

# The Basiliscae Mercury 375

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Happy New Year! Already a number of interesting stories creeping into the newsfeeds: ancient helmets and swords, Indian cannon and shipwreck updates. For those whose pockets seem thin after Christmas a number of free book downloads and sales to help ease the pain.

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Ancient arms

Round up of the ten best weapons discoveries from 2021

<https://www.livescience.com/sword-and-weapon-discoveries-2021>

Feature on horned Bronze Age helmets

<https://www.livescience.com/horned-viking-helmets-from-different-civilization>

3000 year old bronze casting workshop found in China

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2021/1229/c90000-9938595.html>

Studying an Etruscan helmet

[https://www.ansa.it/english/news/lifestyle/arts/2021/12/28/helmet-of-two-etruscan-soldiers-yields-hidden-inscription\\_1fc5f036-d1b2-436c-9a40-727d5b32aa1c.html](https://www.ansa.it/english/news/lifestyle/arts/2021/12/28/helmet-of-two-etruscan-soldiers-yields-hidden-inscription_1fc5f036-d1b2-436c-9a40-727d5b32aa1c.html)

Feature on the legendary shield of Achilles

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2021/12/23/the-legendary-shield-of-achilles/>

Military bronze diploma found in Turkey

<https://www.dailysabah.com/arts/1898-year-old-bronze-military-diploma-found-in-turkeys-perre/news>

#### Battles, towers and forts

A yearlong festival for Hadrian's Wall

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/dec/31/festival-to-celebrate-hadrians-wall-1900-2022>

Ancient fortress uncovered in Azerbaijan

<https://www.azernews.az/culture/187218.html>

New life for an old Roman tower in Turkey

<https://www.dailysabah.com/arts/edirnes-roman-era-tower-to-serve-as-cultural-space/news>

Excavating a Byzantine fortress in Greece

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/01/01/byzantine-fortress-ancient-greek-pyrgion/>

### **Beasts of assorted varieties...**

What to do about war elephants

<https://www.9news.com.au/world/war-elephants-ruled-until-roman-army-tactic-ended-reign-of-terror/3b1cbb72-5fb7-4b72-b0ab-821747bd0f31>

Hunting animals into extinction

<https://phys.org/news/2021-12-early-humans-largest-animals-extinction.html>

### **Grave stories**

Death in Cambridge

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2022/01/written-in-the-bones-medieval-skeletons-tell-story-of-social-inequality-in-cambridge/>

### **Miscellany**

Medieval chess knight found in Norway

<http://www.sci-news.com/archaeology/toensberg-chess-piece-10436.html>

What they found under Auckland Castle

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tees-59740527>

Sheffield sword dancers unite!

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/news/crime/rival-sheffield-sword-dancers-from-handsworth-and-grenoside-break-with-tradition-for-thrilling-display-3511572>

New funding for Saratoga

<https://www.timesunion.com/news/article/Saratoga-Battlefield-to-get-6-6-million-upgrade-16736376.php>

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

Indian cannon goes back to its temple

<https://english.makalukhabar.com/2022/01/38590/>

History of the daily gun salute in St Petersburg

<https://www.rbth.com/lifestyle/334542-petersburg-cannon-noon>

Curassier's armour goes viral

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/petersuciu/2022/01/04/use-of-the-word-wounded-debated-after-footage-of-armor-with-cannonball-hole-went-viral/?sh=3225e773168f>

<https://www.thedrive.com/the-war-zone/43766/heres-the-story-behind-that-viral-video-of-napoleonic-armor-smashed-through-by-a-cannonball>

## **Café Basiliscoe - Menu du jour**

Gold diggers salted cod

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2022/01/220106143650.htm>

Washed down with wine of the crusaders

<https://www.asor.org/anetoday/2021/12/wine-production-in-jerusalem>

## **Into the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

The Christmas truce

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnists/2021/12/25/christmas-truce-world-war-i/8908782002/>

Remembering Passchendaele

<https://www.48thhighlanders.ca/104th-anniversary-passchendaele/>

1921 census as political commentary

<https://www.itv.com/news/2022-01-06/incredible-cannon-fodder-cartoon-found-in-1921-census-predicted-next-war>

## **Nautical news**

Reminder of the search for the Tobermory treasure ship

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/people/a-very-british-scandal-the-real-life-treasure-hunt-off-tobermory-by-duke-of-argyll-3507854>

Cannon found off Bergen

<https://www.dykking.no/nyheter/79-nyheter/3312-utrolig-kanonfunn-i-bergen>

Cannon found in Kristiansund

<https://www.nrk.no/mr/funn-av-kanon-fra-napoleonskrigene-utenfor-kristiansund-1.15788192>

