

# The Basiliscae Mercury 377

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Things are beginning to pick up - fascinating piece on Greek helmets found in a temple, and Byzantine swords. Lots of cannon and ships this week.

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Ancient arms

Bronze Age dagger from Slovakia

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/63202>

Exploring Britain's ancient forts

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2022/feb/10/uk-ancient-forts-stanwick-st-john-north-yorkshire-five-hill-forts>

Remembering Thermopylae

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2022/01/betrayal-crushed-spartas-last-stand-at-the-battle-of-thermopylae>

Helmets and weapon fragments found in southern Italian temple

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/02/ancient-helmets-found-alongside-archaic-ruins-in-the-acropolis-of-elea-velia/142660>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/01/archaeologists-uncover-ancient-helmets-and-temple-ruins-in-southern-italy>

Gladiators in Switzerland

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/what-may-be-the-last-gladiator-arena-ever-built-discovered-in-switzerland-180979497/>

Short illustrated article on recent discoveries of Byzantine swords in Turkey

<https://www.livescience.com/rare-byzantine-swords-discovered>

#### Beasts of assorted varieties...

Headless horse and rider found in southern Germany

<https://www.livescience.com/headless-horse-and-rider-discovered>

#### Round the world

20 new terracotta warriors found

<https://www.livescience.com/terracotta-warriors-discovered-in-emperor-tomb>

## **Medieval miscellany**

Researching Great Yarmouth's walls

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/02/restore-english-towns-medieval-walls/>

Paintings from Templar church in France uncovered

<https://fr.aleteia.org/2022/02/02/sous-six-couches-de-badigeon-se-trouvaient-dinestimables-peintures-templieres/>

Restoring Scottish castles

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/restoration-of-scottish-castles>

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

Fort visiting in Florida

<https://www.travelawaits.com/2727363/history-changing-forts-to-visit-florida/>

More British cannon recovered from the Savannah river - lots of pictures

<https://us.cnn.com/2022/02/08/us/savannah-river-cannons-discovery/index.html>

When cannon go missing

[https://www.wfmz.com/features/historys-headlines/historys-headlines-the-case-of-the-wayward-cannon/article\\_4940d8bc-848c-11ec-82b0-03b68335f381.html](https://www.wfmz.com/features/historys-headlines/historys-headlines-the-case-of-the-wayward-cannon/article_4940d8bc-848c-11ec-82b0-03b68335f381.html)

Cannon on the move in India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolhapur/new-cannons-to-be-placed-at-mahalaxmi-jyotiba-temples/articleshow/89440822.cms>

Gun from HMS *Hampshire* returns to Scapa Flow museum

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/highlands-islands/3928653/naval-gun-returns-to-scapa-flow-museum-following-restoration/>

## **Café Basiliscoe**

Wassailing Devon's orchards

<https://museumcrush.org/heres-to-thee-wassailing-cider-and-communal-drinking-in-devon/>

## **Princesses and Amazons**

Feature on the Amazons

<https://aeon.co/essays/imagine-scythias-fierce-warrior-women-the-real-amazons>

## **Nautical news**

Interesting synthesis of Viking boat burials

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/02/viking-age-boat-burials-a-history-of-research/>

Medieval cog found off Sweden

<https://phys.org/news/2022-02-medieval-ship-west-coast-sweden.html>

Cannon stolen from wreck in Swedish waters

<https://sverigesradio.se/artikel/atalas-for-att-ha-bargat-en-1600-talskanon>

Feature on HMS *Invincible*

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/medway/news/the-warship-which-changed-british-history-262013/>

*Endeavour* - lost and found?

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2022/feb/03/captain-cook-ship-endeavour-identified-confirmed-shipwreck-us-rhode-island>

<https://phys.org/news/2022-02-captain-cook-ship-endeavour-shipwreck.html>

Feature on diving on slave ships

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/article/a-divers-hunt-for-lost-slave-ships-led-to-an-incredible-journey>

What to do about the wrecks off Ireland?

<https://www.southernstar.ie/news/is-it-now-time-to-raise-the-question-of-recovering-our-historic-shipwrecks-4237446>

Wrecks on the Great Barrier reef

<https://theconversation.com/from-australias-titanic-to-deadly-mutineers-4-infamous-shipwrecks-found-on-the-great-barrier-reef-175339>

Shackleton expedition is go again

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/feb/05/search-begins-for-ernest-shackletons-wrecked-ship-off-antarctica>

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **News**

Major new sponsor and funding for the Imperial War Museums

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/feb/08/imperial-war-museum-new-galleries-blavatnik-family-foundation-donation>

## **New museums**

Burrell in Glasgow re-opening

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/19909328.sneak-peek-given-glasgows-burrell-collection-set-re-open-march/>

## **Museum developments**

Bringing the Pastons' England back to life

<https://www.northnorfolknews.co.uk/news/3d-project-oxnead-hall-gresham-castle-paston-family-8679098>

Conserving Falkland palace's statues

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/conserving-500-year-old-statues-at-falkland-palace>

## **Objects**

National Museum of Ireland acquire medieval sword and bells

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/cc0a3-rare-15th-century-bells-donated-to-the-national-museum-of-ireland/>

Museum of the American Revolution acquires archives of soldiers of colour

<https://artdaily.com/news/143697/Museum-acquires-archive-of-nearly-200-rare-documents-related-to-soldiers-of-color-in-the-Revolutionary-War>

RAF Museum gets Dam busters medals

<https://artdaily.com/news/143621/RAF-Museum-acquires-Goodman-medals>

## **Exhibitions**

Shackleton in London

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/feb/06/how-ernest-shackletons-icy-adventure-was-frozen-in-time-antarctica>

Holbein in New York

<https://artdaily.com/news/143785/The-Morgan-brings-the-first-major-U-S--exhibition-of-Hans-Holbein-the-Younger-to-New-York>

## **Books**

***Treasures of the Royal Armouries***

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/royal-armouries-publications/products/treasures-of-the-royal-armouries>

Chris McNab: ***Soviet Machine Guns of World War II***

<https://ospreypublishing.com/soviet-machine-guns-of-world-war-ii>

New medieval books

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/02/new-medieval-books-military-markets/>

## **Popular culture**

Treasure hunting at the movies

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2022/feb/11/booty-calls-hollywoods-problem-with-lost-treasure-yarns>

## **Websites and downloads**

Latest ICOMAM magazine

<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/the-magazine/>

This year I am tweeting #Armourers700 to celebrate the 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Armourers and Brasiers Company

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 14 February 2022**