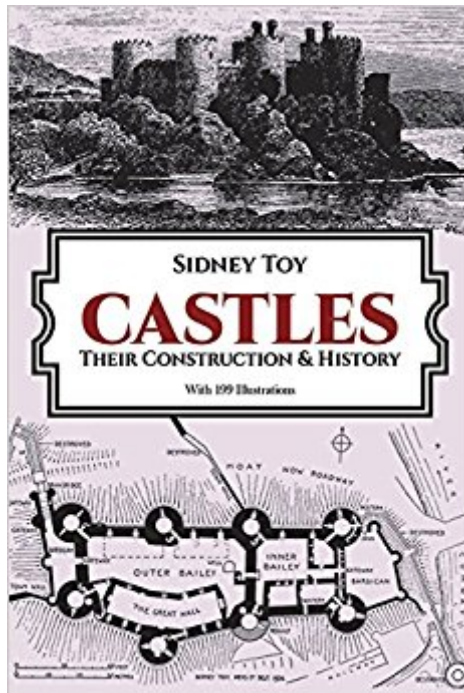


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# Castles: Their Construction And History (Dover Architecture)



## 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

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## Customer Reviews

As an Army Officer the study of military history is a professional necessity. The book: Castles their Construction and History has proven to be an incredible aid to this end. I am stationed in Europe and use the book as a guide when I travel and explore the castles in Germany, France and Italy. The book is very technical, it wastes some space giving detailed step by step descriptions of many castles but the casual reader of history will find the drawings, photos and overviews of history very interesting. The text of the book is rather dull to the non-history buff. It was very useful as a reference book while at the University of Florida.

I bought this book because, well to put it plainly, I have always wanted to design a castle of my own. Having no real talent for architecture, I thought I'd see how others had done it before, and why they made the decisions they did. This book does a lot for the novice who wants to learn these things, but does so with enough illustrations to keep the readers interest through the text. I can see why another reviewer said it would make a good textbook -- it reads like one, and provides quite the education! Add it to a military history collection, a chivalric texts collection, or to your Lego room for the next time you want a more powerful castle than the kit suggests (but, putting little lego men heads on pikes at the gates may be going overboard).

There is no fluff and no romanticizing. This book is just plain hows and whys on castle construction and their evolution from wooden stockades to stone fortresses. It examines the changes in defenses as warfare evolved. It is dry reading, but this is bare bones information with no fantasizing....just what I wanted.

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.

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!

I find this book extremely difficult to read. It is written like the installation instructions for an erector set. I know I am dating myself (few will remember erector sets, but I just could not get through it. Wish it was possible to get a refund on a kindle book.

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.

I bought this book thinking it would be a good way to introduce myself to castles- how and why they are constructed, the different methods of construction, etc. However after reading the first two chapters I concluded that this is not so much informative as it is a historical timeline. Literally- the book just lists civilizations in chronological order and describes what their castles looked like. There is no in depth descriptions of architecture, like what a portcullis is and why they would have one. It doesn't even explain WHY they are fortified for military use, only that they are. I was hoping there would be more info on the how and whys of constructing a castle. If you are already an expert on castle architecture and terminology, then this might be a good read for you. This book is not for beginners.

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