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Thanks to the Department of Anthropology at CUHK and the Antiquities and Monuments Office (AMO), I was able to take an internship in the summer between my second- and third-year studies at CUHK. I have benefited enormously from my six-week internship in the Central Archaeological Repository of the AMO, despite its brevity.

Harking back to what happened around three months ago, I, in the first two weeks, was assigned the task of organizing piles of documents shelved in the archaeological archive. Stored in the Central Archaeological Repository was a hefty dossier upon the archaeological finds and reports of environmental impact assessment, at which I stood aghast because of the complexity of the archaeological findings unearthed in Hong Kong recorded in these reports. Flipping through these documents, therefore, became one of my pastimes when having my lunch breaks.

From the third week onward, I was entrusted with the task of accessioning the antiquities in the depository. Not only did I categorize the far-flung antiquities and artefacts excavated in Hong Kong, I also measured their height, width and weight without using any gloves (metal and bronze objects were of course excepted from). Prior to this internship, I have already taken some archaeology-related courses, through which I have learnt much about the antiquities. In the course of handling the above-mentioned tasks, I had come to gain further insights into antiquities. As an anthropology major student, I know it is cardinal to combine theory with practice. The AMO, in this regard, gave me valuable experience to corroborate what I had learnt from the textbook.

Notably enough, one of my colleagues, a some forty-year-old man, was always sitting in front of the computer, drawing antiquities with the help of software. In fact, helping the licensed archaeologists to sketch the antiquities and maps was part of his job. Also, he was specialized in repairing broken artefacts. When I was free, I would sometimes sit next to him to learn how to do these tasks.

Finally, it would be remiss if I do not mention my co-workers and colleagues. They were full of bonhomie and were willing to answer any questions I raised. Unquestionably, colleagues with a wide range of expertise (archaeology, geography, history, etc.) stimulated my interest in other realms of knowledge. They were not only my colleagues and partners, but also my teachers and friends, as it were. I was therefore more than happy to be in a milieu where there were so many like-minded people of various educational backgrounds.

In short, the experience has been an eye-opener and an invaluable next step in both my personal and career development. Here, I would like to express my gratitude to my department and the AMO. Without the support from the former and the generosity of the latter, none of my above-mentioned experience would have come true, and possibly I would still remain oblivious to the sui generis content and prodigious quantities of Hong Kong archaeological discoveries!



Photo Description: A bronze halberd from the Shang-Zhou Period.