

# Every Agora Needs a Fountain: The Early Roman Imperial Fountain on the Upper Agora of Sagalassos (SW Turkey)\*



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**Anahtar kelimeler:** Su temini, Çeşme, Anıtsallaştırma, Sagalassos, Pisidia

*Pisidia kenti Sagalassos'taki su tedarik ağı ve yönetimi nispeten iyi bilimekle birlikte son arkeolojik araştırmalar, bu tedarik ağının yalnızca ağın kendisini anlamamıza değil, aynı zamanda kentsel peyzaj üzerindeki etkisine de katkıda bulunan kalıntıları ortaya çıkardı. Yeni düzenlenen Sagalassos Yukarı Agorası üzerine inşa edilen Erken Roma İmparatorluk çeşmesi, geleneksel biçim ve yenilikçi şehir manzarasının birleşiminin sonucuydu. Yeni çeşme sadece şehir halkına su sağlamakla kalmamış, aynı zamanda kentsel peyzaj içinde öne çıkan konumu sayesinde, şehrin sağladığı imkanların görsel bir ifadesini sunuyordu. Anıtsal çeşmenin inşası aynı zamanda halkın kullanımı ve suyun teşhir edilmesinde önemli bir değişime işaret ediyordu. Sonunda çeşme, mevcut anıtı yeni bir temsil şekliyle geliştirme niyetiyle, gelişen kentsel peyzajın bir parçası olarak yerini Antonine Çeşmesi'ne bırakmıştır.*

**Keywords:** Water supply, Fountain, Monumentalization, Sagalassos, Pisidia

*The water supply network and its management at the Pisidian city of Sagalassos (SW Turkey) are relatively well-known but recent archaeological research has uncovered further remains of this supply network which not only add to our understanding of the network itself but also of its impact on the cityscape. An Early Roman Imperial fountain built on the newly organised Upper Agora of Sagalassos was the result of the combination of traditional form and innovate city-scaping. The new fountain did not merely supply water to the urban populace. Through its prominent situation within the urban landscape it offered a visual statement of the amenities which the city provided. The construction of the monumental fountain also signalled an important change in the public use and display of water. In the end, the fountain gave way to the Antonine Nymphaeum, as part of a developing urban landscape with the intention to surpass the existing monument with a new template of representation.*

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## Introduction<sup>1</sup>

Since the beginning of settled life, installations related to water supply and storage are a common element for human communities. Wells and cisterns were a necessary presence in various types of settlements, both large and small. Generally, public fountains and water collection points connected to natural water sources or water channels were a basic constituent of water and public health management in the cities of the classical world (Crouch 1993). Monumental installations of water supply in the shape of fountain buildings or *nymphaea*, on the other hand, were far less so and, like other monumental buildings, reflect a choice of the community to invest in structures that fulfil a basic function in a manner that supersedes their utilitarian character (Richard 2012).

The water supply network and its management at the Pisidian city of Sagalassos (SW Turkey) have been the topic of several studies and are therefore relatively well-known (Owens 1995; Steegen *et al.* 2000; Martens 2001, 2006 and 2008; Waelkens 2016). Having said that, recent archaeological research has uncovered further remains of this supply network which not only add to our understanding of the network itself but also of its impact on the cityscape.

Based on the discovery of an Early Roman Imperial period water channel behind the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE so-called Antonine Nymphaeum on the Upper Agora of Sagalassos, as well as the reuse of elements of a Doric structure in the back wall of the same monumental fountain built in Corinthian order, M. Waelkens hypothesized the presence of a fountain on the square preceding the Antonine Nymphaeum (Waelkens 2016: 325). Control excavations carried out along the northern edge of the Upper Agora in 2017 corroborated his hypothesis by exposing the remains of this alleged fountain. Chronologically, it was to be the first of a series of monumental fountain buildings built on the squares and in other areas of public gathering at Sagalassos during the Roman Imperial period (Waelkens 2016). Together they constitute water supply on a monumental scale, not present anywhere else in the region of Pisidia (Martens 2008: 250 and n. 18).

