Fortification & Siegecraft V

E-CATALOGUE

Jointly offered for sale by:

ANTIQUARIAAT FORUM

ASHER Rare Books

Extensive descriptions and images available on request
All offers are without engagement and subject to prior sale.
All items in this list are complete and in good condition unless stated otherwise.
Any item not agreeing with the description may be returned within one week after receipt.
Prices are EURO (€). Postage and insurance are not included. VAT is charged at the standard rate to all
EU customers. EU customers: please quote your VAT number when placing orders. Preferred mode of payment:
in advance, wire transfer or bankcheck. Arrangements can be made for MasterCard and VisaCard.
Ownership of goods does not pass to the purchaser until the price has been paid in full.
General conditions of sale are those laid down in the ILAB Code of Usages and Customs,
which can be viewed at: <http://www.ilab.org/eng/ilab/code.html>
New customers are requested to provide references when ordering.
Orders can be sent to either firm.

Antiquariaat FORUM BV
Tuurdijk 16
3997 ms ‘t Goy – Houten
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)30 6011955
Fax: +31 (0)30 6011813
E-mail: info@forumrarebooks.com
Web: www.forumrarebooks.com
www.forumislamicworld.com

ASHER Rare Books
Tuurdijk 16
3997 ms ‘t Goy – Houten
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)30 6011955
Fax: +31 (0)30 6011813
E-mail: info@asherbooks.com
Web: www.asherbooks.com
First issue of the first edition of an important work on military and civic architecture, with 53 engraved plates

1. BÉLIDOR, Bernard Forest de. La science des ingénieurs dans la conduite des travaux de fortification et d’architecture civile. Paris, Claude Jombert, 1729. 4º. With an engraved frontispiece by Rigault, title-page printed in red and black, engraved headpiece by Filloeul at the head of the dedication, and 53 engraved plates (51 folding), mostly after drawings by Comte Thomassin. Contemporary calf, gold-tooled spine. € 1250
The most popular French fortification manual, with 19 engraved plates

2. BLOND, Guillaume le. Elemens de fortification ... quatrieme edition.

Corrected and enlarged fourth edition of a very popular work on French fortification building, by the French mathematician Guillaume le Blond (1704–1781), in a handy pocket-sized format that no doubt gave it a much greater audience than the earlier manuals in folio format and perhaps even than most of Vauban's works. “Le plus fecund de nos ecrivains militaires ou plutot 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 combined glossary and index, and the plates depict fortification plans and profiles.

Title-page browned, slightly foxed, a few stains, with the margins of the plates somewhat frayed. Binding slightly worn along the extremities. Overall a very good copy.

xxiv, 420 pp. Jähns, p. 1752; Jordan 2077. ☞ More on our website
Second edition of a highly innovative work on Dutch fortification

3. COEHOORN, Menno van. Nieuwe vestingbouw, op een natte of lage horisont; welke op driederleije manieren getoont word in 't fortificeren der binnengrote van de Fransche royale seshoek...

Leeuwarden, heirs and widow of Hendrik Rintjes, 1702. 2°. With 12 (of 14) engraved plates, including 6 folding and 3 double-page. Contemporary calf, with blind-stamped centrepiece on both sides.

Second edition of the most important work on fortification by Menno van Coehoorn (1641–1704), Frisian artillery officer and military engineer. It introduced a new Dutch manner of fortification and siege warfare, covering both defence and offence, and challenged the approach that had been established by Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban (1633–1707) in France. Though developed in part to suit the level terrain of the Low Countries, his fortification techniques and his more active deployment of troops in the defence of fortifications revolutionized warfare internationally and the present work was translated into English (1705), French (1706), German (1708) and even Russian (1710).

Binding rubbed along the extremities, top and bottom of spine damaged. Lacking two engraved plates, but otherwise in very good condition: only slightly browned with a few small spots.

[16], 181, [2], [i blank] pp. Jordan 0740; STCN 157287297. ☞ More on our website
A great classic of Dutch fortification, with a new plate added for this edition

4. COEHOORN, Menno van. Nouvelle fortification, tant pour un terrain bas et humide, que sec et élevé, représentée en trois manières sur le contenu intérieur de l ’exagone a la Françoise, ...

Wesel, Jacob von Wesel [printed by Johann Kattepoel or his heirs, or possibly by a printer in the Netherlands], 1706. 8º. With 14 (of 15) engraved folding plates. Contemporary vellum.

Second French edition of one of the greatest classics of the art of fortification, in the same year as the first French edition but with an additional plate, by the Master General of the artillery Menno van Coehoorn. The new plate added for the present edition shows about 165 tiny figures, numbered 1–145, A–P and about 4 unnumbered, and the text of the “avertissement” refers to these numbers and letters. 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. 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.

