Fortification & Siegecraft IV: Germany

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Oblong handbook of fortification design


Rare second edition, complete with all the preliminaries and engravings, of a detailed practical handbook of fortification design. This second edition, revised and improved by the author, emphasizes the new advances in fortification introduced in the Netherlands. The first edition, published in 1677, was itself a reworking of Christoph Nottnagel’s popular *Manuale fortificatorium* from 1659. Like its predecessors, *Der aufs Neu-verschantzte Turenne* was published in “pocket” size, although “coat pockets were large at that time” (Jähns). In his introduction, Behr gives his reasons for naming his treatise after the French marshal Turenne and not after some German prince or general. The title should be understood to be anti-French, and implies that although the French were renowned for their military science, there was so much engineering talent to be found in the German states that Turenne would lock himself in a fortress in fear (*2v*).

Binding damaged at the extremities with the hinges cracked, back cover with restored fold and ca. 3 cm of the backstrip missing. Text browned and with some spots and wormholes at the lower outer corner of pp. 385–422; a fair copy.

[3], [1 blank], [20], 616 pp. Jähns, pp. 1373–1374; Sloos, Warfare o8062; VD17, 23:33533R (4 copies, 3 lacking the plates); WorldCat (14 copies, many incomplete).
42 engraved plates of fortresses


Atlas volume with 42 engraved plates by the Austrian engraver Hieronymus Benedicti (1756–1809), after drawings by “Jos. Frantischek”, showing cannons, tools, fortresses, profiles, battle plans, etc. With an owner’s inscription on first flyleaf. Occasionally some minor, mostly marginal foxing. Binding worn along the extremities, corners damaged. Overall in good condition.

Not in Thieme & Becker.
Frankfurt and Leipzig, Heinrich Ludwig Brönner, 1776. 4º. With an engraved frontispiece and 24 folding engraved plates. Contemporary half calf, richly gold-tooled spine. € 750

First and only edition of a work on fortification by the German philosopher and mathematician Andreas Böhm (1720–1790). “After publishing his textbooks of logic and metaphysics, he dedicated his works almost completely to applied mathematics, and especially to the art of fortress building” (Klemme & Kuehn). It is divided into 9 chapters, devoted to the construction of different parts of a fortress (both regular and irregular), the estimated costs, the infrastructure and the defence. Böhm often mentions the different opinions of some prominent military engineers. The frontispiece depicts the defence of a walled city. The folding engraved plates show the construction of different types of fortification, including ground plans, geometrical figures, profiles and equipment. According to the title-page the present work is the “first part”, but no subsequent parts were published. Occasionally some faint marginal spotting. Binding rubbed along the extremities. Overall in very good condition.

First and only German edition, with new and more extensive illustrations

4. CHASSELOUP-LAUBAT, François, Marquis de. Versuche über einige Theile der Artillerie und der Befestigungskunst, ... Aus dem Französischen übersetzt und mit einem Nachtrage begleitet, von Ignaz Rueber, ... Mit neun Kupfertafeln.
Vienna, J.G. Heubner, 1826. 8º. With 9 large folding engraved plates (i–ix) with 117 numbered figures (1–74 & 1–43). Near contemporary (ca. 1835?) half calf, gold-tooled spine.

Rare first and only German edition, with a 12-page appendix by the translator, of a well-illustrated work on fortification and artillery, first published in French without illustrations in Chassoulp’s Correspondance de deux généraux sur divers sujets in 1801, revised by the author for its first edition in its restructured and illustrated form in 1805, and here translated from the 1811 second and last French edition of the new form. The 1805 and 1811 French editions have only six folding plates. The nine folding plates in the present edition (5 whole sheets and 4 long half-sheets) show fortification plans, elevations and sections, a cannon with its carriage and mechanisms, a mortar, a pile driver, hydraulic systems and other equipment.

With occasional minor foxing or a marginal water stain, but still in very good condition. The binding is slightly rubbed with slightly worn hinges, but otherwise very good. A well-illustrated treatise on artillery and fortification, by a mastermind of French Revolutionary and Imperial fortification and siege warfare.

iv, [1], [1 blank], 176 pp. plus plates. WorldCat (5 copies); cf. Quérard V, col. 404 (1805 & 1811 French eds.).
The first principles of fortification, for the young engineer

5. CLA IRAC, Louis André de. Abhandlung von der Befestigungskunst im Felde. Breslau and Leipzig, Johann Jacob Korn, 1755. 4°. With 41 folding engraved plates and several woodcut head- and tailpieces. Contemporary half calf, gold-tooled spine. € 950

First edition of the German translation of a richly illustrated manual aimed at young engineers attached to an army in the field. According to the author, an engineer must combine two types of knowledge: theoretical knowledge—which includes algebra, mathematics and geometry—and practical knowledge. In his manual, Clairac aims to combine these two types of knowledge, for only then can one excel in the science of fortification. He therefore gives all the theoretical techniques of fortification, but at the same time instructs the reader in the fortification of places such as a cemetery, old château or church. With library stamp and early owner’s inscription. Title-page with some stains, folding engraved plates frayed along the edges and creased. Binding rubbed, with a tear along the spine detaching the back board from the binding.

