

# The Basiliscae Mercury 400

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

As you can see this is No 400; this week drains and attics seem to be source of a few stories, Japanese swords are in the news and conferences on 17<sup>th</sup> shipwrecks.

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Ancient arms

Million-year-old obsidian axe workshop found in Ethiopia

<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-obsidian-handaxe-making-workshop-million-years.html>

Oldest bone spear point identified from the Americas

<https://phys.org/news/2023-02-oldest-bone-spear-americas.html>

Bronze hoards, including armour, found in Polish bog

<https://arkeonews.net/dozens-of-unique-bronze-ornaments-discovered-in-a-drained-peat-bog-in-poland/>

Ancient conflict mentioned on Rosetta stone identified

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/01/27/where-the-swords-met-bone-archaeological-evidence-found-of-ancient-egyptian-rebellion-mentioned-on-the-rosetta-stone>

Studying an ancient Turkish bronze shield - interesting

<https://arkeonews.net/urartian-king-argishtis-shield-reveals-the-name-of-an-unknown-country/>

Roman parade mask found in Romania?

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/02/roman-parade-mask-discovered-in-romania/146135>

What's been found in Carlisle's Roman drains

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/jan/28/roman-bathers-gems-carved-stones-archaeologists-hadrians-wall>

Drain-digging in Italy uncovers Hercules

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/01/construction-workers-find-life-sized-statue-of-hercules/146043>

How one Kent monastery defended itself against the Vikings

<https://phys.org/news/2023-01-viking-brutality-monastery.html>

## **Beasts of assorted varieties...**

Neanderthals hunted giant elephants

<https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/en/news/2023/02/archaeological-breakthrough-evidence-that-neanderthals-hunted-giant-elephants><https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/craigievar-castle-to-turn-pink-again>

Spare part for Iron Age chariot found in Suffolk

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-suffolk-64401388>

Vikings travelled with their animals

<https://www.livescience.com/burial-reveals-vikings-brought-animals-to-uk>

## **Grave stories**

More about the graves of mercenaries in Ancient Greece

<https://news.uga.edu/anthropologist-weighs-in-on-ancient-greek-history/>

Waterloo bones found in attic

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/01/25/europe/battle-waterloo-bones-scli-intl-scn/index.html>

<https://phys.org/news/2023-02-two-century-old-mystery-waterloo-skeletal.html>

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

Feature on Pembroke Castle

<https://www.walesonline.co.uk/news/wales-news/family-who-bought-huge-ruined-26146503>

Craigievar castle turns pink again

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/craigievar-castle-to-turn-pink-again>

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

Bibi Mariam cannon under threat in Dhaka's Osmani Udyan

<https://www.thedailystar.net/news/bangladesh/news/once-saviour-now-needs-saving-3231781>

Tracking down Maldon's lost WWI trophy

<https://www.braintreeandwithamtimes.co.uk/news/23277566.stephen-nunn-hunts-old-gun-maldons-promenade-park/>

## **Miscellany**

Interesting piece on recovering artefacts from retreating glaciers

<https://www.sciencefocus.com/planet-earth/hidden-treasures-melting-glaciers/>

British Library acquire MS of Knights of St John and Rhodes

<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2023/02/knights-hospitaller.html>

Banishing evil spirits with gunshots in Berkshire

<https://www.newburytoday.co.uk/lifestyle/bad-spirits-banished-by-musketeers-at-pub-wassail-9298060/>

## **Café Basiliscoe**

Eat like a Viking

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/02/the-food-of-the-vikings/146097>

Or the Neanderthal sea-food platter

<https://www.popsci.com/science/neanderthals-seafood-crabs/>

And medieval swan

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/the-medieval-swan-with-natalie-goodison/>

## **Princesses and Amazons**

The perfect valentine gift for a queen

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2023/jan/31/metal-detectorist-tudor-gold-pendant-henry-viii-katherine-of-aragon-warwickshire>

Rival queens share a prayer book

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/02/08/henry-viii-anne-boleyn-catherine-of-aragon-exhibition-hever-castle-prayer-book>

Mary Queen of Scots letters decoded

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/08/mary-queen-of-scots-prison-letters-finally-decoded>

## **Round the world**

Ancient sword found in Japanese tomb

<https://www.livescience.com/7-foot-long-sword-from-4th-century-japan-may-have-protected-deceased-from-evil-spirits>

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/14824344>

Short piece on the Japanese “sword of heaven”

<https://www.unilad.com/technology/the-sword-of-heaven-made-from-a-four-billion-year-old-meteorite-504223-20230129>

Interesting piece about Commodore Perry and the Black fleet

<https://www.nippon.com/en/japan-topics/g02197/>

Indian forts

<https://www.outlookindia.com/outlooktraveller/explore/story/72991/8-maharashtra-sea-forts-proposed-to-be-nominated-for-unesco-status>

Hanoi's fortress visited

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/hanoi-son-tay-old-fortress-citadel-boasts-historical-architectural-values/247485.vnp>

## Into the 20<sup>th</sup> century and beyond

Muslim POWs in WWI Germany remembered

<https://artdaily.com/news/154011/National-WWI-Museum-and-Memorial-launches-online-exhibition--Fighting-with-Faith-#.Y9Y3mMnP2Uk>

Treasure hunt sparked by Dutch archives

<https://artdaily.com/news/154116/Nazi-soldiers-buried-a-treasure--Nearly-80-years-later--the-search-goes-on-#.Y9txxcnP2Uk>