With library stamps. Further with a tear in one plate, occasional spotting and small stains, but otherwise in very good condition. Second French edition, adding a new plate with about 165 figures, of a classic of Dutch fortification.

[38], 261, [1] pp. plus plates. Jähns, p. 1385; Jordan 742 (14 plates); Sloos, Warfare 8076 (14 plates); not in STCN. ☞ More on our website
First Latin edition of Dürer on fortification, with 21 (mostly large folding) illustrations

5. DÜRER, Albrecht. De uribibus, arcibus, castellisque condendis, ac muniendis rationes aliquot, praesenti bellorum necessitati accommodatissimae: nunc recens è lingua Germanica in Latinam traductae.

Paris, Chrétien Wechel, 1535. 2º (32.5 × 22.5 cm). With Wechel’s woodcut device on the title-page and on the verso of the otherwise blank final leaf, 13 large woodcut diagrams and other illustrations on the 10 folding leaves and 8 more on the leaves of the integral bifolia. Mid or late 19th-century brown sheepskin. € 3950

First Latin edition of a well illustrated early work on fortification by Albrecht Dürer. With woodcut line diagrams, fortification plans, sections, elevations, and a detailed view of a cannon in its carriage with a detail view of the mechanism for adjusting its elevation and an overhead view of the carriage. All the illustrations follow those of the German edition very closely, but they are not printed from the same blocks. The translation into Latin is by Joachim Camerarius.

With a small tear in a4, a minor marginal stain at the head (not approaching the text or images) and some tiny worm holes in the fore-edge margin (very slightly affecting 1 woodcut), but still in very good condition and almost untrimmed, leaving very large margins. The spine is damaged, but the binding is otherwise good. Dürer’s important early treatise on fortification, with large folding woodcuts.

[80] pp. Cockle 766 note; Sloos, Warfare 8001; USTC 182092 (8 copies). ☞

More on our website
**Fortification ca. 1645, including 16 fine drawings of barriers, tools and other equipment, with 3 other manuscripts on applied mathematics including many line diagrams and 2 sundials**

6. **[FORTIFICATION & APPLIED MATHEMATICS].** [4 manuscripts on fortification building, practical mathematics, navigation, the surveying of land and dikes, and sundials].

[The Netherlands, ca. 1645–ca. 1747]. 4 manuscripts. 2° (binding 38 × 22 cm; leaves 33 × 21 cm). 4 manuscripts (mostly in Dutch, but 1 in Latin and another partly in French) written in brown ink on laid paper in 4 different hands (plus a few later additions), the earliest with 16 skilfully executed illustrations of wooden barricades and tools and equipment for building fortifications, the others illustrated with line diagrams including 2 sundials. Loosely inserted in later limp sheepskin parchment (ca. 1794?). € 2250

A collection of four manuscripts (plus two additional leaves) devoted to fortification (beautifully illustrated with 16 pen and ink drawings of barriers and building tools and equipment); plain and solid geometry and its applications, with problems and solutions, possibly from an examination (with 14 line diagrams plus 2 on an added leaf); maritime navigation, triangulation, determination of longitude, compass corrections and correcting a course for currents, with problems and solutions, possibly from an examination (with about 50 line diagrams); and the surveying of land and dikes and the conversion of measurements, with problems and solutions, possibly from an examination (with a double-page sundial, and a similar sundial on an added leaf).

Manuscript 2 lacks 2 or possibly more leaves of text, in ad 4 the added leaf with the full-page sundial has a tear into the sundial and a large transparent brown stain. Many of the leaves have tattered edges or small stains. In spite of these defects, the manuscripts form valuable primary sources for education in applied mathematics. The splendid drawings in ad 1, with extensive accompanying text, provide very detailed information about barriers used against enemy infantry and cavalry ca. 1645, and about the tools and other equipment used to build fortifications at that time, and the two sundials in the ca. 1747 manuscript are especially interesting.

☞ More on our website
Illustrated instructions for drawing fortification plans and perspective views, printed by the Elzeviers

7. GOLDMANN, Nicolaus. La nouvelle fortification ...
Leiden, Bonaventura & Abraham Elzevier, 1645. 2º. With architectural title-page engraved by Adriaen Matham, 52 half-page engravings plus about 42 repeats in the text, and numerous letterpress tables in the text. Contemporary(?) mottled calf. Rebacked and with restorations in sheepskin.
€ 3500

First French edition (with the engraved title-page new for this edition) of an instruction manual for designing fortifications, with an emphasis on drawing their plans, profiles, perspective views, etc., first published in Latin (also by the Elzeviers) in 1643 using the same illustration plates. Most of the illustrations show fortification plans, profiles, elevations, etc., including many details, but they also include plain and solid geometrical diagrams, drafting instruments, bridges and military buildings. Many of the plans include a scale. The book, dedicated to the Dutch Stadtholder and Prince of Orange Frederick Hendrick, shows the Leiden Elzeviers at their high point, with stunning woodcut decorations and initials, and good presswork. Nicolaus Goldman (1611–1665) was born in Breslau but studied in Leiden and settled there permanently, teaching military engineering.

