

The Basiliscae Mercury 434

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

I suspect the upcoming Gladiator 2 is the reason for quite so many gladiator-themed articles this week. Most interesting, if gruesome, is the report on a Bronze Age battle, but lighter material in Popular culture.

Arms and armour in the news

Investigating Bronze Age spearing fighting

<https://phys.org/news/2024-10-experimental-archaeology-skill-technique-bronze.html>

The truth about gladiators

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/did-roman-gladiators-really-fight-to-the-death>

And investigating the tomb of the gladiator (and 12 of his friends)

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/grand-tomb-of-roman-gladiator-found-in-turkey-actually-contains-the-remains-of-12-other-people>

Update on the Danish knife with runes

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/10/little-sword-denmarks-oldest-runes-found-on-knife-blade/>

Battles, towers and forts

Investigating a bronze-age battlefield in Germany - fascinating read

<https://www.newsweek.com/bronze-age-arrowheads-europe-oldest-known-battlefield-1957118>

New Roman military structure found in Turkey

<https://arkeonews.net/1600-year-old-roman-military-structure-uneared-in-hasankeyf-turkiye/>

Investigate battle of Manzikert, Turkey, 26 August 1071

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/09/archaeologists-find-physical-traces-of-the-battle-of-malazgirt/153541>

Humans and animals

4000-year-old chariot found in Uttar Pradesh

<https://arkeonews.net/indian-archaeologists-uneared-over-4000-year-old-war-chariots-in-royal-tombs-in-the-northern-state-of-uttar-pradesh/>

Whale with its own 150 year old harpoon

<https://www.oceansvibe.com/2024/09/20/how-the-longest-living-mammal-was-found-with-1880s-era-harpoon-in-its-side/>

Investigating the Viking ivory trade

<https://phys.org/news/2024-09-retracing-walrus-ivory-viking-age.html>

Grave stories

Who killed off the Neanderthals?

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/did-we-kill-the-neanderthals-new-research-may-finally-answer-an-age-old-question>

Exploring horseback riding through human skeletons

<https://phys.org/news/2024-09-scientists-explore-horseback-human-skeletons.html>

Viking period graveyard excavated in Denmark

https://edition.cnn.com/2024/10/01/science/viking-burials-denmark-scli-intl?cid=ios_app

Skeletons found in Polish fort may be victims of Mongol Invasion

<https://www.newsweek.com/human-remains-found-medieval-fort-mongol-invasion-victims-archaeology-1962735>

Identifying a member of the Franklin expedition

<https://phys.org/news/2024-09-dna-analysis-senior-officer-franklin.html>

In the lists

The end of jousting?

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/09/bow-blade-episode-55/>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Ever visited Athenry Castle? The Irish government want to know

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/09/do-you-have-old-photos-of-athenry-castle/>

Dundonald Castle's medieval ring to go on display

<https://www.irvinetimes.com/news/24593131.dundonald-castle-medieval-ring-go-display-museum/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Where to see Portugues-era cannon in Goa

<https://www.gomantaktimes.com/ampstories/web-stories/where-can-you-see-portuguese-era-cannons-in-go>

Ardrossan's lost cannon

<https://www.ardrossanherald.com/news/24613370.heritage-society-hope-bring-back-cannons-castle-hill/>

Otago's (NZ) RMLs conserved and redisplayed

<https://www.odt.co.nz/news/dunedin/historic-guns-restored-relocated>

Café Basiliscoe

Oldest cheese in the world

<https://cosmosmagazine.com/history/archaeology/world-oldest-cheese-china/>

With 7000-year-old snails

<https://phys.org/news/2024-10-tunisian-snail-insights-year-local.html>

...cooked with ancient Indian techniques

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/ahmedabad/ancient-cooking-techniques-of-harappans-boiling-frying-revealed-by-pottery-analysis/articleshow/113992780.cms>

Princesses and Amazons

Joan of Arc and her hairdo

<https://www.hnn.us/article/the-bowl-truth>

Kimono pattern books

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/plant-journeys-blog-13-kimono-and-kimono-pattern-books>

Into the 20th century

Returning a war memento to a Japanese soldier's son

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/a-japanese-soldiers-son-receives-a-memento-of-his-father-who-was-killed-during-world-war-ii-180985121/>

Australian Beaufort Bomber, lost in 1943 found in Papua New Guinea

<https://www.newsweek.com/missing-allied-wwii-plane-found-80-years-lost-mission-history-1961264>

World Heritage

New texts on samurai ritual beheadings

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/secret-teachings-about-ritual-samurai-beheading-revealed-in-newly-translated-japanese-texts>

