

Basiliscae Mercury 443

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Several Roman stories this week, plus whisky, conserving the Bayeux tapestry, medieval costumes in Stockholm, Ramadan cannon & looting in Leeds.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Palaeolithic blades in modern Arabia

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/bellaghy-bog-body-remains-woman-b2700990.html>

Gladiators in Colchester

<https://arkeonews.net/the-colchester-vase-new-analyses-uncover-evidence-of-gladiatorial-combat-in-roman-britannia/>

Roman sword accidentally found in Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/02/detectorists-find-roman-sword-while-searching-for-ww2-relics/154561>

Roman legionary camp uncovered in Israel

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/02/27/roman-legion-camp-discovered-armageddon/>

Grave stories

Researching Ireland's latest bog body and her death

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/bellaghy-bog-body-remains-woman-b2700990.html>

And for those who enjoy this section: new book alert - Alice Roberts: *Crypt: Life, Death and Disease in the Middle Ages and Beyond*

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Crypt-Alice-Roberts/dp/1398519235>

Where did the Huns come from?

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/ancient-dna-reveals-mysterious-origins-of-the-huns-who-sacked-rome>

In the lists

Young Henry on the jousting field

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/henry-the-young-king-tournaments/>

Through the gunloop...

17th century Flemish painting of a castle rediscovered

<https://artdaily.com/news/178618/Lost-Flemish-Renaissance-painting-discovered-after-almost-a-century>

Civil War defences latest discovery from Sheffield Castle

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/03/archaeologists-uncover-rare-civil-war-defences-at-sheffield-castle/154659>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Historic cannon return to Drogheda after conservation

<https://www.independent.ie/regionals/louth/drogheda-news/historic-louth-cannons-return-to-droghedas-millmount-after-community-restoration/a240807064.html>

What happened to Ceder Rapids cannon trophies?

<https://www.thegazette.com/curious-iowa/curious-iowa-what-happened-to-the-cannon-in-greene-square/>

Cannon now the focus for love locks

<https://www.thedailyherald.sx/islands/historic-cannon-new-spot-for-love-locks>

Cannon run over by tractor

<https://www.elizabethton.com/2025/02/27/tractor-trailer-takes-out-cannon-at-elizabethton-monument/>

Ramadan cannon

<https://theislamicinformation.com/news/ramadan-2025-iftar-cannon-locations-in-dubai/>

<https://shafaq.com/en/Kurdistan/A-blast-from-the-past-Erbil-revives-traditional-Ramadan-cannon>

Miscellany

Aberlemno 3 has fallen

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/pictish-stone-in-scotland-that-stood-for-1-200-years-massively-damaged-as-wind-blows-it-over/ar-AA1Ajh4k>

Latest findings on medieval sword found in Poland - photos

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/02/rare-discovery-of-two-handed-medieval-sword/154585>

Fireworks in Jamaica

<https://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/entertainment/20250302/advertorial-history-fireworks-jamaica-pyreneers-explosives>

Back to the front

Career of a Scottish officer in 18th century America
<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/from-abertarff-to-america>

Café Basiliscoe

Glenlivet whisky project wins prize
<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/exploring-the-archaeology-and-history-of-glenlivet-whisky>

Or try the 62-gun salute...
<https://www.augustman.com/sg/dining/drinks/royal-salute-whisky-62-gun-salute-original-reserve/amp/>

Now wash your hands...
<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/make-medieval-soap/>

Princesses and Amazons

Portrait of Lady Jane Grey identified?
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g08z0wnvxo>

Portrait of the Queen of Spain by Valezquez restored
<https://artdaily.com/news/178644/Vel-zquez-masterpiece-restored-to-former-glory-at-the-Prado-Museum>

Into the 20th century

Investigating the aerial bombing decoys
<https://phys.org/news/2025-02-starfish-sites-secret-war-effort.html>

World Heritage

Ice age cave and its secrets
<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-843141>

Latest thinking on the Great Wall
<https://arkeonews.net/new-evidence-pushes-the-origins-of-the-great-wall-back-by-300-years/>

Lidar finds 15th century fortified city in Mexico
<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/lasers-reveal-15th-century-fortified-zapotec-city-in-mexico>

Nautical news

Investigating the oldest carvel wreck in Scandinavia
<https://divernet.com/scuba-news/wrecks/divers-explore-oldest-nordic-carvel-built-ship/>

The background to Oregon's Cannon Beach

https://www.centraloregondaily.com/destination-oregon/cannon-beach-oregon-namesake-history/article_16667484-ef13-11ef-8f32-d3ddefd5f1d9.html

