

The Basiliscoe Mercury 425

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

This week's mysterious sword is from Spain. Updates on two earlier armour and helmet finds and a lot of Lord Byron, and finally, duels in Paris.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Update on the Greek helmet found in Serbia

[https://www.euronews.com/culture/2024/04/29/archaeologists-unearth-greek-helmet-which-may-rewrite-history-of-ancient-tribal-people](https://www.euronews.com/culture/2024/04/29/archaeologists-uneearth-greek-helmet-which-may-rewrite-history-of-ancient-tribal-people)

Grave stories

Recreating the face of a Neanderthal woman

<https://phys.org/news/2024-05-recreating-year-female-cave-neanderthals.html>

Important study of the DNA of warrior Avars

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/dna-analysis-spanning-9-generations-of-people-reveals-marriage-practices-of-mysterious-warrior-culture>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Alloa Tower

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/why-we-love-alloa-tower>

Research on Picton Castle

<https://pembrokeshire-herald.com/91984/survey-of-picton-castle-reveals-groundbreaking-medieval-architecture/>

<https://castlestudiestrust.org/blog/2024/04/28/picton-castle-baronial-innovation-in-southwest-wales/>

Elcho castle re-opens

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/elcho-castle-in-scotland-reopens/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Tenby Museum's ancient cannon - but wrought iron rather than cast

<https://www.narberth-and-whitland-today.co.uk/news/community-news/tenby-museum-art-gallery-curators-corner-the-tenby-gun-684544>

Feature on Fort Steven's guns

<https://www.dailykos.com/stories/2024/4/27/2237051/-The-guns-of-Fort-Stevens-photo-diary>

US Revenue cutter's boat howitzers

<https://www.mycg.uscg.mil/News/Article/3756987/sentinels-of-the-past-the-coast-guards-civil-war-boat-howitzers-from-the-revenu/>

Miscellany

Mystery of Valencia's Excalibur solved

<https://arkeonews.net/unique-excalibur-sword-found-upright-in-ground-uneearthed-in-spain-holds-islamic-origins/>

Update on the hussars armour - more pictures

<https://ca.news.yahoo.com/metal-detectorist-searching-polish-field-192909077.html>

Lord Byron 200 years and still the hero of Greece

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/21/lord-byron-greece-greeks-romantic-poet>

Lord Byron in 5 portraits

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/05/01/poetic-pose-lord-byron-the-image-conscious-romantic-in-five-portraits>

Byron's legacy

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/05/01/school-of-lord-byron-how-the-first-global-celebrity-influenced-art-portraiture-and-attitudes-to-built-heritage>

Back to the front

A Shropshire Lad at the Alamo

<https://www.shropshirestar.com/news/local-hubs/bridgnorth/2024/04/23/revealed-shropshire-mans-role-in-battle-of-the-alamo-features-in-new-book/>

Café Basiliscoe

Palaeolithic turtle

<https://arkeonews.net/ice-age-turtle-finds-near-magdeburg-point-to-canned-food-from-the-stone-age/>

Washington's bottled cherries

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/04/24/18th-century-glass-bottles-filled-with-cherries-discovered-at-george-washingtons-mount-vernon-residence>

Served in Cardiff Museum's latest pub...

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/04/30/welsh-pub-serving-beer-to-open-at-museum-outside-cardiff>

Princesses and Amazons

Medieval women reconsidered

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/medieval-women-highly-visible-often-obscured-or-hidden-in-plain-sight/>

Into the 20th century

Caithness at War trail established

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckr5zjm4d8xo>

LNER carriage found in excavations for Antwerp citadel

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/rare-lner-train-carriage-found-buried-in-belgium-180984149/>

Nautical news

Update on the search for the *Royal Merchant*

<https://metro.co.uk/2024/04/20/hunt-400-year-old-ship-4-000-000-000-gold-just-off-uk-coast-20683222/>

Moving a 17th century galleon in Cadiz harbour to safer waters for long-term study

<https://www.surinenglish.com/andalucia/costa-luz/the-port-cadiz-preparing-extract-late-17th-20240423075517-nt.html>

Armed ship found off Halkidiki, northern Greece

<https://greekreporter.com/2024/04/23/shipwreck-war-independence-discovered-greece/>

Spercheios, lost off Greece in 1945, found

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2024/05/03/tragic-shipwreck-of-spercheios-unveiled-remnants-found-in-greek-waters/>

Museum news and exhibitions

New museums

New uses for London's WW2 tunnels

<https://artdaily.com/news/168797/Deep-beneath-London--onetime-bomb-shelters-will-become-a-tourist-attraction>

Update on Worcester's Arms and Armor Gallery

<https://eu.telegram.com/story/entertainment/arts/2024/04/22/wam-update-plans-for-new-arms-and-armor-galleries-for-higgins-armory/73295093007/>

Conservation corner

Recent research on the Stone of Scone

<https://arkeonews.net/experts-say-that-the-stone-of-destiny-was-a-doorstep/>

Objects

Armour collecting

<https://www.treasurehousefair.com/blog-detail/105/armour-to-suit-anyone>

Al Capone's revolver for sale

<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/apr/27/al-capones-pistol-go-sale-auction-expected-fetch-m/>

Shane McGowan's 1916 rifle has gone missing

<https://www.sundayworld.com/crime/irish-crime/shane-macgowans-1916-rifle-has-been-stolen-according-to-victoria-mary-clarke/a2117412152.html>

<https://www.irishcentral.com/culture/entertainment/shane-macgowan-1916-easter-rising-rifle>

Exhibitions

Duelling in Paris

<https://www.musee-armee.fr/au-programme/expositions/detail/duels-lart-du-combat.html>

Northern Renaissance in Vienna

<https://www.khm.at/en/visit/exhibitions/holbein-burgkmair-duerer/>

Books

Duels l'art du combat

<https://boutique.musee-armee.fr/fr/catalogues-dexposition/duels-lart-du-combat/5925.html>

This month in Osprey

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

Popular culture

Bullet-ridden art goes on show

<https://artdaily.com/news/168753/Maurizio-Cattelan-s-got-a-gun-show>

Revisiting *Alexander Nevsky*

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/05/movie-medieval-myth/>

Events

Conferences

28 September Armourers Hall, London
The Warrior Companies
Details to follow soon...

29 September – 4 October 2024 London & UK
ICOMAM conference
<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/icomam-2018-conference/>

Sales

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>

Antique Arms & Armour including items from the Per T. Norheim Collection,
and Modern Sporting Guns
13 – 22 MAY 2024 London
<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/30319/antique-arms-and-armour-including-items-from-the-per-t-norheim-collection-and-modern-sporting-guns/>

Fine Sporting and Collectible Military Arms
19 – 29 MAY Massachusetts
<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/29592/fine-sporting-and-collectible-military-arms/>

Forged in Faith
The Mohammed Khalil Collection of Islamic Arms and Armour
21 MAY 2024 London
<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/30398/forged-in-faith-the-mohammed-khalil-collection-of-islamic-arms-and-armour/>

Websites and downloads

News from Paris
<https://www.musee-armee.fr/magazine/echo-du-dome-n55-janvier-juin-2024.html>

1066 etc V kings & King Arthur

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/04/kings-on-the-move-the-case-of-the-great-viking-army/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/05/medieval-arthurian-literature-with-kathy-cawsey-and-elizabeth-edwards/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 1 May 2024

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