

Photo Essay

Personal Reflection - 1,000 words

On the 14th of October we as a class of Humanities Students were allowed to go to Carmarthen Museum on a trip organized by our lecturer, Quentin Drew. Although this was not the only trip we had gone on throughout our first module, this is the trip I enjoyed most and will talk about in my personal reflection (photo essay).

After getting off the bus that took us to the museum, we were taken straight into the main area, and after checking our class in we walked through to the actual museum. When walking in, the first thing that had caught my eye was this large Panel called Cofeb Picton, this large stone carved panel depicted Syr Thomas Picton (1785–1815) and many others as they fought in the Battle of Waterloo in 1815.

What I thought was interesting about this piece is that whilst admiring it a worker had came up to me, and two others who were looking at the slab, and told us the story of how it was found, apparently this masterpiece was found in an old lady's back garden! He said that the panel was covered in moss and dirt when she found it and that she hadn't realised that it had been there all that time. Thankfully the woman was very nice, and gifted the panel to the museum, which is how they got their hands on it.

Looking at this now, the same as I had when we were there on the fourteenth, I still feel the same about it, it is magnificent, imagining how long it must have taken to make really fascinates me, and how all the faces had clear carvings, the panel was extremely detailed, and knowing how old it must be, it is still in great shape.

Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 10:36am at Abergwili.



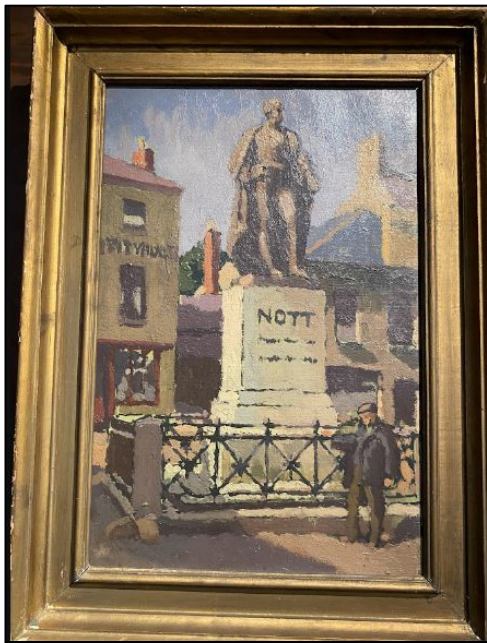


Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 10:29am at Abergwili.

After heading from the Cofeb Picton panel there was a large open room with many things scattered throughout, mostly stones (which we'll get to in a bit) but also paintings on the wall, of which this was my favourite, this painting is called "Major-General Sir William Nott Monument", this was a painting done by Edward Lewis and was an illustration of the actual monument of Sir Nott that was up in Carmarthen Town. The painting is great, I truly enjoy it, as I used to do Arts in A-levels, I do have some experience when it comes to paintings, and the oils and watercolours used are probably my favourite way of painting.

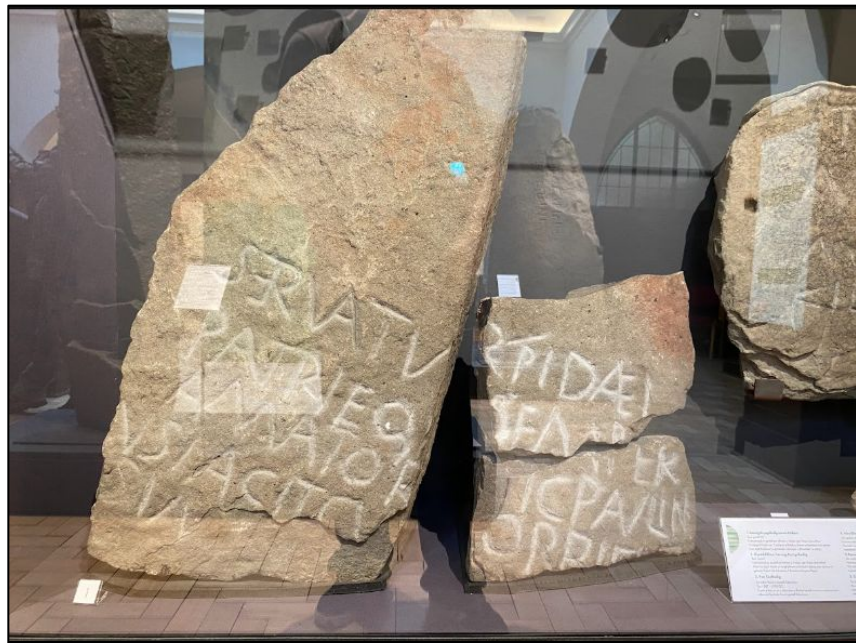


Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 10:40am at Abergwili.

As previously mentioned before, this first major room was filled with carved out stones, of which I truly found fascinating, but I took a liking to this one in particular for some reason, described only as "Inscribed Stone in three Pieces" it was dated all the way back to the 5th century AD and they say the inscription is Latin for "Preserver of the faith and always lover of his homeland, here Paulinus lies the most devout supporter of righteousness". I have no idea how they were able to make out what it says (due to it being broken) but I hope that one day I will be able to do the same, not with Latin but in general, as I believe it can be seen as a core part of being a real Archaeologist with an understanding of the field and craft.



Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 11:45am at Abergwili.

