

The Basiliscope Mercury 382

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

This week we have a number of updates on recent stories, from the Tang armour to the Savannah River cannon. New stories about prehistoric archery, medieval grenades and help for Ukraine's cultural sector. Plus, sales and conferences.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

The importance of archery in prehistoric times

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/apr/16/how-archery-was-vital-to-the-survival-of-early-humans>

More on the restoration of Tang armour

<http://www.ecns.cn/news/culture/2022-04-12/detail-ihaxmtii6873717.shtml>

Grave stories

Searching for Dark Age royal graves in the UK

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/possible-royal-graves-dated-to-the-time-of-king-arthur-found-in-great-britain-180979927/>

Viking skin turns out not to be

<https://www.iflscience.com/plants-and-animals/viking-skin-nailed-to-medieval-church-doors-is-actually-from-farm-animals/>

Edinburgh's Viking rune stone

<https://www.socantscot.org/research-project/runestone-project-2017-18/>

Miscellany

Tuscany's sword in the stone

<https://www.bbc.com/reel/video/p0c1ymsq/the-truth-behind-the-legend-of-the-sword-in-the-stone->

Latest research on crusaders' grenades

<https://phys.org/news/2022-04-ancient-grenades-explosive-weapons-medieval.html>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Deccan's neglected cannon

<https://telanganatoday.com/deccan-cannons-lie-in-state-of-neglect>
<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/in-other-news/190422/hyd-cannons-which-once-boomed-now-lie-neglected.html>

Who stole Illinois's Old Main Cannon?

<https://news.siu.edu/2022/04/041822-SIU-Alumni-Association-investigates-campus-myths-in-new-docuseries-Saluki-Sleuths.php>

Two Victorian guns in Mumbai to be treated soon by local authorities

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/mumbai-news/bmc-to-restore-british-era-cannons-to-past-glory-101650205335610.html>

Warwick, Australia's WW2 German trophy

<https://warwickstanthorpetoday.com.au/news/2022-04-19/warwick-cenotaphs-hidden-history/>

Café Basiliscoe

German gin

<https://tvn24.pl/tvn24-news-in-english/workers-in-polish-town-unearth-old-german-juniper-gin-bottles-5673641>

Try the Anglo-Saxon diet

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/04/peasants-held-large-barbecues-for-anglo-saxon-royalty/143372>

Into the 20th century

Interesting stories about the history of trench art

<https://the-past.com/feature/trench-art-the-art-of-war/>

New future needed for New Milton's WW2 turret

<https://www.advertiserandtimes.co.uk/news/restoration-plans-for-new-miltons-rare-wartime-gun-turret-9249675/>

Nautical news

Looks like another ship burial located in Norway

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/04/survey-locates-boat-grave-from-viking-age/143321> <https://www.livescience.com/viking-boat-burial-found-norway>

13th century cog found under Tallinn

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/63895>

Short article on under the seas round Croatia

<https://www.total-croatia-news.com/lifestyle/62050-adriatic-treasures>

Feature on identifying the *Sparrowhawk*

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/is-this-new-englands-oldest-known-english-shipwreck-sparrow-hawk-180979880/>

Update on Savannah River cannon

<https://phys.org/news/2022-04-revolutionary-cannons-river-sunk.html>

Intriguing story with a Lyle gun involvement – and picture of the gun

<https://coastalreview.org/2022/04/public-to-soon-see-hatteras-museums-long-stored-artifacts/>

HMS *Jason* mined in 1917 found off Coll

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/weird-news/lost-shipwreck-finally-found-after-26809034>

Museum ship sinks at the pier

<https://gcaptain.com/historic-wwii-destroyer-uss-the-sullivans-sinks-at-pier/>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Funding for Fort Ticonderoga

<https://www.adirondackalmanack.com/2022/04/fort-ticonderoga-receives-500000-in-federal-funding-opens-may-7-for-2022-season.html>

Italy's cultural blue helmets to work with UNESCO

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/04/25/italys-monuments-men-sign-deal-with-unesco-to-help-protect-worlds-heritage>

