

# EXEMPLI GRATIA

SAGALASSOS, MARC WAEKENS  
AND INTERDISCIPLINARY ARCHAEOLOGY



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SAGALASSOS,  
MARC WAEKENS AND  
INTERDISCIPLINARY  
ARCHAEOLOGY

Edited by Jeroen Poblome

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## *“A scholar’s fire can be kindled by unexpected sparks”*

As a child, Marc Waelkens once said, he already knew that he wanted to become an archaeologist – apparently encouraged by a cartoon professor in ‘Robbedoes’. A scholar’s fire can be kindled by unexpected sparks. Be that as it may, already as a young student, Marc Waelkens did not limit himself to just studying and taking exams. He joined excavation expeditions whenever he could. During his career, he worked in Italy, Syria, Egypt and Greece, but his true vocation originated from Turkey. There, in the South-West of the country, in what was once called Pisidia, was Sagalassos, the archaeological site which will be linked to professor Waelkens for many years to come.

It was a gift from heaven for our university when, in 1986, Marc Waelkens moved from Ghent to KU Leuven. He felt welcome in the Leuven climate, and he soon found out that here he would be able to begin what would turn out to be his magnum opus. Only the year before he had initiated the archaeological exploration of Sagalassos. His well-trained eye immediately recognized the enormous potential of the site. Although he was not the real ‘discoverer’ of Sagalassos, he was the one who understood how a modern approach could turn a somewhat dormant location into an archaeological site of world class level. His diplomatic skills in dealing with Turkish authorities made it possible for him to establish the foundations of what would become a lifelong discovery, in the true sense of the word. Every year, he would go to Turkey, every time increasing the number of highly professional collaborators accompanying him, both from Leuven and the West as well as from Turkey. Training Turkish students to become top class archaeologists has always been one of his major concerns. Gradually, his team grew, sometimes counting over one hundred members. Obviously, inspiring and leading them required considerable managerial talents, which, time would learn, were abundantly present.

An archaeologist is supposed to dig up things. This is definitely what Marc Waelkens did. There are the champions’ league treasures, for instance the almost pristine head of emperor Hadrian, which, upon discovery, immediately grabbed the attention of the world press, and which, a couple of years ago, was the center piece of a grand exhibition in the British Museum, and recently also in the Gallo-Roman Museum in Tongeren. There are the many buildings in Sagalassos, a number of which were or are being reconstructed, following the ‘anastylosis’ approach, i.e. by making use of original materials – mosaics, bathing facilities, a giant villa, a theater, fountains, and much, much more. These are things which catch the public eye. Less spectacular, but scientifically speaking at least of equal importance, are the many, many results obtained by Marc Waelkens’ interdisciplinary team of specialists, who were able to truly reconstruct the history of Sagalassos. These results showed how the city was governed, how the economy was thriving and fading, how people lived, in short, what Sagalassos was really like. This was the result of cutting edge archaeology, enriched by the knowledge of geologists, anthropologists, paleobotanists, engineers, DNA specialists etc. A period of ten thousand years was meticulously rebuilt and thoroughly described in less than twenty-five years of intensive research. The result: Sagalassos is much more than a traditional archaeological site, Sagalassos is alive!

Maybe that sounds a bit over-enthusiastic, words only allowed in the foreword of a book such as this, looking for some goodwill of the reader. Still, the phrasing is deliberate and correct: Sagalassos is truly alive. Archaeologists know this because of the ongoing series of research reports, articles, specialized books etc. which have been the work of the Waelkens team. The interest for Sagalassos is not limited to specialists, however. Marc Waelkens has also paid due attention to 'spreading the word'. Sagalassos has grown into an important component of tourism in Turkey. The team considers it a regular part of its job to guide tens of thousands of tourists. Furthermore, Marc Waelkens has always given many lectures. He has organized a considerable series of exhibitions, displaying what treasures Sagalassos has to offer. He has written a good deal of articles, text and books for a wider audience. Obviously, Marc Waelkens is not the only top quality researcher at our university, but there are not many who have spread their findings to a wider audience so efficiently as he has managed to do. This provided him with some fame, but that has never been the goal: modesty has always been one of his characteristics. Still, he knew what was his value – or rather, what was the value of his work. This made him knock on the doors of possible financial supporters, for it goes without saying that a large-scale project such as his, with so many collaborators and so many material requirements, could not thrive without well-structured financial support.

