Hippos (Sussita) 2004 –5th Season Locus Card

Locus no. L537

Archaeological Context

Locus status: closed, Locus Type: burial Field Manager: Schuler Opening Date: 29 July 03 Closing Date: 23 Sept 04

Area: Northeast Church Opening Height: 129.96 Closing Height: 129.50

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

Interior of sarcophagus box in cist tomb

Loci						
Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
L532						

	Northing	Easting
Northeast	610.09	518.09
Southwest	607.41	518.41

General Description and Soil Analysis

Much soil from above had worked its way into the tomb.

Chronology of Excavation

- 6 Sept 04: Began to remove some loose soil from within the box (L537)
- 7 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Work continues slowly removing dirt from around the skeleton.

- Small animal bones (rodents?) were found clustered in several spots (near the foot and head)
- At about midpoint, two glass fragments were recovered, clear with greenish ribbing, curvature suggests a diameter of about 4.5cm, thickness is 1.1-1.3mm
- 8 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Careful measurements of relative levels taken the previous day plus a re-examination of plaster layers at the east end of the cist tomb are calling into question the previous hypothesis about phasing in the church. The new operating hypothesis is that the cist tomb is contemporaneous with or earlier than the first phase of the church. Evidence:
 - F516 by the exposed sarcophagus is 41cm above the basalt ashlars box framing the cist tomb.
 - At the east end of the cist tomb, plastering shows three layers:
 - Box of cist tomb
 - F517
 - F516
 - At the east end of the cist tomb, F516 is 17 cm above
 F517—the same gap as between the plaster lines on the alpha/omega inscription.
 - The basalt cover stones are 20-22cm thick. On top of one is plaster with a tile of opus sectile adhering
 - However, in photos from last year, plaster is visible holding the funnel of the lead pipe above the level of the tile on the cover stone. Was the lead pipe a later addition?
 - Removal of dirt from around the skeleton continued. Summary observations:
 - Remains seem to be those of a large person or persons

- Pelvis rests closer to the skull than is anatomically possible, suggesting disruption of the bones
- A single vertebrae discovered at the foot end of the box seems much smaller than the others, although thoracic and lumbar vertebrae can differ in size significantly. How did it get to the foot of the box?
- There are several rodent bones in a pile in the corner.
- Initially, based on the sciatic notch and the subpubic angle the remains seem to be those of a woman.
- At the foot end underneath the bones, there are some porous and fragile pieces (crushed skull?)
- There are too many long bones for one body
- A layer of calcium carbonate on the upper side of the bones suggests water infiltration.
- The skull is 13.5-14.5cm wide
- Much more work must be done on the skeleton, before the above observations are confirmed. A careful examination of the pelvis *in situ* will be done tomorrow.
- The reassessment of the phases of the church in B1 and perhaps B2.
- 9 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - o Attempted three tests to identify sex of skeleton
 - Diameter of head of femur femur not loose yet, so test postponed
 - Subpubic angle according to finger test (Bass, Human Osteology, p. 209) pelvis seems to be male
 - Sciatic notch with a bone removed the field finger test (Bass, *Human Osteology*, p. 213) again seems male
 - Continued to remove dirt from around bones carefully.
- 12 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a

- Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
- Continued removing dirt from around bones.
- Visiting rheumatist affirmed our assessment that the visible pelvis belongs to a male.
- He also noted that the squamosal suture between the temporal and parietal bones of the skull is not fully fused. Seems to imply the remains belong to a youth or young adult.
- Rough measurements for long bone still *in situ* suggest a height of 165-167cm
- 13 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Continued removing dirt from around bones.
- 14 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Continued removing dirt from around bones.
 - Also began to extract unidentifiable bone fragments.
- 19 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Continued removing dirt from around bones.
 - Also continued to extract unidentifiable bone fragments.
- 20 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Continued removing dirt from around bones.
 - Extracted and documented top layer of bones
 - A fractured pelvis was removed: siatic notch suggest that it was male
 - Larger intact pelvis (final burial): siatic notch seems larger perhaps female
- 21 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Continued removing dirt from around bones.

- Extracted second layer of bone fragments.
- Two jaws removed one massive and complete, the other broken and missing a short section.
- 22 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Continued removing dirt from around bones.
 - o Extracted third layer of bones.
- 23 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a
 - Starting elevation = work inside the limestone box
 - Continued removing dirt from around bones.
 - Finished extraction of bones.
 - Did last of bones of the body and then extracted the skull and remains under it.
 - Discovered the remains of two additional skulls in the dirt and fragments on which the third skull sat.
 - Observations on the exhumation
 - The first two in the tomb died earlier (a generation) before the third
 - Although some bones are in approximate burial position, most bones showed significant disruption. For example, the head of a femur at the west end of the bone (opposite burial position).
 - There were concentrations of small animal bones at the head and foot of the box
 - No evidence of cloth, beads, or coins
 - Bits of plaster (some showing red or yellow painting) were retrieved.
 - Box seems to have settled to one side
 - West end had more moisture in the soil (condensation on the boards every morning)

