Castles

A Very Peculiar History

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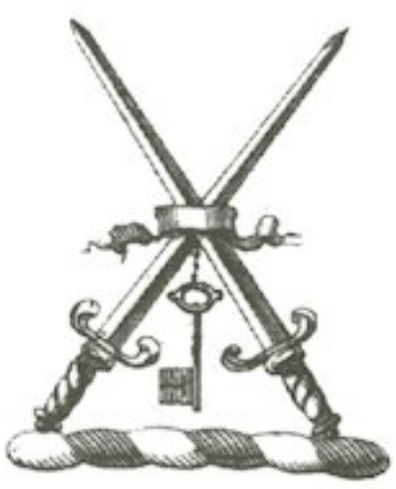

'A man's house is his castle.'

Sir Edward Coke

English judge and defender of civil liberty 1552-1643

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Castles

A Very Peculiar History

Written by
Jacqueline Morley

Hatch

'They cruelly oppressed the wretched men of the land with castle works; and when the castles were made they filled them with devils and wicked men. Then both by night and day they took those people whom they thought had any goods – men and women – and put them in prison and tortured them.'

An English monk, writing in 1137 of the misdeeds of the Norman barons under weak King Stephen.

'The rich man in his castle,
The poor man at his gate:
God made them high or lowly
And ordered their estate.'

Mrs Alexander, Irish poet and hymn writer 1818-1895

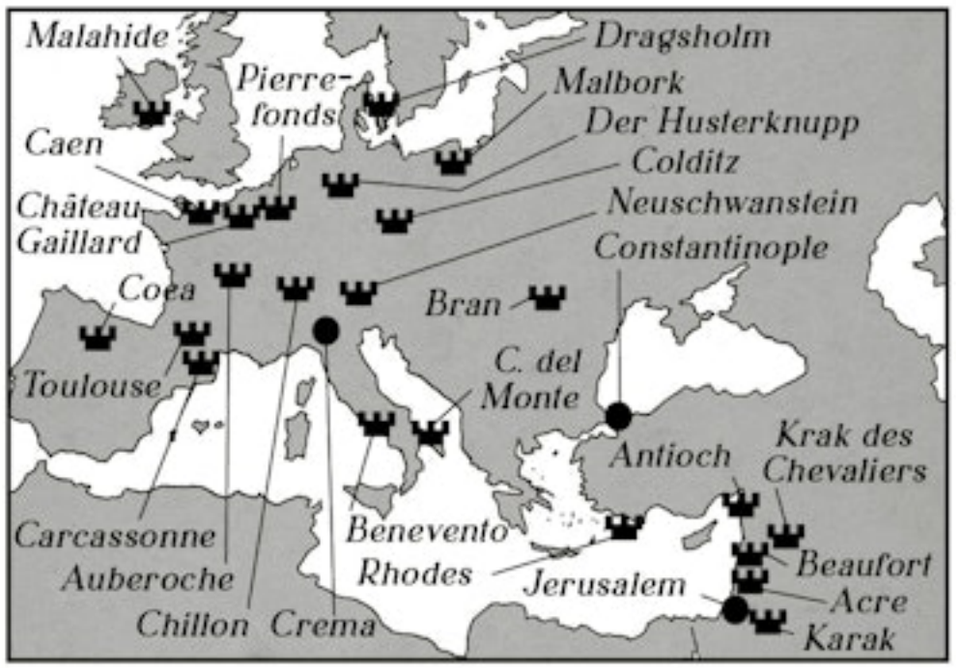
Contents

Putting castles on the map		6
Introduction: What makes a castle a castle?		9
1	The coming of castles	11
2	Kings, lords and knights	25
3	Siege stories	39
4	Crusader castles	55
5	At home in a castle	71
6	The castle improved	89
7	Castle entertainments	103
8	Castles of the East	117
9	The decline of the castle	135
10	Castles of the imagination	155
11	New uses for old castles	171
Glossary		180
Timeline of castle history		185
Index		188

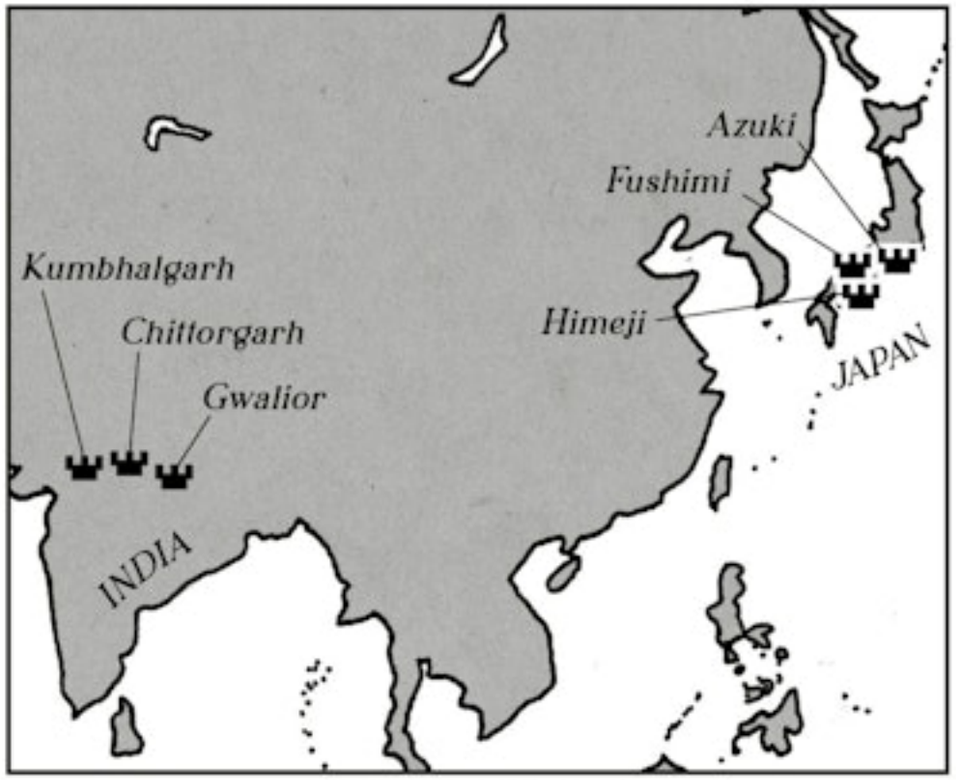
Putting castles on the map

Castles of Great Britain

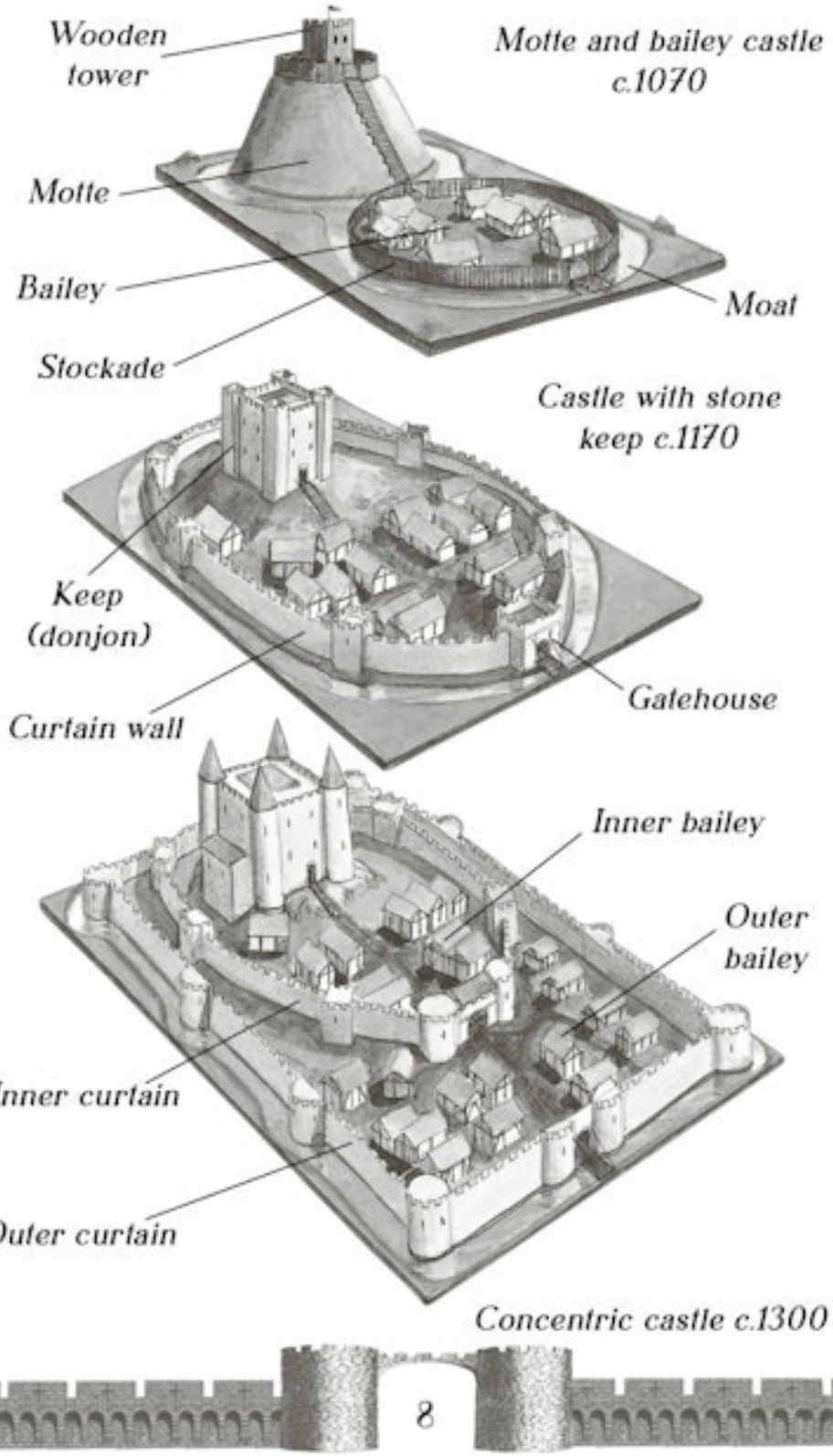
Europe and the Middle East



Castles of India and Japan



Castles through the ages



Introduction

What makes a castle a castle?

We all think we know what a castle is: a big old stone building with battlements, and usually in ruins because people stopped having any use for them ages ago.

But if you'd been living in England around 1050, when it still belonged to the Saxons, you wouldn't have known how to answer. You'd almost certainly never seen a castle – but you'd heard about them, and you didn't like what you'd heard. They were some newfangled type of building that King Edward the Confessor was letting his French cronies put up on the Welsh borders.

When the king had trouble with his English earls, he'd invited French friends over (he'd been brought up in Normandy) and put them in top jobs. He'd given them land where they'd been putting up private fortifications (they had a French word for them: *chastel* – 'castle'.) And when they were well dug in they'd been riding out and terrorising local people.

That's the definition of a castle. It's the private dwelling of a lord or king, that provides him with a safe, fortified base from which he and his fighting men can keep the upper hand over everyone else in the neighbourhood.

The English monk who recorded the castle-building fad of these foreigners (in his chronicle for the year 1051) had no doubt that it was a bad thing. Saxon and Viking fortifications had been communal efforts, protecting whole towns or settlements against a common enemy. These new castles were private 'me-against-you' affairs. And they had come to stay.

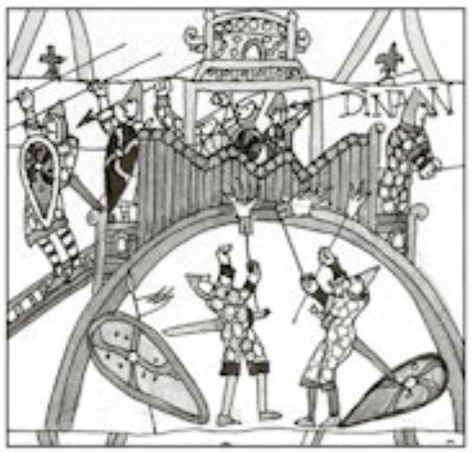
The coming of castles

Castles were the means by which William the Conqueror controlled the English kingdom he had won at the battle of Hastings in 1066. He rewarded the Norman barons who'd backed him by giving them large estates and encouraging them to protect their property – and dishearten the locals – by building castles there. Castles gave you clout. Of course, William granted the land on the strict condition that the barons continued to support him as king and to acknowledge that he was the real owner of the entire country. Over 500 castles sprouted in England during his reign.

