

The Basiliscae Mercury 415

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Greek helmets, Roman swords, Chinese grenades & Japanese martial arts. And Holbein paintings and drawings go on display in time for Christmas.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Prehistoric spear-throwing

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2023/11/231106134852.htm>

Shark tooth knives from Indonesia

<https://arkeonews.net/archaeologists-discover-7000-year-old-tiger-shark-tooth-knives-in-indonesia/>

Knarborough Museum showcases an ancient axe

https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/tribal-chieftans-hand-axe-4-091507147.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9leHBsb3JhdG9ybmV3cy53b3JkcHJlc3MuY29tLw&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAADSEwG0GfHbVD3-ShXi2GC0dFnRDMV-lv8thsy4MWcTyxuY9c-G2ioUnWSEV67XmVxuuhxwEkju9LU4s91YTMvRNGPV5Y0p5jjkOo-OfvYZI_YHwlgLFyMH6YPZZ83eq9T78-3KN9wxitsoXRrYQQkiKXMQiKNJ4rGrhtztZ-elq

Greek helmet excavated in Italy

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/10/ancient-greek-helmet-found-at-eleavelia/148946>
<https://greekreporter.com/2023/10/19/ancient-greek-helmet-magna-graecia/>

X-rays of the Roman swords found in the Cotswolds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-67144846>

A new look at the Maestermur chest

<https://thevikingherald.com/article/exploring-the-maestermur-chest-discovery-and-its-viking-era-tools/709>

Battles, towers and forts

Excavations on Hadrian's Wall – latest

<https://www.northumberlandgazette.co.uk/news/people/skeleton-discovered-among-other-unexpected-surprises-from-a-hadrians-wall-excavation-project-4387051>

Roman forts revealed in Cold War spying in Syria

<https://phys.org/news/2023-10-spy-satellites-reveal-hundreds-undiscovered.html>

Life in the Roman army coming to the BM soon...

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/blog/introduction-legion-life-roman-army>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

The importance of beavers in ancient Netherlands

<https://phys.org/news/2023-10-beavers-big-people-stone-age.html>

Round the world

Stash of medieval grenades found near the Great Wall of China

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/dozens-of-centuries-old-stone-grenades-from-ming-dynasty-discovered-at-great-wall-of-china>

Article on the history of gunpowder, with some nice illustrations

<https://www.thecollector.com/history-of-gunpowder/>

Illustrated feature on Kenjutsu

<https://www.thecollector.com/kenjutsu-japanese-fencing/>

Grave stories

More on the examination of the wounds on ancient Spanish bones

<https://www.newsweek.com/war-europe-began-way-before-thought-ancient-discovery-reveals-1840212>

Napoleon's postmortem report to go on display in Edinburgh

<https://www.thetottenhamindependent.co.uk/news/national/23866321.napoleons-post-mortem-examination-report-go-display-first-time/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Castles for sale

<https://www.theguardian.com/money/gallery/2023/nov/03/homes-in-historic-castles-for-sale-in-pictures>

Excavating Berkeley castle

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/news/2023/november/berkeley-castle-ales.html>

Hard-hat tours of Craigievar

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/hard-hat-tours-at-craigievar-castle>

Through the gunloop...

Medieval gun-tower on Canterbury's walls for sale

<https://www.kentonline.co.uk/canterbury/news/one-of-kent-s-most-unique-homes-the-700-year-old-tower-up-295583/>

Feature on Dubrovnik's walls

<https://www.thetravel.com/game-of-thrones-filmed-in-dubrovnik-croatia/>

Visiting Murud Janjira Fort

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/travel/destinations/murud-janjira-fort-maharashtras-formidable-island-fortress/articleshow/104630626.cms>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Fragment of failed 18th century cannon casting found in US

<https://business.hagerstown.org/press-releases/Details/blast-from-the-past-fragment-of-revolution-era-cannon-discovered-near-iron-furnace-site-189063>

Minehead's historic cannon mooring posts removed from harbour

<https://www.wsfp.co.uk/news/outrage-in-minehead-after-council-digs-up-and-takes-away-historic-cannons-from-harbour-side-645516>

Miscellany - swords this week

Update on the Finnish crusader sword

<https://archaeonewsnet.com/crusader-era-sword-and-cemetery-unearthed-in-finland/>

Bonnie Prince Charlie's silver sword to go on view in Perth next year

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-67193435>

Living in the past

Fort Nelson on the lookout for new gunners

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-67188525>

Victorian cannon still saluting in Mysuru

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mysuru/cannons-used-to-give-21-gun-salute-to-chamundeshwari-are-167-yrs-old/articleshow/104569310.cms>

Café Basiliscoe

Champagne – 1840 vintage

<https://www.bbc.com/reel/video/p0glbv33/the-world-s-oldest-drinkable-champagne>

Into the 20th century

Pillbox on the underground

<https://londonist.com/london/transport/where-on-the-tube-can-you-see-a-wwii-gun-emplacement>

Nautical news

Investigating wrecks round part of the Turkish coast

<https://www.hurriyetaiklynews.com/15-shipwrecks-unearthed-in-med-sea-187175>

Investigating Chinese Ming shipwrecks

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-10-20/New-batch-of-relics-retrieved-from-ancient-shipwrecks-in-S-China-Sea-1o3rFgp0iuA/index.html>