Pottery and Small Finds

Baske	et Field Ca	rd	Hippos	NEC 200)4		Basl	vet # 1887
Locus:		537			Square:	F	B2a	
Openin	ng elevation:				Closing elevati	ion:		
Weight	t:	0			Date:	ϵ	5-Sep-04	4
Manag	er:	Schuler			Loci type:	b	ourial	
	Ceramic Ceramic non- Tesserae Glass Plaster/Fresco Architectural Coin Lamp	0		Soil Samj Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/orga Inscriptio Flint Worked H	nic n			Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead

one piece of beaten plaster

Basket Analysis

	Fine W	/ares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body Shard									

Bask	et Field Car	ď	Hippos	NEC 200	94	Bask	cet # 1891
Locus:		537			Square:	B2a	
Openir	ng elevation:				Closing elevation:		
Weight	t:	0			Date:	7-Sep-04	1
Manag	er:	Schuler			Loci type:	burial	
	Ceramic Ceramic non- Tesserae Glass Plaster/Fresco Architectural Coin Lamp)		Soil Samp Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/orgat Inscriptio Flint Worked E	nic n		Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead

Glass: At about midpoint of the burial, two glass fragments were recovered, clear with greenish ribbing, curvature suggests a diameter of about 4.5cm, thickness is 1.1-1.3mm

Tesserae: 1 black

Plaster fragments: 6, one with yellow, one with red

Basket Analysis

	Fine W	Vares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Kiili									
Handle									
Body									
Shard				1					
Silard				L	L				

Bask	et Field Car	ď	Hippos	NEC 200)4	Bas	sket # 1894
Locus:		537			Square:	B2a	
Openin	ng elevation:				Closing elevation	n:	
Weigh	t:				Date:	8-Sep-	04
Manag	ger:	Schuler			Loci type:	burial	
$\boxtimes \Box \boxtimes \Box \Box \Box \Box \Box \Box \Box$	Ceramic Ceramic non- Tesserae Glass Plaster/Fresco Architectural Coin Lamp	0		Soil Samj Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/orga Inscriptio Flint Worked H	nic n		Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead

Remarks: Glass: small fragments green Bones: rodents?

Basket Analysis

	Fine W	/ares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Tanuic									
Body									
Shard				1		•			

Bask	et Field Ca	rd	Hippos	NEC 200	4		Basl	vet # 1897
Locus:		537			Square:	F	32a	
Openin	ng elevation:				Closing elevat	tion:		
Weigh	t:				Date:	9	9-Sep-04	4
Manag	ger:	Schuler			Loci type:	t	ourial	
	Ceramic Ceramic non Tesserae Glass Plaster/Fresc Architectural Coin Lamp	0		Soil Sam Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/orga Inscriptio Flint Worked F	nic n		$\boxtimes \Box \Box \Box \Box \Box$	Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead

Plaster fragments: 4 yellow, 1 red tooth small animal

Basket Analysis

	Fine W	Vares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body									
Shard				1					

Locus:537Square:B2aOpenity elevation:Closing elevation:Weight:Date:Manager:SchulerSchulerLoci type:CeramicSchulerCeramic non-PotteryBullaCeramic non-PotteryBullaGlassLithicGlassLithicPlaster/FrescoCoil/organicArchitectural LemInscriptionCoinFlintKoinKorked Bone	Basl	ket Field Ca	rd	Hippos	NEC 200	4	Bas	sket # 1903
Weight: Date: 12-Sep-04 Manager: Schuler Loci type: burial	Locus	5:	537			Square:	B2a	
Manager: Schuler Loci type: burial	Open	ing elevation:				Closing elevati	on:	
Ceramic Soil Sample Human Bones Ceramic non-Pottery Bulla Copper Tesserae Basalt Silver Glass Lithic Iron Plaster/Fresco Coil/organic Bronze Architectural Item Inscription Lead Coin Flint Silver	Weig	ht:				Date:	12-Sep	b-04
Ceramic non-PotteryBullaCopperTesseraeBasaltSilverGlassLithicIronPlaster/FrescoCoil/organicBronzeArchitectural ItemInscriptionLeadCoinFlint	Mana	ger:	Schuler			Loci type:	burial	
		Ceramic non- Tesserae Glass Plaster/Fresc Architectural Coin	0		Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/orga Inscriptio Flint	nic n		Copper Silver Iron Bronze

small animal bones 12 plaster fregments, 1 red glass: small green fragments

Basket Analysis

	Fine W	/ares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body Shard									

Bask Locus:	et Field Car	d 537	Hippos	NEC 200	94 Square:	Basl B2a	ket # 1904
		551			•	DZa	
Openn	ng elevation:				Closing elevation:		
Weigh	t:				Date:	13-Sep-	04
Manag	ger:	Schuler			Loci type:	burial	
	Ceramic Ceramic non- Tesserae Glass Plaster/Fresco Architectural Coin Lamp)		Soil Samj Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/orga Inscriptio Flint Worked H	nic n		Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead
Remar	ks:						

glass: 1 green fragment 1 tooth

Basket Analysis

	Fine W	/ares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Dim									
Rim									
Handle									
Body									
Shard									

