

JOLANTA MŁYNARCZYK (IA UW)

**HIPPOS (SUSSITA): EXPLORATION OF THE NORTH-WEST CHURCH COMPLEX
(AREAS NWC AND OPB) IN 2002
(PL. 26-34)**

In July 2002 the Polish team acting as part of a joint project headed by Prof. Arthur Segal (University of Haifa)¹ resumed excavations at the North-Western Church (NWC) on the ancient site of Hippos (Sussita), one of the Greco-Roman towns of the Decapolis group². During this season, exploration of the basilica in the North-Western Church complex (NWC) was virtually completed (Fig. 1-12). Another area under excavation was the oil- and winepress complex (OPB) situated immediately to the south of the church (Fig. 1, Fig. 13-17).

1. The basilica

1.1. The nave with the chancel part (*bema*) and the apse with *synthronon*

Similarly to what had been noted in the westernmost part of the church's nave (Loc. 201) during the 2000 season, also the remainder of the nave (Loc. 202), explored in 2002, was covered by earthquake debris consisting of basalt blocks, column drums and Ionic capitals (Fig. 2). Of the mosaic floor, once adorned with a network of rosettes and buds³ and framed by a rich quadriplaited guilloché⁴, only patches remain here and there (Fig. 3). The chancel area or *bema* (Loc. 205) which projects up to the middle of the fifth intercolumniation (counting from the west) was no less damaged. In several places the mosaic floor and its lime mortar bed were destroyed, exposing the substructure of small pieces of limestone. The only sculptured decoration (except for column fragments) were scattered pieces of entablature moulding of white marble with dentils, ovolo and astragal frieze, most probably of secondary use in the church. Not a single piece of chancel screens and/or posts has survived; only the chancel's limestone base was left in place (Fig. 2). The number of post-holes and slots in it indicates that on each side of the entrance (which is 1.40 m wide) there were two screens alternating with three posts.

It is evident that all of them were already robbed out before the earthquake happened. The chancel is separated from the two aisles by low partition walls of limestone blocking up the space of the sixth intercolumniation. On the southern side (between columns 32 and 33) this partition, 1.10 m high, is constructed of two layers of slabs set on a base, and it has remains of fine white plaster on the southern face (Fig. 4). On the northern side (between columns 27 and 28), the chancel base supports one row of vertical slabs only. Neither the position of an altar inside the *bema* nor that of the pulpit (*ambo*) could be established so far.

In the main apse, the cleaning of the *synthronon* (Loc. 206) has been completed. The southern half has preserved four rows of limestone seats instead of the three present in the northern half. The benches, revetted with white plaster, surround a semicircular platform (110 cm in diameter) at floor level. The south-west end of the *synthronon* was entirely destroyed by a collapsing wall during an earthquake (Fig. 5).

1.2. The southern aisle with the southern „sacristy”

The church's southern aisle (Loc. 204), the western part of which had been explored in 2001⁵, yielded further evidence of a violent earthquake. The space of the hall was found tightly filled with rows of limestone blocks from the collapsed southern wall (W 241) which had sealed numerous roof tiles, imprints of imbrices in lime mortar and pieces of monochrome mosaic belonging to the upper-storey floor. A series of very large limestone blocks (cornice parts reused from an earlier building), constituting the second(?) course of W 241, still overhang the floor. The upper half of a jar retrieved from under one of them clearly belongs together with the pottery assemblage discovered in 2001 against the western section of wall W 241⁶.

¹ The Polish team included the author, Dr. Mariusz Burdajewicz (National Museum, Warsaw), and nine students (Institute of Archaeology, University of Warsaw, and the Jagiellonian University, Kraków). It is my privilege to cordially thank Prof. Segal for his unfailing help, as well as the whole Israeli team for a most agreeable collaboration in the field.

² On the history of the site and earlier archaeological research,

see MŁYNARCZYK 2001; on the 2002 season, see SEGAL et al. 2002

³ AVI-YONAH 1933, pattern H7

⁴ Comparable to AVI-YONAH 1933: pattern B 12 (or B 5), cf. MŁYNARCZYK 2001: 136

⁵ MŁYNARCZYK 2001: 134-137

⁶ MŁYNARCZYK 2001: 136-137, fig. 12

The decoration of the southern aisle's mosaic floor is even more modest than that of the northern aisle. A simple guilloche frame runs all the way around a large carpet with a „scales and sprigs” pattern⁷. The intercolumniations contain rectangular mosaic panels, the patterns of which differ from one another. The first intercolumniation from the west has a „diagonal” pattern. A largely destroyed decorative panel in the second intercolumniation seems to be divided into six (?) octagons, of which only two are preserved: one contains a square with „diagonal” pattern inside; another has a representation of a fruit resembling a rounded eggplant. In the third intercolumnar panel a rhombus is inscribed into a rectangle by means of interlacing lines. The fourth intercolumniation virtually repeats the pattern of the first one, while the fifth intercolumniation, its decoration poorly legible due to a thick deposit of lime mortar, appears to contain a combination of rhombi and crosslets. Finally, the ornament along the southern side of the chancel is a frieze of simple geometrical figures, each composed of crosslets and tiny triangles.

