

Mercurius



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

A Late Issue

This issue of *Arquebusier* is somewhat late. This has been partly due to a change of job, partly due to the busy Autumn shows season, but mainly due to me having a very busy time working on new Society publications (see below). The good news is that, having cleared the publications backlog, I am now well advanced with issue 5, so that should be following this issue in a short space of time, and that ought to put me back on track.

A Change of Email Address for your Editor

I would like to advise members that I have a new email address: neil.rennoldson@ukonline.co.uk. This change was forced on me by my previous ISP arbitrarily putting a limit on the size of files that I can send or receive—not helpful when you are regularly emailing electronic copies of *Arquebusier* to proof-readers and printers! I've been using the new address for some months now and it seems to be functioning as required so I shall now publically switch to it. The old address still functions and I can still download normal emails via it. However it's only checked about once a week or so, so you will get a quicker response from me by using the new address.

New Society Publications

Three new Society publications are now available for sale to members. Steve Ede-Borrett's study of the battle of Lostwithiel is the presentation publication that was delayed from last year. The reason for the delay was that Steve got carried away and instead of producing a good book, he produced a great book! This is the most detailed study of the battle ever written and does both himself and the Society great credit. N.B. Please do not expect all presentation publications to be this large!

The second new publication is Cliff Mitchell's transcription of two English Civil War treatises on artillery—*The Art of Gunnery*. This book forms part of the Society's on-going commitment to making information relating to warfare in the Renaissance era as widely available as possible.

The third new book is the next book in our very popular series of publications on armies in the age of Louis XIV, *The Army of the Palatinate*. In addition, and due to popular demand, we have undertaken a limited reprint for Robert Hall's *Flags and Uniforms of the French Infantry under Louis XIV*. Full details of all these books can be found in the Society Merchandise section below.

Blenheim Commemoration Game

As well as writing on the battle of Blenheim, membership secretary Iain Stanford (with the able help of Tom Smith, Tom Laker and Barry Saunders, as well as TSS who provided the terrain) laid on a

spectacular demo game of the battle using over 2,000 15mm figures at Colours 2004 to mark the 300th anniversary of the battle. Below are a few photos to give you an idea of what it looked like:



Events**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 7th April to Sunday 10th April 2005. The programme fee is £360, which includes the full lecture and activity programme, escorted outings, three nights accommodation 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.

Military History Society of Ireland

The following lectures take place at 8 pm at Griffith College, South Circular Road, Dublin 8:

11 th Feb	Ireland in 16 th Century French Military Strategy: Ally or Pawn	Dr. Marian Lyons
11 th Mar	Connacht Protestants at War—Sir Charles Coote: A Case Study	Ms. Aoife Duignan

National Army Museum

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

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

Weekend Event: *By the Sword Divided* 28th-29th 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.

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 and weapons, drawn principally from the collections of the Topkapi Saray Museum in Istanbul. It runs 22nd January-12th 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.

British Museum

The museum is staging an exhibition of its collection of Japanese swords—"the finest collection...in Europe" according to the catalogue. The exhibition is in Rooms 92-94, entrance is free and it runs until 27th February 2005.

Warhammer Historical Weekends

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

Vapnartak 2005

Vapnartak 2005 is organised by York Wargames Society and will take place on Sunday 6th February 2005 at York Racecourse, Knavesmire Stand, Knavesmire Road, York. The show will host the Northern DBM League (15mm). For further information contact David Dickinson on 01904 670514.

Wanted

"Wanted by collector: Old figures, magazines and books. I am looking for old unwanted preferably unpainted figures in/from the following scales/periods: 20/25mm pre 100 AD, 25mm from then to late C17, 15mm from 1685 to 1914, but 20mm and 25mm ACW, and finally 1/300 scale from 1932 to 1945. First edition 15mm Minifigs and Peter Laing figures are of particular interest. Also looking for magazines and books, particularly society journals such as *Arquebusier* and *Mercurius*, *Slingshot* etc. and such items as *Tradition*, *Uniformes* and so on but excluding MM, WI and MW. I have most of the old uniform reference sources such as Blandford's, Almark's etc. but I am looking for more obscure titles and more original reference material. I am not a dealer, just a collector amassing material for myself mainly and for use by my club to encourage new members and interests. Contact Andrew Thom preferably by email first at flap_back@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone 01224 593941.

Pen & Sword Books – A New Discount for Members

The Society has obtained a new discount for members – 25% of the retail price of publications by Pen & Sword Books. They have recently produced a number of titles relating to the English Civil War including:

- *Edgehill. The Battle Reinterpreted* by Christopher L. Scott, Alan Turton and Dr Eric Gruber von Arni.
- *Cavalier Generals. King Charles I and his Commanders in the English Civil War 1642-46* by John Barratt.

