

M. Girolamo Maggi,
Giacomo Fusti Castriotto, 1564

Della fortificatione delle città

Pages Three books, for a total of 139 leaves **1**

Plates (in text) 147 **2**

Layout 37×24.5 cm

Printing Technique Woodcut

Synthetic Index **3**

Dedications and contents:

Dedication by Rutilio

Table of Chapters

Dedication by Maggi

Book I (sixteen chapters)

Book II (thirty-three chapters)

Book III (Twenty-five chapters)

Sections not described in the Table of Chapters (Book III – from fol. 107v).

Annotation on pg. 03

Introduction to the volume

Authors

M. Girolamo Maggi (1523-1572)
Giacomo (Iacomo) Fusti Castriotto (~1501-1563)

Year

1564

Shortened bibliographic reference

Maggi & Castriotto_Della Fortificatione

Place & Publisher/ Printer

Venice,
Rutilio Borgominieri

Brief Publishing history

The original edition was published in Venice in 1564 by Rutilio Borgominieri. A reprint was issued in Venice by Camillo Borgominieri in 1583 (*“In Venetia, Appresso Camillo Borgominiero, al Segno di San Giorgio”*); the copy held at the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma bears the date 1584, although the edition is in fact a single one. The work was translated into French and also appeared in a German edition in 1720.

Link to resource consulted

↗ [Archive.org](#)
(last consultation 07/05/2025)

Scientific Analysis Data

Identified Units of Measurement

Maggi employs the Florentine *braccio*
the Florentine *braccio* = 0.584 m

Castriotto makes use of the Urbino *canne*:
1 Urbino *canna* = 10 Urbino feet
1 Urbino foot = 0.383541 m

Sites Dissertation

Yes

Geometric Constructions

Yes

Construction Techniques and Materials

Yes

Second Flank Applications

No

Dissertation of Outworks

Yes

Irregular Fortification
Geometric Construction

Yes

Earth-only Fortifications

No

Reference to other Treatises

Giovan Battista Bellucci, known by the
sobriquet San Marino.
Misser Michele San Michele Veronese (Michele
Sanmicheli)
Capitan Frate da Modena (Iacopo Seghizzi)
Giacomo Lanteri

Niccolò Tartaglia
Pietro Cataneo
Leon Battista Alberti
Secretario Fiorentino (Niccolò Machiavelli)
Alberto Durero (Albrecht Dürer)
Zanco (Giovanni Battista Zanchi)

References to existing or demolished fortifications

Fortificazione della terra di Sermoneta
Fortificazioni fatte alla Mirandola
Fortificazione di Borgo San Sepolcro
Fortificazione di Paliano
Baluardi di Padova, porta Liviana

Fortificazione di Torino
Fortificazione di Calais (Francia)
Constance Tower nella città fortificata di Aigues
Mortes (Francia)



Additional information

Other works of military architecture by the same author

Girolamo Maggi, *Ingegni et invenzioni militari*, an unpublished manuscript (Florence, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze, Palat. 464; alternative version: Venice, Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana, Mss. it., cl. IV.42 [= 5364]), dedicated to Cosimo I de' Medici.

The treatise concerns a number of “*inventioni*” devised to address military requirements.

Essential critical bibliography

C. Promis, *Gli ingegneri e gli scrittori militari bolognesi del XV e XVI secolo*, Bologna 1863, pp. 640 s.

C. Promis, *Biografie di ingegneri militari italiani dal secolo XIV alla metà del XVIII*, in *Miscellanea di storia italiana della Regia Deputazione di storia patria*, XIV, Torino 1874, pp. 295-311.

P. Provasi, *Un grande maestro della fortificazione Iacomo Fusti Castriotti architetto militare e inventore (1501-1562)*, in «*Rivista d'artiglieria e genio*», XVII (1939), pp. 567-595.

H. De La Croix, *Military architecture and the radial city plan in sixteenth century Italy*, in «*The Art Bulletin*», XLII (1960), 4, pp. 263-290.

