

# The Basiliscope Mercury 455

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Another week, and another sword discovery; this time from a Norwegian glacier. Other exciting news: new work on gunboat *Philadelphia*, Cathar castles look for recognition, and moves against the loan of Bayeux tapestries grow support in France. And don't forget to visit somewhere for Heritage Open Days!

## Arms and armour in the news

### Ancient arms

Arrowheads from Uzbekistan rock shelter analysed

<https://phys.org/news/2025-08-evidence-uzbekistan-year-arrowheads.html>

Dagger from Germany

<https://arkeonews.net/a-rare-find-that-stuns-archaeologists-ancient-3500-year-old-dagger-found-in-germanys-heartland/>

Bronze axe from Borneo investigated

<https://arkeonews.net/3000-year-old-conical-axe-believed-to-have-fallen-from-the-sky-possibly-made-from-meteorite/>

Trove of iron ingots discovered in Bosnia

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-864649>

Sword in the glacier...

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/norway-oppland-county-viking-sword>

### Battles, towers and forts

5000-year-old fortress found in Romania

<https://indiandefencereview.com/5000-year-fortress-hidden-romanian-forests/>

Xenophon and the retreating Greek warriors

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/08/21/great-escape-ten-thousand-ancient-greek-warriors-fled-persia/>

Last stronghold of the Maya found

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/08/14/maya-stronghold-sak-bahlan-mexican-jungle>

## **Hunting round the world and through the ages**

Royal hunting accidents

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/ten-medieval-kings-who-died-while-hunting/>

## **Grave stories**

Traumatic end of invaders in France 6000 years ago

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/6-300-years-ago-dozens-of-people-were-murdered-in-grisly-victory-celebrations-in-france>

Tomb of giant warrior from Azerbaijan

<https://www.lagradaonline.com/us/azerbaijan-the-royal-tomb-giant-warrior/>

France returns royal skull to Madagascar

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy0qeippp7o>

## **Through the arrow-slit . . .**

Game changing in castle building

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/medieval-english-castle-building/>

Cathar castles look to UNESCO

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/cathar-castles-languedocs-unesco/>

Latest from excavations at Newark Castle – cesspits and walls...

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyjpvz04jpo>

## **Cannons to the left, cannon to the right**

Piece on Fernhurst furnace

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/other/furnace-in-the-forest-keeping-fernhurst-s-fiery-past-alive/ar-AA1J4tWb>

Lundy's Fog Battery to receive funding for preservation

<https://www.northdevongazette.co.uk/news/local-news/1880761/historic-gun-battery-off-north-devon-coast-to-get-more-protection-from-erosion.html>

WWI gun gets new home at Picatinny Arsenal

[https://www.army.mil/article/288181/ownership\\_of\\_historic\\_cannon\\_returns\\_to\\_picatinny\\_arsenal](https://www.army.mil/article/288181/ownership_of_historic_cannon_returns_to_picatinny_arsenal)

## **Princesses and Amazons**

Amazons may have existed

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/08/17/new-find-confirm-amazons-ancient-female-warriors-existed/>

Medieval fashion and power

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/medieval-fashion-how-clothing-defined-status-and-power/>

Joan of Arc

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/joan-of-arc-with-deborah-mcgrady/>

## **Nautical news**

Short piece on the artillery finds from the *Gribshunden*

<https://divernet.com/scuba-diving/general-wrecks/15th-century-guns-recreated-from-divers-wreck-recoveries/>

Surveying lake Constance - interesting results

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-864660>

17<sup>th</sup> century ship of the Ottoman Navy identified

<https://www.dailysabah.com/arts/7th-century-ottoman-shipwreck-reveals-rich-maritime-legacy/news> <https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/shipwreck-reveals-ottoman-treasure-212845>

New displays for the Philadelphia gunboat

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/watch-as-experts-preserve-a-249-year-old-gunboat-that-sank-during-the-american-revolution-180987220/>  
<https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/releases/national-museum-american-history-opens-new-exhibition-revolutionary-war-era>  
<https://americanhistory.si.edu/explore/exhibitions/gunboat-philadelphia>

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **Museum musings**

Petition to refuse to let the Bayeux Tapestry travel to London grows

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/french-petition-seeks-block-bayeux-tapestrys-loan-britain-2025-08-19/>  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cev23vrzx0ro>  
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/30/emmanuel-macron-bayeux-tapestry-loan-british-museum-petition>

Gdansk museum's exhibition on conscripted Poles is controversial

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/aug/20/our-boys-were-forced-into-the-enemy-army-to-save-loved-ones-the-second-world-war-exhibition-dividing-poland>

### **Conservation corner**

African sword craft

<https://archaeology.org/issues/online/digs-discoveries/african-swordcraft/>

Dating iron

<https://phys.org/news/2025-08-archaeologists-rays-distinguish-iron-periods.html>

## Objects

Ticonderoga Fort acquires collection

<https://www.wamc.org/news/2025-08-15/fort-ticonderoga-completes-fundraising-to-acquire-a-significant-historic-collection>

## Exhibitions

Vermeers in London

<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/sep/01/vermeer-or-not-new-display-lets-visitors-decide-who-painted-almost-identical-artworks>

Raphael coming to the Met next year

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/08/26/largest-raphael-exhibition-america-is-opening-at-the-met-next-year>

State fairs in Washington

<https://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/state-fairs>

Caravaggio for Florida

<https://mfastpete.org/exhibition/in-caravaggios-light/>

## Books

This month in Osprey

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

## Online Book

**Sold!** - a very entertaining exhibition on the antiques trade in the last two hundred years - much arms and armour input

<https://antiquedealers.leeds.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2020/04/SOLD-Catalogue-new-WEB-72dpi.pdf>

Scottish archaeological reports online

<https://archaeologyreportsonline.com/publications.html>

This one might be of interest

<https://archaeologyreportsonline.com/reports/2022/ARO50.html>

## Popular Culture

Braveheart! The musical!

<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2025/aug/26/straight-outta-stirling-the-musical-giving-william-wallace-the-hamilton-treatment>

## **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**

Don't forget the Heritage Open days this month – a chance to see places for a reduced price or free, or places not normally open to the public.

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

<https://www.europeanheritagedays.com/>

#### **1066 etc: Siege warfare & crusades**

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/archbishop-albero-of-trier-master-of-siege-warfare-in-medieval-germany/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/08/from-liberation-to-loss-the-early-crusades-to-the-holy-land/>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 31 August 2025**

### **Check out our publications**

<http://www.basiliscoe.com>