Within KU Leuven, professor Waelkens managed to establish a high quality research group, but he also devoted his talents to research policy. As the chairman of the university's Research Council, he was a key figure in safeguarding the high quality standards of KU Leuven's numerous research projects.

Marc Waelkens is a researcher of which many universities can only dream. Obviously, he is an inspiring example for young researchers. Obviously, he is a figure head of Leuven archaeology, or should I say *the* figure head. Obviously, he is a researcher who truly embodies what modern science can accomplish. Obviously, he is a tireless worker, persevering and loyal. Obviously, he is a person with qualities given only to the best. But above all, he is *Marc*, one of a kind.

Many of these qualities will be visible in the texts of this book. Its scientific contents will please Marc, but I am sure that these carefully crafted contributions, many of them written by scholars which he groomed, will also show their friendship for this highly remarkable Leuven professor. That will make this book into what it was meant to be, namely a *liber amicorum*, a book of friends, by friends, for a friend. Friends of Sagalassos, friends of Marc Waelkens. I am proud to be one of them.

**Prof. dr. ir. André Oosterlinck**  
President-chairman KU Leuven Association  
Honorary Rector KU Leuven

# *“An invaluable contribution to the development of Turkish archaeology”*

Professor Marc Waelkens, a very important archaeologist and a specialist on the Anatolian archaeology, acquired a distinguished place in Turkey-Belgium relations through his continuous efforts on the Sagalassos excavations.

We have followed with appreciation his 23 years of work to promote the Sagalassos project. It is indeed the success of Professor Waelkens that transformed the Sagalassos project into a wide scale interdisciplinary excavation project. Since the start of the excavations, the team led by Professor Waelkens has gone beyond the classical archaeological excavation works and benefited from various sciences. I have no doubt that the Sagalassos excavation will set the stage for even more research and discovery in Turkey in the years ahead.

Today, the bilateral contacts among artists, writers, film directors, educators, and scientists are indispensable to the multifaceted development of international relations. In the absence of such exchanges, an important pillar would be missing. After spending 23 years of his career on the Sagalassos project, Professor Waelkens made an invaluable contribution to the development of Turkish archaeology and architecture. We observed with pleasure that young Turkish academics took part in the Sagalassos excavation works and benefited from Professor Waelkens' immense experience in the field.

I believe that Professor Waelkens' enthusiasm was always a source of inspiration and motivation for his team members. He has given 500 lectures in Belgium concerning Sagalassos. It is indeed impossible to measure what Professor Waelkens meant to the project all these years. Beyond the excavation works, he also played a key role in the resounding success of the “Sagalassos, City of Dreams” exhibition in Belgium which was visited by thousands of people in 6 months' time. The exhibition not only introduced Sagalassos but also our ongoing scientific and cultural relations and exchanges to the Belgian people. It is remarkable that there are currently hundreds of “Friends of Sagalassos” in Belgium wholeheartedly supporting the project.

The Sagalassos excavation works also paved the way for the transformation of Ağlasun, the town nearby the archaeological site. As his personal warmth and humble personality enabled Professor Waelkens to gain the lasting confidence and respect of the local community, the small town became an integral part of the Sagalassos project and a center for tourist facilities. Ağlasun public, “the fellow townspeople” in Professor Waelkens' words, would always be grateful to Professor Waelkens in this regard.

