

The Basiliscope Mercury 420

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Interesting stories about humans and animals, exhibitions in southern England and the US and some new books. And the latest ICOMAM Magazine hits the internet.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Ancient helmet sold

<https://news.artnet.com/market/work-of-the-week-guttmann-mouse-helmet-2428199>

Update on the grave of the Hungarian horseman and his armour

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/avar-warrior-burial-0020307>

Ancient swords from meteorites

<https://gizmodo.com/villena-treasure-iron-meteorite-origins-late-bronze-age-1851248710>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Hunting reindeer in prehistory with walls

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/stone-age-wall-eurasian-reindeer-hunting-submerged>

Using DNA to establish the origin of ivory chess set

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/01/dna-medieval-chess-set/>

Grave stories

New bog body found in Northern Ireland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/01/archaeologists-find-2000-year-old-bog-body/150396>

Recreating the face of Mary Queen of Scots

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/02/face-of-mary-queen-of-scots-revealed/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Newark Castle to become a visitor attraction

<https://premierconstructionnews.com/2024/02/06/ambitious-plans-for-expanded-newark-castle-visitor-attraction-approved-by-newark-and-sherwood-district-council/>

And what they are finding there...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-nottinghamshire-68252477>

Excavating Sheffield's castle

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-south-yorkshire-68277444>

Falkland Palace in winter

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/behind-the-scenes-in-winter-falkland-palace>

Living in the past

Warwick's trebuchet master

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/i-ditched-being-scientist-launch-28551373>

Café Basiliscoe

This week in the museum basement - a medieval royal kitchen.

<https://news.artnet.com/art-world/royal-kitchen-poland-museum-basement-2429236>

Into the 20th century

WW2 Turkish fortress facing an uncertain future

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/bastion-from-world-war-ii-abandoned-190649>

World Heritage

Celebrating the year of the dragon

<https://www.shine.cn/feature/art-culture/2402071234/>

Update on the grave with the giant sword in Japan

<https://www.asahi.com/ajw/articles/15153093>

Nautical news

Money to conserve the Philadelphia gunboat

<https://artdaily.com/news/166645/National-Museum-of-American-History-receives-gift-to-support-gunboat-Philadelphia-preservation>

Museum news and exhibitions

New museums

Major renovations planned at Royal Ontario Museum

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/02/14/torontos-royal-ontario-museum-announces-renovation-project>

Museum musings

Los Angeles museum returns artefacts to Ghana

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/02/05/fowler-museum-los-angeles-asante-repatriation-ghana>

Exhibitions

Review of four military history exhibitions in southern England

<https://thecritic.co.uk/exhibiting-military-history/>

Arms and armour at the Bruce Museum

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/02/arms-and-armor-exhibition-at-the-bruce-museum/>

Mughal court paintings at the Met

<https://artdaily.com/news/166347/Exhibition-at-The-Met-to-present-the-Howard-Hodgkin-Collection-of-Indian-court-painting>

Washington's tent in Philadelphia

<https://artdaily.com/news/166607/Historic-artifacts-brought-together-to-explore-the-surprising-journey-of-Washington-s-war-tent>

Books

Review of one of Royal Armouries volumes on jousting armour

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/02/arms-and-armor-of-the-renaissance-joust/>

Godwin Vella: *Valletta; Heritage Malta*

<https://scalapublishers.com/valletta/>

Alexzandra Hildred: *Mary Rose: Her Story, Their Story, Our Story*

<https://museumshops.uk/product/mary-rose-coffee-table-book/>

John Walter: *Sniping Rifles in the War Against Japan 1941–45*

<https://www.ospreypublishing.com/uk/sniping-rifles-in-the-war-against-japan-194145-9781472858320/>

Online

ICOMAM Magazine is online – latest edition

<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/the-magazine/>

Popular culture

New set for medieval Lego fans

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/02/lego-unveils-medieval-town-square-set/>

Websites and downloads

Latest dispatches from the Met

<https://mailchi.mp/f338e8be780d/dispatches-from-the-field-2024-16619868?e=cffd2a6c61>

1066 etc Poitiers, Robin Hood, Templars & battlelines

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/02/battle-of-poitiers-1356/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/02/five-fun-facts-about-robin-hood/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/02/the-templar-catastrophe-at-cresson/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/02/battleline/>

Finally...a lighter note

Everything you ever wanted to know about codpieces

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20240202-what-happened-to-the-codpiece>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 15 February 2024

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