

The Basiliscope Mercury 454

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Surprisingly busy week, with stories of Japanese imperial armour, Indian swords and investigating Napoleon's troops retreating from Moscow. It's summer so several Scottish related items.

I have had issues with sending this newsletter out; if you know someone who usually gets it and it never arrived, let me know...

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Flint blade workshop discovered in Isreal

<https://artdaily.com/news/184373/An-ancient-blade-manufacturing-workshop-was-uncovered-in-Kiryat-Gat>

Update on the Roman swords from the Dead Sea

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/08/12/aramaic-inscription-dead-sea-cave-roman-swords/>

Roman soldiers' sunhat goes on show

<https://arkeonews.net/rare-roman-soldiers-sun-hat-rediscovered-after-more-than-a-century/>

Feature on Hadrian's Wall

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/hadrians-wall-the-defensive-roman-wall-that-protected-the-frontier-in-britain-for-300-years>

Grave stories

Reconstruing the griffin warrior

<https://www.getty.edu/news/griffin-warrior-mycenaean-pylos/>

Thracian warrior's tomb found in Bulgaria

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/08/thracian-warrior-tomb-discovered-in-bulgaria/155751>

Tattoos on Siberian mummies

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/gorgeous-hidden-animal-tattoos-discovered-on-a-more-than-2000-year-old-ice-mummy-by-using-digital-imaging-180987094/>

What DNA teaches us about the retreat from Moscow

<https://phys.org/news/2025-08-napoleon-doomed-retreat-dna-vilnius.html>

On the frontlines

Rethinking the Battle of Wakefield

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/07/wars-of-the-roses-battle/>

Rethinking Sherman's March

<https://www.theguardian.com/news/2025/aug/07/shermans-march-enslaved-people>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Feature on Ioannina Castle

https://www.archaeology.wiki/blog/archaeological_site/ioannina-castle/

Feature on building castles

<https://archaeology.org/issues/september-october-2025/features/how-to-build-a-medieval-castle/>

Party like it's 1799...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/crm4er70410o>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Two iron cannon dug up in Veracruz during works

<https://artdaily.com/news/184330/A-tale-of-two-cannons--Centuries-old-artifacts-resurface-in-Veracruz>

2 cast-iron guns at Mitford Hospital, Old Dhaka

<https://bdnews24.com/media-en/image/7f95d745a713>

Veere loses its historic cannon after an attempted theft

<https://www.omroepzeeland.nl/nieuws/17699975/veere-moet-misschien-afscheid-nemen-van-markante-kanonnen-na-mislukte-diefstal>

Dumped British Napoleonic-era cannon found off Heligoland

<https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/world/research-divers-uncover-16-british-cannons-off-germany-s-heligoland/ar-AA1KvLXH>

Stolen cannon recovered after advertised on Facebook

<https://eu.thetimesherald.com/story/news/local/2025/08/05/cannon-recovered-decades-after-theft-from-port-huron-cemetery/85513212007/>

Historic gun is back at Camden Fort Meagher, Cork

<https://www.corkindependent.com/2025/08/13/historic-gun-is-back-at-camden-fort-meagher/>

Miscellany

Feature on Great Yarmouth's sword of Justice

<https://www.greatyarmouthmercury.co.uk/news/25356180.great-yarmouth-magistrates-court-keeps-sword-tradition/>

Still looking for the Amber Room

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-863174>

Café Basiliscoe

2,500-year-old honey

<https://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2025-07-30-oxford-chemists-identify-honey-offering-2500-year-old-shrine>

But no puddings today

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/foodanddrink/other/save-our-pudding-are-these-homemade-british-comforts-on-the-verge-of-extinction/ar-AA1Kwbgl?ocid=BingNewsVerp>

Princesses and Amazons

Short feature on Queen Anne

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/underlooked-story-queen-anne>

Mary Queen of Scots is all the rage at the Edinburgh Festival

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/aug/13/mary-queen-of-scots-edinburgh-fringe-shows-rock-star>

Into the 20th century

What they found under the playground in Wooler

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c36x08jezw5o>

World Heritage

Investigating Goa's arsenal

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/coin-mint-elephant-stable-and-dockyard-chance-discovery-of-cannonballs-in-go-a-sheds-light-on-portuguese-era-arsenal-10166300/>

Raghuji Bhonsle's sword returns to India

<https://www.msn.com/en-in/news/other/sword-of-maratha-royal-raghuji-bhonsle-to-return-home-after-200-years-maharashtra-to-receive-historic-weapon-on-august-18/ar-AA1KlskS>

Knife and armour from forgotten Imperial Japanese excavation

<https://arkeonews.net/knife-and-lost-armor-first-ever-verified-artifacts-from-emperor-nintokus-5th-century-kofun-tomb-revealed/>

Nautical news

Update on HMS *Northumberland* - they find a cannon....