I know that visiting Turkey was a childhood dream of Professor Waelkens and he realized this dream long before the onset of Sagalassos excavation works. In time, his love for Turkey has never vanished away but increased more and more. For all his efforts, Professor Waelkens was granted the Medallion for Outstanding Service, the most prestigious Turkish award for foreign nationals in 2002. I have no doubt that Turkey today, with its people, is a part of Professor Waelkens' life and even after his retirement, these strong ties will endure.

As Professor Waelkens proceeds to enjoy a well-earned retirement period after a lifetime of distinguished service in the scientific field, I wish him health, success and happiness in his new life.

**M. Hakan Olcay**

Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey  
to the Kingdom of Belgium

## *“All men dream, but not equally”*

*“All men dream: but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible. This I did.”*

Professor Marc Waelkens came to my mind when I read this quote from T.E. Lawrence, better known as Lawrence of Arabia. Not that Marc Waelkens is a dangerous man, quite the contrary. But Marc Waelkens is one of the few who acted a dream with open eyes, and made it possible.

Back in 1983, when he first visited the ruins of the city of Sagalassos in the company of the renowned British archaeologist Stephen Mitchell, Marc Waelkens was struck by the magic of the area. He was not the first: in 1907 the British writer and traveler Gertrude Bell, after having climbed the whole way to the site, wrote: *“I spent three wonderful hours at the end of which I understood why the Pisidians had built their city so high in the mountains.”*

Yet, in 1907 or in 1983 not much was visible from the ancient Pisidian metropolis built on the slopes of the Taurus Mountains. In 1983 Marc Waelkens started working, together with Stephen Mitchell, on Sagalassos and Cremna, another Pisidian city. In 1990 Marc Waelkens assumed the directorship of the archaeological site at Sagalassos on his own. For over three decades he devoted virtually all his energy and time on this site. Professor Waelkens not merely focused on the scientific-academic part of the job. By giving lectures - over 600 since 1990 - he has raised awareness and, more than that, the indispensable private funds in Belgium, necessary for excavation, conservation and restoration of the many monuments found on the site. As a result, it is hard to find another archaeological site which is to the same extent associated with a single person.

In the four years (2009-2013) that I spent as Belgian ambassador in Turkey, few weeks went by without any contact with Marc Waelkens. The first Belgian delegation I hosted at my residence in Ankara was a team from the province of Limburg, led by governor Herman Reynders. The delegation was in Turkey for talks with high government officials in preparation of the exhibition on Sagalassos that was to take place in the Gallo-Roman Museum of Tongeren. This marvelous exhibition drew over 145,000 visitors in seven months time (November 2010 – May 2011).

I also vividly recall the series of lectures by Marc Waelkens in April 2011 in Turkey. “Waelkens on tour” covered Ankara, Istanbul, Antalya and Burdur in just four days. The lectures were in the first place aimed at raising awareness for Sagalassos in Turkey itself, which is quite a challenge in a country blessed with several hundreds of archaeological sites, many of which world class. In Antalya we also discussed with tourism industry representatives on how to attract foreign tourists to Sagalassos.

The Turkish authorities often cite Sagalassos as an example for other archaeological sites in the country. They do this for obvious reasons. For starters, Sagalassos has evolved into a multidisciplinary research project. Research by experts reaches far beyond the excavations area itself: the surrounding territory is also extensively surveyed, providing detailed information on all aspects of life of the inhabitants, the functioning of the economy of the city as

well as its impact on the broader area. Last but not least, due to its remoteness and altitude, Sagalassos is one of the best preserved cities from classical antiquity. The site was never pillaged for building materials, which makes it most suited for restoration. More than half of the budget of the Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project is devoted to conservation or anastylosis, i.e. the faithful resurrection of buildings using the original building elements.

Professor Waelkens' personality and generosity contributed greatly to his excellent reputation. He has always demonstrated profound respect for Turkey's own interests and sensitivities. He has made a point of making Sagalassos fully accessible, by free expert-guided tours to visitors, including unheralded tourists. He has managed to strike the right balance between the honesty of the undisturbed site and the tourist-inviting rebuilding of stone structures. He has also been happy to pass his experience on to the next generation of Turkish archaeologists.

