

The Basiliscope Mercury 340

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

This week, less disease and a lot more statuary! Otherwise prehistoric arrows, the battle of Glenshiel and the Kaiser's gunboat gets protection.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Arrows in very ancient times

[https://phys.org/news/2020-06-discovery-oldest-arrow-technology-
eurasia.html](https://phys.org/news/2020-06-discovery-oldest-arrow-technology-eurasia.html)

Siege weapons from antiquity

[https://interestingengineering.com/7-common-but-lesser-known-siege-
weapons-from-antiquity](https://interestingengineering.com/7-common-but-lesser-known-siege-weapons-from-antiquity)

Feature on Greek helmets

[https://greece.greekreporter.com/2020/06/02/the-awe-inspiring-helmet-of-
legendary-ancient-greek-warrior-miltiades/](https://greece.greekreporter.com/2020/06/02/the-awe-inspiring-helmet-of-legendary-ancient-greek-warrior-miltiades/)

Features on Viking weapons

[https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-ancient-traditions/viking-weapons-
0013794](https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-ancient-traditions/viking-weapons-0013794)

Sword - the word

<https://blog.oup.com/2020/05/the-cutting-edge-sword-part-1/>
<https://blog.oup.com/2020/06/the-history-of-the-word-sword-part-2/>

Water channels in ancient citadel

[https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/1-800-years-on-water-channels-in-turkeys-
southeast-remain-mystery-155318](https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/1-800-years-on-water-channels-in-turkeys-southeast-remain-mystery-155318)

Saddle found in Mongolian grave

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/8733-200602-mongolia-wooden-saddle>

On the frontlines

Richard I and the siege of Acre

[https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/the-siege-of-acre-when-the-lionheart-
reached-the-holy-land-630711](https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/the-siege-of-acre-when-the-lionheart-reached-the-holy-land-630711)

Battle of Stoke Field

[https://www.leftlion.co.uk/read/2020/june/battle-of-stoke-field-history-war-of-
the-roses-battlefield-nottinghams-military-history/](https://www.leftlion.co.uk/read/2020/june/battle-of-stoke-field-history-war-of-the-roses-battlefield-nottinghams-military-history/)

First database on the Imjin War launched

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2020-06/uadb-fdo060420.php

Finds from the battlefield at Glenshiel

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/evidence-from-glenshiel-battlefield-cast-doubt-on-confidence-of-government-victory>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Barnard Castle

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/barnard-castle-history-facts-built-battle-tourist/>

Protecting an ancient Japanese castle

<http://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/13386723>

Lincoln castle re-opens its wall walk

<https://thelincolnite.co.uk/2020/06/lincoln-castle-to-reopen-medieval-wall-walk/>

Tunnels detected under Szczecin's Ducal Castle, Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/06/hidden-tunnels-discovered-under-castle-of-the-pomeranian-dukes/133469>

Outer tower located in survey at Teutonic knights' Elbląg Castle, Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/06/archaeologists-find-tower-in-outer-bailey-at-teutonic-fortress/133615>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Cannons at Daulatabad fort

<https://www.deccanherald.com/national/west/daulatabad-fort-puts-cannons-in-perspective-843954.html>

Recycling shells

<https://www.livescience.com/recycled-civil-war-cannonball.html>

Piece about Galway's historic Crimean cannon

<https://www.advertiser.ie/galway/article/114996/the-guns-in-the-square>

Asian round-up

More than one use for the Great Wall of China's

<https://www.sciencealert.com/new-study-reveals-not-all-of-china-s-great-wall-was-built-for-war>

The samurai diplomat

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2020/jun/07/hasekura-rokuemon-tsunenaga-japan-samurai-charmed-courts-europe>

Miscellany

Nice piece on London's Cutler's hall

<https://lookup.london/cutlers-hall-frieze-warwick-lane/>

Princesses and Amazons

Christine de Pizan for free

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/christine-pizan-articles-theses/>

The other Boleyn girl

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/after-hundreds-years-unknown-woman-tudor-painting-was-identified-180975071/>

Mary Queen of Scots prayer book

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/mary-queen-scots-illustrated-and-inscribed-prayer-book-goes-auction-180975051/>