Large-paper copy of the first German edition (2nd issue) of a great masterpiece of Dutch fortification


First German edition (second issue) 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. 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. Van Coehoorn (1641–1704), Vauban’s 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 library stamp. With a blank leaf pasted over the instructions to the bookbinder on 4v. The plates are quite lightly inked, so that they show a great deal of detail. Lacking 1 folding plate, with a small tear and some wrinkles in 1 folding plate (fig. I) and an occasional minor spot, but otherwise in very good condition. The binding is scuffed and shows some worm damage, with the head and foot of the backstrip chipped and the front hinge cracked, but with the sewing structure still sound. First German edition of a classic of Dutch fortification.

Seminal work on Dutch methods of fortification, with illustrated title-page and 69 double-page plates

7. DÖGEN, Matthias. Heutiges tages übliche Kriges Bau-kunst...

Including: DÖGEN, Matthias. Streit-bau-Kunst, ...

Amsterdam, Lowijs Elzevier, 1648. 2º (31 × 21 cm). With engraved title-page, 29 (A–Ff) and 40 (of 41, unnumbered) double-page engraved plates. With 3 unsigned quires (together 20 pp.) with letterpress tables of data made for this edition, but lacking in many copies. Lacking the unnumbered double-page engraved plate of “Nova Palma” as in many copies. Contemporary or near contemporary vellum. € 6500

First edition, in the original German, of an extensive, influential and extremely well illustrated treatise on fortification, by the Brandenburg fortifications engineer Matthias Dögen (1605/06–1672) who worked in service of the Dutch stadholder and Prince of Orange, Frederik Hendrik van Nassau (1584–1647) during the Eighty Years' War. The first half of the main text covers fortifications in regular shapes and the second half irregular shapes, while a shorter second part covers defensive and especially offensive tactics in siege warfare. Many of the plates show fortifications of cities in the Low Countries built following the newly developed Dutch methods, including Amsterdam, Breda and Ostend, but fortifications following the more traditional European and Ottoman methods are also included, such as Le Havre and Saint Malo.

With early owners’ inscriptions. Lacking 1 unnumbered double-page plate (Nova Palma), and with another detached. For some reason, the Nova Palma plate is often lacking. With a water stain at the foot of the gutter and in the first half of the book also on the fore-edge, mostly confined to the margins. A few worm holes, occasionally slightly affecting the image. The paste used to mount the plates has slightly browned some plates along the central fold. Most plates nevertheless remain in good condition. The vellum has torn where the supports were laced through the joints, and the binding shows some other tears and stains, but is still firm. A seminal work that spread Dutch advances in fortification and siege warfare internationally.

[14], [2 blank], 56, [8], 57–96, [4], 97–196, [8], 197–475, [1 blank] pp. plus plates. Jähns I, 125; Slooo, Warfare 8029; STCN (4 copies); VD17, 23:321860G (8 copies).
Rare second German edition, with additional plates, of the first great French fortification manual

8. ERRARD, Jean. Fortificatio, das ist, Künstliche und wolgegründete Demonstration und Erweisung, wie und welcher Gestalt gute Festungen anzuordnen, ...

Oppenheim, Hieronymus Galler, 1620. 2º. With engraved title-page, the engraved arms of the dedicatee, 47 numbered engraved plates (2 single-page and 45 double-page), numerous woodcut illustrations in the text. Later 17th-century vellum over flexible boards.

Rare second German edition, with 9 additional plates, of “the first independent French work on fortification” (Jähns), by Jean Errard, mathematician and official military engineer to King Henri IV. The present edition is printed using the plates of the 1604 Frankfurt edition, but 9 were added for this edition, based on those of the expanded French editions. The text is divided into four “Bücher”, which give a general introduction, an account of regular (symmetrical) fortifications, irregular fortifications and fortifications at the edge of a hill, mountain or sea. The emphasis is on design and geometric construction, rather than the mechanics of building. It remained the standard work on French fortification until superseded by Vauban’s work beginning in the 1670s, but even Vauban shows Errard’s influence very clearly.

With a small hole in 1 leaf and an occasional minor spot or stain, but generally in very good condition. The binding with a tear in the vellum of the spine, slightly worn and dirty, and two of the four ties surviving only as remnants, but still generally good. Rare expanded German edition, with additional plates, of a classic of French fortification.

102, [2 blank] pp. plus 47 plates. Jordan 1068 (1 copy); VD17: 547:628959M (1 copy); cf. Jähns I, 123; Sloos 8008.
Ulm, Jonam Saur, 1628. 4º. Half vellum (ca. 1900). € 12 500

Very rare first and only edition of a catalogue of military and other instruments, models of machines, plans, etc., that Faulhaber displayed in the “Kunstkammer” in his house in Ulm.

