Hippos-Sussita

Fourth Season of Excavations
June-July 2003

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Illustrations (1-77)
Report on the Fourth Season of Excavations at Hippos-Sussita

June-July 2003

Introduction

The fourth excavation season in Hippos was conducted during the course of five consecutive weeks, between June 29 and July 31. This season was the longest and had the largest number of participants than all the former ones. This fourth season was also conducted as a study excavation, and in each of the five time-periods, each of five days there was an average of 15 student participants. The excavation areas (see below) were overseen by students studying for their M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

The expedition was headed by Prof. Arthur Segal of the Zinman Institute of Archaeology at the University of Haifa, in cooperation with Prof. Jolanta Mlynarczyk of the Research Centre for Mediterranean Archaeology (Polish Academy of Sciences), and Dr. Mariusz Burdajewicz of the National Museum in Warsaw. The Polish team was joined by two professional conservators: Dr. Alexander Chylak, an architect from the Warsaw Polytechnic, and Mrs. Ewa Radziejowska, the senior conservator of the National Museum in Warsaw. The conservators from Poland worked alongside Mr. Kimi Maman, the conservator sent by the National Parks Authority.

This is the second season in which we were joined by an excavation team from Concordia University in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. As in the previous year, it was headed by Prof. Mark Schuler.

As in previous seasons, we were also joined by volunteers from Israel and abroad. Those from Israel came mainly from Kibbutz Ein Gev and from the surrounding settlements. This is also the second year in which the children of the Kiryat Ye’arim Youth Village participated in the excavation, and they were attached to four of the 5-day time-periods, with 14 children for each time-period. In the final week another group of volunteers joined us. This was a group of youngsters from Haifa who were organized independently.

Parallel with our excavation, conservation work was conducted at the South-East Church (the “Cathedral”). The initiative and funding for these activities came from the National Parks Authority. Fifteen workers of the National Parks Authority were
engaged in these activities, which lasted for four weeks, and the scientific supervision was the responsibility of our expedition. (See below under Excavation Areas).

Our excavation was granted assistance by the National Parks Authority which put at our disposal a tractor for the entire period of excavation, and funded a significant part of the conservation activities carried out during that period.

Mr. Michael Eisenberg served as senior assistant to the head of the expedition, and was mainly responsible for coordinating the different areas of excavation. He also operated some of the electronic surveying equipment and was in charge of the photography. Mr. Maayan Ralbag acted as surveyor and architect. The administrator of the expedition was Mr. Ofer Nahari.

The base camp of the expedition was situated, as in previous seasons, at Kibbutz Ein Gev. This is an opportunity to thank Kibbutz Ein Gev for the help offered to the expedition during the period of excavation.

As a study excavation, the work was conducted according to the following schedule: fieldwork was carried out during the hours of 0500-1200, while supplementary activities took place in the afternoon and evening hours. These included, first and foremost, the study, analysis and classification of the pottery (under the supervision of Prof. Jolanta Mlynarczyk), and a lecture and tutorial in surveying and architectural drawing (under the supervision of Mr. Maayan Ralbag). A number of lectures were also given. Prof. Mark Schuler gave a series of four lectures on the history and ancient sources relating to the Decapolis region. Mr. Michael Eisenberg gave a brief introduction lecture on field photography, while Mrs. Ravit Lin lectured on the subject of archaeological conservation. During the course of the excavation, the head of the expedition conducted students on several tours in the different areas of excavation. The tours focused on a variety of subjects connected with building materials and construction methods. On Monday, July 28, the head of the expedition conducted a final, comprehensive tour of the excavation areas for the volunteers, and for members of Kibbutz Ein Gev and of the surrounding settlements.

During this fourth season, as in every year, many visitors from Israel and abroad visited the excavation area. Among them we would like to mention a special guest who visited the site on Wednesday, July 9. This was Prof. Avshalom Thau, Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning of the Haifa Polytechnic (the Technion), who had served as the engineering officer of the Northern Command
of the IDF during the years 1951-1952 when he planned and also personally supervised the construction of the Sussita outpost. Besides the setting up of the positions and the digging of trenches, two permanent buildings were built at Sussita that still stand on the site today: the dining hall south of the *decumanus maximus*, and a dormitory north of it. These buildings were also planned by Prof. Thau. We should mention here that during the construction work for the dining hall, part of South-West Church (the “Cathedral”) was exposed and excavated.

Acknowledgments

This fourth season was made possible thanks to the assistance and support of a number of groups and institutions. Firstly, we would like to note the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Haifa. The Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Yossi Ben-Artzi, has assisted us in the past and continues to assist us in every way possible, showing great interest in what is being done in the excavation. The Research Authority has also extended real assistance at various stages prior to the excavation and during its course. As mentioned above, our excavation has been given significant assistance by the National Parks Authority, which has funded the cost of the tractor and some of the cost of conservation. We would like to thank the architect, Mr. Zeev Margalit and Dr. Zvika Tsuk, both of the National Parks Authority, for their supportive attitude and the assistance placed at our disposal. The Zinman Institute of Archaeology has also extended considerable help, and we take this opportunity to thank Prof. Mina Evron, the head of the Institute, for her support. Finally, our heartfelt thanks go to the Society for Eretz Israel Studies in Haifa for its generous contribution.

Excavation Areas*

The areas of excavation during the fourth season remain unchanged from those of the previous year, and were as follows (fig. 1):

- **The Forum Area** (Supervisor: Mrs. Zeruya Panet-Nahari)
- **The Hellenistic Compound Area** (Supervisor: Mrs. Vered Raz-Romeo)
- **The North-West Church** (Supervisors: Mr. Marek Wozniak and Ms. Joanna Then)
- **The North-East Church** (Supervisor: Prof. Mark Schuler)
- **The Eastern Gate** (Supervisor: Mr. Amit Rosenblum)

* An additional area that was under our scientific supervision was the South-East Church (the “Cathedral”). The National Parks Authority decided to restore the church,
which since its partial excavation at the beginning of the 1950s, had not been given the proper conservation care. The National Parks Authority provided fifteen workers for this purpose, headed by an experienced foreman, Mr. Moshe Deri. The work was carried out under the scientific supervision of Mr. Ran Abramovitch, M.A. student in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Haifa.

The descriptions of the different areas given below are based on detailed reports accompanied by plans, drawings and photographs submitted by the area supervisors. The teams from abroad submitted detailed reports, and they are included here in this report. The same applies to the conservation report prepared by the senior conservator, Mrs. Ewa Radziejowska. The supervisors of the areas excavated by the University of Haifa team submitted their reports to the head of the expedition, and they are published here after being processed and edited by him. It is appropriate here to thank the supervisors of the areas for their serious and devoted work.

**The Forum Area (FRM) (Supervisor: Mrs. Zeruya Panet-Nahari)**

During the fourth season, the main excavation efforts were devoted to the forum area. We had two central aims in view:

1. To study the layout and design of the northern section of the forum plaza, which had not yet been excavated.
2. To study the spatial relationships between the northern section of the forum and the wall that borders the Hellenistic compound on the south.

During the two previous seasons, we were able to expose significant portions of the forum plaza that spread northward of the main water reservoir and east of the *kalybe* structure (figs. 2, 24). This year it was decided to expose a strip of 30 m. in length that stretches parallel with and immediately adjacent to the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound. The western end of this strip was already excavated during the first two seasons, but because of the considerable destruction caused here at the beginning of the 1950s by the IDF fortification activities, we were unable to determine the specific nature of this area.

The strip along the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound was divided into a row of six squares measuring 5 x 5 m. each, separated from each other by earth banks of 1 m. in width (figs. 2, 4). The surface of this area before excavation did not reveal its nature or its original function. The basic assumption was that the forum plaza
extended up to the Hellenistic wall. Another assumption was the possibility that under
the forum paving, some evidence would be found as to the use made of the area to the
south of the Hellenistic compound before the construction of the forum. In other
words, we assumed that we might find a public enclosure underneath the forum,
perhaps the agora of the Seleucid or even the Ptolemaic Hippos.
Below is a concise description of the findings in each of the six squares that were
excavated south of and adjacent to the Hellenistic compound wall (W-156). The
squares will be described in the order from west to east.

Square A3 (figs. 2-5)
This is the westernmost of the six squares. In this square a stone floor was exposed (F-
374) of basalt flagstones. The paving stones were not uniform in size and shape, and
were obviously taken from various places. On the north side of the square and all
along its length was a wall (W-376) adjacent to the wall of the Hellenistic compound.
This wall was built in a slipshod manner of ashlars and undressed stones put together.
At the eastern end of the wall there were two flagstones that were placed one upon the
other in a gradated manner, and seem to be part of a staircase. It may be that the W-
376 wall served as the substructure for a staircase that rose adjacent to the wall of the
Hellenistic compound from east to west, and allowed for an easy ascent from the level
of the paved enclosure south of the compound wall to the enclosure of the compound
itself. The pottery, building materials, and construction methods all testify that both
the pavement and the staircase were built during the Byzantine period.

The very existence of a staircase confirms the continued use of the compound as well
as of the forum area during the Byzantine period, with considerable alterations as
compared with the Roman period. The Hellenistic compound which continued to
function according to its original purpose became in the Byzantine period, as least in
part, the industrial backyard of the North-West Church. Installations such as a wine
press and an oil press were set up there. In the forum area, in place of the open exedra
which seems to have had a sloping roof, and which bordered the forum area on its
northern side, there was a row of workshops and stores.

Square A4 (figs. 2-5, 26)
This square is located to the east of and adjacent to the A3 square. In its northern half
a stone pavement was exposed made partially of flagstones and ordinary building
stones in secondary use (F-362). The pavement is bordered on the west by a wall that
runs north-south (W-365). This wall is built haphazardly of undressed stones. An
additional wall (W-363), that is also poorly constructed, borders the stone pavement on the southern side.

In the southern half of the square (F-370), which is on a slightly lower level as compared with the northern half, the remains of an industrial installation was found, but we have not yet determined its exact nature. What remains of this installation are two large slabs of limestone that were definitely taken from some earlier structure (F-367). Remains of a large earthenware vessel were found and also a reversed millstone made of basalt, which was adapted for another use. A similar millstone was found, not in situ, in the eastern part of the square, while on the southern edge of the square a column drum made of basalt was exposed. It was placed in secondary use directly on the clay flooring. The pottery that was collected in the northern part of the square as well as in and adjacent to the industrial installation has been dated to the Byzantine and Umayyad periods.

In the eastern part of the square, on the south side adjacent to the wall bordering the stone pavement that lies in the northern part of the square (W-363), a trial pit was dug (L-371) by means of which we tried to date what was found under the later floorings. This trial pit unearthed pottery belonging to the Hellenistic period (the 2nd century BCE). Under the burnt layer of the Hellenistic period a uniform layer was exposed that contained ceramics of the Early Bronze Age. This material was found in a layer of dark brown earth close to the bedrock.

**Square A5 (figs. 4-6)**

In the northern part of this square, adjacent to and parallel with the wall of the Hellenistic compound, there is a water channel built of limestone and well plastered (L-359). It is possible that this channel also served for the drainage of rainwater from the area near the wall of the paved area of the Hellenistic compound (the temenos). Most of the pottery collected in the area south of the water channel and on the clay floor (L 360) belongs to the Byzantine and Umayyad periods. On the south side of the square a stylobate was uncovered (W-356) that bordered the forum area on its north side.

In the eastern part of the square a stratigraphical trench was carried out down to the bedrock (L.369). Two pavements were clearly noticeable that continued into the two squares to the east of A5, as well as a uniform burnt layer that can be seen along the length of all the squares. This layer contains uniform Hellenistic pottery of the 2nd century BCE. Under this layer, and on the bedrock, pottery belonging to the Early Bronze Age was found (EB I).
Square A6 (figs. 4, 5)
This square was excavated only in its upper part. It is bordered on the north side by the wall of the Hellenistic compound (W-156) and on the south by the wall that borders the forum (W-356). Two plaster pavements were distinguished here (F-377 and F-379), which were located also in the square to the west (A5) as well as in the square to the east (A7). The continuation of the water channel (L-359) was exposed adjacent to and parallel with the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound (see above, A5).

Square A7 (figs. 4, 5, 27)
In the northern part of this square, an additional section of the water channel was exposed (L-359). Its course was well detected in the two squares to the west of Square A7, and along on the southern side was the wall that bordered the forum (W-356). It is worth noting that during the excavation, the two squares, A6 and A7, were combined into one square.

Square A8 (figs. 4-6, 27)
Along almost the full width of the square (about 4 m.), an additional water channel (hereafter: the “southern channel”) was exposed (L-381). It is built of undressed stones and is well plastered. Some of the roofing stones of the channel were found in situ (fig. 27). This channel is at a distance of 0.50 m. from the channel adjacent to the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound, and its level is 0.30 m. higher than that of its northern neighbor (L-359). It seems that the northern channel adjacent to the wall of the compound is of an earlier date than the one to its south. The ceramic finds that turned up in the area of the southern channel (L-381) are dated to the Byzantine period. On the south, and near the eastern part of the channel, a basalt column drum was found that was not in situ (fig. 27). It is reasonable to assume that it belonged (in secondary use) to the oil press, which has not yet been located.

The excavation of the six squares produced findings that clarified the nature and design of the area extending south of the Hellenistic compound during the Roman period, that is, in the first centuries of the CE. Furthermore, it appears that during the Hellenistic period, before the forum was built, the area south of the compound did not have any definite spatial layout. In other words, the Roman forum was not preceded, as we had expected, by the Hellenistic agora. It may be that this should be searched for elsewhere. At the same time, the very existence of a uniform burnt layer that was located in all the squares and the ceramic finds dated to the 2nd century BCE, confirm
that the area that extended south of the Hellenistic compound was in use at that time, even though it has not been given any architectural design.

The forum itself, in contrast with our basic assumptions, did not extend as far as the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound, but was bordered by a firm stylobate (W-356) that extended parallel to the southern wall of the compound at a distance of about 4 m. The location of this stylobate in relation to the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound, confirms that during the Roman period, the sanctity of the compound was preserved, and it was incorporated into the city plan. It is probable, that when the forum was constructed, the southern wall of the compound was used as the rear wall of a colonnade (*porticus*). It may be assumed that a covered walkway, a kind of *exedra* 45 m. in length, was built between the forum and the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound.

During the Byzantine and Umayyad periods, the function of the area to the south of the Hellenistic compound was changed. Workshops and stories were set up where the *exedra* once extended. The picture that is taking shape before our eyes of the city landscape of Hippos at the end of the Byzantine period and during the Umayyad period, calls to mind the public squares in Sepphoris, Caesarea or Beth-Shean (Nysa-Scythopolis) during the 7th and 8th centuries CE.

**The Squares: B6, B7, and B8** (figs. 4, 24, 25, 28)

With the extension of the excavation in the area south of the Hellenistic compound during the fourth season, it was decided to set another three squares to be located south of and parallel to the row of squares adjacent to the Hellenistic wall (fig. 4). These additional squares (B6, B7, and B8) were soon combined into one large area (F-301). The excavation work here clarified the design of the northern segment of the forum.

Since the surface of this area of Hippos rises gradually from south to north, it was necessary to heighten the level of the forum to a slight extent. This heightening was achieved by constructing a step 1.30 m. wide and 0.30 m. high that stretches parallel to the wall (W-356), that borders the forum on the north (figs. 3, 25). This step which has so far been exposed to a length of about 10 m. is built of basalt flagstones with the same careful precision as in the rest of the paved area of the forum.

The wall that borders the forum on the north (W-356) had two functions:

a. To delimit the forum area by a line parallel to the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound.
b. To serve as a stylobate for the colonnade erected there.

In order to bear the enormous weight of the colonnade with its scores of granite columns, the stylobate was set directly upon the bedrock (fig. 28) and was built of crudely dressed ashlars, among which there were undressed stones and cementing material. The courses gradually widen downwards, with the aim of giving the wall greater stability. The southern facade of the wall, the one that faces the forum, and is visible to those passing by, is built of uniform courses, with very carefully dressed stones. By contrast, the northern facade that faces the wall of the Hellenistic compound, and was hidden to view, was built carelessly.

The upper layer of the stylobate was built of long flagstones placed across the full width of the wall. Placed upon these flagstones, at regular intervals, were pedestals (*podia*), made of limestone. One of these (B-3511), which was found *in situ* in the eastern section of the stylobate, shifted slightly to the south when the colonnade collapsed, apparently during the violent earthquake that occurred in Sussita in 749 CE. Upon these podia were placed the column bases made of white marble, and on these bases stood the column shafts. These were made of gray granite, similar to the columns placed along the *decumanus maximus*, the main colonnaded street of Sussita. It is obvious that the use of three kinds of stone – limestone, marble, and granite – was not fortuitous. The colonnades that bordered the forum on the north, east, and apparently also on the west, were carefully planned in order to give the forum a uniform appearance.

The nine column shafts lying in the forum plaza, in a section of only 14 m. so far excavated, give the impression that they had not been disturbed or displaced from their original position since they fell during the earthquake of 749 CE. The uniform manner in which they fell gives added support to the view that the colonnade had collapsed entirely at some given moment, and was not dismantled gradually over a long period of time.

At the eastern end of the stylobate which runs in an east-west direction, a corner section of about 4 m. of the stylobate was exposed (W-390). This stylobate continued southward, at right angles to the stylobate stretching parallel to the Hellenistic compound (figs. 3, 24).

In spite of the fact that only 4 m. have so far been exposed of the stylobate running in a north-south direction, it is obvious that it is built in the same way as the east-west stylobate. *Podia*, column bases and column shafts were found here as well, and their manner of falling confirmed that they collapsed together at a given moment in time. Furthermore, the columns that were set up in the eastern section of the north stylobate and those set up in the northern section of the east stylobate, collapsed together and
crashed against each other as they fell. As a result of this crash they lie strewn on the forum pavement in broken pieces. By contrast, the columns that were set up on the western section of the northern stylobate were found lying on the forum pavement almost intact (figs. 3, 24, 25, 28).

It may be assumed that on the west side of the forum there was a row of columns parallel to the one excavated on the east side. The west side of the forum was partially excavated during the first two seasons, but because of the extensive damage caused by the IDF fortifications constructed there during the 1950s, we were unable to determine its design. Today, however, it appears that after what had been discovered in the eastern area of the forum, it would be plausible to reconstruct on the west side a row of columns similar to the one on the east side. The forum of Sussita was designed as a paved area, rectangular in shape, which was bordered on three sides, north, east and west, by colonnades in a U-shape design.

A similar spatial design has survived in the forum of the Roman Philadelphia (Amman of today). In an inscription from the time of Marcus Aurelius (161-180 CE), that was discovered there, and which was then published by A. Hadidi, the colonnade formation of the Philadelphia forum was called a *tristoon*, that is, “three porticos” or “three colonnades”.

One cannot tell at this stage if the colonnades excavated at Hippos carried sloping roofs supported at one end by the columns and on the other by walls that were placed behind and parallel to the columns. As for the northern colonnade, as suggested earlier, such an arrangement would definitely seem probable, since the southern wall of the Hellenistic compound extends parallel to the columns of the colonnade at a distance of only 4 m.

The reason for the absence of a colonnade on the south side of the forum is apparently a topographical one. The area immediately adjacent to the forum on the south side falls away steeply, and this seems to be the factor that prevented the erection of a colonnade on the south side of the forum. It should be noted that the area south of the forum has not yet been excavated, but a survey that we conducted at the time in this area shows clearly that a few public structures are to be found there.

In the northern area of the forum, among the fallen columns of the colonnade strewn on the forum pavement, a special finding was made. This was a *podium*, semi-circular in shape (B-3523), located 1.60 m. south of the step that borders the forum on the north and 12 m. from its northeast corner (figs. 3, 7, 28, 29). The *podium*, which is made of limestone (measuring 1.95 m. in length and 1.25 m. in width), is placed
directly upon the forum pavement (fig. 68). The lower part of the **podium** (0.22 m. in height) is left smooth and undecorated, while the upper part (0.26 m. in height) is decorated with a double **torus** separated by straight groove and inverted **cyma recta** mouldings, that were executed with great care. It should be stressed that the **podium** was constructed of limestone that is not found in Hippos or in its close environs. This is in itself a rare instance, since with the exclusion of the various kinds of marble and granite, which are imported building materials, the rest of the building materials, limestone and basalt alike, were of local origin. It is reasonable to suppose that they were quarried in various locations in Hippos or in nearby areas.

The very presence of the semi-circular **podium** in the forum of Sussita is a meaningful testimony of its civic and cultural character. **Podia**, such as the one found in Sussita, are widespread in the cities in Greece and Asia Minor, but to the best of my knowledge, they were never found in this area. They have been used mostly for the erection of statues, but were sometimes designed as benches, with an inscription to commemorate a deed by one of the citizens or the visit of a high dignitary. It is unnecessary to emphasize that the importance of this finding does not lie in itself but in serving as evidence of the very character of Hippos as a **Polis**. The placing of such a monument in the central city plaza cannot be the act of an individual. Whoever had decided to set up a monument of this kind in a most prestigious location in the very centre of the city, had to be the city council, the **Boule** of Hippos.

