

The Basiliscope Mercury 453

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Who can forget the one-legged French general under the Russian dance floor? Now we have a Polish knight under the Ice Cream parlour... Plus a fascinating report on ancient bronze armour from Moravia, the identification of the ship on the Orkney beach and finds continue to come out of Poland.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Excavating an ancient arsenal in Turkey

<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/culture/ancient-weaponry-rooms-uncovered-in-temple-of-war-god-haldi-at-turkiyes-ayanis-fortre-3204433>

Bronze knives from Kazakhstan

<https://arkeonews.net/2700-year-old-rare-bronze-knives-from-the-early-saka-period-uneearthed-in-kazakhstan/>

Analysing and reconstructing a bronze breastplate

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/extremely-rare-bronze-armor-found-in-czech-republic-dates-to-trojan-war-era>

Short feature on Meskalamdug's helmet from Ur

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/meskalamdugs-helmet-one-of-the-worlds-oldest-helmets-depicts-a-mesopotamian-princes-man-bun>

How the Nation Museum of Korea acquired a Greek helmet

<https://biz.chosun.com/en/en-culture/2025/07/24/DQBWEKXKINBK3HWUGTAST6BPVE/>

Beasts of assorted varieties... (this week - all Greenland)

Demand for ivory supplied by Greenland's walrus

<https://www.classicult.it/en/trade-networks-the-eurasian-medieval-demand-for-walrus-ivory-was-heavily-focused-on-western-greenland/>

Sledding for 1000 years

<https://www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/these-ancient-dogs-have-pulled-sleds-in-greenland-for-nearly-1-000-years>

Hunting round the world and through the ages

Prehistoric hunting camp in Surrey gets official protection

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/07/how-the-crusade-became-a-medieval-institution/>

Grave stories

Warrior grave from Azerbaijan

<https://arkeonews.net/a-monumental-3800-year-old-warrior-kurgan-discovered-in-azerbaijan/>

Medieval knight found under a gravestone below ice cream parlour in Gdansk

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-discover-mysterious-medieval-knight-buried-beneath-an-ice-cream-parlor-in-poland-180987021/>
<https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/archaeology/a65415989/medieval-knight-tomb-found-beneath-ice-cream-parlor/>

How did the head of murdered archbishop end up in a Suffolk church?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c1jw3650yz2o>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Caerphilly castle re-opens

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/07/caerphilly-castle-reopens-after-major-medieval-makeover/>

Transforming Fyvie Castle's outbuildings

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/masterplan-for-new-chapter-in-fyvies-800-year-story>

Excavations in the Tower of London

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/07/excavation-tower-of-london-rmedieval/>

Excavating a Bulgarian fortress

<https://sofiaglobe.com/2025/07/22/archaeology-triangular-stone-tower-found-at-sofias-kokalyane-urvich-fortress-site/>

Fortifications in Odessa

<https://intent.press/en/news/history/2025/khadzhybey-castle-found-archaeologists-put-an-end-to-200-year-debate-on-the-history-of-odesa/>

Medieval Genoese fortifications found in Odessa

<https://euromaidanpress.com/2025/07/21/archaeologists-find-14th-century-italian-fortress-beneath-odesas-famous-duke-monument/>

Through the gunloop...

Archaeologists uncover the gun platform of Szeged Castle, Hungary
<https://hungarytoday.hu/archaeologists-uncover-the-former-rondelle-of-szeged-castle/>

Military camp from 80 Years War found in Zutphen
<https://nltimes.nl/2025/07/22/remains-army-camp-fort-eighty-years-war-found-near-zutphen>

Fort George in danger of falling into the sea in Scotland
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cx2318q4e8zo>

Investigating Fort Laurens, Ohio
<https://eu.zanesvilletimesrecorder.com/story/news/local/2025/07/15/team-explores-site-of-fort-laurens-ohios-only-revolutionary-war-fort/85192067007/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

64 pd RML re-used as a mooring post...New life in a fort now in Portland
<https://www.dorsetecho.co.uk/news/25337764.victorian-cannon-gets-new-lease-life-historic-dorset-site/>

Miscellany

Nice piece on the Rök Rune Stone
<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/rok-rune-stone>

This week on Polish River Watch - another sword
<https://tvpworld.com/87862024/warsaws-river-of-secrets-another-ancient-weapon-found-just-weeks-after-medieval-sword>

Medieval jewel found in Polish castle
<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/600-year-old-amethyst-worthy-of-a-duke-found-in-medieval-castle-moat-in-poland>

Fascinating blog from the British Library about Henry VIII's purchases of armour for the invasion of France in 1513:
<https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2025/07/thomas-wolsey-and-the-invasion-of-france.html>