Johann Faulhaber (1580–1635), taught mathematics at Ulm, where his family moved around 1461, after serving as vassals of the Abbot of Fulda. He became the most important of the “Cossists”, mathematicians concerned with algebra. After publishing his first arithmetic text, Faulhaber founded his own school in Ulm in 1600, which grew into an internationally famous educational institute for higher mathematical sciences. He later added an artillery and engineering school. Descartes came to study with him, and Faulhaber had a lively contact with Kepler.

Applying mathematics to military engineering, the building of fortifications and the art of fire-arms, Faulhaber was also much in demand as fortification engineer, receiving commissions from the King of Sweden and many others. He published a large number of mathematical works, mostly in German, and invented a number of instruments and machines.

Two different readers have checked off items in the catalogue, perhaps indicating those in their own collections. In very good condition.

28 pp. Bircher A 4515; VD 17, 23:004250W (3 copies); not in Balsiger; Berlin Kat.; Jammes, Cabinets de curiosités; Murray, Sloos, Warfare and the age of printing; for Faulhaber: DSB IV, pp. 549–552.
10. FREITAG, Adam. Architectura militaris nova et aucta, oder Newe vermehrte Fortification, ...
Amsterdam, Daniel Elzevier, 1665. With an integral engraved general title-page, 35 double-page engraved plates containing 185 numbered figures (at least the two signed plates by Willem Hondius), and 8 double-page letterpress tables. Contemporary(?) calf. € 3950

Fourth and last edition in the original German (now printed and published by Daniel Elzevier in Amsterdam, rather than the Leiden Elzeviers, who produced the first three) of the best, most detailed, best illustrated and most influential handbook of fortification from the Dutch golden age, printed using the plates for the engraved title-page and illustrations of the first edition of 1631. It is the great classic presentation of the new techniques and strategies that the Dutch developed during the Eighty Years’ War for independence from Spain, which revolutionized siege warfare internationally. The text is divided into three “books”, the first covering the origins, development and most recent 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. The lexicon on pp. 5–13, gives terminology for fortification and related fields in French, German, Dutch and Latin.
With library stamps. With a couple tears in the last text leaf, a tear in one plate, some faint water stains in the last 5 quires and last 10 plates and an occasional leaf with a slightly browned patch or other minor defect, but still in good condition overall, and with generous margins. The binding is worn, but the book remains structurally sound.
Last edition of a great classic of Dutch fortification, printed by Daniel Elzevier in Amsterdam.

[Copinger 1773; Jähn II, 117; Rahir 1408; Sloos, Warfare 8045.

Illustrated work on fortification and military architecture

Nuremberg, Johann Hoffmanns, Engelbert Strecken and Abraham von Werth, 1700. 8º. With double-page engraved frontispiece, 1 letterpress folding table and 16 engraved plates. Blue paper covered boards.  

Second edition of an illustrated work on fortification, artillery and fireworks, written by Johann Sebastian Gruber. The work is divided into two parts. The first part mainly deals with military architecture and fortification, with engraved plates showing several ground plans of fortress cities. Each chapter covers a different aspect: the walls, the roads, or how to take a fortress. The second part covers artillery and fireworks, also with several engraved plates. The double-page frontispiece shows a fortress under siege, with an explosion, fire, and canons.

With a library stamp on title-page. Some foxing throughout (including frontispiece and plates) and some paper loss in margin of the frontispiece, not affecting the illustration. Binding rubbed along the extremities with weak hinges. A good copy.

27 folding plates with 168 fortification plans, sections, elevations, views, palisades, equipment, etc.

12. HEIDEMANN, Christoph. Architectura militaris; oder, Anlaitung wie auff unterschidliche Arten starcke Vestungen zubawen, denen nach itziger Kriegs-Practic gewöhnlichen Offensionen entgegen zustellen; ...

München, Johann Jäcklin, 1664. 3 parts in 1 volume. Small 2º (30 × 20.5 cm). With an engraved title-page by Melchior Küsell and 168 figures (i–CLXIV & A–D) on 27 double-page plates (A–Bb including W, & “zwischen O und P”), engraved by Christoph Stenglin. 18th-century blue paper over boards.

First edition of an important German work on fortification, with 27 folding plates. It forms a complete handbook in three parts, the first covering fortifications of both regular and irregular form, the second covering siege techniques and the third the defence of cities and fortifications. Christoph Heidemann (d. 1684) was military engineer to the Elector of Bavaria. He was a follower of Daniel Specklin (1536–1589), but introduced many improvements in technique and equipment. Like Antoine de Ville (1596–1656), he strongly recommends the construction of orillons at the corners of fortifications to cover the flanks, an idea the Dutch school had rejected. The 168 fine-line engravings include many fortification plans, sections, elevations and views, mostly with scales, but also illustrations of building techniques and equipment, palisades, tunnels, facilities for supplying water, etc. The last plate is signed by Stenglin, perhaps indicating that he engraved them all.

With some worm holes in the gutter and a stain at the foot of the gutter, both mostly confined to the margins but with two small holes in the background of the engraved title-page, an occasional hole affecting a letter of the text, and with a marginal chip in the last text leaf, but otherwise in very good condition. Lacking the blank leaves at the end of parts 1 and 2. Binding slightly rubbed, but otherwise good. An important handbook of fortification, with extensive and very detailed illustrations.