- *Worcestershire Under Arms. An English County during the Civil Wars* by Malcolm Atkin.
- A paperback reprint of Glen Foard's *Naseby. The Decisive Campaign*.

Naval and Military Press Titles of Interest

Naval and Military Press (with whom members can obtain a discount, see below) have recently produced facsimile reprints of several books which may be of interest to members. These are:

Compendious Journal of all the Marches Famous Battles & Sieges (of Marlborough). Rare and valuable account of the Duke of Marlborough's campaigns against France from 1701-1712 by an Irish infantry officer who fought in all ten of them (and two others besides). (SB. xiv + 364pp, £18)
Campaigns of King William and Queen Anne from 1689-1712; Also a New System of Military Discipline for a Battalion of Foot in Action (1745). Early (1745) military manual which combines a military history of the reigns and campaigns of William III and Queen Anne - especially those fought by the Duke of Marlborough - with a generously illustrated survey of the latest tactics and exercises for horse and foot. (SB, xvi + 140pp. 19 plates, 14 in colour, £14.50)

Soldier's Guide (1686). One of the British army's first military manuals. Remarkable in showing the extent of Puritan influence in Charles II's young army. (SB. vii + 305pp, £14.50)

Historical Essay on the Dress of the Irish - Armour and Weapons of the Irish. A study of Irish weapons, armour and clothing, written towards the end of the eighteenth century. (SB vii+180pp.13 b&w engravings, £16)

History of the Irish Brigades in the Service of France from the Revolution in Great Britain and Ireland under James II, to the Revolution in France under Louis XVI. Standard history written from an Irish viewpoint, of the exiled Irish Brigades who served the Jacobite Stuart cause and that of France from the expulsion of James II to the French Revolution. (SB xiii + 649pp +8 plates, £28)

25/28mm Old Glory Persian Army, late 15th – early 18th Centuries.

This range enables the gamer to create the armies of Shah Abbas and Nadir Shah, the two most famous Persian leaders of this period. Persian armies fought against Turks, Russians and Indian Moghuls, as well as amongst themselves. The strength of this army was its superb armoured cavalry, which could be up to 60% of the strength of any force. Indeed smaller "task groups" would be entirely cavalry with the heavies being supported by smaller numbers of light unarmoured cavalry. Packs contain 10 cavalry or 30 foot figures and cost £21, except RPX06 which contains 20 artillery figures and costs £14. All packs are now available except RPX 4,7 & 8 which are due soon.

RPX01	Armoured cavalry; bow, lance, armoured horses.
RPX02	Armoured cavalry; bow, lance, unarmoured horses.
RPX03	Light cavalry, horse archers.
RPX04	Light cavalry, bow and spear.
RPX05	<i>Tufangchis</i> infantry with muskets, inc command.
RPX06	<i>Topchis</i> artillery crews.
RPX07	<i>Zembuk</i> camel gunners.
RPX08	High command.

Other packs suitable for use with this army come from the *DAC* range. Especially DAC10, 16 & 17. Also packs OXT 3, 14 & 15 will prove useful. Other irregulars, especially for later armies can come from CMM 7 & 8. Guns from the OXTG range.

Tonight we're gonna party like it's 1669

The following piece by Jennifer Quinn appeared in the BBC News Online Magazine on 22nd July:

“You may think binge drinking is a modern curse, but there were worries about Britain’s booze intake in the 17th Century. The difference? Then, drinking was a way of showing loyalty to the King. So take that, David Blunkett. There’s at least one thing the home secretary can be grateful for: today’s binge drinkers aren’t carrying swords. They may have loud mouths and spend Saturday evenings staggering from pub to bar to club—a journey that can make Sunday morning in the city centres look like an invading army has rampaged through - but they tend not to behead each other or fill their cups with their own blood. Even in today’s culture of abandon, that might be excessive.

But that’s exactly what the binge drinkers of the 17th Century used to do, a researcher at the University of Warwick says. Angela McShane-Jones, a lecturer in the university’s history department, says that boozing it up in the late 1600s was a way for hardcore Royalists to demonstrate their loyalty to the crown during the civil war.

He that denies the brimmer
We’ll drown him in canary and make him all our own.
When his heart is merry
He’ll drink to Charles in’s throne
17th Century drinking song

At the opposite end of the spectrum, says Ms McShane-Jones, the Puritans looked down on drinking—stuck to coffee, mainly, or imbibed secretly—so hoisting a cup of wine was a political statement. “Because of the Puritan regime really thumping down on drinking... when the King came back in the 1660s, all of these Royalists who had been drinking secretly—and riotously—let loose,” Ms McShane-Jones says. “It wasn’t helped by the fact that you had conduits running with wine in the city when the King actually came back.”

