

The Basiliscope Mercury 459

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

As befits the week of Hallowe'en, many stories in the Graves section and in our special at the end. Otherwise, more finds from Polish beaches, an American plane crashed in Essex uncovered and the Pazzi Conspiracy in Berlin. Not to mention the fabulous papier mâché helmets in New York.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Ancient dagger found on Polish beach

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/hallstatt-dagger-poland-00102234#>

Looted roman helmet from Serbia goes on sale?

<https://arkeonews.net/rare-roman-legionary-helmet-looted-from-serbia-appears-in-u-s-auction/>

Saxon sword mount goes in display in Chichester Museum

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgk93v0klvo>

Viking sword found in Iceland during goose hunt

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/index.php/arnarson>

Mail shirt and helmet found in Rustavi palace – no pictures...

<https://1tv.ge/lang/en/news/archaeologists-discover-ix-x-century-chain-mail-shirt-during-rustavi-palace-excavation/>

Ancient axe found in Russia

<https://www.ipost.com/archaeology/article-871375>

Battles, towers and forts

Egyptian fortress found in Sinai desert

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/ancient-egyptians/3-500-year-old-egyptian-military-fortress-with-ancient-ovens-and-fossilized-dough-discovered-in-sinai-desert>

Roman fort found in the Crimea

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/10/roman-fort-found-on-occupied-kerch-peninsula/156186>

Excavating a Roman fort in Northumberland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2dr4ldwj02o>

Hunting round the world and through the ages

Prehistoric stone hunting traps uncovered in Andes, Chile

<https://arkeonews.net/76-ancient-stone-traps-unearthed-in-chiles-andes-reveal-ingenuous-prehistoric-hunting-system/>

Feature on boomerang analysis

<https://phys.org/news/2025-10-forensic-analysis-traditional-knowledge-reveal.html>

Grave stories

Luxemburg's oldest inhabitant

<https://www.luxtimes.lu/luxembourg/the-oldest-luxembourger-the-8000-year-old-mullerthal-skeleton/95640492.html>

How 7 Roman soldiers ended up in a well in Croatia

<https://arkeonews.net/archaeologists-uncover-remains-of-roman-soldiers-in-a-3rd-century-well-in-croatia/>

More on the Roman soldiers down the well story

<https://phys.org/news/2025-10-mursa-mass-grave-reveals-diverse.html>

Frescos discovered on a Tang period tomb

<https://arkeonews.net/8th-century-tang-dynasty-tomb-unearthed-in-china-reveals-vivid-murals-and-a-blond-foreigner/>

Tang tombs to be repaired

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c9861md97rgo>

Update date on the works of the remains of Napoleon's soldiers

<https://www.popsoci.com/science/napoleon-army-disease-cause/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Piece about Donnington Castle

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/index.php/ancient-places-europe/donnington-castle-0013882>

Free speech and the Tufts cannon

<https://www.tuftsdaily.com/article/2025/10/tufts-admin-leave-the-cannon-alone>

Bronze cannon removed from Elizabethton monument for road safety

https://www.johnsoncitypress.com/downtown-elizabethton/image_86426f34-5f3f-4a70-9125-4dcf6dfd2d25.html

Back to the front

Podcast about doubling the length of the Hundred Years War...

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/10/the-two-hundred-years-war-with-michael-livingston/>

Black veteran of Waterloo identified in portrait

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/oct/21/london-museum-identifies-black-waterloo-veteran-in-rare-1821-painting>

Café Basiliscoe

Olives and wine from ancient Greece

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/10/18/excavations-ancient-greek-city-bathonea-olive-oil-wine-workshop/>

The medieval menu

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/10/favourite-foods-medieval-europeans/>

Special - omelette

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/10/medieval-omelet/>

Fascinating piece on 3 bronze medieval ewers on display in York Military Museum

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/10/24/three-medieval-ewers-mystery-display-york>

Princesses and Amazons

British Museum's appeal for heart jewel for a Tudor Queen

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn0920nerq0o>

Into the 20th century

Excavating a US WW2 plane in Essex

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/oct/27/archaeological-dig-to-unearth-wreckage-of-ww2-hero-pilot-crash-under-way>

Nautical news

How the *Batavia* inspired a TV hit

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zm4rp9q>

Objects from the wrecks of the French 1788 expedition to the Pacific

<https://as.cornell.edu/news/objects-famous-shipwreck-tell-deeper-stories>

Turner's Trafalgar to go back on display in Queen's house, Greenwich

<https://www.rm.gov.uk/queens-house/attractions/turners-battle-traffic>

Fungal secrets and USS Cairo

<https://phys.org/news/2025-10-fungal-secrets-sunken-ship-advanced.html>

WW2 wrecks begin to leak in Micronesian seas

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-10-17/war-relics-threat-for-federated-states-of-micronesia/105884710>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Louvre suffers a major theft

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cq7nrlkg0zxo>

Two arrests (so far)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c2em38pdv0do>

National Trust takes over the Ironbridge Gorge Museums and properties

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cm2e71r4qj4o>

New museums

Feature on the Devon and Cornwall Policing Museum, Oakhampton

<https://devonandcornwall-pcc.gov.uk/hidden-devon-and-cornwall-history-gem-believed-to-be-the-largest-collection-of-policing-memorabilia-in-the-uk>