Coastal defence and fortifications


First edition of a book on coastal defence and fortification, by A. Henning. The first 90 pages contain a history of coastal defence, with lithographs illustrating the coasts of Rhodes and Carthage, followed by a chapter on geography. The next chapter deals with “mobile defence”, with descriptions of the fleets of various countries. Other chapters deal with the coasts of Germany and a treatise on where to build coastal fortifications. The book is a continuation of an earlier work by Henning, Unsere Festungen, first published in 1885.

With library stamp and owner’s inscription. Binding rubbed along the extremities, front hinge cracked, spine damaged by wormholes. Text leaves and illustrations however in very good condition, only very slightly browned.

German manuscript course in fortification, with numerous full-page fortification plans, views of buildings in landscapes, and decorated cartouches

14. **J.A.B.** Architectura militaris oder fortification.

[Rhineland or elsewhere in western Germany?, binding dated 1742]. 2 parts in 1 volume. 8º. Manuscript in German, written in brown ink on paper in a German gothic cursive hand (with foreign words in a Latin hand), with 9 full-page pen and ink-wash drawings in landscape format showing landscapes; about 45 full-page fortification drawings (about 30 with colour washes); many smaller fortification drawings, diagrams and other drawings in the text, about 5 with colour washes; and about 35 pen and ink-wash decorated cartouches. Contemporary gold-tooled, mottled calf with owner’s (= author’s?) initials “J:A:B:” on the spine and date “1742” on the front board, gilt edges. € 5000

An extensively illustrated manuscript course on fortification and military architecture, with numerous problems for the student to solve, written in German by an unidentified author, probably the “J.A.B.” whose initials appear on the spine. The first part has no title-page but provides a course in practical mathematics, including surveying. The buildings in the pen and ink-wash views (watermills, windmills, churches, houses, ruins, fortified buildings, etc.), intended as surveying exercises, may be creations of the artist’s fantasy and include one round domed building with columns that brings the Temple of Vesta or Bramante’s Tempietto to mind. Most of the colour fortification drawings are executed with red and green washes and show symmetrical and irregular fortifications in a wide variety. The drawings are unsigned and were probably drawn by the author of the text. The author/owner J.A.B. has not been identified: the French artillery officer Jacques Antoine Baratier (1712/13–1783) seems very unlikely as author but could possibly have been the owner if the initials are not the author’s.

With a tear in the page with the title for part 2, and occasional minor smudges or spots, but still in good condition. The binding is slightly rubbed and the backstrip worn, with the head and foot of the spine damaged and repaired, but most of the tooling remains clear. A luxuriously decorated and illustrated course in fortification and military architecture.

Large plates showing steel defence systems and cannons, especially coastal defence


Rare first and only edition of an atlas displaying various types of steel defence systems and cannons produced by the German steel company Krupp, now part of ThyssenKrupp. Most plates are captioned in German, French and English and depict turrets that can be built below ground level with different types of cannons. Many plates are devoted to coastal defence. With the bookplate of A. Eterman on paste-down. In very good condition. 4 ll. + 20 plates.
Three works on fortification and warfare, each illustrated with several engraved plates


With:

(2) HERLIN, Ludwig Andreas. Das zum Krieg gehörige Augen-Merck, ...

Including: GLASER, Johann Christoph. Antwort-Schreiben auf die vom Herrn Grafen von A. gethane drey Fragen ...
Dresden and Leipzig, Friedrich Heckel, 1736. With 6 engraved folding plates (numbered I–VI), each displaying several images, and a woodcut armorial headpiece.

(3) LAMPE, Philipp Christoph. Die in Bataille victorisirende Vestung, ...
Nuremberg, Christoph Weigel, 1738. With 8 engraved folding plates.
3 works in 1 volume. 4º. Contemporary vellum. € 1750

Ad 1: First edition of the German translation of a work on fortification by the Dutch military engineer Johann Hendrik van Landsberg (1680–1746), Coehoorn’s successor. He wrote several works on besieging and defending forts, mainly based on his own experience serving first in Holland and later in Saxony: he participated in at least 20 different sieges.

Ad 2: First edition of a work on warfare and fortification by the German military engineer Ludwig Andreas Herlin. It contains all sorts of advice on different aspects of warfare: strategy, attack, defence (of forts), which he based on his own experience and the works of other military writers. The folding engraved plates show ground plans of fortresses, their profiles and some battle plans.

Ad 3: Enlarged and corrected second(?) edition of a brief treatise on fortification by the German lieutenant Philipp Christoph Lampe. It describes mostly regular fortifications, which are shown in the engraved plates, often referring to the ideas and methods of the great French military engineer Vauban.

With the owner’s inscription of the (military) engineer Georg Winterschmidt (1722–1770) and the ca. 1800 bookplate of “Bibliotheca Seckendorfiana” in Schloss Meuselwitz near Altenburg, which was the estate of Field Marshal Friedrich Heinrich von Seckendorff (1673–1763) to his death. Browned and foxed, with some occasional spots and stains. Binding with a few minor stains. Overall in very good condition.

