

# The Basiliscoe Mercury 406

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Some juicy stories – an armour found in Spain, various sword-related items and a stolen Crimean cannon in New Zealand.

## Arms and armour in the news

### Ancient arms

The dangers of flint-knapping

<https://phys.org/news/2023-05-dangers-early-humans-life-threatening-flintknapping.html>

Rings for spear-throwing?

<https://phys.org/news/2023-05-puzzling-finger-loops-prehistoric-weapon.html>

Stolen Greek helmet restored from Germany

<https://www.eurojust.europa.eu/news/fourteen-stolen-cultural-artefacts-return-italy-eurojust-support>

Scramasax with carved hilt found in Sweden – pictures

<http://www.thehistoryblog.com/archives/67467>

Excavations in Georgia uncover artefacts of the X Legion

<https://arkeonews.net/archaeologists-conducting-excavations-at-the-roman-fort-of-apsaros-in-georgia-found-evidence-of-the-legion-x-fretensis/>

Study of Viking shields

<https://sciencenorway.no/archaeology-viking-age-vikings/new-studies-are-upending-our-ideas-about-viking-shields/2203358>

### Beasts of assorted varieties...

Drones find new cave paintings in Spain

<https://edition.cnn.com/style/article/drone-prehistoric-cave-paintings-spain-scli-intl-scn/index.html>

Leather saddle found in Chinese tomb – picture

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/05/earliest-dated-saddle-in-china-for-horse-riding-identified-from-burial/147462>

Hunting may be bad for the hunter's health

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/medici-familys-famous-hunting-grounds-may-have-killed-them-report-suggests>

## Miscellany

Details of the mail from the *Gribshunden*

[https://www.maxiv.lu.se/article/x-ray-eyes-on-artifact-from-shipwreck-gribshunden/?fbclid=IwAR1r6yoVUOYKcnDlpKu4fBC3R69ZmfPRKDQm\\_IgfV91lhjS-igcyFgc9gSw](https://www.maxiv.lu.se/article/x-ray-eyes-on-artifact-from-shipwreck-gribshunden/?fbclid=IwAR1r6yoVUOYKcnDlpKu4fBC3R69ZmfPRKDQm_IgfV91lhjS-igcyFgc9gSw)

Complete suit of armour found in excavations of Spanish castle – pictures!

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/05/complete-suit-of-armour-found-in-excavations-at-spanish-castle/147375>

Cyprus castles go digital

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2023/05/31/cyprus-mediaeval-castles-to-get-digital-tour-upgrade/>

## Back to the front

Investigating a Seven Years War battlefield in North America

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/05/archaeologists-uncover-first-shots-of-the-french-and-indian-war/147406>

Metal detectorists in South Africa discover a cache of firearms from Zulu Wars

<https://northernnatalnews.co.za/388900/diggers-discover-a-piece-of-history/>

## Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Napoleonic cannon stolen in Auckland, New Zealand

[https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/300896145/disgraceful-thieves-use-crane-to-steal-205-year-old-cannon-from-auckland-waterfront?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=twitter](https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/crime/300896145/disgraceful-thieves-use-crane-to-steal-205-year-old-cannon-from-auckland-waterfront?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=twitter)

Cannon from Kolkata airport to be restored and displayed

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/my-kolkata/news/bengal-government-seeks-cannons-excavated-from-airport/cid/1941189>

Two 19<sup>th</sup> century cannon from Mumbai restored

<https://newsroomodisha.com/two-167-year-old-british-era-cannons-that-once-protected-mumbai-deployed-again/>

## Café Basiliscoe

3000-year-old Armenian bakery, still with flour

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/armenia-bakery-flour-discovery-180982247/>

Washed down with the wine of Judea

<https://www.jpost.com/food-recipes/article-745670>

## **Princesses and Amazons**

Viking she-warrior

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/05/new-medieval-books-the-bones-of-birka/>

Medieval female warriors

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/06/medieval-warrior-women/>

## **Nautical news**

Things you find off Thanet

<https://theisleofthanetnews.com/2023/06/02/thanet-diver-discovers-mine-in-coastal-waters-off-ramsgate/>

Two Ming period wrecks found in the South China Seas

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202305/21/WS6469b289a310b6054fad42f01.html>

Investigating Bahama's wrecks

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/shipwrecks-bahamas-research-map-180982314/>

WWII wrecks in Pacific looted

<https://www.yourlocalguardian.co.uk/news/national/23553599.malaysia-detains-chinese-barge-suspicion-looting-british-warship-wrecks/>

WWII HMS Submarine located in Greek waters

<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/diver-finds-hms-triumph-world-war-ii-submarine-vanished-1942/>

More than monsters in Scottish lochs

[https://www.heraldscotland.com/life\\_style/23576077.ww2-guns-lost-treasure-hidden-world-scotlands-lochs/](https://www.heraldscotland.com/life_style/23576077.ww2-guns-lost-treasure-hidden-world-scotlands-lochs/)

## **Museum news and exhibitions**

### **News**

Scapa Flow Museum on short list for Museum prize

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2023/05/22/wartime-museum-on-remote-scottish-island-one-of-five-uk-cultural-centres-shortlisted-for-worlds-biggest-museum-prize>

