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Institution: Hong Kong Museum of History

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Summer Internship Report

Studying in Hong Kong Museum of History is a valuable experience for me and I am very grateful of having an opportunity to work at the unit of Ethnography. Although the duties I had received were not what I expected at the beginning, I still gained a lot of related knowledge.

Since I was just an intern without a formal contract, I couldn't be appointed with any classified missions unfortunately. Mostly, I was editing some PowerPoints which were used to introduce part of history of Silk Road and Terra-cotta Army for my boss's talk. It sounded very dull because I could finish them simply. During searching information of artifacts for the PPTs, however, I found it was amazing that these artifacts, some of them seemed nothing special, could express so many cultural historical messages. Like the "sancai potteries" (三彩釉陶) in Tang Dynasty, they reflect not only the unique glazed skill of sancai in Tang but also the cultural communication of Silk Road. The camel-shaped potteries reflect camels as the main transport during Silk Road, for example. Without doubts, the work enriched my cultural and historical knowledge indeed. It was interesting too because I learnt lots of cultures that I was not familiar.

What's more, as there was an exhibition remove during my internship, I could have an opportunity to watch the photos of holding an exhibition from set up to remove luckily and also knew how sophisticated of preparing an exhibition. When arranging the position of the exhibition boards, the principal needed to decide the appropriate size and height of each boards in order to make sure visitors can read them conveniently. Even setting up a picture, the staff members also needed to be very careful. Consider how big of the showcase should be, what intensity of the light is suitable and so on. That's why holding an exhibition always requires such long time. Before the internship, I would like to become a museum guide more than an exhibition manager because being a guide can describe the history behind the exhibits to visitors as if I am sharing my treasures to others, which is enjoying. And now, I realize the staff members who are responsible for planning are also important and challenging since their work is to assure tourists be able to learn a history or a culture clearly through a few exhibits. Therefore, a successful exhibition are often finished by the cooperation of numerous different departments.

Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues who had given me a lot of support during the internship. They were so nice and always willing to help me deal with the problems I met. Besides, they had shared many information about the related duties in museum and provide me several suggestions on how to applying these jobs, which were exactly helpful for my career planning.