[32], 166, [2 blank]; [24], 276; 40 pp. Ad 1: Jähns, p. 1712; Jordan 2020; VDTs 1036076X; cf. Lendy, Treatise on fortification, pp. 503–505; Sloos, Warfare 08108 & 08113; ad 2: Jähns, p. 1514; Jordan 1657 (1 copy); WorldCat (7 copies); ad 3: Sloos, Warfare 08100.
Prussian fortification & artillery manual, with about 112 drawings

17. MAHLENDORFF. Fortification passagère et permanente [= Erstes Heft]. Artillerie. [= Zweites Heft. [Berlin?, ca. 1850?]. 2 volumes. Small 4º (21 × 17 cm). Manuscript in German, written in brown ink on paper in a cursive hand mixing Latin and gothic characteristics, the two volumes with about 100 and 12 drawings respectively (mostly pen and ink, but a few in pencil), mostly in the large fore-edge margins left for that purpose, but with 7 in vol. 1 on folding slips tipped onto the leaves. Most show fortification plans but there are also sections, elevations and a few other drawings, including diagrams. Contemporary uniform black half vellum. € 2500

An extensively illustrated 2-volume manuscript manual on fortification (vol. 1) and artillery (vol. 2), written in German by an “Unteroffizier in der 8ten Artillerie-Brigade”, a non-commissioned artillery officer. It includes not only permanent fortifications, but also temporary ones for use in the field. It was probably written around the time of the First Schleswig War between Prussia and Denmark (1848–1851). Each volume has an extensive hierarchical table of contents occupying 40 and 81 pages respectively. Even at this late date our author continues to cite Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633–1707), Louis XIV’s Maréchal de Camp, as the leading authority on the construction of fortifications. We have not identified Mahlendorff, though the Prussian Staats-Kalender for 1848 and 1852 records a doctor of that name in Köslin (now Koszalin in Poland), apparently associated with the military. The author put a vertical crease in each leaf to divide each page into a wide inner column for the text and a narrower outer column for the illustrations. The seven folding slips all show fortification plans. With occasional minor foxing and with unintended folds in a couple of the folding slips, but otherwise in very good condition. The bindings are rubbed and the spines slightly damaged, but they remain structurally sound. A Prussian officer’s illustrated manuscript fortification and artillery manual from ca. 1850.

[2 blank], [1], [3 blank], [40], [8 blank], [314], [12 blank]; [2 blank], [5], [1 blank], [81], [3 blank], [177], [9 blank] pp., with the first and last leaf of each volume pasted down.
A critique of Dutch fortification

18. NEUBAUER, Christian. Discoursus et vera architecturae militaris praxis, oder Gründliche Beschreibung, und Nützlicher Unterricht der neu inventirten fortification...

Stargard, Berger Campe, 1679. Small 2º (28 x 19.5 cm). With an engraved title-page and 24 numbered engravings on 7 folding leaves. Contemporary half sheepskin parchment. € 3750

Very rare issue of the first and only edition of a treatise on fortification, written by an engineer in service of the Margrave of Brandenburg and printed in Stargard. This richly illustrated book was written as a critique on Dutch military architecture. Neubauer considered the Dutch manner of building fortifications, and particularly the work of Hendrick Ruse, the most important Dutch military architect of the first half of the 17th century, too costly and time-consuming. In the Discoursus he presents a type of architecture which he believed was more readily realized and more practical. Curiously, there are three issues of this edition, differing only in their dedications: to the city magistrates of Breslau, Danzig or, as in the present copy, Frankfurt am Main.

With the sides somewhat worn; paper browned and tears in three of the folding plates and two other plates expertly repaired; engraved title-page shaved; a fair copy.

Handbook of field fortification, with 10 lithographed folding plates

19. PESCHEL, Carl Friedrich. Die Kriegsbaukunst im Felde. Ein Leitfaden für den Unterricht in Militair-Schulen, und als Handbuch für die Officiere aller Waffen...

Dresden and Leipzig, Arnoldischen Buchhandlung, 1832. 8º. With 11 lithographed plates (10 folding), 1 folding letterpress table, and numerous tables in text. Later half calf; rebacked, with the original gold-tooled backstrip laid down. € 400

Rare first edition of a handbook of field fortification by the German mathematician and military writer Carl Friedrich Peschel (1793–1852). It is divided into three parts, the first dealing with the theory behind field fortifications, the second with their execution, and the third with the tactics of defence and offence. The book closes with an appendix on bridges and 10 folding lithographed plates showing among other things various fortifications in various environments.

Binding rebacked and rubbed along the extremities. Brownd and foxed throughout, some of the folding plates extend beyond the bookblock, resulting in frayed margins with small tears.