The floor of this aisle contains also two mosaic inscriptions in Greek⁸. They sound rather similar, commemorating donations made by two individuals, doubtlessly members of the local community. A one-line inscription in a *tabula ansata*, extending across the aisle even with the fifth intercolumniation and facing west, commemorates an offering made by Petros (Fig. 6). Another inscription, also written in one line and mentioning a woman by the name of Hedora or perhaps He(lio)dora, is even more interesting for its location: it was placed at the inner edge of the aisle, in front of the third intercolumniation, but facing the nave, not the aisle.

In a place even with the sixth column (no. 33), the aisle is closed by the marble balustrade of a lateral chancel (Figs. 7-9). It consists of two screens and four posts fixed to their base by pieces of lead. The base is made of marble blocks which originally belonged to a monumental building of Roman date (2nd century A.D.?), to judge by the remains of relief decoration on the eastern faces of the two long blocks. Of these, the southern one still preserves a deeply drilled ornament of acanthus scrolls with flowers (Fig. 8). The southern chancel screen was found standing *in situ* between two posts (Fig. 7). Its western face has a „Maltese” cross with grooved arms inside a simple ring and a bound laurel-leaf wreath below (Fig. 9). The screen's eastern face bears a similar cross (its arms, however, left ungrooved) surmounting the tripartite Golgotha mound (Fig. 8)⁹.

The surface to the left was never finished, leaving chiselling marks to be seen; this fact strongly suggests that the decoration of the marble screens was carved in a local workshop.

The northern chancel screen was found broken into several pieces by stones fallen from the southern wall (Fig. 7). The western face of the screen is adorned with a „Maltese” cross in a wreath, differing from the other screen only in that the cross arms are not grooved and the wreath lacks a ring inside (Fig. 9). The back of the screen was left undecorated.

The outer chancel posts, their height (92 cm) hardly exceeding that of the screens (90 cm), are reused small pillars with vertical flutings on one face and stylized acanthus capitals (Fig. 4); they could originally have belonged to some earlier balustrade. The inner monolithic posts, on the contrary, were considerably higher and of a different form. Their upper parts, from slightly above the level of the top of the screens, were shaped as colonnettes with moulded bases and „Corinthian” capitals. Together with a horizontal bar (of wood?) which they used to support, they formed a sort of gate, its total height amounting to 2 m (18 cm for the chancel base and 182 cm for the inner post-colonnettes) above the level of the mosaic floor (Fig. 9). The broken colonnettes were found in the debris with small votive crosses made of silver still affixed to their shafts with bronze pegs: three crosses (and holes to mount the fourth one) on the southern colonnette, two crosses (plus holes for a third) on the northern colonnette. The opening between the inner posts is *ca.* 63 cm wide. From their eastern faces there protrude iron rings fixed to lead pegs and destined to hold a low wooden door: two rings for hinges in the southern post and one for a hook in the northern post.

On the eastern side of the chancel (Loc. 223), the mosaic floor continues eastwards with the same pattern as in Loc. 204. However, only a small section of it, right behind the chancel screen, could be explored during the 2002 season. At *ca.* 20 cm to 40 cm above this floor, large portions of monochrome mosaic from the upper storey were found, some of them fallen upside down (Fig. 10). The gallery floor, its total thickness amounting to 8.7-9 cm, consisted of three layers. The mosaic cubes (1.4 cm thick) were embedded in a layer of fine white plaster (3.5 cm thick), the latter resting upon a thick layer (3.5 to 3.8 cm) of lime mortar. Mixed with this mortar base there are chips of coloured stones (refuse of mosaic *tesserae*), pebbles and burnt pieces of reeds up to 4 cm of length and 0.5 cm in diameter.

⁷ *Ibidem*, *loc. cit.*

⁸ These have been translated and interpreted provisionally by A. ŁAJTAR, in SEGAL et al. 2002: 60-63

⁹ A close parallel is constituted by a chancel screen from Tabgha,

BAGATTI 1962: 121, fig. 16:5. A similar representation, flanked by gazelles, occurs on a chancel screen from the 6th century church of St. Lazarus in Nahariya, cf. DAUPHIN and EDELSTEIN 1993: 51

As a matter of fact, innumerable pieces of this monochrome mosaic floor occurring throughout the northern and southern aisles are the only testimony to the existence of the galleries above the aisles. The debris never yielded any banister pillars and/or panels, not to mention column fragments that could be attributed to the upper floor. The only explanation is that the construction of the side galleries was entirely of timber, as was the case with the St. Lazarus' church at Nahariya¹⁰.

