Fortification & Siegecraft III: France

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Topographic map of Paris, showing the new Séré de Rivières line

1. ANDRIVEAU-GOUJON, Eugène (editor). Environ de Paris dans un rayon de 30 kilomètres.

Paris, Eugène Andriveau-Goujon (printed by Erhard), 1889. Large folding engraved map (84 x 106 cm), colour-printed in outline with additional hand-colouring, drawn by Antoine and Calmelet and engraved by Charles Cornélis. The map has been divided into 36 sections and mounted on linen. Also with a protective cover of green cloth.

Topographic map of Paris showing the fortifications of the city (coloured green), including the new forts built under Raymond Adolphe Séré de Rivières. The city wall of Paris had been demolished in 1670, but as a result of the capture of the city in 1814, king Louis-Philippe ordered a new wall to be built in 1833, nicknamed the “Thiers wall”. Construction of the wall and a group of bastioned forts protecting the city on the north, east and south – from St. Denis to Suresnes – was completed in 1845. After France’s defeat in the Franco-Prussian War of 1870–1871 a second line of modern polygonal forts was planned. The original bastioned forts had been placed 3 to 5 km apart, the new polygonal forts 12 to 20 km – the range of modern rifled artillery – from each other and from the earlier forts. Construction of the forts began in 1874 and finished in 1885.

With the spine somewhat worn and discoloured and the part of the linen first shown after opening, somewhat soiled; a very good copy.

Rare first edition of the most popular French fortification manual

2. BLOND, Guillaume le. Elemens de fortification ...
With 13 numbered folding engraved plates. Contemporary calf, gold-tooled spine.

€ 850

Rare first edition of a very popular work on French fortification building, in a handy pocket-sized format that no doubt gave it a much greater audience than the earlier manuals in folio and perhaps even than most of Vauban’s works. “Le plus fécond de nos écrivains militaires ou plutôt le plus infatigable de nos compilateurs” (Jähns quoting Bardin). At this date Vauban dominated the art of fortification not only in France but also abroad, and Blond makes frequent reference to him in the text and plates, but he presents the systems of all the great French masters: Errard, Marolois, De Ville, Pagan, Landau and Vauban. The book includes a 16-page combined glossary and index, and Jombert’s 4-page advertisement for about 15 publications on practical mathematics and engineering, reporting the formats, numbers of plates, prices and sometimes noting large paper issues.
With the fore-edge of several folding plates tattered and dirty, creases in several plates, and some minor stains in the fore-edge margin, not approaching the text, but otherwise in good condition. The binding is rubbed and has cracks in the hinges. First edition of what was to become the most widely used fortification manual in France.

Jähns, pp. 1752–1753; Jordan 2069 (3 copies); WorldCat (1 copy).
Two treatises on fortification and on geometry

3. CAMBRAY, Chevalier de. Maniere de fortifier de Mr. De Vauban. ... Avec un traité de geometrie ...
Amsterdam, Pieter Mortier, 1689. 8vo. With engraved frontispiece and 30 numbered engraved plates (A-X & 1–8). Contemporary mottled calf, gold-tooled spine.

€ 1,750

Second edition of a work on fortification by Chevalier de Cambray, first published in 1681 at Paris. It is divided into two parts, starting with a treatise on geometry. It explains all the different geometric shapes, both two and three dimensional, how to properly draw them, how to enlarge the figures once drawn, how to measure height, distance, surface area, etc., clarified in numerous illustrations on 8 engraved plates. The second part deals with fortifications as described by Sebastien le Prestre, Marquis de Vauban (1633–1707), the most influential military engineer of his age. It contains an index on fortification terms and their definitions, and a thorough description of all the different elements, corners and shapes of both regular and irregular fortresses, illustrated with 22 engraved plates.
Leaf a1 damaged in the margin, corner torn off plate Q and a small water stain in the lower margin of several plates, none affecting the illustrations. Binding chafed and slightly worn at the head and foot of the hinges, with traces of use along the extremities. Otherwise a good copy.

Jähn, p. 1441; Jordan 0575.
Third edition of an influential manual on fortification, written for use at the military academy at Metz. After the fall of the “impregnable” fortress of Vlissingen to British troops in 1809, emperor Napoleon ordered Carnot to write a treatise on how fortifications could be improved for better defence. Carnot was a staunch follower of the controversial ideas of the Marquis de Montalembert (1714–1800), who criticized the traditional system of bastions and instead proposed longer walls which could be equipped with many more guns, protected by casemates. Carnot was a strong believer in the use of mortar fire (“vertical fire”) and often used the terms “rain” and “storm” to denote the abundance of munitions that would come down on the attacker. “He endeavored to prove mathematically that the discharge of these mortars would in due course kill off the whole of the besieging force” (Lepage).

