

The Basiliscope Mercury 353

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

A sad start to the New Year

Obituary of Claude Gaier

https://www.rtc.be/video/culture/mus-eacute-e/claude-gaier-erudit-liegeois-specialiste-des-armes-et-d-histoire-militaire_1507790_325.html

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Human bones as weapons

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/ancient-european-hunters-carved-human-bones-weapons-180976570/>

A reminder of last year's weapons finds

<https://www.livescience.com/ancient-weapons-swords-found-in-2020.html>

Roman weapons and armour cache found in Spain

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/roman-armor-0014736>

Battles, towers and forts

Looking for ancient fortifications near Persepolis

<https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/456318/Ancient-hill-may-contain-ruined-castle-near-Persepolis-archaeologist>

Victorian excavations at South Shields remembered

<https://www.chroniclive.co.uk/news/history/how-roman-finds-south-shields-19565255>

Crusader era siege ramp found

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/crusader-era-siege-ramp-protecting-israeli-city-from-the-desert-1.9421886>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Woolly rhino found in Siberia

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/melting-permafrost-reveals-e2-80-98best-preserved-e2-80-99-woolly-rhino-in-siberia/ar-BB1cn2SH>

Oldest cave art found in Indonesia

<https://www.livescience.com/pig-oldest-cave-animal-drawing.html>

Tang dynasty murals of horse and camel trainers found

<https://www.msn.com/en-xl/news/other/tang-dynasty-murals-unearthed-in-chinas-shaanxi/ar-BB1cAeA7>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Removing an Ottoman gun position reveals Jerusalem's medieval past

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/as-tower-of-david-looks-to-future-excavations-rewrite-ancient-citadels-past/>

St Bravials castle damaged in floods

<https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/flooding-destroys-part-castle-forest-4838904>

Second break-in at Dunnottar Castle

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/crime/two-attempted-break-ins-famous-scottish-castle-former-home-scottish-crown-jewels-3091211>

Restoring Cragievar's defences

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/a-path-to-the-past>

Arms and armour

Armour of Sigmund II returned to Poland from Hungary

<https://notesfrompoland.com/2020/12/29/armour-belonging-to-polish-king-returned-by-hungary-after-18th-century-bureaucratic-error/>

Arrowhead found in the Thames

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9136755/Amateur-archaeologist-finds-900-year-old-arrowhead-washed-Thames.html>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

WW2 cannon used as memorial

<https://www.wlfi.com/content/news/Military-memorial-in-Delphi-dedicated-to-soldiers-and-families-573481141.html>

What happened when a Yorkshire village got a German trophy - spoiler alert – they weren't happy...

<https://www.keighleynews.co.uk/news/18970424.memory-lane-delivery-field-gun-gets-steeton-residents-fired/>

Uppsala police looking for the owner of a recovered cannon

https://www.svt.se/nyheter/lokalt/uppsala/ar-det-har-din-kanon-uppsalapolisen-vander-sig-till-allmanheten?fbclid=IwAR1zsBV4JaMgLfGMOJ0oI1yA53twgy8zcFdaJIZSJMHKUj-HILSy_sF7t8w

Miscellany

Researching the Galloway hoard

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/dec/21/researchers-win-1m-grant-to-unlock-secrets-of-viking-era-treasure-trove>

Investigating the damage caused by the Great North war in Estonia

<https://news.err.ee/1227481/archaeologists-discover-medieval-early-modern-objects-in-tartu-city-center>

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/9356-210106-estonia-tartu-war>

Living in the past

These days I think we would all appreciate living in the past...

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2021/jan/12/modern-life-is-rubbish-the-people-whose-homes-are-portals-to-the-past>

Café Basiliscoe

Olives - useful for salads and fighting Romans

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium.HIGHLIGHT.MAGAZINE-when-jews-used-olive-oil-as-a-weapon-against-the-romans-in-ancient-israel-1.9382518>

Eat like a centurion

<https://medium.com/exploring-history/food-that-conquered-the-world-roman-legions-fields-and-fury-f78eb4bd2e75>

With optional fish sauce

<http://www.asor.org/onetoday/2021/01/fish-sauces>

Christmas with King Richard

<https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/18964156.king-richard-spent-christmas-southampton-castle/>