It is a truism that Sagalassos and Professor Waelkens have been - and continue to be - of great value for Belgian-Turkish bilateral relations. Sagalassos is not only a very fine example of scientific cooperation in various fields between the two countries. Moreover, for over 30 years Professor Waelkens has been a perfect ambassador of Belgium in Turkey, held in great esteem by Turkish politicians, officials and all the people he worked with, especially the inhabitants of the village nearby, Ağlasun.

In every single contact I had with Mr Ertuğrul Günay, Minister of Culture and Tourism until February 2013, and with senior officials from his ministry, Professor Waelkens and his great contribution to Turkish and world heritage was mentioned.

I can also witness of the quasi-unlimited access of the Turkish Government for everything related Sagalassos. It was thanks to Waelkens' reputation that the Turkish authorities had agreed to lend 238 pieces from the Burdur Museum (near Sagalassos) for the above-mentioned exhibition in Tongeren, including the right leg and the head of Emperor Hadrian, unearthed in Sagalassos in 2007.

It was out of recognition and respect that I recommended my Government to honour Minister Günay with a very important Belgian honorary distinction. In October 2012, on the occasion of an important economic mission to Turkey, His Royal Highness Prince Philippe – now His Majesty King Philippe – bestowed this high distinction on him. Also Mr Ömer Çelik, who succeeded to Mr Günay in February 2013, in an interview with “Der Spiegel” lauded Sagalassos as one of best managed foreign-directed archaeological sites in Turkey.

I wish to conclude on a very personal note. I cannot recall how many times my spouse Ann and I met with Marc Waelkens in the previous four years. I have fond memories of meetings, dinners and get-togethers in Sagalassos, Ankara, Istanbul, Burdur, Antalya, Izmir, Tongeren and Leuven. Mutual respect quickly turned into warm friendship. Ann and I are both very happy and proud to have Marc as a close friend.

**Pol De Witte**

Ambassador of Belgium in Turkey 2009-2013

# *“Sagalassos would still be sleeping underground if it were not for Marc bey”*

Marc *bey*'s story started thirty years ago with a simple glass of tea being offered by Mehmet Efendi, Sagalassos' guard at that time, to Marc on his first visit to the ancient city of Sagalassos and it concluded on 29 August 2013 with a spontaneous party attended by all Ağlasun residents, old and young. Marc *bey* has and always will have a special place in the hearts of the Ağlasun and Burdur residents, as well as a special bond with our country's archaeological community, for we always acknowledge him as a brother, a comrade and a friend, with sympathies extending far beyond his Excavation Directorate of Sagalassos.

Professor Marc Waelkens must be one of the very few select foreign scientists who has excavated non-stop during 25 campaigns at one specific archaeological site in Anatolia.

The Pearl of the Taurus Mountains, Sagalassos – this beautiful Anatolian city – would still be sleeping underground if it were not for Marc *bey* and his brothers-in-work from Ağlasun, who are also his children.

Forty years ago, a foreign scientist had applied for a fairly undefined project at Sagalassos, but since the Turkish Ministry did not give its permission, it was almost as if the archaeological studies were waiting for Professor Marc Waelkens to initiate them. His excavations started in collaboration with the Burdur Museum in 1989, and from 1990, as a result of the trust he had earned, the Cabinet of the Republic of Turkey gave him permission to continue excavation studies under his own name. Marc Waelkens kept this trust with sincerity and success until the 29<sup>th</sup> of August 2013, and he never betrayed the trust of the Culture and Tourism Ministry of Turkey, the Governorship of Burdur, the Museum of Burdur and, most importantly, the people of Ağlasun and his team.

Sagalassos, the ancient city which slept covered in rubble at the summit of the Taurus mountain range for so long, was unearthed during my 21-year tenure as Director of the Burdur Museum. Works had been initiated already 4 seasons before my service, which amounts to a quarter of a century in total of archaeological excavations directed at Sagalassos. The city was not only excavated archaeologically; it has been studied in an interdisciplinary way together with its territory. Beyond this, millions of visitors are exposed to Anatolian cultural history every year, with Sagalassos representing a true pearl in the crown, supported not least by innumerable conferences chaired by Marc Waelkens. No one can ignore the amount this excavation has done to publicise our country.

