

The Basiliscoe Mercury 397

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Another year and another Christmas newsletter. Still interesting news pieces- lots relating to graves, arrowheads and sling shots, Shinto swordsmiths and Indian cannon. And the Christmas Bazy stocking. As usual only one Newsletter in December- we will be in 2023.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Neolithic axe site near Stirling

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2vqzvyj88yo>

Ancient Maccabean arrowheads found in Museum storebox

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/surprise-maccabean-era-arrowheads-discovered-while-cleaning-house-at-tower-of-david/>

Greek sling pellet found in Israel

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/2200-year-old-greek-sling-bullet-may-have-been-used-as-threat-to-jewish-soldiers/>

Studying an ancient depiction of a horseman

<https://english.elpais.com/culture/2022-12-15/study-sheds-light-on-mysterious-mounted-warrior-from-africa-who-fought-the-roman-legions.html>

Pieces of armour found in excavations of Romano-Gallic shrine

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/65865>

Tracing the lost legion at Teutoburg Forest

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/12/metallurgical-fingerprint-points-to-lost-roman-legion/145436>

Hunting round the world and through the ages

Oldest relief of humans and animals in Turkey

<https://www.dailysabah.com/life/history/oldest-scene-in-world-11000-year-old-wall-relief-near-gobeklitepe>

Remains of last known Tasmanian tiger found in a cupboard

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-63855426>

Grave stories

The death of Otzi- the mystery deepens....

<https://www.livescience.com/otzi-iceman-death-revisited>

Another bog body found in Denmark

<https://cphpost.dk/?p=141070>

Re-evaluating Scotland's richest Viking grave

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-63920517>

A medieval Jewish cemetery investigation

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/what-we-learned-from-a-medieval-jewish-cemetery-in-erfurt/>

The tombs uncovered in Notre Dame

<https://www.sciencealert.com/sawn-off-skull-found-in-mystery-notre-dame-coffin-hints-at-the-life-of-a-nobleman>

New research on the royal tombs at Westminster

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/lost-medieval-chapel-westminster-abbey/>

Mysterious skeleton found on Cornwall might be drowned sailor

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-63796516>

Update on the graves of the Hessian soldiers found in New Jersey

<https://www.udel.edu/udaily/2022/december/wade-catts-alumnus-archaeologist/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Harold Bluetooth's fortresses

<https://www.ancientpages.com/2022/12/12/great-viking-fortresses-built-by-king-harald-blues-tooth/>

Ivory chest with chivalric castle scenes

<https://www.greatyarmouthmercury.co.uk/news/national/23166089.rare-ivory-casket-adorned-medieval-romantic-scenes-risk-leaving-uk/>

Visiting south Wales' castles

<https://www.bradtguides.com/formidable-fortresses-the-best-castles-in-south-wales/>

What happened to Gloucester's castle?

<https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/secret-medieval-castle-hidden-underneath-7924650>

Halls for cosy Christmases

<https://theconversation.com/medieval-great-halls-were-at-the-heart-of-the-festive-season-here-the-community-kept-warm-by-staying-together-194482>

What happened to Gloucester's castle?

<https://www.gloucestershirelive.co.uk/news/gloucester-news/secret-medieval-castle-hidden-underneath-7924650>

Through the gunloop...

Update on access to Henry VIII's blockhouse in Hull

<https://www.hulldailymail.co.uk/news/hull-east-yorkshire-news/plans-new-visitor-centre-hulls-7884616>

Looking for uses for dilapidated forts

<https://artdaily.com/news/152452/A-long-road-to-find-new-uses-for-old-forts#.Y5WesJ7P2Uk>

Forts to visit near Mumbai- terrific forts and cannon

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/places/seaside-forts-like-kulaba-fort-murud-janjira-fort-revdanda-fort-and-korlai-fort-on-the-southern-suburbs-of-mumbai-maharashtra-you-should-visit/cid/1904243>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Manx cannon run over

<https://www.manxradio.com/news/isle-of-man-news/fine-for-man-who-embedded-car-into-douglas-roundabout/>

Spalding's Manby Mortar

<https://www.spaldingtoday.co.uk/news/the-manby-mortar-and-its-quite-remarkable-history-9288768/>

Cannons excavated at Kolkata

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/west-bengal/navy-discover-vintage-cannons-from-hooghly-river-bank-in-kolkata/cid/1901893>
<https://www.daijiworld.com/news/newsDisplay?newsID=1028477>

