

Mercurius



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

New Book from Robert Hall

In the centre of this newsletter you will find a pre-publication offer for our latest book in the series of publications written by Robert Hall, et al, on the armies of the era of Louis XIV. This offers a significant saving on the final published price, but it can only happen if sufficient members subscribe. Therefore please try to support the Society by purchasing a copy. We only do very small print-runs on these volumes so as an investment it's only likely to increase in value!

Membership Re-subscription Form

Also in the centre of this newsletter is a membership re-subscription for Vol. XXXII. The current volume is not yet complete as you still have one more issue to receive after that which this *Mercurius* accompanies. However, as the single most common cause of lapsed membership is people simply forgetting to renew, we would like to give you an extra opportunity to do so.

Some members will be on three-year subscriptions and will not need to renew. You can check this by looking at the address label, which will carry details of the last volume you are paid up for. Or, if it has already gone in the bin, you can check with the Membership Secretary (contact details on the form).

If you wish to save yourself the cost of a stamp and send in both your renewal and your subscription to the new Robert Hall volume, then you can send the completed forms either to the Editor or the Membership Secretary and the relevant part will be forwarded accordingly.

Postal Sales

Dave Ricketts has asked to stand down from the post of Postal Sales Secretary after a number of years of sterling service. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank him for all his hard work. The committee is currently in the process of setting up alternative arrangements, which are as yet incomplete. Orders should in first instance go to the Treasurer and members are asked for their patience regarding any delays in dispatching orders.

Proposed Society Visit to the Honourable Artillery Company Collections

Through the good offices of Society member David Lakin, the possibility of a visit to Armoury House, which houses the collections and archive of the Honourable Artillery Company, has arisen. This formation is the oldest military unit in the British Army – it can trace its formation back to 1296 and received its Royal Charter from Henry VIII in 1537.

The collections are not normally open to members of the public so this really is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The proposed visit has been pencilled in for the afternoon of Tuesday 2nd March 2010 and would be approximately 2-3 hours in duration. There would be no charge for the visit (although a donation to an Army charity would be appreciated). Armoury House is located in London on City Road (EC1Y 2BQ), the nearest tube stations are Moorgate and Old Street. The general content of the tour would consist of:

1. A tour of Armoury House
2. A look at some archival material – original drill manuals, minute books, etc.
3. A visit to the armoury of Pikemen and Musketeers.

Numbers would be limited to a maximum of 12. If you are interested, please contact the Editor (contact details above).

Army of the Manchu Empire Book

This book has now been despatched to members. If anyone who ordered a copy has not received it, could they please contact the Editor.

Help Sought for Book Project

Having recently finished writing my novel *Munro, Gentleman Adventurer* I am seeking the help of members in the areas of historical accuracy/validation, literary feedback and proof-reading.

The action takes place in 1710 between the Pruth and Dniester Rivers and involves a British Soldier of fortune, the exiled Swedes (post Poltava/Perevolochna) and a motley band of Russians/Wallachians.

As a niche historical novel, this may, sadly, never see the light of day, but if it does I can promise anyone who assists a credit and a free copy. If anyone wants to help on that basis please can they contact me on: clarkmj1@googlemail.com

Michael Clark

Events

If you are aware of any event that might be of interest to members of the Society, please send details to the editor. Contact details are at the start of this newsletter.

- **Tower of London - Henry VIII: Dressed to Kill** (until 17th January 2010)
Displays the most complete collection of the king's personal arms and armour ever assembled (except perhaps when he was still alive!). See the Tower of London website for more information.
- **Harley Gallery, Welbeck, Nottinghamshire - Passions and Defeats** (until Feb 2010)
This exhibition explores the life of William Cavendish, 1st Duke of Newcastle. See www.harleygallery.co.uk.

