

Hippos (Sussita) 2004 –5th Season

Locus Card

Locus no. 543

Archaeological Context

Locus status: open

Locus Type: fill

Field Manager: Schuler

Area: Northeast Church

Opening Date: 6 Sept 04

Opening Height: 130.02

Closing Date:

Closing Height: 129.17

Locus Location

General Description of Borders:

Fill between sarcophagus and chamber of cist tomb

Loci

Below	Above	North	South	West	East	Identical
L532	coffin??	Wall of chamber	Wall of chamber	Wall of chamber	Wall of chamber	

	Y-coordinate	X-coordinate
Northeast	610.09	518.09
Southwest	607.41	518.41

General Description and Soil Analysis

The soil was redder in color and more compacted. It appeared to be more developed. The soil dug easily.

Chronology of Excavation

- 6 Sept 04: Continued work in Square B2a from 2003
 - Starting elevation = 130.02-129.98 in L543 (area surrounding limestone box)
 - Ending elevation = 129.88-83 in L543
 - Soil is Horizon C (moist)

- Removed 10-12 cm soil from area between limestone box and basalt ashlar that form the cavity for the tomb.
- Recovered several indeterminate bones for this external fill on the south side.
- 3 Oct 04: Continued work in Square B2A
 - Starting elevation = 128.88-83
 - Ending elevation = 129.53
 - Soil is Horizon C
 - Resumed work inside the cist tomb chamber on the north side of the sarcophagus box
 - Recovered a glass fragment identical in form to the glass earlier recovered inside the sarcophagus box.
- 4 Oct 04: Continued work in Square B2A
 - Starting elevation = 129.53 (next to sarcophagus box in cist tomb)
 - Ending elevation = 129.17 (floor of chamber of cist tomb)
 - Soil is Horizon C
 - Some spots of darker soil below sarcophagus box (decomposed coffin?)
 - Excavated between the north side of the sarcophagus box and the north wall of the chamber. Reached a smooth limestone floor at a depth of 1.42m below the top of the chamber. The narrow section of the floor visible between the box and the chamber seems to be one stone (limestone slab?)
 - The sarcophagus box in the cist tomb sits askew on stones 27-33 cm above the floor of the chamber
 - Recovered 15 complete or fragments of nails from beneath the sarcophagus box. In some spots the soil was distinctly darker (suggesting decomposition of wood). Also retrieved one vertebrae that might be human (sent for identification). Perhaps the sarcophagus sits atop the remains of an earlier coffin.

- The sequential burials in the sarcophagus, even the placement of the sarcophagus into the chamber, are later than the construction of the chamber of cist tomb.
- The chamber of the cist tomb is constructed of four courses of ashlars. The bottom course is 37cm high. The blocks from west to east are 38cm, 34cm, 56cm, 38cm, 49cm. The second course is 35cm high. The blocks from west to east are 28cm, 55cm, 50cm, 49cm, 34cm. The third course is 40cm high. The blocks from west to east are 40cm, 68cm, 37cm, 71cm. The top course is 21cm high. The blocks from west to east are 58cm, 74cm, 26cm, 57cm.
- The interior opening of the chamber is 0.97m (width, north-south), 2.17m (length, east-west), 1.42m deep. A comparative chart shows similarity to other burial chambers on the site:

	Width	Length	Depth
NEC	0.97	2.17	1.42
NWC south	1.03	2.09	1.2
Gate north	1.03	2.13	1.21
Gate south	0.99	2.03	1.35

- External dimensions of the sarcophagus box are 0.60m wide, 2.02m long, 0.53m deep. Sidewall thickness is 11cm; end thickness is 13cm. Internal depth is 34cm at west (head) and 38cm at east (foot). The curve of the west end of the sarcophagus begins 30cm from the top.
- 5 Oct 04: Continued work in Square B2A
 - After cleaning, measurements and photography, valuable architectural fragments were placed in the sarcophagus. The covering stones were put in their original position. Then cloth was placed over the tomb.
 - The center part of the chancel was refilled with earth to the level of F516.