The importance of the newly discovered building was more than the identification of yet another fountain, as it also informs on the new sense of monumentality that came to characterize the urban centre during the Early Roman Imperial period (Talloen – Poblome 2016: 121-135; Poblome, in press). Moreover, the fountain was found to be part of a whole series of public works related to water supply, including aqueducts and piped channels, constructed during the Early Roman Imperial period in the city and its territory.

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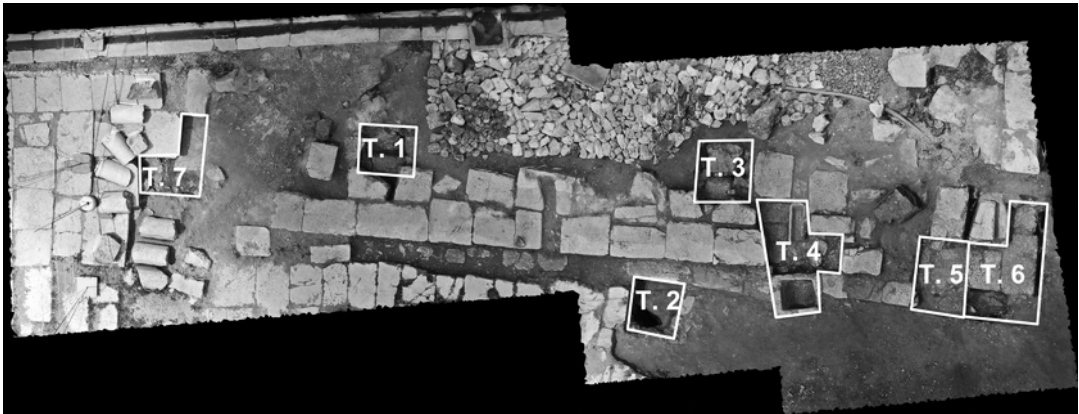


**Fig. 1.** Plan of the Upper Agora of Sagalassos (situation 2017): 1) Early Roman Imperial fountain; 2) honorific columns; 3) the Antonine Nymphaeum (Sagalassos Project).

The aim of this article is to present the results of the soundings on the Upper Agora together with those carried out around the supply channel, and thus shed light on the construction of the first monumental fountain on a public square at Sagalassos and on the role the building played in the monumentalization of the city. Finally, it will discuss the dismantlement of the fountain and its replacement by the Antonine Nymphaeum.

## The Hellenistic Agora

The Upper Agora of Sagalassos was the city's beating heart in matters of politics, religion and commerce (Talloon 2017; Beaujean – Talloon 2019; Fig. 1). The original, Hellenistic agora was a modest square of approximately 25m (E-W) by 40m (N-S) or 1000m<sup>2</sup> with a surface of beaten earth, adjoined to the east by the so-called Agora Building, both dating to the first half of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century BCE.



**Fig. 2.** *Ortho-photo of the fountain remains on the Upper Agora with indication of the trenches (Sagalassos Project).*



**Fig. 3.** *Plan of the fountain remains on the Upper Agora (situation 2017, Sagalassos Project).*

Only by the end of that century or early in the next one, additional monumental structures were built along the streets leading up to the agora from the northeast and southeast. The modest architectural decoration of these public buildings placed the emphasis on function rather than representation, serving the needs of the community (Talloe – Poblome 2016: 117-120; Poblome – Daems 2019). As the centre of civic life, agoras or their immediate vicinity often accommodated installations of public water supply, an important and necessary resource regulated and maintained by the state (e.g. Paga 2015). Although a fountain or other water provisioning point may well have been present on or near the Upper Agora of Sagalassos during the Hellenistic period, no indications of such structure have been found so far.

## The Fountain and the Age of Monumentalization

Towards the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE, the Upper Agora was expanded considerably towards the west and north. These operations resulted in a substantial enlargement of the square which now reached its final trapezoidal form and maximum extent of 58-61 m (N-S) by 40 m (E-W) or 2380 m<sup>2</sup> (Talloon – Poblome 2016: 120-121). This extension of the agora was followed by a large-scale building programme during the Early Roman Imperial period (25 BCE – 68 CE) which lasted several decades and would drastically transform the outlook and character of the square, signalling the start of a veritable “age of monumentalization” at Sagalassos (Talloon – Poblome 2016: 121-135; Poblome, in press). To define this new square, and underline its importance for political processes more assuredly, four honorific Corinthian columns of about 11 m in height and carrying statues of benefactors were erected in the corners of the agora at the beginning of our era (Fig. 1.2). The columns not only emphasized the enlarged square, but they actually formed a rectangle, thus giving the trapezoidal agora a more regular appearance (Talloon – Poblome 2016: 123-124).

