

The Basiliscoe Mercury 424

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Fascinating Greek helmet found, violent deaths and wrought-iron cannon in India. Plus a new face in New York and several Scottish stories.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Dubrovnik Museum team uncover ancient Greek helmet – pictures
<https://www.thedubrovniktimes.com/news/dubrovnik/item/16242-exciting-discovery-greek-illyrian-helmet-unearthed-in-peljesac-by-dubrovnik-museums-team>

Grave stories

Fascinating piece on a Bog Body
<https://www.ancientpages.com/2024/04/08/haraldskaerkvinnan-bog-body/>

Violent deaths on the Scottish borders
<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/04/archaeologists-find-traces-of-violent-history-on-anglo-scottish-border/151536>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Drawbridge discovered at Broddick Castle
<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/drawbridge-discovery-at-brodick-castle>

Castles and furnaces found in Sheffield on the same site
https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/04/excavations-at-sheffield-castle-uncover-citys-industrial-heritage/151503#google_vignette

Through the gunloop....

Tobago's fort to be spruced up
<https://newsday.co.tt/2024/04/18/tourism-secretary-fort-king-george-lighthouse-to-shine-again/>

Excavations on French island fort
<https://www.thestate.com/news/nation-world/world/article287812900.html>

Uncovering Krakow fortress
<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/04/excavations-uncover-traces-of-krakow-fortress/151509>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Decorated wrought-iron Indian gun with a tiger muzzle

<https://lokmat.news18.com/videos/video/cannon-have-you-seen-the-historic-cannon-weighing-3-tons-and-8-feet-long-shaped-like-a-tiger-s-mouth-local18-964182.html>

Feature on Hong Kong's noonday cannon

<https://www.visiontimes.com/2024/04/11/honoring-tradition-how-hong-kongs-noonday-gun-echoes-through-history.html>

West Florida's disappearing cannon

<https://www.guns.com/news/2024/04/10/rare-disappearing-gun-spotted-in-the-wild>

Miscellany

Medieval manuscripts on jousting

<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2024/04/a-knights-tale.html>

Graffiti in Venice

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/40000-pieces-of-graffiti-discovered-in-venice/>

Magnet fishing in Scotland for weapons

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-68798110>

Back to the front

New finds from Culloden

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cxr3yeg191yo>

Café Basiliscoe

Medieval fish

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/medieval-fish-richard-hoffmann/>

Washed down by Roman wine – better than you think

<https://phys.org/news/2024-04-roman-wine-previously-thought.html>

With a hunk of the oldest bread in the world

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/oldest-bread-archaeology-turkey-b2530101.html>

And Henry VIII's pastries for afters

<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2024/03/henry-viiis-pastry-tent.html>

Princesses and Amazons

British Library's autumn exhibition to focus on medieval women

<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2024/03/exhibition-on-medieval-women.html>

Marie Antoinette's jug and basin recovered after theft years ago

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/10/jug-basin-marie-antoinette-governess-recovered-sevres-procelain-stolen-chateau-1987>

Into the 20th century

Lost air raid shelter found in Kettering

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/04/traces-of-ketterings-wartime-history-rediscovered/151419>

Forgotten bunkers found on Belgian coast

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/world/wwii-relics-unearthed-hidden-history-of-belgiums-coastal-town-revealed-during-nature-restoration-project/ar-BB1leM8a>

Nautical news

Delay on clearing the masts of SS *Richard Montgomery* in the Thames

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-68787845>

Update on the 16th century helmet found off Italy

<https://www.newsweek.com/shipwreck-mystery-teased-divers-helmet-discovery-1888118>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Met appoint new Arms and Armour Curator – Stefan Krause

<https://artdaily.com/news/168237/The-Met-appoints-Stefan-Krause-as-Curator-in-Charge-of-the-museum-s-Department-of-Arms-and-Armor>

Avoiding museum thefts

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/04/12/uk-government-should-intervene-to-prevent-museum-thefts-says-expert-after-reports-of-missing-objects-across-the-country>

National Museum of Wales in Cardiff may close

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj7mnnprzlo?fbclid=IwAR0IXDSVnXMSOu17EVfzVJFMSLqVxKAtGnb7uBlvVly92vIUhNUIYYyPt7U>

New museums

New displays at Alloa Tower

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/a-new-welcome-at-alloa-tower>

Museum musings

Pondering the future of Aberdeen's lost University Museum

<https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/opinion/6414076/aberdeen-marischal-museum-tomas-pizarro-escuti-opinion/>

Conservation corner

Making cannon in Wiltshire

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-wiltshire-68614958>

And a visit to a gunsmith in Salisbury

<https://www.salisburyjournal.co.uk/news/24255393.inside-700-year-old-building-greenfields-gunmakers-calls-home/>

Catch up with work at Notre Dame

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/14/notre-dame-fire-paintings-exhibition>

Objects

Study for infamous portrait of Winston Churchill up for sale

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/04/16/study-for-winston-churchill-portrait-that-was-burnt-is-up-for-sale>

Exhibitions

Ranjit Singh at the Wallace Collection

<https://nz.news.yahoo.com/ranjit-singh-sikh-warrior-king-100117372.html>

Books

National Museum of Scotland's publications – many on sale

<https://shop.nms.ac.uk/collections/books-nms-publications>

Online Book

Alistair F. Holdsworth: ***Fantastic Flails and Where to Find Them: The Body of Evidence for the Existence of Flails in the Early and High Medieval Eras in Western, Central, and Southern Europe***

<https://www.mdpi.com/2409-9252/4/1/9>

Popular culture

Stars of the old Wild West

<https://www.historynet.com/booger-red-privett-rodeo/>

Book on Graham Turner's art

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/new-medieval-books-the-wars-of-the-roses-the-medieval-art-of-graham-turner/>

Events

Conferences

29 September – 4 October 2024 London & UK

ICOMAM conference

<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/icomam-2018-conference/>

Sales

12 – 21 April 2024 London

Spring sale, including arms and armour

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/auction/details/210424-olympia-timed-spring-2024/?au=139>

May 2024 Munich Arms, armour and militaria

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

9 May 2024 London

Arms and armour of the Samurai

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2024/the-samurai-japanese-arms-and-armour?locale=en>

Websites and downloads

1066 etc: Lionheart, Duplin & Constantinople

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/william-marshal-richard-lionheart/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/battle-dupplin-moor/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/the-siege-of-constantinople-1453/>

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