Cannon delivered to Indian fort

<https://www.lokmat.com/raigad/organizations-of-shiva-lovers-united-to-deliver-the-historic-cannon-to-dronagiri-fort-a309/>

Short article Historic USS Merrimack-CSS Virginia Cannon by John L. Morris at the end of this

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

Miscellany

Illustrated article on horse armour

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/artifacts-ancient-technology/horse-armor-0017583>

Remembering the Halifax explosion

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/12/the-halifax-explosion/145461>

Feature on Ronald Lauder's collection

https://news.artnet.com/art-world/ronald-lauder-neue-galerie-2219451?utm_content=from&utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12%2F4%20Sunday%20AM&utm_term=Daily%20Newsletter%20%5BALL%5D%20%5BMORNING%5D

Feature on sword for sale

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/knights-sword-horse-figurine/>

Japanese swordsmiths in Shinto ritual

https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/news/20221129_27/

The truth behind the death of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance kid

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/16/butch-cassidy-sundance-kid-argentina-chile-bolivia>

Living in the past

Long interview with Jason Kingsley

https://www.nme.com/en_au/features/gaming-features/boss-level-2022-jason-kingsley-rebellion-sniper-elite-5-3358658

How to wear 14th century armour

<https://www.openculture.com/2022/12/how-to-get-dressed-fight-in-14th-century-armor-a-reenactment.html>

Armour-making in Australia

<https://www.abc.net.au/melbourne/programs/evenings/armour-shoptalk/101782692>

On the Frontlines

Efforts to save a Civil War training camp for Black soldiers in Philadelphia

<https://eu.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2022/12/15/la-mott-philadelphia-community-center-black-history-civil-war/10900574002/>

Latest sites for preservation include training grounds for trench warfare

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/dec/15/watermill-and-shipwrecks-among-heritage-sites-listed-in-england>

Australia: the story of Broome's lost machine gun

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-12-19/wwii-machine-gun-found-by-broome-teenagers-lost-again/101756412>

Princesses and Amazons

Women warriors of the middle ages

<https://www.history.co.uk/articles/female-medieval-military-leaders>

Japan's female samurai <https://daily.jstor.org/onna-bugeisha-female-samurai-warriors-feudal-japan/>

Marie Antoinette's guitar might be that Christmas gift for someone special
<https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/marie-antoinette-guitar-auction-france-intl-scli/index.html>

Nautical news

Investigating Antigua wrecks
<https://news.ecu.edu/2022/12/05/researching-hidden-shipwrecks/>

Searching for a lost 16th century Spanish ship in South Carolina
<https://coastalobserver.com/21st-century-technology-expands-search-for-16th-century-shipwreck/>

Two Isle of Wight shipwrecks given protection
<https://www.iwradio.co.uk/news/isle-of-wight-news/historic-england-names-two-isle-of-wight-shipwrecks-among-fascinating-heritage-sites-for-2022/>

Feature on the Salcombe cannon wreck
<https://www.totnes-today.co.uk/news/the-mysterious-treasures-that-lie-beneath-salcombe-582744>

Update on *HMS Gloucester* and next summer's exhibition at Norwich
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-63948562>
<https://www.edp24.co.uk/news/23187364.details-norwich-castles-gloucester-shipwreck-exhibition/>

British bronze cannon dated 1808 found off Carcavelos, Portugal
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/portuguese-lift-wellingtons-bronze-cannon-from-sea-bed-67bhfz2sv>

Search for *HMS Captain*, lost off Spain in 1870 <https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/missing-victorian-battleship-set-for-recovery-after-150-years/ar-AA15ojhB>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Funding help for smaller British museums
<https://artdaily.com/news/152588/Art-Fund-and-Garfield-Weston-announce-exhibitions-supported-by-Weston-Loan-Programme#.Y5mKsZ7P2Uk>

Good news- items from the Dresden heist have been recovered- no news yet on whether it includes the swords

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/17/german-police-recover-31-items-stolen-in-2019-dresden-jewel-heist>

New Museums

National Portrait Gallery to re-open in June 2023

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/12/15/londons-national-portrait-gallery-to-re-open-its-doors-next-june-after-three-year-closure>

Museum developments

Online treat: Cost of Revolution: The Life and Death of an Irish Soldier

<https://artdaily.com/news/152195/New-online-exhibit--Cost-of-Revolution--The-Life-and-Death-of-an-Irish-Soldier--now-available#.Y4hqYsvP2Uk>
<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/online-exhibits>