The eastern limit of Loc. 223 is marked by an engaged pier built against W 241, preserving the spring of an entrance arch to Loc. 208 (Fig. 7). The pier is crowned by a basalt corbel reused from an earlier building. Two more basalt blocks moulded with cavetto, dentils and ovolo were found in the debris, their sculptured decoration thickly covered with red plaster by the Byzantine masons (Fig. 11). Unlike the corresponding northern part of the church (Locs 218 and 207), direct communication between the southern chancel (Loc. 223) and the southern sacristy (Loc. 208) was apparently maintained until the last days of the church's existence.

In the southern sacristy (Loc. 208), the eastern wall (W 238) has been reached. Its construction is the same as already noted in the corresponding northern sacristy (Loc. 207, probably the *skeuophylakion* of the church)¹¹: three layers of large limestone blocks are preserved, set over three(?) courses of dressed basalt stones of which only the two upper ones have been exposed. Although the outer face of the main apse (W 221) has largely been destroyed, the slightly trapezoid outline of the room is noticeable, paralleling that of the northern sacristy (Fig. 1). A rectangular niche in the northern wall near the north-eastern corner of Loc. 208 corresponds to a similar niche in the southern wall of Loc. 207. The niche in Loc. 208, constructed of limestone and roofed with basalt beams, is 90 cm high, 75 cm wide, 70 cm deep, and retains traces of a white-plaster revetment. To judge by several fragments of small iron hooks found in the debris right below, it probably had a wooden door and/or shelves to serve as a closet.

Along W 238 many fragments of broken wall plaster were found with polychrome decoration, on which one can discern yellow and red panels divided by vertical black bands. A similar decoration has been preserved on

two contiguous sides of a basalt block found in the debris in Loc. 223, no doubt coming from an engaged pier supporting an arch. These remains of wall paintings may be of significance for the functional interpretation of the southern room.

The exploration of this room was stopped at *ca.* 40 cm above the floor level and will be resumed in the next season. However, no indication of the existence of an apse that would close the southern aisle and correspond to the northern lateral apse (Loc. 218) has been found so far (Fig. 1). It is to be noted that such an asymmetrical arrangement during the second architectural phase of the church, with only one lateral (northern) apse, would be quite an unusual solution¹².

1.3. Chronological conclusions

Despite the lack of coin finds during this season, the stylistic features of the mosaics alone allow a fairly precise date of the execution of the floors to be established. This date apparently marks the beginning of the second architectural phase of the church. The most important parallels are provided by the mosaic of the „cathedral” baptistery of Hippos, epigraphically dated to A.D. 591¹³, as well as by that of the baptistery at Kursi with its inscription of A.D. 585¹⁴. In both places the ornamental border of the mosaic is closely similar to that of the northern aisle of the NWC, while the motifs filling their central „carpets” („scales and sprigs” pattern) occur in the southern aisle of the NWC. The patterns in the north „sacristy” of the Kursi church are the same as in the nave of the NWC¹⁵ while the *diakonikon* floor at Kursi resembles the northern apse of the NWC¹⁶.

Therefore, there can be no doubt that the mosaic pavements of the second phase of the NWC were laid in the same period as the pavements of Kursi and the baptistery of Sussita, presumably in the eighties of the 6th century. The two commemorative inscriptions in the southern aisle strongly suggest that the repaving (and most probably also the rebuilding) of the NWC was done at the expense of the local Christian community.

The final arrangement of the church is marked by the extension of the chancel area into the eastern parts of the aisles (Fig. 1, 12). The installation of the screens and posts with their base inserted into the mosaic floor is

¹⁰ DAUPHIN and EDELSTEIN 1993: 49

¹¹ MŁYNARCZYK 2001:135-136

¹² Other examples, although not strictly parallel to the NWC, are St. Stephen's church in Umm er-Rasas (Jordan) and Church III in Khan Khaldé (Lebanon), both dated to the 7th century, and the church at Beit Gimal, cf. MARGALIT 1990: 325-329 and 332-334, figs. 6 and 12. The closest parallel is the church

at Khirbet el-Beyudat (north of Jericho), cf. HIZMI 1993: 156

¹³ EPSTEIN and TZAFERIS 1991: 92-93, figs. 3-5

¹⁴ TZAFERIS 1983: 28-29, pls. XI:3 and XII:4

¹⁵ *Ibidem*, pl. XI:6

¹⁶ *Ibidem*, pls. XI:5 and XII:1 and 3. For the northern apse of NWC, see MŁYNARCZYK 2001: 135 and fig. 5

