

The Basiliscae Mercury 341

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Life is slowly returning to a more normal pace, with the usual type of stories creeping back. However we have to start with some sad news.

Marco Morin, forensic scientist and arms scholar has died

https://www.ilgazzettino.it/pay/venezia_pay/e_morto_il_perito_dei_grandi_segreti_della_storia_d_italia-5308402.html

<https://www.armietiro.it/scomparso-marco-morin-12807>

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms and forts

Arrowheads of the Assyrians

<https://www.haaretz.com/world-news/.premium-the-evolution-of-the-ultimate-weapon-of-ancient-times-1.8939241>

Feature on Newstead Roman fort

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2020/06/trimontium-newstead-the-roman-fort/133895>

Features on the Antonine Wall

https://www.heraldscotland.com/life_style/18535272.antonine-wall-line-landscape/

Hunting round the world and through the ages

5000 year old fishing equipment found in southern Norway

<https://sciencenorway.no/archaeology-history-stone-age/archaeologists-have-found-astonishingly-well-preserved-gear-from-a-fisherman-who-lived-5000-years-ago/1705054>

Domesticating reindeers

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/8798-200615-arctic-reindeer-domestication>

Medieval hunting - lots of info in one place

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/hunting-middle-ages-articles/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Piece on Donnington Castle

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-europe/donnington-castle-0013882>

Staircase on Tutbury Castle uncovered

<https://www.stokesentinel.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/secret-stairway-uncovered-tutbury-castle-4270535>

Through the gunloop...

Plymouth fort to be turned into Buddhist centre

<https://www.buddhistdoor.net/news/plan-to-reincarnate-19th-century-british-fort-as-buddhist-temple-receives-green-light>

Kumbhalgarh Fort Rajasthan

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/schools/the-great-wall-of-india-105307>

Jewish gravestones found in the foundations of Vienna's 17th century walls

<https://www.jpost.com/diaspora/jewish-gravestones-found-in-austrian-castle-walls-after-400-years-632358>

Excavations at 17th century Irish barracks throw up musket balls & chicken legs

<https://roscommonherald.ie/2020/06/25/musket-balls-coins-and-other-items-unearthed-at-athlone-garda-station/#.XvWZSTHsZ9B>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Round shot from a lost Irish castle acquired by museum

<https://www.clareecho.ie/cannonball-dating-back-to-cromwellian-garrison-discovered-in-ballycar/>

The swearing cannon of Sarawak - wonderful story!

<https://www.theborneopost.com/2020/06/28/a-pledge-cast-in-iron/>

Civil War cannon damaged

<https://worcesterobserver.co.uk/news/vandals-slammed-for-civil-war-memorial-rampage/>

In time for the 4th of July - fireworks memories

<https://www.fosters.com/lifestyle/20200625/historic-portsmouth-boys-in-love-with-fireworks>

Back to the front

Feature on the battle of Waterloo

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/georgian/why-french-think-won-battle-waterloo-napoleon/>

Therapeutic archaeology for veterans

https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline_726199_en.html

Grave stories

Investigating American Revolution era graves

<https://mailchi.mp/dailynutmeg/bioanthropology-research-institute-quinnipiac-skeleton-crew?e=2c38baa027>

US Civil War cemetery located

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/forgotten-antietam-battlefield-map-shows-locations-hundreds-graves-180975134/>

Café Basiliscoe

A Roman banquet

<https://blog.britishmuseum.org/cook-a-classical-feast-nine-recipes-from-ancient-greece-and-rome/>

Snakes for snacks

<https://www.livescience.com/ancient-humans-ate-snakes.html>

Finishing off with an historic ice-cream

<https://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/food-drink/article/3089279/history-ice-cream-iced-slush-vanilla-cone-was-it-invented>

Miscellany

More on the etymology of swords

<https://blog.oup.com/2020/06/etymology-of-sword-the-denouement/>

Portrait of Mehmet II for sale

<https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20200619-portrait-of-ottoman-sultan-to-be-auctioned-in-london/>

A more cheerful view of Statuegate- Henry VIII and his sword, literally on a gate

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/history/story-behind-henry-viiiis-missing-18479030>

Whale bones and round shot found in Leith

<https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/news/edinburgh-news/archaeologists-make-gruesome-discovery-under-18437029>

Princesses and Amazons

Scythian teenage amazon warrior

<https://siberiantimes.com/science/casestudy/news/ancient-girl-amazon-warrior-no-older-than-13-is-confirmed-by-modern-scientific-techniques/>

Women Warriors of Dahomey

<https://guardian.ng/life/the-story-of-the-fearless-women-warriors-of-dahomey/>

Into the 20th century

Weapon & ammo hoard from the Six Days War found

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/1967-jordanian-weapons-found-in-archaeological-dig-by-western-wall-632691>