Lazare Carnot (1753–1823) was a politician and mathematician and the most important administrator during the French Revolution, introducing mass conscription, during which he was nicknamed the “organizer of victory”.

With library stamp. Binding worn and damaged but structurally sound; slightly thumbed and with a few spots; a good copy.

Offensive defence by the “organizer of victory”

5. **CARNOT, Lazare.** De la défense des places fortes, ouvrage composé... pour l’instruction des élèves du corps du génie;... troisième edition. Paris, widow of Courcier, 1812. Large 4to (25 x 20 cm). With 11 folding engraved plates. Contemporary boards, covered with decorated paper; recased, with later endpapers. € 700

Third edition of an influential manual on fortification, written for use at the military academy at Metz. After the fall of the “impregnable” fortress of Vlissingen to British troops in 1809, emperor Napoleon ordered Carnot to write a treatise on how fortifications could be improved for better defence. Carnot was a staunch follower of the controversial ideas of the Marquis de Montalembert (1714–1800), who criticized the traditional system of bastions and instead proposed longer walls which could be equipped with many more guns, protected by casemates. Carnot was a strong believer in the use of mortar fire (“vertical fire”) and often used the terms “rain” and “storm” to denote the abundance of munitions that would come down on the attacker. “He endeavored to prove mathematically that the discharge of these mortars would in due course kill off the whole of the besieging force” (Lepage).

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With library stamp and owner’s inscription. Spine worn with the edges strengthened with gold-coloured tape. Slightly browned and spotted throughout with a water stain in the lower margin, notably in the second half of the book; a fair copy.

Improving existing fortresses, with three large lithographed plates

6. CHOUMARA, Pierre-Marie Théodore. Mémoires sur la fortification, ou examen raisonné... avec atlas. Paris, Anselin (back of half-title; printed by A. Henry), 1827. 2 volumes (8vo text and 4to atlas). With 3 very large folding lithographed plates (ca. 54.5 x 77 cm) in atlas volume. Contemporary marbled half calf, gold-tooled spine. € 1,950

First edition of a work on fortification by the French military engineer Pierre-Marie Théodore Choumara (1787–1870). It examines the characteristics and shortcomings of various French forts, giving suggestions for improvement at low cost. “That which distinguishes Choumara from other writers on the science, is the objection he has to supersede everything by the introduction of a new system; his constant endeavour is to modify the fortresses already extant, in order to increase their power and resistance” (Lendy). Other chapters deal with the attack and defence of an hexagon-shaped fort, the number of soldiers needed to defend a fort and the type of armour required. The atlas volume contains three large folding lithographed plates, showing different types of bastions and an attack plan. Both text and atlas volume somewhat foxed, a few small spots. Overall a very good copy.

Jordan 0699; A.F. Lendy, Treatise on fortification (1862), p. 423; WorldCat (9 copies).
Rare first French edition of the greatest fortification manual of the second Dutch school

7. COEHOORN, Menno van. Nouvelle fortification, tant pour un terrain bas et humide, ...
The Hague, Henri van Bulderen, 1706. 8vo. With 14 folding engraved plates. Contemporary tanned sheepskin, gold-tooled spine. € 1,500

Rare first edition in French of one of the greatest classics of the art of fortification, by the Inspector General of Dutch fortifications and Master General of the artillery, Menno van Coehoorn, first published in 1685. While the Dutch had established themselves as the greatest masters of fortification during the Eighty Years’ War for Dutch independence from Spain, the art did not stand still after peace came temporarily in 1648. Although a few Dutch engineers spoke out for reform, the Frenchman Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633–1707) was to dominate the field with his fortifications, defensive and especially offensive strategies, and publications on the subjects from the 1670s. The Frisian artillery officer and military engineer Menno van Coehoorn (1641–1704), his only major rival, took a very different approach, more practical than theoretical, with his great fortification manual in 1685. He deployed troops more actively in the defence of fortifications and tailored his designs and strategies to the particular features of the site. This made them especially important for fortifications and siege warfare in the marshy flat lands of the Low Countries, circumstances less familiar to Vauban.

With bookplate of Graf Andreas von Renard (1723-ca. 1770/80), Lieutenant General in the Austrian army, drawn and engraved by Carl Friedrich Holtzmann (1740–1811). With small tears in 3 folding plates and occasional minor marginal stains, but otherwise in very good condition. The binding is scuffed and has some small holes in the hinges, but is structurally sound.

