

The Basiliscoe Mercury 405

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

A quiet couple of weeks, but stories about the Batavia's victims, a folded sword, and a new book on swords

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Bronze age dagger found in Poland

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/67206>

Folded sword found in Celtic grave in Germany

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/2300-year-old-scissors-and-folded-sword-discovered-in-a-celtic-cremation-tomb-in-germany>

Battles, towers and forts

Chemical warfare in the Roman empire?

<https://www.iflscience.com/roman-soldiers-found-buried-in-their-own-tunnel-may-have-been-killed-by-chemical-warfare-68709>

Roman watchtower identified on Swiss border

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/05/late-roman-watchtower-discovered-on-swiss-border/147245>

Grave stories

Studying the Batavia graves

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/05/new-horrors-unravelling-in-the-story-of-the-batavia-shipwreck/147258>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Excavating a Scottish castle in Caithness

<https://www.johnogroat-journal.co.uk/news/pictures-thurster-tower-dig-at-sarclat-what-was-discovered-312305/>

Studying Arenberg castle

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/500102/archaeology-students-unveil-a-16th-century-fortress-at-arenberg-castle>

Through the gunloop...

Malta's Fort Chambrery remains derelict

<https://theshiftnews.com/2023/05/16/historic-fort-chambray-remains-unrestored-despite-pa-permission/>

Feature on the walls of Dubrovnik

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/ancient-places-europe/walls-dubrovnik-0018431>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Rodman guns at Muscatine

https://muscatinejournal.com/muscatine/news/local/memories-of-muscatine/article_781e1148-3a14-5fa3-99b4-b5bb72bdab9f.html

German field gun restored for South African museum

<https://springsadvertiser.co.za/291664/20-sr-gen-gun-ks/>

Not sure if this is the same iron cannon found in Kolkata or a new one:

<https://kolkataatv.org/kolkata/after-dum-dum-this-is-the-location-of-the-historical-cannon-on-strand-road-kolkata-atv-online-kolkata-news/>

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/cannon-at-the-intersection-of-fairlie-place-and-strand-road-likely-to-be-pulled-out-with-cranes-today/cid/1935605>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kolkata/10ft-long-raj-era-cannon-extracted-at-strand-road/articleshow/100146894.cms?from=mdr>

<https://www.getbengal.com/details/british-era-cannon-pulled-out-from-a-busy-pavement-in-kolkata>

Maryland's Ark cannon on the move

<https://southernmarylandchronicle.com/2023/05/19/st-marys-county-historical-society-removes-ark-cannon-for-restoration/>

Captured Confederate cannon to be rededicated

<https://www.shawlocal.com/bureau-county-republican/news/local/2023/05/19/neponset-civil-war-cannon-to-be-re-dedicated-on-memorial-day/>

Back to the front

The siege of Tournai Tournai

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/05/siege-of-tournai-1340/>

Investigating Fort Necessity battlefield

<https://www.cbsnews.com/pittsburgh/news/musket-balls-fort-necessity-battlefield-jumonville-glen/>

Civil War hospital and cemetery found on sunken island
<https://artdaily.com/news/157033/Submerged-island-off-Florida-reveals-secret--Civil-War-era-cemetery>

Nautical news

Update on the *Gloucester*
<https://www.historyextra.com/period/stuart/gloucester-warship-sinking-shipwreck-discovery/#>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Break in and thefts at Sheffield's Kelham Island Museum
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq3xp2vdxw2o>

Five convicted for the Dresden thefts
<https://news.sky.com/story/dresden-jewellery-heist-five-jailed-over-113m-euro-jewel-theft-from-museum-12882071>

Floods in Italy
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/05/19/museums-close-amid-deadly-floods-in-northern-italy>

New museums

Hunterian Museum re-opens
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/05/08/hunteriam-museum-reopening-transformation-human-remains>

Museum musings

India may or may not want treasures back
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/05/15/india-to-launch-largest-ever-repatriation-campaign-against-uk-for-return-of-heritage-looted-during-colonial-rule>

Remembering Anita Reinhard
<https://www.metmuseum.org/perspectives/articles/2023/3/anita-reinhard>

Conservation corner

Conserving the Coronation Chair
<https://artdaily.com/news/157036/Where-should-a-King-sit--A-700-year-old-chair-will-do->

Restoring Malvern's ancient glass
<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/67152>

Objects

Stray finds from Somerset

<https://www.greatbritishlife.co.uk/lifestyle/23463504.7-amazing-historical-finds-somerset/>

Delapré Abbey acquire General Bouverie's Waterloo sword

<https://the-past.com/news/rare-sword-used-at-waterloo-acquired-by-northamptonshire-abbey/>

Exhibitions

Medieval pastimes in LA

<https://www.getty.edu/art/exhibitions/play/index.html>

<https://artdaily.com/news/157309/Getty-presents-Play-and-Pastimes-in-the-Middle-Ages-at-the-Getty-Center>

Field Code Changed

Books

Robert W Jones: *A Cultural History of the Medieval Sword; Power, Piety and Play*

<https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781800109704/a-cultural-history-of-the-medieval-sword/>

Latest Ospreys

<https://ospreypublishing.com/uk/discover/available-this-month/>

Online book

Dynasties and State Formation in Early Modern Europe

<https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/62223>

Popular culture

Medieval arms and armour in games, rated!

<https://www.gamespot.com/videos/medieval-weapons-armor-expert-rates-10-video-games-armor-sets/2300-6461356/>

Royal Armouries music commission breaks records!

<https://www.classical-music.com/news/coronation-composer-karl-jenkins-breaks-uk-chart-record/>

Events

Diary Dates

Arms and Armour Society events

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

Conferences

17-18 June 2023 Royal Armouries. Leeds.

John Waller Seminar

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4FU7M6eYJ3iK13w5Nq9dzKj7CDzOKYsjiZd6bS3vhT1pwDQ/viewform>

23-27 October, Sofia, Bulgaria

XXXI Congress of the International Committee of Museums and Collections of Arms and Military History (ICOMAM) - ICOM (UNESCO)

https://icomam-bulgaria.com/?fbclid=IwAR3rAIHY_Jyg2mDrKBLmc7hXOpWJnPdFC96B0VC_EvNeEeNYYPcLThLoEEeU

Sales, fairs and auctions

24 May 2023 London

Antique Arms and Armour Including The Ray Wilkinson Collection

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/28726/antique-arms-and-armour-including-the-ray-wilkinson-collection/>

<https://artdaily.com/news/156910/Rare-coin-shot-by-Annie-Oakley-at-Bonhams-Arms-and-Armour-sale-in-Knightsbridge>

28 June London

Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/auctions-valuations/auction-calendar/>

Websites and downloads

The Met's Perspectives series

<https://www.metmuseum.org/perspectives>

Armourers and Brasiers podcasts

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

US Naval newsletter

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Tuesday-Tidings-Newsletter.html?soid=1138974103528&aid=O322MrzcUll>

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