

The Basiliscope Mercury 401

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Arms and armour in the news

A bit delayed because of short month and other commitments. Lots of prehistoric weapons, a Tudor leather wrist guard, naval gunnery and a Viking ship - the next thing to be found under a carpark.

Ancient arms

Steel in use in the Bronze Age

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/02/230228154510.htm>

First evidence of bows and arrows in France identified

<https://edition.cnn.com/2023/02/23/world/france-cave-earliest-bow-arrow-use-outside-africa-scn>

While they are finding arrowheads made out of mussels in the glaciers

<https://sciencenorway.no/archaeology-bronze-age-glaciers/archaeologists-surprised-when-3500-year-old-arrowheads-made-of-shells-melted-out-of-the-ice-in-the-norwegian-mountains/2157675#:~:text=Unique%20arrowheads%20made%20of%20freshwater,the%20world%2C%20according%20to%20archaeologist.&text=They%20were%20in%20use%20only,years%2C%20and%20nobody%20knows%20why.>

Museum receives important Iron Age shield

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/spectacular-iron-age-shield-found-in-pocklington-donated-back-to-yorkshire-by-housebuilder-whose-land-it-was-discovered-on-4028429>

Is this the dagger of a pal of Hannibal?

https://english.elpais.com/culture/2023-02-26/the-unsolvable-mystery-of-hannibals-soldier.html?ssm=FB_CC

Gladiators in Colchester

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2023/mar/04/evidence-reveals-gladiators-fought-in-roman-britain>

Short feature on buried Viking swords

<https://www.archaeology.org/issues/503-2303/digs/11213-digs-sweden-viking-swords>

Battles, towers and forts

Roman fort found defended by wooden spikes

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/archaeologists-discover-ancient-roman-fort-wooden-spikes-germany-bad-ems-1234658682/>

Feature on the walls of Constantinople

<https://www.thecollector.com/role-of-the-theodosian-walls-of-constantinople/>

Feature on the walls of Chichester

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/chichesters-roman-walls-a-brief-history-4022906>

Laser finds 5th century fortress in Spain

<https://www.livescience.com/lasers-reveal-ruins-of-5th-century-fortress-in-spanish-forest>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

A guide to Neanderthal hunting

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/the-sciences/ancient-predators-a-guide-to-the-neanderthal-hunt>

Horse riding for 5 thousand years

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/humans-started-riding-horses-5-000-years-ago-new-evidence-suggests/>

Medieval manuscript on whale habits

<https://www.livescience.com/terrifying-sea-monster-hafgufa-described-in-medieval-norse-manuscripts-is-actually-a-whale>

Grave stories

Latest from Grave Digger - Giro the Nazi terrier - a sad story

<https://grave-stories.com/>

In the lists

Long illustrated article on how knights fought

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

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Plans to investigate the fortifications at Skipsea, Yorkshire

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/archaeologists-prepare-for-new-dig-to-probe-iron-age-origins-of-mound-under-skipsea-castle-in-yorkshire-4017977>

Investigating Lowther's medieval castle

<https://www.newsandstar.co.uk/news/23340598.investigation-lowthers-medieval-castle-set-begin-summer/>

Fyvie castle damaged in recent storms

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/storm-otto-causes-significant-damage-at-fyvie-castle>

Planning a future for Muncaster Castle

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2023/feb/26/muncaster-castle-plans-cumbria-estate-eco-attraction-carbon-zero>

Dumbarton Castle reopens after works

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/dumbarton-castle-reopens/>

Forts and cannons

Life in Chinese fort

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/article272585959.html>

Civil War bastion found in the midlands?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hereford-worcester-64569080>

Carronade stolen from New Zealand community

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/northern-advocate/news/waimate-north-church-appeals-for-return-of-stolen-cannon/5OPOE3YJFNDBNH4FZJQFO5YZ7M/>

What they dig up at Gettysburg

<https://whdh.com/news/unexploded-artillery-shell-unearthed-at-gettysburg-it-may-have-been-a-case-of-friendly-fire/>

Miscellany

Fascinating article about uncovering lost doodles

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20230208-the-tech-revealing-hidden-doodles-in-old-books-and-objects>

Knights Hospitallers in Shropshire?

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/entertainment/attractions/2023/02/14/archaeologists-tease-a-major-announcement-following-hunt-for-knights-hospitaller-site-in-north-shropshire/>

Tudor archer's wristband found in Thames

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-64787840>

Café Basiliscoe

Iron Age mead

<https://www.iflscience.com/2-500-year-old-booze-brewed-up-from-recipe-found-in-iron-age-burial-67815>

This week's spice: saffron

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/03/saffron-medieval-europe/>

Princesses and Amazons

5 Persian queens

<https://www.thecollector.com/ancient-persian-empire-queens/>

Women and the crusades

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/women-in-the-crusades-with-helen-nicholson/>

Nautical news

Viking boat under a Cheshire pub car park?

