

Internship Report

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Internship Unit: Antiquities and Monuments (AMO)---Archaeology Unit

I am most grateful for being offered the opportunities to work in Antiquities and Monuments (AMO) as an intern this summer from 24/6 to 4/8. There are several units in AMO specializing in different areas. The unit I worked for is the Archaeology unit and the duties of the unit can be divided into three categories; that is field archaeology, repository and preservation. With the generosity of AMO's staff, I was not only assigned to complete certain routine tasks but also I was able to learn different practical knowledge and skills which enormously widened my horizon. This report is going to briefly summarize what I have done and learned during the internship.

Accession---According to the Antiquities and Monument Ordinance, all the artefacts are the possession of HKSAR; therefore, individuals or parties have to handover the artefacts to AMO if any artefact is discovered. Every single piece of artefact has to be accessioned under a series of standardized procedure before being stored in the repository. The procedure of accession included: measuring the dimension or weight of the artefact, photograph the artefact, checking the object number and etc.

In the first week of internship, it was the period of handover session of artefacts from the archaeological sites discovered during the construction of Shatin to Central Station (SCL) by MTR. The amount of the artefacts is intimidating, in order to finish all the accessioning within a period of time, almost every people in the office got involved into the session. With well-organized operation and high team spirit, the handover session ran smoothly with high efficiency. This showed me that teamwork and organizing ability is essential in many tasks.

Archive System Support----In order to let the public access to the information of artefact in an easier way, AMO establish an electronic archive system. The public could access to the some of the information through internet. After completing the accession, the data of the artefact (e.g. dimension, excavation year and photo and etc.) need to be

input into the archive system. Apart from electronic version, traditional hard copy or artefacts album are also preserved in the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre (HDC) Library for public. Typesetting and proofreading are the major duties to support the system.

Archeological document---There are experienced archaeological team in the unit consistently participate in archaeological excavation in Hong Kong. After excavation, archaeologists have to write a context recording sheet for each excavation grid respectively. We were assigned to assist in finishing some of the sheet. In order to complete the sheet, we need to learn how to read several archaeological document such as the stratigraphic plan of grid, plot map; moreover, we learned how to draw the map and calculate the height of the grid according to the provided document. Although these tasks are a bit challenging at first, with the patient instruction and teaching of AMO's staff, we could gradually master the tasks. These tasks enriched my archaeological knowledge impressively and aroused my interest toward archaeology studies.

Artefact Handling---Unearthed, the artefacts are usually covered with soil and dirt; worse still, the artefacts maybe broken into pieces. Artefacts of this conditions are not suitable to be kept in the repository. Therefore, we need to clean the artefacts with a brush and dry it. If the artefact is broken, we may need to try to fix it using a particular glue that would not harm the material and dry it. The most important principal for handling artefact is to minimum the harm towards the artefact and hence anything done on the artefact has to be "reversible"; for example, for some artefact, we would write down the object number on the surface. Before marking the object number, a layer of chemical (ingredients similar to nail paints) has to be painted on the surface so as to protect the material. To further protect the artefact, sometimes we use acid-free MG tissue paper to wrap the artefact before storing it.

During the whole internship, it is my pleasure to learn such many interesting and practical archaeological knowledge and skills. Other than this, I have noticed the sophisticated structure and operation of AMO, ranging from archaeological excavation to data collation, there are some format and standard to follow, this makes the huge amounts of artefact stored in AMO can be arranged in a very organized way and makes the artefact

preserved in its best condition. In the meantime, flexibility is also required when dealing with different difficulties such the arrangement of SCL handover session. Last but not least, every AMO staff have a very professional attitude toward work, which has great impact on me, reminding me of being a professional person who respect your works.



Accession of SCL artefacts



Photographing the artefacts



Glue used to repair broken artefacts



Left: Tool to draw the section of artefact

Right: Tool to measure the dimension of artefact

遺存單元記錄表 CONTEXT RECORDING SHEET

DEPOSIT T1 CUT C 102

堆積 DEPOSIT	1. loose 2. dark gray 3. silty sand 4. Occasional shards of coarse corded coarse pottery, brown glazed village ware, modern tile, quartz, stone raw material and stone flakes. 5. 2-20cm thick	打鑿面 CUT	1. 平面形狀 Shape in plan 2. 轉角形狀 Corners 3. 剖面深度 Dimensions/Depth 4. 剖面圖面形狀 5. Break of slope-top 6. 邊形 Sides 7. Break of slope-base 8. 剖面圖面形狀 9. 軸心/偏向 Inclination of axis 10. 打鑿情況(如已知) Truncated (if known) 11. 標土編號 Find nos 12. 其他備註 Other comments 背面繪草圖 Draw profile overleaf
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7. Sunny, with mattock and shovel

層序關係 Stratigraphic matrix

演釋 Your interpretation:

討論 Your discussion:

本遺存單元相當於 Context same as:

