

# The Basiliscae Mercury 445

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Things beginning to get busy again. Large number of stories relating to graves and DNA. Several stories relating to helmets and art thefts. And remembering Rex Cowan.

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Ancient arms

Bronze age daggers recovered from Lower Saxony

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/03/3000-year-old-bronze-age-daggers-discovered-near-kutenholz/154818>

Grave of Egyptian military commander discovered

<https://english.ahram.org.eg/News/543333.aspx>

Ancient Greek armour to go on display in Melbourne

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2025/03/19/rare-ancient-greek-armor-unveiled-at-melbournes-hellenic-museum/>

Update on the Melsonby hoard, part of which is going on display in York

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cd9241dq40qo>

Is the Sutton Hoo helmet Danish (spoiler alert - the evidence is thin...)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cj92mjd4np1o>

1000 year old sword chape found in Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/03/rare-sword-scabbard-discovered-by-detectorist/154806>

#### Battles, towers and forts

5000-year-old fortress found by Lidar in Romanian forest

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-847004>

Who fought at Armageddon

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/ancient-egyptian-soldiers-and-greek-mercenaries-were-at-armageddon-when-biblical-king-was-killed-study-suggests>

Walls and gate of Greek city in Sicily excavated

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/03/27/walls-north-gate-ancient-greek-city-selinunte-italy/>

## **Grave stories**

2000-year-old cemetery of warriors in Mongolian investigated

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-846427>

Gender studies on London's medieval skeletons

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/medieval-skeletons-reveal-gendered-health-disparities-in-london/>

Very brief note about Schmalkaldic War burials

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/03/archaeologists-unearth-burials-from-the-schmalkaldic-war/154737>

German bandit's bones identified?

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-847780>

Restoring the American revolution graves

<https://eu.augustachronicle.com/story/news/local/the-news-and-farmer/2025/03/22/sparta-to-host-historic-celebration-march-25-to-honor-legacy-of-war-hero/82325060007/>

Bodies of executed Norwegian resistance to be removed from fjord

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-846525>

## **Through the gunloop...**

Part of Antwerp citadel uncovered during works

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-846645>

Cannon ball found in Goan fort

<https://www.deccanherald.com/india/goa/portuguese-era-cannonballs-found-at-go-a-heritage-site-tourism-project-work-halted-3461413>

18<sup>th</sup> century military British outpost found in Florida

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/03/archaeologists-find-traces-of-british-rule-in-florida/154829>

## **Miscellany**

Medieval gunpowder in Korea

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/gunpowder-weapons-medieval-korea/>

Decoding Sir Gawain's manuscript

<https://phys.org/news/2025-03-decoding-medieval-mystery-manuscript.html>

Medieval pointy shoes

<https://mymodernmet.com/poulaine-medieval-pointy-shoe/>

Completing the restoration of the Tudor Long Gallery at the Vyne

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/restoration-completed-on-historic-tudor-gallery-at-the-vyne/>

## **Living in the past**

Interpreting sword medieval sword fighting

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/medieval-sword-fighting-fiore-dei-liberi/>

## **Café Basiliscoe**

Whiskey archaeology wins the prize

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/pioneering-spirit-prevails-at-archaeology-awards>

## **Nautical news**

Remembering Rex Cowan

<https://www.thejc.com/news/obituaries/britains-most-successful-shipwreck-explorer-rex-cowan-dies-age-97-n1gtj8wa>

Odd finds on USS *Nevada*

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/article302823134.html>

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **News**

On the trail of a master art thief

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/mar/17/art-expert-did-it-lgg-ramsey-revealed-1951-thief-van-dyck-painting>

And the weirdest story you will read this year; Netflix series soon...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy5nw5nez7zo>

Visiting Southampton's Tudor House Museum and Garden – pictures!

<https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/25025301.history-southamptons-tudor-house-garden/>

London Museum receives gift of Roman finds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq5z9x70lddo>

Visiting Devonport Naval Base's Museum

<https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news/2025/march/26/20250326-a-must-see-place-mayors-seal-of-approval-for-devonport-naval-bases-reopened-museum>

## **New museums**

Major restoration to begin on the Grandmasters Palace in Rhodes  
<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/restoration-planned-for-the-palace-of-the-grand-master-in-rhodes/>

Yale Center for British art reopens  
<https://britishart.yale.edu/>

Frick collection, New York reopens  
<https://artdaily.com/news/180432/The-Frick-Collection-reopens-April-17--2025>

## **Museum musings**

Smithsonian under attack  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cdjy1jmvvwo>

## **Conservation corner**

Restoring the treasures from the Forbidden City  
<https://phys.org/news/2025-03-science-tradition-relics-china-forbidden.html>

Feature on the Beretta family and business  
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/giacomotognini/2025/03/25/how-this-16th-century-gunmaker-keeps-reinventing-itself/>

The peripatetic history of John Rigby and Co  
<https://www.americanrifleman.org/content/john-rigby-co-celebrates-250th-anniversary/>

## **Exhibitions**

Pirates! In Greenwich  
<https://www.rmq.co.uk/whats-on/national-maritime-museum/pirates>

Monmouth rebellion in Taunton  
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/mar/25/ill-fated-monmouth-rebellion-remembered-340-years-on-in-somerset>

Swimming cossies at the Design Museum, London  
<https://artdaily.com/news/180450/The-Design-Museum-opens--Splash--A-Century-of-Swimming-and-Style->

Science and culture of Rudolf II in Paris  
<https://artdaily.com/news/180528/Prague-under-Rudolf-II--Exhibition-at-The-Louvre-explores-the-fusion-of-art-and-science-in-the-Renaissance>

Celebrating the natural world in Perugia  
<https://artdaily.com/news/179176/Umbria-exhibition-celebrates-Saint-Francis-s-canticle-with-masterpieces-from-Fra-Angelico-to-Corot>

Costume in art in Lens

<https://artdaily.com/news/180452/From-Rembrandt-s-turbans-to-Warhol-s-wigs--Exhibition-explores-artists--clothing-as-self-expression>

## **Books**

New catalogue of Dutch and Flemish paintings in Berlin

<https://artdaily.com/news/180429/New-catalogue-of-Dutch-and-French-paintings-unveiled-at-Berlin-s-Gem-auml-Idegalerie>

*The Burrell Collection*

<https://scalapublishers.com/the-burrell-collection/>

This month on Pen and Sword

<https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/>

## **Popular Culture**

Podcast about Edinburgh Castle's One o'clock gun

<https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.historicenvironment.scot%2Fmedia%2Fxyolcmgn%2Fhs-members-podcast-episode-1-transcript.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

No Fenny Poppers this year

<https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/people/highly-historic-festival-in-milton-keynes-cancelled-due-to-lack-of-volunteers-5043316>

## **Events**

### **Diary Dates**

Open days at the Landmark trust- includes castles

<https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/>

### **Conferences**

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**

Medieval helm up for sale

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/medieval-great-helm-leads-highlights-at-apollo-auctions-this-weekend/>

**31 March – 9 April 2025 -Online New York**

The Arts of the Samurai

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

Medieval helm up for sale

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/03/medieval-great-helm-leads-highlights-at-apollo-auctions-this-weekend/>

**1 – 10 April 2025 Massachusetts**

Historic Arms & Militaria

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/30902/historic-arms-and-militaria/>

**28 April – 9 May 2025, Munich**

Herman Historica

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

## **Websites and downloads**

The Goodwin Sands project

<https://goodwinsands.org.uk/>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

**Check out our publications**

<http://www.basiliscoe.com>