

The Basiliscoe Mercury 466

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Main news is the publication of the Wallace Collection catalogue of their non-European arms and armour, which includes a conference. Otherwise, Greek helmets, medieval swords and a chance to see dead Hohenzollerns

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Neolithic bows from Italy studied

https://arkeonews.net/la-marmottas-7500-year-old-bows-in-italy-show-early-farmers-engineered-weapons-from-mediterranean-mixed-forests/#google_vignette

Bronze age burial complete with weaponry excavated in France

<https://archaeology.org/news/2026/02/17/early-bronze-age-burial-discovered-in-northwestern-france/>

Symbolism of war trophies in Celtic Iberia

<https://www.labrujulaverde.com/en/2026/02/the-powerful-symbolism-of-the-celtiberian-hand-a-study-explains-alliances-honor-and-war-trophies/>

Feature on Greek boar tusk helmets

<https://greekreporter.com/2026/02/24/boar-tusk-helmets-ancient-greece/>

It's the Olympic games time, so Korea's Greek helmet story gets an airing

<https://greekreporter.com/2026/02/19/ancient-greek-helmet-national-treasure-south-korea/>

Did the Norwegians fight for the Romans?

<https://www.labrujulaverde.com/en/2026/02/an-army-of-50-ships-and-1000-norwegian-warriors-may-have-fought-in-denmark-1800-years-ago-in-the-service-of-the-roman-empire/>

Memorial to veteran Centurion uncovered

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2026/02/tomb-plate-belonging-to-a-centurion-of-the-first-italic-legion-discovered-at-nove/157128>

Ancient altars of Mithras to go on show in Edinburgh at the end of the year

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cg5n6e7vv82o>

Archaeological evidence of daily life of the Roman army

<https://www.labrujulaverde.com/en/2026/02/archaeological-finds-in-ancient-tyras-reveal-what-life-was-like-for-a-roman-soldier-on-the-empires-frontier/>

Hunting round the world and through the ages

Fishing equipment from prehistoric Siberia

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2026/02/archaeologists-uncover-ancient-fishing-gear-in-siberia/157116>

Grave stories

Hohenzollern crypt in Berlin opened

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2026/02/26/berlin-cathedral-opens-newly-renovated-crypt-to-house-coffins-of-prussias-ruling-dynasty>

Arms and armour

Another crusader era sword found off Israel

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/article-887637>

Update on one of last year's sword finds

[https://en.clickpetroleoegas.com.br/A-nearly-thousand-year-old-medieval-sword-has-surfaced-intact-in-a-Dutch-river--intriguing-experts-by-revealing-rare-mystical-symbols-and-a-possible-sacred-ritual./](https://en.clickpetroleoegas.com.br/A-nearly-thousand-year-old-medieval-sword-has-surfaced-intact-in-a-Dutch-river--intriguing-experts-by-revealing-rare-mystical-symbols-and-a-possible-sacred-ritual/)

Armours to astonish

<https://theconversation.com/5-weird-armours-from-history-273580>

Beretta reaches 500 in 2026

<https://www.handgunsmag.com/editorial/beretta-500-year-legacy-gunmaking/545851>

Castles and forts

Clifford castle falls down in the rains

<https://www.herefordtimes.com/news/25849404.part-clifford-castles-tower-collapses-heavy-rain/>

Lidar uncovers unknown fort in Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2026/02/lidar-study-reveals-previously-unknown-fortress/157057>

Excavating Spanish fortress in Ghent

<https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/en/2026/02/19/archaeological-treasure-trove-uncovered-at-ghents-spanish-castle>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Cache of 500 gun stones found in the Netherlands

<https://www.vrt.be/vrtnws/en/2026/02/25/treasure-trove-of-500-medieval-cannonballs-revealed-in-nieuwpoort/>

Another cannon dug up in Hull

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c5yj05p7820o?at_link_type=web_link&at_link_origin=BBC_East_Yorkshire&at_campaign_type=owned&at_bbc_team=editorial&at_medium=social&at_format=image&at_link_id=98CF7BBE-0BDC-11F1-901E-AC7AA94FD557&at_ptr_name=facebook_page&at_campaign=Social_Flow&fbclid=IwY2xjawQBZzZleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFoaUU5SzFnNWwhNUVa_bHdhc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHqgGmSlcSyga_x0_S6XID22xaL7KtqBS8wVgaZtpt6lcD4kDqiKtdhz56D_Yq_aem_M1KGvfFXx-A5SjYAZFIXhQ

Test-firing the guns at St Michael's Mount

<https://www.cornwalllive.com/news/cornwall-news/loud-cannons-sound-cornwall-today-10832205.amp>

Miscellany

Medieval paintings shed light on Toledo's medieval courtly culture

https://www.heritagedaily.com/2026/02/medieval-panels-shed-light-on-toledos-storied-past/157038#google_vignette

Frankfurt acquires the Altenburg altarpiece

<https://artdaily.com/news/191257/Reunited-after-100-years--The-iconic--Altenberg-Madonna--returns-to-the-St-auml-del-Museum>

