

The Basiliscae Mercury 343

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Things begin to return to normal while a few more museums open. However still a number are closed and some areas are faring worse than others. However a few more intriguing stories trickling in, from Romans in Scotland and Persians in Greece to the Met's C19 articles and a new date for the ICOMAM Conference - next May

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms, battles & Forts

Hippo axe

<https://phys.org/news/2020-07-homo-erectus-ax-east-africa.html>

The Persian wars

<https://neoskosmos.com/en/169731/thermopylae-salamis-2020-2500-years-of-history/>

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/07/salamis-the-city-of-teucer/134204>

And possibly connected - Aeschylus' The Persians online

<https://www.ekathimerini.com/254824/article/ekathimerini/life/aeschylus-the-persians-to-be-live-streamed-from-epidaurus-on-july-25>

When Severus crossed the Wall...

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/attempt-conquer-scotland-order-genocide-2923834>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Horses in art through the ages

<http://blogs.getty.edu/iris/horse-power/>

Grave stories

Scanning a Siberian mummy

<https://siberiantimes.com/science/casestudy/features/this-tattooed-tashtyk-man-was-found-half-a-century-ago-yet-now-for-the-first-time-we-can-see-his-lifelike-face/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Trelleborg ring fort

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/07/harald-bluetooth-trelleborg/>

Remembering excavating Bury's castle

<https://www.burytimes.co.uk/news/18584647.secrets-bury-castle-revealed-extraordinary-archaeological-dig/>

Through the gunloop...

Clacton's Martello tower to be restored

<https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/18584436.heritage-group-spend-120k-restore-martello-tower/>

Tour of Drake's Island, Plymouth

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/history/gallery/welcome-drakes-island-exploring-plymouths-4325307>

Back to the front

Uccello painting of battlefield to be sold

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/jul/26/a-renaissance-masterpiece-nazi-looters-a-double-and-a-happy-ending>

Update on Culloden

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/public-plead-to-protect-culloden>

Living in the past

Swedish knights riding to Gotland's C19 rescue

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/07/covidriddarna-swedish-knights/>

Café Basiliscoe

Iron Age Scottish butter

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/8870-200721-iron-age-butter>

With Roman bread

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/making-2000-year-old-roman-bread/>

Miscellany

Bar-shot from Trafalgar gets new lease of life

<https://www.thenorthernecho.co.uk/news/18606325.trafalgar-weapon-now-sundial-whitby-museum/>

Military uniforms in the fashion

<https://museumcrush.org/bodmin-keep-on-how-military-uniform-has-influenced-fashion/>

Princesses and Amazons

Joan of Arc

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/07/avenging-angel/>

World Heritage

Yemen's heritage being looted

<https://artdaily.com/news/126778/Bombed-and-looted--Yemen-battles-to-save-its-heritage#.Xx04NZuSmUk>

Choctaw wooden bow found in Mississippi creek bed

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/8879-200724-mississippi-choctaw-bow>

Nautical news

Update on the Gjellestad ship excavations

<https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2020/07/norways-gjellestad-burial-mound.html>

<http://www.sftimes.com/news/who-was-buried-with-1100-year-old-viking-ship-researchers-seek-clues-in-new-excavation>

Update from the *Queen Anne's Revenge*

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/blackbeard-shipwreck-0013994>

Interesting feature on HMS *Challenger*

<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20200719-hms-challenger-the-voyage-that-birthed-oceanography>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Australia's Powerhouse saved

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/sydney-s-powerhouse-museum-saved-from-closure-but-debate-rages-on>

But some US museums may never reopen

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/one-out-of-three-us-museums-may-shut-down-forever-a-survey-confirms>

UK museums & properties re-opening

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/reopening-guidance-published-for-scottish-and-welsh-museums>

<https://www.rct.uk/welcome-back>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/07/welsh-heritage-sites-begin-reopening/>

But many have staff facing redundancy

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/museum-and-heritage-sector-faces-more-redundancies>

UK special funding packages

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/ace-awards-33m-to-npos-from-emergency-fund>

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/scotlands-independent-museums-get-4m-boost>

New museums & re-openings

New Army Museum of the USA delays opening

<https://armyhistory.org/opening-day/>

<https://www.thenmusa.org/>

New buildings at Colonial Williamsburg

<https://artdaily.com/news/126906/A-new-day-dawns-at-the-Art-Museums-of-Colonial-Williamsburg-with-an-expanded-building--new-exhibitions-and-more#.XyJ66puSmUk>