We love him a lot, and he loves us a lot. He is our brother, our friend and our cultural ambassador. I wish him many days of well-being and health in his life after today.

**H. Ali Ekinçi**

Director of the Burdur Museum



## *“Will Marc Waelkens never be tired?”*

Via academic and personal links and relations I'm happy to have known Marc Waelkens for many years, also before he became a member of the academic personnel of our university.

Owing to my interest in archaeology as a lay person, I visited Turkey more than once. Amongst other places, I also succeeded in learning about Sagalassos, as a place where quite a few things had been or were being realised in the domain of archaeology, but where most of the research was still waiting to be done. I was overwhelmed one day when I happened to see Marc Waelkens and his team at work in Sagalassos.

Part of my management task as vice-rector of the humanities and social sciences at KU Leuven was to find and attract new colleagues, or at least to check the curricula and scientific achievements of the person proposed for or charged with a specific task, to get information about his or her reputation among the students and the colleagues. As a matter of fact, it usually was a pleasure to follow that person's achievements in his or her career.

It was indeed a very great pleasure to see how Marc Waelkens performed his task. I attended several of his talks and lectures for non-student audiences in Leuven, which to quite some extent dealt with his realisations in Sagalassos. It was a pleasure to see how he was appreciated by the Turkish Embassy, as well as to receive members of that embassy at our university, who would come to one or another of his lectures.

It was also splendid to see how Flemish families contribute financially or otherwise to the restoration and keep-up of specific buildings in Sagalassos.

And there is still more to mention. The exhibition on Sagalassos in the Gallo-Roman museum at Tongeren was splendid. And it was much appreciated by the Turkish immigrants in Limburg. Let me also mention the Sagalassos yearbook publications and those of the Sagalassos team.

Will Marc Waelkens never be tired? I asked myself that question when, a few months ago, I went to a lecture given by him in the rather small village where I live (Bierbeek). I know Bierbeek is not the only village where he goes and talks. Thanks for all this and much more, Marc. Ad multos annos!

**Prof. dr. Emma Vorlat**

Honorary vice-rector of the humanities and social sciences at KU Leuven



# *“Did you build it yourself, that you know it so well?”*

The following speech was prepared by Hasan Aynalı, guard at Sagalassos and specialist worker in the anastylosis team, on the occasion of the surprise party at Sagalassos and in Ağlasun on 29 August 2013, Marc Waelkens' final working day of the Sagalassos 2013 campaign.

“Dear employees of Sagalassos and Marc *bey*, or Marc *dayı* (uncle Marc), as the people of Ağlasun usually say,

The day we first met was 23 years ago. Back then, when you were looking for workers to excavate Sagalassos, people in Ağlasun were asking: “Can we really work with foreigners?”. Years passed and we could not know that you were actually not a foreigner, but our well-beloved *hodja* Marc *bey*. You raised up today's Sagalassos. What the people of Ağlasun, who come from deep in the Taurus Mountains, called ruins back then you raised up and presented both Sagalassos and Ağlasun to the world.

You have made yourself loved by the people of Ağlasun. As the years pass, our love for you will not fade. You will always be our Marc *hodja* to whom we will always feel love and gratitude, who never forgot the names of our spouses and children, and contributed to the retirements of most of us.

Now I will tell you about a few of the memories I have with our Marc *hodja*. The Roman Baths were being excavated. You arrived in the trench and said that stairways and windows would be exposed where we were working. After you left, our worker friends joked with you: “Did you build it yourself, that you know it so well?”. Later, however, we found the stairway and window, and saw what a valuable and scholarly person you were and we were amazed.