Jähn, p. 1385; Jordan 743 (4 copies); Sloos, Warfare 8075; STCN (2 copies).
The French fortification manual that finally succeeded Vauban’s, with 55 plates

8. CORMONTAINGNE, Louis de. Oeuvres posthumes ... Tome premier[-second] [& troisième].

*Comprising:*

(i) Mémorial pour la fortification permanente et passagère. ...

(ii) Mémorial pour l’attaque des places. ...

(iii) Mémorial pour la défense des places, faisant suite au mémorial pour l’attaque, ...


The complete posthumous works of Louis de Cormontaingne (ca. 1696–1752), the leading French fortifications engineer of his day and from 1748 Maréchal de Camp in the French army. The three volumes form a complete handbook of fortification, with the first devoted to the design and construction of permanent and temporary fortifications, the second to offense in siege warfare and the third to defence. All three are extensively and clearly illustrated. Cormontaingne joined the Corps du Génie less than a decade after the death of Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633–1707) and is regarded as his successor, establishing his reputation with the fortifications of Metz in 1728. Vauban completely dominated French and to some degree international fortification for decades after his death, but offensive tactics steadily gained ground while defensive tactics remained largely the same, so Cormontaingne introduced some improvements into Vauban’s methods.

With 11 plates somewhat browned, 1 quire foxed, occasional spots, and some minor marginal water stains toward the end of vol. I, but still in good condition. A thorough fortification manual by the most important French fortifications engineer since Vauban, with 55 plates.

Jordan 769 vol. I, 770, 768 (not noting the folding tables).

€ 1,500

Revised third edition of an extensive manual on the science of fortification, written by a professor of mathematics at the artillery school at La Fère. In this richly illustrated book, the author describes the construction, attack and defence of both regular and irregular fortresses, according to the methods of various authors including Vauban, Coehoorn, Deville and Pagan. Deidier’s treatment of the science of fortification is highly methodical, for instance making a distinction between attacking places by surprise, by force or by famine and even devoting a section (with an illustration) to “the attack on a fort surrounded by marshes which can only be approached from the dykes or causeways” (p. 269). This third edition adds two short accounts of the Sieges of Namur (1692) and Lille (1708). With stamps and a few contemporary (?) annotations. Binding worn at the extremities, text slightly browned and with some spots; a good copy.

Richly illustrated work on fortification, with 148 engravings

10. DESPREZ DE SAINT-SAVIN, Pierre-Samuel. Nouvelle école militaire, ou la fortification moderne, divisée en quatre parties, ornée de cent-cinquante [recté 148] planches en taille-douce...


Rare first edition of a richly illustrated work on fortification by the French engineer Pierre-Samuel Desprez de Saint-Savin. It gives an overview of the progress made in the years before 1735 in the field of fortification, dealing with the attack and defence of forts, the construction of field fortifications, marching, and the different methods used in different countries, including France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain and Italy. The 148 engraved plates (the title-page erroneously says 150) show forts, citadels, profiles, soldiers, battle plans, armory, machinery and more. Also discussed are the theories of various military engineers like Vauban, Van Coehoorn, Pagan and Stevin. Slightly browned, some smudges and small stains and a few marginal water stains. Binding rubbed along the extremities, sides rubbed and front board cracked. A good copy.

Jordan 0879 (2 copies); WorldCat (7 copies); not in Jähns; Sloos, Warfare.
Europe fortified: the fortifications of Marolois, Stevin and Vauban, beautifully mapped, together with an atlas of the coasts of France, also with fortifications

11. **FER, Nicolas de.** Les forces de l’Europe, ou description des principales villes; avec leurs fortifications. . . .
Paris, “chez l’auteur” [=Nicolas de Fer, a false imprint], 1695–1696 [printed in Amsterdam, for Pieter Mortier, 1695-ca. 1702]. 10 parts in 1 volume.
With 234 beautifully engraved plates (a few folding) with 366 maps and views of fortified cities.

*With:* (2) **FER, Nicolas de.** Costes de France, sur l’ocean & sur la Mer Mediterranée &c. avec leurs fortifications. . . .
Paris, “Nicolas de Fer” [a false imprint], 1695. [printed in Amsterdam, for Pieter Mortier]. With engraved title-page and 40 engraved plates (including 2 folding). 2 works in 12 parts or volumes, bound as 1 volume. Oblong 1mo (30×37 cm). Contemporary tanned sheepskin, gold-tooled spine.

