

The Basiliscoe Mercury 398

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Yet another year, and our hopes for peace, love and understanding all repeated again. In the meantime, a good start with interesting Viking finds, a swathe of Chinese-related items and pondering what killed the Black Prince.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Decoding prehistoric cave paintings- exciting developments

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/jan/05/amateur-archaeologist-uncovers-ice-age-writing-system>

Ancient weapons from Idaho

https://www.insidehook.com/daily_brief/history/archaeologists-discover-ancient-projectiles-idaho

Shield among finds found in Viking grave at Olso

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/12/viking-age-grave-containing-remains-of-shield-uncovered/145628>

Update on research on the Staffordshire Hoard

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/research/understanding-the-staffordshire-hoard/>

Round the world - stopping off at China

Ancient Chinese coin swords

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/history-ancient-traditions/coin-swords-0017705>

Recreating ancient Chinese swords and their technology

<https://www.euronews.com/culture/2022/12/22/forged-from-fire-how-swords-shaped-china-and-europes-cultural-histories>

Building material from the Great Wall and what it tells us

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-022-27071-4>

Grave stories

Princely grave found in Rumania

<https://arkeonews.net/a-princely-tomb-discovered-in-the-infrastructure-project-of-the-a7-ploiesti-buzau-highway-in-romania/>

New thoughts on what killed the Black Prince

<https://phys.org/news/2022-12-chronic-dysentery-killer-edward-black.html>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Update on Gloucester castle

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2022/12/rediscovering-gloucesters-lost-castle/145559>

Race against time to save the Campbell documents at Inveraray castle

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/23215390.duke-argyll-bid-save-precious-scots-medieval-documents/>

Through the gunloop...

Recent work on Southsea Castle

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/news/people/southsea-castles-undiscovered-past-is-revealed-amid-excavation-for-flood-defences-3960182>

Uncovering some hidden military history of Plymouth

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/history/gallery/plymouths-lost-tramline-holds-wartime-7985886>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

3 iron cannon unearthed at Surat, India; the 500-year-old claim is optimistic

<https://ahmedabadmirror.com/metro-rail-excavation-unearths-over-500-year-old-field-cannons/81849157.html>

Comparing the fates of the Crimean trophies at Bridgnorth and Ludlow

<https://www.expressandstar.com/news/Features/2022/12/28/ludlow-war-trophy-which-survived-a-scrap-drive/>

Miscellany

Reviving medieval sword fighting

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20221124-the-lost-medieval-sword-fighting-tricks-no-one-can-decode>

Four paintings re-attributed to Artemisia Gentileschi

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/12/28/take-four-naples-exhibition-curators-attribute-a-new-quartet-of-works-to-artemisia-gentileschi>

Living in the past

In Suffolk

<https://www.ipswichstar.co.uk/news/23201258.meet-suffolk-swords-living-history-battle-group/>

Recreating ancient Greek armour

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/greek-blacksmith-ancient-armor>

Leading the middle ages in New Zealand is a risky business

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/society-for-creative-anachronism-rules-australia-new-zealand-branch-must-continue-to-choose-leadership-by-combat/>

Nautical news

Plan to rebuild Norman boat hits choppy waters

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2022/12/26/norman-conquest-boat-project-could-dead-water-eu-red-tape/>

Cannon raised from Bulgarian wreck

<https://sofiaglobe.com/2023/01/04/cannon-estimated-to-be-200-years-old-retrieved-from-bulgarias-black-sea/>

Feature on HMS *Unicorn* and fundraising

<https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/heritage/ps20m-bid-to-save-scotlands-oldest-ship-and-make-it-a-prime-attraction-3969316>

Update on work on HMS *Erebus*

<https://www.heraldonline.com/news/nation-world/world/article270506482.html>

Plymouth's contribution to preserving *Endurance*

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/news/preserving-endurance>

Round-up of interesting wrecks from WW1 and WW2

<https://www.livescience.com/world-war-i-ii-sunken-wrecks-photos>

Pondering an 80-year-old mystery – the fate of *USS Cythera*

<https://www.newsobserver.com/news/state/north-carolina/article257387572.html>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Bleak forecast for Britain's cultural institutions