The highlight of the metamorphosis the agora underwent was a fountain built in the centre of the north side of the new square (Fig. 1.1). As part of the ongoing conservation programme of the agora pavement, the protective cover of the slabs in the northern part of the square, consisting of sand and gravel, was removed during the excavation and restoration campaign of 2017. This revealed the foundation blocks of a structure, situated ca. 3.5 m south of the Antonine Nymphaeum (Fig. 1.3), which had not been documented before. In order to determine the exact extent and nature of the structure, as well as to establish its chronological phases a total of 7 trenches were laid out over and around the building (Fig. 2).

The excavations revealed a rectangular structure with a width (east-west) of 16.30 m. Its actual length (north-south) could not be determined: while its east side could be exposed over a length 5.50 m before the foundation blocks disappear underneath the basin of the Antonine Nymphaeum, its western side wall could only be traced over 3.30 m to south of the same Nymphaeum (Fig. 3). This indicates that the building was not parallel to the later Antonine nymphaeum, but had a slightly more north-south orientation, corresponding to that of the newly created agora and associated buildings and monuments. Two rows of steps made of dry-laid rectangular limestone blocks were present along its entire southern face (trench 2). This was followed to the north by rows of irregular limestone slabs – constituting the floor of the building – which were later largely removed. Underneath the northern, upper row of steps and the slabs immediately behind it, lines of well-cut limestone blocks were present, set within a trench cut into the mother soil of ophiolitic clay. These foundation blocks could also be determined along the western (trench 7) and eastern edge (trench 6) of the building, while the area within contained a fill of large and medium-sized unworked limestone blocks (present in trenches 1 and 3).

Of the actual built-up structure, no remains were found *in situ*. Yet, among the slabs the presence of a stone-cut bed for a conduit leading south from the rectangular recess that most probably held a settling basin could be established in the centre of the structure. This set-up undoubtedly collected the overflow of one or more drawing basins and suggests that the latter was/were situated in the northern part of the structure, that could be identified as a fountain on the basis of this feature. A second settling basin, present on the southern edge of the eastern half of the building, was the result of a later modification of the water evacuation of the structure (trench 4). The drawing basin of the fountain would have been present at least 1.50m away from the southern edge of the building, judging by the length of the channel bed, thus ruling out a large open-air basin in the southern part of the building. Furthermore, the foundations of well-cut blocks present all along the contours of the building, compared to the fill of unworked limestone blocks in the central part, suggest that the weight of the building, possibly formed by a series of columns placed in front of the basin to support an overarching superstructure, was carried by the outer line, with an open space inside. These elements hypothetically imply the reconstruction of the general shape of the fountain as a *stoa*-like structure, consisting of a basin preceded by a colonnade. The back wall of the later Antonine Nymphaeum includes elements of a Doric frieze from (a) dismantled building(s). While it is possible that these *spolia* belonged to the original fountain building, as contended by Waelkens (2016: 325), this hypothesis cannot be ascertained. Having said that, the porticoes that came to surround the square on the west, south and east side shortly afterwards were equally in Doric order (Talloe – Poblome 2016: 129-131). These would have complemented the presumed Doric structure on the north side, sustaining visual regularity and architectural order.

The construction of the fountain can be securely placed in the first quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE. The ceramics retrieved from the foundation trenches of its substructure, as well as from the fill of limestone in the centre provided a *terminus post quem* in the beginning of our era. On the other hand, the slabs of pavement of the agora, laid out during the reign of Tiberius (14-37 CE; Talloe – Poblome 2016: 132-134) provide a *terminus ante quem* for its construction, as they were placed against the already present steps of the fountain at a slightly higher level.

