

The Basiliscoe Mercury 394

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

It's the Hallowe'en themed Bazzy, so a particularly exciting story is the discovery of the sword gripped in the dead hand of a Portuguese king. Otherwise other swords in other graves, the discovery of Vasa's sister ship and Brussels' new arms and armour displays

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Investigating Neolithic blades

<https://www.eurekalert.org/news-releases/968202>

Feature on a Greek helmet found in Israel some years ago

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/10/18/ancient-greek-helmet-found-israel/>

Illustrated feature of a Roman armoured statue found in Amphipolis

<https://greekreporter.com/2022/10/22/ancient-greek-statue-uneearthed-amhipolis/>

1000 year old gold sword pommel found near Stirling

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/metal-detectorists-find-of-lifetime-as-rare-700ad-gold-sword-pommel-uncovered-3890476>

Straight into the Hallowe'en theme - archaeologists find two swords thrust into graves...

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/10/archaeologists-uneearth-two-viking-age-swords-in-burial-ground/145069>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Horses and prehistory

<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.aar7711>

Feature on Tutankhamen's chariots

<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/4/120065/Tutankhamun%E2%80%99s-tomb-contained-6-chariots-when-discovered-in-1922>

Grave stories

The discovery of the Portuguese king and his sword – quite something!

https://www.rtp.pt/noticias/cultura/espada-de-d-dinis-retirada-do-tumulo_v1442084

<https://observador.pt/2022/10/26/espada-de-d-dinis-foi-retirada-do-tumulo-para-ser-estudada-e-restaurada-e-uma-das-raras-espadas-regias-encontradas-in-situ-na-europa/>

Potemkin's bones removed from Ukraine?

<https://edition.cnn.com/2022/10/28/europe/potemkin-remains-removed-kherson-ukraine-russia-intl/index.html>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Islamic glass found in Scottish Castle

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/10/researchers-look-to-unravel-story-of-islamic-glass-found-in-scottish-castle/145025>

Whorlton Castle in North Yorkshire at risk from vandals

<https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/local-news/historic-yorkshire-castle-medieval-village-25382229>

What they found at Richmond castle

<https://www.darlingtonandstocktontimes.co.uk/news/23082818.amazing-finds-uneared-richmond-castle-archaeological-dig/>

Feature on the old fortress of Corfu

<https://www.archaeology.wiki/blog/2022/10/25/corfu-the-old-fortress-and-its-secrets/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right (this week, they are all lost...)

York's lost cannon

<https://www.yorkpress.co.uk/news/23086004.cannons-bank-river-ouse-york/>

Chattanooga's lost cannon

<https://www.chattanooga.com/2022/10/27/441892/Visitors-To-Boynton-Park-On-Cameron.aspx>

The lost twin of Zamzam

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2383915/the-mighty-zamzama-and-its-lost-twin?fbclid=IwAR3z70RvDU0sgeN8E91bKAK6Os94YutZ6EUTEBEfVQWha2ffpzlmt7U4u4o>

Miscellany

Diwali's firecrackers

<https://www.dailyo.in/lifestyle/scared-elephants-royal-paintings-and-sivakasi-factories-the-pre-and-post-diwali-history-of-firecrackers-in-india-37668>

Ranikot Fort, Sindh, damaged in recent floods

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2382702/floods-have-damaged-great-wall-of-sindh>

Drones looking for medieval battlefield

<https://www.hurriyetaidailynews.com/drones-used-to-detect-exact-site-of-battle-of-manzikert-177785>

Living in the past

Sword making in the 21st century

<https://www.countrylife.co.uk/luxury/gentleman/the-21st-century-sword-maker-theres-something-appealing-about-getting-metal-hot-and-smacking-it-with-a-hammer-249236>

Café Basiliscope

Beaker of Neolithic milk

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2022/october/milk-use-in-prehistoric-europe.html>

or Mayan hot chocolate

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/ancient-residues-tell-us-chocolate-wasnt-just-for-the-elite-maya>

with Viking Herring

<https://phys.org/news/2022-10-ancient-dna-herring-viking-age.html>

Nautical news

What a 15th century merchant ship was carrying

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/medieval-shipwrecks-cargo-revealed-by-researchers/>

Vasa's sister ship found

<https://divernet.com/scuba-news/divers-id-wreck-as-vasa-sister-ship-applet/>
<https://maritime-executive.com/article/sweden-finds-17th-century-warship-sister-to-the-famed-vasa>

Artefacts from HMS *Invincible* gifted to Royal Navy Museum, Portsmouth

<https://www.forces.net/heritage/naval-history/artefacts-rescued-hms-Invincible-shipwreck-gifted-royal-navy-museum>

What a Spanish shipwreck reveals about the slave trade - carronades...