With the late 19th-century bookplate of Château de Rosny-sur-Seine, near Paris. Part of the Rosny library was sold in 1837, but the present book was not. With small worm holes in 5 leaves, some occasional minor foxing or a minor marginal tear or stain, but otherwise in very good condition. The binding has been rebacked and patched, probably at an early date. An instruction manual for drawing fortification plans and perspective views, and a nice example of the Elzeviers’ book production.

[16], 224 pp. Berlin Kat. 3527; Jordan 1469 (6 copies); Sloos, Warfare 8026; STCN (6 copies). ☞ More on our website
Italian fortification atlas of the Low Countries

8. GUALDO PRIORATO, Galeazzo. Teatro del Belgio ò sia descrittione delle diecisette provincie del medesimo; con le piante delle città, e fortezze principali; da chi al presente possesse; come, in qual modo, & in qual tempo acquistaste.

Vienna, Michael Thurnmayer, 1673. 2º. With engraved frontispiece with the coat-of-arms of all Seventeen Provinces, engraved military scene on the title-page, folding engraved map of the Low Countries, 2 folding engraved views of a sea-battle and an army crossing the Rhine, and 120 double-page engraved fortification plans. Contemporary mottled sheepskin, gold-tooled spine.

Italian edition, Thurnmayer issue (one of two simultaneous issues), of a fortification atlas of the Low Countries, published in the same year in German as Schau-platz desz Niederlandes. The 120 plans are well engraved and show the fortifications of all important cities and towns. The majority are copies after Blaeu and Beaulieu. They are preceded by a geographical and historical description.

It was written by Galeazzo Gualdo Priorato (1606–1678), a notable Italian military officer, tactician, diplomatist and military draughtsman. He fought against the Spanish under the command of Prince Maurits of Nassau. As the author is Italian it can be presumed that this edition preceded the German.

Wormholes in the first five leaves and the last three maps, dampstain to the first 10 leaves, restorations to the back of the frontispiece, the folding map partly restored, but still with a tear along a fold, but with most of the plans still in very good condition. Wormholes in the spine, one hinge partly cracked, top of the spine damaged and the binding heavily rubbed in general.

First-hand account of British sieges during the Peninsular War, 
by the acting commanding engineer

9. JONES, John Thomas and Charles GOSSELIN (translator). Journaux des sièges entrepris par les alliés en Espagne, pendant les années 1811 et 1812; suivis de deux discours sur l’organisation des armées anglaises, et sur les moyens de la perfectionner... traduit de l’anglais... 

First edition in French of a British history of the various sieges carried out by the Anglo-Portuguese army under the leadership of Arthur Wellesley, Viscount Wellington (after 1814 the Duke of Wellington) during the Peninsular War. The author, John Thomas Jones (1783–1843), was a British engineer who served during the Napoleonic Wars. Between 1810 and 1812 Jones “was attached to the headquarters’ staff, the details of the engineers’ service in all parts of the Peninsula passing through his hands” (Vetch), and in 1812 he became acting command engineer under Wellington and served at the subsequent sieges, most notably those of Badajoz and Ciudad Rodrigo in 1812. The sieges are extensively described in the *Journaux des sièges* and illustrated with a number of maps. Also included is a proposal to improve the British army: Jones “fearlessly exposed the deficiencies of the engineer service, blaming the ignorance and military incapacity of the Board of Ordnance and its advisers”.

“Jones was considered among the first military engineers of his day. He possessed talents of the highest order: great mathematical knowledge, coupled with sound judgement. He was present at six sieges, at five as brigade major, and his intimate knowledge gave great value to his publications on them” (Vetch).

With library stamp and shelf marks. Binding worn at the edges, text spotted throughout. Lacking the half-title, but otherwise a good copy.

Planning Amsterdam’s lines of defence

10. KROMHOUT, Joachim Hendrik. De stelling van Amsterdam. Eene militaire studie ...
Amsterdam, C.L. Brinkman, 1871. 1 (of 2 volumes). 8º. Contemporary half cloth.