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-archaeologists-discover-jordanian-ammunition-stash-in-jerusalem-s-old-city-1.8947094>

Nautical news

Excavations begin on the Norwegian Viking ship burial

<https://artdaily.com/news/124928/Norway-starts-digging-up-first-Viking-ship-in-a-century#.XvcLD1-SmUk>

16th century wreck found near Genoa

<https://www.foxnews.com/science/16th-century-shipwreck-discovered-galleon>

<https://divernet.com/2020/06/21/italian-divers-find-16th-century-wreck/>

17th century Irish piracy

<https://www.southernstar.ie/news/into-the-deep-in-pursuit-of-pirates-off-west-cork-coast-4207168>

Update on the *London*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-53013454>

Blog on the *Rooswijk's* weaponry

<https://english.cultureelerfgoed.nl/latest/weblog/2020/weaponry-and-ordnance>

Update on recoveries from the *Mercedes*

<https://english.elpais.com/arts/2020-06-22/spanish-archaeologists-recover-new-treasure-from-famed-mercedes-shipwreck.html>

Update on Lord Elgin's *Monitor*

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2020/06/26/marine-archaeologists-have-recovered-ancient-treasures-from-the-wreckage/>

Wreck of John F. Kennedy's World War II patrol boat recovered

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/boat-salvaged-harlem-river-was-likely-commanded-john-f-kennedy-180975100/>

Museum news and exhibitions

News - re-openings

Met re-opens in August

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/met-plans-to-reopen-flagship-building-on-29-august-after-five-month-shutdown>

And others

<https://www.musee-armee.fr/votre-visite.html>

<https://www.wallacecollection.org/blog/Wallace-Reopening/>

<https://www.hgm.at/>

UK museums can open in July

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/uk-museums-can-reopen-on-4-july>

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/23062020-museums-england-reopening-4-july>

How to re-open your museum

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/news/24062020-reopening-good-practice-guidelines>

Museum developments

Feature on museums of the Korean War

<https://artdaily.com/news/124874/One-conflict--two-museums--how-the-Korean-War-still-divides-the-peninsula#.XvRSptiSmUk>

Museum musings

Still statues

<https://artdaily.com/news/124645/From-Columbus-to-Confederates--anger-about-statues-boils-over#.XusbW25FyUk>

Roosevelt

<https://artdaily.com/news/124793/Roosevelt-statue-to-be-removed-from-American-Museum-of-Natural-History#.XvBdO25FyUk>

Statue-removing in a historical context

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/tearing-down-statues-doesnt-erase-history-in-fact-history-is-full-of-destroyed-monuments>

Exhibitions

Jan Van Eyck in Bruges - looks stunning!

<https://artdaily.com/news/124765/Exhibition-at-Groeningemuseum-focuses-on-Jan-van-Eyck-s-Bruges-period#.Xu8Xym5FyUk>

More on the new exhibition on the war for Greek Independence

<https://neoskosmos.com/en/167791/the-national-archaeological-museum-celebrates-the-greek-war-of-independence-bicentennial/>

Endeavour 250 in Canberra

<https://www.canberratimes.com.au/story/6780579/endeavours-cannon-has-tales-to-tell/#gsc.tab=0>

Books

Sieges in the Ancient Mediterranean: A new Companion published by Brill
<https://www.ancientworldmagazine.com/articles/sieges-ancient-mediterranean-2019/>

Neil Grant: ***The Medieval Longsword***
<https://ospreypublishing.com/store/military-history/upcoming-books/available-this-month/the-medieval-longsword>

Book sale
<https://www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-media/clearance-books>

Online Book

Slavery and the British Country House Madge Dresser and Andrew Hann (eds.)
<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/slavery-and-british-country-house>

Popular culture

Hamilton will be happening in your room soon
<https://artdaily.com/news/124922/-Hamilton--is-coming-to-the-small-screen--This-is-how-it-got-there-#.XvcLYV-SmUk>

Joan of Arc rides again
<https://cine-vue.com/2020/06/film-review-joan-of-arc.html>

Films set in 17th century England
<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2020/jun/15/why-modern-day-filmmakers-are-still-drawn-to-17th-century-england-fanny-lye-deliverd>

Websites and downloads

1066 etc: Demon knights, camels & Richard II
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/demons-knight-bishop/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/gold-route-timbuktu/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/06/richard-ii-peasants-revolt/>

Finally

This fortnight I enjoyed the Royal Armouries' tweets:
https://twitter.com/Royal_Armouries
<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 30 June 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>