University of Huddersfield Repository

Rimer, Graeme

Editorial

Original Citation

Rimer, Graeme (2008) Editorial. Arms and Armour, 5 (2). pp. 105-106. ISSN 17416124

This version is available at https://eprints.hud.ac.uk/id/eprint/4216/

The University Repository is a digital collection of the research output of the University, available on Open Access. Copyright and Moral Rights for the items on this site are retained by the individual author and/or other copyright owners. Users may access full items free of charge; copies of full text items generally can be reproduced, displayed or performed and given to third parties in any format or medium for personal research or study, educational or not-for-profit purposes without prior permission or charge, provided:

- The authors, title and full bibliographic details is credited in any copy;
- A hyperlink and/or URL is included for the original metadata page; and
- The content is not changed in any way.

For more information, including our policy and submission procedure, please contact the Repository Team at: E.mailbox@hud.ac.uk.

http://eprints.hud.ac.uk/

ARMS & ARMOUR, Vol. 5 No. 2, 2008, 105–107

Editorial

As this edition of Arms & Armour was being prepared, the Royal Armouries achieved one of its long-anticipated ambitions — to relate the study of arms and armour to those made popular in major feature films. This has resulted in the opening of a remarkable exhibition;'Arms and Armour from the Movies: The Wonderful World of Weta'.

In recent years a strong working relationship has been built up between the Royal Armouries and the Weta Workshop, the New Zealand based specialists who made the arms and armour for a number of the hugely successful films which appeared in recent years. An exhibition team, led by Robert (Bob) Woosnam Savage, Senior Curator of European Edged Weapons, persuaded the senior management at Weta to lend over 250 pieces. These included weapons and armour made famous in films such as The Last Samurai, Hellboy, King Kong, The Chronicles of Narnia and perhaps most notably Lord of the Rings. Visitors could therefore see now world-famous pieces such as Sting (the sword carried by Frodo Baggins), the helmet of Sauron or the sword of Aragorn.

The generosity of the Weta team was remarkable, especially since it was known that other institutions worldwide had been trying to borrow some of their material for similar exhibitions. It is testimony to his dedication and passion for the subject that Bob Woosnam Savage, in particular, managed to persuade Weta to lend so many outstanding pieces for this six-month exhibition. The quantity of the pieces was notable but few of us who are not perhaps such great movie fans were perhaps prepared for the extraordinary quality of the workmanship and invention which went into their production. Much of the armour, while fantastic in concept and design, actually felt and worked as 'real' armour should, and many pieces were given extraordinarily finely executed and lavish yet tasteful decoration. The form, weight and 'heft' of many of the swords were truly outstanding too. Early reactions to this free exhibition, which opened on the 12 July and will run until the 16 November, were very positive, and it has attracted film buffs of all ages.

The next great exhibition project is that to be created at the Tower of London in 2009 to mark the 500th anniversary of the accession of Henry VIII. This is a Royal Armouries project in association with Historic Royal Palaces and will occupy two of the principal rooms within the White Tower. It will examine many aspects of Henry VIII's passion for arms and armour for both sporting and military use, and we are fortunate that we will be able to borrow a number of key pieces from the Metropolitan Museum, New York, the Hofjagd- und Rüstkammer, Vienna, and the Musée de l'Armée, Paris, as well as from major UK sources including the Mary Rose Trust. The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue containing articles by a

Published by Maney Publishing (c) The Trustees of the Armouries

© The Trustees of the Armouries 2008 DOI 10.1179/174161208X345693

number of international authorities on a variety of aspects of Henry, his reign and his enthusiasms, a publication expected to remain an important source of information long after the end of the exhibition. The exhibition will open on the 12 April and run for six months.

The Royal Armouries Museum in Leeds has just marked it emergence from a period when it main entrance area, The Street, was being refurbished. Problems with the original paint colour and of areas of plaster becoming detached from the cast concrete core led to an architectural competition to find a new scheme to refurbish the whole of this huge six-storey space, (though stopping short of applying the same treatment to the recently cleaned and redecorated Hall of Steel). Months of appalling dust and noise problems while the work went ahead are now over and the new look Street has been revealed.

New publications will be appearing shortly. Currently in preparation are *An Introduction to Japanese Swords*, by Ian Bottomley, a companion to his already published and highly popular work on Japanese armour; Karen Watts, Senior Curator of European Armour, is working on a commentary to accompany a facsimile of the publication made to mark the famous Eglinton Tournament of 1839. Another publication composed of fine 19th-century images is the collection of engravings published by Atkinson of the Campaign in India (namely the Indian Mutiny, or Great Rebellion, of 1857). An essay by Royal Armouries Education Department staff member Simon Ritchie will throw new light on these stunning and evocative images. Also on the theme of the Indian Mutiny the distinguished military author T A Heathcote has prepared a fascinating examination of a collection of letters written during the terrible events of the Mutiny by Colonel H P Pearson.

Efforts continue to enable members of the public to have opportunities to see elements of the collections at close quarters and to handle carefully chosen pieces. A number of different themes have been chose for the continuing series of special events under the heading of 'History in Your Hands', details of which will appear in the ever-expanding Royal Armouries website (www.royalarmouries.org).

In the last issue of Arms & Armour, it was hoped that this issue would contain an article about the important and newly acquired flintlock presentation sporting gun made in 1688 by Henry Crisp for George Legge, 1st Baron Dartmouth. It had not been fully realised at that time, however, that so much more information might be discovered about this previously unknown gun. Further research is therefore well in hand, but it has been decided to hold this study over until the issue of Spring 2009 in order that it might contain the fullest possible account of the creation of this gun and of the exceptional historical circumstances which surrounded it.

The editorial team is grateful to the authors who have submitted the important yet interestingly diverse and original articles which form this issue. We trust you will enjoy it and perhaps be inspired yourself to prepare something for submission.

Graeme Rimer
Academic Director

Published by Maney Publishing (c) The Trustees of the Armouries

Erratum

Volume 5 Issue 1

Correction to caption for the front cover illustration. The caption should have read:

A detail of the lock of a fine silver-mounted flintlock presentation sporting gun made in 1688 by Henry Crisp, Gunmaker and Furbisher to the Ordnance, for George Legge, 1st Baron Dartmouth. Acquired by the Royal Armouries in January 2008 with the generous support of The Art Fund and the National Heritage Memorial Fund.

Published by Maney Publishing (c) The Trustees of the Armouries