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c620z3j3wxyo>

Yet another search for pirate treasure gets underway

<https://www.portdovermapleleaf.com/port-dover-filmmaker-searching-nassau-for-pirates-treasure/>

Identifying ships at risk on the North Carolina coast

<https://news.ecu.edu/2025/08/04/archaeologists-discover-four-at-risk-shipwrecks-on-colonial-waterfront-at-brunswick-town-fort-anderson-state-historic-site/>

Excavating Bucklers Hard

<https://archaeology.org/news/2025/08/12/historic-british-shipyard-linked-to-battle-of-traffic-revealed/>

German fleet in Scapa Flow given protection

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c776ng7xe02o>

Investigating underwater heritage of Guadalcanal

<https://phys.org/news/2025-08-reveals-shipwrecks-wwii-guadalcanal.html>

Ship models go on display in Leeds

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn84v1yyee5o>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

White House extends its influence to bring the Smithsonian to heel

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/08/13/white-house-review-smithsonian-museums-exhibitions>

New museums

Norwich Museum reopens

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp941e8kkxdo>

Short illustrated features on Casa Marino Museum, Mexico

<https://www.mazatlanweekly.com/2024/10/21/a-new-museum-opens-its-doors-in-mazatlan-the-casa-del-marino/>

<https://culturamazatlan.com/press/2025/08/casa-marino-museum-on-the-edge-of-time-and-the-sea/>

Museum developments

Treasure hunts are the latest thing

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/aug/14/uk-rise-of-urban-treasure-hunts-york>

Museum musings

Cleveland Museum investigates its objects' pasts.

<https://clevelandmagazine.com/entertainment/museums-galleries/articles/how-cleveland-museums-are-solving-the-mysteries-of-their-masterpieces-murky-pasts>

IMW criticised for labelling

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/aug/12/imperial-war-museum-criticism-caption-holocaust-display>

Conservation corner

Bad news for those wanting replica cannon

<https://www.thenational.scot/news/25371459.jobs-lost-200-year-old-scottish-foundry-enters-liquidation/>

18th century battle tapestry goes on display in Blenheim after conservation

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/08/08/18th-century-tapestry-goes-on-show-at-blenheim-palace-after-a-century-in-storage>

Objects

Feature on 12 exhibits at Glasgow's Burrell collection

<https://www.glasgowworld.com/best-in/most-important-impressive-objects-burrell-collection-5266039>

Exhibitions

Paintings at Wentworth Woodhouse

<https://www.thestar.co.uk/arts-and-culture/when-showing-historic-art-becomes-childs-play-too-van-dycks-return-to-wentworth-woodhouse-for-family-friendly-exhibition-5251667>

Wright of Derby on London in autumn

<https://artdaily.com/news/184466/The-National-Gallery-announces-first-exhibition-dedicated-to-Joseph-Wright-of-Derby->

James VI and I in Edinburgh

<https://www.nationalgalleries.org/exhibition/world-king-james-vi-and-i>

The rulers of Mysore in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

<https://www.freemalaysiatoday.com/category/leisure/2025/08/07/islamic-arts-museum-showcases-legacy-of-forgotten-mysore-rulers>

<https://iamm.org.my/exhibition/more-than-a-day-as-a-tiger>

<https://iamm.org.my/>

Books

Emma Louise Herbert-Davies: *The Warhorse in England: 1272-1327*
<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/new-medieval-books-the-warhorse-in-england/>

Online Book

Publications of the Palmerston Forts Society
https://www.palmerstonfortssociety.org.uk/other-pfs-publications?fbclid=IwY2xjawMG5YdleHRuA2FlbQlzMABicmlkETFoUU5SzFnNWWhwNUVabHdhAR5ECcDIREYeCHdVI5c_db6WITFra54kXOgP236-CDb7gSjo7YTNAz4ittNEQQ_aem_j2CPaMuclfykQ-ZcxSldng

Popular culture

Medieval films to look out for
<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/medieval-movies-coming-soon/>

King and Conqueror coming soon
[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](https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m0024pyz/watch/p0lrg1pp?at_mid=FY847oLTs&at_campaign=BBC%20Trailers%20King%20and%20Conqueror&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%20Trailers%20King%20and%20Conqueror&at_bbc_team=BBC)

Events

Sales Fairs and auctions

25 August Aarhus - some arms and armour in general sale
https://bruun-rasmussen.dk/m/auctions/1008314?category_id=513

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

Finally, don't forget the latest ICOMAM Magazine – perfect summer reading
<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/the-magazine/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 16 August 2025

Check out our publications

<http://www.basiliscoe.com>