

# The Basiliscae Mercury 399

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

New theme - garden discoveries, from a Viking grave in Oslo to an iron cannon in Australia; otherwise a plethora of medieval book reviews, the exhibition calendar returning to normal and a weekend of sword-fighting in Leeds (and a book-sale, too).

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Ancient arms

Mass production of stone bladelets shows cultural shift in Palaeolithic Levant  
<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-mass-production-stone-bladelets-cultural.html>

Chicago's replica sword turns out to be real  
<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/66223>

Adapting leg armour for horse riding study  
<https://www.horsetalk.co.nz/2023/01/20/ancient-leg-armor-adaptations-horse-riding/>

Archaeology in WW2  
<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2023/01/soldiers-stumbled-upon-a-2400-year-old-tomb-on-the-battlefields-of-wwii>

Investigating the grave of a warrior prince in Romania  
<https://www.livescience.com/princely-tomb-hun-warrior-romania>

Viking burial with shield found in Oslo garden  
<https://www.livescience.com/viking-age-burial-discovered-oslo>

### Hunting round the world and through the ages

Mammoth hunting in Mexico - a seasonal occupation  
<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/01/mammoth-kill-site-was-a-seasonal-hunting-camp/145731>

What animals were hunted by early humans?  
<https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/which-animals-did-early-humans-mainly-hunt>

Prehistoric hunting camps in the Middle East  
<https://www.haaretz.com/archaeology/2023-01-12/ty-article/archaeologists-find-surprising-moment-in-the-life-of-prehistoric-hunters-in-israel/00000185-a110-ddab-adff-e71591cd0000>

## **Grave stories**

Interesting piece about Europe's bog bodies

<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-europe-famous-bog-bodies-tradition.html>

Mystery of the headless skeletons

<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-headless-skeletons-settlement-trench-year-old.html>

Fascinating piece on investigating fatal sword injuries on a medieval skeleton from Italy

<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-modern-tools-reveal-brutality-death.html>

## **Round the world**

World oldest rune-stone goes on show in Oslo

<https://www.historiskmuseum.no/english/exhibitions/worlds-oldest-rune-stone/>

Long history of repairing the Great Wall of China

<https://www.jpost.com/science/article-726479>

The Samurai and the Sphinx - 1864 photo rather than a new movie...

<https://www.iflscience.com/why-dozens-of-samurai-took-a-photo-in-front-of-egypt-s-sphinx-in-1864-67144>

Raisen Fort, Madhya Pradesh, India, with some truly odd cannon

<https://www.newspdayexpress.com/lifestyle/you-would-not-know-about-this-mysterious-fort-of-india-here-the-king-had-given-death-to-his-queen/>

## **Through the arrow-slit . . .**

Piece on recent work at Rochester Castle

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/medway/news/virtual-tour-of-secret-passage-unearthed-at-medieval-castle-280818/>

Update on the investigations at Sheffield Castle

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-64221478>

Bit more on British castles at risk from the sea

<https://www.theguardian.com/focus/2023/jan/14/washed-away-can-britains-crumbling-castles-be-saved-from-the-sea>

## **Through the gunloop...**

Remains of the Civil War found in archaeological dig of a medieval gatehouse

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/21/coleshill-towers-remains-history-english-civil-war>

Feature on Fishguard Fort

<https://www.westerntelegraph.co.uk/news/23230536.history-fishguard-fort-american-ransom/>

### **Cannons to the left, cannon to the right**

American scouts to restore Spanish-American war trophy in Roslyn

<https://patch.com/new-york/glencove/roslyn-boy-scouts-repair-historic-cannon-clock-tower-site-report>

Vancouver's 9 o'clock gun silenced due to lack of gunpowder

<https://www.vancouverisawesome.com/local-news/vancouver-9-oclock-gun-running-out-gunpowder-6328493>

You never know what will be uncovered in an Australian garden

<https://7news.com.au/news/qld/cannon-used-to-tell-time-in-rockhampton-in-1800s-dug-up-in-mans-backyard-c-9427291>

Cannon in Nandurbar excavated

<https://zeenews.india.com/marathi/maharashtra/historical-guns-found-during-excavations-in-nandurbar-district/681986>

Two Nawab of Dir-era artillery pieces moved back to Dir from Swat

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2396077/two-artillery-pieces-shifted-back-to-dir>

### **Café Basiliscope**

Gunpowder magazine into brewery

<https://www.bdonline.co.uk/news/pritchard-architecture-converts-naval-gunpowder-store-into-brewery-and-bar/5121194.article>

Ostrich omelette?

<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-ancient-ostrich-eggs-southern-israeli.html>

With spiced wine

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/01/medieval-recipes-spiced-french-wine/>

### **Into the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

Dutch archivists spark search for Nazi treasure...

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/jan/07/treasure-map-hunt-15million-nazi-hoard>

Identifying a Canadian from WWI

<https://www.villagereport.ca/national-news/dna-and-a-decade-of-work-identify-canadian-soldier-106-years-after-death-in-france-6386459>

Identifying a WW2 US pilot

<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-ohio-fighter-shot-wwii.html>

## **Nautical news**

Feature on the Newport ship

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-64151535>

Photographic essay of Baltic wrecks - very eerie!

