

The Basiliscoe Mercury 456

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Bumper number of 17th century painting exhibitions, on both sides of the Atlantic, a Roman helmet, medieval frescoes of Lancelot and a fascinating online book to peruse.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Carnoustie hoard to go on display in Edinburgh

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2025/09/nms-to-display-bronze-age-weapons-hoard-for-the-first-time/>

Roman helmet found from the first Punic War

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/09/intact-roman-helmet-from-first-punic-war-discovered/155936>

Investigating slingshot from eastern Anatolia

<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/culture/ancient-sling-stones-uneearthed-in-urartian-castle-excavations-in-eastern-anatolia-3206677>

Early medieval sabre found in Hungary

<https://arkeonews.net/rare-avar-era-saber-uneearthed-near-szekesfehervar-hungary/>

Farmer prosecuted for damage to ancient Irish hillfort

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ce80jp81601o>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Bear baiting in Roman Serbia

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/romans/skull-of-bear-held-captive-to-fight-roman-gladiators-discovered-near-ancient-amphitheater-in-serbia>

Horse burials in Somerset

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clyjknjy1o>

Round the world

Tunnels found in ancient Chinese city

<https://dailygalaxy.com/2025/08/archaeologists-uncover-a-network-of-secret-tunnels-under-4500-year-old-chinese-city/>

Chinese fortifications and their landscape

<https://phys.org/news/2025-09-spatial-patterns-tianshui-folk-fortresses.html>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Digitalizing the wall paintings of Sir Lancelot - breathtaking!

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/digitizing-the-medieval-ducal-tower-of-siedlecin/>

Excavating Barcelona's medieval defences

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-867119>

Excavations at Neuenburg

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/excavations-at-neuenburg-castle-reveal-lost-medieval-buildings/>

Through the gunloop...

Excavations at Nikopol Fortress

<https://arkeonews.net/archaeologists-discover-old-bulgarian-inscription-and-rich-finds-at-nikopol-fortress-excavations/>

Investigating Ohio's Revolutionary War fort

<https://www.wjer.com/news/fort-laurens-archaeology-progresses-ahead-of-partial-reconstruction/>

Miscellany

Medieval Alexander manuscript for the Getty

<https://www.getty.edu/news/romance-of-alexander-getty-manuscript-acquisition/>

Medieval knight with a Chinese sword

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/chinese-sword-crusaders-tomb/>

Back to the front

Military historian leaves generous legacy for Culloden

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/historian-leaves-generous-legacy-to-protect-culloden>

Café Basiliscoe

Bog butter

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/why-did-the-medieval-irish-bury-butter/>

Cooking through the ages

<https://theconversation.com/recipes-from-the-middle-ages-have-much-in-common-with-how-our-grandparents-used-to-cook-264139>

Into the 20th century

Bovington's Tiger tank still had shrapnel in its tracks

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cde3ez9741wo>

Japanese families get their WW2 letters, a little late

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/a-batch-of-undelivered-wwii-letters-intended-for-japanese-soldiers-ended-up-in-an-oregon-museum-decades-later-now-experts-are-returning-the-lost-correspondence-to-their-families-180987271/?itm_source=parsely-api&itm_source=most-popular&itm_medium=parsely-api

Guide yourself round Wartime Orkney

<https://www.socantscot.org/society-funded-research/the-wartime-orkney-trail-leaflets-project/>

Nautical news

Miniature bronze ram found in Vienna

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/09/12/bronze-ram-ancient-roman-warship-austria/>

China's underwater explorations in focus

<https://en.people.cn/n3/2025/0826/c90000-20357560.html>

Photographic exhibition of Sligo's Armada discoveries open for Heritage days

<https://m.independent.ie/regionals/sligo/lifestyle/exhibition-shows-dramatic-pictures-of-spanish-armada-discovery-off-sligo-coast/a518186532.html?origin=app>

Piece about the US Customs innovative revenue cutter, 160 years ago

<https://www.mycg.uscg.mil/News/Article/4292269/revenue-cutter-ea-stevens-the-services-civil-war-gunboat-160-years-ago/>

Scott's last ship filmed under Greenland seas

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cpwyvyqkx9yo>

Controversial rise of U-16 – fascinating piece

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-866233>

Photographic survey of German WWII U-boat

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/09/underwater-study-reveals-remarkable-details-of-wwii-german-u-boat/155941>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Blunderbuss stolen from Exeter's Museum - picture

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c0lk1njdryeo>

New museums

Major new extension at the National Gallery, London

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/09/09/london-national-gallery-receives-record-breaking-donations-for-new-wing-and-will-start-collecting-contemporary-art>

New gallery of renaissance art opens at the Holburne, Bath

<https://holburne.org/events/the-new-schroder-gallery/>

Commented [RB1]:

New displays of the Gladiator's Monument in Bolu opens

<https://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/ancient-gladiator-tomb-in-bolu-opens-to-public-213502>

Museum musings

Protecting heritage in time of war

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2025/08/26/protecting-heritage-in-war-the-power-of-local-action/>

Conservation corner (and tech)

Early medieval smelting site found in China

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202509/1342326.shtml>

Investigating copper sources in the Bronze Age

<https://phys.org/news/2025-09-metals-reveal-bronze-age-previously.html>

Metalworking continued in post-Roman Britain (at least in Yorkshire)

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/britains-economy-boomed-after-the-romans-aldborough-study-reveals>

Heshma's medieval Panel rediscovered

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/lost-medieval-painting-rediscovered-at-hexham-abbey/>

Exhibitions

Rembrandt self-portrait goes on National Trust mini-tour

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cp3qwrzl4lpo>

Terbosch in Zwolle

<https://www.museumdefundatie.nl/en/at-home-with-ter-borch/>

George de la tour in Paris

<https://www.musee-jacquemart-andre.com/en/georges-tour>

Rembrandt in Florida

<https://www.norton.org/exhibitions/art-and-life-in-rembrandts-time-masterpieces-from-the-leiden-collection>

Medieval manuscripts in New York

<https://www.themorgan.org/exhibitions/sing-a-new-song>

Books

Online book

Fascinating book! Textiles & War from Prehistory to Late Antiquity - lots of armour details

<https://www.archaeopress.com/Archaeopress/download/9781805830801>

Popular culture

Samurai exercises for pensioners...

<https://www.sciencealert.com/daily-samurai-routine-could-reduce-risk-of-falls-in-seniors>

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/>

Sales, fairs and auctions

The Professor David S. Weaver Collection of Fine Antique Firearms

The Weaver Collection

Date: 24th Sep, 2025 12:00

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/auction/search/?au=213&q=1>

Websites and downloads

1066 etc: Mongols, Carolingians & Templars

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/the-secret-history-of-the-mongols-the-first-mongolian-chronicle/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/how-carolingian-soldiers-learned-to-fight/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/assassins-and-templars-the-strategy-of-death/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/templars-medieval-training-consultants/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 15 September 2025

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<http://www.basiliscoe.com>