Monumental fountains of this type were nothing new in the Roman Imperial period. *Stoa*-like structures provided with lionhead spouts or drawing basins are known in Anatolia since Hellenistic times. At other sites such “Hallenbrunnen” are generally small structures, only a couple of meters wide.<sup>2</sup> The Doric fountain-house constructed in the eastern residential quarter of Sagalassos around the same period belonged to the same

<sup>2</sup> See, for instance, the Hellenistic examples at Ephesos (Thur 2020: 401-402), Magnesia ad Maeandrum (Richard 2012: 122 cat. n° 49) and Kaunos (Richard 2012: 271 n° 45).



**Fig. 4.** *View of the Doric fountain-house at Sagalassos from the south (Sagalassos Project).*

category (Richard 2012: 276 cat. n° 64; Waelkens 2016: 323-324).<sup>3</sup> It took the form of a U-shaped structure (10.9 x 7.73m) with drawing basins behind a parapet supporting Doric columns and their entablature, and carrying a protective roof on three sides of a central courtyard; all in all representing a fountain-house in the Greek tradition (Fig. 4). With their fairly modest dimensions and generally a-centric location these fountains do not qualify as prestige projects (Thür 2020: 403).

The fountain on the Upper Agora was therefore not the only monumental fountain to be constructed at Sagalassos around this time, but the former was clearly designed on a different spatial concept than the fountain-house in the eastern residential area. Whilst the construction of the latter building was monumental, its design was practical and functional, and was intended primarily to provide clean, running water from the local natural source. Tucked away in the mountain slope, it was not meant to serve as a monumental backdrop for an open space. Even if the fountain on the Upper Agora falls into the same traditional typological category, with a width of 16.30m it was substantially larger than its eastern counterpart. More importantly, situated exactly in the middle of the north side, it dominated the axial lay-out of the new Upper Agora as its centrepiece and architectural backdrop. The architectural guiding principles of symmetry, axiality and frontality, typical of Roman building and the lay-out of public squares (Frakes 2014), are clearly manifested in this fountain. In its design the building combined functional with

<sup>3</sup> For a similar, originally Hellenistic spring house in the residential quarter of Ariassos in southern Pisidia see Owens 2005: 32.

representational aspects: providing the citizens of Sagalassos with fresh drinking water and at the same time creating a monumental façade for the northern side of the newly refurbished agora. The monument also embodied a rather profligate use of water in urban space. In this sense it reflects a new, Roman attitude towards water: not merely used for utilitarian purposes but also exploited for luxury, enjoyment and the creation of a sentiment of *urbanitas* (Feldman 2014).

Perhaps the fountain on the Upper Agora can be identified with the *krene* or fountain mentioned in an Early Roman Imperial inscription on what appears to be a Doric architrave found reused as *spolia* in the so-called Urban Mansion in the southeastern residential area of the city (Eich *et al.* 2018: n° 72). According to the text, this fountain was constructed by Admon, son of Troilos, an *agoranomos* or overseer of the market. It would certainly be appropriate for a civic official such as the *agoranomos* in an age characterized by elite munificence to provide the square with a fountain, a source of high quality drinking water for the crowds frequenting the enlarged agora, and at the same time gather public support, even if such examples of benefaction are not that frequently attested.<sup>4</sup> In any case, the inscription illustrates that public water supply was high on the agenda of civic officials at Sagalassos during this period.

For the Early Roman Imperial period several fountains are attested on public squares in Asia Minor.<sup>5</sup> The new fountain building on the agora of Sagalassos may have been inspired by the early 1<sup>st</sup> century CE fountain built at the nearby Roman colony of Pisidian Antioch (Mitchell – Waelkens 1998: 175-199; Owens – Taşlıalan 2008; Richard 2012: 276 n° 63). With the establishment of the Roman colony during the reign of emperor Augustus (27 BCE - 14 CE), the pre-existing city was extensively remodelled. The street system generally conformed to the arrangements of Roman town planning and a portfolio of new urban buildings was developed, including a monumental fountain (Owen – Taşlıalan 2008: 302). Although this fountain belonged to the same Pi-shaped type of the Doric fountain at Sagalassos, it too was executed on a more monumental scale, like the fountain on the Upper Agora. The basic structure of the building, with an impressive length of 27.20m and a width of 10.70m consisted of a Pi-shaped podium supporting an upper façade. In its first building phase, the fountain took the shape of a Doric fountain-house provided with four basins sheltered behind colonnades and a paved courtyard in the middle. Perhaps more importantly in terms of the present study, it fronted the northern end of the city's *Cardo Maximus* – the city's main north-south arterial street – the final part of which was made wider to form an elongated square. The fountain house

<sup>4</sup> Zuiderhoek 2009: 79 fig. 5.2 lists only two epigraphically attested examples of fountains on a total of 176 buildings donated by officials and benefactors in Asia Minor.

