

professional experience at the museum of ancient cultures

with your host
sarah mathieson

outline of presentation

- ❖ Part 1. Life in the museum
- ❖ Part 2. Major project rationale and examples
- ❖ Part 3. Skills gained during this experience
- ❖ Part 4. Issues and problems
- ❖ Part 5. So what happens next?
- ❖ Part 6. Acknowledgements

part 1. life in the museum

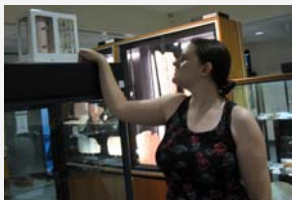


handling artefacts



The proper handling, storage and transport of artefacts has been one skill I have learned from working in the museum.

preventative conservation



The temperature and humidity monitors are checked weekly to ensure the environment in the museum is the least harmful to the artefacts that it can be.

everyday maintenance



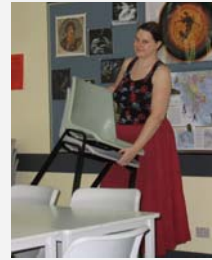
Familiarity with daily routines such as checking and monitoring the museum and displays, security, cleaning and pest management.

hospitality



Events that require gracious hospitality, such as conferences, occasionally occur in the museum.

events



Various events in the museum including classes, meetings and public programs require frequent movement of furniture.

interaction with staff



Working with the museum staff has been a rewarding experience.

part 2. major project rationale

- ❖ Harps are interesting.
- ❖ Everyone knows the harp is a symbol of Ireland.
- ❖ Very little further common knowledge about why this is so.
- ❖ Many Australians have Irish ancestry, and are interested.
- ❖ The web is a universally accessible forum for information and ideas.

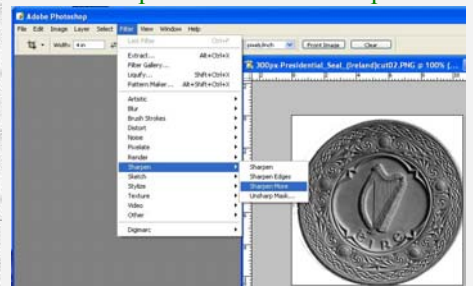
major project outline

A website/online exhibition on the subject of the harp in Irish culture including:

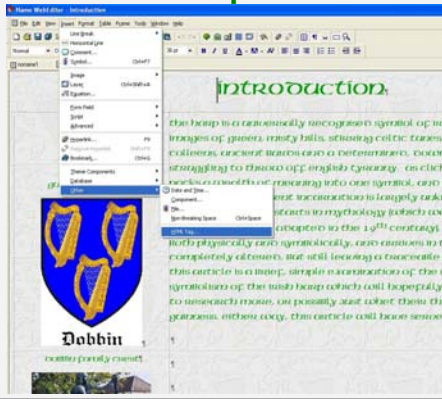
- ❖ Text
 - ❖ Information on the mythology, history and symbolism of the Irish harp
- ❖ Pictures
 - ❖ To expand the information in the text and provide visual interest

examples

- ❖ Experimentation with images using Paintshop Pro 9 and Photoshop.



examples



❖ Index screen



examples

❖ Introduction page in editing format



examples

❖ Mythology page in web view format



examples

❖ History page



examples

❖ Symbolism page



part 3. personal gains



gizra is a genius

general gains

- ❖ Familiarity with the museum as a workplace.
- ❖ A evolution of attitudes to work.
- ❖ Greater knowledge and experience.
- ❖ Experience adapting my existing skills to a new environment.

education experience

- ❖ Setting up and observing in-house education programs.
- ❖ External school programs.
- ❖ These programs have included
 - ❖ Hands-on sessions with artefacts
 - ❖ Slide shows and PowerPoint presentations
 - ❖ Interactive sessions.

office skills

- ❖ Answering phones and taking messages.
- ❖ Taking school bookings.
- ❖ Sending and receiving faxes.
- ❖ Filing and information management.

computer skills

- ❖ I can now approach a computer without fear.
- ❖ I have refined my research skills with the world wide web.
- ❖ I am able to use web design software to create and post websites.
- ❖ I now use email regularly, which makes me easier to contact.
- ❖ I have become familiar with using MS PowerPoint and MS Word.
- ❖ I can use the Museums Database.
- ❖ My typing speed and accuracy have improved.

museum skills

- ❖ Handling, transporting, and storing artefacts.
- ❖ Preventative conservation, especially regarding temperature and humidity.
- ❖ Daily monitoring of displays.
- ❖ Organising and hosting events.



personal skills

- ❖ I have experienced working in a team in a museum environment.
- ❖ I have gained more confidence in interaction with co-workers.
- ❖ I have improved my communication skills on a professional level.
- ❖ I have made some excellent contacts.
- ❖ I have made new friends.



part 4.

issues and problems

- ❖ Copyright of material used for my project.
- ❖ My own inexperience with my chosen media.
- ❖ Time management issues.
- ❖ Enrolment issues.



so what happens next?

After this experience I feel able to:

- ❖ Work efficiently and safely in a museum environment.
- ❖ Present information in a number of ways including websites and PowerPoint.
- ❖ Communicate efficiently with co-workers.
- ❖ Use my contacts to help me.

....so BRING it on!



part 6.

acknowledgements

- ❖ Professors Ruth Mawson and John Talent
- ❖ Theresa Winchester-Seeto
- ❖ Andrew Simpson
- ❖ Howard David Johnson
- ❖ Sara M. Butcher
- ❖ Gina Hammond
- ❖ Kavita Ayer
- ❖ Philippa Medcalf
- ❖ Jaye Pont
- ❖ Karl Van Dyke
- ❖ David Mathieson

Press here to return to:

http://www.geocities.com/irish_harps/index.htm