

The 18th April 2016

5.30 a.m. Yeah, that's when I had to wake up this morning to go to London to the Petrie Museum. It was really early (and hard) but totally worth it! Hopefully (and also because we are far-sighted), Carl and me took the bus at 7.09 a.m. so we would have plenty of time to walk from Marble Arch to the museum (which was about 35 minutes away). But the traffic was quite terrible and by 9.15 we decided to get off the bus (on a whim) in Baker Street and we still arrived on time! I was really looking forward to the day because it wasn't just about History, one of my favourite subject, but actually about a topic I had already studied at school. It's always exciting to be in a place you've read about on the internet without knowing, at the time, that you would actually be there one day.

After a quick glance at the museum, I undertook the first activity with apprehension. Quite honestly, I would never boast about my drawing skills because firstly, I'm not like that, and then my skills aren't extraordinary. But actually, the 'drawing shop' turned out to be really captivating: after choosing an object (a lovely representation of Horus) and meticulously drawing it, we decorated it with silver leaf and the result was astonishing. The metallic color emphasizes the beauty of the drawing and makes it way more interesting. I wish I had known this technique when I had my drawing lessons at school; I guess my results would have been better!

I continued to develop my creative skills with a bit of writing (which brought back some pleasant memories as I wrote about my History teacher) and finally photography. I still can't believe that I had the opportunity to hold some real objects that are thousands of years old (and I didn't even drop one on the floor; I'm really proud of myself!). Playing with the position of the camera and the lights was really interesting, but quite hard work! With our first object, a small piece of pottery decorated with an inscription, the goal was first to find an interesting arrangement and then a good light to enhance the shape and details. After many tries (and a lot of help), Carl took THE perfect picture that almost looked like the ones in the magazines. With our second object, we had a funny idea: we started by taking a simple picture of this really tiny cute hand and then we took a picture of my hand (the real one, the one that is at the end of my arm) as if it was actually holding an object. And then, by the magic of technology (i.e. Photoshop), we superimposed the picture of the little hand on the one of my hand. We can say that I was, in a way, holding the object without any gloves!

It truly was a rewarding experience that I won't forget. To have an entire museum to yourself with a jaw dropping collection of objects is amazing, you can take advantage of any single item for as long as you want! The workshops were also a great opportunity to take a closer look at the objects and to work with them in a way I would never have thought of! I thoroughly enjoyed my day!

Christel