<https://www.orkneymuseums.co.uk/our-museums/scapa-flow-museum/>

Sites under threat in Ukraine floods

[https://news.yahoo.com/unique-cultural-heritage-sites-destroyed-121027193.html?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9leHBsb3JhdG9ybWV3cy53b3JkcHJlc3MuY29tLw&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAADSEwG0GfHbVD3-ShXi2GC0dFnRDMV-lv8thsy4MWcTyxuY9c-G2ioUnWSEV67XmVxuuhxwEkju9LU4s91YTMvRNGPV5Y0p5jjkOo-OfvYZI\\_YHwlgLFyMH6YPZZ83eq9T78-3KN9wxitsoXRrYQQkiKXMQiKNJ4rGrhtztZ-elq](https://news.yahoo.com/unique-cultural-heritage-sites-destroyed-121027193.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9leHBsb3JhdG9ybWV3cy53b3JkcHJlc3MuY29tLw&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAADSEwG0GfHbVD3-ShXi2GC0dFnRDMV-lv8thsy4MWcTyxuY9c-G2ioUnWSEV67XmVxuuhxwEkju9LU4s91YTMvRNGPV5Y0p5jjkOo-OfvYZI_YHwlgLFyMH6YPZZ83eq9T78-3KN9wxitsoXRrYQQkiKXMQiKNJ4rGrhtztZ-elq)

Khartoum museum occupied by armed forces

<https://www.jpost.com/international/article-745083>

## **Museum developments**

Cyprus launches digital heritage site

<https://www.cyprusdigitalheritage.com/>

Yale has a new search tool

<https://news.yale.edu/2023/06/01/17-million-reasons-love-lux-yales-new-collections-search-tool>

## **Museum musings**

Latest twist in the Benin bronzes

<https://artdaily.com/news/158036/Who-owns-the-Benin-Bronzes--The-answer-just-got-more-complicated->

What Ukraine wants back from Russian museums

<https://www.ukrinform.net/rubric-society/3719312-stolen-history-twelve-archaeological-treasures-that-russia-looted-from-ukraine.html>

## **Objects**

Is this the sword of Charles II – extremely unlikely!

<https://www.wakefieldexpress.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/heritage/could-this-be-the-sword-of-king-charles-ii-and-how-did-it-end-up-in-castleford-4164988>

How much is Tipu Sultan's sword worth? Lots...

<https://www.iflscience.com/legendary-sword-of-tipu-sultan-becomes-most-expensive-sword-in-history-69119>

Everyone wants to see Penny's sword

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-65700045>

## **Exhibitions**

Marriage portraits in Bath

<https://artdaily.com/news/157607/-Painted-Love%E2%80%93Renaissance-Marriage-Portraits%E2%80%93at-The-Holburne-Museum>

Recycling clothes in Killerton

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/devon/killerton/killerton-fashion-exhibition>

Declaration of Arbroath in Edinburgh

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-tayside-central-65780375>

## **Books**

Latest from Osprey

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

Arms and Armour Society events

[https://thearmsandarmoursociety.org/?page\\_id=62](https://thearmsandarmoursociety.org/?page_id=62)

## **Conferences**

17 – 18 June 2023 Royal Armouries. Leeds.

John Waller Seminar

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd4FU7M6eYJ3iK13w5Ng9dzKj7CDzOKYsjiZd6bS3vhT1pwDQ/viewform>

23 – 27 October, Sofia, Bulgaria

XXXI Congress of the International Committee of Museums and Collections of Arms and Military History (ICOMAM) - ICOM (UNESCO)

[https://icomam-](https://icomam-bulgaria.com/?fbclid=IwAR3rAIHY_Jyg2mDrKBLmc7hXOpWJnPdFC96B0VC)

[bulgaria.com/?fbclid=IwAR3rAIHY\\_Jyg2mDrKBLmc7hXOpWJnPdFC96B0VC](https://icomam-bulgaria.com/?fbclid=IwAR3rAIHY_Jyg2mDrKBLmc7hXOpWJnPdFC96B0VC)  
[EvNeEeNYYPcLThLoEEeU](https://icomam-bulgaria.com/?fbclid=IwAR3rAIHY_Jyg2mDrKBLmc7hXOpWJnPdFC96B0VC)

## **Sales, fairs and auctions**

28 June London

Antique Arms, Armour & Militaria

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

## **Websites and downloads**

### **1066 etc**

Jousting, crusader crime, & the Bayeux tapestry

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/05/jousting-edward-iii-chronic-traumatic-encephalopathy/> [https://www.medievalists.net/2023/05/petty-crime-quarrels/10 Little Details in the Bayeux Tapestry You May Have Missed - Medievalists.net](https://www.medievalists.net/2023/05/petty-crime-quarrels/10-Little-Details-in-the-Bayeux-Tapestry-You-May-Have-Missed-Medievalists.net)

Latest from John L Morris's desk

<https://www.francisbannerman.com/cannon-histories-article>

## **Finally**

This fortnight I will be tweeting Pictish stones and Scottish castles  
<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

**Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 16June 2023**