Outsmarting the U-boats in WW1

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/how-britains-secret-decoy-ships-outfoxed-german-u-boats-during-world-war-i-180986044/>

Survey reveals WWI shipwrecks off Morocco

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-842948>

Brazilian Navy identified the Vital de Oliveira, a Brazilian World War II ship sunk 1944

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-841785>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Financial boost for UK's struggling museums

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckqdwv392wo>

New museums

Nashik's Artillery Museum

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/variety/guns-of-nashik/>

New Grand Museum of Egypt opening date set

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/03/03/the-grand-egyptian-museum-is-due-to-finally-open-on-3-july-heres-a-sneak-peek>

Museum musings

Netherlands to return Benin bronzes

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cly8397e7gno>

If you feel the need for a book about museum leadership, here it is:

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/02/20/why-newly-appointed-museum-directors-fail-and-how-to-avoid-it-kaywin-feldmans-new-book-on-leadership>

Siena and its art

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/02/28/as-siena-art-takes-to-world-stage-italian-city-undergoing-renewal>

Conservation corner

Bronze age metalworkers hoard from Wiltshire includes anvil

<https://arkeonews.net/rare-bronze-age-metalworking-hoard-discovered-in-wiltshire-including-an-anvil/>

Conserving the Bayeux tapestry

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/bayeux-tapestry-begins-major-conservation-project/>

Conservation work at Falkland Palace

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/conservation-journeys-at-falkland-palace>

Objects

Portrait of Marlborough conserved and displayed at Chartwell

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvg1nd8xpjno>

Researching a pistol found in a field in US

<https://www.heraldnet.com/news/local-historian-tries-to-track-down-historic-pistol/>

Objects from the Thames

https://www.londonmuseum.org.uk/blog/secrets-thames-exhibition-mudlarking-highlights/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=org_social&utm_campaign=sott&utm_term=fivethings&fbclid=IwY2xjawIb40hleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHdsPqvuX_SG_czOICy13tKBXb5FOcm19kRAZCha4CCAoEchQ2bMm7ZsWuQ_aem_-l6Mo0oXFWswOv9CiF2Pvg

Exhibitions

Sieneese art in London

<https://www.nationalgallery.org.uk/exhibitions/siena-the-rise-of-painting>

Baroque wax sculptures in Dresden

<https://artdaily.com/news/178359/Daniel-Neuberger--Unveiling-the-master-of-wax-deception-at-the-Kunsthistorisches-Museum>

Medieval costume in Stockholm

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/medieval-fashion-swedish-museum/>

Books

Yannis Hadjinicolaou: *The Art of Medieval Falconry*

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/new-medieval-books-the-art-of-medieval-falconry/>

Online Book

Open Access online articles on medieval history

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/medieval-studies-articles-february-2025/>

Popular culture

Too early to get excited about Christopher Nolan's *Odysseus*?

<https://www.ekathimerini.com/culture/1262171/christopher-nolan-heading-to-peloponnese-with-a-list-cast-for-the-odyssey-trailer/>

<https://screenrant.com/the-odyssey-matt-damon-greek-armor-accurate-explainer/>

Chinese film inspires spikes in museum visits

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202502/24/WS67bbc29ca310c240449d6c45.html>

Topical play, *Churchill in Moscow* opens at Richmond

<https://orangetreetheatre.co.uk/whats-on/churchill-in-moscow/>

Events

9 March Southend

Discover the London: Southend's Time Capsule

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discover-the-london-shipwreck-southends-time-capsule-tickets-1190587050919?aff=oddtcreator>

28 - 29 April 2025 Leeds

Plunder, pillage and spoils of war in history and law

<https://royalarmouries.org/leeds/whats-on/royal-armouries-conference-2025>

Sales, fairs and auctions

10 – 21 March 2025 Online New York

The Arts of the Samurai

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/30802/the-arts-of-the-samurai/>

13 -25 March 2025 New York

Important Japanese Swords and Armour from the Paul L. Davidson Collection

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2025/important-japanese-swords-and-armour-from-the-paul-l-davidson-collection?locale=en>

Websites and downloads

Barbados's Historic Garrison quarter

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1376/>

<https://barbadosnationaltrust.com/>

<https://georgewashingtonbarbados.com/>

1066 etc: the siege of Belgrade & crusaders in pubs – what could possibly go wrong?

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/the-siege-of-belgrade-1456/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/drunken-and-disorderly-how-taverns-led-crusaders-into-trouble/>

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