Fortification treatises and an account of the 1699 Siege of Candia

20. **RIMPLER, George and Ludwig Andreas HERLIN (editor)**. Sämtliche Schrifften von der Fortification. Dresden and Leipzig, son and heirs of Christoph Hekels, 1724. 4°. With engraved frontispiece, title-page printed in red and black, engraved armorial headpiece and 10 folding engraved plates (numbered 1–10). Contemporary vellum. € 3500

First edition of a work comprising several treatises on fortification written by the military architect Georg Rimpler (1636–1683), including his *Ein dreyfacher Tractat von den Festungen* and *Beständiges Fundament zu fortificiren und defendiren*, first published in 1671 and 1674 respectively. Also included is Rimpler's journal during the siege of Candia (Heraklion, Crete), which surrendered to the Ottoman forces in 1669 after 21 years of resistance. “What made Rimpler so valuable was that he brought together a formidable book knowledge with a long experience of fortress warfare with Swedish, Venetian, French, and Imperial armies. He had taken part in the last stage of the defence of Candia in 1669, and from this episode he derived a strategic doctrine of warfare against the Turks. ... According to Rimpler, everything came down to a proper balance between fortifications and the mobile elements, and he maintained that the static defences must be ‘arranged in such a way that they will be effectively co-ordinated with the forces on land and sea’” (Duffy). With bookplates and with an English translation of the title-page in manuscript on flyleaf. Foxed and slightly browned throughout, otherwise in good condition. Lower part of spine restored, binding overall in good condition.

[C. Duffy, The fortress in the age of Vauban and Frederick the Great, 1660–1678 (1985), pp. 14–16, 228–229; Jähns, p. 1365; Jordan 3144; VD18 10287442.]
"The modern engineer", with 8 engraved plates

21. ROTBERG, Franz Daniel von. L’ingénieur moderne, ou essai de fortification, qui enseigne la méthode de construire & de fortifier des places capables de résister aux vigoureuses attaques de notre tems, ...

The Hague, Fredrik Hendrik Scheurleer, 1744. 8º. With a woodcut device on title-page and 8 folding engraved plates (numbered I–VIII).

Contemporary half calf, gold-tooled spine.

Rare first edition, one of two simultaneous issues, of a work on fortification by Franz Daniel von Rotberg. It is divided into three chapters, the first being an introduction to the art of fortification, often referring to Vauban. The second chapter deals with the construction of a fortress and the third chapter with defence and offence. Rotberg also describes how already existing fortification can be brought up to “modern” standards, so it can endure attacks from heavier cannons etc.

Some faint water stains on the folding plates. Binding somewhat rubbed. Overall in very good condition.

[Jähns, p. 2753; Jordan 3217; Sloos, Warfare 08112; STCN 393972976 (1 copy).]
The besieging and defence of forts in German wars

22. SEYDEL, F.S. Nachrichten über vaterländische Festungen und Festungskriege, von Eroberung und Behauptung der Stadt Brandenburg, bis auf gegenwärtige Zeiten, aufgesetzt für jüngere Krieger.

Leipzig and Züllichau, Darnmannschen Buchhandlung, 1818–1819. 2 (of 4) parts in 1 volume. 8º. Contemporary mottled half calf. € 200

The first two parts, both in the first edition, of a work on both the offensive and defensive side of siege warfare in German wars, by the Prussian engineer F.A. Seydel. The first part deals with wars up to the year 1700, starting with the conquest of Brandenburg by Charlemagne in 789; the second part with the years 1700–1745, focussing on the various offensive and defensive methods presented by Vauban and Van Coehoorn. Though the first part is mostly limited to wars within Germany, the second part also treats Prussian sieges of several Dutch, Italian, and French cities and forts, including Turin, Lille, Gent and Douai. Two other parts were published in the following years: the third dealt with the years 1745–1763 (1821) and the fourth with the years 1763–1795 (1823). A fifth part was planned, but never appeared. Foxed throughout with some occasional small spots. Binding slightly rubbed along the extremities. A good copy.

Classic work on fortification, with 24 double-page plates, including spectacular mountain-top fortresses

23. SPECKLIN, Daniel. Architectura von Vestungen, ...

Strasbourg, Lazarus Zetzner, 1608. 2º in 4s (34 × 23.5 cm). With the title-page printed in red and black within architectural scrollwork frame engraved by Mattheus Greuter, engraved coat of arms, engraved author's portrait by Johann Theodor de Bry, 24 double-page engraved plates (1 signed by Mattheus Greuter and others attributable to him), and around 30 woodcut illustrations in the text. Lacking 1 single-page plate with 2 figures. Contemporary vellum.