What did the first castles look like?

At its simplest, a castle was a timber building surrounded by a ditch and an earth rampart. In grander examples, the timber building was a tower set on a man-made mound of earth, called a 'motte'. The top of the mound had a strong fence around it, and its base was protected by the ditch formed when earth was dug out to make the motte.

A wooden bridge linked the motte with a larger enclosure called the 'bailey'. This contained several smaller buildings and also had a surrounding ditch. Earth was piled up on its inner side to form a bank topped by a fearsome row of stakes.

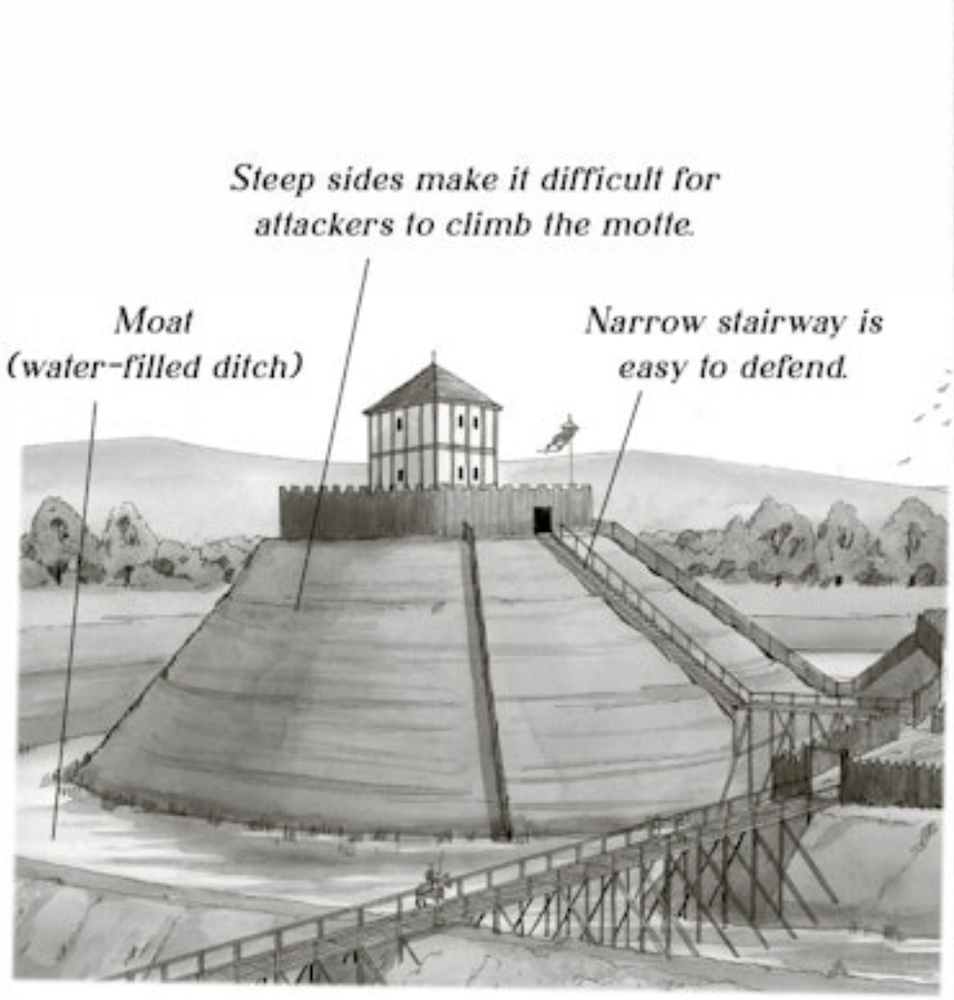


A scene from the Bayeux Tapestry shows soldiers attacking a castle motte.

How to make a motte

It wouldn't be any good just piling up soil, which would be washed away in the first downpour. You need plenty of hard material well bonded together.

Archaeologists have excavated mottes and found that they were built of alternating layers of different materials, rammed down hard: a layer of soil topped by a layer of stone or shingle, then another layer of soil, and so on.



A flat-pack castle?

When William landed on Pevensey beach in Sussex in September 1066, his first concern was to establish a safe base. For this he needed a castle, and quickly. A twelfth-century chronicler says he brought it with him. The writer wasn't an eyewitness, but he may well have been right. It makes sense. When you've just landed in hostile territory you don't want to start felling trees and cutting them to size in full view of the enemy. Shipping precut timbers would save valuable time.

After William's victory at Hastings the people of London took the prudent course and surrendered the city to him. He immediately started a castle there, too. It was the usual earth and timber affair, but within twelve years he had set about replacing it with a massive square tower of stone 27 metres high. It must have seemed a skyscraper to the English, who were used to single-storey wooden buildings.

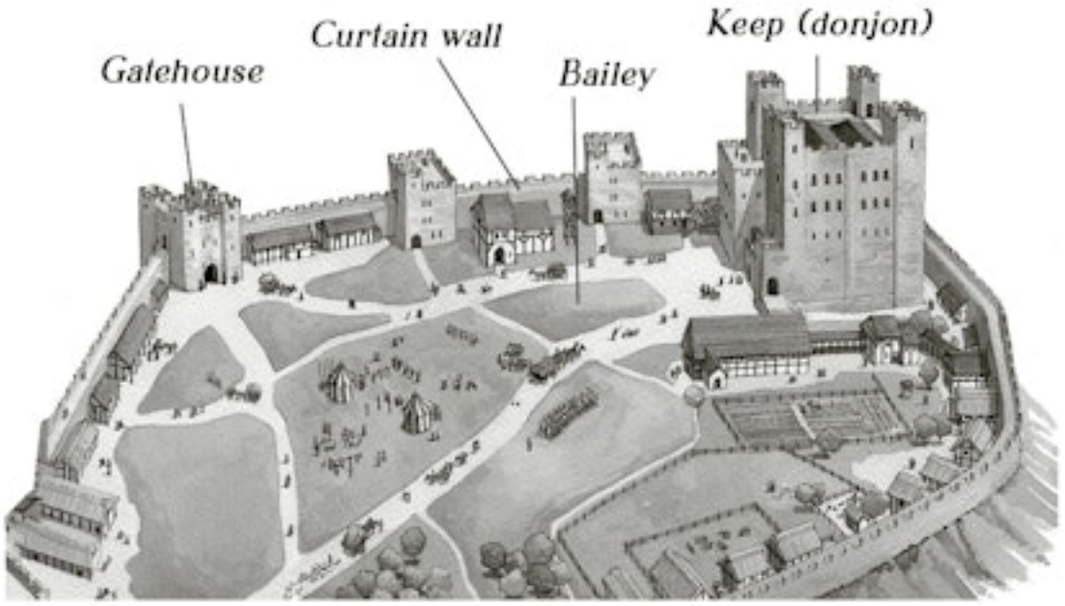
Building in stone took longer and cost much more than wood, but a stone tower was stronger

than a wooden one and made a much more intimidating statement. Stone castles had already appeared on the continent and this was to be the way forward in England too.

The main stone tower of a castle is now called its *keep*, though the Normans called it a *donjon* (which doesn't mean that it was a dungeon, even though it was a good place for holding people prisoner). It provided living quarters for the owner and his family, a safe retreat in times of danger and, above all, a vantage point from which to survey and control the surrounding land.

As a security measure, the entrance to the keep was on the first floor, with a removable wooden stairway outside. The ground floor was used for storage and there were two or three floors of living space above. The first floor was the grand reception hall, which might be divided by a cross-wall into a public hall and a more private chamber. Above were similar rooms for the lord and his family. There were sometimes chambers made in the depth of the walls, which were very thick. Spiral stairs led up and down.

The bailey was crowded with timber buildings, almost like a small village. They housed all the people and activities the castle needed to make sure it could survive without outside help, if necessary: a barracks, an armoury, stables, kennels, blacksmiths' and carpenters' workshops, wagon shed, storage barns, kitchen, brewhouse and bakehouse. There was a large hall where everyone ate together, and a chapel where they heard Mass every day.



Rochester castle, Kent, England
The wooden buildings in the bailey have not survived, but this is how they may have looked in the early 13th century.

A chapel story

It was everyone's duty to hear Mass in chapel daily, but a certain, very possibly legendary, countess of Anjou, an ancestor of Richard Cœur de Lion, didn't seem to have her heart in it.

She was a woman of great beauty and mysterious charm who would never stay at Mass for the elevation of the Host. When one day her husband tried to force her to stay, she floated out through the chapel window with two of her sons in the folds of her gown, never to return – proof of her devilish origins!

Far from being ashamed of his doubtful ancestor, Richard was proud of her. He boasted of his Anjou family motto:

"From the Devil we came; to the Devil we return."

It made a good battle-cry.

William's stone keep at London (now known as the White Tower from its 13th-century whitewashing – quite usual castle practice, to preserve the stonework) was given many additions and had its defences strengthened over the centuries. Richard I added an outer bailey; Henry III extended Richard's bailey with a strong wall and towers; Edward III gave it a second ring of walls.

The Tower has given its name to the whole castle, now Britain's most popular medieval tourist attraction: the Tower of London.

"Come and see us some time. You have to pay to get in, but at least it's easier to get out than it used to be..."

The versatile Tower

At one time or another the Tower of London has been a:

- fortress
- royal palace
- prison
- place of torture and execution
- private menagerie (zoo) (opened to the public in the 18th century, on payment of three halfpence – or of a cat or dog to feed the lions)
- royal mint
- observatory
- record office
- regimental museum
- home of the crown jewels
- top tourist attraction

Although the Tower of London was a functioning castle, with all the usual castle uses, its name always comes with a shudder attached: it spells death on the chopping block! That's because it became the place where traitors were held (Henry VIII found it particularly handy). They went in through Traitors' Gate (the riverside entry) and didn't come out again.

The Tower's first prisoner – but by no means its last – was Ranulf Flambard, bishop of Durham, who was convicted of extortion in 1100. He escaped by climbing down a rope smuggled into his cell in a wine cask.

Lucky Ranulf! Welsh prince Gruffydd ap Llywelyn, who was held in the Tower as a 'guest' of Henry III, didn't do nearly so well. In 1244 he tried to escape down a rope of sheets. His weight was too much for the knots (he was a heavy fellow). They gave way and he fell 27 metres to his death.

Off with their heads!

If the monarch thought you were dangerous enough to be sent to the Tower for treason, you were probably pretty high-ranking. As such, you were spared a public execution. Among those who enjoyed the privilege of a private beheading within the Tower walls were:

- Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's second wife, 1536.
- Margaret, Countess of Salisbury, the last of the Plantagenet dynasty, 1541.
- Catherine Howard, Henry's fifth wife, 1542.
- Jane Boleyn, sister-in-law of Anne and involved in Catherine's downfall, 1542.
- Lady Jane Grey, queen of England for nine days, 1554.
- Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, former favourite of Elizabeth I, 1601.

The last execution at the Tower was that of German spy Josef Jakobs on 14 August 1941, by firing squad.

Serving a life sentence: the Tower of London ravens

For as long as anyone can remember, there have been ravens at the Tower. Their presence is vital for the safety of the UK, for legend says that if the ravens go, the kingdom will fall.

At least six are always on duty, at taxpayers' expense (in fact there are ten: six full-time and four in training). They have their own official, the Ravenmaster, to care for them. Each has one wing clipped to hamper flight, so they truly are prisoners in the Tower.

Charles II's Astronomer Royal complained that the ravens perched on his telescopes and fouled them. He wanted them out, but it was the observatory that got the boot (down the river to Greenwich) and the ravens that stayed.

