

## 2023 Anthropology Summer Internship Report

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Institution: Hong Kong Museum of History

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I feel grateful for the precious opportunity to work as an intern at the Hong Kong Museum of History during the summer. I was assigned to the unit of Natural History, under the supervision of one Assistant Curator I and two Assistant Curator II, and they teach me a lot. There is also a research assistant in the department. During the internship, the Unit had assigned to help prepare two exhibitions, an exhibition related to Hong Kong old photos and the renovation of the permanent exhibition. I feel very honored to have the opportunity to contribute to the planning of these exhibitions.

Mr. Chan (Assistant Curator I) has provided me with many learning opportunities, allowing me to actively participate in and understand the operations of museums and the process of exhibition development. For example, he would take me and Carmen (one of the Assistant Curator II) to attend meetings with contractors, enabling me to gain insights into the collaborative process between museums and contractors. During the meeting, I always tried my best to write down as much information as I could and clarify it into form style.

In addition to attending meetings, I also had the opportunity to engage in various types of work. When I first joined the unit, the unit were working on the Moonchu Project (an exhibition related to Hong Kong old photos). After reviewing the project materials, Mr. Chen assigned me the task of proofreading and translating articles from Chinese to English, checking for any errors or omissions. Through this task, I not only improved my language skills but also gained an understanding of the complex and meticulous process of exhibition

text writing. The unit had started collecting information and drafting the exhibition text one or even two years ago. After completing the initial draft, it would be reviewed by Curator who would make revisions and deletions as necessary. Then, the text would be sent to in-house or outsourced translators for the creation of the English version. Once the translated version was received, the unit would review it again, correcting any errors or omissions and sending it to an editor for further professional proofreading. After receiving feedback from the editor, the unit would review again, ensuring its accuracy before submitting it to the Curator for final approval. The amount of manpower and time invested in this process was much more than I had anticipated. However, it also reflected the museum's seriousness in producing high-quality exhibition text and their sense of responsibility towards the public.

My second duty is to participate in the content design of the Moonchu multimedia program. This interactive multimedia program allowed visitors to choose historical photos and take Carte de Visite, enhancing the exhibition's interest and interactivity. My main responsibilities included writing the program's introduction, providing feedback on the program's design, and selecting historical photos to be included in the program. This job allowed me to gain a better understanding of the design and development process of museum interactive programs and deepened my understanding of the collaboration process with contractors.

In addition to this multimedia program, I also participated in meetings related to another touch-based multimedia program and the design of an exhibition braille book. The touch-based multimedia program was very friendly to visually impaired visitors, allowing them to hear relevant introductions while touching the exhibits. The establishment of the braille book also allowed visually impaired people to understand the exhibition's content and participate in the exhibition. It is evident that museums attach great importance to different groups of people in society and have spent a lot of effort on making their exhibitions more accessible.

At the same time, I also gained a further understanding of the different considerations that museums have in curating exhibitions. In addition to single displays and immersive and interactive multimedia, they also focus on improving the accessibility of special exhibitions (not just the establishment of elevators and accessible passages), such as designing braille books.

In addition to office work, my supervisor also gave me the opportunity to work on the frontline and attend the opening ceremony of an exhibition. From July 30 until the end of my internship, every Sunday I would join my colleagues from the Education and Outreach Service team to assist with the "Mini Collections, HKMH" Workshop at the museum. This workshop allows visitors to experience the process of archaeological excavation by using tools to uncover artifacts from clay bricks. During the workshop, professional instructors will guide and assist visitors in their excavation work, as well as provide information about the artifacts. Our role as the Education team is to ensure the smooth running of the activity, introduce the workshop to attract visitors' participation, distribute and collect questionnaires, and take photos, among other tasks.

This work experience allows me to directly interact with visitors and observe their engagement, emotions, and feedback during the workshop. Through this observation, I can analyze the strengths and weaknesses of the workshop and provide improvement suggestions based on specific details. The participant observation skills taught in anthropology have played a significant role in this regard. As a result, I have gained a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the significance and process of organizing educational activities in museums.



Photo of the workshop

For the exhibition opening ceremony, "Genesis and Spirit - Tea for Harmony· Yaji Cultural Salon: Exhibition of the Tea Culture of Zhejiang" opened at the Hong Kong Central Library in August. My supervisor took me there to understand the process of the opening ceremony. It included performances showcasing intangible cultural heritages, speeches by officials, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony, which gave me a whole new perspective of the exhibition opening ceremony.

To conclude, I am truly grateful for having such a rewarding internship opportunity where I could gain valuable experiences. It allowed me to not only handle administrative tasks in the office but also work on the frontline. This enabled me to develop a deeper and more

comprehensive understanding of museum operations and work. Throughout the internship, my supervisor and colleagues were friendly and supportive. They actively and attentively addressed any work-related questions I had and provided guidance and advice regarding my future employment, which helped me gain a clearer understanding of my career path. Lastly, I would like to sincerely thank the Department of Anthropology and HKMH for granting me this precious opportunity, as well as my colleagues for their patience and continuous support.