

The Basiliscope Mercury 358

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Easter creeps closer and some of us can see light at the end of the tunnel, while for others the tunnel just gets longer. Some interesting stories: the grave pit in Rennes is a fascinating read, as is the redisplay of the Polish tapestries at Wavel. Enjoy your Easter eggs.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Slab depicting Greek warriors found in Bulgaria

<http://archaeologyinbulgaria.com/2021/03/28/slab-with-marching-ancient-greek-warriors-discovered-at-apollo-temples-on-ancient-black-sea-island-in-bulgarias-sozopol/>

Roman era arrowhead found in Israel

https://www.upi.com/News_Photos/view/upi/1336ca5c150fdc06bcdff35f795eda3a/An-Arrowhead-From-The-Roman-Period-Is-Unveiled-By-The-Israel-Antiquities-Authority/

Discussion on Roman saddles

<https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2021/03/28/mystery-roman-cavalry-saddle-wooden-tree/>

Unexpected equipment for warriors - pillows

https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2021-03/nuos-wdb032521.php

Hunting round the world and through the ages

New interpretations of ancient lion hunt

<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20210325-the-lion-hunt-of-ashurbanipal-the-2700-year-old-fake-news>

Grave stories

Archaeologists reconstruct the faces of Good King Wenceslas' ancestors

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/researchers-reconstruct-faces-two-premyslid-dynasty-dukes-180977228/>

Burial pit for the siege of Rennes 1491 found

<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.02.22.432237v1.full>
<https://www.newscientist.com/article/2271481-mass-graves-in-france-belonged-to-opposing-soldiers-in-medieval-war/>

Miscellany

Bayeux tapestry to be restored and museum rebuilt

<https://artdaily.com/news/133973/France-s-Bayeux-Tapestry-faces-first-restoration-in-150-years>

Lovely little knight on a snail found in Pontefract

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2021/mar/22/snail-man-relic-ancient-joke-british-museum>

On the frontlines

The battle of Barnet

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/medieval/battle-barnet-1471-what-happened-who-won-death-kingmaker/>

The battlefield at Beaufort to be preserved

https://www.postandcourier.com/news/local_state_news/1779-revolutionary-war-battle-site-found-near-beaufort-secured-for-history/article_a9dbc08a-7aae-11eb-ae01-9396cffdbd9e.html

New research at Culloden battlefield

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/secrets-of-culloden-battlefield-to-be-uncovered-3172856>

Through the gunloop...

Maryland's lost fort found

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/researchers-finally-discover-remains-st-marys-fort-180977310/>

<https://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/photos-archaeologists-uncover-lost-colonial-fort-in-maryland/2621230/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Update on the Mumbai cannon

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/mumbai-bmc-to-restore-164-year-old-british-era-canons-at-ghatkopar-park/articleshow/81746798.cms>

Birr's Crimean cannon back on display

<https://www.offalyexpress.ie/video/home/620570/watch-popular-feature-of-offaly-town-is-back-where-it-belongs.html>

Shell defused in Maryland

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/03/28/us/maryland-cannonball-civil-war-detonate-trnd/index.html>

Princesses and Amazons

Women warriors through the ages

<https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/179551>

Joan of Arc

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/03/joan-arc-feminine-masculine/>

The legend of Molly Pitcher

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/molly-pitcher-most-famous-american-hero-who-never-existed-180977229/>

Living in the past

Dressing like a Viking

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/what-real-vikings-wore-according-to-archaeologists>

Learning to fight like it's 1499

<https://www.tor.com/2021/03/24/the-pen-and-the-sword-learning-medieval-weaponry/>

Café Basiliscoe

Enjoy a 110 year old fruitcake

<https://artdaily.com/news/134252/New-tech-brings-world-famous-Antarctic-fruitcake-to-life->

And medieval medlars

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210325-the-strange-medieval-fruit-the-world-forgot>

Washed down with 3000-year-old fruit wine

<http://www.ecns.cn/news/2021-03-22/detail-ihaitayy1354140.shtml>

And women-brewed beers

<https://theconversation.com/women-used-to-dominate-the-beer-industry-until-the-witch-accusations-started-pouring-in-155940>

Into the 20th century

Remembering Arnhem in Oosterbeek

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2021/mar/17/oosterbeek-echoes-to-the-battle-of-arnhem-my-tour-guides-vivid-war-memories>

Trying to identify 20th century soldiers in photos

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leicestershire-56447883>

Nautical news

France's new ship for maritime archaeologists

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/high-tech-vessel-ushers-in-new-era-of-marine-archaeology>

Explore the Chesil beach wreck from the comfort of your own chair

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2021/03/explore-the-mysterious-chesil-beach-protected-wrecks-in-3d/138229>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Unsurprising news of the week - museum visitor numbers tumble round the world

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2021/mar/30/visits-world-top-100-museums-galleries-plunge-covid-pandemic>

Houses and castles suffering falls in their incomes, too

<https://artdaily.com/news/134316/Britain-s-stately-homes-struggle-to-survive-with-Covid-restrictions>

Swedish museums start to re-open

<https://www.thelocal.se/20210312/sweden-plans-easing-of-covid-restrictions-with-new-rules-for-amusement-parks-museums-and-zoos/>

German and Poland's museums close down

https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/polish-and-some-german-museums-forced-to-close-again-as-third-pandemic-wave-hits?fbclid=IwAR3VUGEOT_Ly4yMQKhxVXphzFI3v0AXjEq8R23XStmqZJl4KE8T86UU_oA

New museums

National Gallery of Greece renovations

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/greece-s-revamped-national-gallery-hosts-independence-celebrations>

Museum developments

Louvre's collections available online

<https://artdaily.com/news/134272/Louvre-puts-entire-collection-online>

Museum musings

How museums deal with reporting thefts

<https://artdaily.com/news/133966/We-don-t-know-how-much-art-has-gone-missing-from-museums>

Germany ponders restitution of colonial art

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/germany-moves-towards-full-restitution-of-benin-bronzes>

Conservation corner

Ghent altarpiece back on view in new setting

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/entertainment-arts-56512030>

Poland's tapestries back on view at Wawel – lots of details

<https://www.thefirstnews.com/article/for-first-time-in-history-over-130-stunning-national-treasure-tapestries-go-on-display-at-wawel-castle-20625>

Exhibitions

Online exhibitions to commemorate the Greek War of Independence

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/zito-i-ellas-online-exhibitions-commemorate-200-years-of-greek-independence>

Books

Medieval Warfare

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/03/medieval-warfare-magazine-issue-xi1/>

Pen and Sword

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

Popular culture

Agatha Christie and archaeology

<https://womenshouldknow.net/agatha-christie-three-decades-archaeology/>

Events

30 June - Weapons in Society - online

<https://royalarmouries.org/event/weapons-in-society/>

Online seminars on the history of collecting

<https://www.wallacecollection.org/whats-on/seminar-in-the-history-of-collecting-15/>

ICOMAM conference –Toledo, Spain

New dates - delayed until November

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

Websites and downloads

Maritime history

<https://mass.cultureelergoed.nl/>

1066 etc

Byzantine pirates, warfare & Christian warriors

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/03/raiders-marauders-ravagers-pirates-alexander-sarantis/> <https://www.medievalists.net/2021/03/medieval-warfare-devries-livingston/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/03/good-duke-christian-warrior/>

Finally - A basket of eggs for Easter

<https://armourersbench.com/tag/durs-egg/>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/32179>

<https://www.metmuseum.org/art/collection/search/33315>

This fortnight I tweeted on Irish cannon for St Patricks day

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 31 March 2021

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>