

The Basiliscope Mercury 339

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

As we adjust to the new normal, there is news of museums and heritage sites preparing for re-opening and even more than one exhibition. Mexican shipwrecks, medieval swords and Viking ships appear. Free books and historical novels for those still needing help to pass the time, and best of all, the latest ICOMAM MAGAZINE has appeared with news and stories about many of our museums while they went under wraps. A great and inspirational read.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Ancient Chinese helmet found in tomb - but no picture

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/24/c_139083186.htm

Bone arrowhead

<https://theconversation.com/what-a-bone-arrowhead-from-south-africa-reveals-about-ancient-human-cognition-137651>

More on what is being uncovered from glaciers

<https://phys.org/news/2020-05-ice-reveals-ancient-once-thriving-route.html>

Marching in sandals

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2020/may/26/how-could-roman-legionnaires-march-so-far-in-sandals>

Fining for Vindolanda fort and museum

<https://neconnected.co.uk/bank-support-secures-future-of-two-roman-sites-along-hadrians-wall/>

Grave stories

Remembering the mystery of the Roman Guildhall skulls

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/zone-1-news/gruesome-murder-mystery-39-battered-18278697>

Viking burial found under Norwegian kitchen

<https://www.thelocal.no/20200526/norway-couple-find-viking-grave-under-floor-of-house>

Looking for Red Hugh O'Donnell in Spain

<https://www.irishtimes.com/news/ireland/irish-news/spanish-archaeologists-recover-bones-in-search-for-remains-of-red-hugh-o-donnell-1.4259973>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/may/27/spanish-dig-closes-in-on-burial-site-of-irish-lord-red-hugh-odonnell>

Medieval Miscellany

Jousting podcast

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/05/jousting-middle-ages-emma-levitt/>

My guess it is not a medieval sword

<https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/18456725.winchester-coffee-roasters-find-sword-like-artefact/>

But this from Belarus looks like the real deal

<https://eng.belta.by/society/view/medieval-sword-found-in-belarus-bobruisk-130560-2020/>

Renaissance miscellany

Feature on Otford Palace

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/05/finding-the-hidden-palace-of-otford/129396>

Reconstructing Henry VII

<https://www.livescience.com/henry-vii-reconstruction-death-mask.html>

History of the codpiece

<https://www.newyorker.com/books/page-turner/a-brief-history-of-the-codpiece-the-personal-protection-for-renaissance-equipment>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

More on the background to the Croatian breechloading chamber

<https://www.croatiaweek.com/valuable-piece-of-croatian-warrior-heritage-found-at-krka-national-park/>

17th century cannon in Portugal saved for the nation

<https://www.portugalresident.com/centuries-old-cannons-exhibited-at-portimao-museum-gain-national-treasure-status/?fbclid=IwAR1ZJW5QgsB8-nbMe2WxT3y5IFGM2IAFYJ8Qu4qsHZV4hgi3lyAZq0QpFgg>

Interesting piece about British gun in Australia

https://www.pastmasters.net/the-govt-house-gun.html?fbclid=IwAR0Z_WcH7d5cjk_OEELcXH9ChqnPdD4poveh3WXuxXy_CLWvRfJc9BpIXs

Back to the front

Remembering the fall of Constantinople

<https://greece.greekreporter.com/2020/05/29/the-historical-memory-of-constantinople-567-years-after-the-fall/>

Future of Culloden field still under discussion

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/renewed-threat-to-culloden-conservation-area>

\$3 Million in Grants for States to protect Battlefields

<https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/2020/05/3-million-grants-goes-11-states-help-protect-battlefields>

Café Basiliscoe: this week's menu

Wolf steaks

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/05/european-ice-age-hunters-ate-wolf-meat/129362>

Frankish olives

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2020/05/19/olive-tree-burned-in-fire-in-north-on-sunday-were-established-under-frankish-rule/>

And Tang candy for dessert

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/05/a-tang-dynasty-monk-and-his-secret-candy-recipe/>

Princesses and Amazons

Ten powerful queens

<https://nypost.com/2020/05/30/the-10-most-powerful-queens-from-catherine-the-great-to-queen-victoria/>

18th century riding habits for your locked down wardrobe

<https://georgianera.wordpress.com/2016/01/26/18th-century-riding-habits/>

Nautical news

More on excavating the Gellstad ship

<https://www.livescience.com/viking-ship-fungus-excavation.html>

And another Viking ship found

<https://www.lifeinnorway.net/second-viking-ship-grave-found-on-tiny-norwegian-island/>