- The stone base and the *opus sectila* flooring were replaced north of the tomb as were the pieces of *opus sectila* south of the tomb

Pottery and Small Finds

Basket Field Card**Hippos NEC 2004****Basket # 1890**

Locus: 543

Square: B2a

Opening elevation: 130.02-129.98

Closing elevation: 129.88-83

Weight: 0.30kg

Date: 6-Sep-04

Manager: Schuler

Loci type: Destruction Fill

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ceramic | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Sample | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Bones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic non-Pottery | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulla | <input type="checkbox"/> Copper |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tesserae | <input type="checkbox"/> Basalt | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Lithic | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plaster/Fresco | <input type="checkbox"/> Coil/organic | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Item | <input type="checkbox"/> Inscription | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coin | <input type="checkbox"/> Flint | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamp | <input type="checkbox"/> Worked Bone | |

Remarks:

bone: 2 animal fragments

plaster: 6 fragments with red paint, band clear on one

Tesserae: 6 white

cluster 3 white

glass: silvery rim 10% of 4.7cm; clear fragment; 2 green fragments

Basket Analysis

	Fine Wares		Course Cooking Wares				Other Coarse Wares		Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim							1		
Handle									
Body Shard	0		11				18		

Remarks:

jar rim 7.5% of 5.5cm

Basket Field Card**Hippos NEC 2004****Basket # 1936**

Locus: 543

Square: B2

Opening elevation:

Closing elevation:

Weight:

Date: 26-Sep-04

Manager: Schuler

Loci type: Destruction Fill

- | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Sample | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Bones |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceramic non-Pottery | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulla | <input type="checkbox"/> Copper |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tesserae | <input type="checkbox"/> Basalt | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Lithic | <input type="checkbox"/> Iron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plaster/Fresco | <input type="checkbox"/> Coil/organic | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Item | <input type="checkbox"/> Inscription | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coin | <input type="checkbox"/> Flint | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamp | <input type="checkbox"/> Worked Bone | |

Remarks:

Glass:

Animal bones: Roof tiles:

Tesserae:

Clusters:

Other: BASKET NOT USED

Basket Analysis

	Fine Wares		Course Cooking Wares				Other Coarse Wares		Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body Shard									

Remarks:

Basket Field Card**Hippos NEC 2004****Basket # 1955**

Locus: 543
 Opening elevation: 128.88-83
 Weight: 0.84kg
 Manager: Schuler

Square: B2
 Closing elevation: 129.53
 Date: 3-Oct-04
 Loci type: sealed context

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ceramic | <input type="checkbox"/> Soil Sample | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Bones |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ceramic non-Pottery | <input type="checkbox"/> Bulla | <input type="checkbox"/> Copper |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tesserae | <input type="checkbox"/> Basalt | <input type="checkbox"/> Silver |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Lithic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Iron |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plaster/Fresco | <input type="checkbox"/> Coil/organic | <input type="checkbox"/> Bronze |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Item | <input type="checkbox"/> Inscription | <input type="checkbox"/> Lead |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coin | <input type="checkbox"/> Flint | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lamp | <input type="checkbox"/> Worked Bone | |

Remarks:

Glass: blue-gree ribbed fragment (as inside sarcophagus), 3 small greenish fragments

Animal bones: 16? Roof tiles: 3

Tesserae: 6 white, 1 grey, 1 grey/green, 1 green glass

Clusters:

Other: unidentified metal object

Plaster:

10 pieces of white, 14 with yellow paint, 26 with red, 1 with orange, 1 white with distinct yellow stripe, 2 white with distinct red stripe, 3 with red and yellow, 5 lumps

Basket Analysis

	Fine Wares		Course Cooking Wares				Other Coarse Wares		Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base			1						
Rim	1								
Handle			1					1	
Body Shard	0		16				14		

Remarks:

plate rim 7.5% of 17cm

Basket Field Card**Hippos NEC 2004****Basket # 1958**

Locus: 543
 Opening elevation: 129.53
 Weight: 1.05kg
 Manager: Schuler

Square: B2
 Closing elevation: 129.17 (floor of chamber of cist tomb)
 Date: 4-Oct-04
 Loci type: sealed context

- Ceramic
- Ceramic non-Pottery
- Tesserae
- Glass
- Plaster/Fresco
- Architectural Item
- Coin
- Lamp

- Soil Sample
- Bulla
- Basalt
- Lithic
- Coil/organic
- Inscription
- Flint
- Worked Bone

- Human Bones
- Copper
- Silver
- Iron
- Bronze
- Lead

Remarks:

Glass: blue rim 10% of 4cm, 7 blue-green fragments

Animal bones: 40 (may be human!) Roof tiles: 3

Tesserae: 4 white, 1 black

Clusters:

Other: 5 complete nails, 12 nail pieces (from coffin?)

Plaster: 14 white wall, 8 with red, 4 with yellow, 2 white with red stripe, 3 white with yellow stripe, 1 with 2 shades of red, 2 with red and yellow, 3 lumps

Basket Analysis

	Fine Wares		Course Cooking Wares				Other Coarse Wares		Lamps
	Bowl/Plate	Juglet	Pot	Casserole	Bowl	Lid	Jar	Other	
Base									
Rim									
Handle									
Body Shard									
			39				11		

Remarks: