

The Basiliscae Mercury 344

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Hurrah - life must be getting back to normal, because we have several cracking stories - medieval arrows, Bronze Age weapons, a Viking helmet, and – what we have been waiting for - a new sword-in-the-lake!

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms and forts

Studying tools before stone

<https://theconversation.com/boxgrove-how-we-found-europes-oldest-bone-tools-and-what-we-learned-about-their-makers-144340>

Poisoned arrows - not just for whodunnits

<https://www.sciencealert.com/humans-may-have-been-aiming-poison-arrows-for-at-least-70-000-years>

Bronze Age sword, scabbard and horse harness found in Scottish borders

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-53714864>

New Roman fort discovered in Lancashire

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/8893-200730-england-roman-fort>

Feature on Offa's Dyke

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/08/offas-dyke-the-giant-earthwork-boundary/134542>

Hunting round the world and through the ages

Mammoths in a Siberian lake

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/mammoth-remains-intact-ligaments-emerge-siberian-lake-180975431/>

Humans not to blame for the extinction of woolly rhinos

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/aug/13/climate-change-most-likely-cause-of-woolly-rhino-extinction-study>

Pigeon towers of ancient Iran

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/450802/Pigeon-towers-significant-but-strange-buildings-of-ancient-times>

Medieval arms and armour

Viking helmet identified from northern England

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-53713029>

Medieval sword from Polish waters

<https://www.thefirstnews.com/article/rare-medieval-sword-and-artefacts-from-first-piast-dynasty-found-fully-intact-at-bottom-of-lake-14787>

Arrowheads and crossbow bolts found in Polish forest

<https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2020/07/hundreds-of-arrowheads-and-crossbow.html>

On the Frontlines

Saladin's battlefield discovered?

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-archaeologist-identifies-battlefield-where-crusaders-defeated-saladin-1.9030323>

Battle of Formigny

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/how-battle-formigny-showcased-new-age-firearms-166171>

Bennington battlefield protected

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Land-purchase-preserves-key-part-of-Bennington-15433467.php>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Cave & tunnels found under Olsztyn Castle, Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/07/hidden-cave-system-discovered-beneath-historic-castle/134498>

Castles suffered break-ins in the lock down

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8571757/Surge-castle-break-ins-illegal-metal-detecting.html>

Istanbul criticised over ham-fisted restoration work at the Galata Tower

<https://artdaily.com/news/127296/Istanbul-in-uproar-over-restoration-damage-to-iconic-tower>

Work begins on Norwich Castle Keep renovations

<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/politics/revamp-to-take-norwich-castle-keep-back-to-the-future-1-6787617>

World Heritage

Restoring ancient Chinese bronze chariot

<https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2020/07/ancient-bronze-chariot-restored-in.html>

<https://www.scmp.com/video/china/3096108/ancient-bronze-carriage-unearthed-china-hints-lavish-ceremonies-held-2800-years>

Restoring Jakarta's walls

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/indonesia-jakarta-batavia-17th-century-fortified-walls-ciliwung-12949274>

Through the gunloop...

Fort found near Cork, Ireland

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/munster/arid-40027673.html>

Coalhouse Fort's future in doubt

<https://www.essexlive.news/news/essex-news/historic-essex-jewel-coalhouse-fort-4390002>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Cannons in Russia

<https://www.rbth.com/history/332556-biggest-guns-of-medieval-russia>

Repairs needed for Fernhurst furnace

<https://www.chichester.co.uk/news/people/permission-sought-urgent-repairs-help-preserve-fernhurst-furnace-2928204>

Cast-iron British cannon in India

https://www.jagran.com/uttar-pradesh/agra-city-cannon-of-british-period-will-be-preserved-after-testing-the-metals-used-20600667.html?utm_expid=.W6HdjhiBQ-mI0nTAajwI9g.0&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.co.uk%2Furl%3Fsa%3Dt%26rct%3Dj%26q%3D%26esrc%3Ds%26source%3Dnewssearch%26cd%3D%26ved%3D0ahUKEwjy8e-pr5XrAhV2TRUIHZYIChQQxfQBCEgwAw%26url%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.jagran.com%252Futtar-pradesh%252Fagra-city-cannon-of-british-period-will-be-preserved-after-testing-the-metals-used-20600667.html%26usq%3DAOvVaw3LZLK_q7JHg-BIqKE_XW74

Alamo cannon returned from conversation

<https://therivardreport.com/restored-cannons-return-to-alamo-as-3-more-sent-to-lab/>

Concern for old cannon in Hyderabad

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/hyderabad/hyderabad-100-year-old-cannons-now-forlorn-figures/articleshow/77344182.cms>

Café Basiliscoe

Ancient olive presses

<https://menafn.com/1100546320/Australian-scholar-explores-ancient-olive-presses-in-Jordan>

Ancient wine...

<https://phys.org/news/2020-07-grape-pips-reveal-collapse-ancient.html>

or whisky galore

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/whiskey-1941-shipwreck-auction-180975523/>

Miscellany

Basket-hilted sword found in Northern Ireland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/53713880>

Clearly the Fens are a dangerous place...

<https://www.cambstimes.co.uk/news/the-extraordinary-finds-of-fens-magnet-fisherman-1-6789869>

Princesses and Amazons

Queen Berengaria finally finds a resting place

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/03/berengaria-of-navarre-cursed-tomb-restored-france>

Visiting dead royalty round the UK

<https://museumcrush.org/britains-best-places-to-see-burial-locations-of-the-english-monarchs/>

Into the 20th century

Chelsea FC adopt a Lancaster Bomber

<https://artdaily.com/news/127136/Chelsea-FC-adopts-RAF-Museum-Lancaster-bomber>

Nautical news

Remembering the *Sacramento*, lost off South Africa in 1647

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/the-sacramento-cannon-monument>

Researching the horrors of WWI Submarine warfare

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/ww1-german-submarine-uc47-navy-flamborough-head-yorkshire-north-sea-archaeology-history-a9655336.html>

Replica Nao *Victoria* sets off round the world

<https://www.euroweeklynews.com/2020/08/03/replica-of-historic-ship-which-sailed-around-the-world-visits-costa-del-sol/>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Galleries and museums caught in the Beirut explosion
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/beirut-explosion>

Museums Association gets a new website
<https://www.museumsassociation.org/>

New museums

Fort Nelson re-opens
<https://royalarmouries.org/venue/fort-nelson/>

Royal Chariot Museum in Egypt to open shortly
<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/4/90473/All-you-need-to-know-about-Royal-Chariots-Museum-prior>

Museum developments

Derry's Tower Museum puts collections online
<https://afloat.ie/marine-environment/coastal-notes/item/47184-tower-museum-release-new-online-maritime-heritage-collections>

Objects

Feature on National Parks Firearms collections
<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/youll-never-guess-who-controls-americas-largest-stockpile-historic-guns-165843>

Cache of WWI weapons found in Western Australia
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-08-08/vintage-ww1-guns-found-buried-on-wa-farm/12534512>

Two Purdeys sold for charity
<https://artdaily.com/news/127292/Two-important-guns-by-Purdey-to-be-sold-in-aid-of-Gunmaker-s-Charitable-Trust>

Exhibitions

Early portraits at Williamsburg
<https://artdaily.com/news/127085/Americans-of-varied-backgrounds-represented-in-new-exhibition#.Xypls6-SmUk>

Andalusian metalwork in Madrid
<https://thearabweekly.com/madrid-museum-showcases-andalusian-metalwork>

5 new exhibitions open in Qatar

<https://artdaily.com/news/126984/Qatar-Museums-to-welcome-visitors-back-in-August-with-five-special-exhibitions#.XyZ2HJuSmUk>

<https://artdaily.com/news/126984/Qatar-Museums-to-welcome-visitors-back-in-August-with-five-special-exhibitions#.XyZ2HJuSmUk>

Books

Rachel Peat: ***Japan: Courts And Culture; Telling the story of 400 years of British royal contact with Japan***

<https://www.rct.uk/collection/themes/publications/japan-courts-and-culture>

Matthew Moss: ***The PIAT: Britain's anti-tank weapon of World War II***

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

David Lordkipanidze: ***The Georgian National Museum: Director's Choice***

<https://www.scalapublishers.com/the-georgian-national-museum/>

On the medieval book shelf

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/new-medieval-books-soldier-imposter/>

Online book

The Armoury of His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/17394/1/BUCCLEUCH_PROJECT_Royal_Armouries_version_2_5_FinalProofEDIT.pdf

Events

Diary Dates

ICOMAM conference – new dates

Toledo, Spain

17 – 21 May 2021

https://ejercito.defensa.gob.es/eventos/icomam_toledo_2021/

Sales Fairs and auctions

18 19 August Morpheys edged weapons

<https://artdaily.com/news/127240/Morphy-Auctions-presents-formidable-lineup-of-Edged-Weapons--Armor---Militaria--Aug--18-19>

Websites and downloads

Latest on the Met's C19 series of articles here:

<https://us19.campaign->

[archive.com/?u=a84329d90ebce21b14f4a0c23&id=685a60e24f](https://us19.campaign-)

<https://us19.campaign->

[archive.com/home/?u=a84329d90ebce21b14f4a0c23&id=1891b1f9ee](https://us19.campaign-)

Medieval manuscripts to browse online

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/medieval-manuscripts-kbr/>

1066 etc: 100 Years war, Chares the Good & 1066

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/hundred-years-war-end/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/murder-charles-good/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/bad-histories-norman-conquest/>

This fortnight I have enjoyed C B Newham's photographs of monuments

<https://twitter.com/cbnewham>

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 15 August 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>