Nautical news

Wonders of the Deep

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2024/sep/25/gold-underwater-archaeologist-four-salvages-mensun-bound-book-wonders-in-the-deep-mark-frary>

Ottoman period weapons found in Turkish shipwreck

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/janissary-weapons-discovered-in-ottoman-shipwreck-200875>
<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/culture/ottoman-secrets-shipwreck-56259/>

Galeón *Andalucía* reaches the UK

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/you-can-climb-aboard-a-massive-reproduction-of-a-17th-century-spanish-galleon-thats-sailing-around-the-world-180985115/>

Update on Colombia and the *San José*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgn18xl3j7o>

Ship that served in both the US and Japanese navies in WW2 rediscovered

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/10/the-ghost-ship-of-the-pacific-rediscovered-off-california-coast/153565>

A Receiver of Wrecks remembers...

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/tales-as-a-receiver-of-wreck/ar-AA1rjAMg>

Museum news and exhibitions

New museums

V&A to redo South Asia Gallery

<https://artdaily.com/news/174321/V-A-gains-support-from-The-National-Lottery-Heritage-Fund-to-transform-its-historic-South-Asia-gallery>

Museum developments

How long should your labels be?

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/09/26/dutch-museum-aims-for-improved-accessibility-with-launch-of-short-form-captionslaunches-short-form-captions>

Museum musings

Recent thoughts on the Voynich manuscript

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/09/25/voynich-manuscript-scans-reveal-early-decoding-attempt>

Conservation corner

English heritage is having trouble looking after its artefacts

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/10/08/an-irreplaceable-portal-to-the-past-english-heritage-launches-campaign-to-help-preserve-more-than-one-million-artefacts>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/millionandmore>

Objects

Shield to be returned to Ethiopia

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/10/07/maq-bala-shield-repatriation-ethiopia-exhibition-toledo-museum>

Iranian bronze-age swords not all they seem

<https://phys.org/news/2024-10-advanced-scanning-technique-confiscated-iron.html>

Exhibitions

2025 – Pirates come to Greenwich

<https://artdaily.com/news/174445/Royal-Museums-Greenwich-announces-2025-exhibitions>

Maarten van Heemskerck in 3 Dutch art galleries

<https://artdaily.com/news/174338/Masterpieces-by-Maarten-van-Heemskerck-in-the-Netherlands-for-the-first-time>

Rembrandt in Vienna

<https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/support/projects-and-appeals/appeal-launched-calverley-old-hall/public-opening-event/>

Baroque drawings from Italy in Frankfurt

<https://artdaily.com/news/174623/St-auml-del-Museum-opens--Fantasy-and-Passion--Drawing-from-Carracci-to-Bernini->

North Carolina: Venice & Ottomans & samurai

<https://artdaily.com/news/174515/New-fall-exhibitions-at-the-North-Carolina-Museum-of-Art>

Popular culture

The perils of celebrity...

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/people/royal-armouries-viral-star-interview-4798752>

Gawain and the green sword-dancer...

<https://www.miragenews.com/research-links-medieval-verse-to-sword-dancing-1330126/>

Knightcore - apparently it's a thing

<https://screenshot-media.com/the-future/fashion/knightcore-mediaeval-aeshtetic-tiktok-trend/>

Events

Diary Dates

Living history week in Scotland

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/10/step-into-scotlands-past-living-history-week-brings-castles-and-characters-to-life/>

Conferences

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?fclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR0I0A9vQ11wkAzCKsgWjfnVzTUwW2UBfZ9NwOp7VhBF_LYhgUQaf2KSEI_aem_pjvf4NWd06HN6pbl1avlnA

12 -13 November Nationaal Militair Museum, Soesterberg. Netherlands
Honour & Discomfort: War Booty in Museum Collections.

https://nl.linkedin.com/posts/koninklijkedefensiemusea_de-stichting-koninklijke-defensiemusea-sk-d-activity-7238868547911790593-ofL

Sales, fairs and auctions

12-13 Oct London

Antiquities - includes arms and armour

<https://www.apolloauctions.com/> <https://artdaily.com/news/174480/Battle-royale-looms-at-Apollo-Art-Auctions--Oct--12-13-Ancient-Art---Antiquities-sale>

4-7 November Munich

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

Websites and downloads

1066 etc: castles & Norwegian sculptures

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/09/life-and-government-in-royal-castles-in-the-long-thirteenth-century/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/10/the-strange-medieval-sculptures-of-nidaros-cathedral/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 9 October 2024

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<http://www.basiliscoe.com>