

The Basiliscoe Mercury 348

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

A few interesting stories this week - crossbow bolts in Denmark, gladiators, assorted forts and a new museum in Copenhagen. Also a 16th century gunnery manuscript to peruse, while wearing your new armour-inspired mask, waiting for the next Witcher series to start....

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Ancient copper-working site found in Israel

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/6500-year-old-furnace-in-beersheba-sheds-light-on-ancient-technology-644415>

Bronze Age horse equipment found in Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/10/metal-detectorist-discovers-treasure-trove-of-bronze-artefacts/135792>

Short unillustrated feature about Illyrian helmet

<https://www.total-croatia-news.com/lifestyle/47157-archaeological-discovery>

Feature on the history of gladiators

<https://www.thegreatcoursesdaily.com/making-of-gladiators-and-humongous-preparations-for-the-big-game/>

Grave of Anglo-Saxon warlord and his weapons discovered near Marlow

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/the-marlow-warlord>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Hunting in the Ice Age

http://www.exeter.ac.uk/news/research/title_814028_en.html

Playing polo in the ancient world

<https://phys.org/news/2020-10-central-asian-horse-riders-ball.html>

On the run up to Hallowe'en: The Wild Hunt

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/10/wild-hunts-medieval/>

Grave stories

Uncovering the story of an Iron Age massacre in Spain

<https://www.livescience.com/iron-age-village-massacre.html>

Re-uniting Viking kin

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/10/viking-family-members-reunited/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Update on the Norwich Castle works

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/10/project-norwich-castle/>

Crossbow bolts found in Danish Lake

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1344743/archaeology-news-medieval-crossbow-bolts-bottom-lake-hammerso-denmark-archaeology>

Through the gunloop...

Spanish fort found in Leiden

<https://nltimes.nl/2020/10/10/leiden-archaeologists-find-16th-century-spanish-fort-used-80-years-war>

Inside Milford Haven fort

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/inside-striking-welsh-fort-people-19094985>

Portsmouth defences in danger

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/history/heritage-risk-race-save-plymouths-4606667>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Cast-iron cannon found in the sands at Blankenbuerg, Belgium

https://m.nieuwsblad.be/cnt/dmf20201007_94732640?fbclid=IwAR2YOIHBFV Rkc9vwWOHBsB-3Z9xkUss6QoJZ9Aoaetz4sDY4G99DJ1TkeSa8

Indian cannons on display

<https://www.thehansindia.com/karnataka/mysuru-dasara-age-old-cannon-barrels-offered-puja-649598>

Algeria wants its cannon back

<https://news.yahoo.com/tale-algerias-stolen-cannon-frances-235016849.html>

Miscellany

Interesting piece about the archaeology of clothing in the Middle East

<http://www.asor.org/onetoday/2020/10/archaeology-of-clothing>

Looking after Culloden

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/conservation-grazing-in-action-at-culloden-battlefield>

Peter the Moor in the court of King James IV

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/africans-at-the-court-of-james-iv>

Café Basiliscoe

A 2,500 year old kitchen

<https://www.dailysabah.com/arts/2400-year-old-kitchen-room-uneared-in-turkeys-ancient-city-of-patara/news>

Plymouth Gin - navy proof...

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/money/topstories/tippling-point-the-story-of-plymouth-gin/ar-BB19T52j>

Into the 20th century

Divers in Poland detonate WW2 bomb

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/divers-defuse-tallboy-world-war-ii-earthquake-bomb-poland/>

The guns thrown into the rivers – lots of pictures

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8828757/Magnet-fishermen-reveal-bizarre-treasures-theyve-lurking-beneath-Britains-waters.html>

Nautical news

Gun carriages on the *Gribshunden*

http://combatarchaeology.org/guns-and-gun-carriages-aboard-gribshunden-1495/?fbclid=IwAR3b_TysQOa3BHUVBERALgWe1sNEfUbUrf5v3AefqI5onYLgHwnOjwYxyfY

Secret Irish pirate alliance

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/secret-irish-pirate-republic>

Oldest British slave ship found off Lands' End

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/11/wreck-of-the-worlds-oldest-slave-ship-at-risk-of-destruction>

Black sailors in the Royal Navy

<https://museumcrush.org/celebrating-the-lives-of-black-sailors-at-the-old-royal-naval-college/>

Update on the Karlsruhe includes the Amber room mystery....