Why the Nazis wanted the Bayeux tapestry
<https://theconversation.com/why-the-nazis-stole-a-fragment-of-the-bayeux-tapestry-260048>

Back to the front

Investigating a lost Washington battlefield
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-discover-site->

[where-george-washington-stopped-a-friendly-fire-incident-by-blocking-muskets-with-his-sword-180987008/](#)

Café Basiliscoe

Choice of different Neanderthal butchery techniques

[https://phys.org/news/2025-07-neanderthals-neighboring-caves-butchered-prey.html](#)

But no millet from Japan

[https://phys.org/news/2025-07-millet-mystery-staple-crop-root.html](#)

Princesses and Amazons

New book on Joanna Plantagenet

[https://www.medievalists.net/2025/07/new-medieval-books-lionessheart/](#)

Queen Elizabeth's wardrobe to go on display next spring

[https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/07/22/right-royal-style-90-years-of-queen-elizabeth-iis-fashion-to-go-on-show-at-buckingham-palace](#)

Tomb of Prussian king's consort found in Berlin

[https://archaeologymag.com/2025/07/lost-tomb-of-prussian-countess-julie-von-voss/](#)

Into the 20th century

Surprise - nazi dagger found in German garden...

[https://www.mensjournal.com/news/buried-sword-with-grim-history](#)

Nautical news

Online article about the armament of the *Gribshunden*

[https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10572414.2025.2532166](#)

Photographic essay of Port Royal

[https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1595/gallery/](#)

History of pirates

[https://theconversation.com/who-was-the-first-pirate-256314](#)

Recent survey of *HMS Northumberland* on the Goodwin Sands

[https://www.theguardian.com/science/2025/jul/31/british-warship-hms-northumberland-1703-storm-archaeology](#)

Blog on the San Jose

[https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2025/07/18/into-the-heart-of-the-san-jose-galleon-where-gold-meets-archaeology/](#)

Orkney wreck identified as HMS *Hind*, built 1749

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/a-boy-found-a-shipwreck-on-a-scottish-beach-it-turned-out-to-be-a-250-year-old-warship-from-the-american-revolution-180987061/>

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/about-us/news/250-year-old-shipwreck-discovered-in-orkney-gives-up-its-secrets/>

HMS *Nottingham* found off Scotland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cglzw18yng4o>

Imperial Japanese destroyer found

<https://divernet.com/scuba-news/wrecks/ww2-japanese-destroyer-wreck-find-rewrites-history/>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Tank Museum launches tree planting initiative

<https://artdaily.com/news/183789/Tank-tracks-to-tree-trunks-as-museum-launches-campaign-to-plant-5-000-tress>

The cost of theft from a Paris Museum

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy40nn3v9p9o>

New museums

France considering a new heritage body on the National Trust model

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/07/15/national-trust-a-la-francaise-french-culture-minister-considers-plans-for-new-heritage-body-based-on-uk-model>

Objects this week - all from India

17th century royal sword found in India

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2025/Jul/21/17th-century-sword-with-arabic-inscription-found-in-berhampur>

Indian museum gifted rare Webley revolver

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/india/rare-1914-revolver-donated-to-bsfs-arms-museum-in-indore/>

Books

The Woolwich Rotunda: From waltzes to wargames

<https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781836244592>

Online Book

***Gendered Reputations and Aristocratic Partnership
Re-Presenting the Breton Civil War from the Fourteenth to Sixteenth
Centuries***

<https://library.oapen.org/handle/20.500.12657/104456>

Popular culture

Filming and visitors to historic sites in Scotland

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/outlander-dress-travels-through-time-to-culross-palace>

King and Conqueror lands in the BBC shortly

https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m0024pyz/watch/p0lrg1pp?at_mid=FY847oLTs&at_campaign=BBC_Trailers_King_and_Conqueror&at_medium=display_ad&at_campaign_type=owned&at_nation=NET&at_audience_id=SS&at_product=iplayer&at_brand=m0024pyz&at_ptr_name=bbc&at_ptr_type=media&at_format=image&at_objective=consumption&at_link_title=BBC_Trailers_King_and_Conqueror&at_bbc_team=BBC

Events

Calls for Papers

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

11-17 November 2025

'The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities'

<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/icomam-2024-conference-call-for-papers/>

Websites and downloads

1066 etc; Kings, Crusades, & Rene of Anjou

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/07/medieval-king-daily-life/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/07/how-the-crusade-became-a-medieval-institution/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/07/rene-of-anjou-medieval-king-without-a-kingdom/>

Finally, don't forget the latest ICOMAM Magazine

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

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 31 July 2025

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