When initially going up the stairs after exploring the ground floor I was instantly enticed by a sign that said there was a rebuilt church in one of the rooms, and so without hesitation I moved past everything else in my way to return to later, and see the church first hand.

The church as you can see here is beautiful, I am not religious in any way, but I grew up going to Sunday School (to appease my grandmother who is) and I think that had an affect on me, I really love the look of a church.

The wooden floors, chairs that line up together, an open space right in front of the altar, as well as the smell and the overall vibe that churches like these give me I can't really explain outside the word of nostalgia. It just brings me to an eased like state, where I don't have to think of what's ahead of me.

When looking around the rebuilt church I found this a sigil and a copper engraved panel (which I can't make out right now), you can see this in the previous picture as well on the left hand side.

Most sigils like that truly make me think of A Song of Ice and Fire, which coincidentally me and two other classmates talked about whilst in this church later on as we just waited for it to be the time to leave.

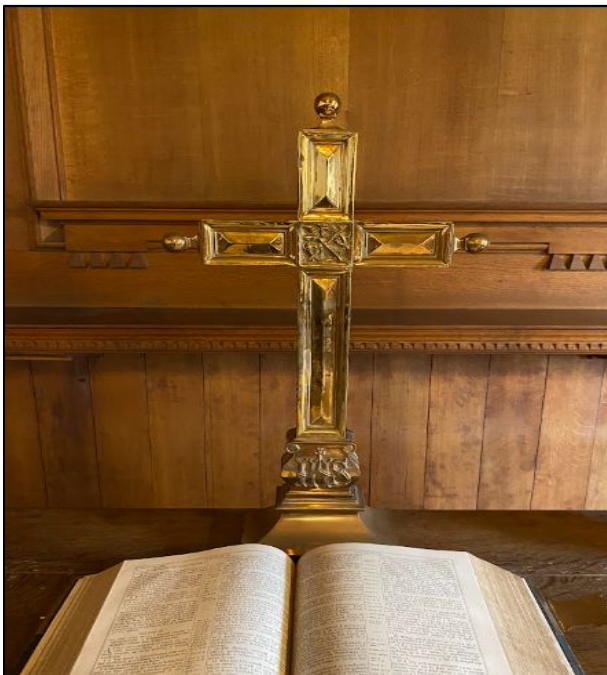
This is a picture of a wooden chair carved into the wood of the benches that line the altar up. There were two of these carved chairs, both of which were at the very end of the line. Again I love the carved in sigils and emblems of the chair, I feel like a broken record, but it's the truth.

Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 11:47am at Abergwili.

Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 11:49am at Abergwili.



Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 11:47am at Abergwili.



This first image is of what looks like a gold looking / amber glass cross above a holy bible. This was at the very end of the church and was blocked off, I didn't break the rules just put my phone over to get a better shot. I would have loved to hold it though.

Images taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 11:47am and 11:48am at Abergwili.



A little information I learnt about the church whilst talking to some of my classmates was that the church was a restoration of a local one that had burnt down, which looking back at these now, they did an amazing job.

Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 11:48am at Abergwili.



Although this looks out of place, It is still apart of the church, and really reminds me of my childhood, as I can remember a piano that looked extremely close to this one at the church I used to go to. (I took this picture before I was insulted by a volunteer about my clothes, kinda ruined my mood ngl)



Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 11:58am at Abergwili.

Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 12:00pm at Abergwili.

After leaving the church for the first time, I made my way throughout the second floor of the museum, and found a art exhibition, and it was mostly filled with paintings of castles, which is something I really like. Although the room itself was cold, and that I was in a bit a bad mood by this point, I did still really enjoy the paintings, especially this one. Even though I failed to take a picture of this paintings information, I do really like it, and it reminds me of a castle found in *Lord of the Rings*.



Unlike the previous painting I did remember to take a image of this ones information, painted by John Piper, this oil painting of Abaty Llanddewi Nant Hodni is one of my favourites at this gallery, not only due to the really cool colouring, but also due to the fact that this image truly makes me think of *A Song of Ice and Fire* again, the contents of this painting look like House Frey's ancestral home known only as *The Twins*.



Image taken by myself: Llew Ifor Hughes-Jones, on the 14th of October - 12:04pm at Abergwili.

The last image I would like to talk about is of this remembrance medallion for an 11 year old boy named Thomas Owen, I don't really have much to say about this one, it's just a beautiful looking medallion created for such a tragic reason.

By the point that I got to this room, i'm sure it was the last room I had not explored throughout the museum, and so to wait for time to pass, I went to have some food at the cafe, and then went along with some classmates back into the church to spend more time in there.

In conclusion, I really enjoyed this visit, although it was not the last field trip we went on, it was my favourite, due to all the history that it portrayed unlike the biased opinions of Sant Ffagan, the Carmarthen museum truly told many stories, and many that I did not include here, from battles, to even marriage stories, myths from the mabinogion and so many others.

The other two places we went to was Sant Ffagan which was fun but I had already been there, and there isn't all that historical information there, not to mention you couldn't see the castle, and the fact that I had no sleep the night we went to Startar Florida, which was also fun, and the site was amazing, but I still think that the large amount of information and the local history displayed made the museum my favourite out of the three.

The Carmarthen Museum is most likely my favourite museum i've been to in a while, and I think it has truly shown me that this passion of mine for the ancient, history, art and even the buildings / architecture really shows me that I have decided to do the right thing by choosing to go with Archaeology in University.