

Omnia Zaghlol Chehata
Supervisor, Educational department and administrations
Akhenaton Museum

Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust Fellow

Indeed, it is one of the most beautiful experiences and the greatest benefit I got from training at the British Museum and visiting more than ten museums in the UK. I feel proud of the great experience I had and nostalgic for friends and places especially London, Manchester, and Liverpool.

Certainly, I conveyed my experience to my colleagues at the Akhenaten Museum in Minya and gave them a detailed explanation of museums in the UK, specifically how to manage collections, and marketing. I also sent a report on the necessity of linking the museum with the university, such as the Manchester and Liverpool Museums.

I will organize training courses for regional museums in Egypt to teach ITP activities and how to apply them. This will include methods of dealing with the public, marketing in the absence of funding, temporary exhibitions and how to display a piece under a title that carries a specific meaning. As I learned from the ITP and the team, love and bonding brings happiness at work, so I will offer my colleagues the invitation to 'love'. I wish the ITP will continue this work and further progress it.

The ITP affected my confidence and ambition for my organisation – clearly and distinctly - whether in the field of museums and museum display, or in the field of dealing with the public. The ITP give me new skills in the field of advertising and marketing and finding easy and quick alternatives in the absence of a funder for activities or temporary exhibitions. I also gained special capabilities in the field of audience activities and how to professionally integrate different age groups into your programmes.

So my priorities for changes in practice that I would like to make in my museum are:-

Linking the museum with the university and linking the museum with institutions that can support the museum financially.

To change the traditional display of artifacts inside the museum exhibition halls and mix them with artistic aspects.



To link the local community to the museum, as well as with foreign visitors from outside Egypt.

My presence on the annual programme that is held in London has a great meaning and affected me personally and added for me the experience of traveling abroad and breaking the barriers of dealing with foreigners of different nationalities and cultures. This programme has achieved a special kind of cultural and intellectual rapprochement among the members of the programme.

I also gained a lot of experience during my visits to other museums. In the Cambridge and Oxford museums I particularly liked the museum display methods, the display scenarios, and how the exhibited objects linked to their stories. I was fortunate to visit the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, which is one of the oldest museums in the UK. This museum provides educational services for all ages, especially children, in addition to providing services to researchers and those interested in museums and people with special needs. I also benefited a lot from learning more about the museum display in this museum. I also visited the Weitz William Museum, the Zoological Museum and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology in Cambridge. And I enjoyed the historical areas of these cities during recreational and cultural tours.



One of the most beautiful museums in the UK is the Victoria and Albert Museum and I enjoyed a lot the day organised in the museum.

I was also fortunate enough to visit the Petrie Museum of Antiquities, and I was amazed by the Amarna collection from among the Egyptian collections. Although the display method in the museum is traditional, it is very beautiful and fun, and carries many meanings and historical stories related to the Amarna excavations. I benefited a lot from the diversity of the museum's activities and the children's love for the place and their relationships with the antiquities.



One of the most beautiful things that ITP offered us was the UK Partner trip to Manchester for five days and Liverpool for a day. I do not deny that the idea of moving and traveling across the country by train represents for me a journey of great pleasure and beauty, as it amazed me and increased my happiness to see the English countryside and the shape of the houses in the countryside and

the extent of their consistency, beauty and greenery. It was magical and beautiful that played an orchestra and painted a wonderful artistic painting which increased my fascination and love for England with all its features.



I was delighted to visit the Whitworth Art Gallery, and I was really impressed by the place with its wonderful artistic paintings that carry meanings and stories, including sharing social problems, which mean you stand before them and think deeply about how to solve these problems. They hold seminars for young people to raise awareness and discuss with them the issues expressed in the paintings and try to find solutions to them. An example of these problems is a painting that represents a girl standing alone and another that represents a disjointed family, and the girl stands next to the father and the mother stands at a distance. We also saw the latest dazzling technological devices,

which provide integrated programmes for children and their families, and can allow them to communicate from their homes.

I also gained a lot of experience by visiting the Manchester Art Gallery and the beauty of the museum displays and the diversity of activities. I was greatly affected by the presence of some places inside the exhibition halls that were designated especially for sitting in front of the art exhibits for enjoyment and recreation. The purpose of them is also to think quietly in the artistic atmosphere. I liked the idea very much and I will seek to implement it in the Akhenaten Museum in Minya.



I also visited Manchester Museum. I particularly enjoyed the idea of displaying dinosaurs and mixing the traditional museum display with modern ones to support the preservation of heritage – a very important aspect to keep pace with progress on all levels. The idea of linking the museum to the university is a very important idea and it must be applied in Egyptian museums. It really was an experience that requires further research, study and application. My

only regret was the closure of parts of the Museum during the timing of the visit.



One of the most beautiful places I visited in the UK was Liverpool, a city of magic and beauty. I gained a lot of experience by visiting Liverpool Museum and the University of Liverpool Library.

I am in the process of arranging a series of training courses to educate my colleagues at the Museum and transfer my experiences around the UK to them.

I was also fortunate enough to visit the Science Museum and the National History Museum in London. I particularly enjoyed my visit to the Wellcome Collection with their displays on medicine, science and art.

I was also able to visit some of the UK's historical landmarks such as Stonehenge and London's landmarks such as the London Bridge and the River Thames. The conclusion of the great, wonderful programme was a tour of the London parks and a visit to the Kenwood House. What a lot of English heritage is very beautiful!! At the end of this tour, we were hosted in the house of Frances Carey, chair of the Marie-Louise von Motesiczky Charitable Trust, which reflected the beauty of English homes and the distinctive character, generosity, originality and beauty of the character of the people.

As for me, my trip to the UK has ended, and I have written about my deep experience in museums, but the two most important things are that my heart is still attached to the UK, truly and without any exaggeration. I am in love with this country.

