

# The Basiliscae Mercury 349

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

A rather quiet couple of weeks, but a few good and interesting stories, plus a couple of new books, too. Fascinating DNA story from Scotland, and new museums and galleries opening or re-opening. Finally a few spooky Scottish items scattered through for Hallowe'en. Long may your apples bob.

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Ancient arms

Prehistoric barbed weapons - older than thought...

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/homo-erectus-not-humans-invented-barbed-bone-point-tool>

Short feature on the 9th Legion - spoiler alert - no secret revelations at the end!

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/10/legio-ix-hispana-the-lost-roman-legend/135890>

#### Battles, towers and forts

Recreating Colchester's Roman Wall

<https://www.gazette-news.co.uk/news/18788177.technology-used-make-3d-model-colchesters-roman-wall/>

Feature on Byzantium's Anastasian Wall

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/10/the-anastasian-wall-the-great-byzantine-wall/135802>

Feature on Rome's siege of Numantia

<https://medium.com/history-of-yesterday/hell-on-earth-the-siege-of-numantia-bf053c0ef63e>

900 year old gate of Harran Palace investigated

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/nine-century-old-harran-palaces-gate-unearthed-159305>

Investigating Vikings in the British Isles

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/18820327.scots-academic-leads-major-project-may-shed-light-scotlands-vikings/>

#### Grave stories

Investigating the graves at Portmahomack

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-54552907>  
<https://www.livescience.com/six-headed-chief-tomb-dna.html>

Investigating a WW2 execution site in Poland

<https://www.thefirstnews.com/article/bones-and-bullets-unearthed-at-wwii-execution-site-dubbed-death-valley-17031>

## **Castles and forts**

Krak des Chevaliers tidied up for visitors

<https://www.gulftoday.ae/lifestyle/2020/10/24/syrians-spruce-up-famed-crusader-castle-krak-des-chevaliers-after-years-of-war>

Part of Golconda fort collapses

<https://www.thehansindia.com/news/cities/hyderabad/hyderabad-a-portion-of-golconda-crashes-650958>

Restoration of 11 forts in Cholistan recommended

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2268134/restoration-of-11-forts-in-cholistan-recommended>

Statues missing from the Red Fort - and other items

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-losing-heritage-artefacts-in-their-thousands-and-not-just-due-to-theft/articleshow/78618210.cms>

## **Cannons to the left, cannon to the right**

US field guns in the Mexican wars

<https://nationalinterest.org/blog/reboot/fire-brief-history-american-field-artillery-170756>

1804 British cast-iron merchant 18 pounder for sale

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8874919/amp/Two-tonne-cannon-fired-Battle-Trafalgar-goes-hammer.html>

## **Miscellany**

Things found in glaciers

<https://phys.org/news/2020-10-alpine-glaciers-yield-archaeologic-troves.html>

Unusual story of glass fire grenades

<https://museumcrush.org/the-beauty-and-danger-in-victorian-glass-fire-grenades/>

Tracing a Jamaican at Culloden

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/a-jamaican-at-the-battle-of-culloden>

## **Living in the past**

Dressing like colonials...

<https://hyperallergic.com/595896/how-academics-egyptologists-and-even-melania-trump-benefit-from-colonialist-cosplay/>

## **Café Basiliscoe**

Medieval cooking course coming up online!

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/10/online-medieval-cooking-course/>

And whisky to follow...

<https://museumcrush.org/the-old-bottle-of-scotch-telling-the-story-of-whisky-galore/>

## **Princesses and Amazons**

Planning the execution of a queen

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/oct/25/chilling-find-shows-how-henry-viii-planned-every-detail-of-boleyn-beheading>

## **Nautical news**

Disquiet at the future of the Goodwin Sands

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/oct/29/plans-to-dredge-notorious-ship-swallow-sandbank-condemned>

Crew found aboard VOC ship

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/world/1352734/archaeology-news-shipwreck-crew-treasure-found-underwater-pompeii-science-uk-spt>

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **News**

Visitors not returning to the re-opened museums in large numbers

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/19/arts/design/europe-museums-covid.html>

Berlin Museums attacked by conspiracy theorists and exhibits damaged

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/21/berlin-vandalism-of-museum-artefacts-linked-to-conspiracy-theorists?fbclid=IwAR2UuERjDvUuoTxzOBwlbsxV7eKk6\\_paNptlMWBXrAMlFCE0ytnp3GqwzY](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/21/berlin-vandalism-of-museum-artefacts-linked-to-conspiracy-theorists?fbclid=IwAR2UuERjDvUuoTxzOBwlbsxV7eKk6_paNptlMWBXrAMlFCE0ytnp3GqwzY)

Dutch museums targeted by Nazi-hunters

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/oct/27/dutch-war-museums-tighten-security-after-raids-on-nazi-items>

### **New museums**

New gallery at London Transport Museum about the two World Wars

<https://artdaily.com/news/129303/A-new-war-gallery-tells-the-story-of-how-the-men-and-women-of-London-s-transport-played-their-part-in-two-world-wars->