First edition of a work on Amsterdam’s lines of defence, by Joachim Hendrik Kromhout (1835–1897). The “stelling” of the title is a 135 km long arc around Amsterdam in which 42 forts were built from 1880 to 1920. The present publication predates the first building by almost ten years, discussing the intended mapping of the line and the locations of the various forts, also including the estimated building costs of each fort. These fortifications are now a UNESCO World Heritage site.

With bookplate and library stamp. Lacking the atlas volume with 38 plates. Title-page and margins browned, upper corner of page 233/234 torn, and some minor foxing throughout, otherwise a very good copy. Binding only slightly rubbed along the extremities.

311, [i blank], [3], [1 blank] pp. WorldCat (6 copies); not in Jordan. ☞ More on our website
Lyon, Jean Thioly, 1669. 12º. With woodcut printer’s device on title-page, some woodcut initials and head-and tailpieces and 1 engraved folding plan of the fortification of Candia (20 × 28.5 cm). Contemporary calf, gold-tooled spine and sprinkled edges.

Rare first edition of a journal of an expedition to Candia (Heraklion), Greece, commanded by François d’Aubusson, duc de la Feuillade (1625–1691), to help the Venetians during the Siege of Candia (1645–1669) against the Ottoman Empire. De la Feuillade had already fought the Ottoman forces at the battle of St. Gothard in 1664 and volunteered to help. With assistance from Pope Clement IX he equipped 500 men at his own expense. The journal was written as a letter by a volunteer on the expedition.

With ownership inscription on first fly-leaf “Ex-libris Stephani... estie, 1670”. Very good copy.

☞ More on our website
17th-century engraved book on mathematics & fortification


Paris, [Jean Jombert], 1680. With engraved title-page, engraved table, and 34 numbered engraved plates (11 double-page).

*With: (2) LUDERS, Theodoric.** Traité d’arithmetique contenant les regles necessaires aux marchands, banquiers, changeurs, &. financiers: . . .

Paris, [Jean Jombert], 1680. 2 works in 1 volume. Large 2º (50×34.5 cm). Contemporary mottled calf, richly gold-tooled spine (rebacked with original backstrip laid down).

Second edition of a beautiful wholly engraved book on practical mathematics, fortification, mensuration, weights and monetary values of the Netherlands, France, Italy and Spain. The first work, with hundreds of engraved geometric figures and diagrams; fortification plans, elevations, cross-sections and perspective views, and tables, covers geometry, arithmetic, trigonometry, mensuration and fortification. The second work expands the first’s brief account of arithmetic and adds sections on weights, measures and monetary units for France, Italy, the Low Countries, England, Germany and Spain.

The plates appear to have been originally produced and sold separately, as most plates have their own address, and one is dated 1664. Luders appears to have first published the *Arithmetique* in 1663 and the *Mathematique* in 1664. Another undated edition appeared ca. 1684.

Small restored tear in the second title-page, slightly browned along the edges and some occasional minor spots. Binding restored and rebacked with original backstrip laid down. A good copy of a beautiful engraved book on mathematics and fortification.

*Goldsmith BMC STC French L2095 & L2096; Graesse IV, p. 290; not in Honeywell; Kress; Norman Library; Osl. [☞ More on our website](#)*
13. **MANESSON MALLET, Allain.** *De werken van Mars of De konst des oorlogs. Verdeeld in drie deelen.*...

Amsterdam, Joannes & Gillis Janssonius van Waesberg & comp., 1686. 6 “books” in 3 volumes, bound as 1. 8º. With 3 engraved title-pages, more than 400 full-page engraved illustrations. Lacking 1 leaf (including 1 engraved illustration). 18th-century (?) mottled calf, gold-tooled spine.

Rare second Dutch edition (expanded with more than 100 new engravings) of a pictorial guide to every aspect of war, with more than 400 full-page engraved illustrations, each accompanied by a page of text on the facing page. It was first published in French in 1672 and translated into Dutch in the same year. The illustrations show numerous fortification plans of cities in many different lands (most plans also include a war or fortification scene or city view at the foot of the page), but also firearms, artillery, other weapons, armour, barracks, the manufacture of arms and ammunition, troop manoeuvres, and more. The sixth and final “book” (with 24 full-page engraved illustrations) is devoted to the Ottoman arts of war, especially topical at this date, since the Ottomans nearly took Vienna in 1683 and lost Budapest only in the year of publication, 1686.

With owner’s name and bookplate. Lacking 1 leaf as noted, with occasional offsetting from the engravings and an occasional minor spot, water stain, tear or hole, but still in good condition. The front hinge is cracked, with some of its supports broken, the back hinge worn, and the head and foot of the spine, and the label damaged, but the binding is otherwise good.


