

The Basiliscope Mercury 457

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Interesting pieces on identifying bodies from the Battle of Loos and experiments with Mycenaean armour. Meaty list of exhibitions, with something for everyone, with star billing for Marie Antoinette at the V&A.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient news

Discussion of Mycenaean armour

<https://the-past.com/news/recreating-a-mycenaean-battle/>

Investigating an ancient tower on Paros

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/09/16/ancient-tower-paros-greece/>

Byzantine fortress found built over Roman amphitheatre

<https://www.labrujulaverde.com/en/2025/09/byzantine-fortress-of-lecce-discovered-built-over-the-ruins-of-the-roman-amphitheater/>

Grave stories

Discussing where Boudica is buried

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/where-is-queen-boudica-buried>

Investigating medieval deaths

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/forensic-medicine-and-death-investigation-with-sara-butler/>

Identifying two Scottish soldiers from the Battle of Loos - fascinating read

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c7088ynken8o>

In the lists

Trial by combat

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/trial-medieval-religious-dispute/>

Feature on jousting in Australia

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/sep/21/australia-national-jousting-championship-knights-in-shining-armour-gallop-into-battle>

Through the arrow-slit . . .

Researching a forgotten castle complex in Islay

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz693e0zdqeo>

Worries about Knaresborough Castle's future
<https://archive.org/details/in.ernet.dli.2015.206633>

Scottish castle for sale
<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/castle-sale-scotland/>

Scottish tower restoration makes architecture prize final
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cz7rl4r2xplo>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

More cannon dug up in Mumbai
<https://www.mid-day.com/amp/mumbai/mumbai-news/article/colonial-era-cannons-uneearthed-at-sindoor-bridge-site-in-mumbai-23595832>

Problems displaying one of Ireland's Crimean trophies
https://clarechampion.ie/war-is-brewing-over-ennis-cannon/?fbclid=IwY2xjawNDNQtleHRuA2FibQlMQABHgYrN66UVjpyAEP2rdD1S00coJDvuvVO8e-Py_XyVwVzT6rAh6BBvvcblT9t_aem_TZ9HKzXanErE4qoWPtkPAw

Black sheep in the Krupp family
<https://www.mk.co.kr/en/culture/11425307>

Miscellany

Relics from Culloden acquired for displays
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cwy8rdnd0pwo>

Wright of Derby and science
<https://aeon.co/essays/joseph-wright-of-derby-put-science-at-the-centre-of-his-art>

Artefacts from Battle of Dubienka 1792 unearthed near Uchanie
<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/09/artefacts-from-battle-of-dubienka-uneearthed-near-uchanie/156005>

Café Basiliscoe

Grasshopper - today's special
<https://theconversation.com/would-you-eat-a-grasshopper-in-oaxaca-its-been-a-tasty-tradition-for-thousands-of-years-263868>

Best to stick to the beans
<https://phys.org/news/2025-09-discovery-neolithic-agricultural-diets-east.html>

And the pears
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2lxv7wv2kwo>

Princesses and Amazons

Annie Oakley's gun for sale

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/people/wild-west-legends-rifle-to-go-under-the-hammer-at-sussex-auction-house-5325238>

Princess Victoria's sculpture identified

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cly1ke10erxo>

Into the 20th century

Fort Nelson in D-Day commemorations

<https://www.portsmouth.co.uk/whats-on/things-to-do/silhouettes-for-the-1475-servicemen-who-died-on-d-day-go-on-display-5332794>

Nautical news

Oseberg ship on the move...

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/norways-oseberg-ship-begins-a-new-chapter-in-the-museum-of-the-viking-age/>

Update on the wrecks round Karlskrona

<https://divernet.com/scuba-news/wrecks/centuries-old-blockship-wrecks-idd-in-sweden/>

Investigating the *Titanic*'s sister ship, sunk by mine in WW1

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/britannic-ship-titanic-greece-aegean-sea-b2828169.html>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Photo essay on a visit to Les Invalides

<https://dailyguardian.com.ph/the-knights-in-shining-armor-of-paris-pinoy-explorer-gregg-yan-gives-you-a-glimpse-of-frances-musee-de-larmee/>

New museums

Bonnat-Helleu Museum, Bayonne, to re-open in November

<https://www.visitbayonne.com/en/discover/what-to-see-and-do-in-bayonne/visit-bayonne/the-musee-bonnat-helleu-a-fabulous-art-collection/>

New life for Mickelgate?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2dlk2pe0go>