I will also share this memory. The Library was being restored and it was a rainy day. We were dismantling the metal scaffolding inside. You were in conversation with some of your esteemed colleagues, so we workers had stopped so we would not cause too much noise. That's when you asked: “Is it also raining there?”, wondering why we had stopped working. Honest to god, we were not avoiding work that day, but we had stopped so as not to disturb you.

Dear Marc *bey*, we can keep on sharing memories, but we cannot finish sharing our memories with you, because 23 years cannot fit into a few minutes. What we can do is fold our respect and love for you into our hearts. We love you a lot and we will not forget you, Marc *bey* of Ağlasun.”

**Hasan Aynalı**

Guard at Sagalassos



## “A milestone in the Gallo-Roman Museum’s history”

The exhibition ‘Sagalassos. City of Dreams’ (2011-2012) was without a doubt an absolute highlight for the Gallo-Roman Museum in Tongeren, Belgium. In only six months we had 146,000 visitors. These are unprecedented numbers for an exhibition about an archaeological site.

The Gallo-Roman Museum and the province of Limburg are therefore delighted to have been able to help create the crowning glory of the life’s work of Professor Marc Waelkens. The Gallo-Roman Museum has followed the excavations in south-western Turkey with more than usual interest. The ground-breaking interdisciplinary approach of Marc Waelkens and his team resulted in spectacular findings *and* in interesting new insights over the years. Furthermore, year after year, Marc Waelkens increasingly developed this forgotten site into a city full of glitter and glamour. It thus gradually became a true tourist magnet. And thanks to his animated lectures across the country, many Belgians have found their way to the site.

In the many conversations with Marc that preceded our cooperation we noticed that he was also extremely keen to show the results of his life’s work in Belgium. Thankfully, Marc Waelkens is one of these scientists who sets great store by opening up scientific research for a broad and varied public. To fulfil this, he regarded the Gallo-Roman Museum as the ideal partner. However, the circumstances had to be optimum, which is why, already in the mid-1990s, we decided to realise an exhibition with him just *after* the new museum had been reopened. From the start we also aimed to transfer several of the monumental pieces of the site to Belgium. These would also really get full play in the new exhibition area.

It became a complex project. Not only were there long negotiations with the Turkish government on the loans, there was also a huge amount of extremely complex information that had to be told in a comprehensible way.

Marc Waelkens was of invaluable assistance in our diplomatic talks with the Turkish government. He has built up a huge amount of respect in Turkey. Without him there would never have been a Sagalassos exhibition.

Yet the negotiations on loans proceeded parallel to an even greater challenge! The life’s work of Marc Waelkens had to be summarised in an audience-friendly exhibition. It was a truly new experience of life for the entire museum team!

It was an extremely intensive process. On the one hand, Marc and his team wanted to help approve every letter in the exhibition, on the other the museum team and Guy Joosten wanted every word to be understood by visitors. This is why texts, maps, films and so on were being passed to and fro endlessly. A real marathon session for everyone! We now laugh about it together and are mainly happy that it has paid off. After all, you can’t reach 146,000 visitors just like that!

We are therefore grateful to Marc Waelkens. The Sagalassos exhibition is without doubt a milestone in the museum's history. In turn, we hope to have contributed to an even greater spread of the ground-breaking work that is being carried out in south-western Turkey for so many years under the guidance of Professor Marc Waelkens.

We are looking forward to what this site will be offering in the future and would be happy to create a Sagalassos II within a few years!

We wholeheartedly wish Marc many more wonderful years.

Hopefully he can enjoy the splashing water in the fountain of his 'Upper Agora' in a much more peaceful way than before.

**Carmen Willems**

Director Gallo-Roman Museum  
Tongeren

**Gilbert Van Baelen**

Honorary Representative  
of the Province of Limburg

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# *Exempli gratia* Sagalassos, Marc Waelkens and Interdisciplinary Archaeology

## Editorial Note

Jeroen Poblome

*“Your statue, which stands there, has merit in the idea of the figure, and of the design, as it represents you pointing towards the sea; but it bears no resemblance to the original, and the execution is in other respects but indifferent. Send therefore a statue worthy to be called yours, and of a similar design to the one which is there at present, as the situation is well calculated for perpetuating, by these means, the memory of any illustrious person.”*

Quotation from ‘*Periplus Ponti Euxini*’, by Arrian of Nicomedia (c. 86-160 AD), translated by William Falconer in 1805.

