



National Museum Cardiff /Amgueddfa Genedlaethol Caerdydd

&

Sain Ffagan Amgueddfa Werin Cymru/ St Fagans National History Museum

Museums, Heritage & Representation Module:

Museum visit on 21 February 2012

Coursework Assessment No. 1: field trip report of 2000 words
Deadline: 26 March 2012

The *Chambers Everyday Paperback Dictionary* (1975: 619) includes the following meaning in its entry on 'report' as a noun: 'a formal or official statement, as of results of an investigation ...'

In the introduction to your report, make it clear that it is based on a personal visit to the National Museum at Cathays Park and/or St Fagans. Depending on which of the 4 questions you choose to do, your report can be based on either Cathays Park or St Fagans. OR you can choose to consider both parts of the National Museum which we visited. Your report should consist of an investigation in which you add relevant reading on museums to compare your findings from the visit with those published by other people.

Do not assume that your reader will know on which date your visit took place. Your report should include a review of relevant literature, which will help provide a context for framing your discussion. You can also make a comparative analysis with other relevant institutions (which you might also have visited), based on your reading of material published in book, article and web-based formats. In concluding your report, it is a good idea to make some recommendations. List your references at the end – this list is not included in your word allowance.

It is a good idea to include illustrations, especially if you took a camera or mobile phone on the visit.

Use double spacing for the text of your report.

Some key dates in museum history

1683

Construction started on a building to house the collection of the Ashmolean Museum.

1753

British Museum founded by an Act of Parliament.

1835

The oldest museum in Wales, Swansea, was founded as the Royal Institution of South Wales. It is now run by the local authority.

1845

The Museums Act permitted municipal authorities to set up museums from rates.

1868

Cardiff Municipal Museum established.

1907

What is now called Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales was established by Royal Charter. It was State funded – currently it receives funds from the Welsh Assembly Government.

1943

The National Museum Wales became the official place for acquiring items found in Wales when declared Treasure Trove. Prior to this date, the British Museum acquired such finds.

1948

St Fagans was founded. It is now called Sain Ffagan Amgueddfa Werin Cymru – St Fagans: National History Museum.

1965

The Council of Museums in Wales was established, leading to a less paternalistic relationship between the National Museum and local museums.

1996

The Treasure Act (England, Wales and Northern Ireland).

The above information is available in the MPhil thesis of Elizabeth Walker:

Walker, Elizabeth Anne 2007 *Aspects of change in museum collecting practice during the twentieth century: some South Welsh archaeological collections*. MPhil, University of Wales, Lampeter.