Society Merchandise

Please send orders to the *Postal Sales Officer* at the following address: Dave Burton, 5 Gaiafields Road, Lichfield, Staffs, WS13 7LT (e-mail: home.burton@googlemail.com). Payment may be made by Visa/Mastercard/American Express, PayPal (via the web-site), International Money Order or Sterling cheques drawn on an UK bank. Cheques should be made payable to *The Pike and Shot Society*. Postage rates: 15% for UK, 25% for the rest of the world. North American members should note that a limited amount of Society stock is now held in the U.S. and, subject to availability, will reduce postage for items. Please enquire for details. Orders over £100 are sent post free.

*** Please allow 28 days for delivery ***

Arquebusier

Volumes. These consist of all six issues from that volume, excluding any special publications that may have been distributed with it. The following are available:

Vols. 16, 17, 19, 23, 25, 26, 27 £5 Vols. 28, 29 £10 Vol. 30 £20

*** PRICES REDUCED ON SOME VOLUMES TO CLEAR BACK STOCK ***

Compendia. These are all the articles from one volume of *Arquebusier* collected together under one cover but with time-dependent material removed. The following volumes are currently available:

Vol. 1, 2a, 2b, 3, 4 £3 each; Vol. 5, 7, 8 £4.50 each; Vol. 9 £5

Binders. These are slip-cases and are in a dark red finish with the journal name in gold lettering down the spine and the outline of an arquebusier at the base. Each binder will hold two volumes of *Arquebusier* and cost £6.50 each.

Society Publications (Prices discounted for Society Members)

Uniforms and Colours of the Wars of Louis XIV

These volumes provide the most detailed and comprehensive studies of the armies of the age of Sun King to have been published in any language. They represent scholarship of the highest standards and will be an essential resource to those who are interested in warfare of the late-17th and early-18th centuries.

- *Flags and Uniforms of the French Infantry under Louis XIV, 1688-1714* by Robert Hall
Describes the appearance of over 280 regiment of foot in 140 pages of text and 116 full-colour plates.
Cloth - SOLD OUT **Paper** £55 (Members); £65 (Public)
- *Standards and Uniforms of the French Cavalry under Louis XIV, 1688-1714* by Robert Hall, Giancarlo Boeri & Yves Roumegoux.
The appearance of over 170 regiments of cavalry is described in 180 pages of text and 62 full-colour plates.
Cloth £80 (Members); £90 (Public) **Paper - OUT OF STOCK**
- *Guidons, Flags and Uniforms of the French Dragoons, Militia, Artillery and Bombardiers under Louis XIV, 1688-1714* by Robert Hall, Yves Roumegoux & Giancarlo Boeri
Covering the lesser branches of the French army, it contains 140 pages of text and 29 full-colour plates.
Cloth - SOLD OUT **Paper** £45 (Members); £55 (Public)
- *The Army of the Electorate Palatine Under Elector Johann Wilhelm 1690-1716* by Claus-Peter Golberg & Robert Hall
Contains 144 pages of text and 20 full-colour plates.
Cloth £50 (Members); £60 (Public) **Paper** £35 (Members); £45 (Public)
- *The Armies of Hesse and the Upper Rhine Circle* by Robert Hall
Contains 310 pages of text and 45 full-colour plates.
Cloth £70 (Members); £80 (Public) **Paper** £45 (Members); £55 (Public)

Renaissance Military Texts Series

The aim of the *Renaissance Military Texts* series is to make accessible to the general public scarce and important contemporary documents relating to warfare during the Renaissance and Early Modern periods of history. Such items will be of insufficient length to warrant publication as a separate item in their own right, but too long to enable to be conveniently included within the Society's regular journal.

- *Vol. 1: Warfare in the Age of Louis XIV*
This 94-page volume contains three texts with a general theme of warfare during the reign of the iconic French king Louis XIV. Their subjects are:
 - A journal of the 1684 siege of Luxembourg, written from the French point of view.
 - Extracts from *The London Gazette*, covering the action at Elixheim on 18th July 1705.
 - The letters of Richard Pope, a junior officer in an English cavalry regiment, who served from the Glorious Revolution to the War of the Spanish Succession.

