

# The Basiliscoe Mercury 439

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

The last Bazzy of the year, and it is chock full of interesting stories - swords and whole caches of weapons, two stories about ancient armour and a massacre in ancient Somerset. More on the man in the Norwegian well, and the Christmas stocking. See you all in 2025.

## Arms and armour in the news

### Ancient arms

Iberian Neolithic peoples had knowledge and skill in archery

<https://phys.org/news/2024-12-iberian-neolithic-societies-deep-knowledge.html>

Exhibition at Nottingham University showcases weapons recovered from the Trent over the years

<https://the-past.com/feature/intentional-offerings-examining-bronze-age-metalwork-from-the-river-trent/>

Sword found in Danish bog

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/ritually-bent-bronze-age-sword-uneearthed-in-danish-bog-is-very-rare-find>

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/vekso-denmark-ancient-sword>

Cache of weapons found in Danish excavations

<https://wfin.com/fox-world-news/archaeologists-in-denmark-discover-over-100-weapons-from-the-iron-age-during-excavations/>

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/12/iron-age-weapons-sacrifice-found-in-denmark/154033> <https://wfin.com/fox-world-news/archaeologists-in-denmark-discover-over-100-weapons-from-the-iron-age-during-excavations/>

Fascinating piece on the use and repair of mail in Roman Germany

<https://phys.org/news/2024-12-chain-mail-local-craftworkers-involved.html>

Grave of Roman soldier found in Heerlen, Netherlands

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/12/grave-of-roman-soldier-uneearthed-in-heerlen/154074>

Chinese scale armour found in Han period tomb

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202412/1324581.shtml>

Pictish spear butt - one of Scotland's top archaeological finds of 2024

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5y4m0dy1veo>

Viking sword found in Polish river

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/12/diver-finds-viking-era-sword-in-suprasl-river/154021>

### **Battles, towers and forts**

Barbarian warriors used drugs in battle

<https://phys.org/news/2024-12-barbarian-warriors-roman.html>

New research on Tara's history

<https://www.irishcentral.com/roots/history/ancient-monument-hill-tara>

### **Beasts of assorted varieties...**

Mammoth hunting for dinner

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/early-americans-ate-tons-of-mammoth-13-000-year-old-bones-from-clovis-culture-baby-reveal>

Training royal horses

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/training-royal-horses-warfare-medieval/>

Caring for war horses

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/how-medieval-armies-cared-for-their-warhorses/>

### **Grave stories**

Bronze age massacre and cannibalism

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crl3jn3elz3o>

More on the man in the Norwegian well

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/who-was-the-man-in-the-well/>

### **Through the arrow-slit . . .**

Bamberg's palace complex

<https://www.medieval.eu/the-royal-palace-at-bamberg/>

Medieval defences uncovered in western Slovakia

<https://arkeonews.net/a-medieval-barbican-and-a-network-of-passages-uncovered-in-western-slovakias-town-of-trencin/>

And medieval defences uncovered in Luxembourg

<https://www.luxtimes.lu/luxembourg/medieval-bridge-and-two-defence-towers-uncovered-in-hollenfels/29735144.html>

## **Cannons to the left, cannon to the right**

Sind's missing cannon found

<https://english.aaj.tv/news/30343125/kot-diji-forts-missing-cannons-found-after-decades>

## **Miscellany**

What was found under Notre Dame - quite a lot...

<https://www.artnews.com/art-news/news/more-than-1000-artifacts-discovered-beneath-notre-dame-cathedral-paris-1234725950/>

Medieval sword found in Danish sewer

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/denmark-medieval-sword>

The mystery of the princes in the Tower takes another twist

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/chain-linked-to-prince-edward-v-found-in-16th-century-will/>

More on the finds from Glencoe

<https://phys.org/news/2024-12-glen-coe-fresh-archaeological-discoveries.html>

## **Princesses and Amazons**

Velasquez's Marianne of Austria gets her own exhibition in Pasadena

<https://www.nortonsimon.org/exhibitions/2020-2029/mariana-velazquez-portrait-of-a-queen-from-the-museo-del-prado/>

<https://artdaily.com/news/176414/The-Norton-Simon-Museum-presents-Mariana--Vel-zquez-s-Portrait-of-a-Queen-from-the-Museo-Nacional-del-Prado>