So drinking was a good thing, and those who enjoyed a tipples were then—like now, really—considered to be good fun, and up for a laugh. They were also thought to be politically correct, as raising a jug of wine was an expression of loyalty to the church and the crown.

But there was a much darker side. “This riotous drinking became really quite dangerous, because, obviously, these men were armed,” she says. “Imagine a group of football supporters, except these men are pro-King. They’d all be drinking, and if you won’t drink with them, a brawl would ensue and somebody would likely die.” That was the case when Royalists played a “game” in a Bedfordshire pub that involved slicing their skin and drinking their own blood instead of wine. One drinker got a bit over-involved in the game and died, Ms McShane-Jones’ research says. It was easier for people then to get intoxicated because the drink of choice for people during the day was beer, meaning that by the time the Royalists got down to some serious drinking, they were already partly half-cut, Ms McShane-Jones says. Her research backs up the notion that when it comes to social problems like binge drinking, there’s really nothing new under the sun. “You can’t look at drunkenness as something that’s come out of liberal attitudes,” Ms McShane-Jones says. “Drunkenness has been a permanent problem for the Brits. I mean, when the Normans invaded in the 1060s, the Brits had a reputation for drunkenness.”

Historic Ship Remains Recovered

The following was taken from the BBC News web-site on 18th November.

“Parts of a medieval ship thought to have lain under the Thames Estuary for the past 500 years have been recovered near Gravesend. The remains, thought to have been part of an armed merchant vessel, were found during dredging of the estuary. The Port of London Authority recovered the bow section of the ship relatively intact - virtually unheard of for a ship of this age. Divers also found artefacts including cannons and even a leather shoe sole.

The ship was found during an operation to deepen a shipping channel in the waterway. She was carrying iron and tin ingots to an unknown destination. Marine archaeologist Anthony Firth said the section was part of the stem or front of the ship, rising above the water from the keel. Port of London harbour master Bruce Richardson added “There are many wrecks in the Thames Estuary, but we were not anticipating one there, it’s been a very exciting project which we’re pleased to be part of”.

One of the four cannons raised from the wreck was in such good condition researchers found a mark tracing it back to Thomas Gresham. His cast-iron cannon factory was at Mayfield in Sussex. Nicholas Hall from the Royal Armouries said it was one of the very earliest of the mass-produced guns to be found. The wooden remains will cost too much to be kept on public display, but they will be stored in a centre training marine archaeologists.”



Summary of Committee Meeting Minutes

Held at the Surprise Pub, Chelsea on Sunday 14th November 2004.

- Society’s current financial position is satisfactory.
- Subscription rates to stay the same for Vol. 29.
- Society now capable of accepting payment via American Express.
- Standardised author royalties payment scheme adopted.
- Standardised trade terms scheme adopted.

Publication

Art of Gunnery (1647)
 Lostwithial
 Palatinate
 French Infantry
 Miscellany I

Status

Printed
 At printers
 At printers
 At printers
 In progress

Montcassel
General At Sea Supplement

Draft finished
No progress

- Feasability of Society producing flag-sheets to be investigated.
- New display stands for use at shows purchased.
- Membership stands at 372.
- Vote of thanks to Iain Stanford for staging his excellent Blenheim Commemoration game at Colours (see elsewhere).
- Next meeting, 1 p.m. on 20th February 2004 at Surprise Pub, all members welcome.

Letters

Osprey's ??

As the author of *Armies of the German Peasant' War*, Rob Morgan's letter in *Mercurius* No. 27 had me intrigued, and as a new member of the Society—I know it has taken a while to get round to joining—I asked the editor to send me Richard Sisson's review of my book, which appeared in *Arquebusier* XXVII/V. Both sets of comments have prompted me to respond.

Well, I'm certainly not a regular author—in fact I first submitted the idea for the Peasants' War title back in 1983! Martin Windrow felt that the Americans wouldn't buy it, so it was rejected. These days, of course - some nearly 300 titles on- my chances were a bit better. It was Keith Durham, a good friend and great figure designer, who suggested I should do it. It was with some reluctance, because if I am going to tackle something like this then I would want to do it some justice. So I guess my first point is that there are some *Osprey* authors out there who do these things as a labour of love. In my case—yes, this meant visiting museums and taking photographs, quite indispensable—but also corresponding extensively with an academic specialist on the topic and reading a lot of source material in German. From the initial letter to Martin Windrow (August 2001) the book took almost 2 years to see the light of day.

Because I'm a bit of a niche writer whose interests are pretty much centred on the period 1500-1525, it is difficult for me to comment on the quality of other *Osprey* titles even those which cover the period of interest of the *Pike and Shot Society*. As Rob Morgan says they certainly have a high throughput, which must be putting a strain on the series editor Martin Windrow, for whom I have enormous respect by the way. The problem with *Osprey* would in my view appear to rest higher up with those who lay down the terms and conditions under which writers are expected to ply their trade for the company. In my view, this is where some of the explanations for any apparent decline in quality, and certainly some of the points raised by Richard Sisson in respect of my title are to be found.