Conservation corner

Lost technologies of the Middle Ages

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/10/medieval-inventions-we-still-cant-fully-recreate-today/>

Gattamelata removed for conservation from Padua

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/10/donatellos-medieval-masterpiece-moved-for-conservation-work/>

Gun-making in Sakhakot, Pakistan

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/2572353/the-forgotten-gunsmiths-of-sakhakot>

Moving Confederate statues to Los Angeles for exhibition on monuments

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/10/20/monuments-contemporary-art-museum-brick-los-angeles-exhibition-confederate-statues>

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/10/22/monuments-exhibition-los-angeles-moca-the-brick-logistics-confederate-monuments>

Restoring Aleppo building in Berlin

<https://blog.smb.museum/restaurierung-ist-nie-nur-eine-technische-angelegenheit-das-bait-wakil-projekt-des-museums-fuer-islamische-kunst/>

Objects

Colorado Museum's missing bison recovered

<https://retro1025.com/ixp/510/p/colorado-museum-bison-story/>

Bit more on Fort Ticonderoga's recent acquisitions

<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/community-news/history-culture/fort-ticonderoga-acquires-12-million-revolutionary-war-collection-with-3000-artifacts/>

Gurkha firearms go on display in Winchester

<https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/25552813.gurkha-museum-winchester-unveils-rare-weapons-exhibition/>

Exhibitions

D Day silhouettes at Fort Nelson

<https://royalarmouries.org/fort-nelson/whats-on/standing-with-giants-for-your-tomorrow>

17th century domestic life in the Rijksmuseum

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en/whats-on/exhibitions/thuis-in-de-17de-eeuw>

Pazzi conspiracy in Berlin - this sounds fascinating

<https://www.smb.museum/en/exhibitions/detail/the-pazzi-conspiracy/>

Rembrandt prints in Charleston

<https://www.gibbesmuseum.org/exhibitions/rembrandt-masterpieces-in-black-white-prints-from-the-rembrandt-house-museum/142>

Gold in Pasadena

<https://www.nortonsimon.org/exhibitions/2020-2029/gold-enduring-power-sacred-craft>

Books

Online Book

Boydell and Brewer's most read open access books

https://boydellandbrewer.com/blog/open-access/our-most-read-open-access-books-2025/?utm_source=bluesky&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=blog-oct25

Popular culture

Film of *H is for Hawk*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_UcaCG71iQ

Cannon and Bells - how contemporary artists deal with militarization in Vilnius
<https://cac.lt/en/exhibition/76899/>

German Art Gallery feels the Swiftie effect
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgvwvq2jg4o> <https://museum-wiesbaden.de/>

Frankenstein and films
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/culture/article/20180611-why-frankenstein-is-the-story-that-defined-our-fears>

Susan Hamburger's work inspired by the Met's arms and armor goes on show
<https://www.artrabbit.com/events/susan-hamburger-near-enemies>
<https://www.susanhamburger.net/helmets--ppe-series>

Events

Conferences

11-17 November 2025- DUBAI, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
'The Future of Museums in Rapidly Changing Communities'
[Programme - ICOM ICOMAM - ICOM ICOMAM](#)

Sales, fairs and auctions

Olympia's Auctions
<https://www.olympiaauctions.com/auctions-valuations/auction-calendar/>

25 October – 5 November 2025 starting at 12:00 EST Online only
Historic Arms & Militaria Historic Skinner Marlborough,
[Online, Skinner Marlborough, Massachusetts](#)

3- 8 November Munich
Arms, armour and militaria
<https://www.hermann-historica.de/en>

Peter Finer gets a puff from the Guardian
<https://www.theguardian.com/artanddesign/2025/oct/16/millionaires-frieze-art-fair-review-regents-park-london>

Websites and downloads

1066 etc – The Holy Grail and Middle East assassins
<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/10/holy-grail-medieval-graal/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/10/when-the-assassins-came-to-mosul/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/10/when-the-assassins-came-to-damascus/>

Finally, Hallowe'en

Ghost stories from English Heritage

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2025/oct/24/ghost-stories-english-heritage-faceless-figure-chester-castle>

Or ghost stories from the Royal Palaces

<https://www.historicroyalpalaces.com/ghosts-in-the-walls-book.html>

Or the National Trust's Ghost stories...

<https://shop.nationaltrust.org.uk/national-trust-britain-s-ghosts.html>

The Mystery of the Roos Carr figures

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/roos-carr-figures-creepy-2-600-year-old-carvings-with-removable-genitalia-and-eyes-that-may-have-symbolized-odins-soothsayer-powers>

Video on tarot cards

<https://aeon.co/videos/beyond-fortune-telling-the-enduring-beauty-and-allure-of-tarot>

Britain's Museum of Witchcraft and Magic

<https://museumofwitchcraftandmagic.co.uk/>

A simple treat for all the family

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/halloween-family-recipe-chocolate-dipped-apples>

Treat yourself at a National Trust bat box

<https://shop.nationaltrust.org.uk/national-trust-cj-wildlife-glamis-bat-box.html>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 28 October 2025

Check out our publications

<http://www.basiliscoe.com>