<sup>5</sup> See, for example, the nymphaeum bordering the plaza near the temple of Zeus at Cilician Diokaisareia (Richard 2012: 264 n° 25); the Hydreion on the plaza at the upper end of the Embolos at Ephesos (idem: 266 n° 33); and the omega-shaped fountain on the square in front of the sanctuary of Demeter at Pergamon (idem: 273 n° 54).



faced southwards across an elongated public square, creating a similar vista like the one of the Upper Agora at Sagalassos. Located close to one of the entrances to the city, the fountain not only offered the visitor refreshment upon entering Pisidian Antioch, but it also made an important statement on the facilities which the city provided. At the same time, with the backdrop of the mountains behind, it created an imposing vista when viewed along the *Cardo Maximus* (Owens – Taşlıalan 2008: 303).

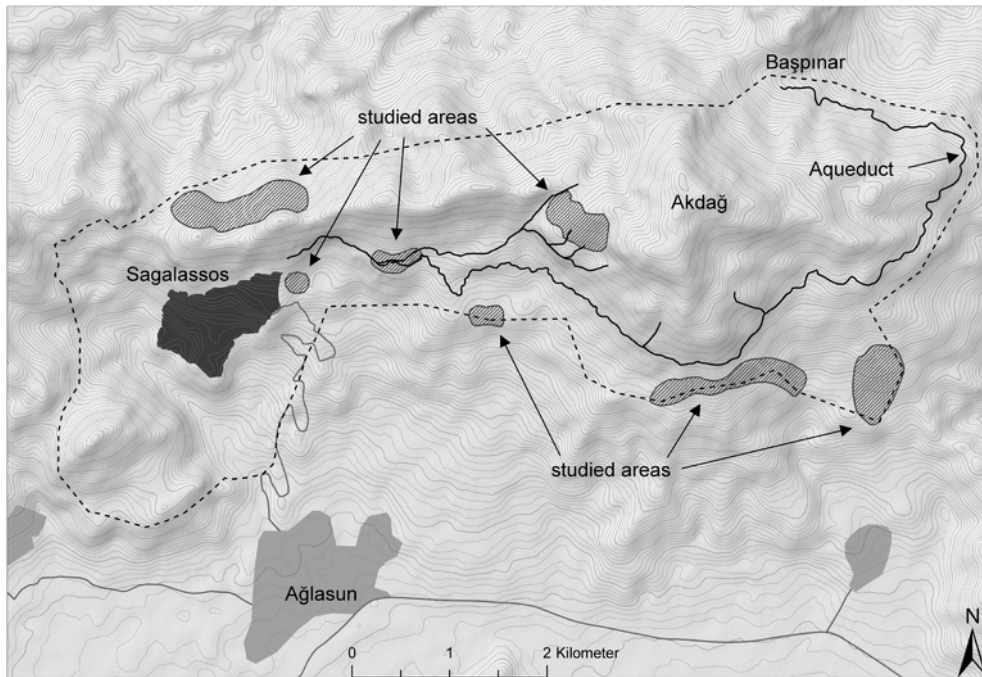
## The Water Supply of the Fountain

During the campaigns of 2009 and 2010, archaeological excavation and documentation of the back parts of the Antonine Nymphaeum was required in order to prepare the final stage of the anastylosis programme of the monument.<sup>6</sup> Although structurally not connected to the remains of the fountain attested on the Upper Agora, the excavation of parts of an east-west oriented retaining wall in the terrace behind the back wall of the Antonine Nymphaeum could be of importance in this context. The wall was constructed of dry-laid limestone blocks, with the larger stones mostly in the lower courses of the wall. A construction trench cut into the bedrock of ophiolitic *mélange* ran parallel to the wall, containing mostly 1<sup>st</sup> century BCE pottery sherds, providing a chronological indication for the construction of this terracing wall. No information could be obtained on how the front side of the terracing wall looked like. Whether this wall can be seen as part of the aforementioned enlargement operations of the Upper Agora delineating the northern extent in this period and/or as part of the site preparations for the construction of the Early Roman Imperial fountain on the agora remains unclear.



