

The Basiliscope Mercury 359

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

We are back with our new bionic eyesight. While we have been away there have been some interesting stories - an Iron Age weapon hoard in Germany, another medieval sword found in Poland and a lot of Culloden news. And pirate books to pass the time.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Flint tool workshop found in Bulgaria

<http://archaeologyinbulgaria.com/2021/04/22/archaeologists-find-nearly-7000-year-old-copper-age-workshop-for-production-of-flint-tools-near-belogradets-in-northeast-bulgaria/>

Iron Age weapon hoard found in Germany

<https://www.livescience.com/iron-age-hoard-germany.html>

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2021/04/large-iron-age-hoard-discovered-at-wallburg-wilzenberg-hillfort/138779>

New research on boomerangs

<https://phys.org/news/2021-04-boomerangs-greater-insights-ample.html>

Chinese weapons

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-04-22/Wonders-of-Sanxingdui-Gold-scepter-and-bronze-weapons-ZFymtj19EA/index.html>

Roman arena found in Turkey

<https://www.livescience.com/roman-era-arena-discovered-in-turkey.html>

Reconstructing mail

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2021/04/1800-year-old-chain-armour-reconstructed-using-video-game-tech>

Analysing Viking metalworking

<https://phys.org/news/2021-04-viking-metalwork-craft-expertise-evolved.html>

Medieval sword found in Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2021/04/knights-arsenal-unearthed-by-detectorist/138802>

<https://tvn24.pl/tvn24-news-in-english/polish-history-buff-finds-well-preserved-600-year-old-sword-5075178>

Grave stories

Murder in ancient Egypt

<https://phys.org/news/2021-04-famous-mummy.html>

Things to do with frozen dead Siberian warriors

<https://www.unilad.co.uk/news/russia-looking-to-clone-and-resurrect-3000-year-old-ancient-siberian-warriors/>

Who is buried in Windsor Chapel?

<https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/st-georges-chapel-windsor-castle-royals-buried-vault-can-you-visit/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Cyprus in the crusades - with added rusty sword as extra

<https://artdaily.com/news/134903/Knights-Templar-legacy-lives-on-in-Cyprus>

Hay Castle gates have been restored

<https://museumcrush.org/hay-castles-ancient-wooden-gates-restored-and-back-in-place/>

Halton Castle's colourful past

<https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/the-strange-world-of-historical-crime-in-halton/>

Fort Clarence, Rochester

<https://www.kentononline.co.uk/kent/news/fortress-kent-an-ever-changing-history-245868/>

Miscellany

Killing the archbishop

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/thomas-becket-murder-martyr-power-legacy/>

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/who-killed-thomas-becket/>

1480 painting of St Florian returned to owners

<https://artdaily.com/news/135147/The-Bavarian-State-Painting-Collections-restitute-Nazi-looted-painting>

1493 altarpiece of St George goes back on view in Brussels

<https://artdaily.com/news/135074/St-George-comes-home--World-famous-altarpiece-resplendent->

Hidden fresco of Duke Cosimo II uncovered in Florence

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/italy-florence-uffizi-gallery-lost-frescoes/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Cast-iron cannon found in a Latvian river

<https://eng.lsm.lv/article/culture/history/centuries-old-cannon-uncovered-in-mersrags-latvia.a401725/>

Cairo's Ramadan cannon restored

<https://dailynewsegypt.com/2021/04/14/iftar-cannon-history-behind-special-ramadan-tradition-in-egypt/>

Back to the front

Protecting battlefields

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/call-on-politicians-to-protect-battlefields>

Weymouth's Civil War past

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-56770350>

3d scanning to bring new insights to Culloden battlefield

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/news/3d-scanning-gives-new-insight-into-275-year-old-jacobite-battlefield/>

Culloden online

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-56661832>

Remembering Culloden

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/275th-anniversary-of-the-battle-of-culloden-films>

Lord Byron funds Greek wars

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/apr/18/revealed-lord-byrons-4000-cheque-that-helped-create-modern-greece>

Living in the past

16th century men's fashions in Augsburg - lovely pictures

<https://www.gq.com/story/first-book-of-fashion-ancient-fit-pics>

Café Basiliscoe - this week's menu

Romeburger

<https://lenthbridgenewsnow.com/2021/04/09/taking-a-bite-out-of-a-1500-year-old-roman-burger/>

Chocolate from the Boer War

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-56576567>

And a glass of ancient Greek wine

<https://www.winemag.com/2021/04/22/best-greek-wines-varieties-assyrtiko/>

Into the 20th century

Scandal over Commonwealth war grave headstone erupts

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/apr/21/uk-inquiry-blames-pervasive-racism-for-unequal-commemoration-of-black-and-asian-troops>

WW2 film can found in Poland

<https://tvn24.pl/tvn24-news-in-english/polish-archeologists-find-a-film-reel-canister-from-wwii-era-5074232>

Nautical news

Viking ship recreation found in Icelandic cave

<https://www.livescience.com/viking-boat-structure-ragnarok.html>

Researching the Hanseatic routes

<https://phys.org/news/2021-04-revealing-routes-hanseatic-era-online.html>

16th century Spanish guns raised

https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/barbanza/ribeira/2021/04/15/recuperan-dos-canones-hundidos-fondo-mar-entorno-faro-corrubedo/00031618498727319442425.htm?fbclid=IwAR3W7QDaYrmAzY9cCileJ1j_Ky49NzPITvfoBOqiPw4aHpgAuv7HCEE_1Xg