Museum Musings

Ukrainian museums and curators in the struggle to preserve their heritaged

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/dec/18/ukraine-museums-scythian-gold-russian-looters-putin>

Cambridge returning 116 Benin bronzes to Nigeria

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/dec/14/cambridge-university-to-return-over-100-looted-benin-bronzes-to-nigeria>

Conservation corner

Feature on conserving King Arthur tapestry

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/65898>

Exhibitions

16th century Swiss designs for stained glass in Munich

<https://artdaily.com/news/152325/The-Staatliche-Graphische-Sammlung-M-nchen-presents-Swiss-stained-glass-window-designs#.Y43HPsvP2Uk>

Michaelina Wautier, a 17th-century painter in Boston

<https://artdaily.com/news/151005/For-centuries--her-art-was-forgotten--or-credited-to-men--No-more-#.Y43F9svP2Uk>
<https://www.mfa.org/gallery/michaelina-wautier-and-the-five-senses>

Carpaccio in Washington

<https://artdaily.com/news/152527/Mysteries-of-a-Venetian-perfectionist-revealed-in-Washington#.Y5Wdzp7P2Uk>

Books

Herbert Schmidt & Rolf Fabricius Warming: *The Medieval and Renaissance Buckler*

<https://www.amazon.com/Medieval-Renaissance-Buckler-Herbert-Schmidt/dp/3951981776>

Harold Skaarup: ***Cannon in Canada, Province by Province series: Volume 9: Alberta, Saskatchewan, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Nunavut***

https://www.amazon.ca/Cannon-Canada-Province-Saskatchewan-Territories/dp/195738414X/ref=tmm_hrd_swatch_0?encoding=UTF8&qid=1671115881&sr=8-5&fbclid=IwAR2eUr_eLk29I9vJwCf-

Check out his other publications here: <https://www.silverhawkauthor.com/all-books>

Online Book

Catalogue des collections composant le Musée d'artillerie en 1889
(Paris)

<https://archive.org/details/cataloguedescol03robegoog/page/n12/mode/2up>

The Maritime Silk Road: Global Connectivities, Regional Nodes, Localities

<https://www.aup.nl/en/book/9789048552429/the-maritime-silk-road?fbclid=IwAR2LVP7DvwU48BsPQRBpSzVD8oGjqJnVZJ-4dL0uEDnwMCdVOantpxmByQ>

Finally The Bazy Christmas stocking

Dolls house furniture made by a traumatised soldier

<https://museumcrush.org/the-dolls-house-furniture-made-by-a-soldier-blighted-by-wwi/>

Some things to listen to: 700th anniversary of the Armourers and Brasiers Company of London- Podcast 3: The 16th Century - Growth and Diversification

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

Sleigh rides...

<https://regency-explorer.net/sleigh/>

...with Reindeers from Mongolia

<https://www.iflscience.com/hundreds-of-ancient-reindeer-stones-dot-mongolia-and-no-one-knows-why-66680>

Tips for decorating your ancient Scottish castle for Christmas

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/traditional-christmas-decorations-at-castle-fraser>

Christmas like it's 1499

<https://maryrose.org/blog/learning/the-learning-team/a-tudor-christmas/?fbclid=IwAR2BOuLqOwU2nKLNKFJDmLe9DLsJsAIQ1gAtWpFhuluoim8MXWhDa4mU5Lg>

And make your own Henry VIII

<https://maryrose.org/blog/arts-and-crafts/museum-blogger/make-your-own-henry-viii/>

We like a good mystery- Murder in Ancient Mesopotamia

<https://www.asor.org/anetoday/2022/12/mesopotamia-murder-mystery>

Or True Crusader crime

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/murder-below-stairs/>

Or the perennial "Who killed the princes in the Princes in the Tower?"

<https://www.bbc.com/reel/video/p0dphzjx/did-king-richard-iii-kill-his-nephews-to-gain-the-throne->

And who stole the snowy painting?

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/12/19/worcester-art-museum-heist-worcester-art-museum-henrick-avercamp>

Brodie castle for Christmas

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/12-days-of-a-brodie-castle-christmas>

Pull your chair up to the fire and we will read about the Yule Log

<https://www.livescience.com/what-is-yule-log>

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year! (just watch out for arrows)



This fortnight I tweeted an Advent Calendar of cannon

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 20 December 2022