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Having been studying anthropology for the past two years, I was fortunate to be given this opportunity by the Anthropology Department to work in a museum to practise what I have learned. I was given the opportunity to work as an intern in the Hong Kong Museum of History from the 1st August to the 31st August in 2017, where I worked under the supervision of two assistant curators in the Archaeology Unit.

During the 4 weeks of my internship, I was given different tasks such as translation, research for exhibitions, and data entry. These tasks seem trivial, but they are of primary importance as visitors are going to learn from the information that I have translated or entered. Therefore, I constantly remind myself to be meticulous when I was dealing with key terms and essential facts. For example, I was translating many nouns related to Mesopotamia the ancient civilization. As the museum had organized an exhibition about Mesopotamia in 2013, I was able to find some translations for keywords in the exhibition catalog. Still, there were still many specific names for civilizations that I could not translate. I searched many scholarly works to see if any scholar would have a more formal translation. Before completing this task, my prior knowledge on Mesopotamia was very limited. Now I have a basic understanding of its history and culture, and I would like to study further about it.

Other than translation, I was responsible to search suitable photos for the upcoming photo exhibition in Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum, a branch museum of the Hong Kong Museum of History. The photo exhibition is about the development of housing in Sham Shui Po where the museum is located in. I was able to access the photo collection of the museum and was fortunate to see many photos illustrating important events of the time, such as the Shek Kip Mei fire in the 1950s. As the exhibition is about housing, I learned more about how housing reflects the social issues of the time, for example, the squatter area was a measure to respond to the disaster. Another intriguing photo I found was Mei Foo Sun Chuen in the 1970s. It was the first private housing estate in Hong Kong and it was built to meet the emerging middle-class families at that time. This task allowed me to access precious historical materials and deepened my understanding of local housing development. Moreover, it also made me reflect on the role of a community museum like Lei Cheng Uk Han Tomb Museum, which is to tell the story of the district and to connect people to their own district.

I was also given the task to enter information about donations to the museum. I did not expect that there were many enthusiasts who donate their very valuable family photos from the last century to the museum. Looking at their photos, I was able to observe how people dressed and did their hair and make-up in the past. I was also able to see what activities people enjoy and how they decorated their apartment. I was asked to construct a table listing the key information and description of each photo. Sometimes, the donor did not provide a detailed caption for the photo, I would need to mark down what information it was missing, for example, the identity of the person in the photo, when and where it was taken. Upon completion of this task, I started to

understand how a museum deals with donations and how the curators process such valuable materials.

Once again, I would like to thank the Anthropology Department for giving me such eye-opening opportunity to work in a field that is related to what I study. The whole experience has given me room to think about the meaning of a museum. It is not enough to have a very grand vision to promote history and culture if you want to work in this field, it is in fact more about how you negotiate with different government departments and organizations in order to make an exhibition possible and successful. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my very knowledgeable and easy-going colleagues in the Archaeology Unit who taught me practical skills to work in a museum. I hope one day I could join them and become a curator myself.