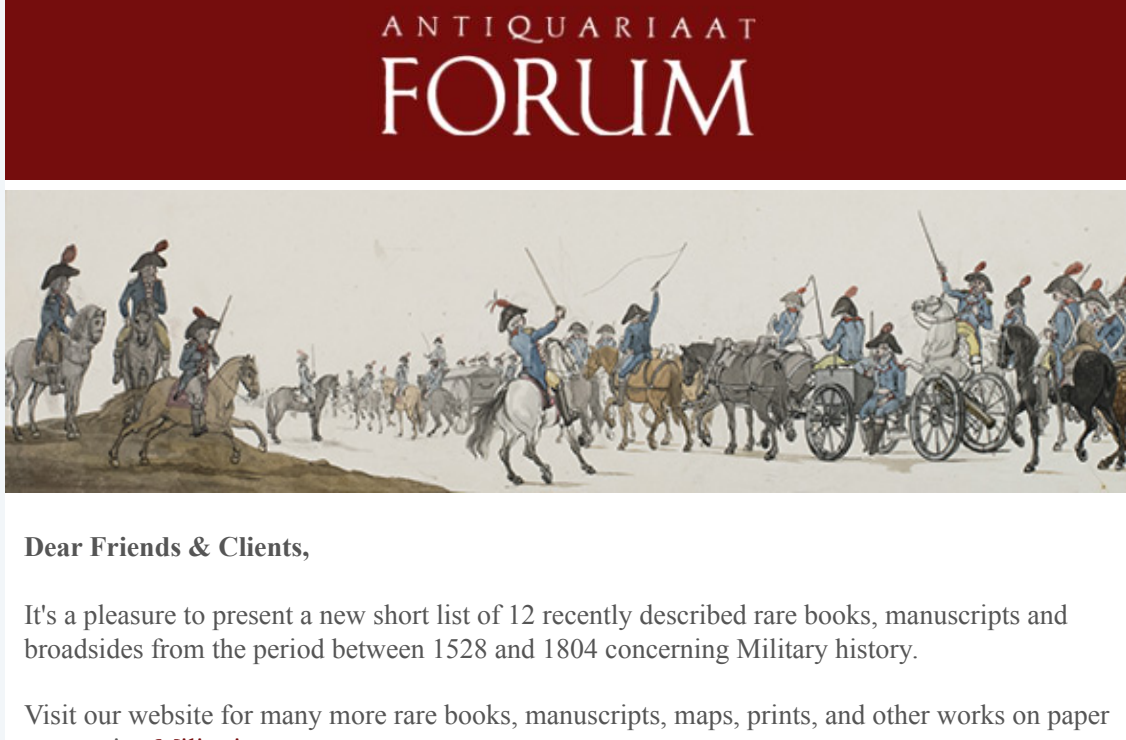




Dear Friends & Clients,

It's a pleasure to present a new short list of 12 recently described rare books, manuscripts and broadsides from the period between 1528 and 1804 concerning Military history.

