

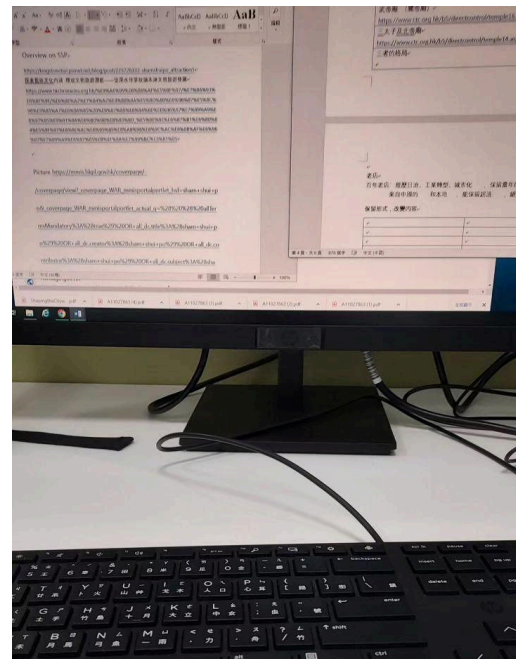
Institution: Hong Kong Museum of History, Exhibition & Research (Permanent Exhibition)

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I am glad to be having this valuable opportunity to work in the internship scheme from mid-June to late July. I worked in the position of Exhibition and Research at the Hong Kong Museum of History. It has been a fruitful period to get closer to how different projects proceed and some fragmentary but essential jobs in the museum. Through this program, I have learned the internal structure and duties that require us to put our most significant effort into exploring history, producing the exhibition contents, and dueling with different disputes under the museum.

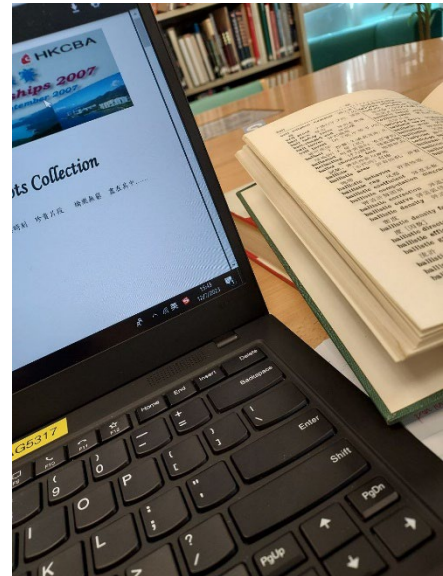
My first mission was to work on a permanent exhibition that is planned to be displayed in the Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum in Sham Shui Po. The targets of observation are the old shops and tong lau which remained passing for more than 50 years, which brought me a chance to study the details and changes of the district throughout the decades.

At first, I read through my colleagues' research to get some basic information and a sample of oral history. I was interested in the street maps since there were reclamation projects that transformed the streets in the district throughout the century. Through understanding the geographical changes, the industries and lives in the district became clearer, which facilitated acquiring more secondary sources and preparing for further analysis. For instance, we planned to conduct a few interviews with the shop owners of the old shops about their experience throughout the decades, which requires us to be prepared before the visit. It was not easy that some of them are not active on the Internet, except those being known because of some who have been interviewed by media or being run by the younger generation. The past research facilitated us to create our research questions and analyze the changes. This was valuable for me as an anthropology student to investigate a particular community.



In the museum, there are different subunits—for example, Education, Archaeology, and Information and public relations. There are usually a group of members working on one project, who belongs to different units. According to my analysis, each of them will be in charge of one main project while helping with another research. Therefore, it is important to be systematic when dealing with multiple topics.

Besides the Sham Shui Po project, there is also a project about Portuguese in Hong Kong. It was a challenging job, and it has been taking a long time to acquire the primary source from the community that can be displayed. It was an uneasy job as the exhibitions are displayed in both English and Chinese, it is important to clarify the translations and development of events. Since the archives and resources of the early period of colonial history were mainly in English or Portuguese, an official Chinese name might not always be determined. Therefore, we have to pay much attention and patience to search from different websites and archives.



It is necessary to have official sources to prove the reliability of rumors and translations on some terms. I have also been spending plenty of time researching the translations. For example, we needed to know the year of changing translations of Legco and Exco. I have been comparing the results from the Hong Kong Gazettes, press releases by the government, books, and newspapers since there might be differences between the authority and secular. Besides, part of the information that is not related to the government or private to a certain community would be difficult to search. For example, the events of the Portuguese club in the exhibition of Portuguese. Unluckily, the official website of the club only includes the English version, which cannot support an official Chinese translation in our project. Also, if it was not related to the Chinese community, the events would seldom be mentioned in the news and the official page might not create a Chinese version, especially during the early colonial period. Therefore, it is inevitable to feel frustrated when I cannot get any results.

Meanwhile, I have realized the power and destructiveness of oral sources. We can hear many personal stories and rumors from different people and websites. The source must be true to what happened, especially when we are doing anthropological

research. However, since there is no proof of the oral source, the contents might not be always reliable. This put more significance on the utilization of newspapers and other publications by NGOs or district departments. Therefore, there was endless reading and self-questioning during the process. It required our patience and insistence to do further analysis with the hints given.



Remarkably, except for the textual and virtual displays, there are also physical displays. For instance, the museum has collected some industrial products from the public. This box of toys was one of them, which explains that there were some toy production factories in Hong Kong and some linkage with the Portuguese. It also implies the campaign of collection, which aimed at gathering the scattered pieces of historical evidence. Therefore, the exhibitions in the History Museum are not only displaying some official facts and remains but require the cooperation of the public to complete, which are in-depth projects that take a long period to proceed. History is gathered by the collective power of the people who experienced it.

I have been touching on different projects, most of which are specific detailed matters such as diction and reviewing the drafts. However, unfortunately, because of the pandemic, a few exhibitions were delayed in the process. Some of them were in the phase of checking and revising which made me could not witness the birth of the final project but I am still glad that I can be a part of them. I am thankful to my bosses and colleagues who allowed me to try being a part of the projects. Although we were not always working together, they introduced the methodology and randomly talked about their insight into their research was also treasurable for me.



I believe it will be an unforgettable opportunity for those who are interested in doing something challenging, insist on investigating, and are not afraid of failure, in the Museum.