As part of his tour of duty as governor of the Black Sea province of Cappadocia appointed in 131 AD, Lucius Flavius Arrianus Xenophon visited Trapezus (present-day Trabzon) and found a local sanctuary overlooking the Black Sea in an unworthy condition properly to bestow honour upon his imperial overlord, Hadrian. The statuary in particular, including an effigy of the emperor, seemingly did not generate much awe and respect for this great and widely travelled statesman. Arrian duly reported this condition to Hadrian in his *Periplus* (see quotation), reminded the emperor of his previous visit to Trapezus and the sanctuary, and requested proper statuary to be donated by the emperor. It is not known whether the new statue of Hadrian ever arrived in Trapezus.

Clearly, in this respect, ancient Sagalassos was much more fortunate. The more than life-size military portrait of emperor Hadrian, of which fragments were discovered in the south-western corner of Frigidarium 1 of the Roman Imperial bath complex, is of such prestige and natural beauty that no official, no matter what his rank, would have felt the need to request a new copy from Hadrian. It is possible that Hadrian never saw his portrait statue at Sagalassos, but the local community must have shared feelings of civic pride nonetheless when confronted with the statue in its original glory.

Also no ancient author commented on Hadrian’s statue at Sagalassos. Sagalassos is actually mentioned only a few times by contemporary authors. One such author was none

other than Titus Livius Patavinus (59 BC-17 AD), known as Livy in English, who in his *History of Rome* reported on the expedition of the consul Gnaeus Manlius Vulso against the Galatians in Asia Minor in 189 BC, following the events of the Battle of Magnesia the year before. *En route, "... he entered the territory of Sagalassus, a fertile district rich in all kinds of fruits. Its Pisidian inhabitants are by far the best soldiers in that part of the world. Their military superiority, the fruitfulness of their soil, their large population, and the situation of their exceptionally strong city make them a brave people. As no envoys appeared when the consul reached their frontiers, he sent out plundering parties into their fields. At last, as they saw their crops carried off and their cattle driven away, their stubbornness yielded. The envoys whom they sent agreed to pay a fine of 50 talents, 20,000 medimni of wheat and an equal amount of barley, and on these terms they obtained peace"* (Livy, *Ab urbe condita libri*, 38.15.7, translated by C. Roberts in 1905). Even if the fine was in line with those demanded from other *poleis* in the region<sup>1</sup>, no doubt its payment was not good news for the community at Sagalassos. In this context, however, it is important to remember mainly the good words Livy wrote on the conditions in the territory of Sagalassos and the strength of its community.

The other, famous ancient source on Sagalassos is Arrian, albeit in a work other than the passage cited above. His report on Alexander the Great's conquests takes us back to Sagalassos in 333 BC. Although Alexander had initiated the siege of Termessos, upon concluding a pact of friendship with Selge, he "... concluded that a siege of Telmissus would be a long one, and so moved on the Sagalassus, also a fairly large city, inhabited by Pisidians, the most warlike of this warlike tribe" (Arrian, *Anabasis Alexandri*, I.28, translated by E. Iliff Robson in 1929). Although Sagalassos was no match for Alexander's troops, again in this context it is good to read that fourth century BC Sagalassos is considered to be a city in its own right and that its citizens were brave soldiers.

It is as if there was some sense of destiny in both passages. More than two millennia after Alexander the Great witnessed the brave actions of the soldiers of Sagalassos and Manlius Vulso took note of their enduring bellicose reputation, it seems entirely fitting that a descendant of those other notorious fighters in antiquity, the *Belgae*<sup>2</sup>, was to start his courageous quest aimed at investigating what remained of ancient Sagalassos. In line with both ancient authors it is important in this context to stress the good things Marc Waelkens' choice of Sagalassos brought about. Basically, that is what this volume is about: a celebration of the good that developing Sagalassos into a major topic for interdisciplinary archaeological project brought about.