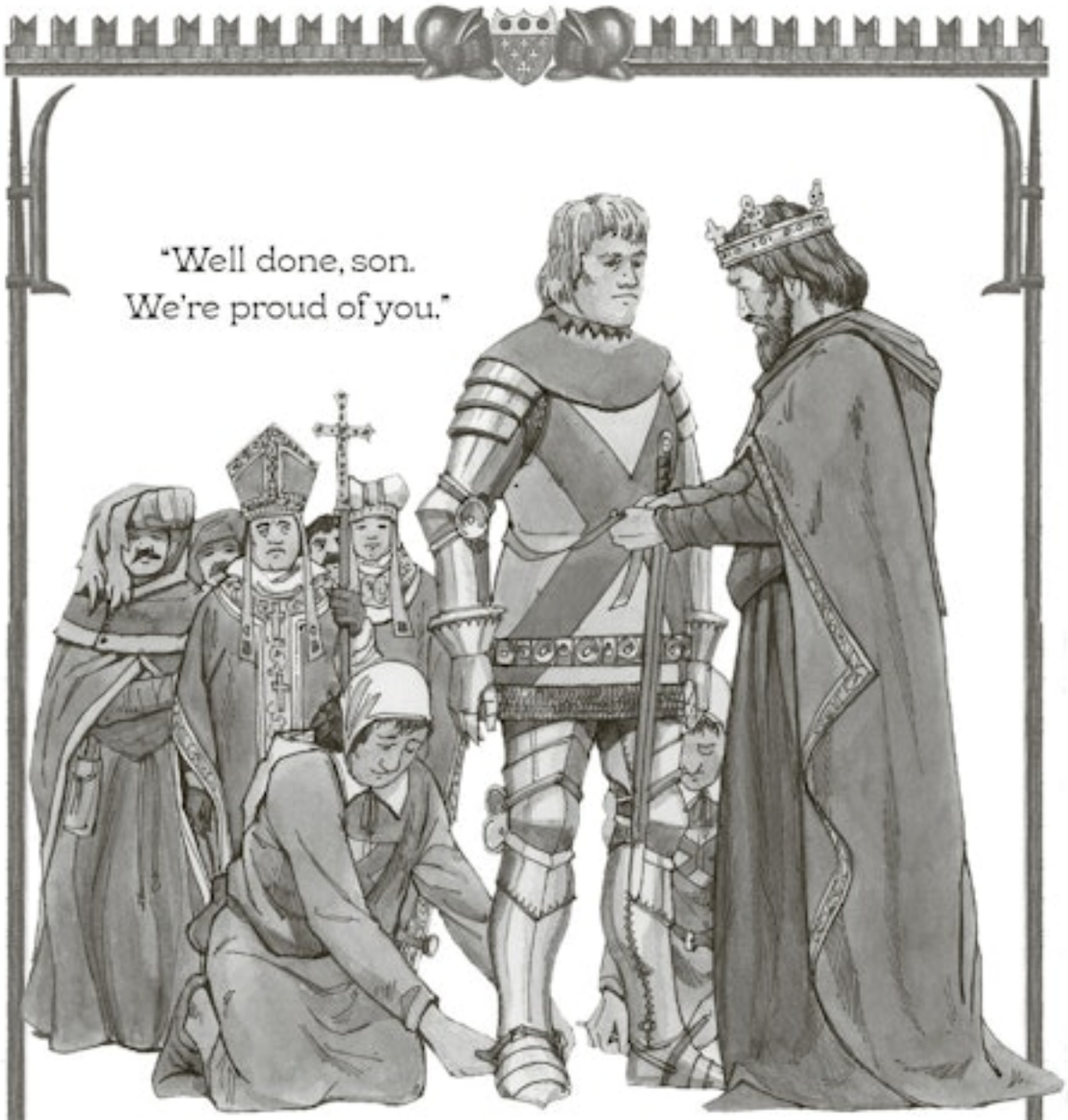
During the Second World War all but one of the Tower ravens died from the shock of the bombing, but one clung on to save the nation. His name was Grip!

The oldest raven to serve in the Tower was Jim Crow, who died aged 44.

During the 2006 bird flu scare the ravens were kept indoors. Britain was taking no chances!

"You'd better believe it!"

Without the ravens there would be no Tower – and no kingdom

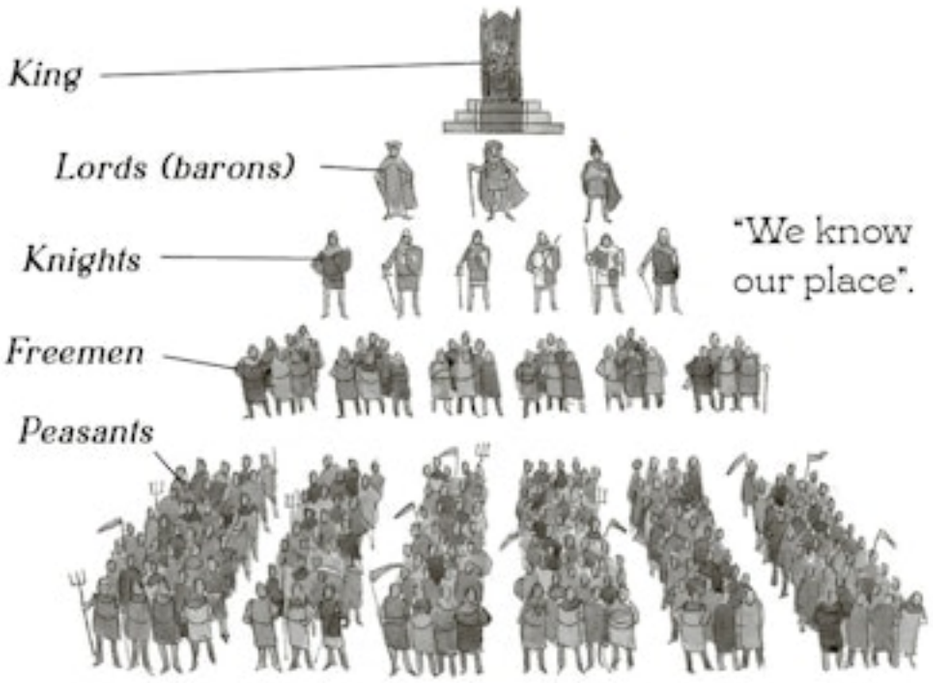


When a knight won his spurs in the stories of old,
He was gentle and brave he was gallant and bold...

Kings, lords and knights

Life in the castle was run on the assumption that war, if not actually outside the castle gate, was just round the corner. A lord had to have warriors constantly on hand. They didn't all live in the castle, but he could call on them when he needed them. He could count on them turning up to fight for him because they were in his debt: they owed him loyalty because he had given them the land they lived on.

This system – the feudal system – held good right from the top. The king owned all the land and parcelled it out among the great lords, his vassals (dependants), on the strict understanding that, in a crisis, each would provide him with a specified number of mounted warriors, called knights.



The number of knights to be supplied depended on the value of the land granted. Lords shared out their obligation by granting some of their land to lesser nobles, who in turn became their vassals, and so on down the scale. The whole system depended on loyalty, and it worked, partly because of the keen sense of honour there was in those days and partly because people knew which side their bread was buttered on.

Fractured knights

As time went by, knights reluctant to give up home comforts for castle duty or fighting were allowed to pay money instead. The sum a vassal paid his overlord was still reckoned in knights, and, where property had been split and split again, a smallholder might have to pay $^1/_2$, or $^1/_4$, or $^1/_2$, right down to $^1/_{30}$ of a knight.

Fractious knights

In 1192 the abbot of Bury St Edmunds was required to send knights to fight for the king in Normandy. (The clergy held land on similar terms to lay people.) His own men refused to go, on the grounds that their duty didn't oblige them to cross the sea. The abbot had to hire some knights at 3 shillings (15 p) a day.

"We'll do it, but it'll cost you."

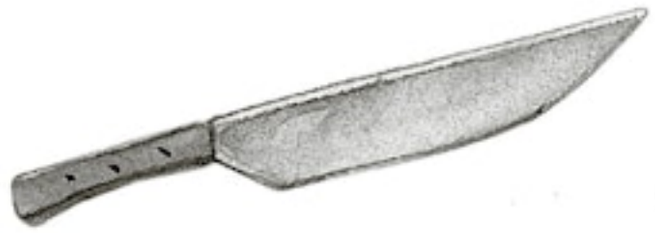
Becoming a knight

Knights were highly skilled mounted warriors trained for the cavalry charge and hand-to- hand fighting. They rode full tilt into battle, jostling for places in the front.

A knight's training began at about the age of seven when he was sent to live in the castle of his father's overlord, or of a relative, to serve as a page.

A page's first lessons were in learning how to behave, in suitably aristocratic fashion, towards his superiors. The rules were strict. At mealtimes he waited on the lord of the castle at table, a duty no hired servant could perform. He had to present his lord's wine cup on bended knee, know the correct handling of the napkin, and master the complicated art of carving meat at the table. Each type of joint required a special approach.

Correct terms for carving meat



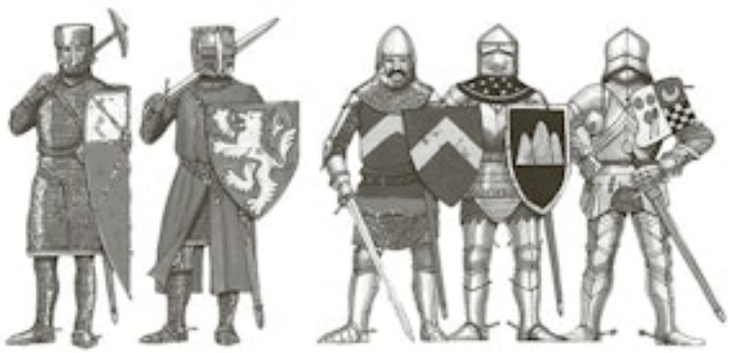
break a deer	display a crane
rear a goose	disfigure a peacock
sauce a capon	allay a pheasant
spoil a hen	wing a partridge
unbrace a mallard	thigh a pigeon.

Pheasant (serving suggestion)

Outdoors, a page learned to ride and groom a horse and to gain basic fighting skills, using a wooden sword.

At around 15 he became squire to a knight and handled real weapons. He looked after his knight's arms and his horse, helped prepare him for battle and followed him into the fight.
When he had shown on the battlefield that he was made of the right stuff, he was dubbed a knight.

There was not much ceremony about this in the early days – all that was needed was a blow on the shoulder from someone already a knight. It could be done in the midst of battle. Afterwards, to mark the occasion, the new knight gave a riding display to show his skill in managing horse and armour.



1160 1265 1330 1400 1450

A knight had to be properly fitted out with armour if he were to have any chance of surviving in aggressive hand-to-hand fighting. By the 11th century the leather hauberks used in earlier days had given way to tunics of chain mail (tiny interlinked metal rings). Underneath the mail he wore a *gambeson*, a padded garment that deadened blows and helped to stop arrows biting into flesh. His body was protected by a long shield and his head by a helmet. This was conical at first, with a nose-guard, and later an all-enclosing cake-tin shape that rested on the shoulders.

When a knight charged at the enemy he was prevented from falling off by his high, built-up saddle and his stirrups. He hoped to unhorse his opponent with his lance at the first charge. When it came to close combat he used a sword or a battleaxe.

An axe could cut through chain mail, driving metal links into the wound. Plate armour was the answer to this. It began as small pieces of metal placed at vulnerable points such as elbows and knees. By the 15th century it had developed into entire suits of metal plates.

Kitting out a knight

A knight had to provide his own equipment – and it wasn't cheap.

The most expensive item was his horse. A knight needed a *destrier*, the strongest type of horse, that was bred for carrying the weight of an armoured knight in battle. For everyday use people rode a lighter horse, called a palfrey. A lord would also have swift coursers for hunting.

Armour was also very valuable. It was made to last more than one lifetime. People often mentioned it in wills. For example, Bartholomew de Leigh, a knight who died around 1230, left a hauberk and mailed shoes to the earl of Winchester; he left another small hauberk, with a mail coif (hood), to W. Bordel, while his nephew got a hauberk, mail stockings and a mail covering for a horse.
All of this Bartholomew had originally inherited from his brother.

Take good care of your armour

Chain mail needed to be kept clean and polished if it wasn't to be eaten up with rust. It was put in a barrel with sand and vinegar and rolled about vigorously to scour away the rust.

Plate armour was polished by rubbing with bran, or with a pad of that very nasty weed called mare's-tail, which has flint-like particles in its stems.

But too much reliance on armour and stylised training could be disastrous. At the battle of Benevento in 1266 an invading French army was fighting heavily armoured German cavalry. The Germans seemed unbeatable, advancing like metal-clad machines. Then a French soldier noticed that when they raised their swords to strike, their armpits were uncovered. The French closed in tightly, thrust their short daggers upwards and slaughtered the enemy.

Don't chance your arm!

The castle staff

There was always a garrison of knights living in the castle, but in peacetime a much larger number would be at home farming their estates. They were available to fight when needed, and they had to do duty as castle guard on a rota basis. The length of duty varied. In the 12th century a knight was expected to serve two months a year in time of war and 40 days' castle guard in peacetime.