French coin linked to Culloden

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cvgvl6qn6r2o>

Rediscovered drawing of Napoleon comes up for sale

<https://artdaily.com/news/190880/Rediscovery-of-a-French-masterpiece%E2%80%93Napoleon-Bonaparte-at-Arcole-by-Antoine-Jean-Gros>

Café Basiliscoe

Tea in an iconic tearoom

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/the-mackintosh-tearooms-enter-a-new-era>

Shark

<https://nypost.com/2026/02/12/science/ancient-humans-were-hunting-eating-sharks-7k-years-ago-burial-site-shows/>

And sheep or goats' cheese

https://phys.org/news/2026-02-evidence-early-goat-sheep-dairy.html#goog_rewarded

Nautical news

1640s Swedish warship resurfaces in Baltic

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/400-year-old-naval-shipwreck-resurfaces-after-centuries-underwater/>

Researching Valcour Bay and its history (involves exploding cannon)

<https://suncommunitynews.com/news/123706/divers-convene-for-historic-valcour-bay-research-report/>

HMS *Saldanha*, sank 1811, found off Donegal?

[HMS Saldanha: Wooden structure believed to be 214-year-old shipwreck - BBC News](#)

Museum news and exhibitions

Bad News

Leaks in the Louvre

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c7951d1pgewo>

And the Director resigns after a number of scandals

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2026/02/24/louvre-director-laurence-des-cars-resigns-heist-strikes-ticket-scandal>

Museum musings

Cambridge University returns Benin bronzes

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/benin-artefacts-return>

Conservation corner

Researching bronze age swords in Bavaria

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2026/02/sword-provides-new-insights-into-metalworking-during-the-middle-bronze-age/157004>

3d scanning objects

<https://theconversation.com/3d-scanning-and-shape-analysis-help-archaeologists-connect-objects-across-space-and-time-to-recover-their-lost-histories-273077>

Objects

Tank Museum acquires important WW2 medals

<https://artdaily.com/news/191046/Medals-of-WW2-tank-commander-purchased-by-museum>

Celebrating Edinburgh's 1000 year old astrolabe
<https://artdaily.com/news/191348/Rare-scientific-instrument-in-National-Museums-Scotland-s-collection-marks-its-1000th-anniversary>

Exhibitions

Don McCulloch in Somerset
<https://artdaily.com/news/191043/A-legend-turns-90--Hauser---Wirth-Somerset-honors-Don-McCullin-s-seven-decade-journey>

Gainsborough portraits at the Frick
<https://artdaily.com/news/191015/Thomas-Gainsborough-s-first-portraiture-survey-opens-in-New-York>

Equestrian textiles in Washington (and a catalogue, too)
<https://artdaily.com/news/191227/-Adorning-the-Horse--Celebrates-the-Year-of-the-Horse-and-a-Generous-Gift-at-The-Textile-Museum-in-Washington--DC>

Books

Wallace Collection's catalogue published to acclaim
<https://artdaily.com/news/191354/Over-five-centuries-of-arms---armour-from-Asia--Africa-and-the-Ottoman-World-in-one-landmark-book>
<https://wallacecollectionshop.org/products/the-wallace-collection-catalogue-of-arms-and-armour-from-asia-africa-and-the-ottoman-world>

Online book

Smithsonian's Asian Art Museum bulletin on open access
<https://asia.si.edu/research/publications/ars-orientalis/browse-volumes/ars-orientalis-issue-55/>

Popular culture

Rules for Roman board game discovered
<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/rules-of-mysterious-ancient-roman-board-game-decoded-by-ai/>

Events

Diary Dates

Check the Medievalists for their online courses
<https://medievalstudies.thinkific.com/>

9 June 2026 Society of Antiquaries, London
Lunchtime Talk on the *Gribshunden*
<https://www.sal.org.uk/event/gribshunden/>

Conferences

13- 14 March Wallace Collection, London
Conference on Arms and Armour from Asia, Africa and the Ottoman World
https://www.wallacecollection.org/whats-on/events/conference-on-arms-and-armour-from-asia-africa-and-the-ottoman-world-2/?fbclid=IwY2xjawQA-SBleHRuA2F1bQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZBAyMjIwMzkxNzg4MjAwODkyAAEeCcfE7ig5fV3Ifdp2itrGd3hvlUKxijP_DLeyWJLhInJBUcBBdkHx7ZKZI0A_aem_d_kDWAt4dv2A5zRp_2raQw

International Workshop 'Army of Flanders' (Brussels, 15–16 May 2026)
Contact Natasja Peeters: natasja.peeters@warheritage.be

Sales, fairs and auctions

14 March 2026 Greenboro, GA
Classic firearms
<https://artdaily.com/news/192395/Montrose-s-March-14-Live-Firearms-Auction-features-fine-sporting--classic-and-collectible-firearms->

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

Websites and downloads

Institute of Historical Research has set up website for available sources
<https://www.history.ac.uk/resources>

1066 etc
Military intelligence & William the Conqueror
<https://www.medievalists.net/2026/02/military-intelligence-and-planning-in-the-carolingian-empire/>
<https://www.medievalists.net/2026/02/plots-against-william-the-conqueror/>

Finally

New ICOM Arms and Military MAGAZINE out
<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/the-magazine/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 1 March 2026

Check out our publications
<http://www.basiliscoe.com>