obviously later than the execution of the mosaics. In other words, this modification, certainly a result of liturgical requirements, cannot be earlier than the beginning(?) of the 7th century which is in agreement with the chronology accepted for the enlarging of chancels specifically in Jordan (e.g. churches at Pella and Gerasa) and the Negev¹⁷. The sparing use of decoration and the fairly low quality of the workmanship of the chancel screens and posts (the eastern face of one screen in the southern aisle left unfinished, that of the other one unadorned) are eloquent proof of the economic weakness of the local community during that period. The T-shaped outline of the chancel area in the NWC is best paralleled by churches in the Negev (e.g. North and South churches in Oboda, North and South churches in Shivta)¹⁸, while, rather surprisingly, the chancels of both the „cathedral” of Sussita and the church in Kursi remain limited to the nave.

The last years of the existence of the church are a mystery of sorts. If one takes into consideration the striking contrast between the nave completely stripped off its furniture and the well-preserved aisles (Fig. 12), one is inclined to believe that after the nave was abandoned (as a result of some destruction and lack of resources to have it restored), the aisles still continued to be used for religious service. It is perhaps noteworthy that the marble balustrade in the southern aisle survived unplundered, unlike the northern aisle which seemed to witness some removal and secondary storing of its marble furniture. To properly interpret these observations, however, more fieldwork is needed. The destruction deposit of the southern aisle yielded a complete terracotta lamp of an Umayyad-period type, actually identical to a lamp found in the northern aisle, in a closely matching spot: in front of the balustrade¹⁹. These lamps certainly date back to shortly before the final destruction of the church (and the entire town of Hippos) in the earthquake of A.D. 749²⁰.

2. OPB area abutting the southern wing of the NWC (Fig. 1)

2.1. Room with niches (Loc. 274)

To the east of the winery's treading floor (Loc. 271) and of the oil press room (Loc. 270), the north-east part of an earlier room has been exposed (Loc. 274) (Fig. 1). It is limited by W 275 and W 288, both walls built of dressed basalt stones and constituting the corner

of a building which antedates the installation of the oil/wine press (Fig. 13). Loc. 274 was filled with dense debris of big blocks of *nari* limestone, as well as some basalt ones. The uncovered stretch of W 275 has two niches (each 1.50 m long and 0.70 m wide) on its eastern side, the floor of the southern niche revetted with a layer of ochre-coloured clay. The exploration of Loc. 274 was stopped at ca. 0.55 m below the floor of the niche; the dense limestone debris, however, continues downward. The excavation will be resumed in 2003, the objective being to find the floor of the room.

The northern limit of Loc. 274 is W 288 (Fig. 13), ca. 0.90 m thick, which apparently meets W 275 under the treading floor of the wine press. W 288 has remains of white plaster both on its northern face and in a rectangular recess on its southern side, which is 1.50 m long like niches on the eastern side of W 275, but only 0.40 m wide²¹. The eastern wall of the winery's treading floor (W 278) crosses W 288 from above and stops at the corner of the treading floor without continuing southwards.

2.2. Room of the oil press (Loc. 270)

In Loc. 270, the exploration of which begun in 2001²², cleaning was resumed of the southern and western borders of the square. Two successive floors have been noted in this area. The upper one (F 279), only ca. 0.30 m below the present ground level and sloping slightly eastward, is made of tamped earth mixed with bits of lime mortar and limestone chips. The lower floor (F 280), found ca. 0.40 to 0.20 m below the upper one, is a pavement of basalt slabs, some of them irregular in shape. These floors apparently correspond to two phases of use of the oil pressing installation consisting of a pressing bed of basalt and a collecting vat carved of limestone in the shape of a footed chalice (Fig. 14). A limestone column shaft, lying upon the upper (earthen) floor and perhaps used for crushing olives, pertains to the second phase only. However, even the lower floor (F 280) is secondary in relation to W 275; actually, it forms a sort of a pathway on a N-S axis, just 2.50 m wide, separated from the western face of W 275 by a narrow unpaved space. The Corinthian capital of a huge limestone half-column, badly weathered but apparently corresponding to Type I of Hellenistic Alexandrian capitals²³, was found on this pavement; it was probably re-used as part of the oil press installations.

¹⁷ DUVAL 1994: 167 and figs. 5-6

¹⁸ *Ibidem*, figs. 5-6

¹⁹ MŁYNARCZYK 2001: 137, and fig. 14

²⁰ For archaeological proof of the date, see *ibidem*, *loc. cit.* and note 34

²¹ For similar constructions with niches inside, see buildings accompanying the basilican complex at Qanawāt, AMER 1982: pls. 1 and 5

²² MŁYNARCZYK 2001:139

²³ Mc KENZIE 1990: 190, diagram 14:a

2.3. Southern and eastern sides of the podium of the Basalt Roman Building

A stretch of unpaved space *ca.* 0.50 m wide and free of stone debris divides F 280 from the eastern side of the podium of the Basalt Roman Building (Loc. 281) (Fig. 15-16). The podium's east wall, across which the southern wall of the winery (W 276) has been constructed (Fig. 15), consists of a row of moulded blocks (*cyma recta* mouldings) set on a low protruding platform built of ashlar. At its southern extremity, this layer of mouldings abuts onto an *anta* which ends in a slender engaged column.

