

Adam Freitag, 1635

L'architecture militaire

ou la Fortification nouvelle,
Augmentét et enrichie de
forteresses régulières, Irregulieres,
et de dehors; le tout a la pratique
moderne. Par Adam Frithach.
Mathematicien

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Plates (in text) 35

Introduction to the volume

Author

Adam Freitag

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1635

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Leyden
Bonaventura und Abraham Elzeviers

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Brief Publishing history 1 [Annotation on pg. 03](#)

Architectura militaris nova et aucla. (1631)
Leyden, Bonaventura und Abraham Elzeviers.

L'architecture militaire ou la Fortification nouvelle. (1635)
Leyden, Bonaventura und Abraham Elzeviers.

Link to resource consulted

[↗ e|rara](#)
(last consultation 19/12/2025)

Scientific Analysis Data

Identified Units of Measurement

Rhineland rod = 3.767 m
divided into:
– 12 feet of 0.314 m each, or
– 10 feet of 0.378 m each

Sites Dissertation

Yes (flat sites, uneven sites, sites on the waterfront, “high” sites, from castles to cities)

Construction Techniques and Materials

Yes (limited to earthworks)

Dissertation of Outworks

Yes

Earth-only Fortifications

No

Reference to other Treatises

Barleduc (Errard), Simon Stevin, Specle/Spekle, Augustinus de Ramellis (p. 29) Marolois (p. 77), Lorini (p. 100). Strong influences of Marolis and Stevin (Metin 2008, pp. 41-42)

References to existing or demolished fortifications

Antwerpen (Antwerp, BE), Fort du Moulin (Port-Cros, FR), Grolle (Groenlo, NL), Breda (NL), Bolduc (Bois-le-Duc, NL), Heusden (NL), Vesalia (Wesel, DE)

Geometric Constructions

No

Second Flank Applications

Yes

Irregular Fortification Geometric Construction

Yes



Additional information

Further notes on the topics covered

External works covered in the Second Book, dedicated to irregular fortifications. Illustrates: ravelins, demi-lunes, hornworks, crownworks, tenaille, traverses.

Essential critical bibliography

Freitag, A. (1635). *L'architecture militaire ou la Fortification nouvelle*. Leyden: Elzeviers. First ed. (in German): *Architectura militaris nova et aucta, oder neue vermehrte Fortification*. (1630). Leyden: Bonaventura e Abraham Elzeviers.

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Annotations

1 *Editio princeps*, published in 1631 in Leyden by Bonaventura and Abraham Elzeviers in German, with the title: *Architectura militaris nova et aucta, oder neue vermehrte Fortification, oder Neue vermehrte Fortification von Regular veltungen, von Irregular veltungen und Hullen merchen, Von praxi Offensiva und Defensiva: auff die newelte Nederlandische praxin gerichetet und deschrienenm durch Adamum Freitag, andere edition verbessert*. Dedicated to Wladislao Sigismundo (Ladislao III, King of Poland, Grand Duke of Lithuania).

French translation of the *editio princeps*, published in 1635 in Leyden chez Elzeviers, with the title: *L'architecture militaire ou la Fortification nouvelle, Augmentét et enrichie de forteresses régulières, Irregulieres, et de dehors; le tout a la pratique moderne*. Par Adam Fritach. *Mathematicien*.

The work benefited from other editions in German (1635, 1642, 1665) and French (1640, 1657, 1668).

↗ [architectura](#) (last consultation 19/12/2025)



Additional information

- 2 He proposes to adopt the decimal division of the unit of measurement!
This is a scientific legacy of Simon Stevin, who was the first to disseminate decimal reasoning in the Netherlands, together with Speckle. Stevin published *De Thiende/La Disme* in 1585, the first publication dedicated to decimal fractions.
(Metin 2008, p. 45; Sanford 1928)
 - 3 Of great interest is the use of data summarised in tabular form to illustrate angles and “lines” of regular fortification plans.
Freitag also uses tables to summarise the heights and projections of the sections (*profils*).
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