

# Mercurius



Submissions for *Mercurius* should be sent to the editor at: 16 Cobbetts Way, Farnham, Surrey, GU9 8TL ([neil.renoldson@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:neil.renoldson@ukonline.co.uk)). Previous copies are posted on the Society's web-site.

## Call for Nominations for Committee Posts

As we are nearing the end of another Society year, its time for the membership decide if they would like the current committee to continue in their positions. All the current office holders have declared that they are willing to continue in their current roles, however there may be some amongst the membership who may feel that they can do a better job. The sitting office holders are:

<i>Chairman</i>	Steve Ede-Borrett	<i>Membership</i>	Iain Stanford
<i>Editor</i>	Neil Rennoldson	<i>Events</i>	<b>Vacant</b>
<i>Secretary</i>	Les Ames	<i>Postal Sales</i>	Steve Harding
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeff Bayton	<i>Publicity</i>	Jonathan Wray

If you would like to be considered for any of these positions, please send your name to the *Secretary* at the address on the back of *Arquebusier*. If there is a contested position then ballot papers will be sent out with the next issue.

## Forthcoming Society Attendance at Shows for 2005, so far

Salute	London	23 <sup>rd</sup> April
NAM ECW Weekend	London	28 <sup>th</sup> -29 <sup>th</sup> May

## Events

### **Royal Armouries, Leeds – *Shogun Exhibition***

This exhibition is on the life of Tokugawa Ieyasu, the victor of Sekigahara and model for the Toronaga character in James Clavell's *Shogun* novel. The exhibition runs from 6<sup>th</sup> June to 30<sup>th</sup> August (closed 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> July) and a charge is applicable. For more information ring 0113 220 1916 between 10am and 5pm.

### **Christ Church, Oxford – *An English Revolution: The Civil War 1642-49***

This is one of the College's special interest weekend programmes and runs from Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2005. The programme fee is £360, which includes the full lecture and activity programme, escorted outings, three nights accomodation in Christ Church, all meals, wines and refreshments as scheduled, opening reception, Gala Dinner with wine, and staff service charge.

The lecture programme is:

The Great Civil War	Prof Ronald Hutton
The Many-Headed Monster in the English Revolution	Prof John Walters
Oxford in the Civil War	Rosemary and Tony Kelly
Oliver Cromwell – a political career	Prof Barry Coward
Battles of the English Civil War	Robin Neillands
Popular Politics and Religion	Prof David Underdown
Britain’s Civil War: Oxford, Scotland and Ireland 1642-9	Prof John Morrill

Activities include tours of Christ Church, Evensong Martins sung in the College Cathedral and a ‘Restoration’ themed banquet. For further information, contact the Conference and Events Administrator, Miss Alex Webb at The Steward’s Office, Christ Church, Oxford, OX1 1DP; Tel: 01865 276174; Email: [conference@chch.ox.ac.uk](mailto:conference@chch.ox.ac.uk).

**National Army Museum**

Lunchtime Lectures: These are free and take place at 12.30p.m. on the day specified.

26 <sup>th</sup> May	Soldiers and civilians in the English Civil War	NAM Education Department
9 <sup>th</sup> June	Marlborough's rival: The career of Charles Mordant, 3 <sup>rd</sup> Earl of Peterborough	Dr Alister Massie, NAM
16 <sup>th</sup> June	The Battle of Nasby, 1645	John Tincey

Weekend Event: *By the Sword Divided* 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> May

The museum will host a series of presentations on the English Civil Wars, brought to life by performers in uniform as Royalists and Parliamentarians. Family activities will include a children's hobbyhorse cavalry drill to train them in the vital cavalry skills needed to ride with Cromwell to rout the Royalists. **The Society will have a presence at this event selling its wares.**

**Royal Academy of Arts – *Turks: a journey of 1,000 years, 600 – 1600***

The exhibition is costing £1.6m to mount will be one of the most expensive exhibitions ever put on by the RA. They plan to bring together more than 360 artefacts which have never been seen outside Turkey before, including a range of armour, weapons and paintings of battle, drawn principally from the collections of the Topkapi Saray Museum in Istanbul. It runs 22<sup>nd</sup> January-12<sup>th</sup> April, and given the cost of staging it, there is likely to be a substantial entrance fee. The exhibition web-site is [www.turks.org.uk](http://www.turks.org.uk). [Ed. *I visited this recently and very good it was indeed, if a little crowded. I would recommend giving yourself at least a couple of hours if you want to do it properly*]

***Warhammer Historical Weekends***

In 2005, these will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> April/1<sup>st</sup> May and 29<sup>th</sup>/30<sup>th</sup> October. Further details will be made available on the *Warhammer Historical* web-site as and when they are available.

