

The Basiliscae Mercury 396

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

A surprising number of stories relating to edged weapons this week - axes, spears, harpoons and swords - from a variety of dates and locations. Not to mention armour from Vienna and Kiribati. And everyone wants a new trebuchet for Christmas.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Fish harpoons in the Congo, 90,000 years ago

<https://face2faceafrica.com/article/90000-years-ago-africans-in-congo-were-undertaking-fishing-expeditions-to-catch-giant-fishes>

Piece on the golden helmet of Coțofenești

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/artifacts-other-artifacts/helmet-cotofenesti-0017556>

What they found when excavating the Castle of the Assassins

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/11/astrolabe-tile-fragments-found-in-assassins-castle/145310>

Medieval weapons

War axes found in Danish collections

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/unique-danish-axe-weapon/>

Stirrups

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/stirrup-thesis/>

Lance

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/lance/>

Thorough, well-illustrated, piece on armour in the Vienna collections

<https://www.historynet.com/what-made-a-good-suit-of-medieval-armor/#>

War axes found in Danish collections

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/unique-danish-axe-weapon/>

Warwick castle building a new trebuchet

<https://www.stratford-herald.com/news/trebuchet-to-be-rebuilt-9285712/>

Denmark's Medieval Centre is fund-raising for their new trebuchet

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/medieval-trebuchet#/>

Miscellany

Cracking Charles V's code

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-63757443>

17th century sword found in Kalmar, Sweden

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/11/archaeologists-uneearth-rare-sword-from-time-of-the-kalmar-war/145348>

Mass grave from Napoleon-era Prague found

<https://english.radio.cz/mass-graves-being-uncovered-archaeologists-pragues-karlin-8767191>

Feature on the coconut armour of Kiribati

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-ancient-traditions/kiribati-armor-0017548>

Whitechapel bell foundry – efforts to preserve

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/11/17/historic-london-bell-foundry-could-be-saved-from-hotel-development>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Medieval gunpowder and its origins

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/origins-gunpowder-age/>

Feature on Canada's arctic Prince of Wales fort

<https://www.thetravel.com/how-to-get-to-canadas-sub-arctic-prince-of-wales-fort/>

Two cannon left behind at the demolition of Carnac Bridge

<https://www.tv9marathi.com/maharashtra/mumbai/british-era-1868-old-carnac-bridges-removed-but-ignored-the-ancient-cannons-near-the-masjit-station-au17-832471.html>

Citizens still searching for their lost 1812 cannon, stolen in 1980

<https://eu.northjersey.com/story/news/bergen/river-edge/2022/11/21/hackensack-river-nj-stolen-cannon-old-bergen-1812/69634077007/>

Café Basiliscoe

Cooking tips and receipts for Neanderthals

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/nov/26/surprisingly-tasty-putting-neanderthal-cooking-to-the-test-recipe>

Did you want that meal heated?

<https://phys.org/news/2022-11-oldest-evidence-cook-food.html>

If you are still peckish, perhaps some nibbles from the Colosseum...

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-63746307>

With a glass of vino Georgia...

<https://www.archaeology.org/news/10998-221123-georgia-roman-wine>

Into the modern world

Anti-aircraft guns get a new target

<https://www.businessinsider.com/old-anti-aircraft-guns-used-against-missiles-drones-in-ukraine-2022-11?r=US&IR=T>

Mining for sulphur in Israel

<https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/article-723433>

Nautical news

William the Conqueror's boat to be rebuilt

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/25/french-team-build-replica-william-conqueror-warship>

What's at the bottom of the Norwegian lake

<https://sciencenorway.no/archaeology-medieval-history-ships/shipwreck-discovered-at-the-bottom-of-norways-largest-lake-possibly-700-years-old/2110769>

17th century Dutch wired-together musket balls recovered from Australian beach - wonderful picture

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-11-15/gilt-dragon-shipwreck-mystery-develops-with-bolo-balls-found/101598608>

Project recoding slave-ships off Senegal

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2022/11/17/slave-ship-wrecks-smithsonian-senegal/>

Reconstructing WW2 wrecks in 3d in Australian waters

<https://phys.org/news/2022-11-wreckage-famous-warships-explored-3d.html>

Man arrested in Cyprus for stealing cannon - lots of different pictures of the guns

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2022/11/15/man-arrested-for-possession-of-two-antique-cannons/> <https://www.financialmirror.com/2022/11/15/man-arrested-for-possessing-antique-cannons/>
<https://knews.kathimerini.com.cy/en/news/drug-squad-finds-ottoman-cannons-after-tip-off>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Nottingham Castle closes

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2022/nov/21/nottingham-castle-closes-its-doors-a-year-after-33m-revamp?CMP=fb_gu&utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook&fbclid=IwAR0cDAvizZvYqmiwhfXMdOnz1Pg-s4G0EDY3eCQXNrKU6a566xhLajKJDmU#Echobox=1669057922
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/11/23/former-nottingham-castle-chief-executive-calls-for-independent-investigation-as-uk-heritage-site-closes-to-public>

