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How the Sagalassians stick to their gods. Some unpublished 3rd-century coins from Sagalassos

The city of Sagalassos (Pisidia, southwest-Turkey) knew a long tradition of civic coin production, ranging from the 3rd century BC until its peak during the 3rd century AD. This paper presents 5 hitherto unpublished coins minted in the city, dating to the reigns of Severus Alexander, Maximianus I and Claudius II Gothicus. The coins will be described in detail and presented within a broader monetary and historical context. Three of the types present images of some “traditional Sagalassian gods”, being Hermes, Apollo and Dionysos, while the image of an eagle on a fourth coin could be both interpreted as referring to Zeus or the Roman Empire. The fifth unpublished coin shows the “new” deity Artemis, and possibly refers to the city of Perge. This mix of old and new elements shows how the citizens of Sagalassos stuck to their traditional identity of the one hand, and how regional and supra-regional ties could enrich the coin iconography on the other.