

The Basiliscope Mercury 437

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

A number of sword-related stories, plus much news from the graveyards and a full programme of London exhibitions.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms & hunting

Knife with gladiator hilt found in Hadrian's wall

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/rare-gladiator-shaped-knife-handle-discovered-by-hadrians-wall>

Ice Age fishing found engraved on stone

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/11/oldest-known-depiction-of-fishing-found-in-ice-age-engravings/153856>

Grave stories

Investigating a Frankish period cemetery in Thuringia

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/11/archaeologists-reveal-the-lady-of-kolleda/153849>

Swedish female burial with pocket knife stuck in

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/iron-age-woman-was-buried-with-a-knife-stuck-into-her-grave-archaeologists-arent-sure-why>

What happened to kill over a 100 people in Leicester 800 years ago?

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2024/nov/17/mystery-surrounds-800-year-old-leicester-burial-pit-containing-123-bodies>

Investigating prisoner of war cemetery in Poland

https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-827324#google_vignette

On the frontlines

Identifying the site of the Battle of al-Qadisiyyah 636/7

<https://www.newsweek.com/declassified-united-states-satellite-image-reveal-ancient-battle-site-1983078>

Identifying finds from the 1792 battle of Dubienka

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/11/eagle-emblems-found-on-battlefield-site/153883>

Restoring a US battlefield and its landscape
<https://home.nps.gov/articles/000/the-big-reveal.htm>
Cannons and forts

What's happening to Hull's Henrician blockhouse
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c87x1l3ljxpo>

Miniature cannon return to Sarawak's museum
<https://dayakdaily.com/27-historical-miniature-cannons-heading-home-to-sarawak-in-symbolic-donation-from-former-shell-engineer/>

Ottery's Rock cannons
<https://www.sidmouthherald.co.uk/news/24690440.opinion-ottery-st-mary-history-rock-cannons/>

Short history of fireworks
<https://www.islingtontribune.co.uk/article/rocket-man>

Living in the past

Inside Medieval hovels
<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/11/inside-medieval-homes/>

How living in the past is increasingly popular
<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2024/nov/11/muskets-chain-mail-and-medieval-laundry-historical-re-enactment-living-history>

How Richard III spoke...
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/nov/17/technology-used-to-recreate-richard-iiis-voice-with-yorkshire-accent>

Café Basiliscoe

Ancient cheese ...
<https://phys.org/news/2024-11-archaeologists-ancient-cheese-makers-tree.html>

...with cocktails of the Pharoahs
<https://phys.org/news/2024-11-egyptians-drank-hallucinogenic-cocktails-ancient.html>

Into the 20th century

The story of the Commonwealth graves
https://grave-stories.com/fabian-ware-remembering-the-dead-of-the-great-war/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=fabian-ware-remembering-the-dead-of-the-great-war

Cache of WW2 ceramic coins found in Kyoto

<https://arkeonews.net/hidden-treasure-from-wwii-500000-phantom-ceramic-coins-found/>

Out of India

Indian sword sells for record price

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/scots-sword-used-historic-battle-34124972>

Cache of weapons recovered from 1858 Battle of Shahjahanpur, India,
<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/meerut/historic-1858-weapons-cache-discovered-in-up-village-shedding-light-on-rebellion-against-british/articleshow/115093358.cms>

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2024/pioneer-exclusive/harvesting-history---shahjahanpur-farmer-unearths-cache-of-1857-revolt-era-weapons.html>

Nautical news

Mystery buyer of half the shipwreck museum's contents revealed

<https://www.thisismast.org/debrief/2024-11-04.html>

Shipwreck off NE Scotland confirmed as HMS *Hawke*, lost 1914

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4gx81ne5jko>

Feature on Canadian transport ships sunk in 1942

<https://www.theglobeandmail.com/canada/article-german-submarines-bell-island-newfoundland/>

USS *Edsall* (DD-219) located at extreme depths

<https://divernet.com/scuba-news/wrecks/dancing-mouse-ww2-us-destroyer-wreck-located/>

Museum news and exhibitions

Conservation corner

Restoring Donatello's *Gattamelata*

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/11/donatello-gattamelata-restoration-begins/>

Scientific work on a Japanese sword-blade published

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-024-79436-6>

Restoration begins on the *Night Watch*

<https://artdaily.com/news/175547/Restoration-begins-of-Rembrandt-s-The-Night-Watch>

But Versailles conservators suing...

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/11/14/lead-poisoning-claim-by-versailles-restoration-workers-reaches-court>

Objects

Recent work on a sword from the Baltic found in 2019

<https://www.ladbible.com/news/sword-stone-excalibur-real-life-582467-20241106>

<https://www.indy100.com/science-tech/sword-excalibur-vrbas-river-bosnia-herzegovina-2669738959>

Royal Armouries, Leeds put Ukraine body armour on display

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024/11/royal-armouries-displays-body-armour-damaged-in-ukraine-war/>

Great helm up for sale

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/11/medieval-great-helm-terracota-horse-auction/>

Exhibitions

Mughals in London

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/great-mughals-art-architecture-opulence>

Two exhibitions on the Silk Road in London

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/exhibitions/silk-roads>

<https://silkroad.seetickets.com/timeslots/filter/a-silk-road-oasis-life-in-ancient-dunhuang>

Medieval women in London

<https://www.bl.uk/whats-on/medieval-women/>

Renaissance art in London

<https://www.rct.uk/collection/exhibitions/drawing-the-italian-renaissance/the-kings-gallery-buckingham-palace>

Drawings from Chatsworth House in Edinburgh

<https://artdaily.com/news/175472/Exhibition-of-drawings-from-Chatsworth-House-opens-at-the-Royal-Scottish-Academy>

The Hamiltons in Naples

<https://artdaily.com/news/175406/Sir-William-and-Lady-Hamilton-exhibition-opens-in-Naples>

Art of Fireworks in Berlin

<https://artdaily.com/news/175424/Berlin-s-Cultural-Forum-unveils--Cracked-Up-and-Burnt-Down--exhibition-exploring-five-centuries-of-firework-arts>

Books

Just in time for the Christmas stocking - the Royal Armouries have a series of small flip books

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/royal-armouries-publications/products/foot-combat-flip-book?variant=41555717324866>

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/royal-armouries-publications/products/fencing-flip-book-1?variant=41555720437826>

Check out the whole series here:

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/royal-armouries-publications>

Popular culture

When historians and film makers clash...

<https://www.theguardian.com/film/2024/nov/16/gladiator-bridgerton-history-consultants-napoleon-favourite-ridley-scott>

Live streaming ancient Chinese sword-making skills for a new generation

<http://en.people.cn/n3/2024/1115/c90000-20242318.html>

House-visiting is in a golden (Tudor) age

<https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2024/nov/16/english-historic-houses-profiting-from-wolf-hall-drama-henry-viii>

Events

Sales, fairs and auctions

11 – 20 November 2024 London

Antique Arms and Armour

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/30445/antique-arms-and-armour/>

Various dates in November and December

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

Finally, a reminder that it is time for contributions for the next ICOMAM Magazine; you can read the last one here:

<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/the-magazine/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 18 November 2024

Check out our publications

<http://www.basiliscoe.com>