Hippos (Sussita) Excavations 2007 – 8th Season Daily Log + Drawing

Date: _	5 July 07	Area: <u>NEC</u>		Manage	r: <u>Schu</u>	<u>ller</u>
	Squares	A5	A5	F2	E8	Nave
				balk		
	Loci	L1226	L1225	L563	L548	
				L567		
	Baskets	2131	2132	2133	2134	
	Walls	W1216, W1208, W553				
	Floors	F1214				

Continued work in Square F2

- Starting elevation = lowest step 130.635; top stone of podium/fixture 131.119;
 floor area 130.531.
- Ending elevation = threshold of west door 129.972; floor 129.958; excavation level next to threshold 129.783; base of floating wall 130.44; top middle of podium (L1212) 131.023; top of podium to northwest 130.973
- Removed south balk
- Determined that W1216 is a later floating wall with a base at or slightly above F1214. The wall has marked similarity to other floating walls on the site. It is essentially a loose pile of stones (no ashlars) likely used for agricultural purposes. A third broken trough was recovered from the fill next to it.
- It seems then that the doorway to the west was not the entrance to a small cell or storage area. Rather it may have been a western entrance to the compound from a domestic area (recall the grinding mill west of W591).
- We hypothesize that W1208 extended to the north. Due to the low level of the surface and frequent tractor work in the area, it is mostly destroyed.
- We will next open F0, with the hope of finding the wall again. It may form a corner with W553.
- We further hypothesize that the various floating walls (W513, W586, W541, and W1216) is some way relate to the F1214.
- The exact function of the podium (L1212) is uncertain. It was approached by three stairs from the north and an L-shaped staircase from the south.

- Continued work in Square E8
 - Starting elevation = average north side 130.011; average south side
 130.071
 - o Ending elevation = 129.50
 - o Soil is Horizon B
 - o Exposed portions of street paving on north end. Some pavers missing.
 - There is massive destruction on both sides of the street. At most one course
 of the facing walls will be visible.
 - o Significant work remains on the south end
 - As the square shows little evidence of any buildings, we will use the tractor to remove one meter of fill above the remaining portions of the street.
- Continued conservation work on the nave.
 - Floor is completely uncovered.
 - We removed a capital from a section of floor west of the south stylobate, so it can be cleaned
- Continued work on Square A5
 - Starting elevation = northeast room (L1225) 132.786; cordo inside church area (L1226) 132.296
 - Ending elevations = northeast room (L1225) is 132.343; cordo area (L1226) inside the church boundaries is 132.078
 - o Soil is Horizon B in L1225; Horizon B in L1222
 - In L1225 we are still having trouble identifying the north side of W1220. A collapse is likely.
 - In the cardo area (L1226), soil is horizon B and is relatively free of heavy stones.

Observations

Daily Drawing