Museum Musings

Saving Gaza's heritage

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/resources/1d1e26c7357-09f8-42af-81ae-42cbaf04b593>

Archaeologists use photos of 1930s dig to uncover a lost community

<https://phys.org/news/2025-09-iraq-yazidis-rediscover-lost-history.html>

Yemen's National Museum bombed

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/09/15/yemen-national-museum-damaged-by-israeli-strikes-Houthi-authorities-say>

Conservation corner

Artefacts from the *Trinidad Valencera* being conserved in Derry

<https://www.donegallive.ie/news/inishowen-md/1896433/conservation-works-begin-on-spanish-armada-treasures-recovered-from-kinnego-bay.html>
<https://www.derryjournal.com/news/people/spanish-armada-collection-on-the-move-from-derrys-tower-museum-5321406>

Conserving Carpaccio altarpiece (painting of St George)

<https://www.archaeology.wiki/blog/2025/09/17/carpaccios-altarpiece-masterpiece/>

What lies under the Vermeer

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/09/18/hidden-picture-beneath-vermeers-girl-with-the-red-hat-may-be-the-artists-first-portrait-of-a-man-research-reveals>

Bovington's King Tiger V2 to be restored

<https://www.swanage.news/tank-museum-to-rebuild-king-tiger-v2-prototype-tank-at-bovington/>

Exhibitions

Archaeological treasures in Liverpool

<https://www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/whatson/museum-of-liverpool/exhibition/treasure-history-unearthed#section--the-exhibition>

Marie Antoinette at the London

<https://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions/marie-antoinette>
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/sep/17/marie-antoinette-style-review-v-and-a-london-exhibition-seedy-sex-addict>
<https://www.theguardian.com/fashion/2025/sep/21/marie-antoinette-style-victoria-albert-london-exhibition-fashion>

The grand tour in Mauritshuis

<https://www.mauritshuis.nl/en/what-s-on/exhibitions/the-grand-tour>

Valkenburg in Utrecht

https://www.centraalmuseum.nl/en/now/exhibitions/valkenburg-willem-de-rooij?_gl=1*1jqt66l*_up*MQ..*_ga*MTM2Mjl1NDA2NC4xNzU4MzU5Nzc4*_g_a_ZGLY9F9KH3*_czE3NTgzNTk3NzYkbzEkZzAkdDE3NTgzNTk3ODQkajUyJGwwJGg3OTQ2MjQ5Mjk.

Treasures from the mines at Dresden - looks stunning

<https://gruenes-gewoelbe.skd.museum/en/exhibitions/red-gold-the-miracle-of-herregrund/>

Fra Angelico in Florence

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/09/23/fra-angelico-masterworks-reunited-for-two-venue-florence-exhibition>

Books

This month from Osprey

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

Popular culture

More discussion on helmets in the upcoming Odyssey film

https://greekreporter.com/2025/09/16/christopher-nolan-odyssey-historically-accurate-greek-warrior-attire/?utm_source=flipboard&utm_content=GreekReporter/magazine/Greek+Reporter

New film on Caravaggio

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/arts-and-culture/sussex-director-phil-grabskys-new-caravaggio-film-is-a-mix-of-mystery-intrigue-beauty-passion-and-murder-5320826>

The Making of Monty Python and the Holy Grail

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/making-of-monty-python-and-the-holy-grail/>

Photographic exhibition on armour

<https://flash---art.com/2025/09/zoe-leonard-display-maxwell-graham-new-york%E2%82%AC%E2%82%AC/>

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

Olympia's Auctions

<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/auctions-valuations/auction-calendar/>

Swedish modern knives online

https://www.bukowskis.com/en/auctions/E1253/lots?utm_source=bonhams.com

15 October 2025 Paris

Fine Japanese Art

<https://www.bonhams.com/auction/30765/fine-japanese-art/>

Websites and downloads

Stories from the Royal Collections

<https://www.rct.uk/collection>

1066 etc Knighthood, riddles, wills and a summer in Castles

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/knighthood-before-the-crusades-bishop-gerard-of-cambrais-vision-of-medieval-society/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/20-medieval-riddles/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/medieval-wills-and-testaments-with-robert-a-wood/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/09/a-summer-in-castles-bow-blade-episode-61/>

Finally

...that time of the year when we are looking for contributions to the next ICOMAM MAGAZINE; exhibitions, museum news, publications, objects, conferences, research, anything considered...Read old editions here:

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

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 27 September 2025

Check out our publications

<http://www.basiliscoe.com>