<https://www.itv.com/news/granada/2023-02-17/is-there-a-viking-boat-buried-underneath-a-carpark>

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/~sczsteve/TheMeolsPubBoat.pdf>

Update on the *Gloucester*

<https://www.bbc.com/news/av/uk-england-norfolk-64758552>

Update on HMS *Captain*

<https://the-past.com/news/lost-british-warship-set-to-be-investigated-150-years-after-sinking/>

US Navy confirms location of lost WWII sub USS *Albacore*

<https://maritime-executive.com/article/u-s-navy-confirms-location-of-lost-wwii-sub-uss-albacore>

Museum news and exhibitions

New museums

Visits to Vicksburg's Museums

<https://www.vicksburgpost.com/2023/02/25/things-left-behind-relics-provide-proof-of-the-past/>

Re-opening of the Manchester Museum

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/feb/16/reopened-manchester-museum-gives-voice-to-south-asian-diaspora>

Museum developments

Designing museums

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2023/mar/07/i-faked-it-at-the-beginning-david-chipperfield-on-his-rise-from-shop-designer-to-starchitect>

Museum Musings

All the Beauty in the World by Patrick Bingley - book about art galleries
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2023/mar/05/patrick-bingley-all-beauty-world-museum-guard-moma-interview>

Conservation corner

Fascinating piece about the Japanese mermaid
<https://www.livescience.com/haunting-mermaid-mummy-discovered-in-japan-is-even-weirder-than-scientists-expected>

Survey of National Trust for Scotland's Asian ceramics
<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/a-survey-of-ceramics>

Objects

Investigating a Portrait of Washington
https://artdaily.com/news/154706/Was-this-Washington-portrait-really-by-Charles-Peale--Experts-took-a-look-#.Y_XNPWnP2Uk

Cambridge College returns spears to Australia
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-australia-64820618>

Exhibitions

The Antonine Wall in Falkirk
<https://www.thenational.scot/news/23331390.antonine-wall-exhibition-shine-new-light-roman-history/>

The Embletons and Burgundian wars at Morges, Switzerland
<https://chateau-morges.ch/le-chateau/>

Art and Science at Yale
https://artdaily.com/news/154606/Crafting-Worldviews--Art-and-Science-in-Europe--1500-1800-opens-at-Yale-University-Art-Gallery#.Y_CnRmnP2Uk

Sculpture from late medieval Exeter in NY
<https://www.metmuseum.org/exhibitions/rich-man-poor-man>

Tudors in Cleveland
https://artdaily.com/news/154886/First-exhibition-in-the-US-to-trace-the-transformation-of-the-arts-in-Tudor-England-opens-in-Cleveland#.Y_xptGnP2Uk

Books

Pre-order: ***British Ordnance Muskets 1830's & 1840's George Lovells Legacy***

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/royal-armouries-publications/products/british-ordnance-muskets-1830s-1840s-george-lovells-legacy>

Online books

National Trust for Scotland's online reports

<https://www.nts.org.uk/what-we-do/advocacy/research#:~:text=the%20interim%20report-.Survey%20of%20Asian%20Ceramics,-Between%202017%20and>

Pascoe, D., 2022. ***Archaeological evidence for the development of Royal Naval gunnery from 1545 – 1811; analysing change through technology and culture.*** Doctoral Thesis. Bournemouth University.

<https://eprints.bournemouth.ac.uk/36802/>

Popular culture

Japanese swords on film

<https://www.warhistoryonline.com/featured/kaito-suiju-samurai-movies.html?edg-c=1>

Events

Diary Dates

18th April, 2023 Greenwich

Discovering *Klein Hollandia* - a Warship from the Dutch Golden Age of Sail

<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/Event/discovering-klein-hollandia-a-warship-from-the-dutch-golden-age-of-sail>

Arms and Armour Society events

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

Events at the Imperial War Museums

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/>

Events at the Vasa Museum

<https://www.vasamuseet.se/en>

Events at Paris

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

Conferences

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

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

12-13 May 2023 Norwich

HMS *Gloucester*

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

https://www.gloucestershipwreck.co.uk/files/ugd/e3580b_5dcb8e74a23c41b08f6c1735eee5abfe.pdf

Websites and downloads

US Naval history blog

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Tuesday-Tidings-Newsletter.html?soid=1138974103528&aid=8upfLIXDcEY>

Galata Maritime Museum

<https://www.museidigenova.it/en/galata-maritime-museum>

1066 etc: all crusades

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/the-siege-of-acre-1291/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/true-crusader-crime-muslim-murder-and-political-drama/> <https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/new-medieval-books-the-conquest-of-santarem-and-goswins-song-of-the-conquest-of-alcacer-do-sal/>

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