

On a Wednesday morning, I made my way to the Antiquities and Monuments Office located at Tsim Sha Tsui. Setting foot in the former Kowloon British School and now a declared monument for the first time, I was instantly fascinated by the Victorian architecture and its enchanting red brick wall. However, to my surprise, this was only the head office of AMO and not the real place where the internship would begin. But this had marked a great start to my treasure-hunting like internship experience.

Together with two other Anthropology interns, I was assigned to work with the Archeological Repository team under the Archaeology Unit. Our workplace lay amidst the busy streets of Jordan. It was both an office and a depository storing various kinds of archaeological artefacts and ecofacts. During the six-week internship, we were given the opportunity to have a glimpse of the basic work performed by the team.

One of our major tasks was to accession the excavated objects. This was never an easy process since there may be up to hundreds or even thousands of finds in each excavation. Therefore, accessioning was a process that requires patience and a heart for detail. For each object, we carefully recorded its measurements, took photographs, and finally input all the data systematically in a list. During the process, we were able to gain first-hand experience with many different kinds of finds, including stone and iron objects, ceramic and pottery shards, dating from the Neolithic period to modern times. Within weeks, we have accessioned about two hundred stone adzes, and hundreds of finds excavated in Yung Long, Tuen Mun and Yung Shu Wan, Lamma Island.

In the repository team, not only archaeological finds were being stored, but also the records related to each excavation. Browsing through the field journals, the handwritings and drawings of archeologists were still vivid. These important records were carefully kept for future reference.

In fact, one of the greatest discoveries from the internship was to learn about the rich archaeological resources in Hong Kong. Excavation sites scattered around Hong Kong in familiar places and places with names I have never heard of. Surprisingly I even found a site located just several miles away from my old home! The discovery experience was like marking spots on a treasure map. Apart from the office in Jordan, we also went to visit other repositories located around Hong Kong. The archaeological deposit was so rich and vast that one single place just wasn't enough to house it all.

When archaeology is being mentioned, we might think of only the excavations that take place in the field. However, the real job goes much deeper than that. The internship experience has shown me the importance of archaeological storage

management. In fact, the repository team works hand in hand with the field archaeology team, providing consistent support and assistance. Our work may be less exciting and more monotonous, but managing the archaeological deposit brings immense satisfaction as well.



Photographing a bunch of metals during accessioning.



Part of the excavated objects from Yung Shu Wan, Lamma Island is placed inside these colourful boxes waiting to be accessioned.