Third edition of a great and stunningly illustrated classic of the art of fortification, first published at Strasbourg in 1589 and expanded for the second and third edition. The plates, the frame of the title-page and the portrait are printed from the copper plates of the 1589 and 1599 editions. The 8 spectacular views of mountain-top fortresses on two double-page plates might have inspired designs for the Lord of the Rings films and other fantasy imagery. They include Château de Fleckenstein in Alsace, Schloss Pfirt (Ferrette) west of Basel, Salm, Hermannstein, Asserton, Hohenfels and others, now ruined or gone. Specklin had planned to write a second part on offence but died the year the present part on defence appeared. Daniel Specklin (1536–1589), “the century’s most important German military architect” (Pollack), learned the art of fortification under the imperial engineer and Baumeister Hermann Schallantzer in Vienna. Lacking 1 single-page plate, as noted above. A previous owner abraded the bare breasts of the two female figures on the title-page. With a few mostly marginal water stains in the first 5 leaves and an occasional sheet slightly browned, but otherwise in good condition and only slightly trimmed, preserving a couple fore-edge deckles and leaving generous margins. A masterpiece not only of fortification but also of the art of illustration.

[8], 110, [2] ll. plus plates. Berlin Kat. 3517; Jahns I, 120 note; VD17, 23:32256N (7 copies); cf. Pollack, Cities at war, p. 82.

€ 5000
First German edition of the inaugural work of the first Dutch school of fortification

24. STEVIN, Simon. Festung-Bawung, das ist, Kurtze und eygentliche Beschreibung, wie man Festungen bawen, unnd sich wider allen gewaltsamen Anlauff der Feinde zu Kriegszeiten auffhalten, sichern und verwahren möge: ...

Frankfurt am Main, Wolfgang Richter for the widow of Levinius Hulsius, 1608. 4º. With a woodcut fortification plan on the title-page and about 30 woodcut illustrations in the text. Lacking the 2 woodcut plates and 3 smaller woodcut slips. 20th-century grey-brown half calf.

First German edition of the first Dutch fortification manual, with woodcut illustrations, by Simon Stevin (1548–1620), which inaugurated a new era in the history of siege warfare. It professionalized military engineering, introducing many original ideas and presenting them in lucid vernacular language. The present first German translation made his work accessible to an international audience for the first time (though translations had already circulated in manuscript) and was followed by a French translation in Stevin’s collected mathematical works in 1634. In part through the influence of the present manual, the German-language classics of fortification, such as Adam Freitag’s continued to develop the Dutch school of fortification.

The 1594 first edition was illustrated by woodcuts on the integral leaves, but for the present edition seven of the woodcut figures were instead printed separately and inserted as 2 folding plates and 3 smaller slips. These are lacking in the present copy, though it includes all integral leaves with the complete text and the other 30 illustrations. Quires C, E and O are somewhat browned. Otherwise in very good condition and with generous margins, occasionally preserving part of a deckle at the foot and fore-edge. The modern binding is in good condition.

[8], 132 pp. Jähns, p. 839; Jordan 3600 (7 copies; noting only 2 plates); Sloos 8010 (noting only 2 plates); VD17, 25:252455D (4 copies).
A “friendly contest” between the Dutch, French and German systems of fortification


Augsburg, Jeremia Wolffens, printed by Peter Detleffsen, 1718. 2º. With 19 engraved plates (18 folding and 1 double-page), numbered I–XIX, and 1 woodcut illustration in text. Modern paper boards.

First edition of a work comparing the Dutch, French and German fortification systems, written by the German architect and theologian Leonhard Christoph Sturm (1669–1719), “the foremost German architectural theorist of the early 18th century” (Neville). He compares the different fortification methods of three prominent military engineers: the Dutch Menno van Coehoorn, the French Vauban, and the German George Rimpler. The text is divided into 7 chapters discussing their methods of designing and building fortifications and comparing them. Included at the end are 19 large engraved plates, providing very detailed plans, profiles, etc. Of course, Sturm concludes that the German system of fortification is better than the French and Dutch. He closes with a chapter on the living quarters, ammunition and provision stores, other buildings and markets within the fortifications.

With a few small spots, tears in the folding plates repaired and reinforced on the back, causing some discolouration. Otherwise in good condition.

[10], 66 pp. Jähns, p.1442; Jordan 3678; Neville, Nicodemus the elder, p. 203; Sloos, Warfare 08082.
Dialogue between an engineer and a young man on military architecture


Fourth(?) edition of a work on military architecture by the German architect and theologian Leonhard Christoph Sturm (1669–1719), “the foremost German architectural theorist of the early 18th century” (Neville). It is written in the form of a dialogue between an engineer and a youth, and divided into “conversations” instead of chapters. They talk about several well-known military engineers and their methods of fortification, including Errard de Bar le Duc, Blondel, Coehoorn, Vauban and many others. The young man poses brief questions and the engineer gives extensive answers, commenting on the advantages and disadvantages of different defence methods. The conversations are clarified in the illustrations, which depict many types of fortifications. With an owner’s inscription and a library/deaccession stamp. With only a few spots and small water stains. Spine stained. Overall in very good condition.

The fortification method of Vauban

27. **STURM, Leonhard Christoph.** Der wahre Vauban, oder der von den Deutschen und Holländern verbesserte französische Ingenieur ... 

Nuremberg, George Peter Monath, 1761. With an engraved frontispiece and 31 folding engraved plates. 