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/amber-room-mystery-nazi-ship-looted-treasure-karlsruhe-baltictech-b744534.html>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Everyone gets to win the Museum of the Year award in 2020

<https://artdaily.com/news/129133/Winners-of--pound-200-000-Art-Fund-Museum-of-the-Year-2020-unveiled>

French museum's exhibition cancelled because of Chinese interference
<https://artdaily.com/news/129146/French-museum-halts-Genghis-Khan-show-after-Chinese-pressure>

New museums

The Museum of Danish Resistance re-opens
<https://en.natmus.dk/museums-and-palaces/the-museum-of-danish-resistance/>

Museum developments

Free map from the Brandywine Conservancy: Hiking through History,
<https://artdaily.com/news/128802/Free--Hiking-through-History--map-now-available--tracing-the-Philadelphia-Campaign-of-1777>

Museum musings

Arguments continue over Cook's shield
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/australia-shield-restitution-british-museum>

Dutch museums to return looted objects
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/08/dutch-museums-vow-to-return-art-looted-by-colonialists>

British collections?
<https://www.houseandgarden.co.uk/article/decolonising-britains-museums-and-galleries>

Fake heritage - an enjoyable read!
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/comment/dig-deeper-to-reveal-the-stories-behind-fake-heritage>

Conservation corner

Loughborough's bell-founding history
<https://museumcrush.org/archives-and-bells-from-the-loughborough-bellfoundry-museum/>

Objects

Very odd story about a sword, a freemason & Warwick Castle
<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8827407/Descendent-17th-century-spy-wins-court-battle-antique-sword.html>

Mexico wants Montezuma's head-dress back
<https://artdaily.com/news/129147/Mexico-urges-Austria-to-return-Moctezuma-s-headress>

Patriotic Bulgarian sword identified

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/10/a-patriotic-sword-used-during-the-january-uprising-of-1863-1864-has-been-found-in-bulgaria/135822>

Ancient Iranian swords smuggled out of country

<https://www.msn.com/en-xl/news/other/smuggled-ancient-weapons-ornamentations-confiscated/ar-BB19WUdW>

Exhibitions

Islamic metalwork in Oxford

<https://artdaily.com/news/128928/Oxford-s-History-of-Science-Museum-reopens-with-exhibition-of-rare-Islamic-metalwork>

<https://www.hsm.ox.ac.uk/>

<https://museumcrush.org/islamic-metalwork-from-the-courtauld-at-oxford-science-museum/>

Books

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

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/books-dvds/products/tudor-power-glory>

Steven J. Zaloga: ***The French 75; The 75mm M1897 field gun that revolutionized modern artillery*** (New Vanguard 288)

<https://ospreypublishing.com/store/military-history/upcoming-books/available-this-month/the-french-75>

Les Invalides Bookshop

http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Sloane_MS_3651

Online Book

William Bourne on gunnery

http://www.bl.uk/manuscripts/FullDisplay.aspx?ref=Sloane_MS_3651

Popular Culture

Sir Gawain and the Green knight for beginners

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/sir-gawain-and-the-green-knight-story-summary-what-about-who-wrote-berilak/>

New Armour in ***The Witcher*** is causing a stir

<https://movieweb.com/the-witcher-season-2-photos-henry-cavill-armor/>

Well in time for Hallowe'en - armour-inspired face masks!

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/face-coverings>

Events

Diary Dates

ICOMAM conference –Toledo, Spain

New dates 17 – 21 May 2021

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

Sales, fairs and auctions

Oct 22-23 Herman Historica

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

<https://artdaily.com/news/129152/Antique-arms-and-armor-offered-in-the-83rd-Auction-of-Hermann-Historica-GmbH>

Websites and downloads

Wallace Collections' latest blog

<https://www.wallacecollection.org/blog/pursuits/>

Maritime Archaeology Sea Trust

<https://thisismast.org/>

1066 etc: Murder in London & Scottish Chivalry

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/10/murders-medieval-london/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/09/scottish-chivalry/>

Finally

This fortnight I tweeted days out to York and Derbyshire

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 16 October 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>