**Aldershot Military Library**

Aldershot Military Library is the largest military library in the UK, containing over 17,000 books and videos. Up to now it has been closed to the general public, however Hampshire Library

Services have decided to open it to the public on alternative Saturday mornings between 9.30 am and 12 noon. Not surprisingly most of its titles relate to 20<sup>th</sup> century conflicts. However it does contain a sizeable ECW sections of perhaps 200 books as well as others of interest scattered throughout its general sections (Grose's *Military Antiquaries* was one that caught my eye).

The military library is located on the upper floor of Aldershot Public Library. You do not have to live in Hampshire to join, just turn up with a couple of documents showing proof of identity (driving licence, utility bill etc.). Books can be taken out in exactly the same manner as you would with a normal library. The opening dates I have for April-June are: 9<sup>th</sup> April, 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 21<sup>st</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 18<sup>th</sup> June.

***New books from Boydell & Brewer: SAVE 25%*****British Basket-Hilted Swords: A Typology of Basket-Type Sword Hilts**

CYRIL MAZANSKY

Basket-hilted swords have featured prominently among British military edged weapons over the past five centuries, from the Wars of the Roses in the mid fifteenth century to the early twentieth century. In setting out to give a full account of the hilt type, and the many variants within it, the first necessity has been to provide an appropriate terminology to employ in cataloguing and describing individual examples. The book falls into several parts, dealing successively with general aspects of various hilt types and discussion of typological methodology, the three major groups of basket-hilted swords, the diverse group of incomplete basket hilts, 'mortuary' hilts, and related types. *100 b/w illus.; 304pp, 27.6x21.9cm, 1 84383 053 1, £50.00. March 2005. SPECIAL PRICE £37.50*

**The Siege of Malta, 1565**

FRANCISCO BALBI DI CORREGGIO, TRANS. ERNLE BRADFORD

A crucial moment in the long struggle between Islam and Christendom for domination of the Mediterranean, the 1522 siege of Malta saw the Knights of St John, a survival from the medieval world, facing a great onslaught from a Turkish ruler determined to destroy them. Against a huge armada, the Knights could only raise a handful of men, and had to depend on inadequate fortifications and defences. Francesco Balbi di Correggio was a humble soldier of fortune who enlisted under the charismatic command of the Order's Grand Master, Jean de la Valette. The extraordinary drama that unfolded in the summer of 1565 is told in his own words, giving equal credit to the courage and leadership of the Knights and the grim determination of the ordinary people of Malta. Translated from the Spanish edition of 1568. *8 b/w illus.; 192pp, 21.6x13.8cm, 1 84383 140 6, £14.99. Paperback. April 2005. SPECIAL PRICE £11.24*

**Thomas Rainborowe: Civil War Seaman, Siegemaster and Radical**

WHITNEY R.D. JONES

The first full-length account of the life and career of Thomas Rainborowe, an important political and military figure of the English Civil War. After the 1642 Irish Expedition he served as an infantry leader in the New Model Army, achieving distinction as a siege commander. He emerged at the Putney Debates as perhaps the most cogent spokesman for the radical/Leveller cause; but his association with the abortive Leveller-inspired mutiny at Ware, and his hostility toward continued negotiation with Charles I, led to his fall from grace with Cromwell and the 'grandees'. Despite this, Rainborowe re-emerged as a pre-eminent siege-commander at Colchester; but, en route to impose a more rigorous siege of Pontefract Castle, he was assassinated at Doncaster, in highly suspicious circumstances, in November 1648. *6 b/w illus.; 184pp, 23.4x15.6cm, 1 84383 121 X, £40.00. March 2005. SPECIAL PRICE £30.00*

Boydell &amp; Brewer Ltd, PO Box 9, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 3DF

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