

AMO Internship Report

During the summer of 2018, I was privileged to be part of the interns to intern at the Antiquities and Monuments Office of the Government of Hong Kong. There, not only was I able to apply what I have learnt back in university archaeology classes to the actual processes of classifying and handling artefacts, I was also able to learn a lot more on the actual practices of preservation and conservation of artefacts found around Hong Kong. During the internship, I was working along with

two students from the Department of History in the Archaeological Repository to handle and clean the newly brought in artefacts. I have learnt that different materials have to have different approaches to clean them in order not to damage the



artefact or any patterns on them. Also, we had to record and classify them in order to upload the information to the central database, so that all museums around Hong Kong can have access to them and request relevant artefacts for display from time to time. What astounds me is that despite the relatively small office both literally in size and metaphorically as a government agency, all the artefacts found within the borders of Hong Kong have to be handled by the Antiquities and Monuments Office as stipulated by law, which results in an abundance of artefacts and overwhelming work needed by its staff members. As such, one of the things that I have learnt from this internship is that the Hong Kong government in general gives little to no attention to the conservation works of its department, thus my duty as a

future Anthropologist and Archaeologist should and must emphasize the importance of conserving artefacts which are precious to Hong Kong as a portal to the past.