The front of the podium (Loc. 286) is facing south and consists of two long steps with a single dressed block on top of the easternmost part, apparently relics of third, uppermost step (Fig. 16). The steps were comprised in between two *antae* of which the western one remains to be found, but it is already clear that the distance between them exceeds 8.5 m. In front of the steps there is a pavement (F 287) of carefully laid rectangular basalt slabs. Three rows of such slabs were discovered within the limits of the Polish sector, but the continuation of the same pavement was recorded by the Israeli team *ca.* 10 m to the south-west (F 423 in the area designated as N.NMP)²⁴. *Ca.* 3.40 m to the west from the eastern *anta* of the podium and only 0.45 m from the lower step, a rectangular pedestal of masonry (Loc. 290), just 0.18 m high, rises from the pavement. The E-W extent of the pedestal is 2.40 m, while the N-S one is yet to be established.

The identity of the building (designated as Basalt Roman Building) once standing on the podium, as well as the function of the „pedestal”, remains to be clarified during further research. This was undoubtedly an important public building erected in a dominant position within the town, possibly a temple. The local stratigraphy implies its construction before the time of the installation of the winery and the oil press, but it is obvious that it also preceded the construction of the North-western Church, and probably the building with niches represented by walls W 275 and W 288.

The pavement F 287 in front of the podium was covered by a fill of sandy soil *ca.* 0.55 m thick, virtually free of stone debris, above which there was a tamped earth floor (F 279) connected with the oil press installations. At this depth, only 0.30-0.40 m below the present ground level, upon the southern part of the podium, a fragment of an industrial installation of ill-defined function was found. It is a sort of elongated platform

rather than floor, just *ca.* 0,70 m wide, built of limestone rubble mixed with lime mortar (Loc. 285). It runs parallel to the southern face of W 276, from which it is divided by a narrow open channel (for water?) and does not extend beyond the eastern limits of the Basalt Roman Building. A limestone basin standing at the south-eastern corner of the podium (Fig. 15) was used apparently in the oil or/and wine industry. Four blocks of a limestone cornice were also found lying in a line along the southern edge of the podium.

2.4. Collecting pool of the winery (Loci 282-284)

To the north of Loc. 285 and of W 276, the installations of the winery were examined (Fig. 15, 17). The low western wall of the treading floor Loc. 270, built of irregular basalt stones (W 277), has been destroyed almost completely, exposing at its bottom a row of three limestone blocks, each 1.20-1.30 m long, possibly the wall of an earlier building(?). Adjacent from the west and abutting the southern wall of the church there is a very large collecting pool for the must (Loc. 282). Its length matches that of the treading floor (*ca.* 4.50 m); the width is not known yet; the depth from rim to bottom is *ca.* 1.40 m. The rim of the pool is situated 1.00 m below the level of the treading floor and forms a sort of a shelf *ca.* 0.55 m wide on the north and 0.30 m on the east. At the level of this shelf, near the southern end of W 277, there sits a small intermediary vat (Loc. 283), semicircular in outline (0.50 m wide), provided with plastered side walls and open at the front. It used to receive juice from the grapes trampled by foot on the treading floor to which it was connected by an open drain made of an inverted imbrex. On the northern side of the vat there is a carefully constructed outlet of a vaulted channel leading from below the centre of the treading floor where the pressing apparatus used to be installed. From this outlet, a plastered gutter sloping across the pool's rim directed the juice into the pool (Fig. 17).

The inside of the pool as well as its rim were revetted with hydraulic mortar containing small pebbles and applied to a layer of body sherds of dark grey jars (the „Beisan” type), its total thickness amounting to 3.5 cm. One can note several level marks left by the wine must on the walls. Six steps (their width not determined yet) lead to the bottom of the pool from the south, the two uppermost steps rising above the level of the pool's rim. All the steps as well as a threshold block in wall W 276 were revetted with hydraulic mortar.

²⁴ SEGAL et al. 2002: 6-7 and figs. 17-18

The debris of Loc. 282 consisted of five layers of big limestone blocks apparently fallen from the south wall of the NWC (W 243). In spite of the lack of closed contexts that could yield some dating evidence, this

seems to indicate now that the earthquake responsible for the destruction of the wine- and oil-press was the one of A.D. 749 which also destroyed the adjacent church.

