

The Basiliscoe Mercury 402

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Many sword-related stories running through the newsletter; otherwise Viking ships, Greek rams and Ramadan cannon

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms - mainly swords

Myth of cavemen and their clubs

<https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/ancient-wooden-clubs-myth/>

The oldest swords in the world are from Turkey?

<https://arkeonews.net/the-worlds-oldest-and-first-swords-ever-discovered/>

Swords returned to Ukraine from US

<https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/03/10/ukraine-weapons-sword-embassy-russia/>

More on the Mycenaean swords

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/03/bronze-swords-from-mycenaean-civilisation-found-in-greek-tomb/146520>

Anglo-Saxon sword mount found in Suffolk

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-suffolk-64860568>

Frome museum displays throwing axe

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-64967007>

Feature on Chinese armour

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/weird-facts/paper-armor-0018034>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Fascinating piece about Mongolian deer stones

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/blogs/national-museum-of-natural-history/2023/03/09/meet-the-smithsonian-scientist-studying-the-mysterious-mongolian-deer-stones/>

History of whaling

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/11/the-first-great-energy-transition-how-humanity-gave-up-whaling>

Grave stories

Studying the genetics of Ice Age hunter-gatherers

<https://www.livescience.com/unknown-lineage-of-ice-age-europeans-discovered-in-genetic-study>

Feature about the Pompeii body casts

<https://nextluxury.com/interesting/pompeii-bodies/>

Mass Civil War grave at Williamsburg investigated

https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2023/03/07/mass-grave-civil-war-williamsburg/?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=news_tab

Through the gunloop...

Piece on Camber Castle, near Rye

<https://www.sussexlive.co.uk/news/sussex-news/tucked-away-16th-century-castle-8234466>

Fort Hubberstone up for sale

<https://arkeonews.net/the-worlds-oldest-and-first-swords-ever-discovered/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Two Indian bollards

<https://bengali.abplive.com/district/cannons-from-siraj-ud-daulah-era-found-in-kolkata-to-be-placed-inside-museum-963348>

And their recovery

<https://www.etvbharat.com/bengali/west-bengal/videos/other-videos/ancient-cannons-found-in-dumdum-jessore-road/wb20230316121949615615155>

Possibly the same guns

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/in-pics-canon-excavation-kalikapur-metro-station-more-news-from-kolkata-photogallery/cid/1922753?slide=1>

Long, illustrated feature on cannon in India

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/people/meet-amitabha-karkun-the-septuagenarian-cannon-expert-of-bengal/cid/1922750>

First of this year's Ramadan cannon stories

<https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/ramadan/2023/03/20/historic-french-cannon-fired-in-two-world-wars-to-help-mark-start-of-ramadan-in-dubai/>

Miscellany

Feature on Roger Bacon

<https://allthatsinteresting.com/roger-bacon>

Feature on the stone of Scone

<https://www.bbc.com/travel/article/20230305-the-disputed-history-of-the-coronation-stone>

Artefacts from a medieval knightly court in Poland

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/03/medieval-artefacts-found-in-poland-from-possible-knights-court/146515>

Feature on Ronald Lauder's armour collection

https://www.theepochtimes.com/a-knights-tale-ronald-lauders-arms-and-amour_5092399.html

Café Basiliscope

A plate of Neolithic cheese

<https://phys.org/news/2023-03-neolithic-ceramics-reveal-dairy-multiple.html>

accompanied by an Iron Age cocktail,

<https://www.iflscience.com/2-500-year-old-booze-brewed-up-from-recipe-found-in-iron-age-burial-67815>

or a glass of ancient wine,

<https://www.jpost.com/food-recipes/article-733864>

sweetened with Cypriot sugar

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2023/03/05/sugar-island-from-the-lusignans-to-loukoumades/>

Princesses and Amazons

Lady hawkers

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/03/hawking-women-falconry-gender-and-control-in-medieval-literary-culture/>

Female warrior of Hyderabad.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/telangana/2023/mar/12/12th-century-inscription-sheds-light-on-kakatiya-dynasty-expansion-2555257.html>

Nautical news

Studying ancient naval rams

<https://today.tamu.edu/2023/03/16/grad-student-explores-ancient-warfare-with-naval-ram-project/>

Update on the Gjellestad ship burial

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2023/03/100-year-find-enormous-viking-ship-holds-surprising-clues-on-burial-rituals>

