

Antoine de Ville, 1628

Les fortifications

du Chevalier Antoine de Ville
Tholosain, avec L'attaque & la
Defence des Places

Author of the Analysis - **Martino Pavignano**

DAD | Politecnico di Torino
martino.pavignano@polito.it

Pages	441
Plates (in text)	53
Figures (out text)	2
Layout	in-folio 270 × 395 mm
Printing Technique	copper engravings

Synthetic Index

Livre Premier: Les fortifications, Attaques, & Defences des
Places du Chevalier A. de Ville - *Book One: Fortifications, Attacks,
& Defences of the Places of Chevalier A. de Ville*

Livre Second: De l'attaque des places du Chevalier
A. de Ville - *Book Two: On the Attack of Places by Chevalier A. de Ville*

Livre Troiesme: De la defense del palces du Chevalier A. de
Ville - *Book Three: On the Defence of Places by Chevalier A. de Ville*

Introduction to the volume

Author

Antoine de Ville

Year

1628

Shortened bibliographic reference

de Ville_Les fortifications

Place & Publisher/ Printer

Lyon
Scipion Iasserme

Conservation Location

Biblioteca Reale di Torino
Fondo Saluzzo. F. 171

Turin

Brief Publishing history 1 Annotation on pg. 04

Les fortications. (1628).
Lyon, Scipion Iasserme, Irenée Barlet.

Les fortications. (1629).
Irenée Barlet

Link to resource consulted

 [e|rara](#)
(last consultation 18/12/2025)

Scientific Analysis Data

Identified Units of Measurement

King's or Paris foot (*pied du Roi* or *de Paris*) = 0.325 m

Geometric pace of 5 feet = 1.624 m

Sites Dissertation

Yes

Construction Techniques and Materials

Yes

Dissertation of Outworks

Yes

Earth-only Fortifications

No

Geometric Constructions

No with regard to flat geometric constructions
(e.g. perpendiculars, parallels, regular
polygons, etc.)

Second Flank Applications

Yes

Irregular Fortification
Geometric Construction

Yes

Reference to other Treatises

Blaise de Monluc;
Dürer;
Errard;
Lorini;
Marlois.

References to existing or demolished fortifications

Palmanova, Turin and others

Additional information

Further notes on the topics covered

External works (half-bastions, ravelins, demi-lunes, hornworks)

Other works of military architecture by the same author

De Ville, A. (1639). *De la Charge des Gouverneurs des Places*. Lyon et Paris: M. Guillemot.

Essential critical bibliography

Du Mège, A. (1823). *Bibliographie toulousaine, ou dictionnaire historique des personnage [...]. Tome II*. Toulouse, Veuve Navarre, pp. 492-494.

↗ [Internet Archive](#) (last consultation 18/12/2025)

Pernot, J-F. (1978). Un aspect peu connu de l'œuvre d'Antoine de Ville, ingénieur du roi (1596?-1656?). *Revue historique des Armées*, n. 130, pp. 29-60.

Pernot, J-F. (1987). La guerre et l'infrastructure de l'état moderne: Antoine de Ville, ingénieur du Roi (1596 ? – 1656 ?), ma pensée d'un technicien au service de la mobilisation totale du royaume. *Revue d'histoire moderne et contemporaine*, tome XXXIV, Juillet-Septembre 1987, pp. 404-426.

Bruant, Y. (1988). Les traités d'architecture militaire français à la fin du XVIe siècle et au début du XVIIe siècle. In : J. Guillaume (Ed.) *Les traités d'architecture de la Renaissance*. Paris: Picard, pp. 477-484.

Pollak, M. (1991). *Military architecture cartography & the representation of the early modern european city: a checklist of treatises on fortification in the Newberry Library*. Chicago (IL): Newberry Library, pp. 22-24.

Vérin, H. (2001). Galilée et Antoine de Ville: un courrier sur l'idée de matière. In: J. Montesinos, C. Solis (Eds.). *Largo Campo di Philosophare, Eurosposium Galileo*. Madrid, Orotavia, pp. 307-322.

Colson, B. (2002). *L'art de la guerre de Machiavel à Clausewitz*. Namur : Presses universitaires de Namur, pp. 69-72.

Pernot, J-F. (2007). L'école française de fortifications. In I. Warmoes, V. Sanger (Eds.), *Vauban Bâtitteur du Roi-Soleil*. Paris, Somogy, pp. 55-61.

Pollak, M. (2010). *Cities at war early modern Europe*. Cambridge (UK), Cambridge University Press.

Shreuder, D. (2021). When Mars Meets Euclid: The Relationship between War and Mathematical Sciences in Frontispieces of Fortification Treatises. In: G. Bertram, N. Büttner, and C. Zittel (Eds.), *Gateways to the Book: Frontispieces and Title Pages in Early Modern Europe*. Leiden-Boston, Brill 2021, pp. 320-353.

Pavignano, M. (2023). Esplorazione visuale del dibattito intorno al secondo fianco. In: M. G. Bevilacqua, D. Olivieri (Eds.) *Defensive Architecture of the Mediterranean. Vol. XV*. Pisa, Pisa University Press, pp. 1339-1346.

Pavignano, M. (2023). Fortificazioni alla moderna e rappresentazione: esempi dalla trattatistica del XVI secolo | Fortificazioni alla moderna and representation: examples from the 16th century treatises. In: M. Cannella, A. Garozzo, S. Morena (Eds.) *Attraversare Modulare Procedere | Cross Module Develop. Atti del 44° Convegno Internazionale dei Docenti delle Discipline della Rappresentazione Congresso della Unione Italiana per il Disegno | Proceedings of the 44th International Conference of Representation Disciplines Teachers Congress of Unione Italiana per il Disegno*, Palermo, 14, 15, 16 settembre 2023. Milano, Franco Angeli, pp. 576-597.

↗ [FrancoAngeli](#) (last consultation 18/12/2025)



Additional information

Pavignano, M. (2024). Visualizing Geometry: Examples from Some Treatises on Military Architecture Between the 15th and 17th Centuries. In: L. Hermida González, J. P. Xavier, I. Pernas Alonso, C. Losada Pérez (Eds.) *Graphic Horizons. Volume 3 – Graphic for Knowledge*. Cham: Springer, pp. 224-231.
↗ [Springer](#) (last consultation 18/12/2025)

Annotations

- 1 The *editio princeps*, published in 1628, was dedicated to Carlo Emanuele di Savoia-Carignano, Prince of Piedmont. This version lists Irenée Barlet as the editor on the title page and Scipion Iasserme in the colophon, with both pages dated 1628. It also contains a dedication to and a sonnet composed for Carlo Emanuele di Savoia-Carignano.

There is a second *editio princeps*, identical to the previous one except for the dedication to and the sonnet for C. E. di Savoia, which lists Irenée Barlet as the editor on both the title page and the colophon. In this case, the title page is dated 1629, while the colophon continues to show the date 1628. The work benefited from numerous reprints in French (1636; 1641; 1666; 1672; 1675) and at least one translation into German (1676).

↗ [architectura](#) (last consultation 18/12/2025)

- 2 The author proposes an innovative method of fortifying regular fortresses based on dividing the base side of the regular polygons used into six equal parts, with the two outermost portions forming the semi-gorges of the two opposite bastions, while the remaining four, more internal ones, define the length of the curtain wall. The treatise is divided into three books dedicated to: 1. Regular and irregular fortifications, 2. Attacking strongholds, 3. Defending strongholds. Our interest focused on the first book.
-

