

## Preface

This volume stems from ten years of field research on the sarcophagus material and expands upon my PhD dissertation (Harvard University, History of Art and Architecture, 2010).

My affiliation with Aphrodisias began as a PhD student in 2005, when I participated in a fieldwork team to document, photograph and study sarcophagus pieces in the Aphrodisias Museum depots and in the outlying cemeteries. I began my doctoral research on the columnar sarcophagi in 2006. After the completion of my dissertation, my involvement with the Aphrodisias excavations continued first as Field Director (2010–2011), then as Assistant Director (2012–). I have continued to study newly discovered pieces of sarcophagi, added them to the project's sarcophagus database, and refined my views on the iconography, meaning and dating of the sarcophagus pieces till the publication of this volume.

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