Feature on the Palmwood wreck

<https://artdaily.com/news/155498/This-dress-survived-for-more-than-three-centuries-at-the-bottom-of-the-sea#.ZBWR6hTP2Uk>

New discovery from Greek waters

<https://greekreporter.com/2023/03/10/shipwreck-war-independence-discovered-greece/>

Feature on less famous pirates

<https://www.nationalgeographic.co.uk/history-and-civilisation/2023/03/these-pirates-left-the-caribbean-behind-and-stole-the-biggest-booty-ever>

Cache of captured letters from the 18th century made available

<https://artdaily.com/news/155303/Long-lost-letters-bring-word--at-last#.ZA2RppHP2Uk>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Stolen items returned to US museums

<https://artdaily.com/news/155371/Decades-after-thefts--stolen-artifacts-recovered-and-returned-to-museums--historical-societies#.ZBAva5HP2Uk>

Visitor figures not returning to pre-pandemic levels

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/03/17/london-museums-struggling-to-regain-visitors-after-covid-closures-exclusive-survey-shows>

Museum musings

The Third Reich and Egyptology

<https://english.elpais.com/culture/2023-03-18/gods-tombs-and-nazis-the-third-reichs-bad-relationship-with-egyptology.html>

Conservation corner

Restoring the Cameronians monument

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/conservation-in-action-cameronians-regimental-memorial>

Objects

Recovered historic weapons displayed in Indian government offices

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/antique-firearms-on-display-at-new-secretariat/cid/1923055>

Exhibitions

Anglo-Saxon finds at Sutton Hoo

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/suffolk/sutton-hoo/main-exhibition-at-sutton-hoo>

Costume collecting in Vancouver

<https://artdaily.com/news/155426/-Dressed-for-History--Why-Costume-Collections-Matter--opens-at-the-Museum-of-Vancouver-#.ZBLSI5HP2Uk>

Armour from Worcester in St Louis

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/03/st-louis-is-the-place-to-see-medieval-armor-this-spring/>

Books

Roy Strong: *The Stuart Image. English Portraiture 1603 to 1649*

<https://boydellandbrewer.com/9781783277209/the-stuart-image/>

Remmelt Daalder: *Van de Velde & Son: Marine Painters*

https://shop.rmg.co.uk/collections/the-van-de-veldes-greenwich-art-and-the-sea-gifts/products/van-de-velde-son-marine-painters?fbclid=IwAR1FXxyq3p2cr_gFVgV3x8dLpe0VXdL8YWsNV5Mwcu_azcTv8yTNdLjdSQ

Popular culture - all swords

Swords and NFTs

<https://decrypt.co/123521/knights-who-say-nah-samurai-sword-met-museum-nft>

And engagement swords are now a thing....

<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/hot-engagement-gift-engagement-sword-211900732.html>

Events

Diary Dates

18th April, 2023 Greenwich

Discovering *Klein Hollandia* - a Warship from the Dutch Golden Age of Sail

<https://www.nauticalarchaeologysociety.org/Event/discovering-klein-hollandia-a-warship-from-the-dutch-golden-age-of-sail>

Arms and Armour Society events

https://thearmsandarmoursociety.org/?page_id=62

Open days at Landmark Trust

<https://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/news-and-events/upcoming-events/>

What's going on in the French Maritime Museums

<https://www.musee-marine.fr/>

Events in Dutch museums

<https://www.defensie.nl/onderwerpen/bronbeek>

<https://www.nmm.nl/en/>

<https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/en>

Conferences

Summer school for graduate students: First World War Museums and Exhibitions

<https://1418.hypotheses.org/2246>

12-13 May 2023 Norwich

HMS *Gloucester*

<https://www.gloucestershipwreck.co.uk/conference-announcement>

https://www.gloucestershipwreck.co.uk/files/ugd/e3580b_5dcb8e74a23c41b08f6c1735eee5abfe.pdf

Sales, fairs and auctions

6-12 May 2023 Munich

Arms and armour

<https://www.hermann-historica.de/de/auctions>

28 June London

Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria

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

Websites and downloads

US naval history blog

<https://seahistory.org/education/navyhistory/>

Spain's Real Armeria

<https://www.patrimonionacional.es/en/colecciones-reales/royal-armoury>

1066 etc: Battles of Fornham & Falkirk

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/03/850th-anniversary-of-the-battle-of-fornham-to-be-commemorated-this-weekend/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/03/the-battle-of-falkirk-1298/>

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