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2022/dec/31/uk-castles-museums-theatres-close-energy-prices>

Five military museums in India

<https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/explore/story/72714/5-must-visit-military-museums-in-india>

Manx Museum is 100 years old

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-isle-of-man-64042109>

Charleston Museum is 250 years old

https://www.postandcourier.com/features/charleston-museums-250th-anniversary-exhibit-to-feature-the-odd-beautiful-and-ancient/article_03f844bc-861f-11ed-91df-a7c3918999f5.html

New museums

Searching behind locked doors in Bengal leads to new museum

<https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/biplab-ray-man-of-law-old-guns-mutinies-kolkata-museum-must-visit-2313658-2022-12-26>

Museum musings

Culture on the battlefield

<https://artdaily.com/news/153026/When-cultural-heritage-becomes-a-battlefront#.Y6v-V9XP2Uk>

Richmond's confederate legacy

<https://artdaily.com/news/153076/For-Richmond--a-compelling-new-chapter#.Y61Sw9XP2Uk>

British Museum rethinking the Marbles

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/jan/04/british-museum-in-talks-with-greece-over-return-of-parthenon-marbles>

Exhibitions

Ronald S. Lauder Collection on show in New York

<https://artdaily.com/news/153000/Neue-Galerie-showcases-rarely-seen-works-from-the-Ronald-S--Lauder-Collection#.Y6qbtXP2Uk>

Books

Michael G. Laramie: ***Gunboats, Muskets, and Torpedoes: Coastal South Carolina, 1861–1865***

<https://www.westholmepublishing.com/book/sc-gunboats-laramie/>

Steven J. Zaloga: ***Infantry Anti-aircraft Missiles: Man-Portable Air Defense Systems***

<https://ospreypublishing.com/uk/infantry-antiaircraft-missiles-9781472853431/>

Book Review: ***On Guns Of The Irish Revolution, 1913-1924***

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/review-kieran-mcmullen-s-books-on-guns-of-the-irish-revolution-1913-1924/>

New books on medieval topics

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/new-medieval-books-from-manuscripts-to-holy-lands/>

New art books

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2022/12/06/december-book-bag-from-the-tates-latest-series-delving-into-its-collection-to-a-colourful-biography-of-isabella-stewart-gardner>

French exhibition catalogues

<https://www.boutiquesdemusees.fr/fr/cadeaux/5-catalogues-exposition/1/>

Online Books

Reports from the Danish underwater archaeological unit

<https://www.vikingskibsmuseet.dk/fagligt/marinarkaeologi/marinarkaeologisk-e-rapporter>

Popular culture

Armour for your pet

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/science-and-technology/2022/12/meet-the-worlds-first-and-only-cat-and-mouse-armourer>

Events

Diary Dates

Arms and Armour Society events

https://thearmsandarmoursociety.org/?page_id=62

What's on in the Royal Armouries

<https://royalarmouries.org/>

What's on in Dublin

<https://www.museum.ie/en-IE/EventCalendar>

What's on in the Livrustkammaren

<https://livrustkammaren.se/en/home/exhibitions/>

What's on at the Australian War Memorial

<https://www.awm.gov.au/>

Sales, fairs and auctions

30 Jan - 3 Feb online auctions Jan. 30 - Feb. 3, 2023

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

Websites and downloads

Waffenmuseum, Suhl

<https://www.waffenmuseumsuhl.de/>

Arms and Armor Dept at the Met

<https://www.metmuseum.org/about-the-met/collection-areas/arms-and-armor>

1066 etc:

Fighting in mines,

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/fighting-mine-deed-of-arms/>

A lecture on researching armour

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/armour-and-the-knight-in-life-and-afterlife/>

And the latest in the True Crusader Crime series

<https://www.medievalists.net/2022/12/true-crusader-crime-what-bloody-man-is-that-murder-government-and-power/>

Finally

This fortnight I have enjoyed Medieval graffiti's thread on ship graffiti

<https://twitter.com/MedievalG/status/1609652743437783041>

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 6 January 2022