

Vivian CHUNG

I am very thankful for this summer internship opportunity provided by the Department of Anthropology. It is my pleasure to work in the Antiquities and Monument Office (AMO) in this summer. During my 6 weeks internship programme in July and August, I worked in the Hong Kong Archaeological Archive, which is the archaeological unit of AMO. This experience is so fruitful and grateful to me.

During my internship, I was assigned to different jobs, for example to rearrange the order of different archaeological reports in Hong Kong, which I also got the chance to read different archaeology and marine archaeology reports in Hong Kong that some can be dated back to 20 years ago. In addition, I also helped to make the subtitles of the video which is about the marine archeology in China “Ancient Ship-Nanao 1” 「南澳一號」. After that I got more knowledge about the marine archeology in both Hong Kong and China, for example how they discover it and do archaeological work underwater. Furthermore, they also assigned me to wash the ceramics from the Lamma Island, this is the first time for me to do the washing work for the ceramics, I thought it is quite easy at first, simply using the toothbrush to brush the ceramics. However, we have to be really careful not to destroy the pattern and structure of the ceramics.

Among all the works that I have done, there are one that is really memorable to me. In July, AMO received back all the artefacts found in the “Shatin-Central Link” 「沙中線」. And I got the chance to take a look and touch all those artefacts. The artefacts found in “Shatin-Central Link” are mostly from Nansong dynasty to modern period. There are lots of big pottery, glass bowl, porcelain plate, jade decoration, wooden structure, opium containers etc. The most special artefact to me should be the toothbrush that are made by wood, which is dated back to late Qing dynasty. There are over 1000 artefacts found in the “Shatin-Central Link”. Therefore, it took us three days to finish the work. We need to take photo, measure the size and take record and finally putting all of them into the store room of the Hong Kong Archaeological Archive Office. In addition, the colleagues also taught me how to repair the ceramics as well as writing the number on the artefacts so that they can identify the artefacts easily. All the actions took on the artefacts has to be “reversible”, so that if something wrong, it won’t destroy the structure of the

artefacts. For writing number on the artefacts, they apply a skill called the “sandwich” skills, which is first put a layer of transparent nail polish on the artefacts, then using oily pen and write the number on top of the nail polish, finally put another transparent nail polish. Using nail polish allow them to wipe the wrong number easily. While for repairing the artefacts, they use a special glue that can be hardly found in Hong Kong to stick the ceramics together, my colleagues have to order this kind of glue from England, and they use this glue because it will be invisible when applied on the artefacts and can be washed without destroying the structure of the artefacts.

All in all, this internship experience is very memorable to me, I have a chance to get to know different kinds of artefacts from different dynasty, the colleagues also taught me a lot of archaeological knowledge as well as how the AMO runs, which allows me to have deeper understanding of the archaeological work in Hong Kong and have more idea for my career planning.