

The Basiliscoe Mercury 430

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Interesting piece about the development of Japan's military museum. Otherwise, a number of Scottish stories, cannon from India and the Thames, and a full menu at the café! And, of course, this week's discoveries under-the-carpark and in-the-river...

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Bronze age weapon hoard recovered in Czech republic
<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/3600-year-old-jewelry-and-weapon-hoard-found-under-field-in-czech-republic>

Unknown Roman fort found in Pembrokeshire
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/article/2024/aug/02/humongous-fort-found-in-wales-may-disprove-theory-of-celtic-roman-peace>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Hidden history of the Sami in Viking times
<https://www.sciencenorway.no/archaeology-history-sami/archaeologists-most-exciting-finds-found-traces-of-sami-settlement-in-the-viking-age/2388640>

Princely tomb with chariots found in Italy
<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/07/princely-tomb-with-rich-funerary-objects-found-in-corinaldo-necropolis/152759>

Modern saddles - works of art
<https://artdaily.com/news/172656/This-cowgirl-s-saddles-are-beautiful--The-wait-time-is-six-years->

Grave stories

Unsettling Mummy story of the week
<https://phys.org/news/2024-08-woman-mummy-died-agony-years.html>

Dangerous times along the Silk Road
<https://www.scmp.com/news/people-culture/article/3271202/border-skirmishes-polo-players-how-violence-manifested-along-ancient-silk-road>

Underwhelming story on Casper Hauser's DNA
<https://www.newsweek.com/scientist-debunk-long-running-royal-conspiracy-theory-history-mystery-dna-1933871>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

This week's discovered-in-a-carpark: Northampton Castle

<https://www.northamptonchron.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/potential-remains-of-northampton-castle-found-in-fascinating-discovery-during-works-on-car-park-4725313>

Violence against Spain's Jews in Medieval times uncovered

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/07/evidence-of-violent-attack-on-the-castrum-iudeorum-jewish-quarter/152767>

Forts, gunpowder and cannon

Drakes Island up for sale (again)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/articles/cw0y231zy4lo>

Dorchester and its history of fireworks

<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/24471253.history-fireworks-book-sheds-light-dorsets-past/>

Walk round Birmingham includes the proof house

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/news/midlands-news/birminghams-untold-ales-secret-history-29565780>

Three wrought-iron swivel guns found in Barundanga, Assam, India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/guwahati/medieval-era-cannons-unearthed-in-dhubri-district-highlight-assams-rich-metallurgy/articleshow/111941511.cms>

More pictures of them here

<https://www.indiatodayne.in/assam/story/assam-century-old-swivel-cannon-unearthed-in-dhubri-1053420-2024-07-20>

Saving the Alamo, one last time

<https://phys.org/news/2024-08-anthropologists-quest-alamo-cannon.html>

Miscellany

Calling time on Robert "the" Bruce

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cqrl74yx325o>

But who cares what he is called, what did the Bruce look like?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx023de3vkqo>

Was there an assassination attempt on Bonnie Prince Charlie? (a lot riding on splintered wood and a musket ball)

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/the-legend-is-true-bonnie-prince-charlie-narrowly-escaped-an-assassination-attempt-in-scotland-in-1745-musket-ball-hole-reveals>

Piece of George Washington's dining tent goes on display
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/history-buff-bought-a-scrap-of-george-washingtons-tent-from-goodwill-180984757/>

Café Basiliscoe

Medieval pig
<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/07/new-medieval-books-the-medieval-pig/>

...garnished with 1000-year-old honey...
<https://arkeonews.net/beehives-of-saudi-arabias-thought-to-be-over-1000-years-old/>

...and 3000-year-old hazelnuts
<https://arkeonews.net/3000-year-old-hazelnut-shells-discovered-in-the-sacred-hittite-city-of-nerik/>

Choice of Biblical beer...
<https://www.zmescience.com/science/archaeology/scientists-brew-biblical-beer-using-5000-year-old-yeast-salvaged-from-israel/>

...or 200 year old champagne
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/article/2024/jul/24/corker-of-a-find-shipwreck-in-baltic-brims-with-crates-of-champagne>

Princesses and Amazons: all fashion special

Medieval fashion tips
<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/07/exploring-medieval-fashion-trends/>

Pepys the dandy
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/article/2024/jul/22/samuel-pepys-diarist-administrator-budding-fashionista>