Naval Museum of Madrid re-opens

<https://armada.defensa.gob.es/ArmadaPortal/page/Portal/ArmadaEspañola/cienciaorgano/prefLang-es/01cienciamuseo>

National Museum of The United States Army

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

## **Museum musings**

UK's Royal palaces now join in the hunt for their past slavery connections

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/oct/28/royal-palaces-curator-launches-review-of-links-to-slave-trade-lucy-worsley>

## **Conservation corner**

British Museum conserves arctic treasures

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/british-museum-arctic-exhibition-fish-skin-london-b1182013.html>

Knife-making in Sheffield

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-54572565?at\\_campaign=64&at\\_custom4=BA074B6C-15CF-11EB-9B53-6E07933C408C&at\\_custom2=twitter&at\\_custom3=Regional+BBC+Yorkshire&at\\_custom1=link&at\\_medium=custom7](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-54572565?at_campaign=64&at_custom4=BA074B6C-15CF-11EB-9B53-6E07933C408C&at_custom2=twitter&at_custom3=Regional+BBC+Yorkshire&at_custom1=link&at_medium=custom7)

## **Objects**

Missing artefacts

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/most-wanted-antiquities-have-you-seen-these-missing-artefacts>

Wallace collection armoured knight gets makeover

<https://www.wallacecollection.org/art/exhibitions-displays/equestrian-armor/>

More and better photos of the Polish/Bulgarian sword

<https://scienceinpoland.pap.pl/en/news/news%2C84282%2Cpatriotic-january-uprising-polish-sword-found-bulgaria.html>

## **Exhibitions**

Harryhausen in Edinburgh - lots of childhood memories!

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2020/oct/22/ray-harryhausen-special-effects-titan-of-cinema-monsters-cyclops-skeletons>

HMS *Invincible* finally sails into Portsmouth

<https://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/Hampshire/Portsmouth/PO6/News/Local-News/329702-Diving-Deep-HMS-Invincible-1744-Interactive-Exhibition-Opens-Next-Week>

Thermopylae and Salamis at Athens

<https://greece.greekreporter.com/2020/10/21/major-new-archaeological-museum-exhibit-celebrates-battles-of-thermopylae-and-salamis/>

## Books

Stefan Krause: **1000 Years of Tournaments**

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/about-us/publications/1000-years-of-tournaments/>

***The Hindu Warrior: The Roy Elvis Collection of South Indian Arms and Armour***

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/about-us/publications/the-hindu-warrior/>

Philip Weir: ***Dunkirk and the Little Ships***

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/dunkirk-and-the-little-ships-9781784423759/>

This month's books from Osprey

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

## Online Books

ICOMAM have digitalized a number of their previous conferences

<http://icomam.mini.icom.museum/icomam-and-iamam-publications/>

Arms and armour research from Kiev

<http://zbroeznav.com/?book-review=istoriia-davnoi-zbroi-doslidzhennia-2018&fbclid=IwAR0AfR8I3QW8Sf-MeYL5Cu71WZX1VrulUIdc77Q2bPuvD6WUf1bmfCkz-rE>

William Nugent: ***Naval Sketch-book*** (1826)

<https://archive.org/details/navalsketchbook00glagoog/mode/2up>

## Popular Culture

Napoleon heads for the silver screen again

<https://www.cinemablend.com/news/2556865/gladiators-ridley-scott-and-joaquin-phoenix-are-reteaming-for-another-historical-drama>

Dark novel to pass the Hallowe'en weekend: ***The Devil and the Dark Water*** by Stuart Turton

<https://anaveragelife.org/2020/10/01/book-review-the-devil-and-the-dark-water-stuart-turton/>

## Events

### Conferences

ICOMAM conference –Toledo, Spain

New dates 17 – 21 May 2021

[https://ejercito.defensa.gob.es/eventos/icomam\\_toledo\\_2021/](https://ejercito.defensa.gob.es/eventos/icomam_toledo_2021/)

### Sales Fairs and auctions

2-4 November Herman Historica

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

### Websites and downloads

1066 etc Dracula and the Sword of God

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/10/vlad-iii-tepes-dracula/>

<https://museumcrush.org/the-old-bottle-of-scotch-telling-the-story-of-whisky-galore/>

A Scottish Hallowe'en

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/a-hebridean-halloween>

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/the-turn-of-the-page-a-photographic-ghost-story>

A tale of murder and arson in 17<sup>th</sup> century Aberdeenshire

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/gladstones-land-and-the-murder-allegation>

The Tam O'Shanter chair

<https://www.rct.uk/collection/27942/tam-oshanter-chair>

And Tam O'Shanter himself...

[http://www.robertburns.org.uk/Assets/Poems\\_Songs/tamoshanter.htm](http://www.robertburns.org.uk/Assets/Poems_Songs/tamoshanter.htm)

Read by Brian Cox (the actor not the scientist)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/robertburns/works/tam\\_o\\_shanter/](http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/robertburns/works/tam_o_shanter/)

This fortnight I tweeted Hallowe'en inspired cannon.

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

### Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 31 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>