

2019 Anthropology Summer Internship Report

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Institution: Hong Kong Museum of History

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Background

First of all, thanks to the Department of Anthropology in CUHK, I was honoured to have this precious opportunity to work as an intern in the Hong Kong Museum of History during my summer vacation this year. In this short period of time, I was assigned to the Archaeology Unit, which was definitely a great experience for me to know more about the structure of HKMH.

Job Duties

Although I did not take part in special exhibitions in this month, I still got a chance to clear up different archives of previous exhibitions. As HKMH was established in 1975, it organized more than 100 special exhibitions with different varieties of contents, including local and foreign stories. Therefore, I had to tidy up different archives in order to make record for previous exhibitions. There were different formats of CDs and documents from several exhibitions, such as pictures of opening ceremony or references that related to the exhibitions. During the work, I was able to read information about different exhibitions, such as excavated documents or ways to conserve and exhibit different artifacts, which was thought-provoking and meaningful for me.

Besides handling e-documents, I have to deal with several donations and collections from kindhearted citizens, in which I needed to make a list on excel so as to record all the information about these collections. The most memorable experience for me is that I was able to touch and study land deeds from Qing Dynasty to Republic of China. My supervisor told me that I had to wear a pair of gloves before touching the land deeds in order to keep them in a good condition. During the process of archiving, I definitely enrich my knowledge towards the ancient China, in which I understand that there were white deeds and red deeds in the past, the former one were not authorized by government, and they were only private agreement between landlords, but the latter one were the official documents with governmental stamps. Also, I figured out that the written Chinese and the ways of expression in previous time were slightly different with nowadays. Apart from dealing with land deeds, I had to handle the recent collections. One of the collection was the souvenir of McDonald in 1996, which was a set of teddy bears. From the work, I understand that HKMH would receive different varieties of donations and collections from ancient to recent time in order to construct memories for Hong Kong citizens and have a better understanding of different period of both local and foreign countries.

Moreover, I had to do some researches in order to make confirmation of different information. I once confirmed the address and the appearance of historical buildings in Hong Kong by making a list with photographs and details in order to provide reference to my colleague. Also, I had to read several reports about different archaeological excavation so as to list out different Han dynasty artifacts that excavated in Hong Kong. From these researches, I understand that collecting information is a basic and crucial duty in

HKMH since it bears the responsibility of educating the public, the museum has to make sure the accuracy of information that presented to audiences.

Feelings

Undoubtedly, it was a memorable month for me to work as an intern in HKMH, in which I could actually entered into a museum and understand the daily routine of employees. Besides, I could satisfy my curiosity and enrich my knowledge by making archives and doing researches that related to Hong Kong and Chinese History. Last but not least, I would love to thank my supervisor Rachel for helping me a lot.