**The Hellenistic Compound (NNMP) (Supervisor: Mrs. Vered Raz-Romeo)**

**Introduction**

This area is bordered on the south and west by the walls of the Hellenistic compound. The north-south street (one of the **cardines** of Roman-Byzantine Hippos?) which connects between the forum and the atrium of the North-West Church, extends to the west and adjacent to the western wall of the compound (figs. 2, 8, 24, 30). The northern border of the excavation area is the staircase, with terminating walls (**antae**) erected at each end. North of the staircase and adjacent to it extends the complex of the North-West Church. It is probable that at least some parts of the North-West Church complex were built directly upon earlier constructions that belong to the Hellenistic compound. It is not possible, at this stage of the excavations, to find the border of the Hellenistic compound on the east, since the excavations in this area are still in progress.
Excavations in the area of the Hellenistic compound during the fourth season were conducted in three main locations, as follows:

- The area west of the North-South street (the *cardo*) that connects the forum and the atrium of the North-West Church. This area also included a strip that was excavated to the west and parallel to the North-South street.
- The most western segment of the Hellenistic compound, where deep trial pits were made.
- The central paved plaza of the Hellenistic compound, including the area of the staircase and the wine press.

The work was carried out in these three locations in tandem, with the work force moving from one area to another according to need.

**Area west of the street connecting the forum and the North-West Church**

Most of this street (F-406), which is 18.30 m. long and 4.50 m. wide, has already been exposed in the three earlier seasons, and what remained to be done in the fourth season was to expose its western side. This involves a strip of land of the same length as the street, and 2.80 m. in width (figs. 8, 30). During the excavation of the street, several architectural fragments were discovered on the flagstones, including two *podia*, and three column shafts, the first of granite, the second of marble, and the third of limestone (fig. 30) The source of the *podia* is unknown, but with regard to the column shafts, it is possible that the one made of granite (B-1782) was brought from the forum area (see above, the discussion on the forum).

Among the other items, it is worth mentioning the two fragments of cornices made of basalt, which are finely dressed. They are decorated with floral designs and can be dated to the Roman period. A coin (B-1759) minted in Hippos dated 41/40 BCE was found in a crevice between two flagstones in the street. This coin and the pottery which was unearthed in the excavations on the west side of the street confirm that the street was apparently laid during the Roman period and was in use until the end of the Umayyad period.

Parallel with the street and to its west, a strip of land 2.80 m. in width was excavated. North of this area two sections of parallel walls were exposed (W-480 and W-479), standing in an east-west direction. These walls were apparently built at the end of the Byzantine period or during the Umayyad period. The southernmost one (W-480) forms a corner with a solid wall (W-463) standing in a north-south direction. It may be that we have here a section of structure of significant proportions that lay to the west of the street.
The western side of the street, along a significant portion of its length, was bordered by a solid wall, 0.78 m. in width, built of limestone (W-463) (figs. 8, 30). To the west and adjacent to this wall a deep trial pit was carried out which revealed a section of a wall (W-472) standing in a north-south direction, similar to the wall that borders the street on the west (W-463). The wall, 0.60 m. in width, is built of especially large blocks of limestone, among which a basalt millstone in secondary use was discovered. The trial pit (L-466) between the two walls went 1.20 m deep. The pottery unearthed in this trial pit was mixed, and included material that dates from the Hellenistic period up to the Umayyad period.

**The southwest area of the Hellenistic compound**

This area, which is bordered on the west by a wall (W-157) and on the south by another wall (W-156), constitutes the southwest corner of the Hellenistic compound. The area was partially excavated during the three previous seasons, and in the fourth season several sections of Umayyad walls (W-905 and W-412) were removed with the aim of exposing the walls that originally belonged to the Hellenistic compound. Furthermore, the exposure of several additional sections in the southwest area of the compound was completed and a few trial pits were carried out.

In this season, certain stratigraphical examinations were conducted in the area extending between the western wall of the compound (W-157) and the wall to its east (W-412). An oven (L-461), apparently part of an industrial installation, was discovered very near the surface in the southwest corner of this area (L-465). Underneath the oven, Roman pottery was found. We dug deeper in the immediate vicinity of the oven to a depth of about 0.70 m. In this trial pit a few floors were located, one above the other, and Roman and Byzantine shards were unearthed (1st to 6th centuries CE). To the east, at a distance of about 2 m. from the oven, a Hellenistic limestone "Attic" column base (Vitruvius III, 5) (B-1791) was found. Many others such as this were found scattered all over the compound area. And many additional bases were located in secondary use inserted into the walls of the Byzantine and Umayyad periods. To the north of the oven, two column drums were found, also made of soft limestone (B-1684 and B-1685), as well as scores of architectural fragments made of soft limestone that belonged to the Hellenistic temple which had once stood in the compound area.

An additional trial pit was excavated north of the Umayyad wall (W-493). We dug here under specific loci (L-436 and L-434). This area is bordered on the east by the wall (W-412) which was built carelessly both of semi-dressed limestone and of basalt.
At a depth of 0.80 m. under this wall we discovered an additional wall (W-905) that bore signs of burning. The pottery unearthed here shows that this area was in use from the Hellenistic until the Umayyad periods.

North of the Umayyad wall (W-493) another trial pit was made (L-482). This excavation exposed the foundation trench of the western wall of the Hellenistic compound (W-157). Under this foundation trench, at a depth of more than 2 m. under the paved surface of the Hellenistic compound, we found a pavement of small flagstones, irregular in shape (F-917) (figs. 6, 33). The pottery that was discovered there dated the pavement to the Hellenistic period (from the 2nd century BCE). We intend to broaden our excavations in this area in the next season (Summer 2004).

**The paved area of the Hellenistic compound (temenos)**

The exposure of the paved area (F-423) in the centre of the Hellenistic compound, the temenos, was begun in the second excavation season (Summer 2001). The southwest section of the paved area which is bordered on the west by a wall (W-412) and on the south by a wall (W-171), both being Umayyad walls, was exposed in the third excavation season (Summer 2002). In this season, the main effort was concentrated on removing large quantities of refuse, a layer 1 m. thick, that covered the centre and eastern part of the Hellenistic compound. We managed in this season to expose a wide area (7 x 20 m.) of the paved plaza. The northern section of the compound, which extends south of and adjacent to the staircase, was also cleared of refuse (figs. 9, 31).

On the south side of the paved area there is a stylobate, 0.91 m in width, that ran at slight elevation (0.13 m.) above the level of the paved area (F-442) (figs. 9, 31). In a few sections of the paved area, a floor made of a condensed layer of soil, 0.18 m. in height was exposed, which apparently served to seal the pavement for the purpose of using agricultural installations such as the oil or wine press (fig. 9). The architectural fragments as well as the pottery discovered on the paved area confirm that this area was in continuous use from the Hellenistic, through the Roman and Byzantine, to the Umayyad periods. It should be recalled that a coin (B-2576) dating to the period of Ptolemy III (246-221 BCE) was discovered on this paved area.

The Hellenistic compound, as we know it today, is bordered on the north by a staircase. During the two previous seasons we exposed a section of about 7 m. of the staircase which was bordered by a terminating wall (anta) on its east side. This season we managed to expose the western end of the stairway, including the anta which terminated the staircase on the west side, similar to the one exposed a year ago on the
east side. We did expose the continuation of the staircase (for an additional 3 m. approximately), and found that the western end of the staircase is shaped in an identical way to its eastern end, namely that the western anta (B-2524) had a shape identical to the eastern one (figs. 9, 10, 31, 32).

At this stage of the excavation it is not possible to determine where the staircase led. Whoever sees the staircase as it is now exposed, cannot but be impressed by its width (about 10 m.) and by the high quality of its construction. It will not be an exaggeration to claim that we have here a section of the monumental entrance that led to a level slightly higher that the level of the paved area exposed in the southern part of the Hellenistic compound. It is possible that temples once stood on the higher-level area, at first Hellenistic ones and later Roman ones. It seems, therefore, that the location of the North-West Church was not fortuitous. It was erected in the very center of the pagan sanctuary as a sign and symbol of the triumph of Christianity. We plan in the future to conduct stratigraphical probes in a few locations in the church area in order to examine whether any ancient walls exist that might belong to Hellenistic or Roman temples.

It would be too early, in our view, to try to determine the date of the staircase. The fact that it was built of basalt and not of the soft local limestone, as most of the items belonging to the Hellenistic period, indicates perhaps that it should be dated to the Roman period. However, the walls that border the Hellenistic compound are also built of basalt. In choosing the material to build the staircase, its durability was surely taken into account. Soft limestone is not the suitable material to build a staircase, because it is quickly eroded. Basalt, which is found in abundance in the area, is far more suited for the building of staircase. In the future, in addition to comparative-typological data, we shall have to examine other sources of information as well in order to determine the dating of the staircase.

At a distance of 4.30 m. to the west of the western terminating wall (anta), a section of a mosaic floor was exposed (measuring 2.83 m. in length and 0.18 m. in width), belonging to the wine press (F-495), and adjacent to it on the south there was a stone basin (B-2511) with an external diameter of 0.82 m. and 0.70 m. in height. It appears that this stone basin collected the liquid flowing from the treading area of the wine press (fig. 9).

The drainage channel (L-285) built of undressed stone and well plastered, extends from the north and parallel to the staircase, that is in an east-west direction, and reaches up to the collecting basin. It should be recalled that a wine press, at a distance
of about 15 m. to the east, was exposed in the first season of the excavations (Summer 2000).

During the process of clearing the soil that covered the paved area of the compound, a number of architectural fragments were unearthed. Some of the fragments were reused in the later walls of the Umayyad period, but some, such as column bases, were still standing in their original position on the southern stylobate (F-442) (figs. 9, 24, 31). These bases, made of limestone, were typologically different from the marble bases that were discovered in the forum, for example, and could be dated to a near degree of certainty, to the Hellenistic period.

Among the special architectural fragments that were found on the paved area of the compound, it is worth noting the Doric capital (B-2578), 0.88 m. in diameter. In spite of its damaged condition, it was possible to determine its characteristics. The capital is made of the local soft limestone, as were all the other architectural fragments belonging to the Hellenistic period. It was plastered with a thick layer of white plaster, without signs of any colouring. The *abacus* and the *echinus* were of the same height and of the same diameter. The capital was attached to the upper part of a column shaft. It would not be wise at such an early stage to venture any typological-chronological conclusions, but it may be that we have here a Hellenistic Doric capital of the 2nd cent. BCE.

Very few Doric capitals have been found so far in Israel. The discovery of Doric capitals of the 3rd century BCE at Dor was recently published (Hesperia 72 (2) 2003, pp. 126-127). Doric capitals were excavated in Hasmonean and Herodian sites dating to the 1st cent. BCE, but such capitals were very different from the one found this season in the Hellenistic compound in Hippos.

Another special finding discovered on the pavement of the Hellenistic compound was a Corinthian capital (B-2566). This was also found in a damaged condition, and it also had recognizable remains of white plaster upon it (figs. 10, 34). The Corinthian capital, as the Doric one, was made of local limestone. The low quality of the limestone from which the capital was made, and damage caused to it, makes it difficult to determine its characteristics. Very little remains of the *echinus* decorations, but one of the *abacus* flowers (fleuron) which was sculpted in high relief is quite discernible. In spite of its bad preservation, it may already be determined that this capital resembles the Corinthian capital found two years ago in the area of the oil press, close by the North-West Church, where it served in secondary use. It seems that both capitals were Hellenistic (3rd - 2nd cent. BCE), and should be included among the architectural decorations of the Hellenistic temple that stood in the compound. During the previous excavation seasons we already noticed that scores of architectonic
fragments made of limestone clearly belonged to a single structure, probably a temple, erected in the compound at the end of the 3rd century or during the 2nd century BCE. The numerous column drums, found in the compound area, testify that the Hellenistic temple which had once stood there was a *peripteron*, that is, a temple surrounded on all sides by columns.

The large number of architectural fragments that were found scattered on the surface in Hippos, and those that were unearthed during the excavations, mainly in the area of the Hellenistic compound, emphasizes the need to draw up a detailed catalogue of all architectural finds. It is our duty to note that some of the items that were found on the surface during the first season of excavation were numbered, and apparently the Antiquities Authority has already taken the first practical steps in making an inventory of the architectural fragments in Hippos. Nevertheless, we have found that in the "Sussita File" in the Antiquities Authority Archive, there is no document regarding such an inventory. We began the registration work, beginning with the first season, and are carefully numbering the items and also storing them in sites that are designated for this purpose. We are at present in a process of negotiation with a scholar specializing in typological-stylistic analysis of architectural decorations, and hope that in the very near future a comprehensive in-depth study on the architectural decorations in Hippos will be initiated.

The architectural fragments that were discovered in Hippos are mostly made of basalt or limestone. The raw material was apparently quarried in the locality, and the dressing was also done there. Clearly visible are those architectural fragments made of various types of marble and granite (mostly gray granite, and some of pink granite). A huge number of column shafts made of gray granite are scattered over the surface, mainly along the central axis that traverses the whole length of the site from east to west. These granite columns stood along the entire length of the *decumanus maximus*, the main colonnaded street of Hippos, and also surrounded the forum on three of its sides. It appears, as in other sites in Israel, that the fragments made of granite were imported ready-made from Egypt (Aswan).

All the marble fragments belong to the Roman and Byzantine periods. A significant portion of the church furniture of all three churches exposed so far in Hippos was made of marble. Most of these fragments were not original but were reused Roman fragments, adjusted to function in their new capacity.

Special type of original architectural decorative fragments made of basalt was found in the Hippos churches. These fragments have uniquely local characteristics that
clearly belong to the material culture of the “basalt country” and are very like those fragments found in synagogues and churches of the 5th to 8th centuries in the Golan, Trachon, and Hauran regions.

It would be interesting to emphasize the chronological-typological determination regarding the preference for a certain type of building material in a given period. We have already noted that nearly all the architectural fragments made of limestone belong to the Hellenistic period, while the majority of the architectural fragments made of basalt (excluding the Byzantine ones from the churches), belong to the Roman period. At this early stage in the research, all the matters raised here are merely speculations and initial conjectures so as to introduce some order among the hundreds of architectural fragments already discovered during the excavation work.

**The East City Gate (EGT) (Supervisor: Mr. Amit Rosenblum)**

**Introduction**

The area of the East City Gate was seriously damaged when IDF positions were set up here at the beginning of the 1950s. Moreover, this area was topographically exposed and an easy target for the Syrians positioned on the opposite side. Thus, in addition to the protected firing post and roofing that was set up at the foot of the gate, protecting walls were built to shield the soldiers on their way from the center of the fortified position to that frontline observation post at the foot of the gate, about 15 m. to the east of it. Another position was set up at the top of the cliff beyond the round tower. The eastern gate of the city has been surveyed and documented since the 1950s. The plan of the gate was drawn up by Mr. H. Yacobi, and is deposited in the Antiquities Authority Archive (fig. 11). It seems that it was prepared before the IDF fortification work in this area. The new plan of the gate was drawn up by Mr. Maayan Ralbag, following the excavations carried out in the gate area during the third and fourth seasons (fig. 12).

At the first stage of the excavations in the gate area this season, the protecting walls erected at the beginning of the 1950s were dismantled and cleared away. We discovered that in setting up the protecting walls, some of the ashlars belonging to the gate itself were used. We separated these ashlars and collected them together in a special site for a future reconstruction of the gate.

The excavation of the eastern city gate was conducted at the three following sites:

- Within the round tower and its immediate vicinity.
- In the gate passageway and the northern jamb of the gate.
- In the slope and cliff above the round tower.

The round tower

The excavation of the round tower was already begun in the previous season, and was completed in this season. Three courses of ashlars were exposed on the inner northwestern side of the tower (W-602), and it was also cleared of fallen debris, and the pavement within the tower was cleaned. The three courses that survived on the inner side of the tower were arranged as follows: the lower course is built of stretchers, the middle course of headers, and the upper one of stretchers again (figs. 13, 35, 36). The inner surface of the tower (Loci 604-612) was made mainly of rock that was not evenly smoothed, and of building stones in secondary use, some of basalt and some of limestone, in order to create a layered surface within the tower (fig. 36). The surface was found to have been disturbed and it was obvious that its stones, which were laid within the crevices of the rock, were mostly not in situ. It is not known whether the state of the tower, as we found it during the course of the excavation, was the result of the IDF activity or the activities conducted here in more ancient times. Careful and precise excavation work carried out both within the tower and outside it (mainly on the eastern and southern side) allowed us to determine the way in which the quarrying and building were combined together.

The natural rock, with its steep slopes that descend towards the south and southeast, necessitated complicated quarrying work under difficult conditions, in order to lay the foundations of the low courses of the tower.

A few of the shards unearthed in excavating the inside of the tower belong to the early Roman period.

The gate passageway and the northern gate jamb

The gate passageway was cleared of fallen debris, but what was left of the gate itself is a single course of the northern gate jamb (figs. 12, 13).

In the excavation on the northern side of the gate wall (the side that faces towards the city), a section of 4 m. was exposed that had survived here up to a height of 4 courses (figs. 12, 37). This segment was in fact the continuation of the city wall (L-607). The city wall was built here very close to the steep cliff that was quarried in order to clear the space for building the wall (fig. 37). It should be recalled that the round tower was built into this wall on the southern side. The wall, as well as the round tower, was built in very difficult topography, and the builders were forced to cope with the steep cliff in order to make a firm foundation for the lower courses of the wall. The northern face of the wall (W-607), in the section to the west of the gate, which until then had been
covered with fallen debris, was exposed in full during this season. The craftsmanship of this segment of the wall is excellent. The *opus quadratum* courses of the wall are made of carefully dressed basalt ashlers without any binding material. The ashlers had flat and smooth bosses projecting only a little way from the face of the stone, and they had wide margins neatly dressed (fig. 37). The nearest example for the manner of the stone dressing in the east gate of Hippos can be found in the “Tiberias gate” in Gadara (Umm Qeis in Jordan).

Opposite the northern segment of the wall (W-607), a plastered area was exposed (F-620) that served as a foundation for the pavement. Of this pavement only one basalt flagstone remained *in situ*. To the northeast of the gate passage a section of a stone pipe can be seen and part of the original pavement of the inner plaza of the gate. These had already been exposed and cleaned in previous seasons (fig. 12).

**The slope and the cliff above the round tower**

The excavation of the slope and cliff to the northwest of the round tower was begun towards the end of the fourth season, which means that the excavation of this area is in its early stages. The purpose of excavating this area is to find out the course of the city wall in the section that extends between the round tower and the cliff above it. This area was also severely damaged because of IDF fortification work during the 1950s, and before the excavations it was necessary to clear away the remains of the IDF position and a few protecting walls.

At the centre of the excavation at the top of the cliff above the round tower we found a rectangular building (measurements: 5.50 m. x 3.30 m. approx.), with an east-west longitudinal axis (fig. 12). The nature and purpose of the building, which is build very carelessly of ashlers in secondary use and undressed limestone, is not yet clear. It is obvious that the ashlers were taken from some earlier structure. The inner space of the rectangular building is divided into two rooms, an eastern and a western one, with a partition made of limestone dividing them. There is a marked difference between the two rooms. The eastern one is paved with 4 basalt flagstones set across the width of the room, that is, along a north-south axis (F-619), while the paving of the western one (F-623) is of rubble bound together with mortar. The excavators were greatly surprised to find, after examining the flagstones in the eastern room (F-619), that they served not only as paving but also as the roof of an underground chamber located below the eastern room of the building (Fig. 38). For lack of time it was not possible to examine the nature of this underground chamber but in the next season we intend to widen the excavation in this area.
In spite of the fact that the excavation of the rectangular building at the top of the cliff is at its early stages, it should be seen as a component of the city fortifications during the Byzantine period.

**The South-East Church - the “Cathedral” (CTD) (Supervisor: Mr. Ran Abramovitch)**

**Introduction**

The South-East Church was partially excavated at the beginning of the 1950s during the construction of a dining hall, the southern building of the two permanent structures erected by the IDF in Sussita. Until we began our excavations in Sussita in the summer of 2000, the South-East Church was the only building to have been previously excavated in the site. Immediately after the excavations in 1952, the IDF raised a protective wall above the southern wall of the church (figs. 14, 39). This action covered the wall that bordered the church on the south and also the southern part of the south aisle. This protective wall was made of rubble as well as of ashlars of various sizes. A similar protective wall was raised north of the baptistery structure that stands adjacent to the north aisle of the prayer hall. Here too, in the course of time, the stones slid downwards and covered the northern wall and the north aisle of the baptistery.

In view of the partial documentation of the excavation carried out here in the 1950s, and because of the considerable neglect of the site over the years, it was forgotten that these two locations above mentioned, the south aisle of the prayer hall and the north aisle of the baptistery, had already been excavated. When we were asked by the National Parks Authority to help in restoring the church, we assumed, by their condition today, that these two locations were unexcavated. It was a great surprise when, during the course of the excavation, unexpected “finds” such as bottles of soft drinks and cans of preserves were discovered. An additional aim for our excavation was to examine the degree of preservation of the Cathedral and to prepare a plan for its restoration.