When the lord was away, the knights were commanded by the constable of the castle. He became the lord's deputy, responsible for the proper functioning of the entire estate. If the lord had many castles he might appoint constables to be permanently in charge of them.

The constable's right-hand men were the marshal and the estate steward. The marshal was responsible for seeing that the defences were in good order, for the drilling and equipment of the soldiers and for supervising the stables.

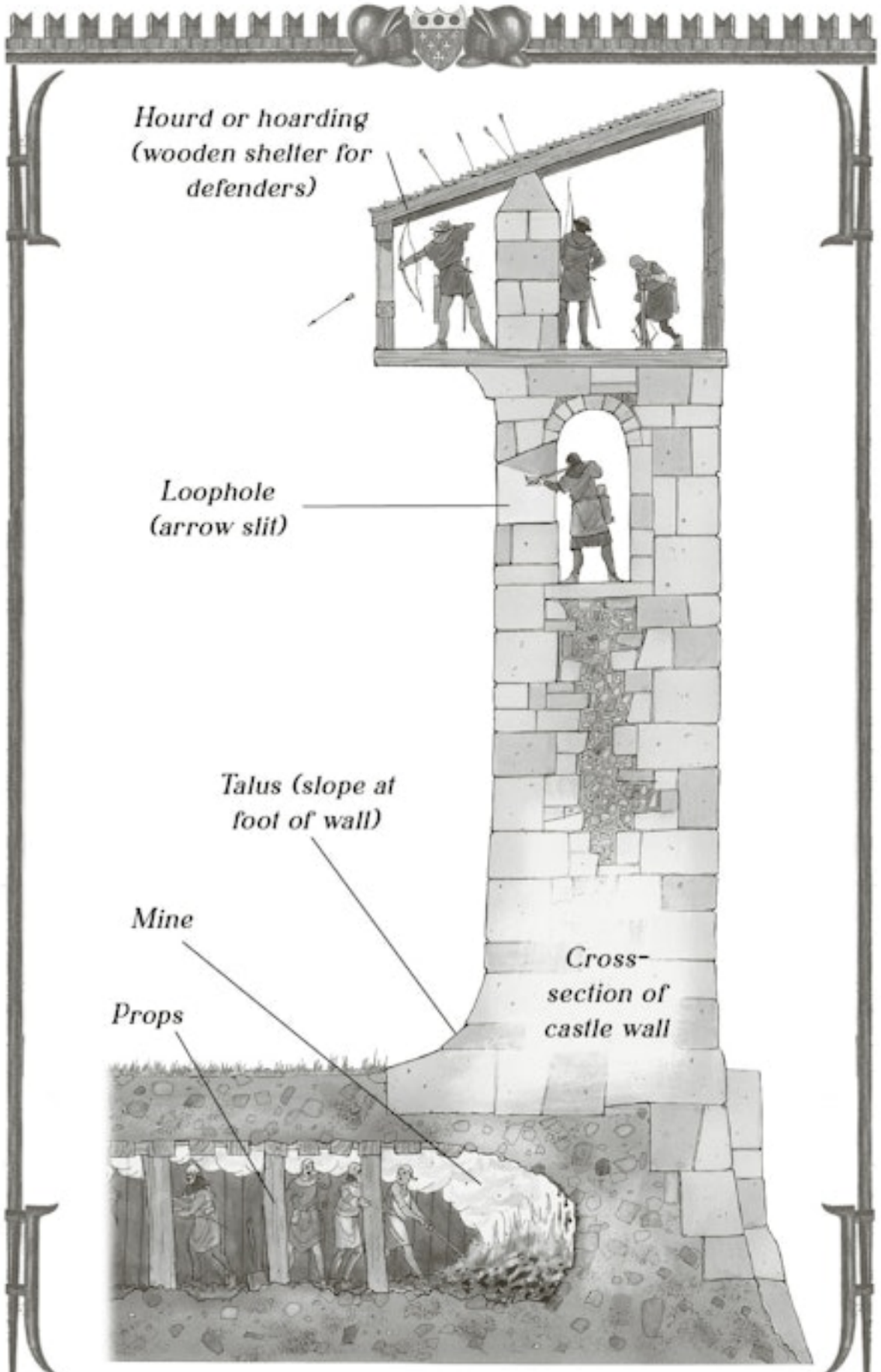
Just a few of the household staff

The estate steward managed the lord's business affairs. He worked closely with the bailiffs of the various manors (separate areas of the estate) to make sure the land was yielding enough to keep the castle well fed. He also collected the lord's rents and taxes from the tenants, together with fines for their various wrongdoings – which were a useful additional income for the castle. Offenders were tried at a court that was held regularly in the castle, where the local sheriff or the lord himself sat in judgement.

who made the castle self-sufficient

The man they loved to hate

The bailiff's job was to see that the peasants didn't slack. As a result he was never popular outside the castle. There were plenty of tales told of greedy or dishonest bailiffs. A really mean one is said to have persuaded his lord to sell the sunshine – by charging twelve pennies for every cloth put out to dry in the sun.



Siege stories

The idea of a siege was to surround your enemy's castle (or camp, or city) so that no-one could get in or out. Then he had to surrender – or starve. It's hardly an exaggeration to say that medieval warfare was 1% battles and 99% sieges. You couldn't take over enemy territory without capturing every castle you met on your way, and unless the gate was opened to you that meant a siege. It was dangerous to ignore one and press on. You would have a hostile garrison behind you which could attack your supply chain, and if you had to retreat its forces were waiting to cut you off.

Setting siege to a castle was a challenge to its owner. If the owner was a king or a great lord, he might not actually be there – he could be at one of his other castles. But if he failed to protect any one of his castles he lost authority. If he could, he sent a 'relieving force' to come at the besiegers from behind and drive them off. It might arrive in time, it might not. That was one of the many things that had to be weighed up in deciding whether to surrender a castle or to abandon a siege. Others were:

The time of year

A lot depended on this because food, or the lack of it, was crucial. In late summer the besiegers could raid the ripening crops and grazing animals in the fields. Later or earlier in the year they would be much more dependent on supplies arriving from home. Autumn favoured the castle, when it would be well stocked with harvested crops and meat salted for winter.

Advance warning

Had there been time to lay waste all the surrounding land, leaving nothing to support the besiegers (or the unlucky local peasants)?

Who will starve first

It wasn't always the castle that gave up through starvation, though there are many horror stories of people eating boiled boots and dead bodies. A big besieging army might run out of food quicker than a well-stocked castle (or their men might get demoralised and desert – an option not open to the castle dwellers).

Water

Did the castle have a reliable water supply? Could the besiegers cut it off at source, or poison it?

The weather

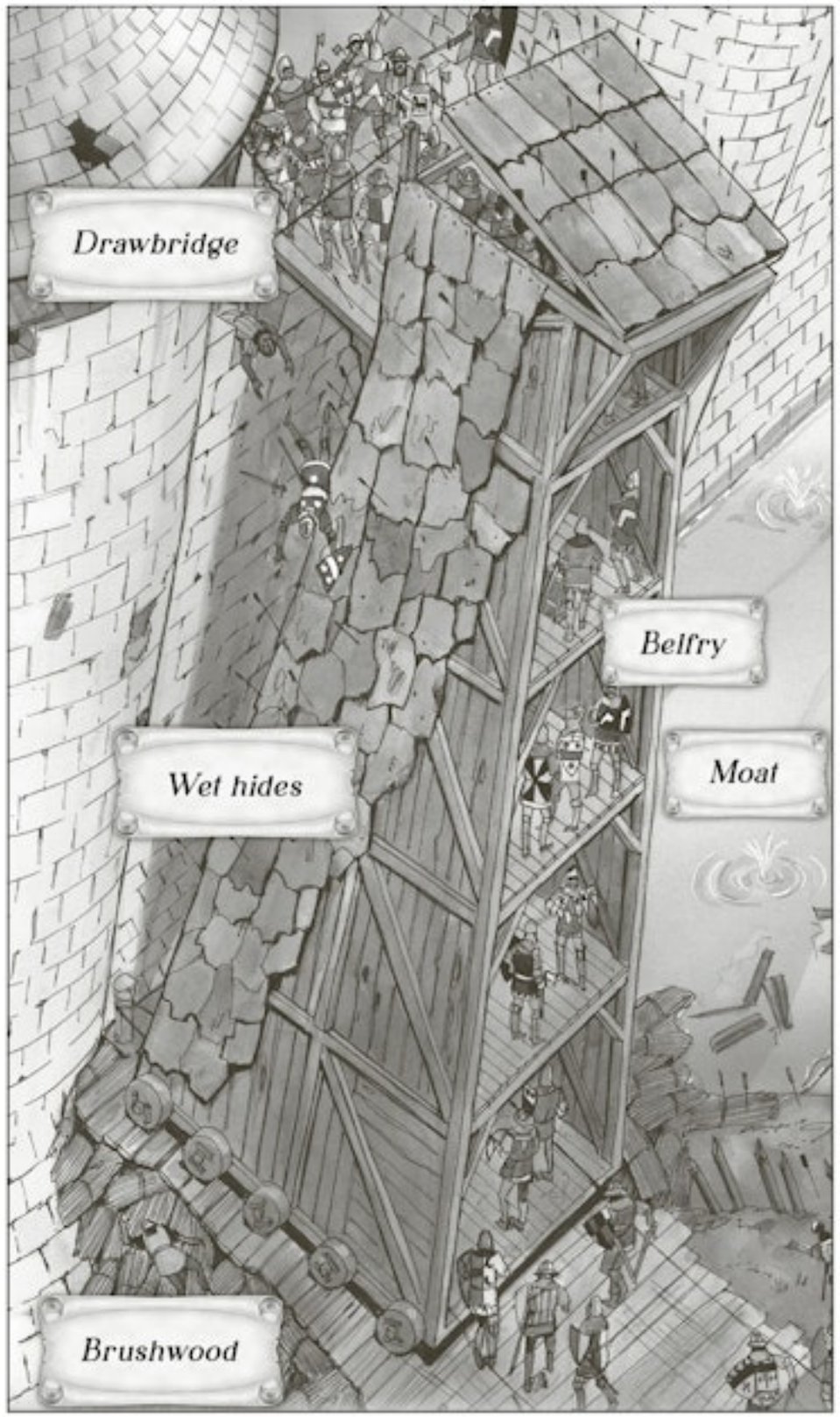
A scorching summer could dry up the castle's well. But it could also help spread diseases like dysentery in the besiegers' camp. It's recorded that at Le Sap in Normandy in the 12th century, the attackers – who had meat but nothing else – ate it raw (not a good idea in warm weather) and got appalling diarrhoea. They were forced to abandon the siege, 'by God's judgement', and 'left a trail of filth behind, many barely capable of dragging themselves back home'.

Siege weapons

Once attackers got inside the bailey, a siege was more than half won. Getting past the bailey walls was the big problem. Basically you had to get over, under or through them.

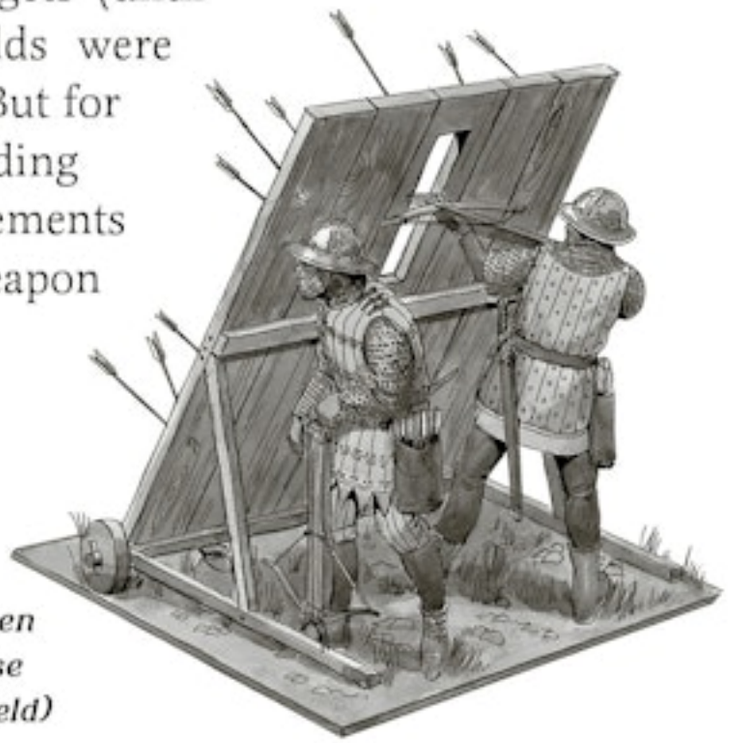
Over...