£10 (Members); £15 (Public)

Other Society Books

- *Marlborough Goes to War* by Iain Stanford
An 80 page paperback book describing the campaign and battle of Blenheim in 1704. It includes a complete OOB for both armies and a reprint of the 'Blenheim Roll', which lists all the senior officers of the British Army who participated in the battle.
This is a revised second edition with much new information.
£6.50 (Members); £10 (Public)

- *Waller's Army. The Regiments of Sir William Waller's Southern Association* by Laurence Spring

Of all the generals of the English Civil War, Sir William Waller (1597-1668) probably best expressed its tragedy, referring to it as 'this war without an enemy' when writing to his friend Sir Ralph Hopton, whom he faced across the battlefield. Despite this he was a successful general, earning the nickname 'William the Conqueror'. After his first army was routed at Roundway Down he received a commission to raise a new army. Although he continued to have victories, such as at Alton and Cheriton, he was never given the resources to follow up these victories. When the regional armies were eventually reformed into the 'New Model Army', Waller lost his command, and so his military career ended. This book analyses the regiments that made up his second army, which became known as the Southern Association. A 186 page paperback book with 6 pages of colour plates.

£10.40 (Members); £16 (Public)

- *Lostwithiel 1644 – The Campaign and Battles* by Stephen Ede-Borrett

The summer 1644 campaign in the West of England was an exceptional feat of arms for the Royalist armies and, in contrast, a vivid demonstration of the complete lack of ability of their Parliamentary opponents to work together. The resultant catastrophic defeat of the Earl of Essex's army was, together with the failure at Newbury that autumn, was highly influential in the vote that created the New Model Army in the following winter. Despite this, the campaign is often treated superficially or simply ignored in many histories of the war and no previous detailed history of it has been published, this work aims to correct those omissions. A 158 page paperback book.

£10.40 (Members); £16 (Public)

- *The Art of Gunnery (1647) together with A Treatise of Artificall Fire-Works (1647)* by Nathanael Nye. Introduction and Transcription by Cliff Mitchell.

Nathaniel Nye's work, first published in 1647, was part of an ongoing series of such 'Gunnery Manuals' that first began appearing in the sixteenth century. However it is one of only two whose authors are known to have served during the English Civil Wars. As such it is an invaluable addition to our knowledge of the way that contemporary artillerymen felt that their pieces should be handled and its republication in 1670 says a great deal about its success and popularity during the seventeenth century. A 96 page paperback book.

£6.50 (Members); £10 (Public)

- *'An ill journey for the Englsheemen'. Elis Gruffydd and the 1523 French campaign of the Duke of Suffolk.* Transcribed by M. Byrn Davies and edited by Jonathan Davies.

This 'most ill-conceived and ill-managed war' was how Sir Charles Oman, the great historian of Renaissance warfare, described the English invasion of France in 1523. This hopelessly misguided campaign saw an English army meander aimlessly over Northern France to little effect, reaching as far as Montdidier before retiring back to the Channel with its tail between its legs. The story is told largely in the words of contemporary documents and in particularly through the eyes of Elis Gruffydd, an articulate Welsh soldier who left a journal of his experiences full of vigour, freshness and well-developed sense of irony. A 72-page paperback book

£6.50 (Members); £10 (Public)

- *Elis Gruffydd and the 1544 'Enterprises' of Paris and Boulogne.* Transcribed by M. Byrn Davies and edited with a new introduction by Jonathan Davies

An 80-page booklet reprinting a contemporary account of the 1544 English campaign in France that culminated in the capture of Boulogne. Elis Gruffydd's remarkable journal contains a wealth of detail – military, social and political; and from a viewpoint that is hardly ever recorded. Elis was a fully paid up member of the "Poor Bloody Infantry", and despite attaining the rank of Captain his sympathies were with the suffering soldiery rather than their aristocratic commanders. His harshest criticisms are directed at those in command although he has little time for "idle" soldiers unable to shift for themselves. Opinionated, well informed and thoroughly experienced in the ways of the world his commentary on the expedition is a delight in its vigour, freshness and well-developed sense of irony.