Splendid atlas of fortifications of the cities of Europe (plus Malta and some other Mediterranean sites), combined with a maritime atlas of the French coasts, published by Pieter Mortier (1661–1711). Both are based on the similar publications of Nicolas de Fer (1646–1720) and falsely indicate that they were published by him.

Ad 1: The atlas of fortified cities of Europe. Many of the plans show the work of the greatest 17th-century masters of the art and science of fortification, including Samuel Marolois, Simon Stevin and Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban. The last two parts contain primarily smaller maps, printed 4 to the page.

Ad 2: The maritime atlas of the coasts of France. It also shows the fortifications along the coasts, so it complements the fortifications atlas and was clearly designed to match it in format and style.

With the caption of one plate cut off and 2 plates and 1 letterpress title-page somewhat browned. Further in good condition. A couple plates are bound in the wrong volume. A splendid fortifications atlas.

12. FREITAG, Adam. L’architecture militaire ou la fortification nouvelle, ...
Leiden, Abraham and Bonaventura Elzevier, 1635. Folio. With engraved title-page, 35 double-page engraved illustration plates containing 185 numbered figures, 8 double-page letterpress tables and “Table du profil”. With 2 figures in the plates coloured by an early hand. Mottled, tanned sheepskin (ca. 1730?), gold-tooled spine.

First French edition of the best, most detailed, best illustrated and most influential handbook of fortification from the Dutch golden age and an ambitious piece of book production from the golden age of the Elzeviers’ printing office. Besides numerous fortification plans, profiles, sections and perspective views, the plates show bridges, gates, barriers, shelters, tools for digging, construction and demolition, a level, a battering ram, a windlass, a wheelbarrow, artillery, fences and a horse-powered Archimedes’s screw for pumping water, while three plates show the arrangement of troops’ quarters in camp. While some of the fortification plans are theoretical, others show the fortifications of cities of the Low Countries and Rheinland during the Eighty Years’ War, including Antwerp, Wesel and Heusden. The text is divided into three “books”, the first covering the origins, development and most recent Dutch improvements in the art of fortification, the second systematically presenting the various forms of fortification in a wide variety of shapes, and the third on offensive and defensive tactics of siege warfare as well as the furnishing and maintenance of fortifications. Together with the excellent plates it gives remarkable insights into the working techniques and tools of fortification building ca. 1630. The lexicon (pp. 5–13), gives terminology for fortification and related fields in French, German, Dutch and Latin and remains an essential source for the subject.

With two small drawings, an occasional manuscript note, some underlining and a bookplate. With some foxing in the engraved title-page and a few other leaves, occasional mostly marginal stains and minor browning, but otherwise in good condition. With superficial damage to the boards and worming slightly affecting the boards and badly damaging the backstrip, which has been restored at the head and foot. First French edition of the most influential fortification manual of its day, probably more widely read than the German original.

Jahns II, 117; Jordan, Bibl. Gesch. Festungsbau 1301 (4 copies); Sloos, Warfare 8022; STCN (5 copies).
Fortification manual that spread Dutch practice internationally


Paris, Toussaint Quinet, 1640 (date changed in manuscript to 1660). Folio. With an integral engraved title-page (with 3 allegorical figures of Ares/Mars, Labore and Industria, military, surveying and building attributes and a fortification plan), divisional titles for the second and third “livre”, 35 double-page engraved illustration plates containing 185 numbered figures, 8 double-page letterpress tables. Contemporary mottled calf. € 1,000

Third(?) French edition, the first one published outside the Netherlands, of the best, most detailed, best illustrated and most influential handbook of fortification from the Dutch golden age. Besides numerous fortification plans, profiles, sections and perspective views, the plates show bridges, gates, barriers, shelters, tools for digging, construction and demolition, a level, a battering ram, a windlass, a wheelbarrow, artillery, fences and a horse-powered Archimedes’s screw for pumping water, while three plates show the arrangement of troops’ quarters in camp. While some of the fortification plans are theoretical, others show the fortifications of cities of the Low Countries and Rheinland during the Eighty Years’ War, including Antwerp, Wesel and Heusden.