## **Into the 20<sup>th</sup> century**

Uncovering the long history of El Alamein

<https://phys.org/news/2024-12-el-alamein-glimpse-greco-roman.html>

Croatian archaeologists look for long-term preservation of Stuka in the sea

<https://arkeonews.net/croatian-team-finds-a-way-to-effectively-and-permanently-preserve-stuka-aircraft-wreck-under-the-sea/>

## **Nautical news**

Update on the possible Vasco da Gama wreck off Kenya

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/vasco-da-gama-ship-final-voyage-b2661111.html>

<https://phys.org/news/2024-12-wwi-shipwreck-northern-ireland.html>

Bad weather may have driven VOC ship *Zuytdorp* off course in 1712

<https://phys.org/news/2024-12-bad-weather-dutch-east-india.html>

HMS *Stephen Furness*, sunk in 1917, found off Northern Ireland  
<https://phys.org/news/2024-12-wwi-shipwreck-northern-ireland.html>

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **News**

Stalemate over the possible Civil War museum in Madrid  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/dec/08/were-devastated-anger-as-madrid-backtracks-on-museum-plan-for-site-of-robert-capas-famous-civil-war-photo>

### **New museums**

Notre Dame to get new museum  
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/12/06/restored-notre-dame-to-have-its-own-museum-in-pariss-hotel-dieu>

### **Museum developments**

Seeing the objects without the cases  
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/12/06/how-museums-in-the-metaverse-is-transforming-the-way-we-view-art>

### **Museum musings**

A different way to look at science and culture  
<https://theconversation.com/everything-is-country-these-4-projects-blend-first-nations-knowledge-and-science-to-rewrite-our-understanding-of-the-past-243578>

The art of museum label writing  
<https://www.museumnext.com/article/what-makes-a-great-museum-label/>

### **Conservation corner**

Notre Dame's iron gates  
<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/the-devils-blacksmith-the-legendary-gates-of-notre-dame/>

Conservation of the Ghent altarpiece reveals Van Eyck's skills  
<https://artdaily.com/news/176326/Conservation-of-the-Ghent-Altarpiece-continues-to-reveal-the-unparalleled-virtuosity-of-the-Van-Eyck-brothers>

### **Objects**

A visit to Beretta's collections  
<https://www.guns.com/news/2024/12/05/the-beretta-private-collection-like-no-place-on-earth>

## Exhibitions

Swimwear in London

<https://artdaily.com/news/176325/Pamela-Anderson-s-sensational-Baywatch-swimsuit-leads-exhibition-on-swimming-s-century>

Maharajah Duleep at Thetford

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cgm9187k232o>

Watteau at the Louvre

<https://artdaily.com/news/176331/A-new-look-at-Watteau--Exhibition-at-The-Louvre-presents-sixty-five-works->

Spanish paintings in Seville

<https://artdaily.com/news/176153/From-El-Greco-to-Zuloaga--Spanish-masterpieces-on-view-at-the-Museum-of-Fine-Arts-in-Seville>

Islamic art in Connecticut

<https://artdaily.com/news/176220/Rare-works-of-Islamic-art-on-view-now-at-the-Wadsworth-Atheneum-Museum-of-Art>

Japanese war brides go on tour of the US

<https://artdaily.com/news/176347/Smithsonian-highlights-the-experiences-and-impact-of-Japanese-war-brides-in-new-traveling-exhibition>

17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch portraits in Frankfurt - looks a real treat

<https://artdaily.com/news/176428/St-auml-del-Museum-showcases-portraits-from-the-Rembrandt-period-in-a-major-exhibition>

## Books

**New Basiliscoe Press book - *At the Sign of the Dragon***

<https://www.basiliscoe.com/shop/>

Round up of the best medieval books of 2024

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/best-medieval-books-of-2024/>