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/what-a-spanish-shipwreck-reveals-about-the-final-years-of-the-slave-trade-180980938/>

What WWII wrecks are doing to the North Sea - spoiler alert - it's not good....
<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/discover/news/2022/october/world-war-shipwrecks-leaking-pollutants-into-worlds-oceans.html>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Museums having to cope with new security problems
<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2022/10/van-gogh-tomato-soup-national-gallery-london/671764/>

Museums in Cartagena
<https://nomadlawyer.org/8-best-places-to-visit-in-cartagena-spain/>

New museums

New galleries at Brussels
<https://klm-mra.be/en>

Chicago's Field Museum's Philippine collections
<https://www.chicagotribune.com/entertainment/museums/ct-ent-filipino-american-history-month-field-museum-20221025-76xamuug6ncezm6kqla2n3zbgge-story.html>

Museum developments

Drones looking for medieval battlefield
<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/drones-used-to-detect-exact-site-of-battle-of-manzikert-177785>

Museum musings

Ancient Assyrian war carvings damaged in war
<https://www.livescience.com/mashki-gate-assyrian-stone-carvings-iraq>

Objects

New acquisitions for the Musee de Cluny
<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/medieval-artworks-musee-de-cluny/>

Cache of WWI weapons found near Jaffa
<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-720675>

Exhibitions

Mythology of Alexander the Great in London
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/oct/20/new-exhibition-to-explore-the-mythology-of-alexander-the-great-british-library>

Witchcraft in Colchester

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-63432104>

Sofonisba Anguissola in Copenhagen

<https://www.nivaagaard.dk/en/dansk-sofonisba-historiens-glemte-mirakel/>

Books

Trevor Rowley: ***Landscapes of the Norman Conquest***

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Landscapes-of-the-Norman-Conquest-Hardback/p/21702>

Publications relating to maritime affairs from Amsterdam

<https://www.aup.nl/en/series/maritime-humanities-1400-1800>

Includes Sara Rich: ***Shipwreck Hauntography; Underwater Ruins and the Uncanny***

<https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789463727709/shipwreck-hauntography>)

Popular culture

All Quiet on the Western Front

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Quiet_on_the_Western_Front_\(2022_film\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Quiet_on_the_Western_Front_(2022_film))

Discussion of ***Rings of Power***

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/whats-good-about-the-rings-of-power-season-1/>

Charles Dickens and the supernatural

<https://museumcrush.org/the-haunted-man-charles-dickens-performance-and-the-supernatural/>

Events

Sales Fairs and auctions

9 November 2022 London

The Chris Wynn Collection of early Purdeys

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/28178/the-chris-wynn-collection-of-early-purdeys/>

10 November 2022 London

Antique Arms and Armour

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/27783/antique-arms-and-armor/>

10 November 2022 London

Sporting Guns, Rifles and Vintage Firearms

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/27784/sporting-guns-rifles-and-vintage-firearms/>

14 November 2022 Denmark
Henrik Vensild's collection of arms and armour, part 1
<https://bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/auctions/1007404>

7 December 2022 London
Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria
<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/auctions-valuations/auction-calendar/>

Websites and downloads

1066 etc: landscapes of defence, Norman cavalry & How to be a knight
<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/landscapes-of-defence-in-early-medieval-england/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/invincibility-norman-cavalry-charge/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/how-to-be-a-knight/>

Focus on Hallowe'en

Ghosts in the Tower of London
<https://www.london-walking-tours.co.uk/free-tours/tower-of-london-ghosts.htm>

Four Gothic authors
<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/10/haunted-space-four-gothic-authors-for-all-hallows-eve/>

Horace Walpole and the Castle of Otranto
<https://www.theneweuropean.co.uk/the-dilettante-father-of-gothic-horror/>

Ghost stories of an antiquary by MR James
<https://archive.org/details/ghoststoriesana00jamegoog>

Demonic possession in New France
<https://theconversation.com/a-tale-of-demonic-possession-and-exorcism-in-17th-century-new-france-can-we-know-what-really-happened-191331>

Vampires in Connecticut
<https://patch.com/connecticut/madison-ct/some-colonial-farmers-believed-vampires-state-archaeologist-explains>

Haunted Welsh castles
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-63404537>

Spooky stories from Scottish castles
<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/scary-tales-from-our-properties>

Celebrating a Scottish Hallowe'en

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/scary-tales-from-our-properties>

For those who prefer their grave stories be less frightening

<https://grave-stories.com/>

On Twitter

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 31 October 2022