Three fortification plans, including a large coloured plan of the fortifications of Neuf-Brisach

14. GENNEP, T.P. van. [Three fortification plans].
[Raamsdonk], 1798. 3 manuscript fortification plans (measuring (ad 1) 58 x 93 cm, (ad 2) 24.5 x 24.5 cm (ad 3) 29.5 x 37 cm) on paper. All signed: T.P. van Gennep, 1798; and one: Raamsdonk, 29 January 1798. € 950

Collection of three fortification plans by T.P. van Gennep, including: (ad 1) a large and detailed plan of the fortifications of Neuf-Brisach (Alsace), executed in red and black ink, with light blue and red watercolour and decorated initials in red. With extensive ‘Verklaring’ (explanation) of the drawing-method of the profiles and the polygons.
(Ad 2:) The second plan with the title “methode van Pagan middle roiaal” is a fortification plan after a design by Blaise Pagan (1604–1665), a famous French fortification engineer, in black ink.
(Ad 3:) The third plan is a design of a similar fortification as the second plan, in black ink and light grey, brown and red watercolour.
Plans slightly worn near the edges and minor wormholes in the large plan. In good condition.
**Attack and defence according to Vauban’s chief miner**

15. **GOULON, Charles.** Memoires pour l’attaque et la défense d’une place... Nouvelle édition, corrigée & augmentée...

*Including:*

— **VAUBAN, Sébastien le Prestre de.** Journal du siege de la ville d’Ath.

— **VAUBAN, Sébastien le Prestre de.** Le directeur général des fortifications, ou mémoires de monsieur de Vauban, concernant les fonctions des différents officiers employés dans les fortifications.

— **LOUIS, Grand Dauphin.** Relation du siége de Philisbourg, en 1688.

— **[ANONYMOUS FRENCHMAN].** Relation de la défense de Landaw, en 1704.

Amsterdam and Leipzig, Arkstee and Merkus; Paris, sold by Jombert, 1764. 8vo. With 9 folding engraved plates of cities and fortifications. Contemporary calf, richly gold-tooled spine. € 1,250

Very rare fourth(?) edition of a collection of treatises on fortification and siege craft, especially related to military mining, first published together in 1730. The main part consists of a treatise written by the Huguenot Charles Goulon (1645–1705). He had been one of Vauban’s most talented officers and the chief of his miners. After the revocation of the Edict of Nantes he joined the Dutch army and subsequently, in 1693, the Imperial army. Goulon considered attack and defence as inseparable and in his treatise all examples are presented from the viewpoints of both the attacker and the defender. As a pupil of Vauban and a veteran of the Siege of Candia, the longest siege in history, Goulon was considered an authority by his contemporaries. Among the other treatises are two ascribed to Vauban. The one relating to the Siege of Ath (1697) is one of “the most important published sources” on this “epitome of Louisquatorzian siegecraft” (Ostwald).

With the binding slightly worn at the edges; some browning and spots, and with the bottom corner of p. 231 missing; in very good condition.

*Colson, L’art de la guerre, pp. 99–101; Jähns, pp. 1741–1743; Ostwald, Vauban under siege, pp. 21–22; Sloon, Warfare 08140; STCN (1 copy); WorldCat (2 copies, incl. 1 the same).*
17th-century bird’s eye view of La Capelle (Aisne)

16. [LA CAPELLE]. La Capelle.
[France(?), ca. 1690]. Pen and brown ink drawing, with blue washes on paper (10 x 30 cm) with title on top. € 2,500

17th-century drawing with bird’s eye view of the fortified French town La Capelle (Aisne). Probably after the similar view published in Mathaeus Merian’s Topographia Galliae (1655–1661).
In very good condition.
Map of Paris, showing the work on the new fortifications

17. LOGEROT, Auguste (editor). Plan de Paris et ses fortifications. Paris, Auguste Logerot, 1843. Large folding engraved map (70 x 103 cm), with some details highlighted in hand-colouring, drawn by Gustave Maillard and G. Alvar Toussaint, engraved by Charles Dyonnet; and drawings of several monuments by Jean-Pierre Thénot, engraved by Alphonse Chamouin. The map has been divided into 32 sections and mounted on linen. Contemporary marbled slipcase. € 150

Topographic map of Paris showing the work on the city’s new fortifications (coloured red and green). The Paris city wall had been demolished in 1670, but as a result of the capture of the city in 1814, King Louis-Philippe ordered a new wall to be built in 1833, which was nicknamed the Thiers wall. Construction of the wall and a group of bastioned forts protecting the city on the north, east and south - from St. Denis to Suresnes - was completed in 1845. On the current map, published two years before construction was finished, the camps used to house the labourers can be clearly seen. The divisions between the 12 arrondissements of the city are coloured in by hand, as is the Ferme général wall. Brownd and with some spots; slipcase split at one side.

Collected works of a famous architect, with 271 double-page engraved plates

18. MAROLOIS, Samuel. Mathematicum opus absolutissimum: …
Amsterdam, Johannes Janssonius, 1638 [altered in manuscript to 1658].