Not just ships at the bottom of the Great Lakes

<https://news.ijn.msu.edu/2021/04/how-archeologists-excavate-great-lakes-wrecks/>

USS *Johnson*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-56608713>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Danish museums re-open, but only if you can prove you are well or vaccinated

<https://artdaily.com/news/135000/Denmark-s-cafes--restaurants-and-museums-reopen>

Increasing numbers of visitors allowed for New York's museums

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/some-new-york-museums-will-ramp-up-to-50-visitor-capacity-next-week-under-relaxed-limits-announced-by-governor>

Smithsonian Museums prepare for re-opening

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/smithsonian-will-reopen-eight-museums-and-other-venues-after-last-november-s-closures>

New museums

Quebec's historic ironworks get funding

<https://www.nationalparkstraveler.org/2021/04/quebec-site-gets-funding-injection-showcase-canadas-first-steel-industry>

Museum developments

Royal Armouries receives grant for digital resources

<https://www.insidermedia.com/news/yorkshire/the-royal-armouries-receives-lottery-backing-for-digital-project>

Delightful interactive with an Indian miniature

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/04/02/arts/design/shah-jahan-chitarman.html>

Digital access for Jamestown

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/cox-business-brings-high-speed-fiber-connectivity-to-historical-jamestowne-island-to-provide-virtual-explorations-of-the-james-fort-and-archaearium-301270651.html>

Museum musings

Women as collectors

<https://www.stanforddaily.com/2021/04/15/virtual-exhibition-explores-womens-role-in-expanding-museum-collections/>

Conservation corner

Relearning all about tar

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/stave-church-tar-conservation>

Objects

Online exhibition of Highland costume

<https://museumcrush.org/highland-threads-northern-scotlands-most-treasured-costumes/>

Wartime flags on display at Tank Museum

<https://www.bournemouthcho.co.uk/news/19227800.historic-world-war-ii-union-jack-swastika-exhibition/>

Objects from the Thackray - including some of the armourer's art

<https://museumcrush.org/8-curious-objects-from-thackray-museum-of-medicine/>

Exhibitions

Physical and online exhibition of Tudor and early Stuart portraits

<https://artdaily.com/news/134999/Philip-Mould---Company-exhibits-a-group-of-exceptional-Elizabethan-and-Jacobean-portraits>

Sami artefacts in Helsinki before repatriation

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/homecoming-awaits-sami-artefacts>

Napoleon in Paris

<https://www.grandpalais.fr/fr/evenement/napoleon>

North American portraits at the Met

<https://artdaily.com/news/134498/Exhibition-of-Karl-Bodmer-s-portraits-of-Indigenous-Americans-opens-at-The-Met>

Turner and modern history and technology in London, soonish

<https://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2021/04/03/turn-a03.html>

Books

Bill Harriman: ***The Bayonet***

<https://ospreypublishing.com/store/military-history/upcoming-books/available-this-month/the-bayonet>

National Trust -125 Treasures

<https://shop.nationaltrust.org.uk/national-trust-125-treasures.html>

Connie Kelleher: ***The Alliance of Pirates: Ireland and Atlantic Piracy in the Early Seventeenth Century***

<https://www.dublininquirer.com/2021/04/07/the-alliance-of-pirates-reviewed>

David Cordingly and John Falconer: ***Pirates - Fact and Fiction***

<https://shop.rmg.co.uk/collections/maritime/products/pirates-fact-and-fiction-hb?fbclid=IwAR1PV3sOeKb8PUppTOelJwWAbjtJQw9c6U3E2LJWpP8kQ09KDknCVCGso0>

Linda Colley: ***The Gun, the Ship, and the Pen***

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/apr/24/the-gun-the-ship-and-the-pen-by-linda-colley-review-how-the-modern-world-was-made>

Popular culture

Delightful feature on 18th century French boardgames

<https://museumcrush.org/monarchy-love-and-war-waddesdons-collection-of-old-french-board-games/>

Guardian's short film on a member of the French resistance wins an Oscar
https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2020/nov/18/colette-a-former-french-resistance-member-confronts-a-family-tragedy-75-years-later?CMP=gu_com

Events

30 June - Weapons in Society - online
<https://royalarmouries.org/event/weapons-in-society/>

Online seminars on the history of collecting
<https://www.wallacecollection.org/whats-on/seminar-in-the-history-of-collecting-15/>

ICOMAM conference –Toledo, Spain
New dates - delayed until November
https://ejercito.defensa.gob.es/eventos/icomam_toledo_2021/

Sales Fairs and auctions

30 April 2021 London
The Samurai: Japanese Arms and Armour
<https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2021/the-samurai-japanese-arms-and-armour?locale=en>

May 26 - 28 & June 1 - 2 | Hermann Historica brochure available
<https://www.hermann-historica.de/en>

Websites and downloads

What they have been finding in the river Wear at Durham
<https://diveintodurham.uk/home.html>

1066 etc: Sluys, gunpowder in Japan, St George
<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/04/battle-sluys/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/04/oda-nobunaga-and-the-gunpowder-revolution-in-japan/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/04/st-george-the-martyr-and-his-banner/>

Finally...

It is that time of the year again - what have you got for the next ICOMAM MAGAZINE?

<http://icomam.mini.icom.museum/the-magazine/>

This fortnight I tweeted assorted cannon
<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 28 April 2021