£5 (Members); £7.50 (Public)

- *Thomas Audley and the Tudor Art of War* by Jonathan Davies

A 64-page paperback book reprinting a mid-16th century treatise on the art of war, written for Edward VI by a veteran Tudor soldier. An extensive introduction provides a detailed analysis of the treatise. In addition the book also reprints, in detail, the Cowdray House illustrations of the siege of Boulogne in 1544 and the French attack on Portsmouth in 1545.

OUT OF STOCK

- *The English Companies of Foot in 1588* by Jonathan Davies

A 36-page paperback booklet describing the organisation, equipment, weapons, tactics and standards carried by the English 'Trained Bands' at the time of the Spanish Armada.

£3 (Members); £4.50 (Public)

- *Eight Banners and Green Flag. The Army of the Manchu Empire and Qing China, 1600-1850* by Michael Fredholm von Essen

Manchu studies have in recent years become very popular among historians and linguists, both inside and outside China. Numerous academic works have been published on all aspects of Manchu history, culture, and language. However, none deals exclusively with the Manchu military system and, when these works touch upon military affairs, they are often vague on detail and inconsistent. A comprehensive Manchu military history still remains to be written, but to do so it is first necessary to understand how the Manchu military worked in practice, as opposed to theory and scholarly wishful thinking. This book should be regarded as a first step in this direction. A 208 page paperback book with 8 pages of colour plates and 88 illustrations.

£16.25 (Members); £25 (Public)

Wargames Rules

- *Captain-General* by Tom Smith and Iain Stanford

Rules for land warfare in the period 1660 – 1721

OUT OF STOCK

- *General-At-Sea* by Iain Stanford

Rules for naval warfare in the period 1640 – 1721

£6.50 (Members); £10 (Public)

- *Husaria* by Iain Wilson

Rules for East European warfare 1558 – 1699

£9 (Members); £12 (Public)

- *Twilight of the Sun King* by Andrew Corby and Steven Thomas

Fast-play rules of the Marlburian period

£2 (Members); £3 (Public)

Forthcoming Society Attendance at Shows

Warfare
Salute

Reading
Excel, London

21st/22nd November 2009
24th April 2010

Product Discounts for Members

Books

Orders for discounted books must be sent to the ***EDITOR (not the Postal Sales Officer)***, the discount cannot be obtained directly from the publisher. Note that the discounts apply to ***ALL*** books produced by these publishers, not just to those within the Society's period. Postage to members will be extra, however if you wish to arranging collection at a show then please give at least two weeks notice.

- **Osprey Books – 20%**. Web-site: www.ospreypublishing.com.
- **Boydell & Brewer Publications – 20%**. Web-site: www.boydell.co.uk.
- **Tempus Publications – 25%**. Web-site: www.tempus-publishing.com.
- **Pen & Sword Books – 20%**. Web-site: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk
- **The Naval & Military Press – 25% for 10 or more books**. The discount only applies to their own books, not those by other publishers. Orders will be grouped if individuals are willing to wait a little while. Web-site: www.naval-military-press.com.
- Books distributed by **Eurospan** in the UK – 25%. *Eurospan* are the UK distributors for a large number of U.S. academic publishers. A full list of these may be found on their web-site at www.eurospan.co.uk.

Figures

Society members may claim discounts on purchases from the following companies at shows upon production of a valid membership card, or by post/internet by quoting their current membership number. If you have not received this or have lost it, please contact the Membership Secretary at the address on the back of *Arquebusier*.

