

The Basiliscoe Mercury 444

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

A thinner than usual newsletter to get us back to the right time. Grave stories and clothes seem to be on the rise this week. And a new book on medieval horses.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Feature on the mosaic found in Cyprus with chariot racing

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/03/12/mosaic-floor-chariot-race-cyprus/>

Excavating the Danevirke

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/excavations-at-the-danevirke/>

4000-year-old walls found in China

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/03/14/city-walls-xia-dynasty-china/>

Grave stories

Mongolian soldiers far from home

<https://phys.org/news/2025-03-teeth-year-burial-pit-mongolia.html>

Investigating Roman lead burials in Yorkshire

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2nvvwl3r3o?fbclid=IwY2xjawJBV6FleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHaM3yhPMsmeSgyR5YB_h55Ns2rRF4Vtvy4evCyAVdD01SKz385TKcydsUw_aem_47Q84bn9Pxjb0_bnqhU4TQ

Murder victim's clothes go on show in Lewis

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g04wx0812o>

Climate change reveals whalers graves on Svalbard

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/03/melting-permafrost-is-exposing-whaling-ear-graves-on-svalbard/154681>

Through the gunloop...

16th century Morisco camp identified in Grenada

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/03/moorish-camp-where-last-of-the-morisco-chiefs-was-captured-identified/154687>

Languard fort damaged by golf ball storm

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp8vrxp4n66o>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Cannon in Mumbai fort to be restored

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/fpj-exclusive-mbmc-delays-restoration-of-2500-year-old-savatsa-dhenu-stupa-pre-british-era-cannons-over-jurisdiction-crz-hurdles>

<https://www.freepressjournal.in/mumbai/fpj-impact-historic-cannons-to-stand-guard-at-mira-bhayandar-municipal-corporation-headquarters>

Wagga Wagga's time gun

<https://regionriverina.com.au/riverina-rewind-waggas-time-gun-delivers-a-blast-from-the-past/85069/>

Dubai's Ramadan cannon

<https://ddnews.gov.in/en/dubais-ramadan-cannon-tradition-continues-to-mark-holy-month/>

Miscellany

Medieval blacksmiths shop excavated in France

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/medieval-blacksmithing-workshop-uncovered-in-southern-france/>

Bagpipes go to war

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c4g037zjn09o>

Princesses and Amazons

Royal armouries podcast series on warrior women

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cy9d89e8zy4o>

How to dress like a medieval Lady

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/inside-eleanor-de-montforts-lavish-medieval-wardrobe/>

Lucretia Borgia in Ferrara

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/lucrezia-borgia-ferrara/>

UK Royal wardrobe goes on line

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2nx11r7eyo>

Nautical news

1000-year-old ship investigated off Turkey

<https://arkeonews.net/a-remarkable-discovery-from-a-gaza-shipwreck-olive-pits-from-1100-years-ago/>

Podcast on medieval shipping

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/global-ships-with-amanda-respess/>

More on the medieval ship found near Stockholm

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/scientists-realize-viking-shipwreck-is-something-else-entirely>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Bad times for US museums and heritage sites

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/03/10/trump-administration-closing-national-park-service-offices-unesco-world-heritage-site-texas>

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/03/10/san-francisco-museum-layoffs-municipal-budget-deficit>

New museums

New museum for Treblinka

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/03/14/with-the-building-of-a-new-museum-poland-at-last-has-a-fitting-space-to-tell-treblinkas-horrific-story>

Buxton's museum finds a temporary home

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yr851y6m2o>

Museum developments

New tour at the Kunsthistorisches Museum focused on spring

<https://artdaily.com/news/178973/Kunsthistorisches-Museum-unveils-spectacular-spring-exhibition->

Museum musings

Finnish museum changes its purpose in response to Ukraine invasion

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/10/goodbye-lenin-finnish-museum-reinvents-itself-in-response-to-shifting-relations-with-russia>

Conservation corner

Reviving armourers' skills

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2rkknqgwp?at_link_origin=BBC_East_Midlands&at_medium=social&at_format=link&at_link_id=283700EA-FF4C-11EF-AD5B-AE13DE0B3D7E&at_campaign=Social_Flow&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_ptr_name=facebook_page&at_link_type=web_link&at_campaign_type=owned&fbclid=IwY2xjawJA2mIleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHVeNwpDKZvMjqYCKRQXc1-CDVMMSUvIWsef_TvmL8YVQsqAsUBVXbcqiKQ_aem_StPzy0I0IQkWOI_KN_yQnQ

Exhibitions

March's exhibitions to see

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/02/28/marchs-must-see-exhibitions>

Vikings before the Vikings in Stockholm

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/vikings-before-the-vikings-exhibition-begins-next-month-in-sweden/>

Books

Oliver H. Creighton et al: *Medieval Warhorse; Equestrian Landscapes, Material Culture and Zooarchaeology in Britain, AD 800–1550*

https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781836243359?fbclid=IwY2xjawl-is9leHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHcRNK7ZNUjOPKpplK0Lpg0GI7MI1znRgYwgb2IVo5GUoTFuvPdhqkiFKkA_aem_89bhOtDeNbgkEg1qFhSQ1g

Royal Armouries offers special deals on new publication

<https://shop.royalarmouries.org/collections/new/products/signed-jonathan-ferguson-arms-and-armor-of-the-second-world-war-pre-order-bundle-3>

This month's books from Osprey

<https://www.ospreypublishing.com/uk/discover/available-this-month/>

Popular culture

ArmourCore is back

<https://www.standard.co.uk/lifestyle/fashion/medieval-core-fashion-trend-chainmail-armor-how-to-b1214874.html>

Events

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-armor-from-the-paul-l-davidson-collection?locale=en>

29 March 2025

Online sale of firearms

<https://artdaily.com/news/179114/Miller---Miller-announces-online-only-Firearms---Sporting-Auction--March-29th>

Websites and downloads

1066 etc: Varangians, the Angel of Le Lude, & Charles VII

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/varangians-constantinople-with-sverrir-jakobsson/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/angel-lude-middle-ages-largest-bronze-statue/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/new-medieval-books-chronicle-of-king-charles-vii/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 16 March 2025

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