Including:
(1) MAROLOIS, Samuel. Geometria theoretica ac practica: …
Amsterdam, Janssonius, 1633. With 47 double-page engraved plates, numbered 1–42 and 1–5.
(2) MAROLOIS, Samuel. Artis muniendi, sive fortificationis, pars prima: …
Amsterdam, Janssonius, 1644.
(3) MAROLOIS, Samuel. Fortificationis, sive artis muniendi, pars secunda.
Amsterdam, Janssonius, 1644. With 40 double-page engraved plates.
(4) VREDEMAN DE VRIES, Joannis. Architectura: …
Amsterdam, Janssonius, 1633. With 30 double-page engraved plates by Henricus Hondius after the designs by Vredeman de Vries, one dated 1601.
(5) MAROLOIS, Samuel. Opticae, sive perspectivae, pars prima: …
Amsterdam, Janssonius, 1633. With 80 double-page engraved plates, some by Henricus Hondius, incl. 6 views of buildings in Rome (nos. 54–59) in roundels, after the drawings by Petrus Stephanus.
(6) VREDEMAN DE VRIES, Joannis. Perspectiva theoretica ac practica.
Amsterdam, Janssonius, 1633.

Including:
(7) VREDEMAN DE VRIES, Joannis. Perspectivae pars II: …
Amsterdam, Janssonius, 1632. With 49, 24 (+ 1) numbered double-page engraved plates depicting geometrical and mathematical figures on perspective.


€ 15,000
Complete works of Samuel Marolois (1572–1627), including the works of his predecessor Jan Vredeman de Vries (1527-ca. 1606/08) that were edited with numerous additions by Marolois. Marolois was a French mathematician, who published in the Low Countries and taught Henricus Hondius. Here all the works are edited, corrected and revised by Albert Girard, who also revised the mathematical works of Simon Stevin. Marolois’s Geometria presents a thorough pictorial course of all aspects of geometry and its application to measurement, proportion, surveying, perspective, etc. His Fortificationis, first published at The Hague in 1615, represents the most outstanding text book, richly illustrated, on the Dutch art of fortification at the beginning of the 17th century. Vredeman de Vries’s Architectura, originally the third volume of his Perspectiva, gives a pictorial course in the basic rules of architectural design, with plates by De Vries and his most gifted pupil and successor, Hendrik Hondius (1573–1650). The text consists mainly of the explanations of the plates.

In good condition, with the lower outside corner of the first part of the second volume frayed, without affecting the text; some minor water stains and foxing. Bindings worn but skillfully repaired. Rare early editions of Marolois’s works, issued with a general title-page and in a contemporary binding.

STCN (4 copies); WorldCat (4 copies); ad 1: cf. Bierens de Haan 3027; ad 2: Bierens de Haan 3026; Jähns, p. 1094; Cockle 821; ad 3: cf. Fowler 191; Bierens de Haan 3024; ad 4: Fowler 434; ad 5: Bierens de Haan 3031; ad 6 & 7: Vagnetti EIIIb3; cf. Fowler 432.
Recommending polygonal fortifications, with 87 folding engraved plates

19. MONTALEMBERT, Marc-René de. La fortification perpendiculaire, ou essai sur plusieurs manières de fortifier la ligne droite, le triangle, le carré, & tous les polygônes, ...

First edition of a very extensive work on fortification, by the French military engineer Marc-René, marquis de Montalembert (1714–1800). “Viewing fortresses as nothing more than immense permanent batteries designed to pour overwhelming fire on attacking armies, Montalembert simplified the intricate geometric designs of Vauban and relied on simple polygonal structures, often with detached peripheral forts instead of projecting bastions. The fortifications at Anklam, Stralsund, Aix-en-Provence, and Île d’Oléron were among his most prominent creations.” (Encyclopaedia Brittanica). The first volume is devoted to the origins and progress of fortification, the others to the usefulness, construction, attack, defence and other aspects of fortresses. A fifth volume with 17 folding plates, added in 1784, is not included in the present set, which was probably issued before it appeared.

With several library- and deaccession stamps. Occasionally some minor foxing and some marginal (water) stains. Some plates slightly browned and a few with frayed edges. Overall in very good condition and with wide margins. Bindings somewhat rubbed, some tiny wormholes, but still firm and good.

Encyclopaedia Brittanica, Marc-René, marquis de Montalembert (online); Jähns, p. 1863; Jordan 2564; Sloos, Warfare 08168.
Treatise on different fortification methods, with 44 engraved plates


First edition of a treatise on military architecture by the French mathematician Jacques Ozanam (1640–1718). It discusses “ancient and modern” types of fortification, the construction of both regular and irregular forts, and attacking and defending forts. The third chapter narrates different fortification methods and theories by important engineers, including Jean Errard, Sébastien le Prestre de Vauban, François Blondel, Antoine de Ville and others, each followed by Ozanam’s own remarks on the methods. More briefly Ozanam discusses the Dutch and Spanish methods of fortification. The frontispiece depicts a fortress under attack and the plates show different fortification types.