Major break-in at Germany's Celtic and Roman Museum

<https://artdaily.com/news/152065/Thieves-steal-ancient-gold-coins-in-German-museum-heist>

Kherson's museums looted

<https://artdaily.com/news/152010/Kherson-s-museums-now-display-shattered-cases-and-missing-treasures#.Y38r6hTP2Uk>

New museums

Handel and Hendrix home to get major restoration

<https://artdaily.com/news/151932/Handel-s-home-to-be-fully-restored-and-shed-new-light-on-the-great-composer-and-his-neighbour--Jimi-Hendrix>

National Portrait Gallery gets extra major funding

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/11/25/londons-national-portrait-gallery-receives-10m-donation-from-leonard-blavatnik>

Museum of London closes to move to a new phase

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2022/nov/27/museum-of-london-plans-to-demolish-site-bastion-house-sheppard-robson-diller-scofidio-renfro-centre-for-music>

Short illustrated feature on the Hue Museum of Royal Antiquities, Vietnam

<https://e.vnexpress.net/photo/places/hue-museum-a-treasure-house-of-nguyen-dynasty-antiques-4538533.html>

Museum musings

Feature on how two Greek archaeologists are defending Middle Eastern cultural remains

<https://www.ekathimerini.com/in-depth/1198535/when-archaeologists-swap-trowels-for-guns/>

Welcome Museum decide to close one of its galleries

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/nov/27/wellcome-collection-in-london-shuts-racist-sexist-and-ableist-medical-history-gallery>

Conservation corner

Restoring medieval objects

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/medieval-artwork-restoration/>

Collections care at the National Trust for Scotland

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/the-work-of-our-collections-care-teams>

Objects

10 iconic objects from the Museum of London - includes a sword

<https://museumcrush.org/10-iconic-objects-from-the-museum-of-london-as-it-prepares-to-close-its-doors/>

Feature on Fort Ticonderoga's recent acquisitions

<https://www.wamc.org/news/2022-11-21/ft-ticonderoga-acquires-major-collection-as-it-prepares-for-250th-anniversary-of-american-revolution>

WW2 gun found in Scottish canal

<https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/environment/edinburgh-fisherman-discovers-rifle-from-second-world-war-in-union-canal-near-hermiston-village-3927495>

Exhibitions

German woodcuts in Bath

<https://museumcrush.org/durer-and-the-dawn-of-german-renaissance-woodcuts-at-the-holburne/>

Medieval manuscripts in Basle

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/medieval-manuscript-exhibition-comes-for-christmas-in-switzerland/>

Rembrandt self-portrait in The Hague

<https://artdaily.com/news/152125/Long-concealed-Rembrandt-back-in-The-Hague#.Y4XEbRTP2Uk>

Books

Edited by Alan Williams and Keith Downen: *Essays in honour of David Edge, former Head of Conservation and Armourer at the Wallace Collection.*

<https://wallacecollectionshop.org/collections/richard-iii/products/arms-and-armour-history-conservation-and-analysis>

Suzanne Higgott: ***Sir Richard Wallace: Connoisseur, Collector & Philanthropist***

<https://wallacecollectionshop.org/products/sir-richard-wallace-connoisseur-collector-philanthropist>

Books from French Museums

<https://www.boutiquesdemusees.fr/fr/cadeaux/4-librairie/1/>

Royal collection publications

<https://www.royalcollectionshop.co.uk/gifts/books.html>

Popular culture

Photographic exhibition Paris - Tanya Marcuse - Undergarments & Armor

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

Antony Beevor's view on ***SAS Rogue Heroes***

<https://www.theguardian.com/tv-and-radio/2022/nov/22/sas-rogue-heroes-antony-beevor-bbc-rebels-renegades-repressed-homosexuals-cross-dressing-spy>

Events

Sales, fairs and auctions

7 December 2022 London Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria

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

12 December 2022 Denmark

Kurt Bang Petersen's collection of arms and armour, part 1

<https://bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/auctions/1007405>

Websites and downloads

The latest Bow and Blade podcast

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/the-siege-of-jerusalem-1099/>

Armourers and Brasiers podcast – first two episodes for the 14th and 15th century available online

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

1066 and all that: Crusader murders and assassins

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/murder-crusading/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/true-crusader-crime-the-mysterious-lord-s/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/11/assassins-fact-fiction/>

Finally

Christmas ideas from around the world

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/>

<https://wallacecollectionshop.org/collections/richard-iii>

<https://www.boutiquesdemusees.fr/fr/>

<https://www.royalcollectionshop.co.uk/>

https://store.metmuseum.org/?mma_source=mainmuseum&mma_medium=metmuseum.org&mma_campaign=topnav+static&mma_term=100517&mma_content=topnav+static+shopall

I have enjoyed Graeme Callister's tweets on research into the service records of the infantrymen of Napoleon's 1st Division

<https://twitter.com/GraemeCallister>

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 30 November 2022