

# Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2012 – 13th Season

## Daily Log + Drawing

Date: 17 July 2012 Area: NIP Manager: Schuler

Squares	DI39	DJ40		
Loci	2107 1238	1243 2101		
Baskets	3120 3121	3122 3123		
Walls 1239, 1250, 1285, 1386, 1945, 1946, 2108				
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 = 3120, 3121
  - iii) Starting elevation = 129.709 (average north of W1945); 127.722 (low of probe L2107)
  - iv) Ending elevation = 129.646 (north of W1945); 128.261 (south probe)
  - v) Installed a second course of basalt ashlar in W1386 to repair the collapse from the winter. Some mortar to be added.
  - vi) Continued lowering southern part of probe L2107. Recovered high quantity of bones and some pottery.
  - vii) Identified the interior corner of W1945 and W1946.
  - viii) Large architectural items in the fill, including a column drum and a column base.
  - ix) Ceramic analysis (basket 3120)
    - (1) Mainly dating from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
    - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DI39 (from the probe)
    - (3) Description: Mostly bodyshards of jars and cooking vessels
    - (4) Indicative wares: UMM pithos with combed decoration (Beith Shean, Bar Natan 2011, fig. 11.5\ 1-4); UMM cooking pots, Beisan jars (Beith Shean, Bar Natan 2011 fig. 11.4\ 4, 7-8AD); LRC form 3, from 6th AD
  - x) Ceramic analysis (basket 3121)
    - (1) Mainly dating from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>

- (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq.DI39
  - (3) Description: Small amount of pottery that consists of jars and cooking vessel bodyshards
  - (4) Indicative wares: LRC (Hayes, form 3F, 6-7th AD); Beisan jars; open bowl from UMM period
- xi) Item 710
- (1) Category: Metal
  - (2) Material: Iron?
  - (3) Shape: Nail?
  - (4) State of Preservation: Less than half
  - (5) Width: 3.3
  - (6) Length: 3.5
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: 1.2
  - (8) Elevation: 128.7
  - (9) From east edge of square: 2.6
  - (10) From north edge of square: 5.4
  - (11) Description: Piece of metal, possibly a nail, bent to a 90 degree angle. At the bend a piece of metal seems to be coming out the back as well, forming an uneven T shape.
- i) Item 711
- (1) Category: Architecture
  - (2) Material: Marble
  - (3) Shape: Edging
  - (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
  - (5) Width: 9.0
  - (6) Length: 24.0
  - (7) Depth/Thickness: 6.5
  - (8) Elevation: 128.35
  - (9) From east edge of square: 3.8
  - (10) From north edge of square: 5.5
  - (11) Description: Piece of potential marble edge, somewhat triangular in shape from the profile. A small trench runs through the middle, with small outward bevels on either side.
- i) Item 712
- (1) Category: Ground stone
  - (2) Material: Basalt

- (3) Shape: Grinding Bowl
- (4) State of Preservation: Fragment
- (5) Width: 12.5
- (6) Length: 17.0
- (7) Depth/Thickness: 4.0
- (8) Elevation: 129.60
- (9) From east edge of square: 2.7
- (10) From north edge of square: 1
- (11) Description: Triangular fragment with edge of bowl as the base and the side of the bowl curving down towards the top.

a) Continued work in Square DJ40.

- i) Goal = identify the structure and function of Beta Building
- ii) Basket = 3122,3123
- iii) Starting elevation = 129.357 (average south of W2108); 129.719 (top of W2108)
- iv) Ending elevation = 128.731
- v) Soil is Horizon B-C
- vi) Excavated almost to floor level south of W2108
- vii) Identified a continuation of W1285 perpendicular to W2108. This wall is 6.01 m from W1239.
- viii) W2108 slants slightly toward W1250, being 5 cm closer at its west end.
- ix) Just a bit south of W2108 there seems to be a doorway in W1285 to the west that was blocked subsequently.
- x) There may be a block masonry pillar to the west of the north side of the doorway.
- xi) The surviving top of W2108 seems to be constructed from stones of the stylobate for which we have been searching this year.
- xii) The wall seems to be basalt in its lower courses and then limestone blocks in its upper courses.
- xiii) Ceramic analysis (basket 3122)
  - (1) Mainly dating from 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>
  - (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DJ40
  - (3) Description: Small amount of pottery that consists of jars and cooking vessel unindicative bodyshards, one imbrex tile fragment. Mixed material.
  - (4) Indicative wares: BYZUMM lid
- xiv) Ceramic analysis (basket 3123)
  - (1) Mainly dating from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>

- (2) Stratigraphic context: Sq. DJ40
- (3) Description: Small amount of mostly UMM pottery that consists of jars and cooking vessel bodyshards
- (4) Indicative wares: Casserole (Magness, form 1, BYZ\ UMM), UMM black material cooking pot
- (5) Residual: Casserole KFH 3B (2-4th AD)