The obvious way to scale a wall is by ladder, but walls were often too high for them and they were only safe in a surprise attack. Otherwise they could be toppled back by defenders waiting on the battlements. It was more effective to use a 'belfry' or siege tower. This movable wooden tower, several storeys high, was wheeled up to the walls (the moat had to be filled in with brushwood first) and delivered a large number of armed men, all at once, to the top of the wall. The belfry's sides and roof had to be covered with wet ox-hides because the defenders would do everything they could to set it alight. Once on fire, the belfry was a death-trap.



For getting missiles over there was plenty of choice. Both sides relied heavily on archery. By the 12th century the 'pull back the string and let it twang' bow was old technology. The new thing was the crossbow – so lethal that the Church banned it when it first appeared. Its string was drawn back by putting one's foot in a sort of stirrup to hold the bow down and then yanking with both hands. It delivered a metal bolt at a speed that sent it right through armour.

For attackers its disadvantage was its rate of fire. It took a long time to load, making firers standing targets (until special shields were developed). But for defenders hiding behind battlements it was the weapon of choice.



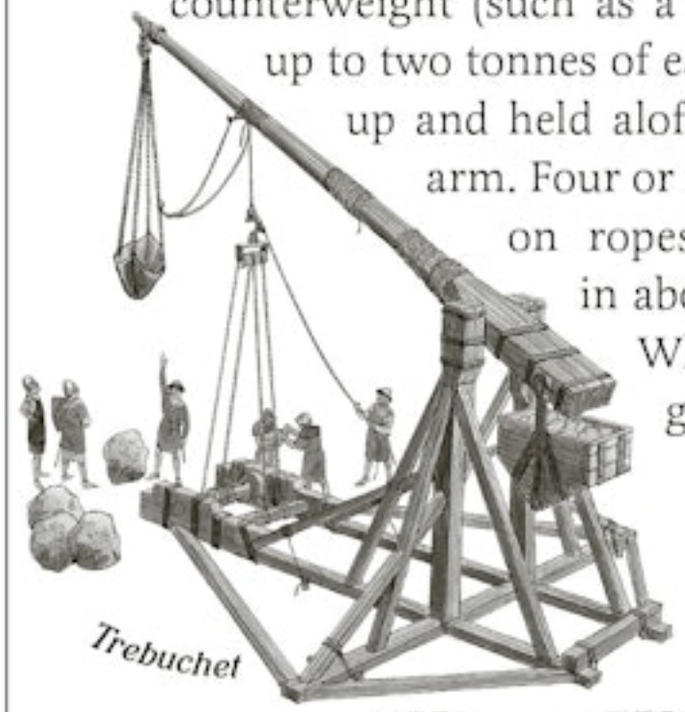
Crossbowmen with a pavise (movable shield)

Mangonel

Siege engines – machinery for hurling missiles – went back to Roman times. There was the mangonel, with a throwing arm that was winched back and released, and the ballista, which worked like a giant crossbow.

Ballista

In the 12th century the Arabs devised a more powerful machine, the trebuchet. It worked like an unbalanced see-saw. A rock or a big ball of lead was put in a sling hanging from the longer arm, and a huge counterweight (such as a crate filled with up to two tonnes of earth) was heaved up and held aloft on the shorter arm. Four or five men hauling on ropes could do this in about five minutes. When they let go, the short arm crashed down, flipping the missile up and over.



Trebuchet

Romantic ruins

The 18th century invented the term 'picturesque' to describe the sort of scene where a glimpse of ruins gives the finishing touch.

If you had the land and money, you could create a picturesque landscape in your own grounds. To complete it, the logical thing was to build yourself a new ruin – and people did.

And while you're spending money on a ruin, why not make it useful? This sensible idea led to some very nonsensical buildings. The romantic fragment of a medieval chamber proved on a closer look to be the false front of a cattleshed; the mouldering castle tower and the labourer's cottage apparently built from its stones were both put up yesterday.

Decisions, decisions

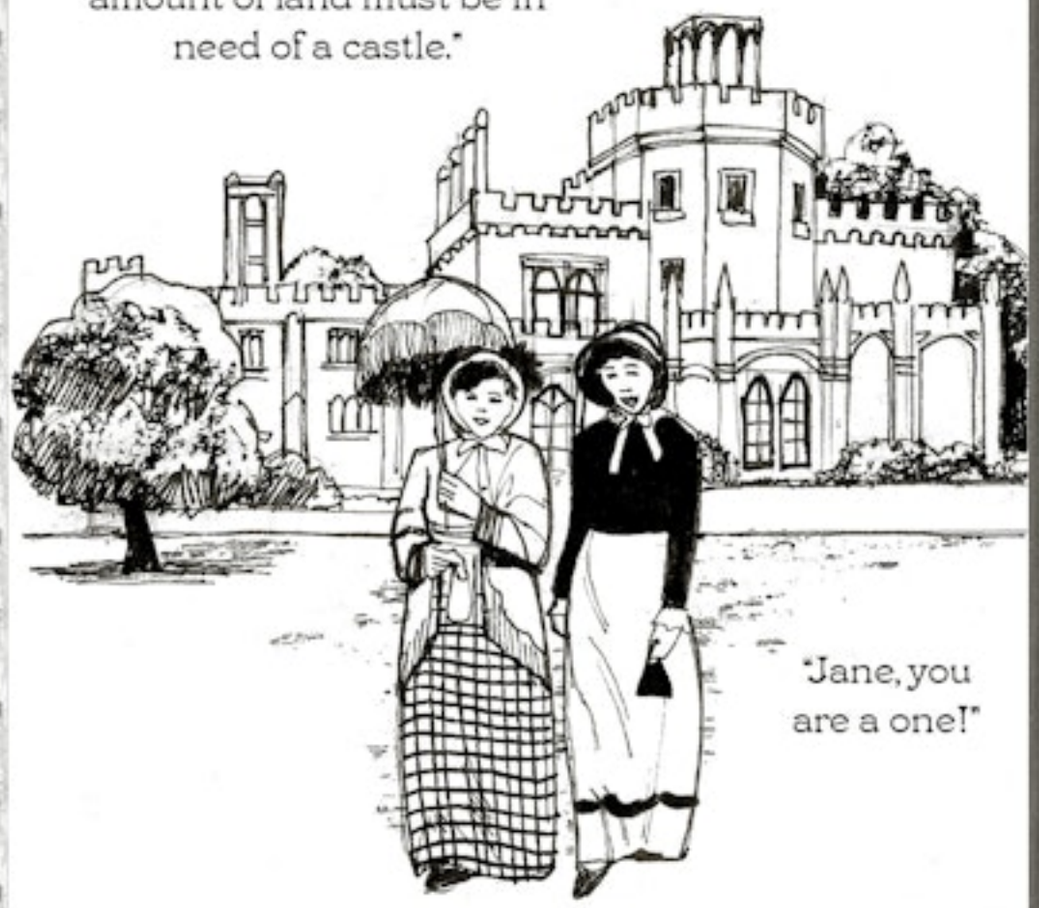
A hot topic for discussion in the 18th century was what type of ruin you should build. Many favoured Greek ruins as being the most beautiful. Others strongly objected to them in an English landscape because the Greeks never built here.

Ruins also had to inspire the right sort of thoughts. As one writer put it: 'Grecian ruins suggest the triumph of barbarity over taste: a gloomy and discouraging thought,' while 'Gothic [medieval] ruins exhibit the triumph of time over strength, a melancholy but not displeasing thought.'

So castle ruins won the day!

A Gothic cowshed

"A man in possession of a good fortune and a decent amount of land must be in need of a castle."



"Jane, you are a one!"

Luscombe: castle or sham?

The country-house castle

Gracious living in a castle was an attractive idea to lots of people, provided they could be comfortable. The castle's romantic associations – noble names, chivalry, armour and tournaments – appealed to people who would have liked to have that sort of thing in the family. They got their architect to run them up a modest castle with French windows, conservatory and direct access to the garden. Prettily battlemented Luscombe Castle in Devon (opposite), built in 1799, is a good example.

To some, this seemed rather like cheating. 'The castle style requires massive walls, with very small windows,' pontificated landscape designer Humphry Repton; 'Its correct imitation must produce the effect of a prison.' By which he meant that making a house look like a castle was like trying to square the circle; it just wouldn't do.

Nevertheless, clients were prepared to give it a go. Penrhyn Castle in Gwynedd, North Wales, was built in the 1820s in the Norman style for the Pennant family, who had made their fortune from Jamaican sugar and Welsh slate quarries.

Penrhyn is medieval through and through, with Norman windows and two keeps, all rather sombre and forbidding. Prince Hermann von Pückler-Muskau, a much-travelled German nobleman, visited it in 1828. He noted that every entrance had 'a fortress-like gate with a portcullis that frowns on the intruder' and that the dining hall was copied from the keep at Rochester (of 1130!).

'What could then be accomplished only by a mighty monarch is now executed by a simple country gentleman whose father very likely sold cheeses. So times do change,' he mused.

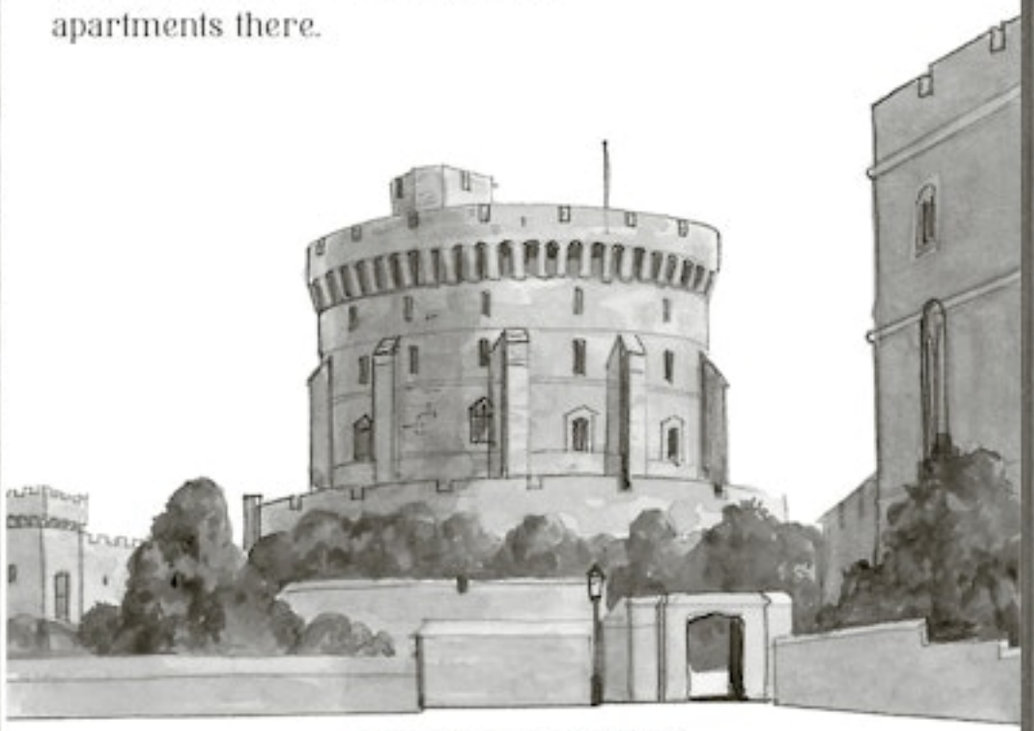
King George IV, well known for his building appetite, caught the enthusiasm for old castles. In the 1820s he decided to give Windsor Castle a make-over on a grand scale. He and his architect Jeffry Wyatville turned the lopsided jumble of centuries into the perfect 'medieval' castle. George persuaded Parliament to vote him £300,000 to pay for the work.

Windsor

Windsor castle, the British Queen's official residence, is the largest inhabited castle in the world. It was begun by William the Conqueror and most English monarchs had a go at extending it. In the Civil War it fell to the Roundheads and served as a military headquarters, which did it no good. A proposal to demolish it was defeated in Parliament by only one vote.

Charles II gave it new apartments and a grand avenue of elm trees (now chestnuts), but it then fell slowly into disrepair and by the 18th century it was barely habitable.

