

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

Date: 12 July 07 Area: NEC Manager: Schuler

Squares	A3	C5	D5	F2	F2	E6	
Loci	L1219	n. balk	n. balk	L1206	L563	L548	
Baskets	2159	2157	2162	2160	2161	2158	
Walls	W574, W585, W1207, W1208, W1216, W1218, W1230, W1231, W1234, W1235, W1236						
Floors							

- Resumed work in Square F2
 - Starting 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
 - Ending elevation = gap in W1216a = 130.426; W1216a going west = 130.961
 - Removed the crude wall previously identified as a floating wall (W1216). Under and to the north of it we discovered the rest of the wall formed by the corner of the previously identified podium and by the northerly protrusion of W1208. Both are in fact part of the earlier W1216 that proceeds from the northerly corner of W1207 to the west. W1208 abuts W1216 from the south. For the sake of clarity we label this earlier wall W1216a, and the later poor wall as W1216b. As W1216b is quit undefined, it is possible that the feature is merely a pile of fill in the gap of W1216a.
 - Consequent to this clarification, we now classify L1212 as a staircase rising from the north on the east side of the room formed by W1216a, W1207, W574, and W1208. The average tread depth is 28 cm and the average rise is 24cm. Since 2.9m of steps have been robbed out, the staircase could have contained an addition ten stairs, rising to about 2.9m above the first step and 3.4 m above the threshold of the small room. Such a height suggests that the stair gave access to a second story or roof over the large room to the south.

- Continued conservation work on the nave.
 - Cleaning and drawing continue.
 - Continued work in C5
 - Starting elevation = level west of wall 1229 = 131.615
 - Ending elevation = top of W1231 = 132.010
 - Soil is horizon A/B.
 - Cleared the top of W1231 to the west edge of C5. Began work on the top of the wall in D5
 - Removed the balk north of W1231 and east of W1218
 - Removed some of the balk north of W1231 and west of W1218.
 - We plan to continue exposing the top and north side of W1231 all the way to W585.
 - Continued work on Square A3
 - Starting elevation = 132.740 (in horizon A soil further east)
 - Ending elevation = average level of north room = 132.401; average level of south room = 132.772
 - Soil is Horizon A.
 - Identified an east/west wall (W1235) on the northern edge of A3 that abuts the exterior wall of the apse.
 - Identified a second east/west wall (W1236) 2.04 m south that abuts the east side of W1230. This wall is 60cm wide. The remainder of the building in the south part of the square is too full of rubble for clear identification.
 - There seems to be an opening between W1234 and W1230. Further excavation will clarify.
 - The relationship to the apse wall suggests that this building was constructed subsequent to the construction of the church.
 - Continued work in E6.
 - Removed about 3 m of fill from the road.
 - Recovered many animal bones from the 10-15cm of hard packed soil on the street.
 - Excellent wall identification continues on the west side of the street, in some places as high as four courses. Most wall pieces seem to be ashlar.
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- On the east side the walls are collapsed or tilting toward the street. Stones are less formed and so wall definition is less precise.

Observations

Daily Drawing