The initiative for the restoration of the South-East Church came from the National Parks Authority. It was decided that the work would be done gradually, over several seasons of excavations, by workers of the Authority and under the scientific supervision of the University of Haifa expedition team. The restoration of the church was begun this summer, parallel with the fourth season of excavations in the site. The National Parks Authority put in a team of 15 workers to carry out the task, under an
experienced foreman Mr. Moshe Deri. Scientific supervision for this excavation by the University of Haifa team was given to Mr. Ran Abramovitch. Besides the work of clearing and cleaning the excavation site, a gradual removal was begun of the IDF protective walls set up on the north and south sides of the church. In order to clear the huge amounts of material piled up here, a special tractor was brought in. Because of budgetary limitations, the tractor could operate for only four days, and a large amount of material still remains to be cleared away. It is our intention to complete the clearing of the material that remains on the south side of the church during the fifth season, in the summer of 2004. The removal of the protective wall north of the baptistery will be carried out at a later stage. This protective wall extends along the northern side of the *decumanus maximus*, and is not, at this stage, in danger of collapsing into the north aisle of the baptistery.

The work of cleaning and restoration of the South-East Church was conducted at two locations:
- In the south aisle of the prayer hall
- In the north aisle of the baptistery

Certain sections in the area of the atrium and near the apses in the prayer hall were also cleaned and restored.

**The prayer hall**

The most suitable place chosen to start the restoration of the south aisle was the southern area near the wall that divides the prayer hall from the atrium (figs. 14, 40). At first two squares were set, but they were soon combined into one area (L-801). The exposed floor of the south aisle (F-809) was paved in *opus sectile*, similar to the north aisle of the prayer hall. Of the south wall of the church (W-807), only one course remains, except for two short sections of the second course. The south wall is built of well-dressed basalt ashlars (fig. 40). During the course of the excavation, a section of the western wall of the prayer hall (W-810) was exposed, and it extends from the passageway that leads from the atrium to the south aisle till the south-west corner of the prayer hall (fig. 14).

Hardly any finds were made in the south aisle of the prayer hall, except for items of IDF military equipment, which confirms that the south aisle had already been excavated in the 1950s and was then covered over when the protective wall was raised here.
The baptistery

In contrast to the state of the south aisle in the prayer hall, it was obvious that the north aisle of the baptistery had been excavated and covered over again, apparently intentionally, so as to protect the mosaic floor (F-805) that extends the full length and width of the north aisle (figs. 14, 41). We also did the same, and decided that until the church was fully restored, the only way to ensure the survival of the mosaic was to leave it covered with a thick layer (about 0.30 m.) of soft earth. Before covering it, we made certain that the mosaic floor along the full length of the north aisle was complete and well preserved.

The main effort in this area was devoted to the exposure of the north wall (W-803) and the west wall (W-806) of the baptistery. The north wall was built mainly of limestone and while the west wall was built of a mixture of ashlars and undressed stones (fig. 41). In the eastern section of the north wall, a few plastered sections have remained in situ.

The north wall of the baptistery borders the south side of the modern road that crosses through Sussita along the east-west axis. The modern road exactly overlaps the course of the *decumanus maximus*, the main colonnaded street of Hippos. The level of this street is approximately 1.50 m. lower than the modern road.

According to the examinations and measurements that we conducted at the time, the *decumanus maximus* runs parallel and adjacent to the northern side of the north wall (W-803) of the baptistery. It is worth mentioning that the IDF protective wall extends along the northern side and parallel to the modern road. The removal of this wall will make it possible to excavate the *decumanus maximus*, and the reconstitution of a very central section in the city landscape of Hippos during the Byzantine period.

Arthur Segal
NORTH-WEST CHURCH (NWC) COMPLEX
(supervisors: Mr. Marek Wozniak and Ms. Joanna Then)

The work in the NWC area during this season was devoted to the exploration of the following parts of the church compound:

1. Southern sacristy (Loc. 208) and the southern chancel area (Loc. 223)
2. Mosaic in the southern part of the main chancel (Loc. 205)
3. Northern colonnade
4. Southern wing of the church (Loc. 209)
5. Stratigraphical trench on the E-W axis of the main chancel (Loc. 205)

1. The exploration of the chancel part of the southern aisle (Loc. 223) as well as of the southern sacristy (Loc. 208) was completed (Figs. 15, 16, 42, 43). It seems that Loc. 223 was entirely separated from the main chancel area by a low wall built of limestone slabs (W 224-S, see Report July 2002, fig 28). No traces of any passage between Loc. 223 and Loc. 205 were found. Actually, the mosaic floor of Loc. 223 is the eastern part of the „carpet” of the southern aisle (Loc. 204) with its frame of a simple rope pattern („guilloche”: Avi-Yonah pattern B2). This border is further framed by a series of geometrical figures (Fig. 43). On its northern side, large diamonds (some of them filled with red-white chessboard pattern, others outlined in black) alternate with diagonally set crosses composed of arrow-shaped elements (Avi-Yonah pattern A18); crosslets of similar composition are added at places. The eastern side is framed by a row of small losenges, alternately chessboard-patterned and outlined in black. The mosaic of Loc. 223 was found in a fairly good state of preservation, probably because it was protected by large fragments of plain mosaic floor fallen from the upper storey (cf. Report July 2002, Fig. 36).

The southern sacristy (Loc. 208), as already supposed during the season of 2002, is a room of a trapezoid plan. It opened through a wide arch constructed of basalt blocks originally onto the southern aisle (Loc. 204), and in the final phase of the church onto the southern chancel (Loc. 223). The very presence of the arch suggested the identity of the room as a martyrion chapel. Indeed, a complete polycandelon of bronze

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1 The Polish part of the joint project was financially supported by the Israeli Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Polish Academy of Sciences and the National Museum, Warsaw, the BRE Bank S.A., Warszawa, and the Israeli-Polish Chamber of Commerce, Tel Aviv, with its President Mr. Henryk Lewinski. We greatly benefitted from the assistance and friendship of Dr. Maciej Kozlowski, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Israel.
2 M. Avi-Yonah, Mosaic Pavements in Palestine, QDAP II-III (1933), 138-141.
discovered below the blocks of the arch fallen to the side of Loc. 223 (Fig. 44) must have provided permanent light to the holy place. It used to hang from an iron rod (eroded parts of which were found in the debris) once installed across the opening of the arch.

The room (Loc. 208) was filled with debris of building stones, many of them with painted plaster. In contrast to Loc. 223, few roof tile fragments were found and actually no pieces of plain mosaics pertaining to the upper floor. It is obvious that the gallery did not continue above the sacristy. In the northern wall near the north-east corner of the room, there is a rectangular niche discovered in 2002 (Fig. 17). Inside the niche, traces of wall paintings were found as well as fragments of thin slabs of white marble, presumably revetment of its floor. Unlike the corresponding niche in the southern wall of the skeuophylakion (?) Loc. 207, which is situated rather high above the floor level, this one is placed at the convenient height of 0.95 m., and could comfortably be used as prothesis in the preparation of Eucharist.

The three walls of Loc. 208 and the entrance arch were decorated with murals. Plaster fragments from different spots were gathered and recorded separately to enable identification of the decoration patterns. Judging from what has survived in situ, the decorated field was arranged into (or divided by?) vertical bands: red, white, orange-yellow and black (faded to brown), at least on the lower parts of the walls. To judge by the collapsed blocks, the western face of the arch was decorated with floral motifs of which one could recognize parts of stylized branch(es?) with berries(?) painted in red and purplish brown against yellow background. The vegetal frieze was framed by bands in black and red, the latter being wider and extending on two contiguous sides of the block (Fig. 45). On the ceiling of the archway there prevailed white plaster with only simple and rather narrow bands painted in red, yellow and black.

Other blocks collapsed from the walls as well as plaster fragments gathered in the debris show geometrical motives, specifically a green „diamond” (losenje) inside a thin red frame, and red meander, both painted against yellow background. It seems that the meander pattern occurred mostly on the southern wall, but also on the eastern one. There is no doubt that the latter was the focus of the painted decoration, with both geometrical and floral motives, and with a whole range of colours including green (for some leaves?), blue (as the background for a red maeander) and purple (for vine grapes?).

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5 For skeuophylakion and prothesis, see G. Descoeudres, Die Pastophorien im syrobyzantinischen Osten, Wiesbaden 1983, XIV-XVIII.
The mosaic floor of Loc. 208 is decorated with a „carpet” which is a replica of that of the southern aisle (Loci 204 and 223), with the only difference that here the „guilloche” border is thicker than in Loc. 223 and it is framed on both sides by a thin black line. However, the frame in question is not exactly parallel to the southern and eastern walls of Loc. 208, and the whole carpet is deviating from the long axis of the southern aisle (Figs. 46, 49). Apparently, when the mosaic was to be laid down, the craftsmen began their work from the northern side of the room which was meeting the eastern wall at an angle of less than 90°. Thus, the space left between the mosaic „carpet’ and the walls of Loc. 208 is of unequal width, and it is partly decorated with alternating losenges and diamonds, the latter with crosslets protruding from the angles.

The mosaic floor under the archway was repaired after some damage the date of which cannot be determined. The repair is entirely careless, with no attention paid to proper restoring of the geometrical frame of the mosaic carpets in Loci 223 and 208. During this repair, the mosaic cubes randomly placed in the damaged floor must have effaced whatever was remaining of an earlier dedicatory inscription which doubtlessly used to be at this spot. Plausibly, this repair was contemporary with the final arrangement of the church as reflected by the introduction of the lateral chancels probably at some time in the 7th century.\(^6\)

In the eastern part of the room two reliquaries were found, one standing upon another (Fig. 47). The upper reliquary is a sarcophagus-like chest of white marble (L. 25.5 cm, W. 16.0 cm, H. 10.0 cm), divided into three rectangular compartments, and covered with a gabled lid equipped with four acroteria. In the top of the lid there is a circular opening into which a bronze pin used to be inserted. A major part of the pin covered with green patina was found \textit{in situ} in the opening, while the debris yielded another part of it. The latter, badly corroded, was apparently broken during the earthquake, but the bend in the pin seemed to be intentional, intended to facilitate the contact with venerated relics in order to produce \textit{eulogia} (or \textit{hagiasma}).\(^7\) The middle compartment of the reliquary was found filled with just soil concealing two small broken parts of the bronze pin. The lateral compartments contained several bone fragments. It is to be noted that the reliquary is of the same type like that found in the apse of the northern aisle in 2000 (cf. Report 2000, figs 47-48), with the only

\(^6\) J. Młynarczyk and M. Burdajewicz, in \textit{Hippos (Sussita), Third Season of Excavations, July 2002}, Haifa, 23 and note 10.

\(^7\) Examples of receiving the blessing by touching of holy relics (practice more rare in the East than in the West) are quoted by Peña, \textit{op. cit.}, 70-71(for the Antioch region?) and 74-75 (for Chalcedon). On \textit{hagiasma} and \textit{eulogia}, see A.J. Festugière (ed.), \textit{les moines d’Orient} III.2. \textit{Les moines de Palestine}, Paris 1962, notes 149-150.
difference that in the newly discovered reliquary one of the short sides lacks a raised edge at the top to facilitate the sliding of the lid.

The lower reliquary in Loc. 208 is bigger, made of a red limestone block (56.0 cm, W. 45.0 cm) (Fig. 18). Its southern part has been destroyed by blocks fell during the earthquake (Fig. 48). Inside a raised edge the upper surface has three compartments, each of them originally with its own lid. Above the central bowl-shaped depression a broken circular lid was found. Made of a raw beige clay (with the addition of an organic material, apparently straw), it had a central opening. Under this lid, fragments of another circular lid with an opening in the centre were found. The bowl, shaped like an inverted cone, was filled with earth, brown-coloured in the upper part, and reddish brown at the bottom. The lateral compartments, of which only the northern one survived intact, were rectangular (Fig. 66). The well-preserved northern compartment had a rectangular lid exactly fitting its rim; in addition to this, there was also an upper lid, made of a broken slab of the same soft red stone.

At the north-eastern and south-western corners of the lower reliquary, the lowermost sections of two marble legs of an altar table are preserved (Fig. 66 at lower right), firmly inserted in the floor substructure, since the mosaic itself has been destroyed all around the reliquary and towards the eastern wall (Fig. 46). Right above this lacuna in the mosaic, a fairly thick layer of pure clay was found which, however, seemed to be a secondary destruction deposit rather than a late repair done to the floor.

At the south-western corner of the martyrion chapel, close to the southern pier of the arch, a few marble elements were found lying on the floor (Fig. 49). Two of them are small chancel posts, each one with a slot for inserting of a screen. The screens could have been made of wood, since not a piece of any marble slab was found in this room. On the other hand, however, there were neither traces of any screen base nor imprints of the posts on the floor that could suggest installation of such screens. The other fragments belong to two colonettes with rectangular bases. However, their dimensions do not match each other, so if they indeed were table supports, they came from two different tables, and could hardly have pertained to the altar that once stood above the reliquaries.

In conclusion, we can state that when the earthquake struck, the veneration of the holy relics was still going on in the martyrion. This is clear from the presence of the reliquary with its contents including the bronze pin, and from the fact that the bronze polykandelon fell down where it was hung inside the archway (Fig. 44). Once sealed by the earthquake, the room remained undisturbed till its exploration in July 2003. What is, however, difficult to understand is the lack of an altar table above the reliquaries. Perhaps an original marble altar table had already been removed by that time and replaced with a wooden one; some iron nails found around the upper
reliquary could have pertained either to such a wooden table or to a wooden canopy. Another unanswered question is the function of the marble colonnettes and/or the reason why they were stored (?) in this place.

2. The main chancel (Loc. 205)

The entire bema (the chancel platform) was cleaned on the floor level to reveal a sizeable portion of the mosaic surviving in its southern part against the northern face of W 224-S. The pattern of the „carpet” is the same as the one already noted in the western part of the nave (Loc. 201), while the frame consists of a plait (Avi-Yonah pattern B3) between two friezes of dots. The north-eastern corner of the same mosaic has been uncovered in 2000 (cf. Report 2000, Figs. 36-38). In the major part of the bema the destruction of the mosaic was so complete that only a layer of small stones serving as a substructure for the mosaic survived. Neither traces of installation of an altar, nor any loculus for the reliquary were found.

3. The northern colonnade

Some additional cleaning was done at the intercolumnia of the northern colonnade. The mosaic of the fourth intercolumniation from the west was uncovered. It is a rectangular panel filled with eight interlacing octagons, each containing a double square in the centre and a diamond on its four sides.8 The collapsed drums of columns NWC 14, NWC 15 and NWC 26 were raised and mounted on their bases. When one of the basalt capitals (NWC 34) was moved from its previous location close to the base of column NWC 15, it revealed remains of painted plaster of one of its faces (Fig. 50). This particular discovery has significantly changed our ideas about the decoration of the church. It is clear now that the plastered capitals were polychrome rather than plain white. The echinus of capital NWC 34 preserves red plaster in between the volutes, and right below the echinus a wreath of laurel-like leaves is painted in green.

4. The southern wing of the church (Loc. 209) (Figs. 15, 16)

After the upper layer of the earthquake debris (with both basalt and limestone blocks) had been exposed, it became clear that the southern wing was divided into three rooms. A small square room (209 W) to the west of W 226, accessible only from

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8 For similar motives, cf. P. Donceel-Voûte, Les pavements des églises byzantines de Syrie et du Liban, Louvain-la-Neuve 1988: 6th century mosaics in the churches of Khan Khaled (p. 380, fig. 358) and Zahrani (p. 430, fig. 429), both in Lebanon, as well as a late 5th century mosaic in the church of Mezra’a el-‘Oulia in Syria (pp. 181-182, fig. 154).
the atrium, presumably contained a staircase leading to the gallery above the southern aisle. The room has been left to be explored during the next season.

Two other rooms, 209 C (L/F 225 on the plan) and 209 E (L/F 230), were uncovered in the central and eastern part of the wing (Fig. 51). Under two layers of blocks, mostly of limestone, a layer of light brown earth was covering the floor. It contained several fragments of roof tiles, not as many, however, as noted in the aisles of the basilica during the previous seasons (2001-2002). It may be assumed that the annexes of the church had flat roofs, unlike the basilica itself.

Room 209 C is a nearly square chamber, entered from the southern aisle of the basilica through the door found in 2001 (cf. Report July 2001, p. 11) (Fig. 52). Its ceiling beams used to rest on an arch supported by a pair of piers spanning the room from north to south. Limestone blocks of the arch were found in their position, lying on the floor. The floor (F 225) has been made of a very fine quality mortar, smooth and firm, with a quantity of fine white and dark grey pebbles (and probably ashes). The walls were covered with white plaster. Against the southern wall, opposite the entrance from the southern aisle of the church, a couch was constructed of small stones, and covered with white plaster (Loc. 228). It has the form of a kline 1.95 m. long and 0.93 m. wide, with a high sloping “pillow” at the western end (0.65 m. high, while the eastern end is 0.30 m. high).

Along the northern wall, in the space between the northern pier of the arch and the north-eastern corner of the room, a plastered bench was built (Loc. 229), 2.05 m. long, 0.44 m. wide, and 0.30 m. high (Fig. 51, on the left). This was one of the latest additions in the room, since it abutted on the eastern face of the pier after the latter had been coated with white plaster.

Inside the room a large number of objects were found on the floor, against the walls and at the benches. Specifically, no less that 10 vessels were found on the couch and against it, some of them upside down (possibly fallen down from a shelf?). They include cooking pots (two of them with pieces of chopped animal bones, apparently remains of some meals), casseroles with lids, storage jars, and a bronze decanter (Fig. 53). Besides the ceramics, the floor of the room yielded bronze objects such as a censer and a bell with an iron heart, as well as iron tools, including three sickles (agricultural knives).

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A doorway in the eastern wall of the room (W 227) leads to another, larger room (209 E), divided by two pairs of piers into three bays (Fig. 51). Of these, the western and the central bays were explored down to the floor (F 230) which was exactly of the same quality as the floor in Room 209 C (F 225) and on which the limestone blocks of two collapsed arches were found in their position. The walls were covered with a thick layer of white plaster as were two short benches constructed in the westernmost bay, along the northern and the southern walls. On the southern bench (Loc. 249: L. 0.95 m., W. 0.43 m., H. 0.32 m.) six unused terracotta lamps were standing as well as a number of jar lids arranged in a pile. The space between the northern bench (Loc. 248: L. 1.00 m., W. 0.40 m., H. 0.32 m.) and the north-western pier was filled with debris of wall plaster and remains of timber (perhaps from a wooden shelf?); a jar and a casserole with its lid were found above it. Small burnt stones in the same spot suggest maybe the presence of a makeshift stove. There was no possibility, however, to confirm it with any certainty.

The floor of this room yielded a number of pottery vessels (jars, jar lids and cooking pots) although they were definitely fewer than in Room 209 C. In several places timber remains were found, perhaps pertaining to tables (?). Other finds included fragments of glass bottle, two glass wine cups, and iron tools. Between the piers of the eastern arch an empty reliquary of hard limestone was found, apparently not in situ (Fig. 54). It was a rectangular box of hard limestone, 79 cm. long, 44 cm. wide, and 20 cm. high, containing two rectangular compartments. Of these, the southern one was smaller, but deeper (13 cm.), and the northern one was bigger, but shallower (7 cm.). The latter has a funnel-like cavity in its bottom close to the partition wall between the two compartments. However, this cavity lacks any opening that would connect them to each other, and thus its function remains unexplained. Also the original context of the reliquary is not known, since the exploration of the space corresponding to the easternmost bay of the room to which it belongs had to be stopped at some 30 cm above the floor level.

To conclude on the exploration of two rooms in the southern wing (209 C and 209 E), there is no doubt they should be described as the diakonikon area.\textsuperscript{10} That the door in the southern wall of the southern aisle of NWC led to a diakonikon was already suggested by the location of the mosaic inscription mentioning the donation by Hedora right in front of the door (cf. Report July 2002, fig. 32) and by the restorable pottery vessels standing in a line against the wall close to this entrance as discovered in 2001.\textsuperscript{11} The season of 2003 yielded strong evidence that the faithful were bringing in a variety of foodstuffs as reflected by different vessel forms (Fig.

\textsuperscript{10} For the diakonikon, see Descoeudres, \textit{op. cit.} XVII.

\textsuperscript{11} J. Mlynarczyk, Pottery Report, in A. Segal \textit{et al.}, \textit{Hippos (Sussita) July 2001}, Haifa, 17, and fig. 4.
55): jars for wine, olive oil and cereals, casserole pots for meals cooked on the basis of meat and vegetables (see: Pottery Report 2003). Some pieces of church equipment were also kept inside, such as a bronze censer of a common Byzantine type,\textsuperscript{12} or terracotta oil lamps (see: Pottery Report 2003). The kline built exactly opposite the entrance from the southern aisle proves that the church staff was supposed to safeguard the goods stored in the diakonikon during the night. Such practice is explicitly mentioned in a story of a vision of priest Loukianos from Caphargamal near Jerusalem in the early 5th century.\textsuperscript{13} A good parallel to the location of the diakonikon in the southern wing comes from the East Church of Mampsis where a long trapezoid room with plastered benches has been identified as a diakonikon and a chapel at the same time.\textsuperscript{14}

As to the second, larger room (209E), regardless of the question if it was originally planned as a part of the diakonikon, during the last decades of the church it provided additional space for storing of goods and important objects, one of which apparently was the empty reliquary. A most interesting passage in the Life of St. Euthymius by Cyril of Scythopolis (6th century) mentions the diakonikon of the Euthymius monastery as a place in which not only material treasures (such as 600 solidi) but also pieces of the Holy Cross were kept, and which consisted of two(!) rooms, the inner one used for having meals (the refectory).\textsuperscript{15} However, the examination of the joins between the eastern wall of the room and its southern and northern walls (Fig. 54) clearly shows that the eastern wall was a later addition, presumably cutting off an earlier room further to the east that had belonged to the original plan of the church compound.

