

2018 Anthropology Summer Internship Report

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Duration: 3<sup>rd</sup> July – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018

Institution: Hong Kong Museum of History

First of all, I would like to thank the Department of Anthropology for giving me such a precious opportunity to work as an intern in Hong Kong Museum of History. I was assigned to the unit of Nature History, under the supervision of two assistant curators and worked with a research assistant. I was a bit worried at first as I am not familiar with nature of Hong Kong. However, later with the explanation of them, I realized their work does not only involve nature history but also preparation of special exhibitions. To get me familiar with the workplace, they toured me around the museum. As Tuesday, the first day of work, was also the closing day of the Museum, we could have a comprehensive visit there.

On account of renovation plan of the Museum, I could have a glance on the collections and a chance to know their stories behind. When I was checking the records and exhibits, I found there were many birds on the tree displays which I have never noticed before. Moreover, most of the animals shown are actually specimens but not props. To better record their massive collection, a system called “Museum Collection Museum System” was launched recently. One of my duties was to cross-check the entries made and help making new entries. Not only involved in entering records to the system, I could also have a try on the recording process of donations, from categorizing, photo-taking, photo-editing to writing descriptions.

One day, we brought some of our collection to the Heritage Museum for pest management and eradication. Since it is more spacious, most of the large machines for conservation are located there. We happened to visit their newly launched exhibition “The Hong Kong Jockey Club Series: Digital Dunhuang — Tales of Heaven and Earth”, which involved various digital technology. I also visited our special exhibition “An Age of Luxury: the Assyrians to Alexander”, which was jointly organized by The British Museum and Hong Kong Museum of History. This exhibition involved many new tries on digital engagement, too. They both demonstrated as updated reference for digital engagement of museums in Hong Kong.

My major duty during this internship was to help preparing the upcoming exhibition – Afghanistan’s treasure. Since it is still in early stage, I could not involve much in either preparation or curation work. I was assigned to make a draft for education

pamphlet and enrichment for education corner and a proposal on potential digital technology and interaction installations that can be used.

To conclude, this was a rewarding experience for me to have an in-depth understanding on operation of a public museum. Through this internship I realized their work does not involve preparing and curating exhibitions and editing publications, indeed they need to handle administrative work such as tax paying, accepting donation and purchasing copyright of materials needed as well. The success of an exhibition requires immense effort and time.

I would like to express my gratitude to my colleagues for their supporting and caretaking, they were always willing to share their experience with me. Thanks to this opportunity offered by the Department of Anthropology, my determination of working in museum becomes stronger.



*Hong Kong Museum of History*