

The Basiliscoe Mercury 395

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Getting near Christmas, so a round-up of recent medieval armour and weapons related books in case you are looking for presents. Otherwise Viking weapons, the face of a victim from the battle of Visby and the search for a Turkish gun in New Zealand.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms and forts

Piece about Tutankhamen's dagger

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/11/the-mystery-of-tutankhamuns-meteoric-iron-dagger/145104>

Remembering Roman helmets found in the 1950s in Serbia

<https://www.telegraf.rs/english/3578331-elderly-farmer-found-valuable-roman-objects-in-serbian-corn-field>

Roman watchtower found in Morocco

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-unearth-first-of-its-kind-roman-watchtower-in-morocco-180981066/>

Update on the two Viking swords

<https://www.livescience.com/two-vikings-swords-buried-upright-sweden>

And a piece on the Viking axe

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/viking-axe/>

Roman watchtower found in Morocco

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-unearth-first-of-its-kind-roman-watchtower-in-morocco-180981066/>

Grave stories

Update on Otzi

<https://sciencenorway.no/archaeology-stone-age/new-research-on-5300-year-old-otzi-suggests-there-could-be-more-ice-mummies-out-there/2105033>

Recreating the death wound of a Visby victim

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/visby-warrior-0017482>

Mass grave from US's Battle of Camden 1780

https://www.postandcourier.com/militarydigest/americas-first-veterans-archaeological-dig-at-camden-battlefield-turns-up-human-remains/article_17a09dc8-5f98-11ed-9c65-ab4e2774c010.html

Canadian WWI soldier's remains identified

<https://legionmagazine.com/en/remember-me-soldiers-remains-identified-106-years-after-battle/>

On the frontlines

Siege of Dryslwyn Castle, 1287

<https://www.southwalesguardian.co.uk/news/23118330.dryslwyn-castles-short-history-1287-siege/>

Feature on the Battle of Brunkeberg 1471

<https://the-past.com/feature/the-fight-for-sweden-the-battle-of-brunkeberg-10-october-1471/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Looking for a new use for Tonbridge Castle, Kent

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/malling/news/public-vote-for-castle-to-become-a-cafe-bar-276511/>

Citizens of Sheffield want to see their old castle

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/business/castlegate-this-is-what-sheffielders-want-done-with-archaeological-treasures-from-medieval-castle-3913659>

Feature on Buckden Towers

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/history/historic-cambridgeshire-palace-henry-viii-25456394>

Crathes Castle ceiling paintings successfully completed

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/crathes-painted-ceilings-project-successfully-completed>

Feature on Daulatabad fort

<https://voices.shortpedia.com/narmada/daulatabad-fort-aurangabad-blog/>

Princesses and Amazons

Mary Queen of Scot's prison diet

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2022/nov/05/mary-queen-of-scots-jailed-monarch-papers-british-library>

Astonishing 17th century dress, recovered from shipwreck in the Texel on display

<https://artdaily.com/news/151711/Museum-Kaap-Skil-unveils-17th-century-wedding-dress-from-the-world-famous-Texel-shipwreck#.Y3NQaMfP2Uk>

Café Basiliscoe

Swan on the menu...

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/new-medieval-books-from-swans-to-saxons/>

Miscellany

Spanish bullets recovered from Mayan site

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/excavation-mayan-culture-human-burial-grounds-bullets-ceramics-tayasal-guatemala/>

Nelson's letters go on view

<https://the-past.com/news/collection-of-nelsons-unseen-letters-goes-on-display-for-first-time/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Feature on American gunfounder Henry Foxall

<https://hiddencityphila.org/2022/11/arming-america-and-the-firepower-of-henry-foxall/>

Cannon bollards at London Bridge dug up.