Important chronological conclusions can be drawn from the discoveries made in the church during the 2003 season. Contrary to our previous assessment of the final history of the building,\textsuperscript{16} the new finds from the martyrion chapel and, especially, from the diakonikon rooms make it clear that the church was serving the local Christian community till the very moment of the disastrous earthquake, apparently till 749. Deserving detailed studies is the question to what extent different parts of the

\textsuperscript{12} D. Bénazeth, catalogue général du Musée Copte du Caire. I. Objects en métal, le Caire 2001, 292-294, Nos. 249-251, with parallels from Saqqara (Egypt) and Amman (Jordan).

\textsuperscript{13} S. Vanderlinden, Revelatio Sancti Stephani (B.H.L.7850-60), Revue des Etudes Byzantines IV (1946), 190-193. For the church guardian called prosmanarios and its living place, see Peña, op. cit., 73.

\textsuperscript{14} A. Negev, The Architecture of Mampsis, II. The Late Roman and Byzantine Periods, Jerusalem 1988, 47-48 and plan 9.

\textsuperscript{15} Festugière, op. cit. 124-125.

\textsuperscript{16} See Report July 2002, 24 and note 12, assuming that the church was abandoned before the earthquake of 749.
church compound could have been used during those last years, and what was the economical status of the community gathering at the church.

5. Stratigraphical trench inside the chancel area (Fig. 19)

A stratigraphical trench 1.35 m. wide was opened inside the main chancel (Loc. 205), on the entire length of the east-west axis of the bema (Figs. 25, 56). The 6th-century mosaic floor of the bema was destroyed so profoundly that only its substructure was left in place, in the form of a layer of small lime stones. Ca. 15-20 cm. below it, a level surface has been identified made of earth mixed with mortar and gravels. Although no mosaic cubes were actually found with it, it is possible that this was the bedding for an earlier pavement of the bema. This bedding (?) rests upon a levelling layer ca. 25 cm. thick under which there are well-preserved remains of an earlier floor (F 255). The floor, with a thin utilization and/or destruction deposit upon it (pieces of charred wood, rooftile fragments, animal bones, a few sherds of the Roman-period cooking pottery) and sloping to the west, resembles by its quality the floor of the diakonikon rooms (F 225, F 230). On the east, F 255 abuts on the western wall of the apsis (W 256) which is covered with white plaster down to the level of the floor (Fig. 57). One may assume that the two features (F 255 and W 256) existed during the same period, apparently pre-dating the construction of the church.

Two trial pits were made below F 255: one in the eastern, and another in the western part of the trench (Fig. 56). The eastern pit revealed a large breach (ca. 90 x 65 cm) in the floor abutting on W 256, probably made during the church period in order to inspect and repair an earlier water conduit (Loc. 257). This is a channel running north-south, built of small stones thickly revetted with mortar containing a lot of ashes, and covered with basalt slabs. The bottom of the channel is ca. 55 cm. below F 255 to which it appears to be chronologically connected (Fig. 57). Upon the eastern side of the channel there rests the foundation of W 256.

All along the northern profile of the trench, an east-west wall (W 258) is visible, constructed of semi-dressed and irregular basalt stones. It had been levelled before the channel was built (Figs. 56, 58). The walking level pertaining to this wall can be seen in the section as a simple earthen floor, roughly corresponding to the extant top of the levelled wall (Fig. 56, foreground) and to the layer of charred wood visible ca. 14-15 cm below the bottom of the channel. Judging from rather insignificant ceramic finds, W 258 and its floor appear to date back to the Early Roman period (see Pottery Report 2003).
No other floor earlier than that has been identified in the trench. However, in the southern section of the east trial pit a big carefully dressed block of limestone (H. 50, W. 53 cm) can be seen (Fig. 58, on the right), resting on the bedrock the cavities of which were filled in with small stones. No doubt, this is the earliest testimony so far to the architectural activity at the NWC area.

Jolanta Młynarczyk, Mariusz Burdajewicz
Report on conservation work at the North-west Church (NWC)

July 2003 was the fourth season of the joint excavation program at Hippos – Sussita, with the Polish team exposing a Byzantine-period church complex adorned with mosaic pavements, wall paintings and marble furnishings. The basilical church of about 277 square metres was paved with polychrome mosaics which contained geometrical patterns, occasional floral motives and two inscriptions in Greek. To judge by similar mosaics found in the area and dated by inscriptions (Hippos baptistery, Kursi church), the pavements of the NWC come from the eighties of the 6th century.\footnote{Cf. J. Mlynarczyk and M. Burdajewicz, in: A. Segal et al., Hippos, Third Season of Excavations, July 2002, 22-23.}

Following the excavations, it became necessary to protect the mosaics, the remains of murals preserved on the walls and on collapsed basalt blocs of the southern sacristy (the \textit{martyrion} chapel, Loc. 208), one of the marble screens in the southern aisle, and a reliquary of a soft red limestone due to extremely dangerous condition they were in. A short, two-week intervention on the site was carried out and supervised by Polish conservator Eva Radziejowska (National Museum, Warsaw) assisted by local conservation technician Kimi Maman and by Julia Burdajewicz, student of the Conservation Department at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. The work was limited to general assessment of the condition of decorated walls and floors and to the emergency treatment:

1. The mosaics of the church were unearthed to their full extent. The pavements uncovered during the past seasons were temporarily protected and reburied. The mosaic of the southern aisle was consolidated.

2. Remains of wall paintings received a basic stabilization, specifically reinforcement of the edges, filling voids and blisters appearing between stone support and layers of the plaster, finally, protection of the painted surface.

3. The reliquary of red limestone, found \textit{in situ} in the rear part of the \textit{martyrion} chapel, badly eroded and disintegrated, was cleaned and reconstructed. Broken chancel screen of marble from the southern aisle was cleaned, glued and prepared to be re-installed in its original place. The lower shafts of fallen columns were lifted and mounted on their bases.

\textbf{1a. Condition of the mosaics.}

The mosaics decorating the nave and the two aisles of the church differ in their physical condition depending on the location. Those in the aisles are in fairly good...
state of preservation (more than 80% preserved). The tesserae and the bedding are in relatively stable condition. Local subsidence of the surface, narrow cracks and small lacunae were caused by heavy basalt blocks that pounded onto the pavement with the collapse of the walls and the roof during the earthquake (Fig. 59). The tesserae on the edges of the lacunae have been dislodged and detached, and the adjacent tesserae were crumbling.

In contrast, the state of preservation of the mosaic in the nave is very poor: only ca. 20% of it survives. For the major part, the decoration pattern is hardly legible. A large section of the mosaic has disappeared, and the surface of surviving parts is distorted in several places due to plant roots growing underneath. The binding mortar has lost its coherence and the tesserae no longer adhere to the bedding. The bad condition of this mosaic suggests that it was exposed to environmental factors for a longer period of time than the aisle mosaics were. It could be due to an earlier collapse of the roof of the nave.

As far as the mosaic cubes are concerned, the coloured stones (red, pink and yellow), soft and porous, have their surface eroded, while the black and white tesserae made of low porosity stones are much better preserved.

1b. The treatment of the mosaics

Prior to the conservation process, the basic goals of preservation were established to be the following:
- consolidation of the mosaics in situ (wherever possible);
- preservation and restoration program adapted individually according to the condition of different parts of the pavement;
- restoration involving reconstruction of small missing parts of mosaics, made possible thanks to the retrieval of the original tesserae, on the condition that the decorative patterns are well-legible. This solution is recommended for technical and aesthetic reasons. Local materials similar to the original ones should be applied in the consolidation of the mosaic bedding.

The actual conservator’s intervention included the following steps:
a) All mosaics were uncovered and cleaned mechanically by means of brushes, scalpels and blowers.
b) Following reinforcement of the weakened parts, the surface of the mosaic in the southern aisle was carefully washed up with clean water by means of soft car-wash sponges.
c) The mosaic of the southern aisle received the basic stabilization including repairs done to the edges, reattachment of detached tesserae and filling of the lacunae (Figs.
Two small sunk sections, 3 square dcm each, were lifted and made level with the rest of the floor, after having filled the lacunae (Figs. 59, 62). Lime mortar with marble powder and crushed stone have been used for this purpose (slaked lime, marble powder, and crushed limestone in proportions 1:2:1) (Fig. 63).

d) Fragments of the mosaics in the nave were uncovered only to be recorded (description, drawing on transparent foil, photo records of damages), and then covered again. All single tesserae found in the debris were collected, cleaned and assorted for further re-use. Because of the bad condition of these mosaic sections, the traditional lifting and relaying on mineral media (lime-sand, marble powder, mortar) is suggested for the future display and presentation in their original position within the architectural context.

e) At the end of the season, all the mosaics previously unearthed were temporarily re-buried.

2. The wall paintings.

The basilica walls, constructed of basalt blocks were plastered and painted. The traces of coloured murals still exist on the columns, in the lower section of the southern sacristy walls and on individual blocks collapsed from the entrance arch of Loc. 208. The colours can still be distinguished, but the decorative program of the paintings is hardly restorable. As the only evidence of wall decoration of the church, all preserved fragments of murals were saved and protected.

The plaster fragments preserved in situ on the walls have been in poor condition. They are detached from the stone support, full of blisters, voids, covered with salt crust. Prior to the consolidation, the detached plasters were protected with strips of thin cotton fabric glued to the surface with 15% solution of PVA in order to prevent them from collapsing during the treatment (Fig. 64). Next, the plaster edges were fixed with a band of lime-based mortar mixed with marble powder and acrylic medium Primal AC 33 (the proportion of slaked lime to marble powder to crushed limestone to Primal being 1:1:1:0,1). Voids and blisters were filled with a liquid mortar (slaked lime and marble powder with addition of Primal AC 33 in proportion of 1:1:0,1) by means of injecting (Fig. 65).

In order to protect fragments of painted plaster preserved on a number of collapsed basalt blocks (as well as on one of the capitals), 3% solution of acrylic raisin - Paraloid B 72 in acetone was applied to their surface, while the edges were reinforced with a band of mortar.
3. The reliquary

A large monolithic reliquary, carved in a red slate, was unearthed during this season in a southern sacristy of the basilica. Standing inside a large lacuna in the mosaic floor (apparently repaired with ceramic shards and/or layer of clay), it served in the final phase of the church as the base for a new small reliquary of a white marble. Advanced deterioration of the stone caused by mechanical and chemical factors resulted in loss of the original shape of the lower reliquary. Hundreds of its fragments had to be collected, cleaned and glued together with Primal AC 33 in industrial solution. Missing parts were partially reconstructed with a lime mortar based on a slaked lime; marble powder and crushed red slate (Fig. 66).

Conclusions

1. The conservation treatment in 2003 was of a rescue character, limited to the basic necessary protection of finds.

2. The final report on the condition of the basilical complex (NWC) should consider results of laboratory tests of the composition of mortars used in the church, identification of stones in the mosaic pavements, amount of salts, precise assessment of the condition of mosaics, murals and architectural elements.

3. A maintenance program should be worked out for the future exposition of the whole site, including permanent protection, control and care (eventual sheltering).

The conservation activity plan for the year 2004

1. Preservation of wall plaster and murals in the excavated sectors (emergency protection work should be undertaken wherever required.)

2. Protection of edges and surfaces of all plaster fragments preserved on walls, columns and collapsed basalt blocks.

3. Uncovering of all the mosaic floors temporarily covered in 2003; checking of their condition.

4. Lifting of mosaic fragments in the nave and in the martyrion chapel, preparing a new bedding for them, and finally putting them back.

5. Temporary protection of the whole basilica by covering mosaics and blocks with painted plaster

6. Re-installation of the marble chancel screen of the southern aisle after the broken fragments are glued together.

Ewa Radziejowska
North-East Church (NEC) (supervised by Prof. Mark Schuler)

In 2003, systematic excavation exposed most of the domus of the Northeast Church. This report will address in turn work done in:

- The south aisle (L524)
- The north aisle (L542)
- Northern rooms outside the domus (L536)
- The chancel and apse (L504, L507, L518)
- The tombs in the chancel (L533 and L537)

General Description of Destruction Fill

There are no evident occupation layers above the floors of the NEC. Rather, the floors are covered by one to two meters of fill. The fill shows surprisingly little evidence of the massive earthquake of 749 C.E. as witnessed elsewhere on the site. Rather, the remains suggest decay and collapse over time.

The dominant soil profile of the destruction fill is as follows:

- A horizon - 0 to 15 cm; dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) dry, very stony sandy loam, very dark brown (10YR 2/2) moist; weak fine granular structure; friable; 10 percent pebbles, 15 percent cobbles, 30 percent stones; clear wavy boundary.
- B horizon - 15 to 55 cm; grayish brown (10YR 5/2) dry, very stony sandy loam, dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) moist; very weak, coarse subangular blocky structure; 10 percent pebbles, 15 percent cobbles, 35 percent stones; irregular boundary.
- C horizon - 55 to 150 cm; light gray (10YR 7/2) dry, very stony sandy loam, grayish brown (10YR 5/2) moist; massive; firm, hard in places near the floor; 10 percent pebbles, 10 percent cobbles, 20 percent stones; assumed to be calcareous (by color).

Soil in the slightly depressed center of the church is darker in color to a greater depth.

According the USDA soil classification system this soil would be classified as an Inceptisol. This soil showed the beginning development of layers, called horizons that lie roughly parallel to the surface. The soil formed in material derived from the weathering of limestone, weathering of basalt, and wind blown material. The initial
deposition of soil material started with the collapse of the church and reflects its construction with limestone, basalt, and other earthen material between the stones. Wind blown material of very fine sand and of silt from distant sources and coarser materials of sand from the adjacent hillsides were deposited on the site.

Grasses and other herbaceous plants contributed to the organic matter content of the soil. An abundance of snails and evidence of rodent, worm and insect activity were observed in the soil profile.

Pockets of an older buried soil were observed below the floor in the chancel. This soil was redder in color and more compacted. It appeared to be more developed but not enough was observed to make a detailed examination. The lighter colored C horizon lies on the floor of the church.¹⁸

Within the destruction fill were various architectural fragments including cornices, lintel stones, numerous doorjambs (limestone and basalt), two chancel screen posts, two Ionic capitals, and one column drum.

Pottery and glass recovered from the destruction fill accord with the report from last year. They reflect a narrow band of time (5th to 8th CE), are very consistent, with prevailing types from 6th to 8th CE (Byzantine and Umayyad). See the Pottery Report below. Occasional bones collected from the fill belong to sheep or goats. There was one long bone from a cow.

South Aisle

The south aisle (L524) was cleared to floor level (F526; Figs. 20, 69). At the west end is an entrance 90 cm wide. Its door would close from inside the domus. At the east end of the aisle just west of the base for the chancel screen is a second doorway to the south. It is 80 cm wide; its door would close from outside the domus; and it was blocked during a secondary phase of the church.

Most of the floor (F526) was destroyed in antiquity. Only the pebble foundation and plaster remain in most places. Four meters from the west wall (W511) next to the south wall (W510) and running for 1.13 m to the west is a segment of the original mosaic floor (Fig. 70). The background field is white. There is a black band of two

¹⁸The soil analysis was prepared with the help of Glenn A. Borchers, M.S., retired soil scientist, NRCS-USDA.
tesserae, a white band of four tesserae, and black band of one tessera, and then a simple guilloche pattern (Avi-Yonah pattern B2) in black, white, red, and yellow (approximately $1 \text{cm}^2$ tesserae). At about three meters from the west wall (W511) the border turns to the north briefly. The border also runs to the east beneath a bench (see below) for four meters. West of this border is a 80 x 60 cm segment of tesserae in a circular pattern (portions of four circles). At the west end of the aisle, in the southwest corner, and in two fragmentary locations along the stylobate are segments of white mosaic tile of larger size ($1.5 \text{ cm}^2$ tesserae). These seem to be a later repair.

The south aisle is separated from the nave by a row of four column bases set on a stylobate. The stylobate (97-93 cm wide, comprised of diverse stones some in secondary use) runs west from the base of the chancel screen to the fourth column. The intercolumniation averages 2.1 m. The shafts of the column bases are 52 cm in diameter with variant base profiles rising 30 cm and extending outward 10 cm.

Next to the south wall (W510) is a stone bench. It is 4.01 m long, 38 to 44 cm wide, and 26-30 cm high. It begins 47 cm west of the blocked south doorway and ends 4.2 m from the southwest corner. It is constructed of stones of various lengths (60, 40, 100 cm) and was plastered. Some remaining wall plaster curves onto the top of the bench. The bench is secondary to the original construction of the church as it sits on top of the original mosaic floor.

Benches are uncommon in the Byzantine churches of Palestine. Both the entrance hall and narthex of the church at the monastery of St. Martyrius at Ma‘ale Adummim have benches. In the narthex, the benches were part of a 6th CE renovation. Benches also are reported against the west wall in the church on the coast at Ostrakine and in one of the three rooms of the monastic oratory at Wadi Fra‘iyeh. In trans-Jordanian

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20 Descriptions are similar to those published a more than a century ago. G. Schumacher, Beschreibung des Dscholan,” Zeitschrift d. Deutschen Palastine-Veriens 9 (1886): 331, figs. 106 and 107.


regions, benches occur occasionally. H. C. Butler notes a bench on the north side of the nave between the second and third columns in the west church at Bākirhā.  

24 At Gerasa, benches occur in a southern side chapel at the church of St. Theodore, against the north wall of the Synagogue Church, and on the north, west, and southern walls of the nave of the Mortuary Church.  

25 In the destruction fill at the west end of the aisle, a basalt cross with base was discovered resting on its side on a thin layer of dirt above the floor (Fig. 71). The cross is of Greek style with flaring arms (40 cm high x 37 cm wide x 23 cm deep). The cross sits on a base (20 cm high x 23 cm wide x 56 cm deep). Cross and base are carved from one stone. Plaster on the edges of the base and numerous roof tiles in the fill suggest that the cross came from the peak of the western facade. Artistic renditions of such a cross at the peak of the Constantinian edicule may provide a point of comparison.  

26 The exposed southern wall (W510) is of poor quality. It is essentially two rows of mostly reused stones of diverse sizes approximately 0.8 m thick. Ashlars are used in corners and to frame doorways. Walls were plastered on the inside.

North Aisle

The north aisle (L542) was cleared to floor level (F538) at the west end. The entire run of columns and the stylobate were also exposed. The stylobate is of similar construction and dimension to that of the south aisle. However, the column bases and placement show a significant variance. Visible are five intact column bases (Fig. 21, 72). Again the column shafts are 52 cm in diameter but the base profiles vary dramatically in form and height. The intercolumniation averages 1.1 m, except between the third and fourth bases from the east where the intercolumniation is 2.7 m. If a similar column base were placed in the midst of this gap, then all the intercolumniations would average 1.1 m. In that case, there would be six bases for the north aisle and four for the south – a most unusual configuration for a Byzantine church. Alternatively, some feature of the yet unexcavated part of the north aisle may explain the wide gap of the third intercolumniation. Of further note, the stylobate ends

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7.2 m west of the base of the chancel screen, as it does in the south aisle. The westerly column base (of larger diameter) sits a plaster foundation. Perhaps the north aisle of the church underwent some major structural modification at some point in the history of the church.

The walls comprising the northwest corner of the church (W511, W521) stand to the height of two poorly constructed runs. There is no western door for the north aisle. Instead, in the northwest corner is the “wellhead” (65 x 60 cm) for a cistern (Fig. 20). It stands about 30 cm above the floor on a platform of paving stones (1 x 1.5 m). The wellhead has a 30 cm opening and was covered with a round 43 cm lid (lost). The cistern appeared empty to a depth of 3 m. Cisterns are commonly found in the atrium and narthex of a Byzantine church, not in the domus.27

Against the north wall (W521) is a bench of similar dimensions to the one against the south wall (W510). It, however, begins 2.24 m from the west wall and proceeds to the east. This bench is clearly tied in with a mosaic floor of white 1.5 cm² tesselae (identical to the mosaic from the second phase in the south aisle). A raised ridge of stones (3-4 cm wide x 5-7 cm high) runs south from the corner of the bench to the west end of the stylobate. Small patches of similar mosaic abut the west wall (W511).

