mainly dating from 5th to 7th
2. Stratigraphic context: Sq.DR 41
3. Description: Beisan jars body shards, LRC, ARS
4. Indicative wares: ARS (form 84, dated to 440-500 AD); LRC (for 2, dated to 5th cent.)

x) Item 621

1. Category: Metal
2. Material: Iron?
3. Shape: Nail
4. State of Preservation: Less than half
5. Width: 0.8
6. Length: 3.2
7. Depth/Thickness: 0.6
8. Elevation: 131.4
9. From east edge of square: 6.5
10. From north edge of square: 2.5
11. Description: Top half of nail, with head measuring 1.8 cm in diameter.