**Fig. 5.** *View of the 2010 excavations to the north of the Antonine Nymphaeum, with the water channel constructed on top of the earlier terracing wall on the left side (Sagalassos Project).*

<sup>6</sup> The excavation campaigns of 2009 and 2010 were directed by Marc Waelkens (KU Leuven). Hendrik Uleners was in charge of the 2009 excavations in this area, as was Elizabeth Murphy in 2010 (Waelkens *et al.* 2012: 242).



**Fig. 6.** Map of the Ağlasun Dağları mountain range with indication of the aqueducts on its slopes (situation 2012, Sagalassos Project)..

Of special interest here is the fact that the upper part of the retaining wall appears to have been partially dismantled in order to carry a water channel (Fig. 5). This was a fairly substantial feature, built with heavily mortared limestone, running east-west and measuring ca. 1.5 m in height and ca. 1 m in width. No information is available on how the interior of the channel looked like. Its eastern end was seemingly dismantled. In any case, this water channel was constructed in Early Roman Imperial times according to the pottery in its construction fill. The excavated and preserved parts were sloping downwards towards the west, but whether such was originally the case remains unclear as the lower sections of the channel seem to have subsided. Notable in this context is that the construction of this east-west channel cut across an earlier north-south oriented water channel made of mortared limestone rubble and put this beyond use. Clearly, the zone of the terrace overlooking the Upper Agora from the north was planned to contain water provisioning infrastructure of sufficient size to cater water to a public fountain, almost certainly the fountain described above. This zone was finished by arranging a street level covering the aforementioned water channels. No slabs or other form of permanent cover were encountered, while the substrate of the street contained 1<sup>st</sup> century CE pottery sherds, providing a *terminus post quem* for its arrangement.

Remains of two other water channels, built of mortared bricks, were found on top of the street surface, one carrying water from the northwest running into the other bringing

water from the east. The latter, as well as the section where both channels join, form the water supply system of the later Antonine Nymphaeum, and are therefore not of relevance here. The further sections of the northwestern channel could be of relevance, however. The protective coating on the outside was constructed of mortared limestone rubble and the fill that covered the channel contained pottery sherds datable to the second half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE. Even though unravelling the chronological detail of each construction/maintenance phase of water provisioning infrastructure is difficult, it seems clear that modifications were executed to the water supply system of the Early Roman Imperial fountain on the Upper Agora during its lifespan.

The limits of the area available for excavations, the later interventions in function of the Antonine Nymphaeum in this zone, as well as its general functioning as an ancient street inhibited gathering more information on the remains of these mortared rubble water channels. The direction of the channels, their position in a presumed water distribution network, nor their points of origin are known at this time. It can also not be established whether these channels were fed by one or more natural water sources within the built-up urban zone, or whether the water supply had to be brought in from further away. Both options are possible. Sagalassos is located in a zone where the permeable limestone of the surrounding mountains overly more impermeable deposits of ophiolitic *mélange* and *flysch* deposits, with numerous springs at the interface (Paulissen *et al.* 1993; Steegen *et al.* 2000). The fountain-house in the eastern districts of Sagalassos, for example, put one of such sources to use.

Yet, as a result of the important urbanization programme attested at Early Roman Imperial Sagalassos, as well as the re-allocation and expansion of the local Potters' Quarter, and the presumed contemporary urban demographic increase (Poblome 2020), at some point the natural water sources available within the urban area will no longer have been sufficient and their water supply was augmented with the construction of aqueducts, importing large quantities of water into the city. Aqueduct systems were discovered to the east and west of Sagalassos. In the west, three water sources were found which could be connected with preserved stretches of rock-cut channel or terracotta pipeline carried by a dry limestone wall. One of these entered into city in the area of the Northwest Heroon and could be followed to its source just below the pass of the Late Ottoman road to Isparta (Owens 1995: 97-98). Although no datable evidence is available on this aqueduct, its position in the landscape makes it a candidate for the supply of the fountain and/or the Antonine nymphaeum on the Upper Agora.