More on our website
Rare richly illustrated text book on fortification


Including: MELDER, Gerard. Appendix aen de instructie vande fortificatie en bataillons, met een korte wederlegginge der sustenu van H. Ruse over de hedendaeghsche fortificatie.

Utrecht, Jan van Waesberge, 1658. 2 parts in 1 volume. 8º. With engraved title-page, letterpress title-page, 13 woodcut folding fortification plans, and numerous woodcut illustrations and figures in text. Contemporary vellum. € 2500

Very rare first edition of a popular, richly illustrated text book on fortification by Gerard Melder, including the Appendix (mentioned on the title-page), containing the author’s answer to his Amsterdam colleague Ruse discussing the proper system of fortification fit for education. The end of the first part gives 50 problems for the pupils to solve.

In 1654 Henrick Ruse, engineer of the fortifications and head of the battalion at Amsterdam, published his Versterckte vesting, in which he broke with the traditional views of fortification as presented by Freitag and Marolois. In answer to Ruse, Gerard Melder, director of the fortifications and the battalion of the city of Utrecht, published the present “Short and clear instruction” in which he clearly taught and illustrated the well-tried Dutch system of fortification, with which the Dutch had won their war against Spain. Ruse answered this with Aenwijzinge der misverstanden van G. Melder, published in 1658, to which Melder again responded with the present Appendix.

Frontispiece slightly soiled and small corner torn off, faint water stain on title-page and some occasional minor foxing. Otherwise a very good copy of the rare first edition.

[12], 208, [4]; 40 pp. Bierens de Haan 3139 (Amsterdam issue); Jordan 2459; STCN 402200144 (1 copy, outside the Netherlands); WorldCat (3 copies); cf. Bierens de Haan 3140 (1664 appendix); for Ruse and Melder see: Jähns, pp. 1339–1341. ☞ More on our website
New siege game

15. [MILITARY–BOARD GAME]. Nieuw belegeringspel.
[Amsterdam, ca. 1880]. Large chromolithographed plate (46 × 60 cm), with a board game consisting of 56 squares, with at the head and on the upper right the rules of the game, and at the foot and lower right an illustration of a field battle.

Rare chromolithographed board game named Nieuw belegeringspel (“new siege game”). The game is to be played with two dice and some chips (or real money), and the goal is to win the battle by reaching the 56th square. Along the way the players face obstacles and may receive or have to pay “money”.

Slightly frayed around the extremities, otherwise in very good condition.

NCC (1 copy). More on our website
Splendid ink and colour wash view of Valetta in Malta

16. RADEMAKER, [Gerard?]. Malta. [View of the castle, fortifications and harbour of Valetta]. [Malta(?), ca. 1700?]. 14 × 44 cm. Ink and colour wash drawing, signed in the lower right corner: “Rademaker”. Mounted in a rice-paper window kept under passe-partout. € 12 500

Beautiful and detailed watercolour drawing, drawn in brown ink with grey and brown washes. The fortifications are rendered in a very careful and detailed way. The view is probably drawn from the peninsula Floriana, part of the city of Valetta, with the fortification Manoel at left and the fortification Tigné in the centre, both with the flags of the Order of the Knights of St. John flying on the towers and ships in full sail leaving the harbour for the open sea. Above the border at the centre is written “Malta”.

Cut down to the border (except for a tab left at the top for the title), but in fine condition, with only a couple small spots in the sky.

☞ More on our website
Rare and luxurious work on securing fortifications against the rising firepower

17. REDELYKHEID, Cornelis. De nieuwe versterkte facen en flancquen, of Verhandeling om de facen ... bestendiger ... te doen zyn ... Opgesteld ten nutte der krygsbouwkunde, en derzelver min of meer gevorderde bearbeiders.

Amsterdam, printed for the author [by Izaak and Johannes Enschedé in Haarlem?], sold by Jan Punt junior, [1759]. Large 4º (23.5 x 20 cm). With 3 folding engraved plates with 14 numbered figures drawn by the author and executed by Jan Punt and 2 engravings in text. 19th-century half parchment.

Rare first and only edition of a treatise on fortification by the Dutch engineer Cornelis Redelykheid (1728–1787). It centres on methods to improve the masonry and composition of strongholds against hostile artillery and mines, and on fortifying vaults against the most powerful bombs. The large engraved plates with measured drawings include a large fortification plan and several cross-sections, profiles and elevations, many showing vaults. Although the imprint is undated, the author’s dedication is dated from Amsterdam, 1759.

