

# The Basiliscope Mercury 381

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Most exciting news this week is the major exhibition of armour opening in Vienna and a spectacular new publication on the tournament to coincide with it. Otherwise we have new films, Chinese armour, Ramadan cannon and Canadian tanks.

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Ancient arms

Bronze Age axes found in Wiltshire field

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-60995770>

Roman period burial with sword found in south Wales

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/local-news/skeleton-roman-mercenary-medieval-remains-23547393>

Investigating the Avars

<https://www.science.org/content/article/mystery-warriors-made-fastest-migration-ancient-history>

Renovating ancient Chinese armour

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202204/1258922.shtml>

#### Hunting round the world and through the ages

Fish like a Viking

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/scottish-viking-fishing>

Killer rabbits of the middle ages

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/posts/medieval-killer-rabbits>

Unicorns and their myth

<https://www.livescience.com/origins-of-unicorns>

#### Grave stories

New techniques throw up grave anomaly

<https://www.zmescience.com/science/news-science/remains-found-in-1000-year-old-lavish-burial-in-finland-may-be-of-nonbinary-warrior/>

Possible remains of 19<sup>th</sup> century Mexican soldier found

<https://mexiconewsdaily.com/news/puebla-remains-tell-story-of-second-french-intervention-in-mexico/>

## **Miscellany**

Medieval dagger found in Ypres excavation

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/bollock-dagger-0016587?fbclid=IwAR0Q8OR0a-XRL2B0l-E5ZG5UlkOwMrDSevbGAUMZnemNsK9IMrpCBuJesR4>

Short talks & films on the battle of Culloden

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/war-stories-of-culloden-a-series-of-short-talks>  
<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/culloden-commemoration-films>

Visiting Dartmoor's old gunpowder mills

<https://www.devonlive.com/news/devon-news/gallery/breathtaking-views-dartmoors-enchanting-powder-6886445>

Fencing in a frock

<https://www.bbc.com/reel/video/p0bzwxqy/the-chevalier-d-on-the-18th-century-transgender-spy>

## **Through the gunloop...**

Short feature on Palmanova

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/03/the-palmanova-star-fort/143256>

Forts to visit in Goa

<https://itsgoa.com/top-5-must-visit-ancient-sites-when-in-go/>

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

Historic photograph of cannon at Lewes

<https://www.capegazette.com/article/lewes%E2%80%99-1812-park-commemorates-british-bombardment/237566>

Boy scouts to renovate Liberty County's WWII gun

<https://bluebonnetnews.com/2022/04/12/world-war-ii-cannon-on-courthouse-square-to-undergo-restoration/>

Makkah's famous Ramadan cannon

<https://www.arabnews.com/node/2055756/saudi-arabia>

Cairo's Ramadan cannon

<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/4/114618/%E2%80%98Iftar-Cannon-Strike-%E2%80%99-a-phrase-loved-by-all-Egyptians>

## **Café Basiliscoe – the bar is open!**

Roman beer

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-60932382>

Or mead

<https://www.mentalfloss.com/posts/mead-facts-worlds-oldest-drink>

Or do you want some vanilla in that wine?

<https://www.decanter.com/wine-news/ancient-elites-drank-wine-infused-with-vanilla-says-study-477426/>

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

An intriguing story - I did check it was not posted on April 1

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/nova-scotia/canadian-second-world-war-tank-english-field-1.6399834>

Mapping the Falklands

[https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline\\_845887\\_en.html](https://www.gla.ac.uk/news/headline_845887_en.html)

## **Nautical news**

Fascinating feature on a shipwreck off Israel from the early Islamic period

<https://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/MAGAZINE-shipwreck-changes-what-we-know-about-the-early-islamic-period-1.10708784>

The future of the *Endurance*

<https://phys.org/news/2022-03-shackleton-famous-shipwreck.html>

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **News**

Tennis court at Versailles restored and open

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/63719>

Latest in museum security - no, not even 1<sup>st</sup> April

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2022/mar/28/robot-dog-to-help-manage-pompeii-spot-tunnels-thieves>

UNESCO's first reports from Ukraine

<https://artdaily.com/news/145146/More-than-50-cultural-sites-in-Ukraine-have-been-damaged-in-the-war--UNESCO-says>

Saving the *Mary Rose*'s brick oven

<https://phys.org/news/2022-04-oven-bricks-tudor-warship-mary.html>

### **Exhibitions**

Venice at Greenwich

<https://artdaily.com/news/145161/-Canaletto-s-Venice-Revisited--opens-at-the-National-Maritime-Museum>

Duke of Wellington and his lady friends at London

<https://artdaily.com/news/145223/Exhibition-explores-the-complex-relationships-between-Arthur-Wellesley-and-the-women-who-were-closest-to-him->

War photography in Paris

<https://www.musee-armee.fr/au-programme/expositions/detail/photographies-en-guerre.html>

Renaissance armour in Vienna

<https://www.newsweek.com/good-cod-fashion-steel-exhibit-hopes-dispel-myths-about-medieval-armor-1693952>

Winslow Homer in New York

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2022/04/18/war-race-and-winslow-homer-william-r-cross-american-passage-metropolitan-museum-exhibition>  
<https://artdaily.com/news/145379/Winslow-Homer--Radical-Impressionist>

## Books

Edited by Stefan Krause: ***Tournaments: A Thousand Years of Chivalry***

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/about-us/publications/tournaments-a-thousand-years-of-chivalry/>

John Goodall: ***The Castle: A History***,

<https://yalebooks.co.uk/display.asp?k=9780300251906>

Godwin Vella: ***Valletta; Heritage Malta***

<https://scalapublishers.com/valletta/>

John Walter: ***Walther Pistols; PP, PPK AND P 38***

<https://ospreypublishing.com/store/military-history/upcoming-books/available-this-month/walther-pistols>

## Online Book

Kees Ampt, Ad Littel & Edwin Paar: ***Verre forten, vreemde kusten***

***Nederlandse verdedigingswerken oversea*** (2017)

(mainly about the Dutch fortifications overseas, mainly in Dutch, but with plenty of pictures & English abstracts )

<https://www.sidestone.com/openaccess/9789088904493.pdf>

## Popular culture

Viewers of *Bridgerton* flocking to English country houses

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2022/apr/01/bridgerton-factor-visitors-flock-to-english-stately-homes>

### ***The Northman***

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11138512/>

### ***Operation Mincemeat***

<https://www.operationmincemeat.com/>

## **Events**

### **Diary Dates**

Leeds Easter Tournament

<https://royalarmouries.org/event/jousting-tournament/>

### **Conferences**

20-28 August 2022 Prague

ICOM-ICOMAM 2022 Annual meeting

<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/icom-icomam-meeting-2022/>

17-18 October 2022 London

Armourers & Brasiers/Arms and Armour Society 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference, Armourers Hall, London

<https://zfrmz.eu/NTJUW56JEUJHLD5u27uL>

## **Websites and downloads**

The website for Vienna and all the extras for the armour exhibition

<https://www.khm.at/en/>

1066 etc: Chivalry, Jousts and Vikings in Paris

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/04/what-chivalry-mean/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/04/how-win-joust/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/04/rules-medieval-tournament/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/04/viking-sieges-paris/>

### **Finally**

This fortnight I tweeted more on the Armourers 700 anniversary

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 15 April 2022**