田野紀錄編號 Site book refs: 簽名及日期 Initials & Date

平面圖號 Plan nos: 層序位置 Matrix location: 複核人及日期 Checked by & Date:

攝影 Photographs: 攝影紀錄編號 Card nos:

背面的水準測量 Levels on reverse
計算和轉移到平面圖後請 ✓:

Tick when reduced and transferred to plans ✓:

最高 Highest: 最低 Lowest:

環境樣本 Environmental samples: 其他遺物(指明) Other finds specify:

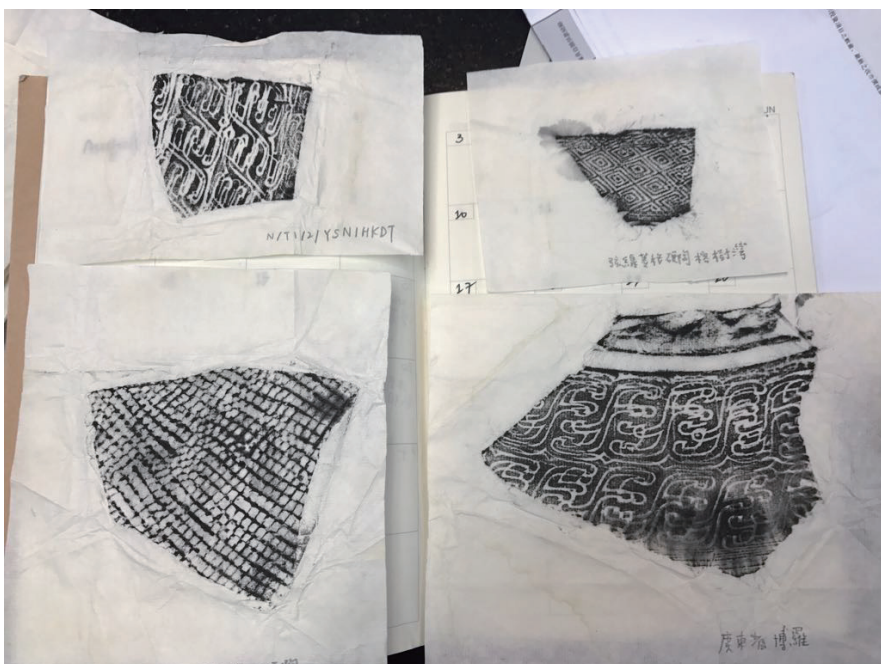
樣本編號及種類 Sample nos & type:

出土物篩選: 現場 on site: 遺址外 off site:

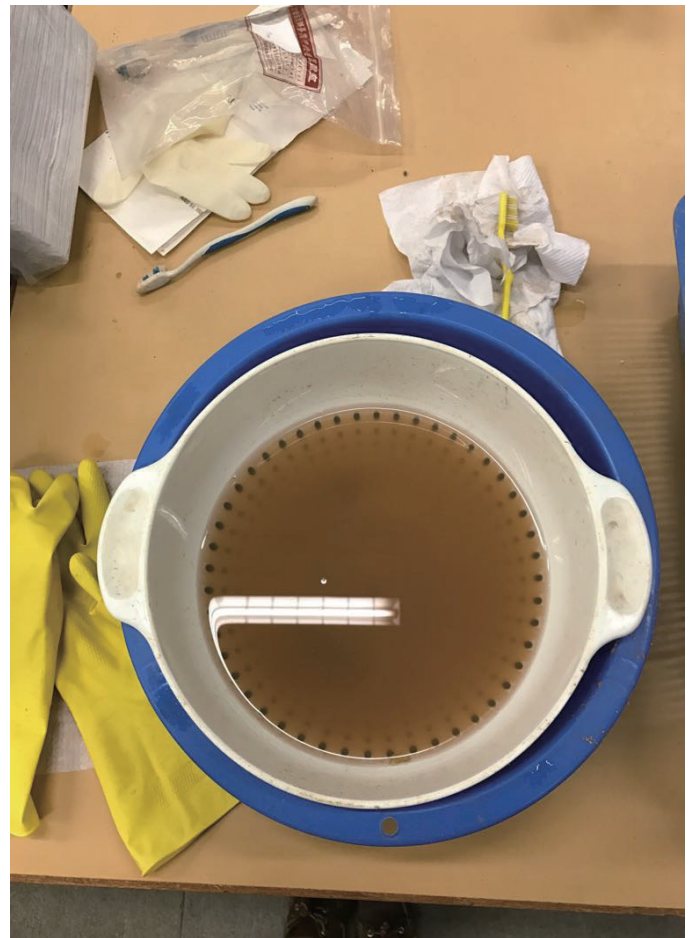
金屬探測: 原位 in situ: 現場 on site: 遺址外 off site:

複核演釋 Checked interpretation:

Context Recording Sheet



Product of rubbing artefact(拓印)



Washing artefact:
Before and after