In 1811 King George III became mentally unbalanced and had to be kept in the castle for his own safety. During the last nine years of his life he seldom left his apartments there.



The decline of the castle

Wyatville made Windsor Castle symmetrical and majestic. He raised its curtain towers to a uniform height and put Gothic façades and battlements on the more recent bits. He added height to the great Round Tower with a false upper storey, making a dramatic silhouette visible for miles.

No detail that would help a picturesque effect was overlooked. He left holes in the masonry for jackdaws and starlings to nest in, 'a very tasteful provision by which the castle has been made to retain its ancient effect'.

In France a similar movement to restore medieval buildings was spearheaded by scholarly architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc. He didn't believe in just putting them back the way they were, but in supplying the parts their medieval builders had probably planned to build but hadn't got round to. As a result his work is almost too complete. His magnificent restoration of Pierrefonds Castle in the département of Oise is chilling in its stony perfection – no holes left for the jackdaws.

Ludwig II didn't like to do things by halves

The decline of the castle

Castle lovers must be grateful to Viollet-le- Duc for one thing. It was through seeing his work at Pierrefonds in 1861 that King Ludwig II of Bavaria was bitten by the castle-building bug. He got the frenzy very badly, to the despair of his ministers and the ruin of his finances, but among his crazy creations is the magical Neuschwanstein (left), rising like a dream castle from a breathtaking mountaintop site in the Bavarian Alps. Its fairytale turrets are better known than any other castle skyline, being the inspiration for all the castles of Disneyland.
In America there are no hang-ups about a castle

having to look medieval. It's the attitude that counts. Hearst Castle in California is the dream-creation of newspaper baron William Randolph Hearst, built on a 40,000-acre (16,000-hectare) ranch left him by his father.

It was an idea that grew and grew (it started as a bungalow), inspired by the castles of Europe and aiming to rival them. Work began in 1919 but Hearst constantly changed his mind, tearing down buildings whenever an idea seized him. The castle was still unfinished when he died in 1951.

Its façade is modelled on a 16th-century Spanish cathedral, with interiors filled with art, antiques and entire rooms brought over from the great houses of Europe. Part of a real Roman temple graces an outdoor pool. There was a movie theatre lined with rare books, an airfield, and the world's largest private zoo.

The castle is now a historical monument open to the public, so it can't challenge Windsor Castle's claim to be the largest *inhabited* castle in the world. In Hearst's day, maybe it could.

Castles of the imagination

'Castles in the air' is the name we give to projects that have no firm foundations in reality. That exactly describes the host of imaginary castles that poets and novelists have given us – the fantastic, the festive, the sinister (lot of those).

Fairytales have a good range of castles, from Sleeping Beauty's, entangled in briers, to Bluebeard's where it doesn't do to take too close a look. As to the Ogre's castle that Jack found at the top of the beanstalk – what could be more of a castle in the air than that?

To boldly go...

For a truly blood-bloodcurdling fairytale castle you can't beat the one that belonged to the mysterious Mr Fox, which had this ominous motto over its door:

BE BOLD, BE BOLD,
BUT NOT TOO BOLD,
LEST THY HEART'S BLOOD
TURN TO COLD

No idle warning! The heroine had a severed finger thrown down the neck of her bodice.*

** It wasn't her finger, and all was well in the end.*

Castles of the imagination

At least Mr Fox's castle was up front about itself. Top prize in the 'most deceptive castle' category must go to Macbeth's castle in Shakespeare's play – site of one of literature's nastiest murders. Victims-to-be, King Duncan and his companion Banquo, are smitten by its charm:

Duncan: This castle hath a pleasant seat; the air
Nimbly and sweetly recommends itself
Unto our gentle senses.

Banquo agrees: 'Heaven's breath smells wooingly here,' and goes on enthusiastically for several more lines.

Both are happy to spend the night there – but we know better![1]

1. In the play (but not in real life), Macbeth murders Duncan while he sleeps, and later hires thugs to kill Banquo and his son – but the son escapes and eventually becomes the ancestor of King James I.

Some airy castles have very familiar names, but there's surprisingly little evidence of what they looked like. Camelot, for instance, was first mentioned as King Arthur's castle by the 12th-century French poet Chrétien de Troyes, but he has nothing to say of it except that it was 'molt riche' (very magnificent).

Later French versions of the Arthurian legends say only that Camelot stood on a river and was surrounded by woods and hills. Even Sir Thomas Malory, who wove together lots of Arthurian sources in his *Morte d'Arthur*, gives no description of it as a place (apart from thinking it was at Winchester), though he has lots to tell of its adventures. The castle itself has to be found in our imaginations.

If we need any help, the job has been done for us by the 1967 film *Camelot*, with Richard Harris and Vanessa Redgrave, based on an earlier musical. The film used the late 15th-century Spanish castle of Coca near Segovia as a setting – a magnificent building, though rather Moorish-looking for the residence of a legendary British king.

Malory has more to say of the Castle of the Holy Grail, which housed the sacred chalice that only the purest and noblest knight could look upon. He calls the castle Corbin or Corbenic. It belonged to the mysterious 'maimed king' whose wound could not be healed. According to Sir Lancelot, its tower was the fairest he had ever seen. Its gate, which stood open, was guarded by two lions and a dwarf.

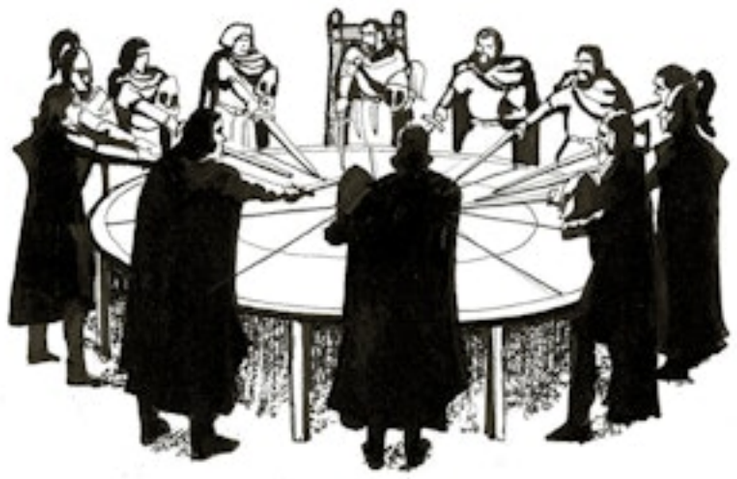
The goings-on there were wondrous. Sir Lancelot freed a lady from a curse that had imprisoned her in the tower for many years in boiling water. Sir Bors, who spent the night there, called it the Castle Adventurous – an understatement on his part, after sleeping, or trying to sleep, in a room where an invisible hand wounded him with a flaming spear, arrows were mysteriously rained on him and he had to fight a lion and behead it.

The Round Table

According to castle etiquette, diners at long tables were seated in order of importance. It's said that Arthur's followers came to blows one Yuletide over their placing. The problem was solved by making a round table at which everyone could feel equal.

In later versions of the Arthurian legends, the Round Table came to symbolise the ideal of knightly chivalry.

There is an actual round table – or at least its top – hanging on a wall in Winchester Castle. It is 5.5 metres across and weighs a tonne and a quarter; at least twelve oak trees were used to make it. It was probably made for one of the round-table tournaments, popular in the Middle Ages, that imitated the glories of Camelot. Dendrochronology dates it to the 13th century – much too late for Arthur's use – and it was repainted in the time of Henry VIII.



Shakespeare again: spooky and tragic, the castle of Elsinore. Modern productions of *Hamlet* often use a minimalist set of movable ramps and screens, but anyone lucky enough to have seen the 1948 film that Lawrence Olivier made and starred in knows exactly what its haunted, mist-wreathed battlements and guilt-ridden interiors are like. (Christopher Lee, who went on to become a celebrated horror-film actor, has an uncredited role as a spear carrier in the film.)

Another famous castle that owes more to our imaginings than to description is John Bunyan's Doubting Castle in *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678).

Christian and his companion Hopeful leave the rough and difficult path leading to the Celestial City in favour of a short-cut through By-Path-Meadow. Narrowly escaping a deep pit that has just swallowed up a man called Vain-Confidence, they get lost in the dark and decide to sleep till morning, not knowing that they are in the fields of the grim and surly Giant Despair.

The giant imprisons them in his fortress, Doubting Castle, in 'a very dark Dungeon, nasty and stinking to the spirits of these two

men. Here they lay, from Wednesday morning till Saturday night, without one bit of bread, or drop to drink, or any light.'

There is a strong flavour of the tougher kind of fairytale in the way Bunyan tells the story. The giant is an evil bully and his wife, Diffidence (meaning 'lack of Christian faith'), is even worse. The giant is browbeaten by his wife and has to ask her three times on three successive nights how he ought to treat the prisoners.

On the first night she tells him to beat them with a crab-tree cudgel.

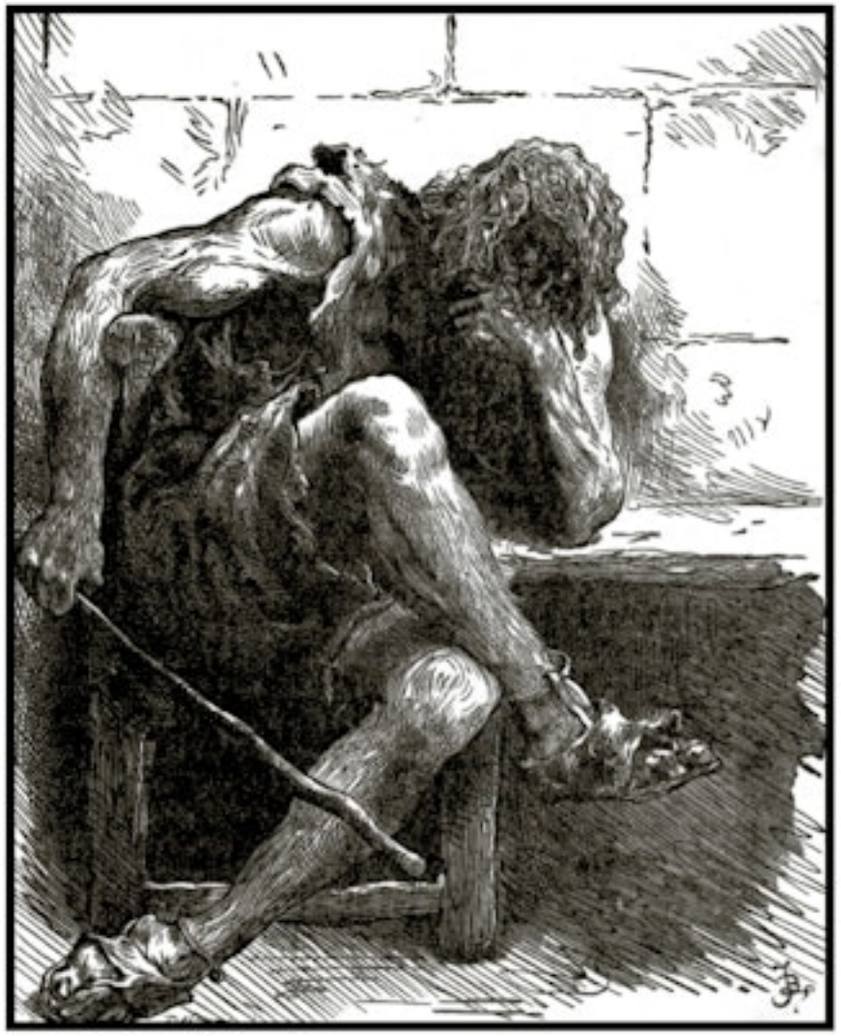
On the second night she tells him to drive them to suicide. Hopeful manages to dissuade Christian from this.

On the third night she tells him to take them into the castle yard and show them the bones and skulls of the victims he has killed.

The couple's conversations take place in bed at night. One imagines them in their nightcaps, mumbling at each other because their false teeth are out (though they wouldn't have had false

teeth in the 17th century, would they?).

The 18th-century taste for crumbling ruins produced the horror castle novel, with ghostly monks and family curses. Horace Walpole set the ball rolling with his *Castle of Otranto*. Anne



Giant Despairby Frederick Barnard, from an 1894 edition of The Pilgrim's Progress

Radcliffe's 1794 *Mysteries of Udolpho* was the peak of the craze. It sent young ladies swooning all the way to the circulating library.

Castle spine-chillers were sent up mercilessly by Jane Austen in *Northanger Abbey*. Its 18-year-old heroine, Catherine, reads almost nothing else.