Nuremberg, George Peter Monath, 1761. With 4 engraved plates. 2 works in 1 volume. 4º. Modern plain paper boards. € 1950 

Ad 1: Third edition of a work on the famous French military engineer Sébastien le Prestre de Vauban (1633–1707) by the German philosopher and engineer Leonhard Christoph Sturm (1669–1719). The book is divided into three parts, the first dealing with mathematics and the second the geometry, with some letterpress tables in the text and some geometric figures on 8 engraved plates. The third part deals with the method of fortification according to Vauban, accompanied by 23 plates showing fortresses of various shapes. 

Ad 2: Fourth edition of the German translation of the memoirs of the French engineer and General Louis Goulon, concerning both defending and attacking fortresses. 

With an owner’s inscription (?) in ink on title-page. Slightly foxed with some marginal water stains, otherwise in good condition. 

French cities besieged during the Franco-Prussian War


First edition of a work on the siege operations during the Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871), by the German colonel Benno von Tiedemann. It is divided into 22 chapters, each dealing with the siege of a different town or city in France, illustrated with lithographed battle plans. The cities Strasbourg, Metz, Paris and Belfort are narrated in greater depth, with comments on the enemy’s army, the preparations for the attack and the bombardments. “Never yet has so rich a field for practical and professional training presented itself to the German siege artillery and to the German engineers as in the late war” (p. 5, English edition).

With library stamps. With a large water stain in the upper margin and a smaller one in the lower margin, foxed throughout. Binding rubbed along the extremities, some wormholes through spine and sides chafed. Overall a good copy.

Extremely rare unauthorized edition of a manual on field fortification for young officers

29. TIELKE, Johann Gottlieb. Unterricht für die Offiziers die sich zu Feldingenieurs bilden, oder doch den Feldzügen mit Nutzen beywohnen wollen, durch Beyspiele aus dem letzten Kriege erläutert, und mit nöthigen Plans versehen...

Vienna, Johann Thomas Edlen von Trattner, 1785. 8º. With an engraved frontispiece and 32 folding engraved plates. 19th-century green half morocco. € 1250

Extremely rare unauthorized fourth edition of a manual on field fortification by the German officer Johann Gotlieb Tielke (1731–1787), first published in 1769. In his introduction, Tielke advises “young officers, who are desirous of studying” (English ed.) to read the present work till they thoroughly understand it, and to complement it with other military works “to acquire competent knowledge of the attack and defence of places” (English ed.). It is divided into three parts, the first dealing with marches and camps, answering questions such as: what are a field engineer’s duties?, how to build roads and bridges, how to choose a proper place for encampment, etc. The second part treats field fortification, necessary materials and tools, etc., also with comments on commanding and distributing the workers. Lastly it deals with attacking and defending fortifications. As noted on the title-page, the text (and the engravings) give examples from “the latest war”, meaning the Seven Years’ War (1756–1763).

With a manuscript owner’s inscription on title-page. Frontispiece and title-page heavily browned, foxed throughout and with some occasional (ink) stains, otherwise in good condition. Binding very good, only slightly rubbed along the extremities.

[48]. 479. [9] pp. Jordan 3774 (1 copy); this ed. not in WorldCat.
Manual on field fortification for young officers


Expanded “fourth” [recté fifth] edition of a manual on field fortification by the German officer Johann Gotlieb Tielke (1731–1787), first published in 1769. In his introduction, Tielke advises “young officers, who are desirous of studying” (English ed.) to read the present work till they thoroughly understand it, and to complement it with other military works “to acquire competent knowledge of the attack and defence of places” (English ed.). It is divided into three parts, the first dealing with marches and camps, the second with field fortification and necessary materials and tools, also with comments on commanding and distributing the workers. Lastly it deals with attacking and defending fortifications. As noted on the title-page, the text (and the engravings) give examples from “the latest war”, that is, the Seven Years’ War (1756–1763).

With library stamps. Foxed and somewhat browed throughout, as usual. Binding slightly soiled and rubbed along the extremities. Overall in very good condition.

History of the fortification methods of different authors, including Vauban, Van Coehoorn, and Dürer


First edition of a history of fortification by the Prussian general Alexander Friedrich Adolf Heinrich von Zastrow (1801–1875), who served in the Austro-Prussian War (1866) and the Franco-Prussian War (1870–1871). It deals with fortification methods by different military writers and engineers, starting with Albrecht Dürer’s treatise on fortification, first published in 1527. In the next chapter, on Italian fortification, he praises the military engineers of the Renaissance for adjusting the shape of fortresses to suit the terrain. Other chapters deal with the Dutch (Van Coehoorn), French (Vauban, Cormontaigne) and German (Spekel, Rimpler) methods of fortification, illustrated with ground plans and profiles on the folding plates. Foxed and a water stain in the upper outside corner throughout, also affecting the plates. A fair copy. Binding rubbed along the extremities, but otherwise good.

xii, 120 pp. Jordan 4198.
More books, maps, manuscripts & drawings on fortification & siegecraft available at our websites:

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Floras & flowering plants

Fortification & siegecraft III: France

Pharmacy

Sub-Saharan Africa

Religion & devotion III

The Islamic World 9