On the east side, two branches with rock-cut channels of what could be one aqueduct system entered the city from Eastern Suburbium. This position is high enough to have reached most parts of the upper city of Sagalassos, including the area of the Upper Agora. A water source for these eastern branches was suggested by E. Owens (1995: 92) at the junction of the Ağlasun Dağları and the adjoining Akdağ. An unpublished 2012 survey aimed to locate and document archaeological features on the mountain flanks of

the Ağlasun and Akdağ Dağları resulted in the discovery of the main source feeding this eastern aqueduct system, the basin capturing and distributing this spring, as well as many newly discovered preserved sections of the channel (Fig. 6). Including all its branches this eastern aqueduct was arranged over a total length of 24.5km. Even though other springs on the flanks of the Akdağ were tapped and helped feed the water supply, its main source – aptly called Başpınar – was discovered on the northern side of this mountain at 1,710 m asl. The water from the spring at Başpınar was captured through three constructed outlets into a large stone-built collector-basin of 1.8m by 9.5m. From there the water was conveyed by means of a rock-cut aqueduct. The rock-cut sections of the aqueduct had inner dimensions of 0.6m wide and 0.9m deep, with ledges on both sides to hold cover slabs or tiles. These dimensions remain the same all the way down the aqueduct which indicate, apart from the obvious strength of the source, that the spring of Başpınar provided the bulk of the water for the eastern aqueduct.

Direct evidence for dating the initial construction of the eastern aqueduct is scarce. Its channel through Eastern Suburbium was exposed in two excavations (Martens 2008: Fig. 2), with some Roman Imperial or Late Roman sherds stuck in the hydraulic mortar. Not only is the chronological span of these sherds too wide, but aqueducts and their mortar lining needed maintenance and repair works, preventing the chronological precision required to allocate the period of construction of this facility in time. In any case, an elaborate supply system was in place for the various monumental fountains of Sagalassos.

## The Fountain as a Water Distribution Point

The fountain on the agora was not the end point of this water supply network as the building also functioned as a distribution point for channels built of terracotta water pipes. As mentioned above, the overflow of the fountain basin(s) was evacuated by a central channel, probably leading to one or more settling basins from which at least three water channels consisting of terracotta pipes departed. Two of them were uncovered during soundings executed underneath the pavement in the eastern half of the agora (Talloe – Poblome 2016: 131-132; Fig. 7). The exposed water channels, running towards the south and southeast respectively, consisted of terracotta pipes with a length of 0.55m and a diameter of 0.27m, which were connected with lime mortar. Ceramics from the cover and the fill of the trenches in which the water conduits were placed could be attributed to the first half of the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE. As they were covered by the pavement of the agora, dated to the reign of emperor Tiberius, the water channels of terracotta pipes can also be considered to date to the first quarter of the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE.

In the fill of the construction trench of the water channel built of mortared rubble limestone and evacuating the overflow of the later Antonine Nymphaeum towards the southwest, numerous fragments of similar terracotta water pipes and lime mortar fragments were found (Talloe – Poblome 2016: 135-136). These suggest the presence of an



**Fig. 7.** *Terracotta water channel underneath the pavement of the Upper Agora (Sagalassos Project).*

earlier terracotta conduit, similar to the ones mentioned above, in the western part of the square as well. Due to this piped water supply to different parts of the urban grid, water could be made available at other points in town for the urban population.

### **The Dismantlement of the Fountain**

Eventually, the fountain building was dismantled and replaced by the Antonine Nymphaeum, stylistically dated based on the study of the architectural decoration to the reign of emperor Marcus Aurelius (161-180 CE; Fig. 8). This monumental fountain, with a length of 27.70m and a width of 3.94m, consisted of a single-story aediculated façade provided with a central niche, surrounded by four tabernacles, all sheltering statues, above a tall podium with a large basin in front, flanked by two lateral *aediculae*. The basin was supplied by the channels of mortared bricks mentioned above, via a cascade-shaped inlet inserted in the central niche of the fountain (Richard 2012: 277 n° 67).