P. Marconi, *Contributo alla storia delle fortificazioni di Roma nel Cinquecento e nel Seicento*, in «*Quaderni dell'Istituto di storia dell'architettura*», s. 13, 1966, 73-78, pp. 109-130.

G.E. Ferrari, *Le edizioni venete di architettura militare del Maggi e Castriotto*, in *L'architettura militare veneta del Cinquecento*, Milano 1984, pp. 179-194.

H.W. Kruft, *Storia delle teorie architettoniche*. Bari, Editori Laterza, 1988, pp. 131-143; pp. 138-139.

A. Fara, *Il sistema e la città. Architettura fortificata dell'Europa moderna dai trattati alle realizzazioni 1464-1797*, Genova 1989, pp. 19, 66, 87, 97, 105, 118, 166, 178.

G. Severini, *Progetto e disegno nei trattati di architettura militare del '500*, Pisa 1994, pp. 100-103.

R. Torlontano, *Fusti (Fusti Castriotto), Jacopo*, in *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*, 50 (1998), *ad vocem*.

↗ [Treccani](#) (last consultation 30/01/2026)

L. Carpané, *Maggi, Girolamo*, in *Dizionario Biografico degli Italiani*, 67 (2006), *ad vocem*.

↗ [Treccani](#) (last consultation 30/01/2026)

M.G. Bevilacqua, C. Salotti, *Le mura di Pisa. Fortificazioni, ammodernamenti e modificazioni dal XII al XIX secolo*, Pisa, Edizioni ETS, 2011, pp. 36-42; pp. 142-145; pp. 165-173.

O. Zerlenga, M. Cicala, V. Cirillo, *La cultura del disegno nell'architettura della difesa tardo cinquecentesca. Il trattato “Della Fortificatione delle città” di Iacomo Castriotto e Girolamo Maggi*, in *CITTÀ E GUERRA. Difese, distruzioni, permanenze delle memorie e dell'immagine urbana*, Tomo II, a cura di R. Amore, M. I. Pascariello, A. Veropalumbo, Napoli, FedOA - Federico II University Press, 2023, pp. 75-88.

Annotations

- 1 Three books, for a total of 139 leaves (recto and verso).

Book I – 41 leaves (recto–verso)

Book II – 35 leaves (recto–verso)

Book III – 62 leaves (recto–verso)

In total, 158 leaves, including woodcut illustrations of plans and views, battle formations, and military equipment, of which 14 are double-page, as well as woodcut headpieces and initials.

Each chapter is provided with a marginal title indicating the content treated in the section.

Leaf numbering appears in the upper right corner of the recto of each leaf.

- 2 Book I – 25 leaves with woodcut illustrations, of which 2 are double-page.
Book II – 60 leaves with woodcut illustrations, of which 3 are double-page.
Book III – 62 leaves (recto–verso), of which 42 contain woodcut illustrations, including 9 double-page plates; 31 leaves include woodcuts and typographic illustrations of battle formations.



Additional information

3 Index:

Dedications and contents

Dedication by Rutilio Borgominieri:

«*All'illustre et generosissimo signore, il sig. conte Eugenio Sinclitico, Gran Siniscalco di Cipro. Collateral dell'illustrissimo Dominio Vinitiano, 15 di Maggio 1564*». ("To the illustrious and most noble lord, Count Eugenio Sinclitico, Grand Seneschal of Cyprus, councillor of the most illustrious Venetian Dominion, 15 May 1564.")

Tavola de' Capitoli. (Table of Chapters.)

Dedication by Girolamo Maggi to Philip II of Spain:

«*Alla Maestà del Gran Philippo, re Catholico di Spagna, Re di Napoli, di Sicilia, del Mondo nuovo, & c. Di Venetia, il di primo di Maggio, 1564/ Humilissimo, e devotissimo Servitore, Girolamo Maggi d'Anghiari*». ("To the Majesty of the Great Philip, Catholic King of Spain, King of Naples, of Sicily, of the New World, etc. From Venice, on the first day of May 1564. Your most humble and devoted servant, Girolamo Maggi of Anghiari.")