With library stamps on title-page and on the back of each plate. Only slightly browned and with a few small spots. Binding rubbed along the extremities, head and foot of the spine slightly damaged. Overall in very good condition.

BMC STC French O-250; Jordan 2759; Sloos, Warfare 08066.
Strengthening Paris’s fortifications

Amsterdam, P.N. van Kampen and son, 1874. 8vo. Original’s publisher’s printed paper wrappers. € 500

Rare first edition of a brief article on strengthening Paris's defences, by the Dutch politician Jan Karel Hendrik de Roo van Alderwerelt (1832–1878). Since the early 19th century people had concluded that Paris’s fortifications were insufficient, leading to various actions to strengthen them. The present article deals especially with the various arguments in the discussion of the best manner to make the city more secure.
Paper wrappers somewhat browned, but otherwise in very good condition; wholly untrimmed, with all bolts unopened.

*WorldCat (3 copies); not in Jordan.*
On French fortification, with 37 engraved plates

22. ROZARD, Johann Claude de. Nouvelle fortification Françoise, où il est traité de la construction des places, ensemble l’explication des trois systèmes du Maréchal de Vauban, la maniere d’attaquer & de se défendre dans les forteresses, cela de camper les armées en ligne & aux sièges, de mettre les troupes en bataille & de les faire combatre, soit en plaine, ou à la défense des retranchemens.

Nuremberg, Jean George Lochner, 1731. 2 volumes: text (4to) and atlas (oblong folio). With an engraved frontispiece and 37 engraved plates, including some folding, and 1 letterpress table. Contemporary vellum.

First and only edition of a work on modern French fortification by Lieutenant-Colonel Rozard. He states in his preface that, even though there are many books on fortification, most still present outdated methods, and he tries to present a modern method of fortification, both theoretical and practical. He does, however, include some 17th-century methods as described by Simon Stevin and Blaise Francois Pagan. Other chapters deal with more modern engineers like Vauban and Manesson Mallet. The second part describes how to construct different types of fortresses (square, pentagon, hexagon, irregular, etc.) and the interior of a fortress. The atlas volume contains many ground plans and profiles.

Reigersberg, dated 1746, on title-page. Title-page and a few other leaves slightly browned, some small spots; plates slightly browned and thumbed along the margins. Bindings slightly rubbed along the extremities, worn at the corners. Overall in good condition.

Jähn, p. 1751; Jordan 3231; Sloos, Warfare 08094.
**Brief work on military architecture and geometry**

**23. SAINT JULIEN, Antoine, Chevalier de.** Architecture militaire, ou l’art de fortifier les villes, ... suivi d’un abrégé de géométrie.

The Hague, Johannes van Millinge, 1705. 8vo. With an engraved illustration on title-page, title-page printed in red and black, 30 numbered illustrations on 28 engraved plates, numerous woodcut geometric diagrams etc. in text, and 4 letterpress tables. Contemporary sheepskin, gold-tooled spine. € 675

Rare first edition of a work on military architecture by the military engineer Antoine de Saint Julien. It is divided into two parts, the first dealing with fortifications, illustrated in 30 engravings. Topics covered include the ideas and methods the great military engineers Vauban, Pagan, De Ville and others, and the construction of forts of various types and shapes. The second part is a brief treatise on geometry for building forts. With the bookplate of André, comte Renard on pastedown. Sloos notes a singleton leaf following the text, with a list of the plates, but it is not mentioned in the STCN and not in the present or most other copies. Slightly foxed throughout, water stain in the gutter margin of pages 95–120, and some occasional small marginal water stains. Binding worn, upper compartment of backstrip missing.

*Jahn, p. 1711; Jordan 3278 (7 copies); Sloos, Warfare 88074; STCN (1 copy); WorldCat (6 other copies).*
Including detailed information on tactical formations, with 13 engraved plates

Genève, J.A. Nouffer, 1778. 4to. With 13 folding engraved plates. Contemporary mottled calf, richly gold-tooled spine. € 1.950

First edition of a work on fortification by the French colonel François Tissot, sometimes called Tissot-Grenus, expressing his “new ideas” on the subject. He deals with the construction of different types of fortresses, but most of the work is devoted to command and leadership, attack and defence, tactical formations and orders etc. The engraved plates show ground plans, profiles, battle plans, and tools and machinery. The present edition was published anonymously, only mentioning “Mr. le Colonel D***” on the title-page, but the second edition (London/the Hague, 1785) mentions “Colonel de Tissot Grenus” as the author.
With a manuscript note at the foot of the third plate. Occasionally a small spot, overall in very good condition. Binding slightly rubbed along the extremities, but otherwise also very good.