Bibliography

AMER G.

1982 *Les constructions au nord-est de l'ensemble basilical de Qanawāt*, Syria LIX, p. 276-318

AVI-YONAH M.

1933 *Mosaic Pavements in Palestine*, QDAP 2, p. 136-181

BAGATTI B.

1962 *L'archeologia cristiana in Palestina*, Sansoni-Firenze

DAUPHIN C. and EDELSTEIN G.

1993 *The Byzantine Church in Nabariya*, in: Y. Tsafrir (ed.), *Ancient Churches Revealed*, Jerusalem, p. 49-53

DUVAL N.

1994 *L'architecture chrétienne et les pratiques liturgiques en Jordanie en rapport avec la Palestine. recherches nouvelles*, in: K. Painter (ed.), *Churches Built in Ancient Times. Recent Studies in Early Christian Archaeology*, London, p. 150-211

EPSTEIN C. and TZAFERIS V.

1991 *The Baptistery at Sussita-Hippos*, 'Atiqot 20, Jerusalem, p. 89-94

HIZMI H.

1993 *The Byzantine Church at Khirbet el-Beyudat in the Lower Jordan Valley*, in: Y. Tsafrir (ed.), *Ancient Churches Revealed*, Jerusalem, p.155-163

MARGALIT S.

1990 *The Bi-apsidal Churches in Palestine, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Cyprus*, LA 40, p. 321-334

MC KENZIE J.

1990 *The Architecture of Petra*, Oxford

MŁYNARCZYK J.

2001 *Polsko-izraelskie wykopaliska w Hippos (Sussita) 2000-2001: Kościół Północno-Zachodni (NWC)*, Światowit III (XLIV), p. 133-141

SEGAL A. et al.

2002 *Hippos (Sussita). Third Season of Excavations, July 2002*, Zinman Institute of Archaeology, University of Haifa

TZAFERIS V.