Basket Field Ca	rd H 537	lippos NI			Bask B2a	xet # 1911
Opening elevation:			C	Closing elevation:		
Weight:			D	Date:	14-Sep-0)4
Manager:	Schuler		L	loci type:	burial	
 Ceramic Ceramic non Tesserae Glass Plaster/Freso Architectura Coin Lamp 	20	Image: Book of the second s	Soil Sample Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/organic Iscription Flint Vorked Bor	с		Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead
Remarks: Glass: Animal bones: rode: Tesserae: Clusters: Other: 3 pla	nts Roof tile ster fragments, one					
Basket Analysis	5					

	Fine W	/ares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot Casserole Bowl Lid		Jar	Other			
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body Shard									

Basket Field CardHippos NLocus:537	IEC 2004 Square:	Basket # 1914 B2a
Opening elevation:	Closing elevation:	
Weight:	Date:	19-Sep-04
Manager: Schuler	Loci type:	burial
□ Ceramic non-Pottery □ H ⊠ Tesserae □ H ⊠ Glass □ H ⊠ Plaster/Fresco □ C □ Architectural Item □ H □ Coin □ H	Soil Sample Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/organic Inscription Flint Worked Bone	 Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead
Remarks: Glass: Animal bones: rodent Roof tiles: Tesserae: 1 white, 1 pink Clusters: Other: 13 plaster fragments (no color) Basket Analysis		

	Fine W	/ares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body									
Shard	1			2	2				

ceramics are fingernail size

Basket I	Field Card		Hippos	NEC 2004	4		Basket #	# 1919	
Locus:	53	37		1	Square:	I	32a		
Opening e	levation:				Closing ele	vation:			
Weight:					Date:	2	20-Sep-04		
Manager:	Sc	chuler			Loci type:	Ι	Destruction I	Fill	
Ce Ce Caller Caller Co Co Caller Co Co Caller Co Co Caller Co Co Co Co Co Co Co Co Co Co Co Co Co	aster/Fresco chitectural Ite in	·	tiles:	Soil Samp Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/organ Inscription Flint Worked B	ic		Coj Silv	n onze	
Other:	4 plaster	fragments							
Basket /	Analysis								
	Fine W	Vares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Co	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body									

Shard

Basket I	Field Card		Hippos	NEC 2004	4		Basł	ket #	[±] 1923	
Locus:	53	37	••		Square:		B2a			
Opening e	levation:				Closing elev	vation:				
Weight:					Date:		21-Sep-0	04		
Manager:	S	chuler			Loci type:		burial			
□ Ce □ Te: □ Gli □ Pla □ Ar □ Co □ La: Remarks: Glass: Animal bo Tesserae: Clusters: Other:	ster/Fresco chitectural Ite in mp ones: rodent 5 plaster		tiles:	Soil Samp Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/organ Inscription Flint Worked B	ic 1			Hur Cop Silv Iron Bro Lea	nze	
Daskel /	Analysis Fine V	Vares		Course Coo	king Wares		Othe	r Coa	urse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Ja		Other	Lumps
Base										
Rim										
Handle										

Body Shard

Baske Locus:	t Field Car	d 537	Hippos	NEC 2004 Square:	Bas B2a	ket # 1930	
Opening	gelevation:			Closing elevation:			
Weight:				Date:	22-Sep-	04	
Manage	r:	Schuler		Loci type:	Destruc	tion Fill	
	Ceramic Ceramic non- Tesserae Glass Plaster/Fresco Architectural Coin Lamp)		Soil Sample Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/organic Inscription Flint Worked Bone		Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead	
Remarks Glass: Animal Tesserae Clusters	bones: e:	Roof	tiles:				
Other:	10 pla	ster fragments	, no color				
Baske	t Analysis				W		
	Fine	- Wares		Course Cooking Wares	Othe	er Coarse Wares	Lamns

	Fine W	ares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	rse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body									
Shard									

Basket Field Ca Locus: Opening elevation:	rd H 537	lippos	NEC 200)4 Square: Closing elevation:	Bask B2a	ket # 1933
Weight:				Date:	23-Sep-()4
Manager:	Schuler			Loci type:	Destruct	ion Fill
□ Ceramic □ Ceramic non □ Tesserae ⊠ Glass ⊠ Plaster/Fresc □ Architectural □ Coin □ Lamp	0		Soil Samj Bulla Basalt Lithic Coil/orga Inscriptio Flint Worked H	nic n		Human Bones Copper Silver Iron Bronze Lead
Remarks: Glass: Animal bones: roden Tesserae: Clusters: Other: 14 pla	nt Roof tiles aster fragments, 2 v		paint			

Basket Analysis

	Fine W	Vares		Course Coo	king Wares		Other Coa	arse Wares	Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim					1				
Handle									
Body Shard				1	 				

Remarks:

rim 5% of 12cm