Spanish Armada centre, Ireland

https://www.spanisharmadaireland.com/news/2020/7/27/spanish-armada-visitor-centre-opens?fbclid=IwAR1yYd_oqjZql8pdNdwqIxWqZ_twug6QTcVaQg1vNUFXI-OS1xwiLTqWq-Y

Current positions for museum and sites round Europe & the world

<http://livrustkammaren.se/en>

<https://www.awm.gov.au/visit>

<https://veste.kunstsammlungen-coburg.de/en/visit/eintrittspreise/>

<https://www.waffenmuseumsuhl.de/>

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/summer>

<https://en.natmus.dk/>

<https://middelaldercentret.dk/?lang=en>

<https://mnk.pl/events/all>

<https://wawel.krakow.pl/en/what-to-see>

Museum developments

Visit Scottish castles after dark

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/after-dark-at-brodie-castle>

Museum musings

Confederate statues in DC get their marching orders

<https://artdaily.com/news/126711/House-votes-to-remove-Confederate-statues-From-U-S--Capitol#.XxlC0JuSmUk>

Penn Museum puts skulls into storage

<https://archaeologynewsnetwork.blogspot.com/2020/07/norways-gjellestad-burial-mound.html>

Conservation corner

What was happening in locked down museums?

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/pests-run-amok-as-museums-struggle-with-lockdown>

Objects

New Zealand repatriate cloak and helmet from Captain Cook to Hawaii

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/cloak-helmet-hawaii-captain-cook-180975298/>

RAF Museum put objects up for adoption

<https://museumcrush.org/from-a-logbook-to-a-lancaster-raf-museum-objects-are-up-for-adoption/>

Exhibitions

SE Asian objects in Edinburgh

<https://artdaily.com/news/126771/Illuminated-manuscripts-and-bejewelled-works-of-art-go-on-display-in-Edinburgh#.Xxv3fpuSmUk>

Books

Now I know that Arthur Credland has just had a book on Crossbows published as I have actually seen a copy. However I cannot trace it on the internet, but it is published by the Society of Archer Antiquaries.

<http://societyofarcher-antiquaries.org/index.htm>

Chinese Silk on Russian Military Flags in Swedish Collection

https://inzj.zjol.com.cn/News/202006/t20200628_12090251.shtml?fbclid=IwAR0t9CVHFZT2u8jc5NsAN4FSqnoFSedmNyZ-ybMBEe4yWt3ZAb4nmMDV2b4

Marc Romanych, Martin Rupp: ***World War II German Super-Heavy Siege Guns***

<https://ospreypublishing.com/store/military-history/upcoming-books/available-this-month/world-war-ii-german-super-heavy-siege-guns>

Books from the UK Royal Collections

<https://www.royalcollectionshop.co.uk/books-p2.html>

Online books

Elizabeth Burger: ***Reinvestigating the Wreck of the Sixteenth Century Portuguese Galleon São João: A Historical Archaeological Perspective***

<https://repository.up.ac.za/handle/2263/27849>

Carlos Montalvão, O Xaveco Marroquino (Séc. XVIII). A Construção do modelo / Le Chébec Marocain XVIIIe siècle. La construction du modèle, Lisboa, Comissão Portuguesa de História Militar, 2008.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UioztWKrpFGtvZ-3wwmQH8mGECuQQ7ZL/view?fbclid=IwAR0WSVr1x-jelambKeHx9aO6SdTiWATnMROUhAQKTXWyCTw8ITPyfBGgIrl>

Popular culture

Masks - the newest thing

https://artdaily.com/news/126539/The-new-must-have-museum-souvenir--Face-masks#.XxK_55uSmUk

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/gallery/wearing-art-the-face-mask-becomes-the-latest-designer-accessory>

Minecraft in the Middle Ages

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/07/explore-medieval-minecraft/>

You can still do medieval archery in lockdown...

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/07/medieval-archery-simulator/>

Ai Weiwei: History of Bombs – installation at the Imperial War Museum,

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/jul/29/ai-weiwei-history-of-bombs-review-imperial-war-museum>

Events

Diary Dates

ICOMAM conference – new dates

TOLEDO, SPAIN

17 – 21 May 2021

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

Websites and downloads

In case you have missed them, you can read the Met's superb C19 series of articles here:

<https://us19.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=a84329d90ebce21b14f4a0c23&id=1891b1f9ee>

Armed Forces Museum, Netherlands (and how to book a visit)

<https://www.nmm.nl/>

On a lighter note - settle down to The Ghost Knight

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/07/ghost-knight/>

Finally

This fortnight I have following the statues debates, back and forth...

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 31 July 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>