1983 *The Excavations of Kursi-Gergesa*, 'Atiqot 16, Jerusalem

PLANSZA 26

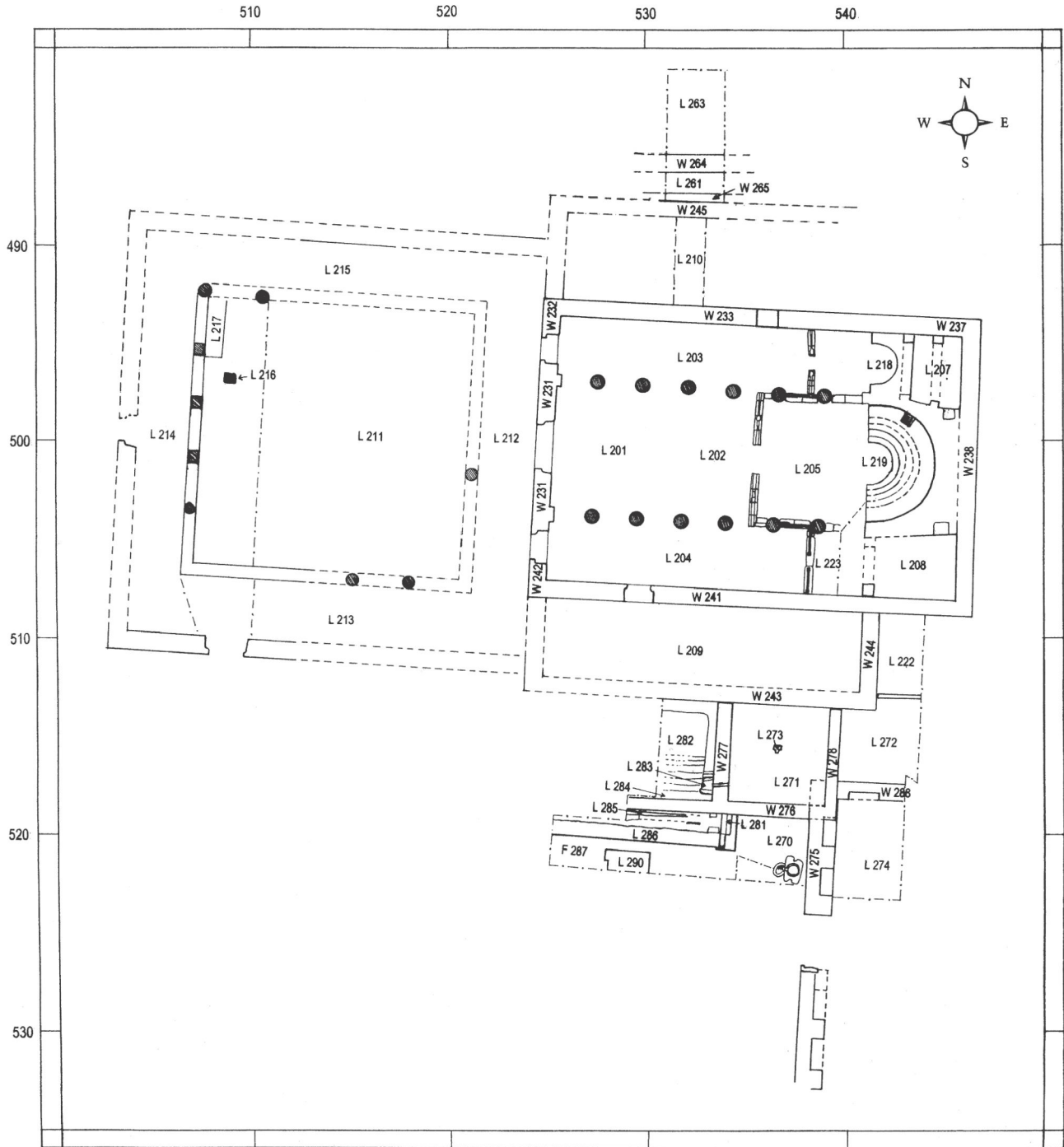


Fig. 1. Hippos (Sussita) 2002. Schematic plan of the North-western Church and its surroundings with numbering of walls and loci (drawn by M. Burdajewicz)



Fig. 2. NWC: Earthquake debris in the nave and chancel area seen from south-east. Note the base of a robbed-out western balustrade of the chancel (phot. J. Burdajewicz)



Fig. 3. NWC: Mosaic border of the nave (phot. J. Burdajewicz)

PLANSZA 28



Fig. 4. NWC: The southern wall of the main chancel seen behind the marble chancel posts of the southern aisle, with column 33 to the right (phot. J. Młynarczyk)



Fig. 5. NWC: The southern half of the synthronon in the central apse, its western end broken by collapsed blocks (phot. J. Młynarczyk)



Fig. 6. NWC: Mosaic inscription in the southern aisle commemorating an offering made by Petros (phot. J. Burdajewicz)



Fig. 7. NWC: The lateral chancel of the southern aisle with the posts and one of the screens still *in situ*, seen from the west. Note a pier supporting the arch of the entrance to the southern sacristy (phot. J. Młynarczyk)

PLANSZA 30

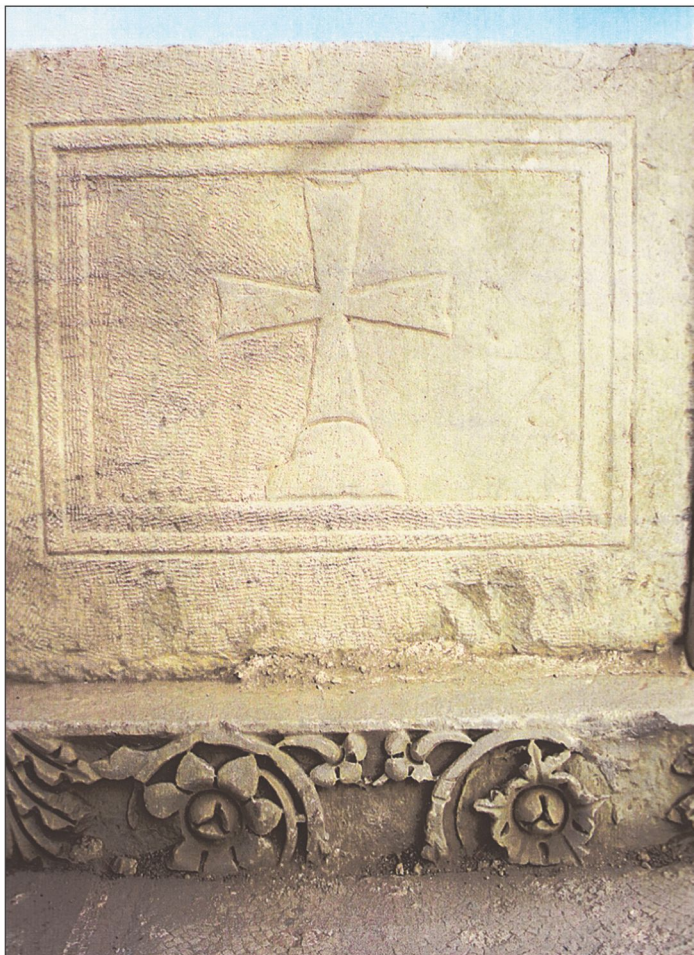


Fig. 8. NWC, Loc. 223: The southern screen of the lateral chancel with its base re-used from a Roman building, seen from the east (phot. J. Burdajewicz)

Fig. 9. NWC: Reconstruction of the southern chancel as seen from the west (drawn by M. Burdajewicz)