<https://www.mylondon.news/news/nostalgia/incredible-pictures-show-london-bollards-25391479>

Restoring Neponset's Civil War cannon

<https://eu.starcourier.com/story/news/2022/11/04/building-the-perfect-cannon-neponset-finishes-civil-war-restoration/69616383007/>

New Zealand - hunt for lost Ottoman cannon

<https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/130264461/the-hunt-for-an-extremely-rare-war-trophy-buried-somewhere-in-dunedin>

Another student community loves painting their (replica) cannon

<https://tuftsdaily.com/features/2022/11/14/the-tufts-cannon-a-long-standing-tradition-of-student-activism/>

Living in the past

London Lord Mayor's show to celebrate the Armourers and Brasiers 700

<https://www.facebook.com/HistoricEquitation/posts/pfbid02zc1CSntSyAtBL3ozFKPSyNnqpCkbc6niNuv2SoBGD5xTRwS3M2jezaoyfWqJXSVpl>

Museum news and exhibitions

New Museums

New galleries in Egypt's Royal Chariot Museum

<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/4/120272/Two-permanent-exhibition-halls-open-in-Royal-Chariots-Museum>

New displays at Churchill War Rooms, London

<https://museumcrush.org/transforming-historic-spaces-revealing-personal-stories-at-churchill-war-rooms/>

Museum developments

Digitalizing the Benin artefacts

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/10/digital-benin-reunites-thousands-of-objects-scattered-after-british-looting>

Digitalizing a medieval illustrated roll

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-63472049>

Conservation corner

Getty setting aside funds for Ukraine cultural conservation

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/11/10/getty-trust-alph-1m-ukraine-cultural-heritage-protection>

Objects

Huntingdon acquire Vigée Le Brun portrait of French aristocrat with sword

<https://artdaily.com/news/151356/Huntington-acquires-major-work-by-female-18th-century-master#.Y2Y5GxbP2Uk>

Collecting Japanese swords

<https://www.luxurylifestylemag.co.uk/the-best-of-the-rest/why-samurai-swords-have-become-collectors-items-and-savvy-investments-amongst-the-super-rich/>

Exhibitions

Treason at Kew

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/treason/>

Exhibitions at the Met

<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions>

A year of Wren announced

<https://artdaily.com/news/151401/Year-long-Wren300-celebration-announced#.Y2TN9xbP2Uk>

Books

M.C. Bishop: **Roman Plate Armour**

<https://ospreypublishing.com/uk/roman-plate-armour-9781472851871/>

Tobias Capwell: **Armour of the English Knight: Continental Armour in England 1435-1500**

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/about-us/publications/armour-of-the-english-knight-continental-armour-in-england-1435-1500-by-tobias-capwell/>

C. B. Newham: **Country Church Monuments**

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/321490/country-church-monuments-by-newham-c-b/9780241488331>

Edited by Anne Curry and Susan Jenkins: **The Funeral Achievements of Henry V at Westminster Abbey; The Arms and Armour of Death**

<https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781783277179/the-funeral-achievements-of-henry-v-at-westminster-abbey/>

Timothy Clack and Mark Dunkley (eds): **Cultural Heritage in Modern Conflict: Past, Propaganda, Parade**

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/11/01/western-cultural-arrogance-on-parade>

Popular culture

David Blackmore's second volume is out: **Secret Lines (Wellington's Dragoon Book 2)**

https://www.amazon.co.uk/gp/product/B0BL1FW1J4/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_hsch_vapi_tkin_p1_i0

SAS: Rogue Heroes has rather divided the audience - some love it, others loath it...

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/SAS:_Rogue_Heroes

Events

27 November – Guildhall Art gallery London - Bollard walk

<https://guildhall-art-gallery.myshopify.com/products/bollardology-tour-for-museum-shop-sunday>

Sales Fairs and auctions

7 December 2022 London Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria

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

Websites and downloads

Thursday Tidings for naval types

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Thursday-Tidings.html?soid=1102959880889&aid=U0kA0WyWkdE>

Arms and Armor Dept at the Met are still producing fascinating despatches on their current researches - subscribe here

<https://www.instagram.com/metarmsandarmor/> <https://metmuseum.us19.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=a84329d90ebce21b14f4a0c23&id=1891b1f9ee>

1066 etc: crusaders, prisoners of war

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/true-crusader-crime-the-murder-of-the-bishop-of-acre/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/prisoners-of-war-and-english-kings/>

Finally

On Twitter - still...

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 16 November 2022