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Institution: Hong Kong Maritime Museum (HKMM)

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2023 Anthropology Summer Internship Report

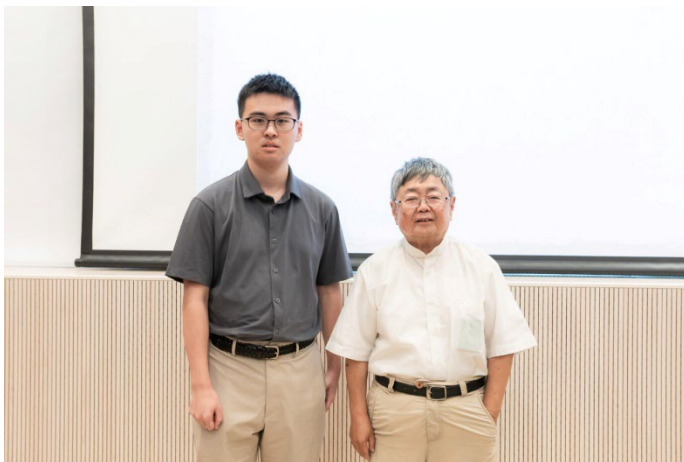
Courtesy of the Department of Anthropology and HKMM, I was assigned to the museum's Education Department for a 6-week internship. Compared to the Curatorial Department, which is about exhibitions, the Education Department mainly focuses on the events, either standalone or complementary with the exhibitions. Although being in the same department for the whole duration, I was exposed to a wide variety of tasks nonetheless. Not only I have gained a deeper understanding of the unseen parts of a museum but also had a newfound appreciation on museums as a whole.

My first day coincided with the quarterly meeting of the Education Committee, allowing me to see the functions of the department in a more dynamic way as I was invited to join as a spectator. The meeting revolved around discussing finished programmes, upcoming ' programmes and future programmes, concerning the many stakeholders (who double as committee members) of the museum, such as advisors from other museums, vfx director, marine scientist, LegCo councillor and representatives of a philanthropy organisation, Marine Department and a seamen organisation. Moreover, I was tasked with drafting the meeting minutes, watching the meeting replay not only serves as an administrative task but also allows me to know the functions of the department and what is yet to come in my 6 weeks.



Although being in the Education Department, working with other departments is also important. Here I am being taken as a stock photo by the Marketing Team for the newly built hall

In the next weeks, I have helped on various minor programmes' venue setup and participant support. I have also don't procedural tasks such as handling docent documents and participating in biweekly internal meetings. At the same time, I was helping with a major event throughout the 6 weeks, that being the Student Docent Training programme. As the programme spans for half a year, I only helped for the thematic talks in the early part of the programme. Apart from the more mundane tasks, I was also entrusted to draft the PowerPoint for one of the speakers, which will be viewed by over 60 students from around F.3. The most memorable talk for me was by Dr. Ting Sun Pao, most known for being the former Chief Curator for Hong Kong Museum of History. He talked about Maritime Silk Road that day and most of our staff from different departments took a break from their posts to attend his talk, it was a fantastic learning opportunity on past Chinese ports and cultural interaction on ceramics.



With Dr. Ting, I have been told that he is considered a celebrity for museum staffers in HK

The first three weeks was mainly administrative and more limiting. However, the last three weeks was very meaningful for me as the museum gave me tasks that had more creative freedom. The first one required me to create an education worksheet from any of the artifacts in the museum, the questions, theme and even targeted student level was up to my decision. The more freedom I have, the more difficult it gets as not only I have to make the worksheet consistent with my proposed theme and also has an appropriate difficulty, not to mention

minor details like the coordinating the pathing of the museum artifacts with the question. I view that as a test for my ability to coordinate events and familiarity with the museum, which I am glad that my 3 weeks of experience was able to cut it.

The second task for the last 3 weeks, which was my favourite out of all tasks, was being the sole library assistant for the museum library. My main task was to catalogue new books, which include assigning call numbers and putting them in online records. I had to learn how to make a call number with the Library of Congress system. After familiarizing the system for a bit, I was invited to give advises on making an extension of the call numbers for the museum library's use, as the current system was not specific enough on some topics, such as Hong Kong. Another task was to reorganise the library, from fixing wrong orders to reorganising the entire main shelves to accommodate new books. Occasionally, I also have to handle book requests from research assistants from universities. The whole library assistant task seems difficult and complicated on paper, because it really is that difficult in practice. However after looking at the revamped library and my handover report of the library, I really felt like my efforts are meaningful and I am very thankful that the museum had put a lot of trust in me for this task.



Interior of the library, I handled the labelled shelves, whose labels were also made by myself

This concludes my report of my internship in HKMM. Originally, the department I had requested to work at was unavailable to receive interns. Therefore, I would like to heartfully

thank HKMM for recruiting me regardless. The museum has a small team of staff, although being the largest department, we also only had 4 members excluding the interns. This is also precisely why I felt like being in a family working here, I even became familiar with some of the security and front desk staff of the museum. Overall, this has been a meaningful 6 weeks for me and I have everyone involved in this internship to thank for.



I was being featured in a post by the Marketing Department along with other interns. A lot of our colleagues have supported this post, making it the most interacted post in the museum's Instagram for that month/2 weeks. Thanks everyone!