**Northern Rooms Outside the Domus**

In preparation for future work, 1 m trenches were dug on the exterior of W521 (L536), beginning at the northwest corner following surface indicators of walls. Some 7 m from the northwest corner of the church, a wall (W539) was identified that proceeds in a northerly direction. 1.5 m to the north, the wall has a doorway (74 cm wide) to the east that would close from the east, suggesting that a room lies to the east (see below for doorway to the same room from the chancel). The wall proceeds north for 62 cm to another wall (W540) that runs roughly east/west, skewing north somewhat from line of the north wall (W521) of the domus. A later wall (W541) veers from the top of W540 in a southwesterly direction. The outer wall (W540) is significantly thicker (1.3m) than other walls and partially incorporates a column base. Two other column bases (diameters of the shafts are 43 and 52 cm) are visible next to W521 near the corner with W539. Larger quantities of late Roman pottery shards were recovered

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from this locus. A primitive basin is attached to the west end of W521. The function of this area is unclear.

**Chancel**

The entire chancel and apse were cleared to the level of the *opus sectile* floor (F516; Figs. 21, 73). The chancel is clearly demarked from the rest of the *domus* by the base for a chancel screen that runs across nave and aisles in a north/south direction. Two chancel posts of divergent design were recovered from the destruction fill along with a fragment from the top of a third. No part of the screen itself has been recovered. The base splits the first intercolumniation just west of the most easterly column bases.

There were three openings in the chancel screen: one from the center of the nave, and one from each of the aisles next to their respective columns. The south end of the base for the chancel screen had been partially covered by W514 and plaster in a later phase of the church.

Against the apse wall (W502) is a highly eroded *synthronon* of soft limestone covered by plaster. Its depth of 1.0-1.12 m would accommodate one row of presbyters. The central section of the *synthronon* protrudes an additional 10-15 cm into the apse and rises 26 cm above the rest of the *synthronon*. The remainder of the apse floor (F516) is covered with stone *opus sectile*. Some of the tiles are in secondary use. Although some variance in color is visible, no design pattern is discernable.

The section of the chancel at the east end of the north aisle has a discernable focus. A single panel of the chancel screen spanned the north/south dimension of this area, allowing an entrance to the chancel from the west just north of the easterly pillar in the north run (Figs. 20, 21). In an original phase of the church, access to this same part of the cancel was possible through a 1.06 m doorway. The doorway in the north wall (W521), which closed from outside the *domus*, was blocked in a later phase. The floor (F516) is *opus sectile* of no clear pattern, some tiles of which are in secondary use. Although there are two voids in the floor. One is centrally located in the middle of the axis of the northerly chancel screen panel. In it was a *loculus* for a reliquary (31 x 31 x 17 cm deep). Surrounding plaster suggests the lid was some 5 cm thick and rested some 10 cm below floor level. Next to the east wall (W520) and slightly south of the central axis was a second void. It too seems to a *loculus* for a reliquary, but its dimensions are smaller (20 x 20 cm) and its construction is poorer. Original wall plaster intact between the structure of this *loculus* and the wall confirms that F516 and both *loculi* are secondary to the original construction of the church. Conceivably, the north door...
in W521 was blocked at the time of the installation of the *loculi* due to the increased sanctity of this part of the chancel.

Throughout the excavation of the chancel at the head of the north aisle, numerous fragments of plaster were recovered. At higher levels most were white. Lower in the square, colors, lines, and patterns were observed. The dominant color is red although some yellows are also visible. It is possible to reconstruct from the fragments of PC1831 a broad red band (6-7 cm wide) that is bordered by one to three very narrow stripes (1-2 mm). On the opposite side of the narrow stripes, the background color is yellow. From PC1833 comes a fragment with a white background, a yellow band (4mm), and a red blotch that may be grapes. From the same potter container comes a fragment with a yellow background, a brown band (4 mm) and a small red blotch. A small fragment from PC1835 may capture the edge of a round red object.

Access to the central section of the chancel (at the east end of the nave) was gained through a central opening in the chancel screen. A 114 x 30 cm stone (in secondary use) spans the entrance. Although most of the *opus sectile* floor (F516) had been destroyed, two bands (1x2.2 m) of square-in-square pattern (dominant squares on end) are discernable on the north and south margins of the central section of the chancel. In the rest of the central section, some fragments of a decorative frame and one incised piece are suggestive of what is now lost. No evidence of an altar was found.

Under the level of the destroyed floor is the plaster layer of the first floor (F517). Many loose *tesserae* were recovered from the fill. Cut into the plaster layer (and thus part of a secondary phase) was another *loculus* for a reliquary (17 x 26).²⁸ Preserved partially, it sits on the central east/west axis of the church. Just to its south is another similarly sized *loculus* made of thin marble slabs. It had been plastered full. A third possible *loculus* is west of the first, but its poor form makes such identification debatable.

**Tombs in the Chancel**

To the north of the central axis is a cist tomb (Figs. 20, 22, 73) in an East/West orientation. Three basalt stones were *in situ* covering the western half of the tomb. The eastern cover stones (limestone) were broken. The sidewalls of the cist tomb are basalt

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ashlars creating an opening 0.97 x 2.16 m. Two runs of the sidewall were exposed. The top run is 18-27 cm deep and the bottom run is 34-44 cm deep.²⁹

Between the second and third covering stones, a lead pipe extends down into the tomb. The lead pipe is rolled, not melted. It was not meant to guarantee delivery of all the oil to the burial. Its top was hammered into a funnel. The pipe is 72 cm long (partly broken at 16 and 35 cm from the top). The exterior diameter of the pipe is 2.44 cm. The thickness of the lead is 0.37 cm. The funnel end has a diameter of 4.58 cm. A plaster mound held the funnel to the level of the opus sectile floor (F516).

At about 75 cm below the level of the opus sectile floor (F516) is the limestone box of a sarcophagus (its SE corner is 8 cm below its NE corner). The box measures 2 x 0.6 m.³⁰ Its walls are 11-12 cm thick and its internal depth is 30-34 cm. The box of the sarcophagus was covered by six stones 4-9 cm thick (secondary use; two were marble). Between the second and third stones from the west, two triangular stones and plaster connected the lead pipe to the burial below.

The burial was undisturbed. A good portion of the box was filled with dirt. A single skeleton was partially exposed (Fig. 76).

It is likely that both the sidewalls of the cist tomb and the covering stones of the box of the sarcophagus were plastered; as a few small pieces of plaster were still adhering. One larger piece of painted plaster (in several sections) was recovered just above the stones covering the sarcophagus. It showed a dark band, a yellow background and the four fingers of a near life-sized left hand (outlined in red) on a parallel line to and below the dark band. The hand was likely part of a fresco in the area above the

²⁹ Similar construction is visible in the tombs in the northwest corner of the Martyrium d’Antioche-Koussîé. See, Jean Lassus, Sanctuaires Chrétiens de Syrie (Paris: Librairie Orientaliste Paul Geuthner, 1947), plate xli.

³⁰ Comparative measurements to sarcophagoi on the surface in the cemetery outside the East gate at Hippos:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Width</th>
<th>Depth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>#1</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#2</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#3</td>
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<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#4</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>unclear</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

See Schumacher (pp. 328-329) for further discussion of sarcophagoi from Hippos and their burial in a north/south direction.
sarcophagus but below the original covering stones. By way of comparison, outstretched hands feature prominently in depictions of saints and in frescoes from Christian catacombs.\textsuperscript{31}

As was described in last year’s report, a sarcophagus with a monolithic lid sits partially exposed above floor level in the chancel portion (L507) of the south aisle. The exposed sarcophagus is surrounded by later walls (W514, W515) and faced on its sides by marble slabs. The top is sealed and leveled by plaster. A basin and hole provide facility for anointing the remains (see 2002 Report for specifics).

To allow access to the sarcophagus, the west wall (W514) was removed. The wall sat directly on F516 and veered in a southwesterly direction over the base for the chancel screen. The wall was sealed to the floor with plaster. The exposed channel in the base for the chancel screen was also filled with plaster. Portions of the \textit{opus sectile} floor (F516) were removed to the north, west and south of the sarcophagus. Fill was cleared to the plaster base of F517. A 1 m section of mosaic tile from F517 was still intact in L529 next to the south wall (W510). Visible was the same black band that characterized the border of the mosaic in L524.

The pieces of marble that faced the sides of the sarcophagus were removed. These pieces were clearly embedded into the plaster of F517.

On the east face is a single piece of unadorned marble 3.5 cm thick and 65 cm wide. The top portion is broken and missing. On the south, two thicker pieces faced the tomb to the level of the top of the lid (142 x 45 x 6.5 cm and 63 x 44 x 6.5cm). On the west is a single piece of marble 3.5 cm thick and 65 cm wide. It too was broken at the level of the top of the sarcophagus box, with the top pieces coarsely plastered back. An inscribed cross was discovered under the crude plaster. As with the cross inscription on the north face, the cross is “Teutonic” in form, each of the arms flaring to points. Small disks or dots are inscribed just beyond each point.\textsuperscript{32}


\textsuperscript{32} This style of cross is frequently used for bronze processional crosses. See J. A. Cotsonis, \textit{Byzantine Figural Processional Crosses}, Dumbarton Oaks Byzantine Collection Publications, No. 10 (Washington: Dumbarton Oaks Center Studies, 1994), figs 8 and 9.
Four pieces of marble faced the north side. From east to west:

- 57 cm wide x 45 cm high x 3.5 cm, broken in three pieces and plastered back in place
- 34.5 x 29(45?) x 2.5 cm, the top half is missing and was filled in by plaster
- 61 x 51.5 x 4.5 cm, inscribed with “Teutonic” cross and alpha and omega
- 56 x 47 x 4.5 cm broken horizontally and repaired by plaster.

Plaster was used to fill the gaps between the facing pieces and to level the rounded top of the monolithic lid of the sarcophagus. This plaster held the 9 cm basin in place over the hole that had been bored through the lid to allow anointing (Fig. 75). This plaster also filled the gap between the east end of the sarcophagus and the east wall (W509) of the chancel.

The box of the sarcophagus is a single piece of limestone. Its width varies from 61.5 cm at the west end to 64 cm at the east end. Its length is 2 m on center. The walls range between 10 and 12 cm thick. The interior is rounded at the west end, beginning 33 cm from the west. The interior depth slopes from 35 to 38 cm west to east. Carving stokes on the interior of the north side angle down from east to west at about 60 degrees. On the south side, there are some discernable stokes in a downward direction.

The lid is a monolithic piece of limestone 23 cm high x 197 cm long x 59 cm wide. Small stones and plaster on the edge of the box created a 2-3 cm gap at the west end. There was a rather large gap in the northwest corner between lid and box.

The various layers of plaster and floor tiles, especially to the east to the east of the sarcophagus, and well as the gaps and broken pieces, suggest several phases. The exposed sarcophagus is contemporaneous with the building of the church and the laying of F517, as its marble facing is set into the plaster of the floor. Subsequently, F516 was laid (phase 2). Some plaster from W509 curves on top of the tile of this floor east of the tomb. In a third phase, the sarcophagus was opened by breaking the western marble face and its inscribed cross. Then the lid was pried up from the west (gap in NW corner, eastern facing broken above the level of F516, the breaking of two of the north facing pieces). If the sarcophagus had a marble top piece, it was lost/destroyed at this time. The lid was then lowered back into place. Plaster filled gaps left by broken pieces and leveled the top. A basin for holy oil was plastered over

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33 The use of an exposed sarcophagus is without precedent in Byzantine churches in Palestine. For a discussion of the use of sarcophagi in and near Byzantine churches of Syria, see Lassus, 231-232.
the hole bored into the lid (newly bored at this time?). The shattered western
inscription was put back and plastered over. Due to similar heavy use of plaster and
the similar crude building of the walls that surround the sarcophagus (W514, W515),
it is hypothesized that the walls also belong to this third phase. Desecration seems to
be a logical explanation for the third phase, the repair done by the poor survivors of
whatever had happened.34 But, it is also possible that the damage was done while
removing relics, a practice of eastern Christianity.35

When the exposed sarcophagus was opened, it contained the bones of a single small
woman of 60 plus years (see separate anthropological report in this volume). The
bones were gathered under the anointing hole, long bones placed in a frame around
fragments of the skull, pelvis and other smaller bones (Figs. 22, 76, 77). A small
quantity of earth was also recovered from the box of the sarcophagus (remains of
decomposition). In the earth at the east end of the box were some fifteen metatarsals
and phalanges of the foot. Four white tesserae were also recovered. While the
sarcophagus was originally used for burial, after it was opened, the remaining bones
were arranged under the location of the anointing hole, except for the bones from the
feet that were missed in the decompositional remains.

The striking burial and saintly veneration of a woman in the chancel of this small
Byzantine chapel in the heart of a Decapolis city raises questions of identity that are
complicated by her anonymity. Barring a fortunate epigraphical discovery, the
particular identity of the burial will remain unknown. However, a plausible parallel is
the Kyria Maria church at Scythopolis. The chapel was part of an urban monastic
community (for recluses). There are tombs in the northeast and southeast corners of
the chapel. A mosaic inscription over the tomb at the east end of the south aisle
reserves the tomb for “Lady Mary who founded this church.”36 The burial in the NEC
at Hippos has the additional distinction of demarcating the tomb within the chancel,
providing for on-going veneration, and according a degree of anonymity appropriate

34 A significant massacre took place at Kursi during the time of the Sasanid invasion in 613 CE. Kursi
was within the territory of Hippos. Charles R. Page, “Kursi Excavations Resumed: Two New Seasons
(2001, 2002),” address, Annual Meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, Toronto, Canada, 23
November 2002.

35 V. Saxer, “Cult of Martyrs, Saints, and Relics,” in The Encyclopedia of the Early Church, vol. 2

36 Gerald. M. FitzGerald, A Sixth Century Monastery at Beit-Shan (Scythopolis) (Philadelphia:
for a foundress/abbess. Should the hypothesis gain additional support, it could be suggestive of the function of the NEC and its surrounding structures.

**Phasing and Date**

While significant work remains to complete the excavation of the *domus* and surrounding rooms, currently one can posit at least two phases in the NEC. When the church was built, it housed the exposed sarcophagus, had a mosaic floor with a guilloche border in both chancel and aisles, and had entrances from the north, south, and west. Likely, the cistern was dug at this point or pre-existed the church. In a second phase, reliquaries were placed in the north and central parts of the chancel, the cist tomb was dug, and an *opus sectile* floor was laid. In a second phase in the aisles, benches were added to the north and south walls and carpets of plain white mosaic tile were laid. Some major structural repair/alteration might have occurred in the north aisle. It is presumed that the second phases in the chancel and aisle are contemporaneous. The opening of the exposed sarcophagus, its repair and the construction of W514 and W515 would plausibly be part of a third phase, following a destructive act. But it is also possible that these alterations were intentional and even part of the second phase. Whether the blocking of the north and south doors is secondary or tertiary cannot be determined at this time.

Due to similarities in the border pattern among the mosaic floors of the NEC, the Northwest Church, the baptistery of the cathedral, the monastery church at Khirbet Samra, and the baptistery at Kursi (see discussion in the 2002 Report on the NWC), a late sixth century *terminus a quo* is assumed until other more datable remains are recovered. As no convincing evidence has been recovered demonstrating on-going usage of the church at the time of the earthquake in 749 CE, the NEC seems to have been closed or abandoned before that time.

**Mark Schuler**

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Pottery Report

Abbreviations:
ARS: African Red Slip ware
BG: Black Gloss wares
BSP: Black-Slipped Predecessor (of ESA) ware
CC: Colour-Coated (Hellenistic) ware
CRS: Cypriote Red Slip (Late Roman D) ware
ESA: Eastern Sigillata A ware
LRC: Late Roman C (Phocaean) ware

Bibliographical references:

Adan-Bayewitz 1993: D. Adan-Bayewitz, Common Pottery in Roman Galilee, Ramat Gan
Cafarnao II: S. Loffreda, Cafarnao II: La ceramica, Jerusalem 1974
Diez Fernandez 1983: F. Diez Fernandez, Ceramica comun romana de la Galilea, Jerusalén-Madrid
Hadad, Bet Shean: S. Hadad, Oil Lamps from the Third to Eight Century C.E. at Scythopolis-Bet Shean, 147-183
Hayes 1972: J.W. Hayes, Late Roman Pottery, London
Kenrick 2000: Ph. Kenrick, Fine Wares from the City Wall section at Bait Nawashi (Area XLII), AA 2000:2, 235-265
I. The Forum area (FRM)

Pottery deposits found above the floor of the shops(?) bordering the Forum on the north contained a number of fine ware examples such as CRS ware (Fig. 1:1-4), ARS ware (Fig. 1:5-8), and LRC ware (Fig. 1:9-10), providing date-range for their possible use of between the late 4th (Fig. 1:2 and 6-7) and 6th/7th (Fig. 1:10) centuries CE, with ARS form 33 (Fig. 1:8) as clearly residual. Noteworthy is the presence of examples of the CRS early forms: form 1, form 2 and 9/variant, the last one known also as form Kourion 1.38

Ceramics found directly below the floor level (Fig. 1:13-16) seem to indicate that the shops(?) bordering the stone-paved Forum square on the north were constructed at the turn of the 4th century CE at the earliest (cf. Fig. 1:16).

In two squares (nos. 2 and 3) of the same area, the exploration continued down well below the Byzantine floor level, yielding a quantity of Hellenistic to Early Roman ceramics dated to the 2nd and 1st century BCE. The deposits, however, seem to be of secondary character, apparently as a part of a thick levelling(?) layer which could be divided into three stratigraphical sections.

The upper section (Fig. 2:1-11) contained material dated by fine wares, especially the ESA fragments (Fig. 2:5-7), to the early(?) 1st century BCE. \(^\text{39}\)

The middle section of the fill yielded a rich repertoire of commonware and fineware forms (Fig. 2:12-35) of undisputably Hellenistic date; the absence of ESA fragments strongly suggests for the assemblage a date before the end of the 2nd century BCE. Storage wares are represented by rims of jars (Fig. 2:13-14) comparable to the finds from west Galilean site of Sha’ar ha-Amakim (Sha’ar ha-Amakim, pl. 115:1-4), of the earlier 2nd century BCE. One fragment pertains to a jar in Phoenician Semi Fine ware (Fig. 2:12), a form present in the second half of the 2nd century BCE (Anafa 155-156). Among cooking vessels noteworthy is the presence of an open cooking pot (Fig. 2:21) and imported frying pan (Fig. 2:22). Fine wares (Fig. 2:25-35) are represented by a range of open shapes (bowls, plates, dishes), with a replica of the „echinus” bowl in a regional commonware (Fig. 2:25).

The bottom part of the levelling layer (Fig. 3) actually does not differ much from the preceding as far as the chronology is concerned, although its pottery contents seem to be in favour of a date in the first half of the 2nd century BCE (or even earlier). Some rims of commonware closed vessels (Fig. 3:3-5) could pertain either to jars or to storage jugs like those found at Sha’ar ha-Amakim in the assemblage of the first half of the 2nd century BCE (Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 116:1-2). The fill presents also a remarkable collection of bowl forms and wares; of two illustrated BG bowls (Fig. 3:9 and 11), the latter represents so-called BSP ware (Anafa 269 ff) which, on the evidence from Tel Anafa, was manufactured at the ESA source during the third quarter of the 2nd century BCE (Anafa, 258). A skyphos fragment (Fig. 3:16) in so-called „ware A” (a Rhodian source?) is a characteristic component of 2nd century BCE pottery assemblages, in Sha’ar ha-Amakim attested in a pre-150 BCE context (cf. Sha’ar ha-Amakim, 231, and notes 39-42). A commonware crater form (Fig. 3:8) has parallels in the 2nd century BCE assemblages both at the coastal south Levantine

\(^{39}\) All the ESA forms in this report are identified after J.W. Hayes, "Sigillata Orientale A (Eastern Sigillata A)", in: EAA, Atlante delle forme ceramiche II, Roma 1985, 9-48.
sites such as Shiqmona,\(^{40}\) Dor (Dor fig. 6.11, nos. 9 and 11) or Ashdod,\(^{41}\) in Paphos (Cyprus)\(^{42}\) and in Tebtynis in the Fayoum (Egypt).\(^{43}\) A related crater form has already been found at Hippos in a Late Hellenistic to Early Roman assemblage (SusReport 2002, fig. 7:16). At Tell Anafa, this form of crater appeared only ca. 98-75 BCE (Anafa, 135, PW 393-395, pl. 42: „Coarse Overhanging Rim Krater“).

It is noteworthy that the Hippos finds have for the first time significantly complemented assemblages of the Hellenistic pottery as already known from other Decapolis towns, specifically Pella and Gadara (Pella I, Pella II, Kenrick 2000), enabling the study of the local/regional forms and wares.

II. N.NMP: area between the Forum and the North-West Church

Among the material coming from the south-western corner of the atrium of the NWC (excavated during this season together with the adjacent north-south street giving access to the church), a bowl of ARS ware form 108 (Fig. 4:1) suggests a 7\(^{th}\) century date for the late floor of the room below which it was found. Special attention, however, was paid to pottery deposits found in the western part of the N.NMP area, between the north-south street and the western stylobate of the temenos, where fairly clear stratigraphical sequence was recorded. The upper part of the fill containing an amount of Late Roman and Byzantine pottery is illustrated by select ceramics (Fig. 4:2-7), of which the latest one could be a Byzantine water jar(?) fragment Fig. 4:4. The juglet form represented by fragmentary Fig. 4:6 and by examples found in the previous seasons (e.g. SusReport 2002, fig. 6:10 and 12) can be identified now as a perfume pot on the basis of parallels from Beirut (Reynolds 2003, 542, fig. 5:4).