Shipwreck off Mexico coast identified

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-52817822>

Online exhibition about Isle of Wight wrecks

<https://onthewight.com/find-out-more-about-a-tale-of-two-shipwrecks-through-online-exhibition/>

Museum news and exhibitions

News - mainly re-openings

French museums re-opening plans

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/french-museums-open>

Sweden's re-opening and galleries

<https://artdaily.com/news/124073/Nationalmuseum-Sweden-to-reopen-June-16#.Xtlyhm5FyUk>

Met opening delayed until at least August

<https://nypost.com/2020/05/19/nycs-metropolitan-museum-of-art-plans-to-reopen-in-mid-august/>

National WWI Museum and Memorial sets reopening date

<https://artdaily.com/news/123912/National-WWI-Museum-and-Memorial-sets-reopen-date#.Xst7zDHsZ9A>

More updates here:

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/coronavirus>

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/home>

Museum developments

Make your own exhibition

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/diy-curating-uk-galleries-mount-virtual-shows-on-lockdown-using-new-digital-tool>

The Cleveland Museum of Art launches "ArtLens for Slack"

<https://artdaily.com/news/123821/The-Cleveland-Museum-of-Art-launches--ArtLens-for-Slack-#.XseB7G5FyUk>

Conservation corner

Reviewing museum conversation needs

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/getty-conservation-environment-museums>

Conservation in locked down museums

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/a-resting-time-for-the-art-with-museums-shuttered-us-conservators-seize-on-strategies-to-safeguard-their-collections>

Objects

American war tomahawk sold

<https://artdaily.com/news/124050/Revolutionary-War-tomahawk-auctioned-in-Pennsylvania-for-world-record--664-200#.XtDBwm5FyUk>

Thompson submachine gun found on Australian beach

<https://www.9news.com.au/national/man-finds-submachine-guns-buried-lake-hume-victoria/04b377fb-fd31-428f-a15c-ec23770223f3>

Exhibitions

Raphael returning to Rome

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/major-raphael-show-in-rome-returns-for-three-month-run>

Japanese art in Hamburg

<https://artdaily.com/news/123710/The-Museum-f-r-Kunst-und-Gewerbe-Hamburg-exhibits-Japanese-paintings-and-prints#.XsOO3jHsZ9A>

Renaissance master in Vienna

<https://artdaily.com/news/123900/Belvedere-opens-first-monographic-exhibition-of-the-Master-of-Mondsee>

Bernini and Caravaggio exhibition in Amsterdam extended

<https://artdaily.com/news/123913/Rijksmuseum-re-opens-on-1-June-and-extends-Caravaggio-Bernini-exhibition#.Xst6-zHsZ9A>

Titian to be extended at the National Gallery

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/titian-love-desire-death>

Books

Stuart Hadaway: *British Airfields of the Second World War*

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/british-airfields-of-the-second-world-war-9781784423957/>

Latest from Pen and Sword

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/>

Royal armouries' add more to the eBook lists

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/e-books/>

Online Book

Ten free online books

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/05/open-access-books-medieval-studies/>

Popular Culture

Historical fiction to help pass the time

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/05/medieval-historical-fiction-2020/>

JG Farrell, the Indian Mutiny and the pandemics - all in one easy story!
<https://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/jg-farrell-plagued-by-disease-1.4262941>

Historic sites beginning to re-open in England
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/may/29/stonehenge-with-no-crowds-big-changes-planned-for-reopening>

Events

Sales Fairs and auctions

Hermann Historica Online sales
<https://www.hermann-historica.de/en/auctions>

Websites and Downloads

Royal Armouries from home
<https://royalarmouries.org/>

1066 etc: 100 years' war, & Sir Lancelot in Poland
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/05/medieval-world-war/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/05/lancelot-medieval-poland/>

ICOMAM MAGAZINE 23
A terrific read, with news, articles and exhibits, as well as how our museums around the world reacted to the C19 crisis - tell your friends
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1bX4Vk285WEiP1Kfjwf7hHKObDkgD8MAc/view>

All the Ho reports in one place
https://ahc.leeds.ac.uk/downloads/download/35/fields_of_conflict%3E

Finally

This fortnight I have enjoyed the continuing #MuseumsUnlocked threads
<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 31 May 2020

Some people have asked me about making a contribution to the Newsletter – if you would like to support us, you can make a donation here through our Paypal account – see here for details:
<http://www.basiliscoe.com/id2.html>