



## 1636 - Their Last Battle

### Special Exhibition

2011 marks the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Wittstock. One of the most decisive battles of the Thirty Years War, it took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 1636. The Brandenburg State Archaeological Museum, in collaboration with the Museum of the Thirty Years War in Wittstock, will mark the occasion with a variety of events over the course of a commemorative year. The events, which are to be held in Berlin and the state of Brandenburg between April 2011 and April 2012, will thematically explore the unstable times of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. Along with performances of music and theatre, there will be readings from the literature of the time. Deeper insight into the research on the period will be provided by a conference on the works of Grimmelshausen and another on the archaeology of historic battlefields. Authentic displays of traditional art and craft techniques, as well as the performance of historical stage plays, will help conjure up a picture of this lively epoch. The climax of the commemorative year will be the special exhibition „1636 - Their Last Battle“. In April 2012 the Brandenburg State Archaeological Museum will open its doors and present for the first time the Wittstock mass grave, a find without parallel in Europe. The grave was discovered almost four years ago, in the spring of 2007, by workers in a gravel pit. It contained the remains of more than 125 soldiers who died during the battle. Who were the dead mercenaries? How did they live? What kind of stories could they tell us today? The exhibition reveals varied details about the lives of the mercenaries, many of which are surprising and some that were previously unknown. An interdisciplinary team of more than a dozen specialists investigated the find and its historical background. The results of their research will be presented in an easily accessible way together with other fascinating exhibits, such as weapons, three-dimensional facial reconstructions and archaeological hoard finds. From autumn 2012 the exhibition will tour some of the home countries of the dead soldiers - it will be displayed in Sweden and Scotland, as well as in Dresden, Munich and other locations in Germany.

For more information and photographs please contact:

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