In the lower part of the fill (Fig. 4:8-20 and Fig. 5:1-9), the pottery is predominantly Roman, mixed with some Hellenistic potsherds. The final deposition date not earlier than the late 3\(^{rd}\) century CE(?) is suggested by the presence of several examples of cooking pots of Kefar Hananya form 4C (e.g. Fig. 4:11: early 2\(^{nd}\) to mid-4\(^{th}\) century) and cooking bowls of form 1E (e.g. Fig. 4:15-17: mid-3\(^{rd}\) to earlier 5\(^{th}\) century). Noteworthy is the rim of a transport amphora (Fig. 4:8) type Dressel 6 (Benghazi Early Roman Amphora 5), presumably manufactured in the region of Istria in the 1\(^{st}\) century CE.\(^{44}\) Occurrence of this type has not been attested in Palestine so

\(^{40}\) J. Elgavish, in IEJ 26 (1976), 68, fig. 2.
\(^{41}\) M. Dothan, Ashdod II-III (Atiqot IX-X), Jerusalem 1971, 132-133, fig. 61:10.
\(^{42}\) J.W. Hayes, Paphos III, Nicosia 1991, fig. LVI:20, with a fairly precise context date in ca. 150-140/30 BCE.
\(^{43}\) P. Ballet, in Céramiques hellénistiques et romaines III, 113 and fig. 25.
\(^{44}\) J.A. Riley, Coarse Pottery, in: Excavations at Sidi Khrebish Benghazi (Berenice) II, Tripoli 1979, 151-157 and fig. 75:D 124.
far. Several potsherds from this context bear water sediments on their surfaces, including breaks (e.g. Fig. 4:8, Fig. 5:3 and 6).

Pottery associated with the foundation trench for the western stylobate of the temenos (Loc. 907) (Fig. 5:10-22 and Fig. 6:1-12) suggests for its construction a date in the 1st century BCE or at the turn of the era. The latest object in this group there appears to be cooking pot fragment Fig. 5:17, if we accept the dating of this form to the 1st century CE (Diez Fernandez 1983, T 10.11). One should remember, however, that the basing of chronology on the commonware pottery is usually less sound than relying on the finewares which in this case do pertain to the 1st century BCE (Fig. 6:5-9 and 11-12) and slightly earlier (Fig. 6:10).

Fragments of cooking pots in the local fabric with grey core illustrate transition from the neckless early Hellenistic type (Fig. 5:14) to the necked Late Hellenistic/Early Roman form (Fig. 5:15-16), if one compares the respective profiles of their triangular rims. Another closely related group are neckless cooking pots with grooved rims, always of the same local fabric (cf. SusReport 2002, fig. 7:1 and 18, fig. 8:8).

A roughly contemporary deposit coming from the nearby Loc. 921 is illustrated by Fig. 6:13-26. It contains jar rims attributed to both Late Hellenistic (Fig. 6:13-14) and Early Roman (Fig. 6:15-16) periods. Among the cooking pots, too, fragment Fig. 6:24 represents a type dated from the mid-1st century BCE on, while the other forms (Fig. 6:21-23) appear to be earlier. Finally, the ceramics found in Loc. 920 below the level of pavement F 917 (Fig. 6:27-30) clearly date back to the 2nd century BCE; they include a fragment of a mould-made lamp of a ware and shape typical of the later 2nd century BCE (Fig. 14:8).

One of the interesting features of these Late Hellenistic to Early Roman deposits is the presence of a distinct hard pale-bodied fabric of which a number of commonware vessels were made. The group in question includes jars (Fig. 5:11 and 13, Fig. 6:14-15), jugs (Fig. 6:18) and a table amphora (?) (Fig. 6:20). Another feature is the fact that, while the repertoire of forms of jar rims most closely corresponds to that of Pella, the diversity of cooking pot forms reflects perhaps several sources of manufacture and/or of influence.

Among the „open” cooking pots (casseroles), two basic types are noted. One of them is a deep vessel with gently rounded wall and wide „collar” rim, a form present at Sha’ar ha-Amakim in a pre-150 BCE sealed context (Sha’ar ha-Amakim, pl. 120b.1), clearly a predecessor of form Kefar Hananya 3A and G3A. This is represented by three variants: one with a mild bent between shoulder and rim (cf. Fig.

45 On this type, see Anafa 87 (PW 178, pl. 20), Persian to Hellenistic period.
The second type of casserole, always made of a fabric fired with dark grey core, is what has been classified as „ledge rim pan” at Tel Anafa where it first appears at the late 1st century BCE (Anafa, PW 287-290). Doubtlessly, it is a predecessor of Golan form G3B, the latter attributed to between the early 2nd and latter 4th century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 176).

III. The North-West Church (NWC)

IIIa. A stratigraphical trench opened inside the chancel of the church (Loc. 205, see general report on the NWC, this volume) yielded some ceramics important for understanding of the chronology of architectural phases preceding the 6th-century church level.

The material found under the level of the original (destroyed) floor of the basilica included fragments of the „Beisan” type jars (e.g. Fig. 7:1-2), but also pale-bodied Early Roman jars, several sherds of cooking wares, all of them apparently earlier than the 4th/5th century CE (Fig. 7:3-5), and a fragment of a thin-walled beaker of the „collarino” type (Fig. 7:6). The pottery material sealed by the floor (F 255) predating the construction of the church includes jar rims of Hellenistic (Fig. 7:7 and 11) and Early Roman date (Fig. 7:8), as well as sherds of the Roman-period cooking wares (Fig. 7:13-14) and fine wares (Fig. 7:10 and 12). They suggest for the construction of F 255 and of the (apparently) associated channel (Loc. 257) a date in the period not later than the 2nd century CE.

IIIb. The exploration of two rooms in the southern wing of the church yielded a most interesting assemblage of domestic pottery and lamps in use at the date of the earthquake (749 CE). It has been clear that the ceramic contents of the diakonikon rooms belong together with restorable (or entire) pots found during the previous seasons, specifically in the nave, close to the main entrance (SusReport 2000, fig. 1 and 2:5-6), and in the southern aisle, by the entrance to the diakonikon (SusReport 2001, fig. 4).

The undisputably prevailing vessel forms are those of cooking pottery: „closed” cooking pots and casseroles with their lids. Even if the exploration of the eastern room has yet to be completed, no less than 20 „closed” cooking pots were identified so far (Fig. 8). Their closest parallels come from the nearby Kursi (Kursi fig. 6:1 and 6:3-7) and Capernaum (Capernaum I, 61-63, fig. 52:1-5), but also from
Pella (Uscatescu 2003, fig. 4:50) and Jerash (Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, fig. 6:9-11). Two vessels, their fabric matching that of the closed cooking pots, represent more elaborated (multi-handled) and decorated forms (Fig. 9) that could be defined as „craters”(cf. Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, 201, fig. 5:5 from Jerash), although their use for cooking purposes cannot be precluded.

At least nine casseroles („open” cooking pots, Fig. 10) were found, as a rule with their matching lids. With the exception of Fig. 10:1, they were concentrated in the western room (209C). This type of „sliced-rim” casserole has been well-attested for the Byzantine to Abbaside periods at a number of sites (Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, 203-204) including Kursi (Kursi fig. 6:9-12), Capernaum (Capernaum I, fig. 52:20-27), Khirbat al-Karak, Jerash (Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, figs. 8:7-9 and 11:1), Pella (Uscatescu 2003, fig. 4:45) or Khan Khaldé (Reynolds 2003, fig. 5:12). The lids, all of the same fabric, represent a rather rare type with a loop handle, attested also at Kursi (Kursi fig. 6:13-16) and Pella (Uscatecu 2003, fig. 4:45); at least two of our lids have vent holes at the top.

Among the remains of storage jars found in the diakonikon, at least 12 jars have been identified so far, of which one was found virtually complete (Fig. 11:7), two jars have been restored (Fig. 11:1 and Fig. 11:6), and the remainder appear to be restorable; they represent apparently local production of Late Roman Amphora 6 (cf. Uscatescu 2003, 547-549, fig. 2:9-12). Of particular interest is jar Fig. 11:1 of a Nile silt fabric. A workshop for manufacturing of this type of jars (known as Late Roman Amphora 5/6 and dated from the mid-7th century onward) has been discovered at Kom Abou Billou in the south-western Nile Delta; it is believed that such amphora was used to keep cereals rather than liquids. These Egyptian imports are attested from such sites as Ashdod, Luzit, Pella and Jerash (Uscatescu 2003, 549, fig. 3: 19-24, and distribution map fig. 1). Jar Fig. 11:7, apparently an import from some Transjordanian centre, can be identified as a water container (Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, 199, fig. 3:6 from Jerash).

No less than 23 jar lids, all of the same shape and made of one fabric (see also SusReport 2000, fig. 2:6), were found, five of them (including Fig. 11:2 and 4) in the western room, apparently actual covers of jars stored there, and 18 lids in the eastern room (including 11 lids piled on bench Loc. 249). Parallel lids have been recorded at a number of sites, ranging from the nearby Kursi to the coastal Nahariya in Phoenicia.

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48 C. Dauphin, L’eglise byzantine de Nahariya (Israël), Thessaloniki 1984, 104-105, pl. 67.
On bench Loc. 249, a group of six unused terracotta lamps was also found, of which five were doubtlessly made in the same (rather worn) mould (Fig. 14:1), while only one lamp represented a different type, already recorded in the aisles of the NWC as well as in the NEC during the previous seasons (cf. SusReport 2001, fig. 8:1; SusReport 2002, fig. 9:2). Both types are attested at Bet Shean in the destruction deposits of 749 (Hadad, Bet Shean, 172-178, types 2 and 3 respectively).

The diakonikon group includes also single examples of several forms more or less common in Umayyad assemblages. Apart from the forms already recorded in the NWC during the previous seasons such as mug Fig. 12:2 (SusReport 2000, fig. 2:5) and „pilgrim flask” Fig. 12:5 (SusReport 2001, fig. 4:5), the assemblage includes a red-on-cream painted table amphora or „crater” (Fig. 12:1), a saucer/lid (Fig. 12:3) and a globular flask (Fig. 12:4). All these forms are attested in the Umayyad contexts at Kursi, Khirbat al-Karak, Pella. The painted amphora Fig. 12:1 represents one of the wares considered typical for the early Islamic (Khirbat al-Karak, 35) or the late Umayyad period (Uscatescu 2003, 553, fig. 6:69, from Jerash), and already recorded in Hippos during past seasons (SusReport 2001, fig. 2:3, previously reconstructed as a jug). Another observation concerns the uniformity of the fabric of which several vessel types were made. Specifically, we are able to suggest that such items as jar Fig. 11:6, jar lids (Fig. 11:2 and 4), saucer/lid Fig. 12:3 and mould-made lamps (Fig. 14:1-2) were the products of a single manufacturing centre.

IV. The North-East Church (NEC)

The fills explored inside the North-East Church yielded fragmentary ceramics the repertoire of which (Fig. 13:1-13) included all the main wares and vessel forms already known from the Byzantine-to-Umayyad occupational phase at Sussita. Of a special interest is a fragment of a deep bowl Fig. 13:9, a local form attested also at Gadara, apparently an imitation of dish/bowl LRC form 3 (cf. Fig. 13:5-6). Also two fragments of mould-made lamps (Fig. 14:4 and 6) appear to represent a regional lamp type. A descendant of the Beit Nattif type, it has recently been dated on the basis of material from Bet Shean to the second half of the 6th century CE (Hadad, Bet Shean, 165: Byzantine type 9).

V. The Eastern Gate and Tower (EGT)

Exploration of the EGT area produced rather modest amount of potsherds, and the contexts relevant for the chronology of constructions examined in this area included few dated material. Loci 611-612 connected with the tower yielded, besides
a body sherd of ESA form 48 datable to the second half of the 1st century CE (Fig. 13:15), a fragmentary commonware juglet (Fig. 13:16). The latter, however apparently related to a Galilean shape of the 3rd century CE (Diez Fernandez 1983, T 6.3: ca. 225 – 350), could not be dated with any certainty.

Ceramics from another important context, Loc. 620, included a few examples of cooking vessels dated to Early and Middle Roman period, specifically two pots of Kefar Hananya form 4A (cf. Fig. 13:17 and unillustrated 4015.2) of between mid-1st century BCE and mid-2nd century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 125), and one of Kefar Hananya form 3B (unillustrated 4015.1) dated to between early 2nd and latter 4th century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 124).

FIGURES

Fig. 1. Pottery found in deposits above the Byzantine floor level of the northern shops at the Forum (1-12) and below the floor (13-16)

1. Rim fragment of dish (3531.1), CRS form 1 (Hayes 1972, 372-74): ca. mid-5th century CE.
2. Rim fragment of dish (3531.3), CRS form 9 variant (Hayes 1972, 379-382), probably 4th/5th century CE.
3. Rim fragment of dish (3531.2), CRS form 2 (Hayes 1972, 374-375, fig. 80:1-2): ca. mid-5th century CE.
4. Rim fragment of dish (3531.4), CRS form 10A, 7th century CE.
5. Fragmentary dish (uninventoried), ARS form 83 (Hayes 1972, 130-131): ca. 420-460 CE
6. Rim fragment of large bowl (3532.1), ARS form 67 (Hayes 1972, 112-116): 360-470 CE
7. Rim fragment of flanged bowl (3532.2), ARS form 91A/B (Hayes 1972, 140-145): ca. 390/400 to 530 CE
8. Rim fragment of plate (3525.4), ARS form 33 (Hayes 1972, 54-56): ca. 200-250+ CE
9. Fragment of lower part of dish/bowl (3532.2), LRC form 3 (e.g. form 3D: Hayes 1972, 337): late 5th century, or form 10A: late 6th – early 7th century CE
10. Rim fragment of dish/bowl (3525.3), LRC form 10A: late 6th – early 7th century CE
11. Rim fragment of deep dish? (3525.5); fabric clean reddish yellow (5 YR 7/6) with thin slip reddish brown inside (2.5 YR 5/4), pink (5 YR 7/4) to reddish brown (5 YR 5/3) outside.

12. Fragment of cooking pot (3525.1); fabric light red (2.5 YR 5/8), surface fired red inside (2.5 YR 5/6) and reddish brown outside (5 YR 5/4). Cf. Susita pl. III:6; Capernaum I fig. 52:9 (Stratum IV).

13. Rim fragment of jug (1475.7); fabric light brick-red (2.5 YR 5/6) with occasional large and oblong grey grits; surface fired light red (2.5 YR 6/6). For profile, cf. SusReport 2002, fig. 7:13 (different ware); Diez Fernandez 1983, T 9.2 (ca. 50 BCE - 75 CE, or later?).

14. Fragment of cooking pot (1475.3); Kefar Hananya (fabric 2.5 YR 5/6, very fine and dense; surface 5 YR 4/4) form 4C: early 2nd to mid-4th century (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 128-130).

15. Fragment of cooking bowl/casserole (1475.5); „metallic” firing with grey core (2.5 YR 5/0) and reddish brown surface (2.5 YR 4/4). Cf. Abila fig. 71C („Roman cooking pan”), apparently predecessor of Golan form G3B (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 176) of the early 2nd to latter 4th century CE.

16. Rim fragment of cooking pot (1490.1); fabric red (2.5 YR 4/6), very gritty with fine voids(?); surface brick-red inside, „black” outside. Competing form C4B (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 162-164), latter 4th to latter 6th century; cf. Cafarnaon II, fig. 10:1-4, with floruit in the Late Roman period (ca. 300-450); cf. Capernaum I, fig. 52:13.

Fig. 2. Pottery from the levelling layer below the northern shops at the Forum

1. Rim fragment of storage jug (1478.3, and closely similar 1478.4, not illustrated); fabric pale brown (10 YR 6/3), with abundant fine white grits and some bigger black ones; surface fired very pale brown (10 YR 7/3); cf. Pella I, pl. 127: 15 (Jebel Sartaba); Cafarnaon II, fig. 16:6 (type F1); Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 116:1, of early 2nd century BCE.

2. Rim fragment of jar (1478.1); fabric light reddish brown (5 YR 6/3), gritty with white particles; surface pink (7.5 YR 7/4); Pella I, pl. 127:16 (Jebel Sartaba); Cafarnaon II, fig. 16:4 (type F1).

3. Rim fragment of jug (1478.5); fabric very pale brown (10 YR 7/3) with partial pink core and some tiny white grits; surface slightly more pale (10 YR 8/3). Cf. PCC „type” 128 B from Shechem ca. 200-150 BCE (possibly earlier).

4. Base of jug (1478.6); fabric pink (5 YR 7/4), very fine, with occasional tiny voids; profile similar to Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 119:3, with context date of earlier 2nd century BCE.
5. Rim of cup (1478.9); ESA form 5: late 2nd century BCE to early 1st century CE.
6. Rim of plate (1478.10); ESA form 4A, dated as the preceding.
7. Base of bowl (1478.7); ESA form 20(?): second half of 2nd century BCE.
8. Base of CC bowl (1478.16); fabric reddish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6); worn red slip (10 R 8/4) inside, outer surface unslipped (7.5 YR 7/6).
9. Rim fragment of CC bowl (1478.14); fabric reddish yellow (7.5 YR 6/6), fine; slip red (2.5 YR 5/6), mottled brown and black, matt and worn. Cf. Pella I, pl. 128:9 (2nd century BCE).
10. Rim fragment of CC plate (1478.12); fabric beige-pink (7.5 YR 7/4); slip semi-glossy red inside, metallic-glossy dark brown with grey shade outside.
11. Rim fragment of CC plate (1478.11); fabric beige-pink (7.5 YR 7/4), fine, granular; slip red (10 R 5/6) inside, yellowish red (5 YR 4/6) outside.
12. Rim fragment of jar (1492.1), Phoenician Semi Fine ware(?); fabric light red (5 YR 6/6), very fine; surface pink (5 YR 7/6); Cafarnao II, fig. 16:8-10 (type F2); Anafa pl. 57, PW 480; probably 150-125 BCE.
13. Rim fragment of jar (1481.2); fabric pink (7.5 YR 7/4), very porous, with fine pink(?) and white mineral grits; outer surface with thin whitish wash (10 YR 8/3). Cf. Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 115:1-4 with context date in earlier 2nd century BCE; Pella I, pl. 127:7 (Jebel Sartaba).
14. Rim fragment of jar (1491.3); fabric deep pink (5 YR 6/6), hard, very fine, with tiny lime grits; form and date as the preceding.
15. Rim fragment of storage jug (1491.4); fabric pink-brown (5 YR 6/4), soft, with voids; surface fired pink (7.5 YR 7/4). Cf. Tidmarsh, Pella, fig. 15:7 (LH and ER assemblage).
16. Base fragment of commonware jug or table amphora (1491.2); pink fabric (5 YR 6/4) with tiny oblong voids; beige surface (7.5 YR 8/4); white sediment inside. For a similar profile, cf. Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 119:1-2, with context date in earlier 2nd century BCE.
17. Base fragment of commonware jug (1492.3); fabric light reddish brown (5 YR 6/3), dense, with occasional tiny white grits; surface fired pale beige (10 YR 8/3).
18. Rim fragment of jug or table amphora (1480.2); fabric pink (5 YR 7/6) with abundant lime; surface unevenly fired from pale yellowish pink (7.5 YR 8/4) to pink (5 YR 7/6).
19. Rim fragment of cooking pot (1491.5); fine reddish brown fabric with a thin light grey core; surface gritty in feel, unevenly fired from light red to dark brown.
20. Rim and handle fragment of cooking pot (1491.6); fabric fired „metallic” hard, dark grey in section, chocolate-brown at surface; cf. perhaps Tidmarsh, Pella, fig. 17:1.
21. Fragment of casserole (1480.3); fabric brick-red, surface reddish brown; related to Dor, fig. 6.20, no. 8, with context date in ca. 275-200 BCE.

22. Rim fragment of frying pan (1480.1); fabric brown (7.5 YR 6/2) with large grits; surface dark grey inside, beige-grey slip (7.5 YR 7/2) outside. Cf. Dor, fig. 23a, no. 6, with context date in ca. 275-200 BCE.

23. Fragment of commonware saucer/lid (1492.4); fabric pink-brown (5 YR 6/6), rather soft, with occasional sand grits; surface fired beige inside (self-slip? 10 YR 8/2), to pink outside (5 YR 7/4 – 7/6); cf. Pella I, pl. 128:13, plain ware, 2nd century BCE.


25. Commonware bowl (1491.7); fabric dull brick-red (5 YR 6/6), with tiny voids, very fine lime and occasional large rounded black grits; surface beige to pink, slightly overfired (cracks), with eruptions of occasional white and black/brown pebbles. Cf. Tidmarsh, Pella, fig. 15:4, in „coarse light brown ware”, PCC type 151.1; probably 2nd century BCE.

26. Fragment of CC bowl (1492.5); fabric orange (7.5 YR 6/6), fine; surface fired pale orange, with matt red slip inside, partly worn. Cf. Pella I, pl. 128:8, coarse light brown ware, 2nd century BCE.

27. Rim fragment of CC bowl (1480.5); fabric pinkish orange (5 YR 7/6) with occasional fine voids and few small white grits; slip red, matt, with slight gloss on the rim.

