

# FROM LEGACY DATA TO DRONES

July 25, 2015 Theresa Huntsman Archives, Byzantine, Explore  
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While my archaeological journey began in Italy and I still hang out with the Etruscans of Poggio Civitate, my day job is with the [Archaeological Exploration of Sardis](#) as the Publications Data Manager, a brand new position which I began in March of 2014, and FINALLY I've made it to site after messing with their data, images, documentation, and all things print and digital. Most of the time I'm in Cambridge (Somerville to be exact) cleaning up data, digitizing images, archivally storing those images, copy editing, website developing, and answering questions from scholars and fans of the Lydians and those who came after at Sardis.

My first day on site began with a ride in a land rover far older than I, crammed into the back with six conservators and equipment, to watch them take photos and take care of business on some newly exposed floor levels. The thing sounds like a swarm of bees, but looks like a good time to play with. It's less fun to have it flying right above you as you sweep a floor. I got to hold a newly-lifted vessel in a box on its way back in the Land Rover to the compound.

Now I'm becoming accustomed to this depot, and after an hour it feels like home. I finally have the chance to weigh and measure a set of Byzantine glass weights that a scholar asked about a couple months ago for a new publication on this object type. Feels good to finally hold in my hands the objects I've only longingly gazed at in the images I archived. Here at Sardis I've seen over 50 years of excavation, from paper tags to photogrammetry, shovels and drones, ancient past, less ancient past, recent past, present, and future. So happy to be a part of it all.



*Early morning photograph of cleaned surfaces in some of this year's excavation units*



*My natural habitat among boxes of artifacts*