

The Basiliscae Mercury 426

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Arms and armour in the news

Yet another Viking sword found, new displays of Japanese artefacts and exhibitions, some intriguing tomb stories and remembering D Day.

Ancient arms

Trying out Greek bronze age armour...

<https://www.newsweek.com/marines-try-ancient-greek-armor-11-hour-combat-simulation-1903658>

Centurions' letters found in pet cemetery, on the Red Sea, Egypt

<https://www.newsweek.com/archaeologists-find-roman-centurions-letters-ancient-animal-cemetery-1906378>

Another Viking sword, found by a Norwegian farmer

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/06/rare-viking-sword-found-in-sudal/152146>

Battles, towers and forts

Legionary fortress found under Exeter Cathedral

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/1900-year-old-roman-legionary-fortress-unearthed-next-to-uk-cathedral>

Gladiator graffiti found in Pompeii

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/05/graffiti-depicting-gladiators-found-during-pompeii-excavations/152088>

What Hannibal did in Spain

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/it-was-not-a-peaceful-crossing-hannibals-troops-linked-to-devastating-fire-2200-years-ago-in-spain>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Hunting and butchering deer in prehistoric Israel

<https://phys.org/news/2024-06-year-stone-tools-specifically-butchering.html>

Horse burial in France was probably a sacrifice

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/28-carefully-placed-horses-in-ancient-burial-in-france-may-have-been-part-of-a-sacrificial-ritual>

Grave stories

Update on the tomb of the terracotta warriors and their emperor

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/05/royal-tomb-raised-from-mausoleum-complex-of-chinas-first-emperor/152122>

Fascinating update on body & arms found in Alpine glacier a few years ago

https://ca.news.yahoo.com/hiker-discovered-wealthy-travelers-remains-170523865.html?guccounter=2&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9sLmZhY2Vib29rLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAACY8PS8f0-zabnedfI3aPtFKJW0vXzCwnDD4jqBqNVi55DNq9XILxYwrHV8K357CBwo8MpCSByFeTP3j5KBUD9RaRfMiR4HuJhr9k66eDx_d3HZxRtRitZK_pu1g_4CvHCmG31Vh-VpTTW8oMnUTUhCaCrI_nGM4tpeJeQVI4XY5

And the disappearing bodies on mount Everest

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jun/01/it-doesnt-make-any-sense-new-twist-in-mystery-of-mount-everest-and-the-british-explorers-missing-bodies>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Latest discoveries at Skipsea Castle

<https://phys.org/news/2024-05-archaeologists-excavate-medieval-timber-hall.html>

Gloucester castle found

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/05/archaeologists-find-traces-of-gloucesters-medieval-castle/151934>

Medieval gaming in a German castle

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/06/rare-medieval-gaming-pieces-found-in-german-castle/152155>

Major work to be undertaken at Caerphilly castle

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/05/conversation-project-caerphilly-castle/>

Through the gunloop...

Update on the opening of Henrician blockhouse in Hull

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c97zznp6jl5o>

Investigating a lost Tudor palace

<https://artdaily.com/news/169673/Amateur-historians-heard-tales-of-a-lost-Tudor-palace--Then--they-dug-it-up->

Craigievar castle reopens

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/pink-again-craigievar-castle-reopens>

Complete with a batch of pink merchandise

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/meet-the-makers-pink-castle-collection>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Number of iron cannon found abandoned in Surat

<https://deshgujarat.com/2024/05/11/14-cannons-excavated-10-years-ago-found-in-smc-plot-in-surat/>

<https://www.divyabhaskar.co.in/local/gujarat/surat/news/as-many-as-14-unheralded-historic-cannons-have-been-recovered-from-a-plot-near-old-bombay-market-in-surat-133005001.html>

Shells and ammunition found on old factory site in Istanbul

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/mortars-found-at-school-construction-site-reveal-history-193215>

Miscellany

Investigating Williamsburg's lost revolutionary war barracks

<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a60916065/revolutionary-war-barracks-remnants-discovered/>

Door in Kent opens onto Napoleonic times

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/article/2024/may/15/graffiti-covered-door-from-french-revolutionary-wars-found-in-kent>

Café Basiliscoe

Roman oysters from the Humber for starters

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-69051462>

Prehistoric elephant steaks for mains

<https://www.newsweek.com/stone-age-humans-hunted-extinct-elephants-eat-camp-reveals-1903683>

Washed down with vintage port from Raby Castle..

