

The Basiliscope Mercury 351

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Ancient arrows, swords and a whole soldier found. A couple of interesting cannon stories, including the recovery of a painted gun carriage and a new composite cannon.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

3000 year old Fort found on the Golan Heights

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/fort-king-davids-time-found-golan-heights-180976279/>

Ancient arrows emerging from the glaciers of Norway

<https://phys.org/news/2020-11-ice-patch-norway-reveals-large.html>

Early medieval sword from the Netherlands

<https://www.ad.nl/utrecht/groot-zwaard-van-negenhonderd-jaar-oud-gevonden-in-nieuwegein~a3435c22/?referrer=https%3A%2F%2Ft.co%2F>

William Wallace and his sword

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/technology/william-wallaces-sword-isnt-his-sword-heres-why-we-shouldnt-worry-too-much-about-it-scotsman-comment/ar-BB1b6kSx>

Hunting round the world and through the ages

Recreating where the bison roamed

<https://source.wustl.edu/2020/11/secrets-of-the-lost-crops-revealed-where-bison-roam/>

Medieval fishing

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/11/medieval-fishing/>

Scottish medieval deer parks

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/11/deer-parks-kevin-malloy/>

Grave stories

Studying Byzantine bones

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/11/byzantine-skeletons-chryssa-bourbou/>

16th century soldier found in Lithuanian lake - makes a change from swords
<https://www.lrt.lt/en/news-in-english/19/1274670/remains-of-medieval-soldier-found-in-lithuanian-lake?fbclid=IwAR0p5HIOfH3RK459PG-QF3YDf62IHTZXJpBC4csMkvelymvithVHcuVKQU>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Investigating Byzantine castle destroyed in the Third crusade
<http://archaeologyinbulgaria.com/2020/11/14/crusaders-from-third-crusade-destroyed-11th-century-byzantine-empire-fortress-in-southeast-bulgaria-archaeologists-find/>

New future for Caernarfon Castle
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/11/project-caernarfon-castle/>

World Heritage

Short illustrated piece on the Terracotta army
<https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/the-terracotta-army-what-these-life-size-clay-warriors-tell-us-about-ancient>

Monitoring clan behaviour in an Edo Castle
<https://phys.org/news/2020-11-laws-early-edo-japan-peace.html>

Short illustrated feature on Gobindgarh Fort, India
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/amritsar/braving-the-ravages-of-time-176557>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Gun carriage recovered from the Dnieper.
<https://112.international/society/archaeologists-lift-18th-century-gun-carriage-from-the-bed-of-dniipro-river-56774.html>

Dutch VOC composite cannon found and raised off Norway
https://marmuseum.no/en/rare-cannon-find-off-mandal?fbclid=IwAR3gXCBgRMwLqwaMGhsLaf4CCqkeO3BRle2-L2B7yujfW9jE8NSodkoKy_k

Friction primer among the finds at Fort Douglas, Salt Lake City
<https://www.fox13now.com/news/local-news/excavation-in-salt-lake-city-uncovers-secrets-from-1870>

Miscellany

Short illustrated feature on Swedish runestones
<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/sweden-rune-kingdom>

British library acquires new medieval manuscript
[The Lucas Psalter: Forgotten manuscript acquired by British Library – Museum Crush](#)

Royal French children in portraits
<https://artdaily.com/news/130452/The-great-hope-of---France->

What's under the stairs - gun barrels, amongst other things....
<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/homes-property/home-design-diy/couple-renovating-16th-century-farmhouse-19343417>

Café Basiliscoe: this week's menu

Medieval meat
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/11/medieval-europeans-meat-consumption/>

With choice of beverages: Recreated ancient beers
<https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/ancient-beer/>

or coffee
<http://www.bbc.com/travel/story/20201119-how-coffee-forever-changed-britain>

Into the 20th century

WWI airfield found in Oxfordshire
<https://www.oxfordmail.co.uk/news/18855895.first-world-war-airfield-port-meadow-oxford-rediscovered/>

Nautical news

Studying medieval charts
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/11/medieval-manuscripts-altas-miller/>

16th century bronze gun found and raised off Sicily
[Dai fondali di San Leone "riaffiora" un cannone del XVI secolo - Giornale di Sicilia \(gds.it\)](#)
[Cannone del 16° secolo riaffiora dal mare di San Leone: al via al restauro \(grandangoloagrigento.it\)](#)

Museum news and exhibitions

News

US museum staff and C19
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/from-bad-to-worse-over-half-of-us-museums-have-laid-off-or-furloughed-staff-survey-shows>