The search for the *Griffin*

<https://www.express.co.uk/news/science/1545270/archaeology-breakthrough-griffin-shipwreck-lake-michigan-poverty-island-spt>

*Clotilda*, the last US slaveship

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/wreck-last-us-slave-ship-mostly-intact-alabama-coast-researchers-find-rcna9739>

The search for the *General Grant*

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/127332028/one-mans-35year-mission-to-find-a-goldladen-shipwreck>

Italian submarine located

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/divers-find-wwii-submarine-that-sank-in-rare-naval-confrontation/ar-AASoatS?li=BBnb7Kz>

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **News**

Visitors' numbers dropped at the Louvre last year (who'd have thought it)  
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/01/05/louvres-attendance-last-year-dropped-to-levels-last-seen-in-1986>

### **New museums**

New museums for 2022  
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/01/01/new-museum-openings-for-2022>

### **Museum developments**

Giant photograph of the Night Watch made available  
<https://artdaily.com/news/142626/717-gigapixel-photograph-of-Rembrandt-s-Night-Watch-unveiled-by-the-Rijksmuseum>

Paul Mellon photographic library goes digital  
<https://artdaily.com/news/142339/Paul-Mellon-Centre-Photographic-Archive-goes-online->

And you can find it here  
<https://photoarchive.paul-mellon-centre.ac.uk/collections>

Investigating a civil war pardon – not what it seemed...  
<https://arstechnica.com/science/2021/12/x-ray-analysis-confirms-forged-date-on-lincoln-pardon-of-civil-war-soldier/>

### **Conservation corner**

Conserving a bronze gun chamber  
[https://english.cultureelerfgoed.nl/latest/weblog/2021/conservation-of-a-copper-alloy-breech-chamber-from-the-rooswijk?fbclid=IwAR05RD1U\\_I0i4yYZozWhUFYgBCDJH3Sznq-eV92v8GvVU59Vh6qb8fN\\_xU](https://english.cultureelerfgoed.nl/latest/weblog/2021/conservation-of-a-copper-alloy-breech-chamber-from-the-rooswijk?fbclid=IwAR05RD1U_I0i4yYZozWhUFYgBCDJH3Sznq-eV92v8GvVU59Vh6qb8fN_xU)

Rimini altarpiece goes back on view after conservation  
<https://artdaily.com/news/142585/Liebieghaus-Skulpturensammlung-exhibits-the-Rimini-Altarpiece-after-extensive-conservation>

### **Exhibitions**

Islamic art on show round France  
[https://www.medievalists.net/2021/12/islamic-arts-showcased-in-museum-exhibitions-throughout-france/?fbclid=IwAR32xza\\_EoEMo7XTXIAzjhJ5hrykBkiHJk3obDz3qggmk425wKIEMt2-Q4](https://www.medievalists.net/2021/12/islamic-arts-showcased-in-museum-exhibitions-throughout-france/?fbclid=IwAR32xza_EoEMo7XTXIAzjhJ5hrykBkiHJk3obDz3qggmk425wKIEMt2-Q4)

Exhibition on the Battle of Lepanto in Athens

<https://www.ekathimerini.com/culture/1174890/commemorating-the-battle-of-lepanto-1571/>

## Books

Paul Lockhart: *Firepower: How Weapons Shaped Warfare*

<https://www.wsj.com/articles/firepower-book-review-the-gunpowder-revolution-arms-race-muskets-rifles-cannon-11641493613>

Magnus Olausson: *Miniature Paintings in Nationalmuseum* (Sweden)

<https://artdaily.com/news/142464/Nationalmuseum-publishes-a-new-book-about-its-collection-of-miniature-paintings>

## Online Books

*Viking Age Swords from Telemark, Norway: An Integrated Technical and Archaeological Investigation*

Irmelin Martens, Eva Elisabeth Astrup, Kjetil Loftsgarden, Vegard Vike

<https://www.press.nordicopenaccess.no/index.php/noasp/catalog/book/145?fbclid=IwAR3TYdP1AVTRu1eCSRbZ4KFQUKGm2i4iqY1OEjr1oa304ftVtfCUMVygLiw>

*The Spanish armada of 1588 and the English counter-raid of 1589*

<https://es.calameo.com/read/000075335719bd1ee390b>

*The Jordeans Vandyke journal*

<http://jordaensvandyck.org/journal/>

## Events

### Sales, fairs and auctions

Online auction

<https://artdaily.com/news/142311/Rarities--unusual-items-and-beautiful-pieces-of-jewellery-will-be-offered-in-online-only-auction>

## Websites and downloads

The Arms and Armor Department at the Met

<https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/collection-areas/arms-and-armor>

National Park Service

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm>

This fortnight I tweeted cannon for Christmas and the New Year  
<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 8 January 2021**