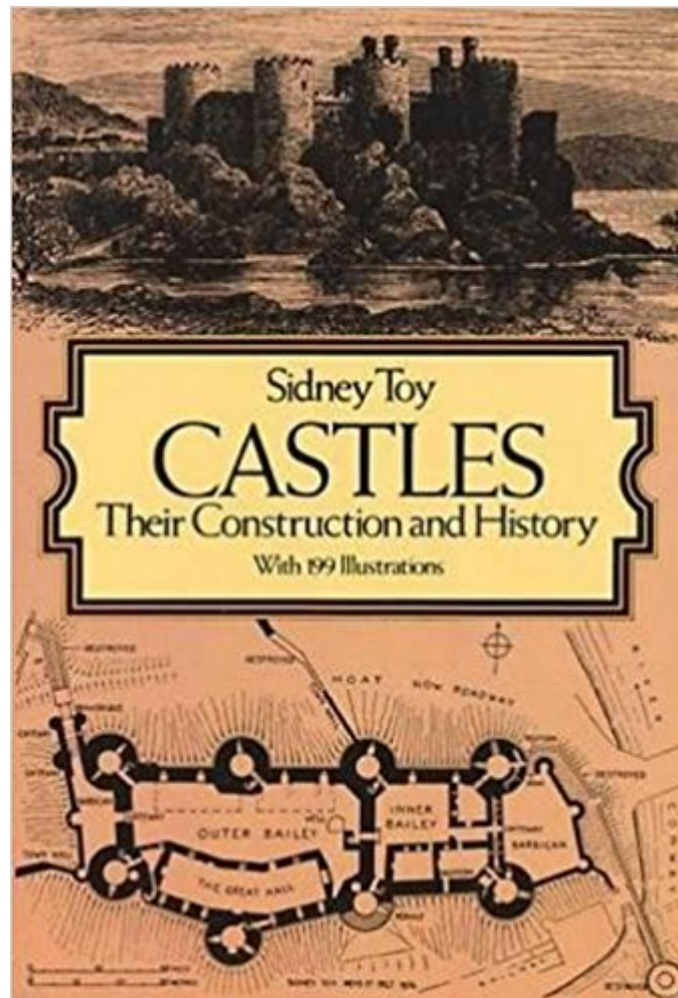




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Castles: Their Construction And History (Dover Architecture)



Synopsis

The art of fortification had reached a high state of development even at the dawn of history. Powerful military works, dating from the remotest periods, have been found in Asia Minor, in Greece, and in the basins of the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Nile rivers. The medieval castle, with its strategic, crenellated ramparts and aura of legend and romance, represents perhaps the most familiar form of a long-crucial art. This concise, scholarly volume traces the history of the castle from its ancient roots in the Levant, through Roman times and the Middle Ages, to the fanciful chateaux of the sixteenth century. Profusely illustrated with nearly 200 photographs, floor-plan diagrams, and pen-and-ink renderings, *Castles* explores innovations in castle design, siege operations, artillery, and other weapons, living conditions within the castle, and clearly explains intriguing features of construction: moats, baileys, keeps, donjons, barbicans, double curtains, loopholes, and many others. In addition, noted historian and fortification expert Sidney Toy takes the reader on a detailed guided tour of over 120 of the most famous castles and fortresses of Europe and the Middle East. Explore Caernarvon Castle (associated with the Princes of Wales), Dover Castle, Arundel Castle, Hadrian's Wall, the Tower of London, the famed city of Troy, and dozens of others in vivid accounts focusing on the architecture, offensive and defensive modifications, and historical importance of each structure or site. Castle enthusiasts, medievalists, military buffs, travelers, and anyone interested in the evolution and development of the castle will find this meticulously researched overview an informative and absorbing account.

Book Information

Series: Dover Architecture

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Dover Publications; New edition edition (December 1, 1985)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0486248984

ISBN-13: 978-0486248981

Product Dimensions: 6.1 x 0.5 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 25 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #350,448 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #70 in Books > Arts &

Photography > Architecture > Buildings > Landmarks & Monuments #98 in Books > Engineering & Transportation > Engineering > Military Technology #596 in Books > Engineering &

Customer Reviews

The art of fortification had reached a high state of development even at the dawn of history. Powerful military works, dating from the remotest periods, have been found in Asia Minor, in Greece, and in the basins of the Tigris, the Euphrates, and the Nile rivers. The medieval castle, with its strategic, crenellated ramparts and aura of legend and romance, represents perhaps the most familiar form of a long-crucial art. This concise, scholarly volume traces the history of the castle from its ancient roots in the Levant, through Roman times and the Middle Ages, to the fanciful chateaux of the sixteenth century. Profusely illustrated with nearly 200 photographs, floor-plan diagrams, and pen-and-ink renderings, *Castles* explores innovations in castle design, siege operations, artillery, and other weapons, living conditions within the castle, and clearly explains intriguing features of construction: moats, baileys, keeps, donjons, barbicans, double curtains, loopholes, and many others. In addition, noted historian and fortification expert Sidney Toy takes the reader on a detailed guided tour of over 120 of the most famous castles and fortresses of Europe and the Middle East. Explore Caernarvon Castle (associated with the Princes of Wales), Dover Castle, Arundel Castle, Hadrian's Wall, the Tower of London, the famed city of Troy, and dozens of others in vivid accounts focusing on the architecture, offensive and defensive modifications, and historical importance of each structure or site. Castle enthusiasts, medievalists, military buffs, travelers, and anyone interested in the evolution and development of the castle will find this meticulously researched overview an informative and absorbing account. Corrected republication of *Castles: A Short History of Fortifications from 1600 B.C. to A.D. 1600* published by William Heinemann, Ltd., London/Toronto, 1939.

Bought it for my brother-in-law on a whim for Christmas to give him ideas for building castles in Minecraft, because he loves history (and castles!), and because he is very interested in strategies of warfare (I'm pretty sure the book shows you the layout of certain castles and explains the point of various aspects of how it was designed). This book is like a bunch of rough draft blue prints. It is very cut and dry. It is PERFECT for those who really like facts and information. My brother-in-law loooovvvveesss it. The front cover gives you an idea of the book - no color, to-scale diagrams, and hand drawn pictures of castles. There is a lot of information regarding the history of these castles as well. I'm glad I strayed from his Christmas list because it was his favorite gift from me this year.

Okay, so this is a book you might use to fill a bookcase to make it look like you read texts...However, if you are a dungeon master, or just a writer of novels, it's indispensable! This book shows you the exact construction and layout of any castle you need to build, draw out on a map for your campaign, or at least, have in your mind while writing a book!

Interesting and detailed history. I was hoping more for construction techniques and specifics because I want to build a tower and possibly more on my property but it was a good read regardless.

I wish some of the pictures were a tad bit better but other than that this is a great book. Lots of good info. Anyone who is into castles should have this book on the shelf.

Husband loves to look at old plans and dreams of building a castle one day

I really like this book. I like the way it is written and I especially like what is written about. I recommend not trying to read it all at once. Savor it a "little" at a time and it will really grow on you. The author is pretty good at presenting descriptions, which makes it easy to see in your mind what he is describing. There are plenty of illustrations and photos that are referenced throughout the book. For instance, if a particular castle is discussed and there happens to be a photo or illustration about it, the author will provide the page number for you to go and look at what he is describing. This is a nice book. I am glad I bought it.

Good photos and great info on the needs for certain architectural how to's.

Many notes on parts of real castles. Not a child level general. Only complaint is that phone viewing doesn't let text and drawing be side by side.

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