For their efforts, authors receive the princely sum of £1,450 plus a bonus of £400 for early delivery of artists references and text and photos. This is a one off payment. There are no royalties. I've lost count of the number of editions of my Landsknecht title and you can imagine what I received in 1975 for that! It takes no mathematical genius to work out the sort of hourly rate one receives for a work of this nature. Moreover, I am reliably informed that the artists receive far more than the author who provides them with the colour plate references in the first place. It is a bit galling to learn that the plates remain the property of the artist, who is free to sell them on the open market following publication.

Then there is the issue of picture fees. Authors receive £700, which is *Osprey's* contribution towards the cost of black and white illustrations. One is expected to pull together 40 quality black and white prints and or photos or illustrations. It is the author's responsibility to obtain all the necessary permissions to reproduce and to pay any reproduction fees (and of course to deal with any legal ramifications post publication). Taking the plate of the almain rivet armour on page 46 of my book as a example and as an average—the total cost for the photo and reproduction right from Winchester Museums Service was £32. Multiply this by 40 and it doesn't require much numeracy to

conclude that an *Osprey* author could be about £500 short on reproduction fees from the outset. *Osprey* in fact states that the amount is a ‘contribution’, and recommends some of the maps, diagrams and organigrams to be either supplied by the author or a “suitable artistic and amenable friend”. Most of the battle maps in my book were based on original drawings from the Bensing & Hoyer book. Since the copyright position on these was very unclear I decided to have these reproduced by a graphic designer who also put together the staff weapons and wagon fort illustrations. Since this absorbed more than a third of my ‘contribution’ I found myself having to fallback on some illustrations of dubious quality—one of which was indeed the map on page 4 referred to by Richard Sisson in his review.

I could go on about the format—I quite like it but I do think everything looks squeezed in. There is also the issue of the colour artwork, which many consider to be the selling point of the series, but which at times might not be up to scratch. Angus McBride is a fantastic illustrator but he can have his off days.

In short, when all is said and done, it is a wonder that people write for *Osprey* at all.

Doug Miller

Random Thoughts

Just received my journal and a rather full *Mercurius*, despite the adverts but with lots of interesting stuff. Agree with the size of the anchors for the galley, any of the old Queens that crossed the Atlantic would be proud to boast such a size. *Merrimac*, as you know, also make several ‘Medieval’ ships in 15mm, some ‘bits’ can be swapped around to vary the appearance if more models are required, when I purchased them I came out with at least 10 different ships. Perhaps the same may be said for the Armada range. Oh, and they produce just one Medieval ship in 25mm, at the last count that is....

Arquebusier: After thumbing through it I came to the opinion that this is without doubt the best issue that has dropped on my doormat in many a long year. Great maps, as usual, from Derek Stone and good to see rule sets other than DBx being used and described. Perhaps we could see more wargame reports with other rule sets, the Society's own perhaps? Also battles from ECW and mid-17th century! Ok its my tastes (17th century) that were suited but I dare say many other members feel the same.

Dave Lanchester

Tin Figures in Nuremburg

As a fairly regular visitor to Bavaria, I read with interest Conrad Cairns’ article in *Arquebusier* XXVIII/I about site of military interest there. In particular, my eye was taken by his mention of a shop in Nuremburg that sold traditional “flat” soldiers. The shop was *Zinnfiguren Hofmann, Rathausplatz 7, Nuremburg*.

I was in Nuremberg in August and went to find it. It is an excellent shop with a wide range of figures covering an equally wide range of periods. The proprietor, Frau Hofmann, was of great help and her facility with the English language was vastly superior to mine with German. She also paints many of the figures herself. The shop also has an excellent, bilingual, website (www.zinnfiguren-hofmann.de).

Speaking purely as a satisfied customer, I would recommend any Pike and Shot member finding themselves in Nuremburg to visit the shop.

Jonathan Wray

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Saunders examines de Gomme's long and distinguished career and considers in detail his principal achievements: the fortifications at Portsmouth, Gosport, Plymouth, Sheerness and Tilbury Fort. He shows how de Gomme personifies the development of English military engineering during the late 17th century.

In addition to his role as Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, **Andrew Saunders** has served as President of the Royal Archaeological Institute, Chairman of the Fortress Study Group and Chairman of the International Fortress Council. His previous books include *Fortress Britain: Artillery Fortification in the British Isles and Ireland* (1989); *Exploring England's Heritage: Devon and Cornwall* (1991); *English Heritage Book of Channel Defences* (1997); and numerous official guidebooks to castles and fortifications.



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