Arrests in the Dresden Museum heist

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/police-arrest-3-suspects-search-18-berlin-locations-in-jewel-heist-investigation>

Hopefully not a sign of the future - Royal Marines Museum turned into luxury hotel

https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/defence/portsmouths-old-royal-marines-museum-become-luxury-five-star-hotel-after-site-sold-3047095?fbclid=IwAR2JWwCulobHv6ZPQ9rPa7bQtY_VE2_AFgiB5TCVoHbL-MBrkjZcHJRJIsc

The collections of the Society of Antiquaries of London and its threats

[Society of Antiquaries fights for its home and its stunning collection – Museum Crush](#)

European museums in lockdown, again

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/why-us-european-museums-cry-foul-over-second-lockdown>

New museums

Sri Lanka decides to open a Museum of Weapons

<http://www.dailynews.lk/2020/11/17/local/233794/cabinet-approves-establish-weapons-museum>

Tour of Egypt's Carriage Museum

<https://www.egyptindependent.com/photos-a-tour-of-the-royal-chariots-museum-shows-off-the-alawiyya-dynasty/>

Museum developments

The smell of the past

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/nov/17/scents-of-history-study-hopes-to-recreate-smells-of-old-europe>

Museum musings

Interesting piece on the Met

<https://newcriterion.com/issues/2020/12/unmaking-the-met>

Objects

Well, this is an interesting story!

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-8981581/Shotgun-belonging-infamous-London-socialite-sold-auction.html>

Native American powder-horn returned to spiritual home

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/wisconsin-stockbridge-munsee-tribes-19th-century-powder-horn-returns-home-after-80-years/ar-BB1bjlvD>

Tokens of remembrance

[Tokens of remembrance | National Trust for Scotland \(nts.org.uk\)](https://www.nts.org.uk)

Exhibitions

Knights and Romanovs in Amsterdam

<https://artdaily.com/news/130520/The-Hermitage-Amsterdam-reopens-with-an-exhibition-about-knights-and-the-Romanovs>

Books

British museum books

<https://www.britishmuseumshoponline.org/books.html>

Online Books

Selection of books on historical topics

<https://humanities-digital-library.org/index.php/hdl/catalog/category/ihr>

Events

Online lecture by Dr Ralph Moffat: 1 December 1pm

Wee Willie & the King's Silver Trousers: A Tale of Medieval Arms & Armour from the Society of Antiquaries Library

<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/wee-willie-the-kings-silver-trousers-a-tale-of-medieval-arms-armour-from-the-society-of-antiquaries-library/>

Conferences

ICOMAM conference – Toledo, Spain

New dates 17 – 21 May 2021

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

Sales, fairs and auctions

2 December 2020 London

Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/sales/arms-armour/as021220/?p=1&s=40&v=list>

3 December 2020 London

Antique Arms, Modern Sporting Guns & Exceptional Firearms

<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/25987/>

7 – 11 December 2020 Munich

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

<https://artdaily.com/news/130014/Online-only-auction-offers-a-wide-assortment-of-objects-from-Hermann-Historica-s-specialist-areas>

Holts

<https://www.all4shooters.com/en/shooting/culture/Holts-Auction-7-8-December-fine-modern-and-antique-guns/>

Websites and downloads

Enjoy blue seas, WW2 planes and shipwrecks in Malta

<https://underwatermalta.org>

Explore English wreck from the comfort and warmth of your own fireside

[Virtual Dive Trails | Historic England](#)

Military History online

MilitaryHistoryOnline.com

Finally Christmas Shopping!

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/>

<https://www.royalcollectionshop.co.uk/>

<https://shop.nms.ac.uk/>

<https://wallacecollectionshop.org/>

<https://www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/>

<https://natmus.dk/salg-og-ydelser/museumsbutikker/>

<https://www.vasamuseet.se/en/visit/shop>

<https://www.boutiquesdemusees.fr/fr/cadeaux/5-catalogues-exposition/1/>

<https://www.rijksmuseumshop.nl/nl> <https://shop.khm.at/>

<https://boutique.musee-armee.fr/en/permanent/g2/selection/1/>

[Canadian War Museum Boutique – YOUR COUNTRY. YOUR HISTORY. YOUR MUSEUM.](#)

[The Met Store | Gifts from The Metropolitan Museum of Art \(metmuseum.org\)](#)

<https://store.philamuseum.org/>

This fortnight I tweeted Turkish cannon for Thanksgiving (and who they were firing at).

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 30 November 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>