28. Rim fragment of BG plate (1491.13, and closely similar 1480.4, unillustrated); Rhodian? Fabric very hard pinkish beige (7.5 YR 8/6); slip very dark greyish brown (10 YR 3/2) with metallic gloss. Cf. Pella I, pl. 128:3; Kenrick 2000, fig. 10:224; 2nd century BCE.

29. Rim fragment of CC plate (1481.3); fabric fine and rather dense, reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6); matt red slip (2.5 YR 5/8), worn in places. Cf. Kenrick 2000, fig. 8:156 (from Gadara).

30. Rim fragment of CC bowl (1491.12); fabric light red (5 YR 6/8), very hard; slip red (5 YR 5/6), semi-glossy and flaky; surface orange.

31. Base of CC fish-plate (1491.11); fabric reddish brown (5 YR 6/4), with occasional small oval dark grits; very dark reddish brown slip (ca. 5 YR 4/1), matt inside, semi-glossy outside.

32. Base fragment of CC bowl (1492.7); fabric pink (5 YR 6/6), very fine; dark reddish brown slip (5 YR 3/2), thin, matt and partly worn, with runs to the base.
33. Base of small CC bowl (1491.10); fabric pale orange (ca. 7.5 YR 7/4), fine, with tiny voids and occasional tiny lime grits; slip matt, red inside (partly worn), mottled dark brown outside and ending above the base.
34. Base fragment of CC bowl (1491.9); fabric beige-pink (ca. 7.5 YR 7/6), very fine; slip matt, reddish brown inside, mottled dark brown/black outside.
35. Base fragment of CC bowl (1492.8); fabric pale brown, dense; matt black slip inside.

Fig. 3. Pottery from the bottom part of the levelling layer below the northern shops at the Forum

1. Rim fragment of transport amphora (1496.1); fabric dark yellowish pink (5 YR 5/6), rather soft, with voids, tiny red grits and occasional lime eruptions; surface beige with pink spots.
2. Rim fragment of transport amphora (1487.5); fabric pinkish beige (7.5 YR 7/4), very fine.
3. Rim fragment of jar or jug (1496.2); fabric beige (10 YR 7/3) with amount of dark grey grits and occasional dark brown grog(?) pieces; surface fired very pale brown (10 YR 8/3). Cf. Sha’ar ha-Amakim pls 115 and 116:1-2; Tidmarsh, Pella, fig. 15:7; 3rd-2nd century BCE.
4. Rim fragment of jar (1487.1); fabric pink (5 YR 7/6 reddish yellow), very gritty, with white and occasional dark inclusions; outer surface with pinkish beige self-slip (10 YR 8/4); 2nd century BCE? For very similar jug profile, see Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 119:1.
5. Rim fragment of jar or jug (1487.2); fabric beige (10 YR 7/3), very gritty, with many white, dark and grey inclusions; similar surface (10 YR 7/2) with many lime eruptions; 3rd or 2nd century BCE.
7. Rim fragment of jug (1487.4); fabric pinkish beige (7.5 YR 7/4), very fine (like Fig. 3:2); outer surface with very pale beige slip (10 YR 8/3).
8. Fragment of commonware crater (1496.3); fabric pale orange (7.5 YR 7/6), very hard, with occasional large and oblong white grits; surface beige (10 YR 8/3); cf. Dor, fig. 6.11, nos. 9 and 11; 2nd century BCE.
9. Rim fragment of BG bowl (1496.17); fabric light red (5 YR 6/6), very fine, with some tiny voids; slip semi-glossy black, mottled green/brown inside. Cf. Pella I, pl. 128:1 (2nd century BCE); Pella II, pl. 81:5 (Late Hellenistic).
10. Rim fragment of CC bowl (1496.6); fabric pale brown (10 YR 7/4), hard, gritty with lime particles and tiny voids; surface very pale beige (ca. 10 YR 8/2); red slip. Cf. Kenrick 2000, fig. 6:90 (from Gadara), 2nd century BCE.

11. Rim fragment of BG bowl (1496.16); fabric pale brown (5 YR 7/3), very fine; slip black, glossy with brown shade inside, deeper black and partly worn outside; BSP ware. Cf. Anafa, 278, FW 20, pl. 3 (TA type 24), before 125 BCE.

12. Rim fragments of CC bowl (1496.8); fabric pink (5 YR 7/6), with tiny voids, occasional tiny white and dark red (grog? haematite?) particles; slip matt, red (2.5 YR 5/8), partly worn, mottled brown and black on outer surface. Cf. Pella I, pl. 128:7: 2nd cent. BCE.

13. Rim fragment of bowl (1496.4); fabric light brown (7.5 YR 6/4), fairly dense, with many dark grey grits; pink slip (7.5 YR 7/6) inside, yellowish beige slip (10 YR 8/2) outside. Cf. Pella I, pl. 128:9: 2nd century BCE.

14. Base fragment of CC bowl (1496.15); fabric deep brown (5 YR 5/3) with occasional tiny white grits; coated with red slip. Cf. Kenrick 2000, fig. 7:112 (Gadara); 2nd century BCE.

15. Base fragment of CC bowl (skyphos?) (1496.12); fabric yellow-pink (5 YR 7/6); orange surface covered with red slip (worn inside, merged outside) except for the base.

16. Fragment of CC skyphos (1496.18); Ware „A”: fabric beige, very fine and clean; glossy slip, red inside, very dark brown (mottled red) outside; cf. Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 118:3-5, with context date in before 150 BCE; Kenrick 2000, fig. 8:137 and 141 (Gadara).

Fig. 4. Pottery from below the south-west corner of the atrium of the NWC (no. 1) and from the fill to the west of the temenos wall in the N.NMP (nos. 2-20)

1. Rim fragment of bowl (1795.1), ARS form 108 (Hayes 1972, 170-171): early 7th cent. CE.

2. Upper part of cooking pot (1791.6); fabric orange-pink (5 YR 7/6) with ash-grey core and circular voids; self-slipped; surface fired pale orange-pink inside (5 YR 7/4) and brown outside (5 YR 5/3). For the form, see Reynolds 2003, fig. 5:2 from Beirut: late 2nd – early 3rd century CE.

3. Rim fragment of jar (1791.2); fabric light red (5 YR 6/6), rather dense with abundant lime; surface very pale brown (10 YR 7/4); cf. Tidmarsh, Pella, fig. 15:8; Roman.
4. Handle and neck fragment of jug with impressed decoration (1791.5); fabric pink 
(ca. 5 YR 7/6), fairly dense with occasional fine white grits; cream-coloured surface 
(10 YR 8/2 white). Cf. Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, fig. 3:4; Byzantine?

5. Base fragment of jug (1791.3), probably ESA form 104 (lagynoid jug): second half 
of 1st century BCE to early 1st century CE.

6. Lower part of commonware juglet (1798.2); fabric light brick-red (5 YR 5/6), 
similar surface (5 YR 6/6); cf. Abila, fig. 56 A; Diez Fernandez 1983, T 8.3(?); see 
also SusReport 2002, figs 5:16 and 6:11-12, and Reynolds 2003, fig. 5:4, dated to the 
early 3rd century CE.

7. Rim fragment of cooking ware bowl (1798.3); Kefar Hananya (fabric 2.5 YR 6/6, 
surface 10 R 5/6) form 1E (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 104-111), mid-3rd to earlier 5th 
century CE.

8. Rim fragment of transport amphora (2503.1); fabric light brown (7.5 YR 6/6 
„reddish yellow”) with voids, some whitish grains, small amount of fine mica(?); large 
dark red mineral lump in section. Type Dressel 6 (Riley’s Early Roman Amphora 5), 
1st century CE.

9. Rim fragment of jar (2503.11); fabric reddish brown (2.5 YR 5/4), very hard, with 
thin dark grey core (5 YR 4/1); cf. Diez Fernandez 1983, T 1.7 (ca. 200-320 CE).

10. Upper part of cooking pot (2508.1); fabric bright red (2.5 YR 5/8), hard; surface 
dark grey inside (5 YR 4/1), reddish brown (2.5 YR 5/4) with brown „patina” outside; 
cf. Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 120:5; cf. Pella I, pl. 127:4-6; Pella II, pl. 81:10; Tidmarsh, 
Pella, fig. 17:1; 2nd(? century BCE.

11. Upper part of cooking pot (2503.4, and closely similar 2503.5, unillustrated); 
fabric red (2.5 YR 5/6) with partial grey core, very hard; outer surface reddish brown 
(2.5 YR 5/4). Kefar Hananya form 4C: early 2nd to mid-4th century CE.

12. Upper part of open cooking pot/casserole (2503.3); dark grey break (7.5 YR 4/0); 
surface reddish brown (5 YR 5/4) inside to purplish brown (5 YR 5/3) outside. Cf. 
Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 120b:1; Tidmarsh, Pella, fig. 15:2. Golan form G3A (Adan-
Bayewitz 1993, 176), paralleled by Kefar Hananya form 3A of ca.50 BCE – 150 CE.

13. Upper part of open cooking pot (2503.2); dark grey break; surface reddish brown 
(2.5 YR 5/4) to dark brown (2.5 YR 4/2). Cf. SusReport 2002, fig. 7:2; probably 
Golan form G3A (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 176), mid-1st century BCE to mid-2nd century 
CE.

14. Rim fragment of casserole (2503.6); dark grey break; reddish brown surface; cf. 
Abila, fig. 71A-B („Roman cooking pans”).

15. Fragment of cooking ware bowl (2503.8); Kefar Hananya form 1E, dated to 
between mid-3rd and earlier 5th century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 103-109).
16. Fragment of cooking ware bowl (2508.2); Kefar Hananya form 1E, cf. the preceding.
17. Rim fragment of cooking ware bowl (2503.9), Kefar Hananya form 1E, cf. the preceding.
18. Rim fragment of cooking ware bowl (2503.10), Kefar Hananya form 1B(?): 1st/2nd to mid-4th century CE (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 97).
19. Fragment of cooking ware bowl (2503.7); dark grey break; surface reddish brown to dark brown. Cf. SusReport 2001, fig. 3:5; also related SusReport 2002, fig. 7:3.
20. Rim fragment of baking dish (2520.1); fabric orange (5 YR 6/6), gritty, with grey grains, glistening crystals and many tiny voids; surface orange inside, dark brownish grey outside; bottom throughoutly burnt. PCC type 78 (from Samaria: (200) – 150 BCE); Dor, fig. 6.23a, no. 14 (ca. 200-125 BCE); Anafa 110-111, pl. 34, PW 298-300, present there by 125 BCE.

Fig. 5. N.NMP: pottery from the fill to the west of the temenos wall (continued: nos. 1-9), and associated with the foundation trench Loc. 907 (nos. 10-22)

1. Rim fragment of commonware jug or table amphora (2503.12); dark grey break (7.5 YR 4/0), reddish brown surface (self-slip?). Cf. Anafa, 145, PW 444 („Long Necked Cooking Ware Juglet”), second half of the 2nd century BCE.
2. Rim fragment of commonware basin (?) (2508.4); fabric pinkish beige (7.5 YR 7/4) with tiny white particles; surface fired beige (10 YR 8/3) to more pink inside, with occasional fine white eruptions and voids. Related to: Sha’ar ha-Amakim, pl. 119:6, of similar fabric, with context date in earlier 2nd century BCE.
3. Fragment of commonware lid (2503.14); fabric beige-pink (5 YR 7/4), tiny voids, some fine sand; surface fired orange (5 YR 6/6) with beige-yellow spots and sand eruptions. For the type, see SusReport 2002, fig. 8:4 (in CC ware); PCC type 62 (50 BCE-68 CE).
4. Rim fragment of commonware lid? (2503.15); fabric pinkish beige (7.5 YR 7/4) with some tiny white grits; surface deep pink (5 YR 7/6) with pale yellow spots and rare limestone eruptions.
5. Rim fragment of big commonware basin (2503.16); fabric beige-pink (5 YR 7/4) with many tiny voids and some fine sand; pinkish beige surface (7.5 YR 7/4), wet-smoothed, with some sand eruptions.
6. Upper part and handle fragment of commonware juglet (2503.13); fabric beige-pink (5 YR 7/4) with some tiny grits. Cf. Cafarnao II, fig. 36:9 (Early Roman context); Anafa, 53, PW 59-62, pl. 10 („Semi Fine Flanged Rim table Juglet”), second half of the 2nd century BCE.
7. Base of plate (P 03.01, b.2503), ESA form 4B, with sgrafitto ENNIWN and a monogram in the centre of base; Augustan period (not later than 10/20 CE).
8. Fragment of plate (2508.5), ESA form 29, dated between 30? BCE and 20/25 CE.
9. Base fragment of plate (2508.6), ESA form 30 (rather than form 29), dated 10-50 CE.
10. Rim fragment of jar (2526.1); fabric light red (2.5 YR 6/6); tiny voids, some tiny black and red grits, large grey and whitish grits; surface (selfslip) orange (7.5 YR 7/4 – 7/6); cf. Pella I, pl. 127:15 (Jebel Sartaba), and pl. 129:3 (first quarter of the 1st century BCE).
11. Rim fragment of jar (2538.5, and another closely similar: 2526.2, unillustrated); fabric pinkish beige (7.5 YR 7/4) with some white and dark grits, and tiny voids; surface pale beige (10 YR 8/2); cf. Tidmarsh, Pella, fig. 15:9.
12. Rim fragment of jar (2526.3); fabric red (2.5 YR 5/6), hard, fairly dense, with amount of fine to medium-sized white grits; beige slip (10 YR 7/3) with lime eruptions. Cf. PCC type 11.2, dated 175-100 BCE; Anafa pl. 58; PW 484, present there by ca. 125 BCE; Pella I, pl. 127:8 and 11, pl. 129:2 (first quarter of the 1st century BCE).
13. Rim fragment of jar (2538.3); the same fabric as no. 11 above, fired pinkish brown (7.5 YR 6/4) with pinkish beige surface (7.5 YR 7/4). Type and dating as previous.
14. Rim fragment of cooking pot (2526.6); dark grey section with tiny voids and occasional white grits; surface dull reddish brown (5 YR 5/3). Cf. Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 120:6-7 (context date: earlier 2nd century BCE); see also Diez Fernandez 1983, T 9.10 (no. 346), dated to 1st century BCE and into 1st century CE.
15. Fragment of cooking pot (2526.4); fabric as the preceding. Cf. Anafa, 90-91, PW 210, pl. 24: 1st century BCE.
16. Fragment of cooking pot (2526.5); fabric orange-brown (5 YR 5/4) with fine grits, mostly white; surface reddish brown (2.5 YR 5/4). Form and dating as the preceding.
17. Fragment of cooking pot (2538.13); fabric with dark grey core and chocolate brown surface (10 R 4/3). Cf. Diez Fernandez 1983, T 10.11, of 1st to mid-2nd century CE.
18. Rim fragment of cooking pot (2538.17); fabric red (2.5 YR 5/6), clean; surface light red inside (2.5 YR 6/6), orange-brown with dark brown spots outside; Pella II, pl. 76:4-5 and pl. 78:2 (Late Hellenistic).
19. Rim fragment of open cooking pot (2538.8); fabric red (2.5 YR 5/6) with fine white grits and occasional black grains; surface red, rim blackened. See above, Fig. 4:12.
20. Fragment of open cooking pot (2526.8); fabric bright red (2.5 YR 5/8), fine, with some tiny white grits; surface brick-red (5 YR 5/6). Variant of the previous form; see above, Fig. 4:13.

21. Fragment of casserole (2538.10, and closely similar 2526.9, unillustrated); fabric with dark grey core and chocolate brown surface (10 R 4/3); see above, Fig. 4:14.

22. Fragment of commonware crater (2538.6); fabric light reddish brown (7.5 YR 6/4) with many fine black grits and large light grey ones; surface orange (5 YR 7/6) with yellow spots.

Fig. 6. N.NMP: pottery associated with the foundation trench Loc. 907 (continued: nos. 1-12), and from adjacent Loci: 921 (nos. 13-26) and 920 (nos. 27-30)

1. Rim with handle fragment of commonware jug (2538.7); fabric with dark grey break and fairly abundant white grits; surface (self-slip?) brownish red (between 2.5 YR 6/4 and 6/6). Cf. Cafarnao II, fig. 36:9-10, 14; Diez Fernandez 1983, T 2.1: 1st century BCE.

2. Rim fragment of commonware jug (2526.17); fabric brick-red (5 YR 6/6) with yellow core, tiny voids, occasional red and grey grits; surface (self-slip) orange (5 YR 7/6).

3. Base of CC juglet (2526.18); fabric pinkish beige (7.5 YR 7/4) with fine red grits and tiny voids(?); surface pinkish yellow with remains of matt red slip on the base. Cf. Anafa, 71, PW 129, pl. 15 („Semi Fine Globular Ointment Pot”), second half of 2nd century BCE.

4. Rim fragment of CC deep bowl (2526.16); fabric pale beige (10 YR 8/3), very fine, with occasional tiny white grits; surface nearly white (10 YR 8/2); slip very dark brown mottled orange, matt; on exterior ending right below rim.

5. Rim fragment of deep bowl (2526.15), ESA form 22A: late 2nd to late 1st century BCE.

6. Base fragment of plate (2538.18), ESA form 4A: late 2nd to late 1st century BCE.

7. Fragment of small plate (2538.19, and unillustrated 2526.12), ESA form 4A: dated as the preceding.

8. Rim fragment of dish? (2526.10), ESA form 5A: late 2nd BCE to early 1st century CE.

9. Rim fragment of bowl/crater (2526.14), ESA form 15B: ca. 100-50 BCE.

10. Base fragment of bowl (2526.13), ESA form 20(?): second half of 2nd century BCE?

11. Base fragment of bowl (2538.20), ESA form 22A: late 2nd to late 1st century BCE.

12. Base fragment of bowl (2538.21), Cypriot Sigillata form P1 (?): 1st century BCE.
13. Rim and shoulder of jar (2547.1); fabric light brown (7.5 YR 6/4) with abundant black, brown and white grits; surface pinkish beige (7.5 YR 8/4); cf. Pella I, pl. 127:13-14.

14. Rim fragment of jar (2547.3); fabric beige-pink (7.5 YR 7/4) with tiny voids, occasional fine white grits; surface wet-smoothed pale beige (10 YR 8/2). Cf. PCC type 11.2:C (from Beth-Zur and Shechem), 2nd century BCE; see also Susita pl. V:6; Pella I, pl. 127:11 and 131:5; Pella II, pl. 78:14 („Late Hellenistic”).

15. Rim fragment of jar (2547.5); fabric as the preceding. Cf. Cafarnao II, fig. 36:2 (class F); Diez Fernandez 1983, T 1.3 (1st century BCE to ca. 70 CE).

16. Rim fragment of jar (2547.4); fabric pinkish brown (7.5 YR 6/4) with abundant fine lime and occasional blackish grits, slightly paler on surface. Cf. Diez Fernandez 1983, T 1.5 (ca. 60 BCE – 70 CE).

17. Rim fragment of jar (2547.6); fabric pink (5 YR 6/6), fairly dense, with some dark grits and fine sand eruptions; purplish patina (?) on outer surface. Cf. PCC type 11.2:A (from Beth-Zur and Shechem), 2nd century BCE.

18. Rim fragment of storage jug (2547.8); fabric pink-brown (7.5 YR 6/4) with very tiny voids; surface fired beige (7.5 YR 8/4) with light red spots and occasional lime eruptions. For the type, cf. Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 116:1-2, earlier 2nd century BCE; Pella I, pl. 127:15.


20. Rim fragment of commonware table amphora (2547.9); fabric like no. 18 above; surface fired evenly beige.

21. Fragment of open cooking pot (2547.12); fabric bright red (2.5 YR 5/8), voids, some white and occasional dark particles; surface slightly duller with some limestone eruptions. Galilean fabric, form corresponding to Kefar Hananya 3A and Golan form G3A (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 112 and 176 respectively) of mid-1st century BCE to mid-2nd century CE.

22. Rim fragment of open cooking pot (2547.14); fabric with dark grey core; surface dark brown (2.5 YR 4/2); for shallower version, see Abila fig. 71B („Roman cooking pans”).

23. Fragment of cooking pot (2547.10); thin-walled, overfired; fabric with grey core; surface reddish brown (2.5 YR 4/4 inside and 2.5 YR 4/2 outside). Closely related to Fig. 5:14 above (and probably predecessor of SusReport 2002, fig. 8:9): 2nd century BCE?
24. Rim fragment of cooking pot (2547.11); fabric light red (2.5 YR 6/6) with oval black grains and some very fine lime grits; surface brick red (2.5 YR 6/6 inside, 2.5 YR 6/4 outside). Galilean fabric (fig. 6:21 above), corresponding by form to T 10.5 of Diez Fernandez (1983:119-120) and Kefar Hananya 4A (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 125) of mid-1st century BCE to mid-2nd century CE.

25. Base and bottom fragment of bowl (2547.19), ESA form 22A: late 2nd or 1st century BCE.

26. Base fragment of bowl (2547.20), ESA form 1? of late 2nd century BCE, or form 22A.

27. Rim fragment of crater (2548.2); fabric light red (2.5 YR 6/6) with large voids, limestone inclusions and large greg; self-slip of the same colour as the break. For form, see Dor fig. 6.14, no. 4 (context of ca. 275-200 BCE) and no. 6 (context of ca. 350-275 BCE).