Cornelis Redelykheid (1728–post 1787), son of a Rotterdam mason, worked in his father’s shop as a young man. He became a capable hydraulic, mechanical and fortification engineer, working for the province of Holland from 1761. The present book seems not to have been a normal commercial production but a private publication of the author, probably printed in a small number of copies.

With owner’s signature. With minor water stains in an occasional leaf and the foot of one leaf somewhat dirty and tattered, but still in very good condition and with generous margins. A rare and unusually luxurious work on fortification.

[16], 121, [1] pp. Jordan 3069 (2 copies); Sloos, Warfare 8135; STCN (6 copies). ☞ More on our website
Original study of military architecture for the Collegium Theresianum, with 22 plates

18. **RIEGER, Christian.** Universae architecturae militaris elementa brevibus recentiorum observationibus illustrata conscripta. With: **SCHILSON, Johann Baptist von.** Materia tentaminis publici. Vienna, Johann Thomas Trattner, 1758. 2 works in 1 volume. 4º. With engraved frontispiece, 22 (folding) engraved plates, 5 letterpress folding tables, and 9 smaller military illustrations (1 on title-page, 6 as head- or tailpieces and 2 in text). Contemporary mottled, tanned sheepskin; rebacked with most of the original gold-tooled backstrip laid down. € 450

First and only edition of a study of military architecture by the Austrian professor of mathematics Christian Rieger (1714–1780), published as a follow up to his *Universae architecturae civilis elementa* (1756), “one of the few original ... works of the period to attempt a complete study of civil architecture in the compass of a small and inexpensive volume” (BAL). It is divided into three parts covering: the layout of camps, the placement of artillery and fortification, is dedicated to Maria Theresa of Austria and was in use at the Collegium Theresianum, an academy founded by the Jesuits for Maria Theresa. Bound at the end is an exam for students of the academy. With 1777 owner’s inscription and a library stamp. The present copy doesn’t contain the errata, which were apparently added during the press run, as the leaf is here still blank. Wormholes in frontispiece and title-page, browned throughout and some occasional spots, otherwise in good condition. Binding rebacked and restored.

[32], 348, [10], [2 blank]; [20] pp. BAL 4088 note; Berlin Kat. 3546; Jähns, p. 2762; Jordan 3130; VD18 14907267.

☞ More on our website
"one of the most influential military essays of the century" (Starkey)

19. Saxe, Maurice de. *Memoires sur l’art de la guerre... nouvelle édition conforme à l’original, et augmentée du traité des légions, ainsi que de quelques lettres*


Second edition of “one of the most influential military essays of the century” (Starkey), originally published at The Hague in 1756 as *Les rêveries*. “Saxe did not offer a new system of war, but rather a collection of ideas that sought to liberate commanders from the restraints imposed by eighteenth-century conditions and to suggest new sources of energy... the *Rêveries* should be considered to be serious, if at times whimsical, reflections of an experienced and insightful officer... Although... perhaps the least systematic of all eighteenth-century military treatises, none bears a greater imprint of Enlightenment thought” (Starkey).

Maurice, count of Saxony (1696–1750), known as the “maréchal de Saxe”, was the greatest French military commander of the 18th century. Born as the illegitimate son of the King of Poland (and Elector of Saxony) he served first in the Austrian and Russian armies. After joining the French army, he achieved a number of important victories during the Wars of the Austrian and Polish Successions, for which he was rewarded with the grand title of Marshal General of France. His thoughts on warfare were originally written in 1732 and circulated in manuscript in a small group. Due to the demand for military theory after the outbreak of the Seven Years War in 1756, Saxe’s text was published posthumously.

With library stamp and shelf marks. Binding worn, with the covers and especially the spine heavily damaged. The text in good condition, with some browning and spots and a small tear in p. 355.

i, [i blank], [i], [1 blank], [4], 493, 91 blank], [4], [2 blank] pp. Jahns, p. 1503; Sloos, Warfare 03078; cf. Starkey, *War in the Age of Enlightenment*, pp. 49–52. ☞ More on our website
Saint Petersburg fortification manual with 20 plates, dedicated to Czar Alexander I one year before Napoleon’s invasion of Russia

20. SÉA. Mémoire sur la fortification permanente, pour servir a la construction d’un front de fortification sur le terrain, ... Nouvelle édition. Saint Petersburg, Pluchart et comp., 1818. 2 volumes. Large 4º (26 × 21.5 cm & 27.5 × 22 cm). With 20 (of 21?) engraved plates (13 double-page and 7 large folding), and 3 full-page tables. Contemporary half-calf, gold-tooled spines.