- **Vexillia (UK Stockists of Venexia and Mirliton) – (10% by cheque, 5% by Paypal – min order £25)**. 4 Oak Wharf Mews, Birchdale Road, Appleton, Warrington, WA4 5AS. Tel 01925 860 053.
- **East Riding Miniatures – 10%**. 1 The Woodlands, Goddard Avenue, Hull, HU5 2BW. Tel: 01482 445775. Web-site: www.eastridingminiatures.co.uk
- **Museum Miniatures – 10%**. 28 Long Lane, Driffield, Yorkshire, YO25 5HF. Tel/Fax: 01377 241010. Web-site: www.museumminiatures.co.uk
- **Old Glory – 10%**. **UK** – Institute House, New Kyo, Stanley, Co. Durham DH9 7TJ. Tel: 01207 283332. Fax: 01207 281902. **US** – Box 20, Calumet, PA 15621. Tel: 724 423 3580. Fax: 724 423 6898. Web-site: wargames.co.uk/oldglory
- **Pendraken – 15%**. 1 Easby Grove, Eston, Middlesborough, North Yorkshire, TS6 9DL. Tel. 01642 460638. Web-site: www.pendraken.co.uk

- **Donnington Miniatures - 10%**. 15 Cromwell Road, Shaw, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2HP. Tel: 01635 46627 (Daytime), Fax: 01635 46627. Email: donnington-mins@btconnect.com
- **Tin Soldier - 10%**. 18 Lion Lane, Billericay, Essex CM12 9DL. Tel/Fax: 01277 623697. Web-site: www.tinsoldieruk.com
- **Reiver Castings - 10%**. % Under the Bed Enterprises, Unit 28, Stonehills, Shields Road, Pelaw, Gateshead, NE10 0HW. Tel: 0191 4385585 ext 254 and www.underbed.co.uk.
- **Nýr Öld Design (Figure Painting) - 10%**. <http://home.citycable.ch/nyrolddesign>
- **The Assault Group - 5%**. Unit K, Broxtowe Park Business Centre, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, NG8 6QP. Tel: 0115 913 3591. Email: info@theassaultgroup.com. Website: www.theassaultgroup.co.uk
- **Les Higgins Miniatures - 10%**. Email: CunnJoh@aol.com

Members should send their Membership number when taking advantage of any of these discounts. The Committee asks that members make maximum use of these offers so that the suppliers feel that their generosity to the Society is worthwhile commercially. We are actively investigating other opportunities to obtain product discounts for members.

Study moves Bosworth battle site

From the BBC News website, 28 October 2009:

One of the most important battles in British history is marked in the wrong place, according to new research. Bosworth, fought in 1485 and ending in the death of Richard III, was believed to have taken place on Ambion Hill, near Sutton Cheney in Leicestershire. But following a three-year project, the Battlefields Trust said the discovery of ammunition two miles to the south west proved the location was wrong. But officials said the popular visitor centre will stay at the old site. The battle ended decades of civil war which is now known as the Wars of The Roses. The death of Richard ended the Plantagenet dynasty and ushered in the Tudors.

The traditional site has a flag at the crest of the hill, a stone to mark the spot where Richard fell and a recently renovated visitors' centre. But debate over the actual site of the battle had been going on for more than 25 years before a £1m project, led by the Battlefields Trust, was set up to settle the matter. Dr Glen Foard, from the trust, said: "The battle was not fought on Ambion Hill at all, we have found the battlefield two miles away, down in the valley. "That is where the Wars of the Roses were decided." He said studying medieval documents, matching their descriptions to the surrounding area and archaeological excavations had all pointed to the same place.

"The best evidence was unexpected. We found 20 or so round shot from artillery of all sizes which you would expect to find on a battlefield," he added. "What we have here is evidence for the introduction of firepower on to the battlefield on a large scale and that is really exciting which opens up a new story for archaeologists." Richard Knox from Leicestershire County Council said the discovery did not detract from the current visitor centre. "It is a perfect interpretive hub for the battlefield. "We like to think of it as a gateway to the battlefield and we are currently developing trails which will take the public into the landscape." The exact location of the new site is currently being kept secret to protect it from treasure hunters.