Jahns, p. 2779; Jordan 0822; not in Sloot, Warfare.
Favouring new fortification methods over those of Vauban and Van Coehoorn

25. TRINCANO, Didier-Grégoire. Élémens de fortification, de l’attaque et de la défense des places...

Rare first edition of a work on fortification by the French engineer and mathematician Didier-Grégoire Trincano (1719–1792). It is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the building of fortifications, the second with defending and attacking fortifications. The engraved plates show different types of fortification, profiles, various tools, and even a cannon and mortar. Trincano was criticized by some of his contemporaries for favouring newer fortification methods over the classic ones described by Van Coehoorn and Vauban. Trincano worked as an military engineer in the French army and prepared the sieges of Freiburg (1744) and Bergen-op-Zoom (1747) during the War of the Austrian succession (1740–1748).

With quire B included twice. First two leaves browned, with some spots throughout, and marginal water stain on page 19, otherwise in very good condition. Binding rubbed along the extremities, but otherwise good.

Jordan 3824 (4 copies); Sloos, Warfare 08146; WorldCat (6 copies).
The duties of a fort’s commander

26. **Ville, Antoine de**. De la charge des gouverneurs des places.
Paris, Matthieu Guillemot, 1639. Small folio (28.5 x 18.5 cm). With an engraved title-page by Jérôme David, 7 engraved plates and several woodcut illustrations and diagrams. Contemporary mottled calf, gold-tooled spine. € 975

First edition of a treatise on the duties of a fort’s commander by “France’s most original fortification design theorist since Jean Errard” (Wolfe). In 50 chapters De Ville describes aspects such as how to choose a governor, how he should be introduced to the officers and soldiers and what knowledge he should have of fortifications. One of the chapters is devoted to what the governor should make of the various nationalities that make up his army. Of the mercenaries, De Ville considered the Swiss to be the most reliable (if paid on time), Italians he considered fickle, Germans cruel and the French lax and undisciplined. The Dutch and Flemish should be closely watched, for they have a natural hatred towards the French.

With a contemporary owner’s inscription and a few contemporary annotations. Binding worn and front hinge cracked. Margins trimmed, very slightly shaving some of the plates; internally otherwise in very good condition.

*Jähns, pp. 1132–1134; Jordan 3950; Sloos, Warfare 08023; Wolfe, Walled towns and the shaping of France, p. 144.*
The leading French fortification manual before Vauban, with lovely pictorial scenes drawn and executed by the author

27. VILLE, Antoine de. Les fortifications ... contenans la maniere de fortifier toutes sorte de places ...
Lyon, Philippe Borde, 1640 (engraved title-page 1641). With an engraved title-page, engraved portrait of the author, 53 numbered engravings (10 double-page. Later 17th-century gold-tooled calf, each board with the French royal arms, gold-tooled spine. Rebacked, with the original backstrip laid down. € 3,000

Second Lyons edition of the most comprehensive and most important French fortification manual before Vauban, especially noteworthy for the 53 engravings (plus the engraved title-page), here printed from the plates of the first edition, which were not only drawn but also executed by the author himself. Besides the fortification plans, profiles, perspective views, etc., and often as background to them, De Ville includes many scenes with buildings, landscapes and people, giving his manual a pictorial richness unmatched by the other great fortification manuals of the 17th century. The three main parts of the manual cover the fortifications themselves (both regular and irregular), offense, and defence. Antoine de Ville (1596–1656) first published his manual at Lyon in 1628, when the Dutch were the leading innovators in the art of fortification. It contained little that was new, but gave a more comprehensive account of traditional fortification than any manual of its time. When Vauban usurped the Dutch as the most important proponent of the art of fortification, he was strongly influenced by De Ville’s conservative approach.

With the owner’s inscription of Luciani Bellou on the title-page, referring to a 1766 catalogue. With the engraved title-page frayed around the edges and 4 double-page plates very slightly shaved at right and or left, and an occasional minor marginal tear, water stain, crease or slightly browned patch, but generally in good condition. The binding has been rebacked as noted, with the sides rubbed and the backstrip damaged, but the binding structure is now sound.

Jähns II, 115; Jordan 3951; Sloos, Warfare 8024.
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Bindings