A historian reflects on how he is influencing the Ukraine War

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/10/president-zelenskiy-book-military-history-ukraine-war-putin>

## Nautical news

Update on the Gribshunden - mainly spicy

<https://www.iflscience.com/ancient-shipwreck-reveals-unprecedented-glimpse-into-medieval-royal-luxury-67334>

<https://www.newsweek.com/shipwreck-500-year-old-floating-castle-gribshunden-found-thrilling-haul-1780019>

The *Klein Holland* identified off the south coast of England

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2023/jan/27/remarkable-eastbourne-shipwreck-identified-as-17th-century-dutch-warship>

Piece about HMS *Beagle*

<https://www.boatsnews.com/story/42351/hms-beagle-darwins-mythical-round-the-world-ship>

## Museum news and exhibitions

### News

How museums are coping with high energy costs

<https://artdaily.com/news/154132/As-energy-costs-bite--museums-rethink-a-conservation-credo#.Y9zHisnP2Uk>

Ancient fort damaged in earthquake

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/02/06/huge-earthquake-in-turkey-and-syria-devastates-heritage-sites-including-2000-year-old-castle>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/several-historic-sites-damaged-in-turkey-syria-earthquake/>

## **New museums**

Manchester Museum re-opens after refit

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/02/03/manchester-museum-reopens-with-a-major-rethink>

A visit to the Japanese Sword Museum

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/japanese-sword-museum>

Feature on Maldon's Combined Military Services Museum

<https://www.maldonandburnhamstandard.co.uk/news/23286483.combat-dealers-bruce-crompton-teams-maldon-museum/>

## **Museum developments**

A trip to Worcester's armor displays

<https://eu.thegardnernews.com/story/lifestyle/2023/02/01/protective-armor-is-more-than-a-knight-suit-face-masks-helmets-boots/69856095007/>

## **Museum musings**

Podcast on organizing a museum exhibition

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/01/museum-exhibition-amanda-luyster/>

Update on Ukraine culture and its removal

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/02/01/special-investigation-serious-concerns-over-the-fate-of-ukraines-museum-works-taken-by-russia>

## **Conservation corner**

Keeping traditional gunmaking alive in Birmingham

<https://www.birminghamworld.uk/news/traditional-birmingham-gun-maker-tells-of-struggle-to-keep-272-year-old-business-going-4002043>

## **Exhibitions**

The grand-daddy of all exhibitions - Vermeer in Amsterdam

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/whats-on/exhibitions/vermeer>

Donatello in London

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/donatello-sculpting-the-renaissance>

Tudor paintings in Compton Verney

<https://www.comptonverney.org.uk/event/tudor-mystery-a-master-painter-revealed/> <https://artdaily.com/news/154231/-Tudor-Mystery--A-Master-Painter-Revealed--at-Compton-Verney#.Y-C628nP2Uk>

Crete and the Knossos in Oxford

<https://exploratornews.wordpress.com/>

HMS *Gloucester* at Norwich

<https://www.gloucestershipwreck.co.uk/exhibition>

The Embletons and Burgundian wars at Morges, Switzerland

<https://chateau-morges.ch/le-chateau/>

Samurai swords in Vietnam

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/art-of-the-samurai-swords-to-be-introduced-in-april/247830.vnp>

## **Books**

AW History Publications

<https://aw-history.co.uk/publications/>

ICOMAM MAGAZINE number 28 available online

<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/icomam-magazine-no-28/>

## **Popular culture**

Amazons and gaming

<https://greekreporter.com/2023/01/29/warrior-women-gamers-ancient-world-female-fighters/>

War films v accuracy

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/entertainment/news/18-war-movie-battles-ranked-by-historical-accuracy/ar-AA17q0Fi>

## **Events**

### **Diary Dates**

Arms and Armour Society events

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

Events at the Royal Armouries

<https://royalarmouries.org/>

Events in Vienna

<https://www.hgm.at/>

Events in Brussels

<https://warheritage.be/en/news>

### **Conferences**

Summer school for graduate students: First World War Museums and Exhibitions

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

4 March 2023 Southend

Discovering the *London*

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discover-the-london-4-southends-time-capsule-tickets-518784437217>

12-13 May 2023 Norwich

HMS *Gloucester*

<https://www.gloucestershipwreck.co.uk/conference-announcement>

[https://www.gloucestershipwreck.co.uk/files/ugd/e3580b\\_5dcb8e74a23c41b08f6c1735eee5abfe.pdf](https://www.gloucestershipwreck.co.uk/files/ugd/e3580b_5dcb8e74a23c41b08f6c1735eee5abfe.pdf)

## **Sales Fairs and auctions**

12 February 2023 Copenhagen

Sporting guns

<https://bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/auctions/1007489>

20 February 2023 Copenhagen

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

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

22 February 2023 Online

<https://www.bruneauandco.com/portfolio-items/winter-historic-arms-militaria-online-auction/?portfolioCats=41>

2 March 2023 Massachusetts

Important American Military Arms from the Steve Andrews Collection, Part 1

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/28560/important-american-military-arms-from-the-steve-andrews-collection-part-i-bonhams-skinner/>

## **Websites and downloads**

Latest naval newsletter

<https://seahistory.org/education/navyhistory/>

Spain's Royal Collections

<https://www.patrimoniocional.es/en>

1066 etc: Battle of Poitiers podcast

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/battle-poitiers-1356-2/>

## **Finally**

My twitter account

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 13 February 2023**