

# The Basiliscope Mercury 393

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

This newsletter was delayed because of the Armourers 700 conference. So this week, ceramic grenades, mass graves and dead kings, forts in Asia and the Tsar's cannon goes AWOL.

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Ancient arms

Feature on the recently discovered Mycenaean swords

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/10/13/mycenaean-bronze-swords-greece/>

Feature on mercenaries in the classical world

<https://artdaily.com/news/150531/Paid-to-fight--even-in-ancient-Greece#.Yz6HQtjMKUk>

Trojan War in mosaic

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-63240648>

Searching for the lost Viking camp

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-tyne-63192191>

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

Update on the hunting traps recognized in the Middle East

<https://the-past.com/news/hundreds-of-prehistoric-hunting-traps-identified-across-the-arabian-desert/>

#### Grave stories

Investigating mass grave from battle of Himera

<https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2022/10/legendary-battle-of-himera-was-triumph-of-greek-heroism-kind-of/>

Investigating a prehistoric mass grave in Slovakia

<https://www.livescience.com/neolithic-mass-grave-slovakia>

Investigating the tomb of Poland's King Władysław the Elbow-High

<https://notesfrompoland.com/2022/10/04/polands-elbow-high-king-was-taller-than-believed-finds-camera-probe-of-tomb/>

## **Through the arrow-slit . . .**

Work at Karak castle

<https://www.jordannews.jo/Section-109/News/Karak-Castle-retrieves-6-000-artifacts-22732>

Restored Irish tower house up for sale

<https://artdaily.com/news/150879/An-Irish-castle-to-call-your-own#.Y1D9iNfMKUk>

Investigating the destruction of Bedrule Castle on the Scottish borders

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-63146219>

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

Feature on Goa's forts

<https://www.travelandleisureindia.in/places/local/these-forts-in-go-a-are-remnants-of-a-historical-past/>

Dutch fort at Matara

<https://www.sundayobserver.lk/2022/10/09/features/dutch-colonial-architecture-matara>

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

Cannon Hanuker in Dholpur – video

<https://hindi.news18.com/news/rajasthan/dholpur-historical-cannon-with-eyes-nose-and-mouth-in-dholpur-king-kirat-singh-nodaa-4701499.html>

How the Tsar's Cannon went on a (propaganda) war and became a meme

<https://www.newsweek.com/fact-check-did-russia-send-xvi-century-tsar-cannon-ukraine-front-1748491>

Wrought-iron swivel gun found in river

<https://eng.bharattimes.co.in/fishermen-stumble-upon-ahom-kings-17th-century-cannon-in-river-in-assams-jorhat-district-guwahati-news-times-of-india/>

New carriage for Fremantle's gun

<https://www.fremantle.wa.gov.au/news-and-media/new-carriage-round-house-cannon>

## **Miscellany**

Feature on excavated ceramic grenades from Jerusalem

<https://discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/medieval-hand-grenade-reveals-ancient-explosive-technology>

Trebuchet for sale

<https://leamingtonobserver.co.uk/news/warwick-castles-trebuchet-goes-up-for-sale-41600/>

Short feature on Tipu's armoury in Bengaluru

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/bangalore/know-your-city-bengaluru-landmark-rocketry-experiment-8184337/>

## **Princesses and Amazons**

Tudor queens and portraits

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/why-art-was-such-a-powerful-tool-for-englands-tudor-monarchs-180980909/>

Madam du Barry's apartments get a makeover

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/10/19/louis-xv-madame-du-barry-versailles-apartment-exhibition>

Empress Elizabeth gets her moment

<https://artdaily.com/news/150730/An-empress-ahead-of-her-time-is-having-a-pop-culture-moment#.Y0ZtHFLMKUk>

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

Future for Grey Point Fort in Northern Ireland planned

<https://www.northernirelandworld.com/news/environment/historic-grey-point-fort-in-helens-bay-is-to-have-trees-coppiced-every-five-years-to-clear-views-of-belfast-lough-3869066>

The Post Office's secret war

<https://museumcrush.org/the-dollis-hill-war-diary-the-post-offices-top-secret-war-effort/>

## **Nautical news**

Concerns for the fate of *Endurance*

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/07/endurance-will-decay-out-of-existence-unless-raised-from-sea-and-conserved>

How did a WW2 landing craft end up in a Californian lake?

<https://artdaily.com/news/150856/How-did-a-World-War-II--ghost-boat--end-up-in-a-shallow-lake-in-California-#.Y1D-MdfMKUk>

## Museum news and exhibitions

### News

British national museums face bleak winter

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/10/05/a-dark-winter-looms-for-british-museums-as-covid-energy-costs-fewer-visitors-and-an-elusive-workforce-continue-to-hit-revenue>

Minneapolis planning big Botticelli exhibition

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/10/13/botticelli-masterworks-uffizi-minneapolis-exhibition>

10 best Viking museums in Europe

<https://www.historyhit.com/guides/the-best-viking-museums-in-europe/>

### Museum developments

Online museum of the Spanish Civil War

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/10/virtual-spanish-civil-war-museum-aims-to-cut-through-political-divide>

Researching medieval sculptures

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/secrets-medieval-nanotechnology/>

### Museum musings

Update on the damage to Ukraine's cultural buildings

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/10/11/kyiv-cultural-sites-reportedly-damaged-in-russian-bombardment>

Museums and slavery

<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/10/14/arts/smithsonian-museum-slavery-history.html>

### Exhibitions

Executions in London

[https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/11/londons-execution-economy-grisly-exhibition-charts-5000-public-deaths?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/11/londons-execution-economy-grisly-exhibition-charts-5000-public-deaths?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

Tudors in NY

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/10/03/a-glorious-show-of-tudor-royal-splendour-to-open-at-new-yorks-metropolitan-museum-of-art>

### Books

Alexzandra Hildred: *Mary Rose*

<https://museumshops.uk/product/mary-rose-coffee-table-book/>

Leroy Thompson: ***Soviet Pistols***

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

William Suttie: ***Chobham Armour***

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

## Online book

National Trust Research magazine online – includes tiger hunts, Churchill's Dunkirk and knights in tapestry

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/art-and-collections-publications>

## Popular culture

Armour and gaming

<https://www.polygon.com/23391859/video-game-medieval-armor>

History and gaming

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/09/23/playing-with-history-how-heritage-and-archaeology-are-transforming-video-games>

## Events

### Sales, fairs and auctions

22-28 October 2022 Munich

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

26 October 2022 New York

Arts of the Samurai

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/27616/arts-of-the-samurai/>

<https://artdaily.com/news/150916/The-Arts-of-the-Samurai-comes-to-Bonhams-New-York#.Y1D8wNfMKUk>

Preview of Bonham's November arms and armour sale

<https://artdaily.com/news/150956/Outstanding-Chris-Wynn-collection-of-early-Purdeys-offered-at-Bonhams#.Y1D8BtfMKUk>

7 December 2022 London

Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/auctions-valuations/auction-calendar/>

## **Websites and downloads**

Armourers and Brasiers podcast - first one out – the 14<sup>th</sup> century

<https://www.armourershall.co.uk/tours/podcasts>

1066 etc: Hastings, Templars & Castles

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/arrow-king-harold-eye/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/fall-templars-military-order/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/top-15-most-instagrammable-castle-in-europe/>

Basiliscoe on twitter

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 20 October 2022**