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Military history



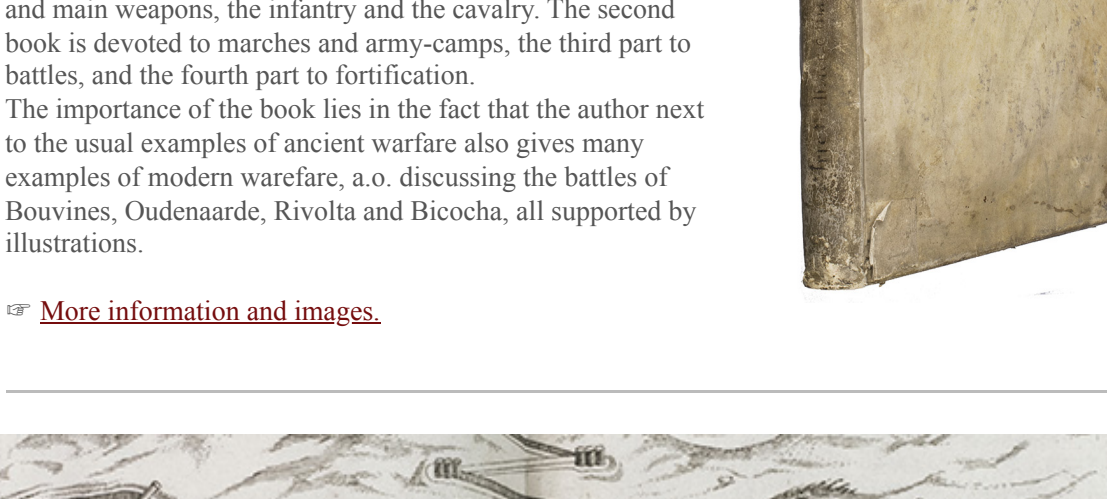
A humanist account of the Gothic War



BRUNI (ARETINO), Leonardo and Lodovico PETRONI (translator).
Libro de la guerra de Gotti. – in lingua Latine [e] fatto volgare da Lodovico Petroni Cavaliere Senese nuovamente stampato.
(Colophon: Venetia, Nicolo d'Aristotile detto Zeppino de Ferrara), 1528. 8vo.

First Venice edition of the Italian translation of Leonardo Bruni's *De bello Italico adversus Gothos*, an account of the Gothic War (535-554) between the Ostrogothic Kingdom of Italy and the Byzantine emperor Justinian. Originally written in Latin, it was translated into Italian by Ludovico Petroni (1409-1478) in 1456, circulating in manuscript for seventy years before it was first printed in Florence in 1526. The present edition, issued by Nicolo Zeppino two years later, is the second Italian edition. It is illustrated with a fine woodcut title border and Zeppino's woodcut device.

[More information and images.](#)



The most important of Italian late 16th century text books on military science

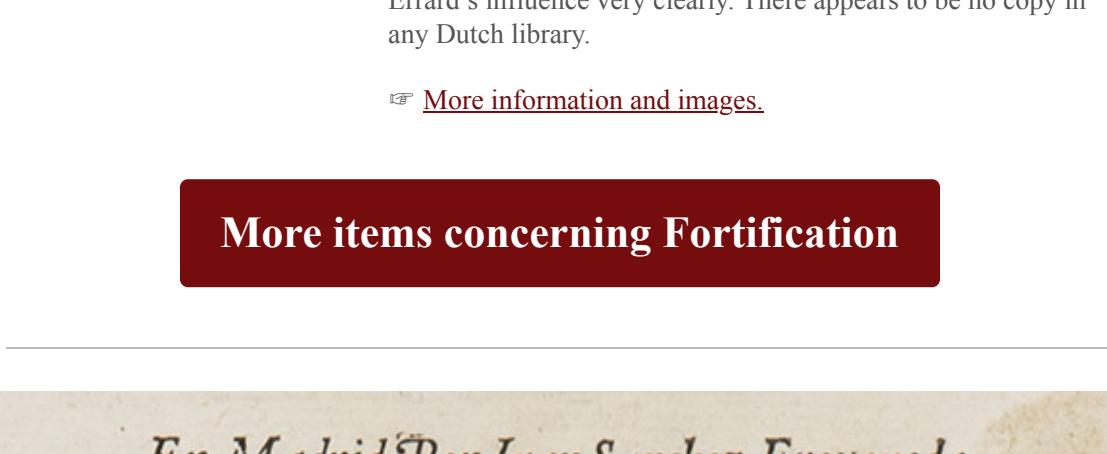
SAVORGNANO, Mario.

Arte militare terrestre, e marittima; secondo la ragione, et uso de piu valerosi capitani antichi, e moderni: gia descritta, e divisa in quattro libri.

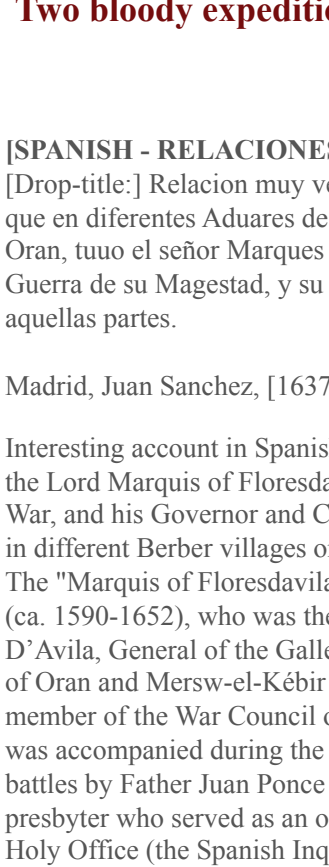
Venice, Seb. Combi, 1614. Folio.

