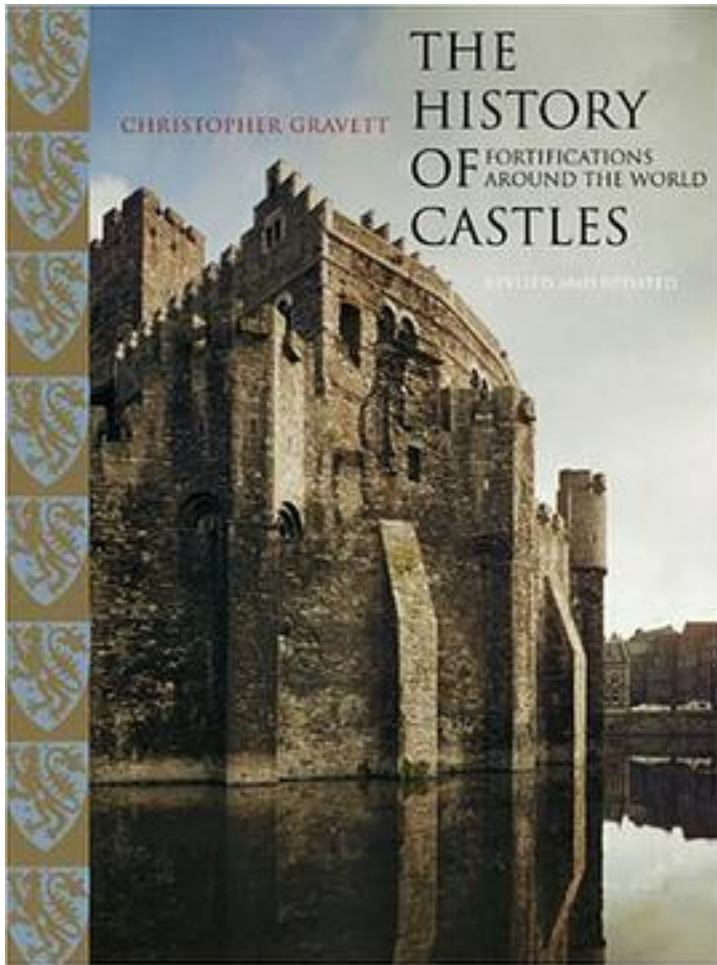


The History of Castles



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出版者:Globe Pequot Pr

出版时间:2001-11

装帧:HRD

isbn:9781585744350

The awful gloom of a Norman dungeon, the majestic power of a great keep, the sweep of battlements -- castles have the power to fascinate us in a way few buildings

can.Europe is rich in the ruins of castles, from small tower houses to massive structures the size of a small city, but all across the world there are examples of man's ingenious fortifications, built for protection or conquest. Castles takes readers on a global tour that also includes stops in Eastern Europe, Russia, and the Middle East, to examine why and how castles were built in different regions, how they were used, and in many cases, how they were destroyed in warfare. Through the use of evocative photographs, the aid of maps, and examples of reconstructions, this encyclopedic guide brings the past to life and is a must for every ruin hunter.

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