Update on the *San Jose*

<https://nypost.com/2023/11/05/news/20-billion-san-jose-shipwreck-to-be-exhumed-in-battle-over-sunken-treasure/>

Captured French letters finally opened

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-67341309>

Time for the next restoration of HMS *Victory*

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2023/October/20/20231020-hms-victory-restoration>

Investigating Chinese Ming shipwrecks

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2023-10-20/New-batch-of-relics-retrieved-from-ancient-shipwrecks-in-S-China-Sea-1o3rFgp0iuA/index.html>

Unravelling a WW2 mystery

<https://www.smh.com.au/world/europe/australians-honoured-for-solving-shipwreck-mystery-that-haunted-the-king-of-norway-20231105-p5ehoc.html>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Colonial Williamsburg receives gift of important costume collection

<https://artdaily.com/news/163453/The-Colonial-Williamsburg-Foundation-receives-extraordinary-gift-of-historic-dress-collection>

What's missing from Scotland's museums

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-67084059>

Derby museum is flooded

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/10/24/uk-museum-housed-in-unesco-heritage-site-suffers-significant-flood-damage>

Regimental silverware stolen from Newark museum – pictures
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-67303974>

New museums

Szekler National Museum, Hungary reopens with exhibition on the Hungarian War for Independence.

<https://hungarytoday.hu/renovated-szekler-national-museum-opens-in-sfantu-gheorghe/>

Museum developments

Museum of the Revolution puts database of black and native soldiers online
<https://artdaily.com/news/163493/Museum-launches-free-digitized-archive-connected-to-Black-and-Native-American-soldiers-from-the-Revolutionary-War>

Objects

Irish collections go on sale

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/siege-derry-artefact-among-trove-230700500.html>

Is this Ned Kelly's gun?

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-26/did-this-gun-belong-to-a-kelly-gang-bushranger-730/102982980>

Exhibitions

Holbein in London and Frankfurt (with many arms and armour related events in London)

<https://www.rct.uk/collection/themes/exhibitions/holbein-at-the-tudor-court/the-queens-gallery-buckingham-palace>
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/10/31/new-insights-about-hans-holbein-and-his-sitters-come-to-light-ahead-of-london-and-frankfurt-shows>

Gold and silver embroidery in London

<https://www.thecityofldn.com/event/treasures-of-gold-and-silver-wire/>

Posties uniforms in Bath

<https://museumcrush.org/the-evolution-of-the-post-office-uniform/>

Thrones at Het Loo

<https://artdaily.com/news/163825/Power-and-fantasy-unite-at-Dutch-national-museum-Paleis-Het-Loo>

Books

Mariana Verkhoturova: *Artillery of the XIV-XVIII centuries from the collections of the Lviv Historical Museum*. (in Ukrainian).

<https://rvv-kniga.com/product/artyleriya-xiv-xviii-stolit-z-fondiv-lvivskogo-istorychnogo-muzeyu-maryana-verhoturova/?fbclid=IwAR2RgRF2A-JSqTEmtXUUxDCPwf9PPden9qP3QwKkplp-W4EDvoMfYXkpl>

This month's Ospreys

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

New Pen & Swords

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/>

Popular culture

Singing the drones

<https://artdaily.com/news/163345/Drone-warfare-comes-to-Washington-s-opera-stage>

Guy Fawkes quiz

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2023/nov/05/gunpowder-treason-and-plot-take-our-guy-fawkes-quiz>

“Chainmail” fashion comes round every year...

<https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2023/oct/27/chainmail-storms-fashion-world-as-designers-offer-up-liquid-metal-garments>

Golden age of British war comics

<https://museumcrush.org/wwii-and-the-golden-age-of-british-war-comics/>

Events

Conferences

23 – 24 November 2023 Brussels

FAKE, False and Real in Museums, Culture and Society

<https://www.icom-belgium-flanders.be/2023/06/27/fake/>

Sales

After sale at Hermann Historica

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

14 – 15 November Online

Fine Arms and Armour

<https://www.antonycribb.com/auction/details/1-autumn-virtual-fine-antique-arms--armour-auction/?au=6>

17 – 27 November 2023

The Neil Malcolmson collection of Austro-Hungarian Military Arms

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/29294/the-neil-malcolmson-collection-of-austro-hungarian-military-arms/>

23 November 2023

Sporting Guns, Rifles and Vintage Firearms

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/28729/sporting-guns-rifles-and-vintage-firearms/>

6 December 2023 London

Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria

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

Reminder: The Levett collection coming to Christies in December

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/09/27/christies-christian-levett-mougins-museum-classical-art-auctions-armour>

Sadly missed out on this auction in the last Bazzy

<https://artdaily.com/news/163576/Art-of-the-samurai-comes-to-life-in-Sworders--Nov--2-auction-of-Dennison-Collection>

And this one, too

<https://artdaily.com/news/163539/Apollo-Art-Auctions-celebrates-luxe-new-venue-with-gallery-sale-of-ancient-art-and-antiquities>

Websites and downloads

The Historial

<https://www.historial.fr/en/>

1066 etc: Agincourt

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/11/the-battle-of-agincourt-1415/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 9 November 2023

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