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2023/jan/13/new-photography-techniques-reveal-the-baltics-erie-wrecks-in-pictures>

Who owns the wrecks?

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/10/almost-at-war-shipwreck-hunters-battle-it-out-for-sunken-treasure>

Spanish Armada maps not quite as contemporary as we would hope

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/01/10/conservation-of-spanish-armada-invasion-maps-reveals-red-ink-details-were-added-hundreds-of-years-later>

Forgotten conflict of the 1770s

<https://knox.villagesoup.com/2023/01/12/column-half-seas-over-the-defence-rests/>

Investigating the wreck of the slave ship *São José* lost off Capetown in December 1794

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/jan/08/a-search-for-ourselves-shipwreck-becomes-focus-of-slavery-debate>

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **News**

Dresden jewels and arms not going back on show at once

[https://artdaily.com/news/153629/Green-Vault-jewels-will-not-be-exhibited-until-court-case-ends---Free-State-of-Saxony-seeks-additional-civil-action#.Y8Zhz\\_7P2Uk](https://artdaily.com/news/153629/Green-Vault-jewels-will-not-be-exhibited-until-court-case-ends---Free-State-of-Saxony-seeks-additional-civil-action#.Y8Zhz_7P2Uk)

Stealing Ukrainian culture

<https://artdaily.com/news/153575/As-Russians-steal-Ukraine-s-art--they-attack-its-identity--too>

### **Objects**

Royal Armouries' wooden heads

<https://museumcrush.org/the-wooden-heads-of-the-english-kings/>

Getty buy collection of historic photographs of India and SE Asia

<https://artdaily.com/news/153820/Getty-Research-Institute-acquires-major-collection-of-Indian-and-South-Asian-photographs#.Y85GSkHP2Uk>

## Exhibitions

Georgian style in London

<https://www.rct.uk/whatson/event/1077944/Style-&-Society:-Dressing-the-Georgians>

WW2 paintings of soldiers in Oxfordshire

<https://museumcrush.org/a-personal-collection-of-world-war-two-artworks-revealed-at-soldiers-of-oxfordshire/>

Theodoor Rombout in Ghent

<https://artdaily.com/news/153768/Museum-of-Fine-Arts-Ghent-opens--the-very-first-monographic-exhibition-of-work-by-Theodoor-Rombouts#.Y8u-E0HP2Uk>

Carpaccio in Washington

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/01/13/the-big-review-vittore-carpaccio-at-the-national-gallery-of-art-in-washington-dc->

## Books

Deborah Fisher: Henry V: ***A History of His Most Important Places and Events***

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/01/new-medieval-books-henry-v/>

Edited by Justyna Wubs-Mrozewicz and Stuart Jenks: ***Message in a Bottle: Merchants' letters, merchants' marks and conflict management in 1533-34. A source edition***

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/01/merchants-letters-marks-conflict-management/>

Gordon Ewart & Dennis Gallagher: ***Fortress of the Kingdom; Archaeology and Research at Edinburgh Castle.***

<https://stor.scot/collections/books-stationery/products/fortress-of-the-kingdom>

Steven J. Zaloga: ***Infantry Antiaircraft Missiles; Man-Portable Air Defense Systems***

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

Simcha Jacobovici and Sean Kingsley: ***Enslaved***

<https://www.washingtoninformer.com/book-review-enslaved-the-sunken-history-of-the-transatlantic-slave-trade-by-simcha-jacobovici-and-sean-kingsley/>

Royal armouries book sale

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/royal-armouries-publications>

## Popular culture

Undergarments and armour in Paris

<https://artdaily.com/news/153624/Galerie-Miranda-presents--Undergarments--Armor--by-NYC-based-artist-Tanya-Marcuse#.Y8ZjtP7P2Uk>

The story of the *Wager* sparks new film

<https://www.express.co.uk/entertainment/films/1717262/leonardo-dicaprio-hms-wager-martin-scorsese-hollywood>

## Events

### Diary Dates

Weekend of sword fighting at Leeds

<https://royalarmouries.org/event/sword-weekend/>

Arms and Armour Society events

[https://thearmsandarmoursociety.org/?page\\_id=62](https://thearmsandarmoursociety.org/?page_id=62)

What's on at the Wallace Collection

<https://www.wallacecollection.org/whats-on/>

What's on at the National Museums of Scotland

<https://www.nms.ac.uk/exhibitions-events/?museum=1445>

What's on at Veste Coburg

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

What's on at Canadian War Museum

<https://www.warmuseum.ca/>

### Conferences

Summer School For graduate Students: first World War Museums and Exhibitions

<https://1418.hypotheses.org/2246>

### Sales, fairs and auctions

30 Jan - 3 Feb online auctions 2023

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

20 February 2023 Copenhagen

Henrik Vensild's collection of arms and armour, part 2

<https://bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/auctions/1007695>

## Websites and downloads

Latest news from Les Invalides

<https://www.musee-armee.fr/magazine.html>

Website for the National Swiss Museums

<https://www.landesmuseum.ch/fr>

1066 etc: Crusades & Ninjas

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/01/reasons-going-first-crusade/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/01/five-things-you-can-learn-from-a-ninja/>

My twitter account

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>