<https://artdaily.com/news/169942/Christie-s-announces-Fine-and-Rare-Wines-Online--Featuring-historical-Vintage-Port-from-the-cellars-of-Raby-Castle>

In Medieval drinking horns

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/05/drinking-horns-middle-ages/>

Princesses and Amazons

Medieval women- their seals and charters

<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2023/05/medieval-and-renaissance-women-full-list-of-the-charters.html>

Investigating Lady Arabell Stuart

<https://artdaily.com/news/169729/Arts-and-spycraft--The-new-discovery-that-illustrates-the-fortune-and-tragedy-of-an-Elizabethan-life>

Into the 20th century

Remembering Operation Freshman

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn03e7rzrj4o>

The search for lost WW2 US airmen

<https://artdaily.com/news/169604/British-archaeologists-help-search-for-missing-American-World-War-II-pilot>

Dragging cannon in Vietnam

<https://vietnamnews.vn/society/1655098/legendary-route-of-cannon-hauling-in-the-dien-bien-phu-campaign.html>

Nautical news

What's been found in the last year

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c80zwy02qnro>

Barrel of osmond raised from 16th century ship in the Baltic

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/06/wooden-barrel-containing-osmond-raised-from-16th-century-shipwreck/152140>

Update on HMS *Erebus*

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/guns-coins-found-in-wrecks-of-ships-that-vanished-with-129-on-board/ar-BB1heYst?apiversion=v2&noservercache=1&domshim=1&renderwebcomponents=1&wcseo=1&batchservertelemetry=1&noservertelemetry=1>

WW2 US submarine found in China seas, lost 1944

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/wreck-of-wwii-hit-em-harder-submarine-which-sank-with-79-crew-on-board-discovered-in-south-china-sea>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Important items stolen from local English museum

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/05/14/theft-of-bronze-age-gold-artefacts-from-uk-museum-sparks-fresh-concerns-about-lack-of-government-investment-in-sector>

New museums

Feature on Worcester's Arms and Armour galleries

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/05/major-arms-and-armor-galleries-to-open-in-2025/>

New Japanese Galleries at Boston

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/05/15/mfa-boston-renovated-japanese-art-galleries-unveiled>

New museum in Japan: Nagoya Sword Museum, Nagoya

<https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20240510/p2a/00m/0et/027000c>

Objects

7th Cavalry Colt revolver leads heritage's sale in June

<https://artdaily.com/news/169601/Colt-revolver-from-7th-Cavalry-sets-its-sights-on-Heritage-s-Arms---Armor-Auction>

Exhibitions

Women artists in London

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/article/2024/may/14/now-you-see-us-women-artists-in-britain-1520-1920-review-tate-britain>

<https://artdaily.com/news/169297/Ambitious-group-show-charts-women-s-road-to-being-recognised-as-professional-artists>

New Amsterdam in Amsterdam

<https://artdaily.com/news/169319/Amsterdam-Museum-opens-an-exhibition-on-New-Amsterdam-from-an-Indigenous-perspective->

Japanese prints in Copenhagen

<https://artdaily.com/news/169923/Designmuseum-Danmark-features-carefully-selected-Japanese-woodblock-prints>

Books

Kay Smith and Ruth Brown (eds): ***At the sign of the Dragon: Papers to celebrate the 700th anniversary of the Armourers and Brasiers' Company of London***

To order a copy, contact Kay Smith at: smithbrown@basiliscoe.com

Catherine Hanley: ***1217: The Battles That Saved England***

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/05/new-medieval-books-1217-battles-saved-england/>

Review of ***Gunpowder Technology***

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/06/new-medieval-books-gunpowder-technology-in-the-fifteenth-century/>

Online book

Artilleryman Magazine - summer 2024 (link may not last long)

https://issuu.com/civilwardealerscollectorsdirectory/docs/the_artilleryman_magazine_-

[_vol. 45 no. 3 summer ?fbclid=IwAR1IDccdEYVQfSpV9SYyyFS3Stj2GV4p3tMdtXUa2_3JJlPeWPRgDIYRd8](https://www.basiliscoe.com/vol_45_no_3_summer/?fbclid=IwAR1IDccdEYVQfSpV9SYyyFS3Stj2GV4p3tMdtXUa2_3JJlPeWPRgDIYRd8)

Events

Conferences

28 September Armourers Hall, London

Companies, craft and conflict

To book a place please use this form:

<https://bit.ly/companiescraftconflict>

For any other enquiries contact Kay Smith at: smithbrown@basiliscoe.com

29 September – 4 October 2024 London & UK

ICOMAM conference- call for papers and booking opens

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

Sales

Post auction sale

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

Olympia's June auctions

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

Websites and downloads

1066 etc Trial by Combat, Crusade, clerks and medieval murders

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/06/medieval-trial-combat/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/05/rewriting-first-crusade-thomas-smith/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/05/should-we-stop-talking-about-the->

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/06/surfeit-blood-murders-middle-ages/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/06/medieval-clerks-warfare/>

Finally – Remembering D-day

<https://thedaystory.com/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m001zy46/dday-80>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3ggd8w92jjo>

<https://royalarmouries.org/fort-nelson/whats-on/d-day-80>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 6 June 2024

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