New museums

Het Loo re-opens after works

<https://artdaily.com/news/145611/Paleis-Het-Loo-reopens-to-the-public>

New gallery at Bletchley Park

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/04/29/from-cosy-to-creepy-new-displays-at-bletchley-park-muddle-britains-honourable-nazi-fighting-history-with-a-contested-present>

Museum developments

Helping autistic children on museum visits

<https://artdaily.com/news/145967/Combating-sensory-overload--How-zoos-and-museums-are-redefining-inclusion>

Inspiring museums

<https://artdaily.com/news/145962/V-A-unveils-new-film--Creativity--It-s-what-makes-us->

Museum musings

Tomahawk is going home

<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2022/4/12/peabody-repatriate-ponca-tomahawk/>

Cook's spears return to native peoples

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/captain-cook-stole-spears-finally-back-in-australia-180979902/>

Glasgow returning items to Nigeria

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/glasgow-benin-bronze-restitution-2099220>

Ukraine destroys monument to Russian friendship

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/04/27/ukraine-demolishes-kyiv-monument-symbolising-friendship-with-russia>

Conservation corner

More museums sending help to Ukraine

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/04/28/venice-museums-send-supplies-to-help-save-ukraines-art>

Objects – all Scottish today

Scottish fisherman pulls up ships flare gun from Edinburgh canal

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/people/rare-find-east-lothian-magnet-fisherman-hauls-ancient-flare-gun-from-edinburgh-canal-3658059>

Story of a Scottish sword

<https://www.socantscot.org/research-project/swords-with-stories/>

Exhibitions

Kabuki prints at Port Sunlight

<https://museumcrush.org/kunichika-and-the-colourful-world-japanese-kabuki-prints/>

Books

Dierk Hagedorn, Daniel Jaquet: ***Dürer's Fight Book; The Genius of the German Renaissance and His Combat Treatise***

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Drers-Fight-Book-Hardback/p/21206>

Ian Brown: ***Radar in Scotland 1938–46***

<https://www.socantscot.org/publications/now-published-radar-in-scotland-1938-46/>

NAS has set up a page to sell books and its publications

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/usr/nautarchsoc>

Online Book

Gordon J Barclay & Ron Morris: *The Fortification of the Firth of Forth 1880–1977: 'The most powerful naval fortress in the British Empire'*

<http://books.socantscot.org/digital-books/catalog/book/7>

Popular culture

Dressing the Vikings

https://www.focusfeatures.com/article/interview_costume-designer_linda-muir

Article on *The Man who shot Liberty Valance*

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2022/apr/22/the-man-who-shot-liberty-valance-great-american-western>

Events

Diary Dates

8 May 2020 Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth
Experimental archaeology on ancient longbows

<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/Event/mary-rose-longbow-day>

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 700th anniversary
conference, Armourers Hall, London

<https://zfrmz.eu/NTJUW56JEuJHLD5u27uL>

Sales, fairs and auctions

2-10 May 2022, London
The Samurai: Japanese Arms and Armour

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/digital-catalogues/the-samurai-japanese-arms-and-armour-2?locale=en>

16th to 20th May 2022 Munich
Arms and armour

<https://www.hermann-historica.de/en/auctions>

17-18 May 2022 Morphy's
Militaria and arms

<https://artdaily.com/news/145918/Military-history-comes-to-life-at-Morphy-s-May-17-18-auction-of-Early-Arms--Militaria--and-Extraordinary-Firearms>

25 May 2022, London
Antique Arms and Armour

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/27764/antique-arms-and-armour/>

26 May 2022, London
Sporting Guns, Rifles and Vintage Firearms

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/27765/sporting-guns-rifles-and-vintage-firearms/>

Websites and downloads

Museum websites

<http://www.klingenmuseum.de/deutsch/dkm/homepage.html>

<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

<https://chesterbeatty.ie/>

<http://www.getty.edu/museum/>

1066 etc Mercenaries, Da Vinci, & castle builders

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/04/the-costs-of-war-siena-and-john-hawkwood/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/04/leonardo-da-vinci-military-engineer/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/04/five-gamechangers-in-english-castle-building/>

Finally

This fortnight I tweeted on St George's day

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 30 April 2022