Books and chapters

Book I – sixteen chapters:

description of the site on which to construct the defensive project; geometric matrices of regular form, such as planimetric layouts for the foundation of new fortified cities; components of fortification; measuring instruments.

Book II – thirty-three chapters

description of the 'members' of fortifications according to the site's planimetric geometric matrix; aspects of formal geometric profiling; construction techniques; measuring instruments.

Book III – twenty-five chapters

fortifications "in water"; defensive sites "on land," namely places "upon mountains or hills".

Sections not described in the Table of Chapters (Book III – from fol. 107v)

All'III. Signore, il Signor Francesco Dalla Torre Libero Barone, Consigliere della Cesarea Maestà, & Ambasciatore appresso gli Illustrissimi Sig. Venetiani, Girolamo Maggi (fol. 107v). (To the Illustrious Lord Francesco Dalla Torre, Free Baron, Councillor to His Imperial Majesty, and Ambassador to the Most Illustrious Lords of Venice, by Girolamo Maggi.)

Discorso di M. Girolamo Maggi d'Anghiari, sopra la fortificatione de gli alloggiamenti de gli eserciti in campagna (fols. 108r–113v). (Discourse by Girolamo Maggi of Anghiari on the fortification of army encampments in the field.)

Discorso del Capitan Francesco Montemellino Perugino, sopra la fortificatione del Borgo di Roma (fols. 114r–118r). (Discourse by Captain Francesco Montemellino of Perugia on the fortification of the Borgo of Rome.)

All'III. Signore, il Signor Francesco Dalla Torre Libero Barone, Consigliere della Cesarea Maestà, & Ambasciatore appresso gli Illustrissimi Sig. Venetiani, Girolamo Maggi (fols. 118r–118v). (Dedication to the Illustrious Lord Francesco Dalla Torre, by Girolamo Maggi.)

Trattato dell'Ordinanze o vero Battaglie del Capitan Giovacchino da Coniano (fols. 119r–134v). (Treatise on Military Ordinances, or Battles, by Captain Giovacchino da Coniano.)

Ragionamento del Capitan Giacomo Fusti Castriotto, sopra le Fortezze fino ad hora fatte nella Francia, et in molti altri luoghi (fols. 135r–139v). (Discourse by Captain Giacomo Castriotto on the fortresses built to date in France and in many other places.)

Ragionamento del Capitan Giacomo Fusti Castriotto, sopra le Fortezze fino ad hora fatte nella Francia, et in molti altri luoghi (fols. 135r–139v). (Discourse by Captain Giacomo Castriotto on the fortresses built to date in France and in many other places.)



Additional information

Further annotations

Drawing is the dominant mode of representation. Only in a few rare cases do the plans include a graphic scale. None of the elevations are provided with measurements, since they are intended, as the author states, to “serve to consider the work as it is to be executed,” and therefore fulfil a primarily descriptive function.

Castriotto explicitly declares that the entire elevation is conceived so that the eye may perceive how the completed work will appear; measurements are omitted because, in vertical dimensions, they would have been of limited intelligibility.

Sections are not employed. It is nonetheless true, as argued by Severini, that this representational apparatus cannot be directly compared with the techniques adopted by Girolamo Cataneo, who was almost contemporary and is frequently cited in the treatise (Severini, 1994 p. 101).

Perspective is not used, as it is deemed unsuitable where rapid execution is required. It is instead replaced by the empirical use of oblique parallel projection, that is, axonometry.

With regard to the crucial issue of the second flank, neither Castriotto nor, even less so, Maggi develops a second flank in the terms later theorised. In my view, the new flank introduced in Book II cannot be interpreted within that conceptual framework.