28. Rim fragment of jar (2548.1); fabric light red (2.5 YR 6/6), fairly abundant fine lime and some dark grits; surface wet-smoothed, pink (5 YR 8/4); cf. Abila fig. 77C („Hellenistic White Ware Ceramics”); PCC type 11.3:C (from Samaria and Beth-Zur): before 150 BCE.

29. Rim and handle fragment of cooking pot (2548.3); fabric red (2.5 YR 5/8) with thin grey core, tiny voids and fine white grits; surface light red (2.5 YR 6/6). Cf. Fig. 5:18 above.

30. Rim of BG mould-made mastos bowl (2548.6); BSP ware: fabric reddish yellow (7.5 YR 8/6); deep black slip with slightly metallic gloss. Form 17B of ESA; PCC „type” 251.2b; Kenrick 2000, fig. 7:118 from Gadara; Anafa, 279-280, FW 30-31, pl.3 (TA type 6); third quarter(?) of the 2nd century BCE.

Fig. 7. Pottery from the stratigraphical trench inside the chancel area of the NWC


2. Rim fragment of jar (1073.1), „Beisan” ware: fabric light red (2.5 YR 6/6), very hard; surface dark brownish grey (5 YR 4/2; "dark reddish gray”); cf. Susita pl. IV:2.

3. Rim fragment of cooking ware bowl (1070.1); Kefar Hananya form 1D? of mid-3rd to latter 4th century CE.

4. Fragment of cooking ware bowl (1071.2); Kefar Hananya form 1D? dated as the preceding.

5. Rim fragment with handle of cooking ware bowl (1071.3); Kefar Hananya form 1B, dated 1st/2nd to mid-4th century CE.
7. Rim fragment of jar (1075.1); white fabric (10 YR 8/2) with some black grits. Hellenistic; see above, Fig. 6:28; Pella I, pl. 127:16.
8. Rim fragment of jar (1077.1); fabric pinkish buff; Diez Fernandez 1983, T 1.3; 1st century BCE to ca. 70 CE.
9. Rim fragment of jug (1075.2); fabric pale beige (10 YR 7/3), outer surface fired white; remains of reddish brown band painted on rim. Hellenistic.
10. Rim fragment of plate (1075.3), ESA form 28: ca. 10/1 BCE – 15/30 CE.
11. Rim fragment of jar (1076.1); hard baked fabric, yellowish pink (5 YR 7/6) and sandy, with prevalence of black grits; self-slipped surface, yellowish pink; sim. Pella I, pl. 127:11.
12. Rim fragment of CC dish (1076.6); fabric brick-red (10 R 6/8) with many fine white grits; remains of matt red slip (10 R 5/6) on outer surface. Possibly imitation of ARS form 6A/B (Hayes 1972, 28-31): 2nd century CE.
13. Rim fragment of cooking ware lid (1076.3); fabric with dark grey core; surface fired reddish brown inside, dark brown outside.
14. Rim fragment of cooking pot (1076.5); Kefar Hananya form 4B (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 126-128), mid-1st to mid-2nd century CE.

Fig. 8. Select cooking pots from the *diakonikon* of the NWC (ca. 749 CE)

1. Cooking pot P 03.10; unbroken; surface fired brown inside, grey outside with a lot of soot; dark brown sediment on bottom.
2. Cooking pot P 03.08; fabric brown (5 YR 3/4), with fine sand and occasional large mineral eruptions; cf. Uscatescu 2003, fig. 4:50 (from Pella).
3. Cooking pot P 03.25, fabric bright red, gritty; surface dark greyish brown outside.
5. Cooking pot P 03.05; unbroken; surface fired grey.
6. Cooking pot P 03.09; dark grey fabric with occasional limestone eruptions.
7. Cooking pot P 03.13; fabric reddish brown (5 YR 5/6), with occasional large white grits, thin walled; surface dark grey outside.
Fig. 9. Multi-handled cooking pots („craters”) from the diakonikon of the NWC (ca. 749 CE)

2. Multihandled pot („crater”) P 03.16; fabric brick-red (2.5 YR 5/6), very gritty; outer surface fired dark grey (5 YR 4/2), decorated with vertical stripes painted in semi-transparent white.

Fig. 10. Select casseroles from the diakonikon of the NWC (ca. 749 CE)

1. Casserole P 03.27 with its lid P 03.11. Casserole’s fabric coarse, bright brick red, outer surface greyish brown with large eruptions of limestone. Lid of the same fabric, fired brownish red inside, greyish brown outside, with large limestone eruptions. Cf. Uscatescu 2003, fig. 4:45 (from Pella).
2. Casserole P 03.21; fabric red-brown, gritty; surface brownish red with black spots inside, dark greyish brown with red spots outside, occasional large limestone eruptions and a lot of soot.
3. Casserole P 03.15; fabric bright red (2.5 YR 5/8), outer surface partly grey.
4. Casserole P 03.20; fabric with a „sandwich” break: red inside (2.5 YR 5/6), very dark grey outside; large eruptions of limestone.

Fig. 11. Select jars and jar lids from the diakonikon of the NWC (ca. 749 CE)

1. Jar P 03.07; fabric micaceous red, with grey core, surface brick-red (2.5 YR 5/6). Egyptian Nile silt ware (Delta workshop), Late Roman Amphora 5/6; cf. Capernaum I, fig. 60:11, and Uscatescu 2003, fig. 3:19 (from Pella).
2. Lid P 03.04; abrasion on resting surface; fabric pink (7.5 YR 7/4), rather soft, with many voids and some grey grits. Cf. SusReport 2000, fig. 2:6.
3. Upper part of restorable jar P 03.28; fabric bright red with dark grains; surface fired unevenly, dark orange to brown inside, grey-brown to orange-brown outside. Cf. Khirbat al- Karak pl. 55:1 (found in the church).
4. Lid P 03.03, complete; type and fabric as no. 2 above.
5. Upper part of restorable jar P 03.29; fabric pale orange with grey core; surface fired orange to grey inside, grey-brown outside. Cf. Capernaum I, fig. 60:6.
7. Jar P 03.06 with „combed” decoration on neck and shoulder; fabric beige-pink (*ca.* 7.5 YR 7/4), with some very fine sand(?). Cf. Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, fig. 3:6, from Jerash; also fragment of neck, SusReport 2002 fig. 3:7.

**Fig. 12. Select pottery from the diakonikon of the NWC (ca. 749 CE)**

1. Painted amphora P 03.18; fabric pale pink (*ca.* 7.5 YR 8/4) with some fine sand; decoration painted in reddish brown (5 YR 6/6) against white slip (10 YR 8/2); cf. Khirbat al-Karak, pl. 37; Cafarnao II, 136-137, fig. 50; Kursi, pl. XV:6; Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, fig. 5:7 (from Pella); Uscatescu 2003, fig. 6:79 (from Jerash), and fig. 5:56 (from Madaba: closely similar shape in undecorated ware).

2. Fragmentary commonware mug (measuring cup?) P 03.24; fabric yellowish pink (10 YR 7/4), very gritty (mostly grey angular inclusions, oblong voids); surface beige-pink (7.5 YR 7/4); cf. SusReport 2000, fig. 2:5 (with references).

3. Fragmentary saucer/lid P 03.19; fabric beige-pink (7.5 YR 7/4), rather soft, with fine voids and some grey grits; cf. Khirbat al-Karak pl. 56:3 and 5; Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, 209, fig. 12:5 (from Dehes, second half of the 7th century).

4. Bottle? P 03.22, missing neck, rim, and part of base; fabric reddish brown (5 YR 5/4) with grey-brown core; hard fired, with abundant fine sand and tiny circular voids; surface smooth, fired unevenly, pink to pink-grey; cf. Kursi, fig. 8:26.

5. Pilgrim bottle P 03.17; fabric with fairly abundant limestone grits (including large eruptions), „sandwich” firing: pale grey interior (10 YR 7/3), pink exterior (5 YR 6/4). Cf. from the same assemblage: SusReport 2002, fig. 4:5 (with references).

**Fig. 13. Select pottery from the fills in the NEC (nos. 1-13) and the EGT (nos. 14-17)**

1. Rim fragment of bowl (1834 B), ARS form 99 A, B or C? (Hayes 1972, 152-155): between 510 and 620 CE.

2. Rim fragment of dish/bowl (1825 A) LRC form 10 A (Hayes 1972, fig. 71:6): late 6th – early 7th century CE.


4. Rim fragment of dish/bowl (1830 A) LRC form 10 A (Hayes 1972, fig. 71:1): late 6th – early 7th century CE.

5. Rim fragment of dish/bowl (1831 A-B); LRC form 3 F (Hayes 1972, fig. 69:25): 6th century CE.
6. Rim fragment of dish/bowl (1840 A); LRC form 3 F (Hayes 1972, fig. 69:23): 6th century.
7. Base fragment of bowl (1841 A) LRC, probably form 3.
8. Base fragment of bowl (1825 B) LRC, probably form 8 (Hayes 1972, 340-342, fig. 70, f. 8:1): second half of 5th century, and possibly slightly later.
10. Rim fragment of cooking pot (1841 D); red fabric (2.5 YR 5/6) with reddish brown surface (2.5 YR 5/4). Cf. SusReport 2001, fig. 5:5; W. Karasneh, in ADAJ 39 (1995), 33 (second item from the top); Susita pl. III:7; Adan-Bayewitz 1993 Competing Form C4B(?) of mid-4th to earlier 5th century CE.
11. Fragment of lid (1841 C); fabric gritty red (2.5 YR 5/6) with dark brownish grey surface (5 YR 5/1 to 4/2). Cf. Kursi fig. 6:13; Khirbat al-Karak pl. 54:17; Pella I, pl. 28:1229; Cafrarnao II type C9: Byzantine period.
12. Rim fragment of jar (1827 A); gritty fabric fired grey (7.5 YR 5/0) with fine lime grits and dark grey surface (5 YR 4/1). For profile, cf. Capernaum I, fig. 60:10.
13. Rim fragment of jar (1836 A); fabric pink (5 YR 7/4) with thick light grey core (5 YR 7/1); grey surface (5 YR 6/1 to 5/1). For profile, cf. Capernaum I, fig. 60:2.
14. Rim fragment of jar (4011.2); very hard pink fabric (5 YR 7/4) with white and black grits; surface beige-pink (5 YR 7/3) with many fine white grits. PCC type 11.2:D (from Beth-Zur), 2nd century BCE; Pella I, pl. 127:18 (Jebel Sartaba); Pella II, pl. 78:9: Late Hellenistic.
15. Body sherd of carinated bowl (4011.1); ESA form 48; ca. 40-70 CE (and later).
17. Rim and shoulder fragment of cooking pot (4015.3); close to Kefar Hananya form 4A (Adan-Bayewitz 1993, 125: mid-1st century BCE to mid-2nd century CE); Diez Fernandez T 10.5 (ca. 70 BCE – 75 CE).

Fig. 14. Terracotta lamps from different areas, Hippos 2003

1. Lamp La 03.09 (NWC, diakonikon Room 209E); fabric pink, rather soft, with voids and some sand grits; for the type, cf. Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, fig. 12:10 (Khirbat al-Karak). Hadad, Bet Shean, 172-174, Umayyad type 2.
2. Lamp fragment La 03.08; findspot, fabric and dating as previous; cf. SusReport 2001, fig. 8:1; SusReport 2002, fig. 9:2. Hadad, Bet Shean, 174-178, Umayyad type 3.
3. Lamp La 03.01 (N.NMP Loc. 464, b. 1780); fabric brick-red with occasional black and white grits; pale pinkish beige slip. „Candlestick” lamp of the Byzantine-Umayyad period, cf. Abila fig. 94A („Palm and cross lamps”); Sodini and Villeneuve 1992, fig. 12:6.

4. Lamp fragment (handle and shoulder) 1844 B (NEC); fabric pink (5 YR 8/3), very fine; surface reddish yellow (5 YR 6/6). Cafernao II, type L 6 (fig. 28:8); Hadad, Bet Shean, 164-165, Byzantine type 9: second half of the 6th century CE.

5. Lamp fragment (nozzle) La 03.16 (FRM Loc. 389); fabric pinkish yellow (7.5 YR 7/6), soft, with minute grits; surface pale pink (5 YR 7/4). Type apparently as the preceding.


7. Nozzle with part of wheel-made body La 03.05 (N.NMP Loc. 915, b. 2539); very fine pink fabric (5 YR 6/6); brownish black slip (5 YR 3/1), outside matt and slightly worn, inside with some gloss. 3rd/2nd century BCE (residual in a Roman context).

8. Fragment (nozzle and part of body) of mould-made lamp La 03.17 (N.NMP Loc. 920); light grey fabric (5 YR 7/1) with minute white and dark grits; dark grey slip (5 YR 4/1), merged with body clay. Pella II, pl. 81:1-2. Cf. SusReport 2002, fig. 9:6: late 2nd and into 1st century BCE.

9. Nozzle with part of wheel-made body of lamp La 03.13 (N.NMP Loc. 913); Phoenician Semi-Fine ware: fine pink fabric (5 YR 7/6) with some tiny red grits; 3rd century BCE (residual in a Byzantine context). Cf. e.g. Sha’ar ha-Amakim pl. 122:4.

Jolanta Mlynarczyk
Fig. 1. Pottery found in deposits above the Byzantine floor level of the northern shops(?) at the Forum (nos. 1-12) and below the floor (nos. 13-16).
Fig. 2. Pottery from the levelling layer below the northern shops at the Forum.
Fig. 3. Pottery from the bottom part of the levelling layer below the northern shops at the Forum.
Fig. 4. Pottery from below the south-west corner of the atrium of the NWC (no. 1) and from the fill to the west of the temenos wall in N.NMP (nos. 2-20).
Fig. 5. N.NMP: pottery from the fill to the west of the temenos wall (continued: nos. 1-9), and associated with the foundation trench Loc. 907 (nos. 10-22).
Fig. 6. N.NMP: pottery associated with the foundation trench Loc. 907 (continued: nos. 1-12), and from adjacent Loci 921 (nos. 13-26) and 920 (nos. 27-30).
Fig. 7. Pottery from the stratigraphical trench inside the chancel area of the NWC.
Fig. 8. Select cooking pots from the diakonikon of the NWC (ca. 749 CE).
Fig. 9. Multi-handled cooking pots („craters”) from the *diakonikon* of the NWC (ca. 749 CE).
Fig. 10. Select casserole from the *diakonikon* of the NWC (ca. 749 CE).
Fig. 11. Select jars and jar lids from the *diakonikon* of the NWC (ca. 749 CE).
Fig. 12. Select pottery from the *diakonikon* of the NWC (ca. 749 CE).
Fig. 13. Select pottery from the fills in the NEC (nos. 1-13) and the EGT (nos. 14-17).
Fig. 14. Terracotta lamps from different areas, Hippos 2003.
Hippos - Sussita
4th Season (July 2003)
The coins find Catalogue

Ariel Berman

All the coins are bronze unless otherwise mentioned. The coins are listed chronologically, according to types. Coins bearing an asterisk are illustrated.

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<td>(246-221 BCE)</td>
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<td>Tyre</td>
<td>SNG 1977: Nos 502-3, pl. 17</td>
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<td>460</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>†</td>
<td>Head of Tyche r., Wearing turreted crown, veil.</td>
<td>[ἩΠΙΠΗΝΙΟΝ]</td>
<td>Horse galloping to r., Beneath date: ΛΓΚ</td>
<td>Year 23 (≈41/40 BCE)</td>
<td>Hippos</td>
<td>Meshorer 1984: P.74, No.197 (Different date)</td>
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<td>6*</td>
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<td>925</td>
<td>8.84</td>
<td>21 ↓</td>
<td>Bust laureate r., (Legend around illeg.)</td>
<td>КАФИТА БИНАНОН Tyche opp., head l. turreted, wearing long <em>chiton</em> and <em>peplus</em>, resting r. on standard, l. holding <em>cornucopia</em> and mantle; in field r. date: AOP</td>
<td>Year 171 (=110/11)</td>
<td>Gaba</td>
<td>Cf. <em>Rosenberger 1975:</em> P. 44, No. 5, (but diff. Date). that date appears on a diff. type of Trajan’s wife Plotina, see No. 8)</td>
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<td><strong>Macrinus</strong> (217-218)</td>
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<td>7*</td>
<td>2575</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>8.08</td>
<td>21 ↓</td>
<td>Bust of Macrinus r. laureated</td>
<td>SEPTYR [...] COL Center, Palm-tree, to l. murex-shell To r. club downwards</td>
<td>217-218</td>
<td>Tyre</td>
<td>Cf. <em>Rouvier 1994:</em> P. 72, No. 2341</td>
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<td>3561</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>9.08</td>
<td>23 ↑</td>
<td>Bust laureate r.</td>
<td>Tyche, seated r. on throne with high back, nursing the infant Dionysos (Inscription and date missing)</td>
<td>Nysa-Schopolis</td>
<td>Cf. <em>Spijkerman 1978:</em> P. 202, Nos. 46-48</td>
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<td><strong>Severus Alexander</strong> (222-235)</td>
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<td>10*</td>
<td>2574</td>
<td>930</td>
<td>7.08</td>
<td>22 ↑</td>
<td>Bust of Alexander, laureate r.</td>
<td>[...] METROP Eagle, displayed supporting wreath with SPQR</td>
<td>Caesarea</td>
<td>Cf. <em>Kadman 1957:</em> P.116, Nos. 97-98</td>
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<td><strong>Valerian I</strong> (253-260)</td>
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<td>11*</td>
<td>3533</td>
<td>389</td>
<td>11.35</td>
<td>27 ↑</td>
<td>Bust of Valerian r.</td>
<td>COL T [...] Nike stg. l., holding wreath in Extended r., palm-branch in l., In field l., murex-shell</td>
<td>Tyre</td>
<td>Cf. <em>BMC Phoen.:</em> P.288, No. 460. Pl. XXXIV, 10</td>
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<td>Bust of Aureliann r. (Effaced)</td>
<td>[FORTVNA R] EDVX Fortune seated l. (Effaced)</td>
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<td>Bust of Julian, bareheaded r.</td>
<td>[FEL TEMP REPARATIO] Virtus l. with shield on arm Spearing fallen horseman</td>
<td>355-361</td>
<td>Missing</td>
<td>LRBC II: P. 103, No. 2851</td>
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<td>Valens (364-375)</td>
<td>SECVRITAS REIPVBLICAEBust r.</td>
<td>364-367</td>
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<td>Valentinian I (364-375)</td>
<td>GLORIA [ROMANORVM] Emperor draped, with r. hand dragging captive r. and holding Labarum in l.</td>
<td>364-367</td>
<td>Alexandria?</td>
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<td>Valentinian II (375-392)</td>
<td>[VICTORIA AVGGG] Victory to l. holding wreath and palm, in ex. TES</td>
<td>378-383</td>
<td>Thessalonica</td>
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<td>↓</td>
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<td>Within wreath: VOT / XXV MVLT / XXX</td>
<td>383</td>
<td>Cyzicus</td>
<td>Cl. LRBC II: P. 98, No. 2552</td>
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<td>Bust r. laur. pearl diademed</td>
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References


GENERAL CONSPECTUS OF COINS CHRONOLOGY AND MINTS FOUND AT HIPPOS-SUSSITA

1) Finds from 2000-2003 seasons signed by (a, b, c, d)
2) Coins originate from different former excavations
And stray finds, (Kept at the IAA, signed by plain figures).

Ariel Berman

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| **SELEUCIDS**   |          |           |      |          |
| Antiochus III   | 223-187 BCE |           | Antioch | 1(b) |
| "              | "         |           | Apamea | 1        |
| Antiochus IV    | 175-164 BCE | 168/7 BCE | Tyre | 1, 1(d) |
| Demetrius I     | 162-150 BCE |           | "    | 3        |
| Antiochus VI    | 144-142 BCE |           | "    | 1, 1(c)  |
| Anonymous       | Before 132 BCE | - | Ake-Ptolemais | 1(a) |
| Antiochus VIII  | 121-96 BCE  | 111/10 BCE | "    | 1(b)     |
| Uncertain       | End 2nd century BCE | - | Tyre | 1(d)     |
| "              | "         |           | -    | 1(b)     |
| Antiochus XII   | 87/6- c. 84 BCE | - | Damascus | 1       |

**DECAPOLIS:** Autonomous
Anonymous (b) | - | Year 23 (41/40 BCE) | Hippos | 1(d) |

**HERODIAN DYNASTY**
Herod the Great
Herod Antipas

**NABATEAN**
Aretas IV

**PHOENICIA:** Autonomous
Anonymous (c) | 1st-2nd Century CE | Undated | Tyre | 2(b), 1(d) |

**ROMAN PROVINCIAL**
Trajan
Marcus Aurelius | 161-180 BCE | Undated | Caesarea | 1(b) |
Commodus | 177-192 BCE | 184/5 | Hippos | 1(c) |
Julia Domna | 193-217 BCE | 206/7 | Nysa-Scythopolis | 1(b) |
Macrinus | 217-218 BCE | Undated | Tyre | 1(b), 1(d) |
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