Waddesdon exhibition in kitchens

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/dec/28/foie-gras-truffles-birds-drowned-in-brandy-lunch-queen-victoria-waddesdon-manor-kitchen>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Florence Nightingale Museum to close

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/covid-closes-nightingale-museum>

What damage was done to the Capitol collections

<https://artdaily.com/news/131839/Curators-scour-Capitol-for-damage-to-the-building-or-its-art>

New museums

Greece's display of royal carriages

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2021/01/09/royal-carriages-renovations/>

Taiwan's National Palace Museum and its past

<https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3115954/why-taiwans-national-palace-museum-controversy-more-storm-teacup>

New future for the iron country at Merthyr Tydfil

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jan/12/heritage-park-plan-aims-to-bring-merthyr-tydfils-history-to-life>

Museum developments

The Prado at your finger tips

<https://artdaily.com/news/131299/The-Prado-Museum-posts-its-first-Official-Guide-for-Android-and-iOS-smartphones>

The Met launches a game

<https://artdaily.com/news/131966/The-Metropolitan-Museum-of-Art-and-Verizon-launch-interactive-Virtual-art-experience>

Museum musings

Robert E Lee leaves his pedestal

<https://artdaily.com/news/131339/Robert-E--Lee-statue-is-removed-from-U-S--Capitol>

Museums and colonial wars

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18971065.big-read-museum-treasures-reveal-truth-last-loot-scotlands-empire/?ref=rss>

Bronze sword returned to statue

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/01/04/us/massachusetts-statue-sword-returned-trnd/index.html>

Objects

What the National Heritage Memorial Fund has spent its money on

<https://museumcrush.org/just-some-of-the-museum-stunning-museum-treasures-saved-by-the-nhmf/>

Exhibitions

Queen Victoria's watercolours in Edinburgh

<https://artdaily.com/news/131597/Treasured-watercolours-collected-by-Queen-Victoria-and-Prince-Albert-to-go-on-display-in-Edinburgh>

Books

Eric Lowe: *The Use of Medieval Weaponry*

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/01/book-month-medieval-weaponry/>

Eric Goldberg: *In the Manner of the Franks: Hunting, Kingship, and Masculinity in Early Medieval Europe*

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/01/new-book-examines-early-medieval-hunting/>

Julius von Scholsser: *Art and Curiosity Cabinets of the Late Renaissance A Contribution to the History of Collecting*

<https://artdaily.com/news/131705/Now-available-in-English-for-the-first-time--a-seminal-work-in-the-history-of-art-and-collecting>

French museum publications

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

Military history books & publishers

<https://ospreypublishing.com/>

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

Online books

The Royal Brass Foundry, Woolwich

<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=15939&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fp%3d1%26n%3d10%26t%3dwoolwich%26ns%3d1>

Heritage, Natural Capacity and Ecosystem: Case Study Wrecks in Coastal and Marine Ecosystem: The Goodwin Sands and Kent Coast

<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16402&ru=%2fResults.aspx%3fp%3d1%26n%3d10%26k%3dwreck%26ns%3d1>

Popular culture

Wonder Woman's changing costumes

<https://artdaily.com/news/131580/Wonder-Woman-and-her-evolving-look>

Music for Tudor plagues

<https://artdaily.com/news/131656/From-a-1550s-pandemic--a-choral-work-still-casts-its-spell>

Sea shanties are what we all want to sing in lockdown

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/money/technology/sea-shanty-tiktok-who-is-scottish-postman-nathan-evans-what-is-a-wellerman-and-why-are-shanties-trending/ar-BB1cKrCy>

Sir Gawain at the cinema

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/01/gawain-green-knight-movies/>

Events

Discover the *London*

<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/Appeal/save-the-london>

Online seminars on the history of collecting

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

Calls for papers

30 June - 10:00 am - 5:00 pm

Weapons in society

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

Websites and downloads

British state papers are available free till 30 April

<https://www.british-history.ac.uk/search/series/cal-state-papers--domestic--edw-eliz>

Met still producing Dispatches from the Field regularly

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

Things to do at the Royal Armouries

<https://royalarmouries.org/>

1066 etc

Trial by Combat, Jousting & War in Medieval Scandinavia

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/01/trial-combat-medieval/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/12/medieval-tournaments-jousting/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2021/01/medieval-scandinavia-kalmar-union/>

Finally

These last weeks I tweeted beautiful cannons

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 15 January 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>