Second edition, published by Cesare Campana after the author's death, of the most important of Italian text books on military science at the end of the 16th century, first published in 1599. Mario Savorgnano (1513-1574), in Venetian service, wrote the book for the instruction of his young nephew. The book is divided into four parts, the first treating the military functions and main weapons, the infantry and the cavalry. The second book is devoted to marches and army-camps, the third part to battles, and the fourth part to fortification. The importance of the book lies in the fact that the author next to the usual examples of ancient warfare also gives many examples of modern warfare, i.e. discussing the battles of Bovines, Oudenarde, Rivolta and Bicocca, all supported by illustrations.

[More information and images.](#)



First and only Netherlands edition of the first great French fortification manual, with a false Paris imprint



ERRARD, Jean.
La fortification demonstre et reduict en art ... reveue corrigee et augmentee par A. Errard ...

[Amsterdam ("Ivres" 2 & 4: "Paris" = Amsterdam), Johannes Janssonius?], "1616" [= 1627?-1622: 1 volume in 4 "livres". Folio (33 x 21 cm).

The first and only edition printed in the Netherlands, with a false Paris imprint and not previously recognized, of "the first independent French work on fortification" (Jahns), by Jean Errard, mathematician and official military engineer to King Henri IV, first published in 1600 (with a 1594 privilege) and here in the original French. The four "livres" give a general introduction, an account of regular (symmetrical) fortifications, irregular fortifications and fortifications at the edge of a hill, mountain or sea. The emphasis is on design and geometric construction, rather than the mechanics of building. It remained the French standard work on the subject until superseded by Vauban's work beginning in the 1670s, but even Vauban shows Errard's influence very clearly. There appears to be no copy in any Dutch library.

[More information and images.](#)

More items concerning Fortification

En Madrid, Por Juan Sanchez Frexeneda.

Two bloody expeditions by the Spanish governor to "pacify" the region round Oran (Algeria)

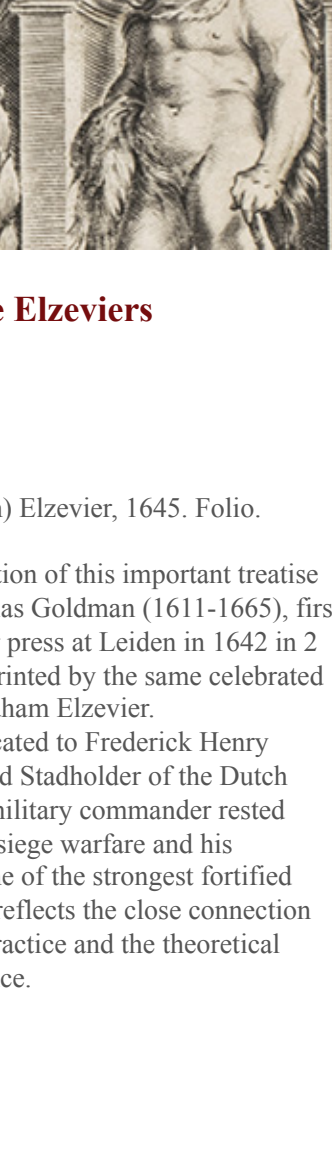
[SPANISH - RELACIONES].
[Drop-title:] Relacion muy verdadera de dos personas y derrotas que en diferentes Aduares de la Berberia en los confines de Oran, tubo el señor Marques de Florencia del Consejo de Guerra de su Magestad, y su Gobernador y Capitan general en aquellas partes.

Madrid, Juan Sanchez, [1637]. Folio (21 x 29,2 cm).

Interesting account in Spanish "of two captures and defeats that the Lord Marquis of Florencia, of His Majesty's Council of War, and his Governor and Captain General in those parts, had in different Berber villages on the borders of Oran". The "Marquis of Florencia" is Antonio Zúñiga y de la Cueva (ca. 1590-1652), who was the second Marquis of Flores. D'Ávila, General of the Gallies of Naples and Sicily, Governor of Oran and Mers-el-Kébir and of the County of Rosellón and member of the War Council of King Philip IV. Antonio Zúñiga was accompanied during the execution of these very bloody battles by Father Juan Ponce de León, a 17th-century Spanish presbyter who served as an official "qualifier" (calificador) of the Holy Office (the Spanish Inquisition). The first battle was on 17 November 1636 and following days, the other on 5 February 1737, both were bloody and many Muslims and enslaved people were killed. The result was the definitive subjugation of these regions around Oran to the throne of Spain, which had not seen a Spaniard before.