Sailor suits
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c87rmlp3868o>

...to be worn with Perfume de Julius Caesar
<https://arkeonews.net/famous-roman-emperor-julius-caesars-perfume-recreated/>

Into the 20th century

Recovering a Flying Fortress
<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/07/co-pilots-dog-tag-found-at-wreck-site-of-wwii-b-17-flying-fortress/152783>

Nautical news

Update from a Sung period shipwreck

<https://www.scmp.com/news/people-culture/article/3273060/ancient-china-shipwreck-unveils-insights-song-era-smuggling-and-government-apathy>

Bronze gun located on the *London* in the Thames

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cw0ykn9g1veo>

Corsair ship found in the Mediterranean

<https://www.newsweek.com/pirate-shipwreck-discovery-sheds-light-great-maritime-horror-maritime-archaeology-1934003>

Museum news and exhibitions

Museum Musings

Very detailed and thoughtful history of Japan's Yushukan Military Museum (long and with copious illustrations)

<https://apjif.org/2024/7/benesch>

LA museum returns weapons to Native Australians

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/07/29/fowler-museum-returns-objects-warumungu-people-australia>

Conservation corner

Fascinating investigation into Tycho Brache's lab

<https://phys.org/news/2024-07-chemical-analyses-hidden-elements-renaissance.html>

Objects

This week's sword in the river

<https://www.newsweek.com/woman-finds-200-year-old-sword-river-hampshire-1932151>

A man and his gun

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2024/07/29/wild-west-gun-lawman/>

New firearm displays at the Mifflin Museum

<https://www.sungazette.com/life/lifestyle-news/2024/08/historic-weapons-to-be-displayed-at-mifflin-museum-collection/>

Exhibitions

Flemish painting in Montreal

<https://artdaily.com/news/172560/-Sinners--Lovers-and-Fools--Three-Hundred-Years-of-Flemish-Masterworks--on-view-in-Montreal>

Persian art in Washington

<https://artdaily.com/news/172344/Smithsonian-s-National-Museum-of-Asian-Art-to-open--An-Epic-of-Kings--The-Great-Mongol-Shahnama->

Coming: Sienese art in NY

<https://artdaily.com/news/172275/The-Metropolitan-Museum-of-Art-to-present-first-major-exhibition-in-America-on-early-Sienese-art>

Books

Peter G. Smithurst: *The Evolution of Gun Making; Machine made weapons, 1700–1820*

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/The-Evolution-of-Gun-Making-Hardback/p/50908>

Books available from Les Invalides

<https://boutique.musee-armee.fr/fr/>

If your research relates to pieces in the Met's collections, they would like to hear from you for possible publication: for details, contact

Elizabeth.Block@metmuseum.org

Online Books

Deconstruction and Conservation of Roman Armour from the Millennium Excavations, Carlisle

<https://historicensland.org.uk/research/results/reports/50-2005?page=1&search=carlisle+&searchResultsPerPage=20&searchType=research+report>

A survey of the historic carvings at Carlisle Castle, Cumbria, using Structure-from-Motion photogrammetry and terrestrial laser scans

<https://historicensland.org.uk/research/results/reports/53-2016?search=carlisle+castle&searchResultsPerPage=20&searchType=research+report&sort=publicationDate+desc>

Events

August jousting in Leeds

<https://royalarmouries.org/leeds/whats-on/jousting-tournament>

Commented [RB1]:

Diary Dates

28–30 August - Buffalo Bill Center of the West

Arsenals of History 2024

<https://arsenalsofhistory.org/aoh2024>

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/>

11 October 2024 Online

'Fytt for thy degree': Clothing and arming the Typical Tudor man (Online event in support of the Mendlesham armoury project)

https://www.tickettailor.com/events/medievaldressandtextilesociety/1321231?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0I0A9vQ11wkAzCKsgWifjnVzTUwW2UBfZ9NwOp7VhBF_LYhgUQaf2KSEI_aem_pjvf4NWd06HN6pb11avlA

Sales

Olympia's auctions

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

Websites and downloads

1066 etc: King Arthur, Paris & Criminal crusaders

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/07/medieval-believe-king-arthur/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/07/surviving-medieval-paris/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/07/when-knights-misbehaved-criminal-acts-on-the-crusades/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 2 August 2024

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