The construction of a new water channel for the evacuation of the overflow of the basin of the Antonine Nymphaeum around the middle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE cut through the western extremity of the former fountain on the agora, putting it effectively out of use. This provides a *terminus ante quem* for the abandonment of the earlier fountain. As mentioned above, the channel also replaced the former conduit of terracotta pipes on the west side of the agora. The terracotta channels on the east side, however, survived the change and remained in use until the later 4<sup>th</sup> or even 5<sup>th</sup> century CE, as suggested by



Fig. 8. View of the Antonine Nymphaeum from the southeast (Sagalassos Project).

their fill (Talloen – Poblome 2016: 138-139). The fountain building itself was completely dismantled up to the level of its foundations and part of the building material may have ended up in the back wall of the Antonine Nymphaeum as *spolia*, as suggested above. Its substructure was partly reused as pavement in the northern part of the square as the new fountain, although substantially wider, was not as long as the old one, and thus required less space of the agora, leaving some of the remains of its predecessor exposed. In time those remains were covered by levelling deposits, laid out for the construction of a new sewage channel in the 6<sup>th</sup> century (Talloen – Poblome 2016: 145-146), obliterating the last traces of a building that once was the splendour of the agora.

In spite of its monumentality, the austere forms of the alleged Doric façade of the original fountain may have become too plain for the new aesthetic demands of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE, dominated by the exuberant Corinthian style, the architectural staple of Roman Imperial architecture (Thomas 2007). Moreover, as a “Hallenbrunne” the fountain was still essentially a functional building aimed at providing clean water which did not offer sufficient possibilities for representation, something which the aediculated façade of its successor did. The architectural design and furnishing of the new fountain could serve as vehicles for communal status display and expression of identities through sculptures of deities and members of the elite, something that would not or only partly have been possible in the original design of the plain Doric structure.

At Pisidian Antioch too, the fountain house at the northern end of the *Cardo Maximus* underwent extensive refurbishment (Owens – Taşlıalan 2008: 307-309). The renovations involved a radical change to the design of the building. The renovations turned the porch into a large uncovered water reservoir to the rear with a narrower basin in front from which water could be drawn. The redevelopment of the building converted the original fountain-house into an ornately decorated nymphaeum, in which accessibility to the water and water quality itself became less important than the open display of the water in a highly embellished public building for aesthetic purposes. Architectural pieces of its embellished superstructure suggest a date in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century CE for this renovation, possibly during the reign of emperor Hadrian (Owens – Taşlıalan 2008: 309).

## Conclusion

The Early Roman Imperial fountain on the newly organised Upper Agora of Sagalassos was the result of the combination of traditional form and innovate city-scaping. The fountain and the construction programme it was part of, potentially illustrate the adoption of certain Roman architectural concepts (symmetrical lay-out, fountains as vista) and building types (aqueducts) during the transitional period of the Early Roman Empire which was characterised by continuity and change (Lohner-Urban – Quatember 2020).

The new fountain did not merely supply water to the urban populace. Through its prominent situation within the urban landscape it offered a visual statement of the amenities which the city provided. The construction of the monumental fountain also signalled an important change in the public use and display of water. The construction of the fountain building on the Upper Agora is emblematic for the new use of water in the urban landscape of Sagalassos during the Early Roman Imperial period, as an element of recreation and architectural decoration.

In order to meet these new public and recreational demands for water, it was necessary to supplement the on-site sources by conducting more water from outlying natural water sources into the city. The construction of the aqueducts and the establishment of a water supply network thus had a significant impact on the physical development of the city, as well as its cultural evolution. Such vast supply networks in turn implied territorial control and exploitation, undoubtedly putting stress on the city-countryside relations. Monumentalization of the towns of Roman Imperial Asia Minor was in large part the result of programmes of intensification of agriculture and/or the exploitation of larger areas (Poblome – Willet, in press).

In the end, the fountain gave way to the Antonine Nymphaeum, as part of a developing urban landscape with the intention to surpass the existing monument with a new template of representation.

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