First edition, in the very rare 1818 issue, of a Saint Petersburg fortification manual first issued in 1811, including the atlas volume of 20 engraved plates, which is rare in all issues and editions. The main series of plates shows large fortification plans and sections, including many details. The last 3 plates show 80 small figures. Most of the plates are double-page (half sheet), but 7 are larger folding plates. The author remains mysterious. The title-page calls him “Mr. Sea, élève du corps du génie de l’empire Français”, but the dedication is signed “Henry Comte de Falkland”. The avant-propos notes that the book presents the methods of Alexandre Magnus d’Obenheim (1753–ca. 1835/40), professor of fortification at Metz and formerly Lieutenant-Colonel in the French military engineering service. It gives a very detailed view of the methods that would have been familiar to both the French and the Russians during Napoleon’s disastrous invasion of Russia in 1812.

Apparently lacking plate 3 in the main series, but otherwise in very good condition. The bindings are slightly worn in general, with a large abrasion to the marbled paper on the lower outer part of both boards of the atlas volume, but they are otherwise good. A rare Saint Petersburg fortification manual, well and extensively illustrated, of special interest in relation to Napoleon’s 1812 invasion of Russia.

[12], xix, [1 blank], 284, [3], [1 blank] pp. plus plates. WorldCat (1 copy); Jordan 3482 (1 copy); Quérard 9, p. 5 (apparently unseen and misdated 1819); not in Jahns. ☞ More on our website
Finely illustrated manuscript handbook for architects, engineers, etc.

21. SIMMONDS, J. Hints, tables &ca [for mining, military engineering, architecture, etc.].

[England], 1840. (16.5 x 12 cm). Manuscript in ink on paper, in English, with numerous architectural and other illustrations in pencil and ink, many with grey and/or pink washes, on 30 pages, numerous manuscript tables. Written and illustrated partly on rectos only and partly on both rectos and versos. Contemporary English dark green gold-tooled calf, gold-tooled board edges, gold fillets on turn-ins, green ribbon marker, gilt edges. Rebacked, with the original backstrip laid down.

Very neatly written and delicately illustrated manuscript manual of applied mathematics for architects, builders, military engineers, surveyors and others, with headings including “mining”, “fractions” (and logarithms), “profils” (discussing the construction of defensive walls), (military) “batteries”, “trigonometry”, “surveying”, “protracting”, “levelling”, “to conduct water”, “extraction of [mathematical] roots”, “theory of walls”, “counterforts” (butresses), “the theory of arches”, “mensuration of vaults and arches”, “theory of timber” (on the loading of beams, etc.), “mechanic powers” (levers, pulleys, screws, etc.), “mensuration” (of surfaces and solids), “Hadley’s quadrant” (actually a reflecting octant of the modern sort, presented by Hadley in 1731), “architecture”, and other topics. Many chapters include specific examples, often presented as problems for the reader to solve.

The many delicate and precisely drafted illustrations both illustrate and clarify the theories and problems in presented in the text, often including construction lines and/or measurements.

First leaf (with only the author’s name and date) with a waterstain in the lower inside corner, but otherwise in very good condition. Binding neatly re-backed and with corners neatly restored. Delicately and precisely illustrated manuscript handbook of applied mathematics for architecture, military engineering, mining, etc.
Manual on drawing different types of forts


Rare first edition of a work on military architecture by the German mathematician Laurenz Johann Daniel Suckow (1722–1801). It is divided into five sections, the first dealing with the “laws” and theory of fortification. The second and largest chapter relates how to design and draw different kinds of fortifications according to various well-known military writers, including Henrick Ruse, Christoph Heer and Menno van Coehoorn. The third deals with attacking and defending forts, the fourth with the necessary equipment for forts, and the fifth with the actual building of forts and all the necessary tools. Depicted in the engravings are schematic groundplans and profiles of different fortifications. Heavily foxed throughout, with some marginal water stains and occasional (ink) stains and spots. Plates with some minor foxing but otherwise good. Binding worn, sides chafed and spine damaged by a few wormholes. Overall a fair copy.
Very rare Spanish work on fortification

23. TÁRREGA Y DE ARIAS, Bernabé. Compendio de fortificacion para el uso de los oficiales de infantería. Toledo, José de Céa, 1867–1869. 2 parts in 1 volume. 8º. With 7 folding lithographed plates. Contemporary green half morocco. € 950

Very rare enlarged second edition of a “fortification compendium for the use of the official infantry”, by Bernabé Tarrega y de Arias, consisting of two parts. The first deals with drawing and constructing (field) fortifications, entrenchments, open and closed forts, necessary tools, etc. The second part includes a brief history of fortification, discussing the fortification methods used in various countries, also including the systems of Vauban, Van Coehoorn and Cormontaigne. It also deals with attacking, defending and repairing fortifications. Slightly browned, some occasional spots and one plate with a small tear, reinforced on the back. Otherwise in very good condition. Binding worn along the extremities, spine discoloured and with a small wormhole, right upper corner of front board torn away.