> 'My dearest Catherine [a friend asks], have you got on with Udolpho?'
> 'I have been reading it ever since I woke and am got to the black veil.'
> 'Oh! I would not tell you what is behind the black veil for the world! Are you not wild to know?'
> 'Do not tell me. I know it must be a skeleton; I am sure it is Laurentina's skeleton. Oh! I am delighted with the book!'

Naturally, when Catherine's invited to stay in a house that's part-medieval, she assumes that her host has murdered his wife, or, even more likely, is keeping her locked up in the Gothic wing. When the very dull truth gets out, poor Catherine is overcome with embarrassment.

Horror castles were revived with a vengeance in Bram Stoker's 1897 novel *Dracula*, the first and best of all vampire stories. Dracula's castle in the Transylvanian mountains has all the trappings:

'frowning walls,' 'dark window openings', 'rattling chains', 'the clanking of massive bolts' – plus rather more blood than its predecessors.

Bram Stoker never went to Transylvania (part of Romania) and didn't have a real castle in mind, but he seems to have based the character of Count Dracula on an outstandingly cruel 15th-century Romanian prince, Vlad III of Wallachia, known as Vlad Dracula,[1] and sometimes as Vlad the Impaler. (The latter nickname came from his habit of spitting his enemies on stakes.) He was a capable ruler despite his faults, and is remembered in Romania as a national hero for driving out the invading Ottoman Turks.

1. Dracula means 'Son of the Dragon'; his father was a knight of the Order of the Dragon. But it also means 'Son of the Devil'.

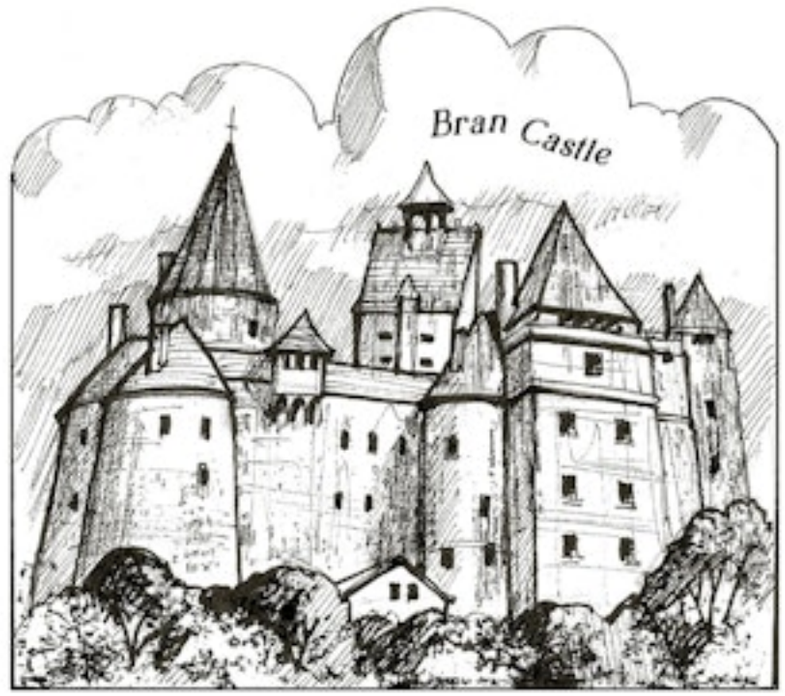
Dracula's castle

new caption required

Dracula's real home?

Bran Castle in Romania is associated with Vlad Dracula (he's known to have stayed there), and this has encouraged the Romanian tourist industry to promote it as 'Dracula's Castle'. It certainly looks the part, rising from a forested crag overlooking a mountain pass.

Bran dates from the 14th century, though much altered and restored. It became a royal residence in the 20th century, was seized by the Communists and later restored to its owners, who have made it a museum dedicated to local history and to the memory of Queen Marie of Romania (1875-1938), who lived there – no mention of vampires!



Castles A Very Peculiar History

The fictional castle to out-castle all others must surely be Mervyn Peake's Gormenghast, which first astounded readers in 1946. Three volumes (more were planned) tell of the struggles of its 77th earl, young Titus Groan, to escape the asphyxiating rituals of his ancestral home.

Gormenghast Castle is so vast, its inhabitants cannot grasp its extent. It's mostly ruinous: its dank corridors and decaying halls are moss-encrusted, ivy-choked, hung with 'swathes of cobwebs like fly-filled hammocks'. No wonder the people who live in it are stranger than their names: Prunesquallor, Swelter or Flannelcat. But this is no joke castle. It breeds insane ambition, murder and revenge. Great stuff, if rather wordy. Addicts love it.

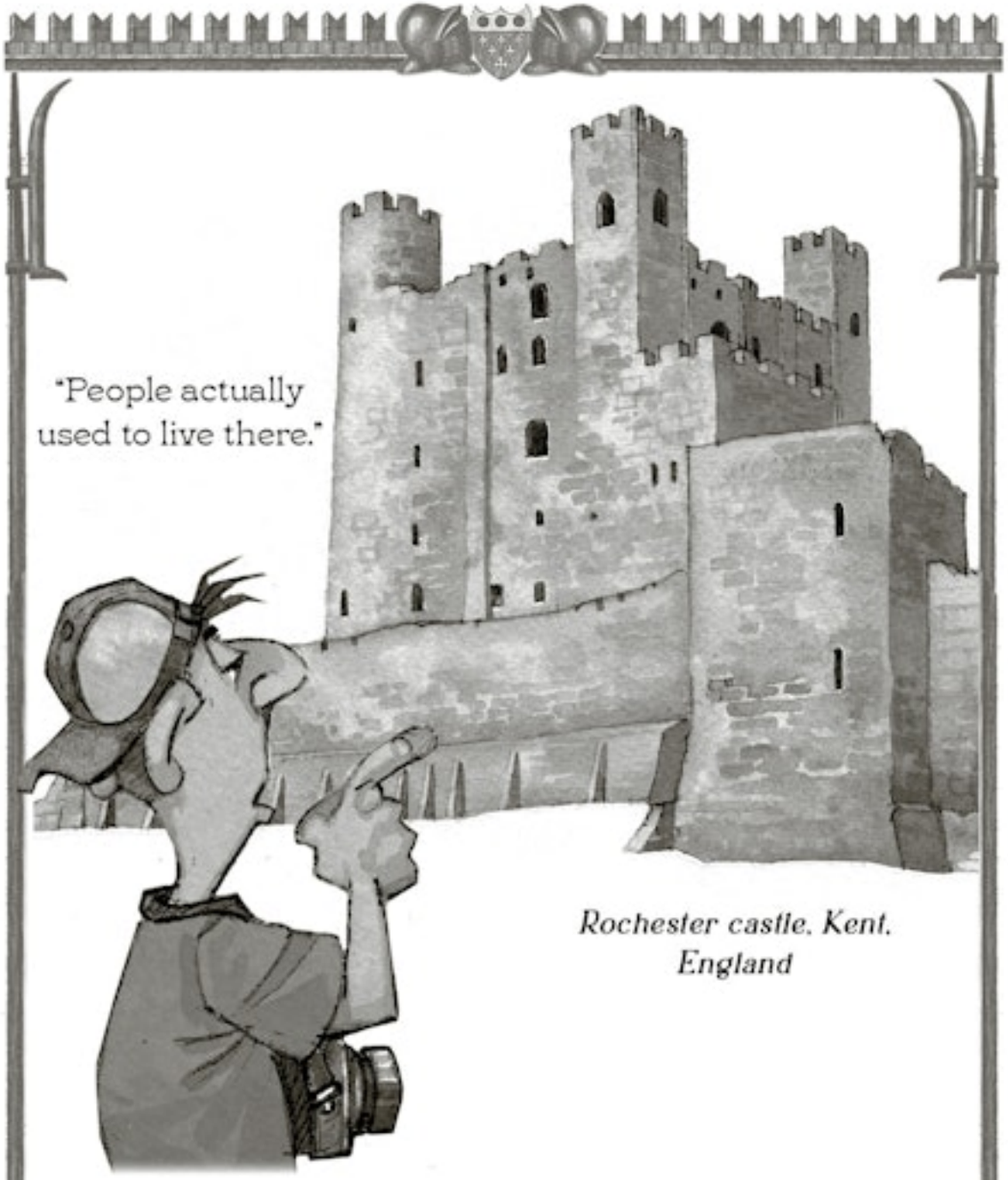
It's a relief after this to come to today's most popular imaginary castle, the resplendent Hogwarts, an ancient lordly residence adapted at some time past (we're not told when) to accommodate Britain's premier school of wizardry.

Castles of the imagination

The film versions of the castle's halls, courts and stairways are too familiar to need describing. Several places were stitched together to create them, including:

- Gloucester cathedral cloisters (the school's corridors, and also the setting for the talking pictures in The Philosopher's Stone[1] and the overflowing bathrooms in The Chamber of Secrets)
- Durham cathedral (for one of the classrooms)
- Lacock Abbey in Wiltshire (interior scenes)
- The Great Hall of Christ Church, Oxford (the dining hall)
- Duke Humphrey's Library (part of the Bodleian Library), Oxford (for library scenes)
- Divinity Schools, Oxford (the sanatorium)
- The grounds at Hogwarts are largely those of Alnwick Castle in Northumberland.

1. Sorcerer's Stone *in the USA and India.*



Rochester castle, Kent, England

Exploring our castle heritage

New uses for old castles

The best days of the castle may be over, but don't write them off as just a lot of fossilised tourist attractions. They still have their uses.

Defending the realm

When Britain faced the threat of a German invasion in World War II, it needed defence points on the south coast. There was a castle to hand, at just the spot where invasion has always been most likely – at Pevensey, where William the Conqueror had landed.

The remains of Pevensey Castle's massive walls now came into their own, refortified as an observation and command post.

Its towers were fitted up to provide sleeping quarters; machine-gun emplacements were built in the keep and along the walls; the south-west entrance was closed with a blockhouse for anti-tank weapons and an entirely new tower was added to the eastern wall.

This wasn't just a half-baked, 'Dad's Army' idea – postwar evidence showed that this was exactly the route the Germans had planned for their march on London.

So this is Colditz!

Colditz Castle, a grim stronghold atop a hill in Saxony, Germany, has been put to many uses:

- Begun in 1158 by Frederick Barbarossa, it served as the watchtower of the German emperors.
- In the 15th century it became the royal residence of the Electors of Saxony.
- In 1803 it was turned into a workhouse.
- From 1829 to 1924 it was a mental hospital for the 'incurably insane'.
- In 1933 the Nazis turned it into a political prison for Communists, Jews and other people they considered 'undesirable'.
- In World War II it was the notorious prisoner-of-war camp for Allied officers who were repeat escapers from less secure places.
- In 1945 the Russians imprisoned non-Communists there. Later it became an old people's home.
- Empty and in disrepair since 1996, it has recently been transformed into an escape museum, youth hostel and holiday centre.

Fancy honeymooning in a prison?

Oxford Castle, dating back to a motte and bailey job of 1071, had been used as a prison since the 13th century and officially became HM Prison Oxford in 1878.

More recently it has been a popular film set, featuring in *The Italian Job* and *A Fish Called Wanda*, and in the TV series *Inspector Morse*, *Bad Girls* and *The Bill*.

Closed in 1996, the prison has now been revamped as a heritage complex, with performance venues, open courtyards for markets, and guided tours of the buildings.

The prison block is now a hotel, the Malmaison Oxford, describing itself as a 'stunning boutique hotel' with guest rooms in the converted cells. The 'Love Suite Love' package offers champagne on ice, aromatic oils and candlelight. Things have certainly changed since Matilda was lowered over the walls in her white nightie (see pages 92-93)!

Oxford is the first UK prison to be turned into a hotel. An idea that's likely to catch on?

Spooky castles

Let's not forget the ghosts. They're regular users of old castles and no castle book is complete without some. Here are five memorable ones:

1 Glamis Castle in Scotland is haunted by the sounds of a furious row which the first Lord of Glamis had with the devil. He was a gambling man with a quick temper, and having no-one to play cards with one night he said he'd sooner play with the devil than no-one. The devil turned up; the Lord kept losing to him and ranted and raved so loudly that a servant knocked to see if all was well. While the Lord went to the door the devil disappeared, taking, it is said, the Lord's soul with him.