The last Civil War pensioner

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/last-person-receive-civil-war-pension-dies-180975049/>

Nautical news

SMS *Grosser Kurfürst* lost 1878 and its monument protected

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/jun/05/german-warship-wreck-off-kent-coast-given-heritage-protection>

WW2 landing craft found off Wales

<https://www.archaeology.co.uk/articles/sunken-second-world-war-landing-craft-found.htm>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Italian museums re-invent themselves for locals, not tourists

<https://artdaily.com/news/124253/Italians-rediscover-their-museums--with-no-tourists-in-sight#.Xtn6dm5FyUk>

Hermitage, Amsterdam re-opens

<https://artdaily.com/news/124370/The-Hermitage-Amsterdam-reopens-with-extended-exhibitions#.Xt3u7G5FyUk>

Doge's Palace (and armoury) re-opens

<https://artdaily.com/news/124554/Doge-s-Palace-reopens-as-tourists-flock-back-to-Venice#.XuXdwG5FyUk>

Syrian culture under attack

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/06/report-documents-severe-damage-syrian-heritage-museums-200608082049725.html>

Museum developments

Virtual Terracotta warriors exhibition opens for Australians

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/12/c_139133652.htm

Virtual exhibition on the Field of the Cloth of Gold at the Armouries

<https://royalarmouries.org/tudor-power-glory/>

Museum musings - all statues this week

Statues move back into the limelight: A round up of controversial statues

<https://artdaily.com/news/124540/Toppled--beheaded--daubed--five-controversial-statues#.XuXdGzHsZ9A>

USA

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/confederate-monuments-across-country-coming-down-180975052/>

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/monuments-dismantled-in-us-protests>

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/amid-protests-virginia-vows-to-remove-monument-to-confederate-general-robert-e-lee>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/christopher-columbus-statues-beheaded-torn-down-180975079/>

Belgium

<https://artdaily.com/news/124308/Former-king-s-statue-defaced-as-Belgium-confronts-colonial-past#.Xttiq25FyUk>

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/leopold-ii-monument>

Bristol

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/08/who-was-edward-colston-and-why-was-his-bristol-statue-toppled-slave-trader-black-lives-matter-protests>

In Prague they are putting up replicas

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/04/prague-erects-replica-of-baroque-virgin-mary-statue-toppled-in-1918>

Conservation corner

Short piece about dendrochronology and history

<https://www.spectator.co.uk/article/tree-ring-analysis-has-solved-many-historical-mysteries>

Objects

Story of a Tasmanian firearm

<https://www.theadvocate.com.au/story/6785140/tiny-note-discovered-in-mysterious-150-year-old-shotgun/>

Weird objects from the Soane Museum, includes fin from WW2 bomb

<https://museumcrush.org/some-of-the-weirder-objects-in-sir-john-soanes-museum/>

Exhibitions

Evacuating Paris

https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jun/13/paris-museum-reopens-with-stories-of-frantic-wartime-exodus?fbclid=IwAR36w0X2jTDZWWZ2-a00ynTzSWbP2lc_Rja05pnnTnb0H1B1Ge6ysAlh0qk

Books

Neil Grant: *The Medieval Longsword*

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

Latest from Pen and Sword, with special offers on e-books

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

Online Book

Tudor Power & Glory: Henry VIII and the Field of Cloth and Gold eBook

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/e-books/products/tudor-power-glory-henry-viii-and-the-field-of-cloth-and-gold-ebook>

Popular culture

Medieval films

<https://www.vulture.com/2020/06/movies-like-the-green-knight.html>

Medieval films set in North America

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/medieval-movies-set-north-america/>

Vietnam war films

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/05/from-platoon-to-winter-soldier-10-of-the-best-vietnam-war-films>

Ten Penguin classics

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/middle-ages-penguin-classics-books/>

Events

Sales Fairs and auctions

22 - 27 June 2020: Online auction

<https://www.hermann-historica.de/en/auctions>

30 July 2020 London

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/auctions-valuations/auction-calendar/>

Websites and downloads

1066 etc: 100 years' war, Mamelukes and Crusaders

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/english-blunders/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/mamluks-vs-crusaders/>

This fortnight I enjoyed the stories and pictures from @Look_UpLondon

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 16 June 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>