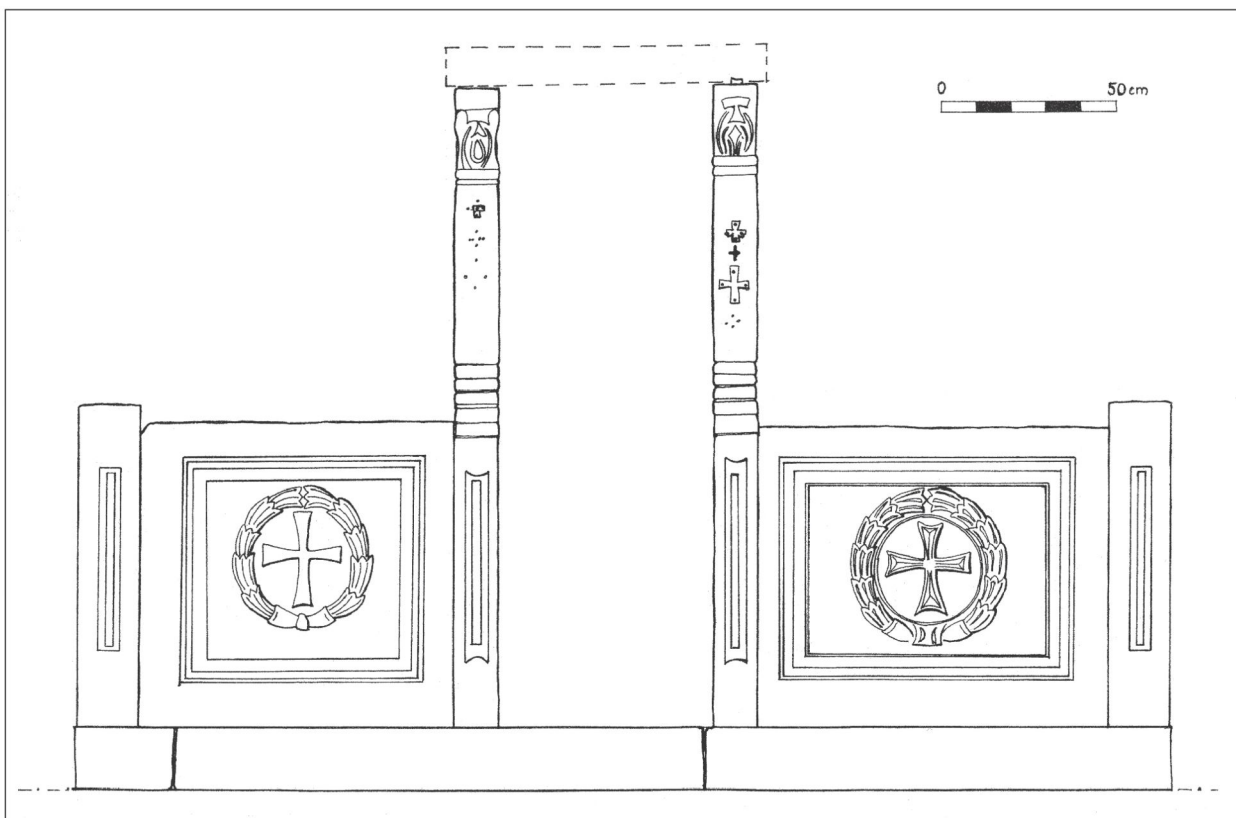




Fig. 10. NWC: Pieces of monochrome mosaic floor (lying upside down in the background) fallen from an upper storey onto the decorated floor of Loc. 223; seen from the east (phot. J. Burdajewicz)



Fig. 11. NWC: Cornice block of basalt coming from a Roman building, re-used in the church (phot. M. Burdajewicz)

PLANSZA 32



Fig. 12. NWC: The basilica as seen from the north-west (phot. J. Burdajewicz)



Fig. 13. OPB: Loc. 274 seen from the east, with an oil/wine press in the background. Note niches in the southern face of W 288 (foreground) and in the eastern face of W 275 (to the left) (phot. J. Młynarczyk)

Fig. 14. OPB: An oil-pressing bed and the collecting vat seen from the north, with two floor levels (phot. M. Burdajewicz)



Fig. 15. OPB: The eastern anta of the Basalt Roman Building as seen from the south, with a limestone basin of the Byzantine/Umayyad industrial installations and the winery's treading floor at right in the background (phot. M. Burdajewicz)



PLANSZA 34



Fig. 16. OPB: The podium front of the Basalt Roman Building as seen from the east (phot. J. Młynarczyk)

Fig. 17. OPB: The winery with its collecting pool to the left, the oil-press room to the right, and the podium of the Basalt Roman Building at lower right; view from the west (phot. J. Burdajewicz)