But make no mistake, this volume is not a *Festschrift* in the strict sense of the word. Leuven University Press kindly increased the challenge by wishing to create a wider, thematic platform in which scholars, friends and colleagues close to Marc took the opportunity to reflect critically upon the value of the interdisciplinary message of the Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project. As a result, no open call for papers was launched and the editorial team contacted a selection of international authorities in the field of Anatolian and Roman archaeology, bio-archaeology, geo-archaeology, ancient history

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<sup>1</sup> Tabae: 25 talents of silver and 10,000 medimni of wheat, Kibyra: 100 talents and 10,000 medimni of corn, Termessos, Aspendos and the other cities of Pamphylia: 50 talents of silver each.

<sup>2</sup> "*Horum omnium fortissimi sunt Belgae*" (*Gaeus Julius Caesar, Commentarii de bello Gallico*, I.3).

and cultural heritage. The crucial question asked of each contributor is in what way Sagalassos, Marc Waelkens and interdisciplinary archaeology caused wider shifts in their scientific practices.

In theory, method and practice, archaeology is a complex discipline. Its main *raison d'être* is the study of the human past. As a discipline, archaeology develops a long-term perspective in order to grasp fundamental aspects of human evolution and behaviour, in particular those of communities and the historical processes within which these develop. In a lot of cases, interdisciplinary collaboration impacts on how archaeology approaches the human past, in shifting both practices and interpretation. The contributors to the volume engage with archaeology from a wide variety of angles. Even though they are nested in humanities or science & technology departments, their concern is not so much their disciplinary field or boundaries *per se*, but a more widely inspired understanding of the past.

The Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project, at Marc's instigation, has made interdisciplinary practices part of its scientific strategy from the very beginning. The project is internationally acknowledged for its achievements in this respect. Aspects of its approach to ancient Sagalassos can be considered ground-breaking for the archaeology of Anatolia and the wider fields of classical and Roman archaeology.

Now that Marc Waelkens himself is at the stage of shifting practices, from an active academic career to an active academic retirement, this volume represents an excellent opportunity to reflect on the impact of the Sagalassos Archaeological Research Project. In accordance with the best of scientific traditions, this task was required from peers, who used their academic freedom and wisdom to reflect critically on the state of the art. Also in the best of scientific traditions, peers do not necessarily agree on all aspects of how basic building blocks should be defined or combined to create meaning from actual theories, methods and practices in science for understanding patterns of human behaviour in the past. To be sure, the last words on the phenomenon of ancient Sagalassos are not to be found in this volume, nor does the editorial team expect this to be the last book on Sagalassos or involving Marc Waelkens.

Measuring the impact of scientific progress will always be a hot topic in performing science. In the best of the Sagalassos Project's traditions of striving towards impacting on scientific progress, this volume uses impact as its structuring logic. As a result, topics and contributors are arranged from the very core of classical Sagalassos, its monuments, to very far away Northern Gaul. Apart from their representational archaeological value, the urban monuments of Sagalassos are also strong test-cases for circumscribing values in current cultural heritage management practices and policies (Ebru Torun and Semih Ercan). Monuments, especially those with dedicatory inscriptions, lend themselves to critical historical analysis as well, creating a challenge for some aspects of their archaeological interpretation (Werner Eck). The urban excavation programme at Sagalassos focuses on much more than just monuments, however, and wishes to understand manifold basic aspects of daily life in the past. The study of animal bones has proven a very strong proxy for approaching many such aspects (Wim Van Neer and Bea De Cupere). The collaboration between many disciplines focused on ancient Sagalassos and its territory is an intricate operation, however, which works well only when balances are struck carefully and respected by all parties involved. It is actually in the grey zones