[4], 300, [3], [1 blank]; 254, [2] pp. cf. Jordan 3715 (first ed.); not in WorldCat. ☞ More on our website
Dissertation on military architecture
by a student of the University of Salzburg

24. TÖRRING-JETTENBACH, Joseph Ignaz Felix and Edmund EGG. Tractatus de architectura militari.
Salzburg, Joannis Baptistae Mayr, 1700. Large 4vo (30 × 22 cm) With an engraved frontispiece, 17 engraved plates and 1 letterpress folding table. Spine reinforced with orange paper, with the frontispiece serving as provisional front wrapper and last leaf as back wrapper. € 3500

First and only edition, in the original Latin, of the dissertation on military architecture by the German mathematics and philosophy student Joseph Ignaz Felix Törring-Jettenbach (1682–1763), under supervision of the professor of mathematics Edmund Egg (1665–1717). It first explains the different terms (in both Latin and German) and different methods of fortifications. The main part of the text is devoted to explaining and solving different “problems” and “cases”, which are clarified in the engraved plates. “Eine ungewöhnlich umfängliche und überraschend reich, auch mit Plänen ausgestattete Dissertation der Salzburger Universität” (Jähns).
Frontispiece heavily damaged, upper and lower outer corner worn off, as well as a smaller piece of the upper left corner. Nevertheless, the main illustration is still intact. First couple leaves frayed at the outer corners and slightly browned. Otherwise in good condition, with some occasional small spots.

[12], 153, [4], [1 blank] pp. Jähns, pp. 1396–1397; Jordan 5790. ▷ More on our website
First edition of Vauban’s treatises on siegecraft and military mining. Of all the 17th- and 18th-century books “on military technology, no works had greater influence or enjoyed greater prestige than those of Sebastien Le Prestre de Vauban, the great military engineer of the reign of Louis XIV” (Guerlac). Although a highly practical man and not a theoretician, Vauban had written down the secrets of his success in the building and capturing of fortresses between 1669 and 1704. Vauban’s strategic superiority could only remain if this information was kept secret, so his texts circulated only within a very select circle. After Vauban’s death they were leaked. In the dedication and introduction the Dutch publisher describes how he managed to obtain a copy, which was so expensive, partly due to the many illustrations, that only princes, ambassadors “et autres seigneurs” could afford it. “By the time the treatises became available, Vauban’s early readers must have been ready to believe that the text finally being made public did in fact contain incredible military secrets and have the power to make nations invincible. No other treatise of siegecraft had been surrounded by such secrecy” (DeJean). The first volume published in 1737 did not contain all the master’s secrets. It contained Vauban’s treatise on the attack of fortified places, but the added part on defence was actually written by a colleague, seigneur Deshoulières (1621–1693). A second volume, published in 1742, contained Vauban’s treatise on military mining (first published in 1740) and a general treatise on war written by another “eminent officer”.

With library stamps. Binding worn and front hinge cracked. Water stained throughout with some spots and a few small tears; otherwise still a good copy.

Guerlac, “Vauban” in: Paret (ed.), Makers of modern strategy, pp. 64–90. ☞ More on our website
Attacking and defending fortifications, including fortresses in Sweden


München, Joseph Lindauer, 1820. 8º. With 14 folding engraved plates. Contemporary tanned half sheepskin. € 1250

First and only edition of the German translation of a work on attacking and defending fortresses, by the Swedish major general Johan Bernhard Virgin. The work is divided into two parts, the first dealing with the faults in the existing forts, particularly in Sweden, with remarks on how to make them more sufficient. Virgin describes, for example, new and improved ways for placing cannons and mortars. The second section notes new fortification systems and explains how to attack and defend them. The 14 very detailed plates show different types and shapes of fortifications, and can be folded out to be viewed while reading. With three different library stamps and one small bookplate. Brownded and foxed throughout, with the plates still in very good condition. Binding rubbed along the extremities. Overall a good copy:

xxiv, 416 pp. Jordan 3983 (9 copies). ☞ More on our website
More books, maps, manuscripts & drawings on fortification & siegecraft available at our websites:

www.forumrarebooks.com/category/maritime_military_history.html

www.asherbooks.com/category/maritime_military_history.html
Previously published
and available for download
on our websites
www.forumrarebooks.com
www.asherbooks.com

Women & society

Earth sciences

Mammals
Maritime history
Herbals & medical botany
Fortification & Siegecraft IV: Germany