***Edged Weapons of Afghanistan 19th - early 20th century / Холодное оружие Афганистана XIX начала XX веков***

[https://www.academia.edu/115063317/Edged\\_Weapons\\_of\\_Afghanistan\\_19th\\_early\\_20th\\_century\\_%D0%A5%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B5\\_%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%83%D0%B6%D0%B8%D0%B5\\_%D0%90%D1%84%D0%B3%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0\\_XIX\\_%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%87%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B0\\_XX\\_%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2?fbclid=IwY2xjawG9AMdleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHeThzAW7BCMBUMRf3hMdSMFFF-PURjVc\\_8\\_iBqZp-EcmnSxaFt2fkun7cw\\_aem\\_JOXD4dldSpHPIf8IU84mJw](https://www.academia.edu/115063317/Edged_Weapons_of_Afghanistan_19th_early_20th_century_%D0%A5%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B5_%D0%BE%D1%80%D1%83%D0%B6%D0%B8%D0%B5_%D0%90%D1%84%D0%B3%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B8%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B0%D0%BD%D0%B0_XIX_%D0%BD%D0%B0%D1%87%D0%B0%D0%BB%D0%B0_XX_%D0%B2%D0%B5%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B2?fbclid=IwY2xjawG9AMdleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHeThzAW7BCMBUMRf3hMdSMFFF-PURjVc_8_iBqZp-EcmnSxaFt2fkun7cw_aem_JOXD4dldSpHPIf8IU84mJw)

## Online Reading

Latest Research from English Heritage

<https://historicensland.org.uk/images-books/publications/historic-england-research-27/he-research-27/>

And back copies here:

[https://historicensland.org.uk/images-books/publications/?searchType=Publication&search=\\* &page=&filterOption=&facetValues=facet\\_ddl\\_Series:Research%2520News/Historic%2520England%2520Research:fSeries%7C&pagelId=27646](https://historicensland.org.uk/images-books/publications/?searchType=Publication&search=* &page=&filterOption=&facetValues=facet_ddl_Series:Research%2520News/Historic%2520England%2520Research:fSeries%7C&pagelId=27646)

## Popular Culture

Royal Armouries wins TikTok prize for viral clip

<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/business/royal-armouries-museum-leeds-tiktok-names-viral-yorkshire-video-among-best-content-in-2024-4899954>

## Websites and downloads

1066 etc: Battles, the Swan Knight & Templars on the run

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/the-battle-of-nevilles-cross-1346-according-to-the-lanercost-chronicle/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/the-swan-knight-and-his-medieval-legacy/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/templars-on-the-run-myths-facts-and-what-really-happened/>

**The Bazy Christmas stocking - something to eat and drink, something to do, something to read...**

Has Santa Claus been found?

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2024/12/sarcophagus-found-at-church-of-st-nicholas-could-be-the-tomb-of-santa-claus/154084>

A mediaeval Christmas

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/christmas-middle-ages/>

Castle Fraser's cloutie dumpling

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/recipe-irenes-cloutie-dumpling-from-castle-fraser>

...washed down by the oldest wine in the world

<https://greekreporter.com/2024/11/30/oldest-wine-europe-ancient-greece/>

Latest Christmassy message from the Royal armouries  
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=949337290428253>

Make like the Magi - astrolabe for Christmas?  
<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/12/reviving-medieval-science-workshop-highlights-10th-century-astrolabes-precision-and-legacy/>

Buy your own  
<https://www.britishmuseumshoponline.org/catalogsearch/result/?q=astrolabe>

And read all about it  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A\\_Treatise\\_on\\_the\\_Astrolabe](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/A_Treatise_on_the_Astrolabe)  
<https://www.chirurgeon.org/treatise.html>

Colour and cut out your own paper dolls  
<https://www.education.com/slideshow/history-paper-dolls/>

Act out your own plays  
<https://www.toytheatregallery.com/>

Enjoy the original Sir Gawain  
<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2012/08/sir-gawain-and-the-green-knight-online.html>

A mystery set among the royal tombs of Georgian Westminster Abbey: ***The Bells of Westminster*** by Leonora Natrass  
<https://www.waterstones.com/book/the-bells-of-westminster/leonora-natrass/9781800817012>

And read about the real Bells of Westminster while we are here  
<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/history/explore-our-history/a-joyful-noise-the-bells-of-westminster-abbey/>

Not forgetting the last **ICOMAM MAGAZINE**  
<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/the-magazine/>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 16 December 2024**  
**Check out our publications**  
<http://www.basiliscoe.com>

**Have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year**