The pamphlet was printed by Juan Sánchez Frexeneda (also known as Juan Sánchez de la Frexeneda), a prominent 17th-century Spanish printer and typographer based in Madrid.

[More information and images.](#)



Classic on fortification printed by the Elseviers

GOLDMAN, Nicolas.

La nouvelle fortification.

Leiden, (Bonaventura & Abraham) Elsevier, 1645. Folio.

First edition of the French translation of this important treatise on the art of fortification by Nicolas Goldman (1611-1665), first published in Latin by the Elsevier press at Leiden in 1642 in 2 volumes. The present work was printed by the same celebrated publishers, Bonaventura and Abraham Elsevier. The work was appropriately dedicated to Frederick Henry (1584-1647), Prince of Orange and Stadholder of the Dutch Republic, whose reputation as a military commander rested largely on his remarkable skill in siege warfare and his successful campaigns against some of the strongest fortified cities of his time. The dedication reflects the close connection between contemporary military practice and the theoretical development of fortification science.

[More information and images.](#)



A papal monopoly on gunpowder production



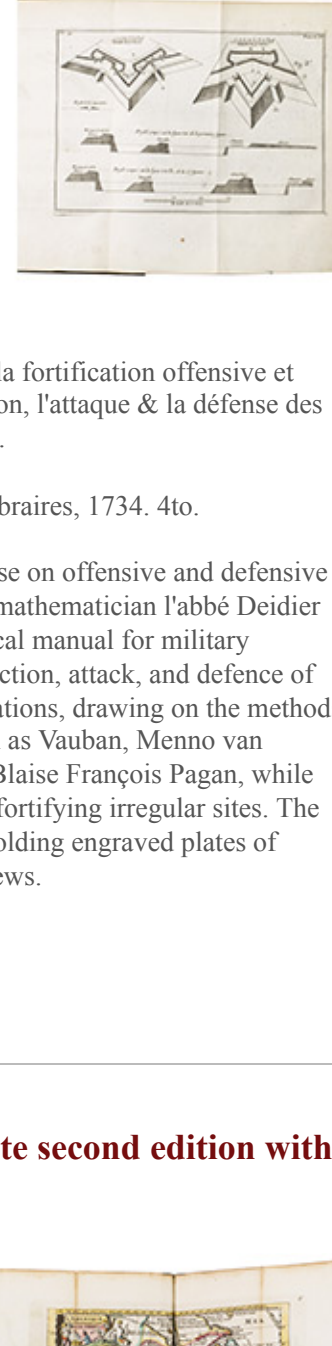
[GUNPOWDER - PAPAL STATES].

Bando contro i salnitari, e polveristi, e quelli che permettono, che nelle loro terre, castelli et altri luoghi si fabbrichino salnitro e polvere &c.

Rome, nella stamperia della reverenda Camera Apostolica, 27 January 1651. Ca. 38,5 x 26 cm.

Exceptionally rare Italian broadside against the unauthorised manufacture of saltpetre and gunpowder within the Papal States. Saltpetre, an essential ingredient of gunpowder, and gunpowder itself could only be manufactured and traded under the monopoly of the Apostolic Camera and its official contractor. Issued in 1651, the present decree renews earlier prohibitions against private saltpetre and gunpowder makers and forbids landowners from allowing production on their properties. Offenders faced severe penalties, including confiscation of their goods and, in certain cases, death. The text refers to several earlier decrees on the same subject, including a general decree of January 1645, indicating that unauthorised production remained a persistent problem despite repeated attempts to suppress it.

[More information and images.](#)



More Broadside

Next book fair

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The science of fortification



[DEIDIER, L'abbé].

Le parfait ingénieur François, ou la fortification offensive et défensive, contenant la construction, l'attaque & la défense des places régulières & irrégulières, ...

Amsterdam, la Compagnie des Libraires, 1734. 4to.

First edition of an extensive treatise on offensive and defensive fortification by the French Jesuit mathematician l'abbé Deidier (1696-1746). Intended as a practical manual for military engineers, it discusses the construction, attack, and defence of both regular and irregular fortifications, drawing on the methods of leading military engineers such as Vauban, Menno van Coehoorn, Antoine de Ville, and Blaise François Pagan, while proposing improved methods for fortifying irregular sites. The work is illustrated with 42 large folding engraved plates of fortification plans and detailed views.

[More information and images.](#)