2 Dragsholm Castle in Denmark has the ghost of James, Earl of Bothwell, third husband of Mary Queen of Scots. When Scotland got too hot for him after the murder of Mary's second husband, Darnley, he went to Scandinavia. The King of Denmark clapped him in prison at Dragsholm on suspicion of the murder. The pillar he was chained to is still there, and around it in the floor is a circular groove he is said to

"I didnae do it!
It wisnae me!"

have worn with his feet during the last ten years of his life which he spent in the prison.

3 Malahide, the oldest inhabited castle in Ireland, boasts five ghosts. The pick of the bunch are:

• 15th-century Sir Walter Hussey, who wanders about groaning and pointing to a spear-wound that killed him in battle (on his wedding day!) His bride then married a rival and he can't get over it.

• Miles Corbett, who held the castle in Cromwellian times. He signed Charles I's death warrant and was hanged, drawn and quartered

for it later. His ghost roams Malahide as a figure in armour that falls into four pieces before your eyes.

4 The Tower of London is packed with ghosts with famous names, too many to mention. One not so famous appeared to a sentry on guard outside the Jewel House in 1816. He saw a ghostly bear advancing on him. It literally frightened him to death, for he reportedly died a few days later.

5 Ghosts, of course, can't be trusted to appear. They're only as reliable as the people who see them. An old man interviewed by antiquarian H. Jenner in 1867 reported seeing the ghosts of King Arthur's soldiers drilling at **Castle-an-Dinas** in Cornwall. He particularly remembered 'the glancing of the moonbeams on their muskets'! (Think about it.)

Tourism

Today's biggest users of castles are the tourists, so the last word should go to them. A Dutch website has done a customer survey and rated the top ten European castles according to the level of visitor satisfaction. Here's the list:

1 All-out winner: France's **Carcassonne**, a complete 12th-century city-fortress (restored by Viollet-le-Duc in the 19th century)

2 **Krak des Chevaliers** in Syria (Crusader-built, so it counts as European)

3 **The Tower of London**

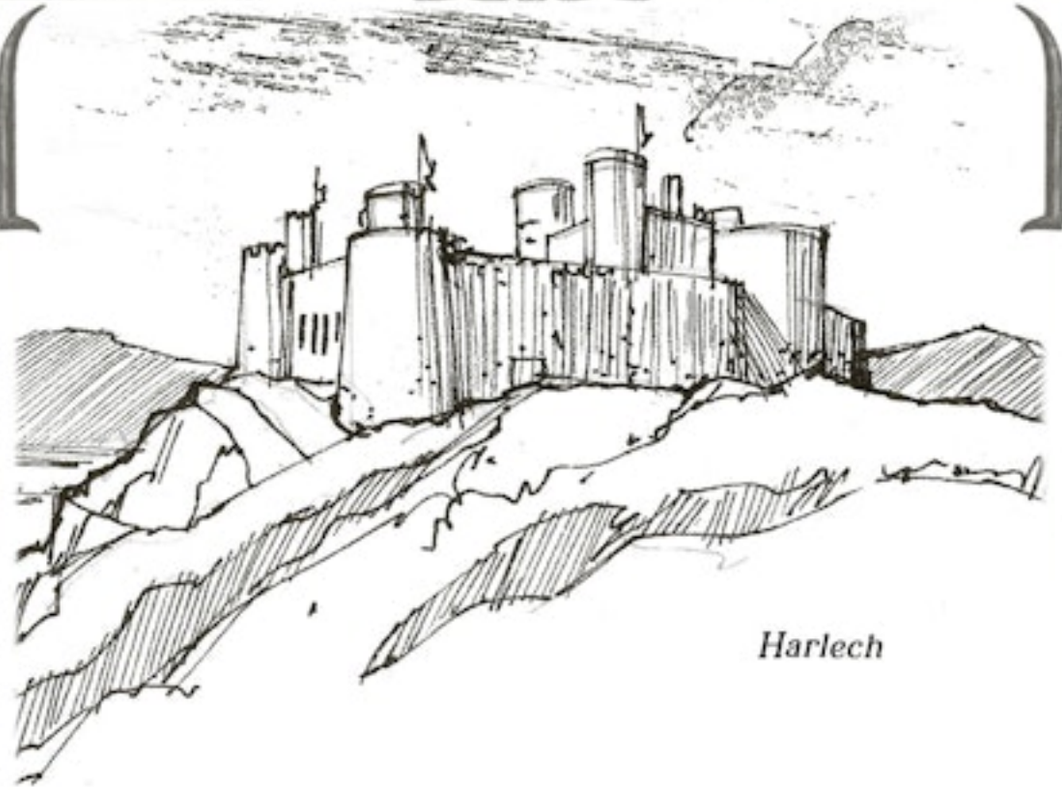
4 Poland's **Malbork**, stunning 13th-century fortress of the Teutonic Knights, claiming to be the biggest brick-built castle in the world

5 Switzerland's **Château de Chillon**, a romantic 12th-century castle on Lake Geneva, subject of a famous poem by Byron

6 **Castel del Monte**, Emperor Frederick II's 13th-century castle-cum-hunting-lodge in Apulia, southern Italy

7 **Dover Castle**, England

8 **Harlech Castle**, Wales



Harlech

9 Wales again, scoring with **Caernarfon Castle**

10 **Château Gaillard**, Normandy (which might have scored higher if it weren't such a ruin).

Castle buffs will spot at once that somethings missing from this list. Where's Germany's hugely popular Neuschwanstein, the perfect fairytale castle? The compilers wouldn't allow it because it isn't a proper medieval castle. You can see their point: it was only begun in the 1860s. If it had been in the running it would probably have made first place.

Glossary

armoury A place where armour and weapons are kept.
bailey The outer enclosure of a castle; later, any enclosure within a castle's series of walls.
barracks Lodgings for soldiers.
bastion A heavily defended tower or fortification.
belfry A mobile wooden tower used to get troops to the top of a wall.
Byzantines The Christian people of the eastern part of the old Roman empire, whose capital was Constantinople (formerly Byzantium, now Istanbul).
capon A castrated cock.
castellan The governor or constable of a castle.
cat Another name for a battering ram.
chapel A place for Christian worship, often part of a larger building such as a castle.
chivalry The behaviour expected of a knight: courage, fairness, good manners.
chronicler The writer of a chronicle – a description of historical events in the order in which they occurred.
circulating library A commercial library from which anyone could borrow books.
Civil War The conflict in England, from 1642 to 1651, between Royalists who supported the monarchy and Parliamentarians who wished Parliament to control government.
concentric castle A castle with two or more complete circuits of walls one within the other.
constable The commander of a castle.
countermine A tunnel dug from a castle by defenders in order to break into the attackers' mine.

crossbow A powerful bow with a mechanism for tightening and releasing the string.
Crusades A series of military expeditions, from the 11th to the 13th centuries, in which Christians from Europe tried to recapture the Biblical Holy Land from the Muslims.
dendrochronology The dating of wooden objects by examining the annual growth rings of their timber.
donjon The Old French word for the tower or main building of a castle (later called the keep).
drawbridge A hinged bridge that could be drawn up to prevent an enemy crossing the moat.
dubbing The ceremonial blow on the shoulder that signifies that the recipient is now a knight.
dysentery A bacterial infection of the intestines.
elevation of the Host The point during the celebration of Mass when the priest raises aloft the sacred wafer, representing the body of Christ.
eunuch A castrated man.
excommunicate To cut someone off from all communion with the Church.
feudal system A modern name for the system of government in medieval Europe in which the king gave land to lords (barons) and expected loyalty in return. The lords gave land to lesser lords, and so on.
flanking towers Towers projecting from a wall, allowing defenders to fire along the wall from arrow slits in the tower sides.
gambeson A padded tunic of thick cloth or leather, worn under armour.
garrison A body of soldiers stationed in a certain place in order to defend it.
gatehouse A fortified entrance to a castle.

Greek fire A highly explosive mixture used in the medieval equivalent of a grenade.
hauberk A sleeved tunic of chain mail or leather.
helm A helmet entirely enclosing the head, which often bore a decorative crest to identify the wearer.
Holy Land, The Another name for Palestine, an area of the Middle East that roughly corresponds to present-day Israel.
hostage A person who is held prisoner, either to force his or her friends to pay a ransom or as security for an agreement (if the agreement is broken, the hostage may be killed). The taking of hostages was considered a normal part of medieval warfare.
howdah A seat, often with a canopy over it, carried on the back of an elephant.
Hundred Years' War A long-running conflict, from 1337 to 1453, between France and England, over the English monarch's claim to the throne of France.
keep A word used from the 16th century to describe the donjon – the tower or main part of a castle.
lay people All those who are not in holy orders.
Lent The period between Ash Wednesday and Easter in which Christians forgo certain pleasures, such as eating meat, in memory of Christ's fasting in the wilderness.
machicolations Battlemented stone platforms built out from the upper part of a wall, with holes in the floor through which defenders could drop material on attackers immediately below.
Mamluks A warrior class in Muslim countries, originally consisting of ex-slaves converted to Islam.
mercenary A soldier who fights for pay, not out of loyalty to a lord or ruler.
mine A tunnel dug under a wall to weaken the foundations

and bring it down.
missile Any kind of weapon that is thrown or fired from a bow or a gun.
moat A big ditch, usually water-filled.
Moors A Muslim people from North Africa who conquered Spain in the 8th century and ruled parts of it until the 15th century.
mortar A cannon with a short, wide barrel, that can be pivoted to fire at a high angle.
mullein A plant of the figwort family, the most common form having woolly leaves and tall stems of small yellow flowers.
Normans A people of Scandinavian origin who settled in northern France. They conquered England in 1066.
overlord A lord who has authority over lesser lords.
palanquin A chair with a canopy, carried by bearers.
pallet A thin straw mattress.
pilgrimage A journey to worship at a holy site.
pitch A tarry substance.
portcullis A heavy grating of metal or metal-clad wood that could be dropped down vertical grooves to block a gate.
postern A rear entrance to a castle or a walled town.
raja An Indian prince.
rampart A mound of earth forming a defensive barrier, usually with a wall on top.
ransom Money paid for the release of a prisoner.
relieving force An army sent to give help, such as by driving off the besiegers of a castle.
ricochet To hit glancingly and rebound.
Roundheads Supporters of the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War, so called because they wore their hair very short.

sarcocolla A resinous gum from Arabia and Persia.
Saxons A people of Germanic origin who settled in Britain from the 5th century onwards.
sheriff The monarch's representative in a shire (an administrative district).
shrapnel Fragments of metal from an exploded bomb or shell.
slighting The partial demolition of a castle, to prevent it being used for defence.
supply chain The arrangements made to get food and equipment to an army fighting away from its base.
talus An additional sloping front along the lower part of a wall.
tartar Salts of tartaric acid.
trencher A flat wooden plate or a slice of stale bread on which food was served.
truckle bed A low bed on wheels, which can be stored under a larger bed when it is not in use.
vassal A person holding land from a superior, in return for performing certain duties.
ward Another name for bailey.
workhouse A place where the poor were given food and shelter in return for doing manual work.
wormwood A plant of the Artemisia genus, with silvery-grey, very acrid-smelling leaves.
yeoman An attendant ranking between a squire and a page.

Timeline of castle history

9th–10th centuries Timber castles appear in north-western France.
Late 10th century Earliest known stone keeps appear in the Loire valley, France.
1051 First castles in England recorded.
1078 William the Conqueror begins building the White Tower, London, though timber castles remain the norm during the 11th century.
1095 Pope Urban II preaches the First Crusade.
1099 Crusaders capture Jerusalem.
12th century Increasing use of stone in castle building.
1110 Crusaders take over Krak des Chevaliers, Syria.
1142 Siege of Oxford; escape of Matilda. Hospitallers take over ownership of Krak des Chevaliers.
Later 12th century New forms of keep, circular or polygonal, are tried.
1147–1149 Second Crusade.
1158 Emperor Frederick Barbarossa builds Colditz Castle, Germany.
1165 Henry II of England builds Orford Castle with a polygonal keep.
1179–1214 English kings Henry II and John build Dover Castle, the first in Europe to have a double ring of defensive walls.
1189–1192 Third Crusade.
1190s Richard I of England adds a large additional bailey to the Tower of London.
1196–1198 Richard I builds Château Gaillard, France.
13th century Concentric walls take over from the keep as the castle's strongest line of defence. Firearms appear for the

first time in the West. Chittorgarh, in India, dates largely from this century.

1202–1204 Fourth Crusade ends in the looting of Christian Constantinople.

1204 French king Philip Augustus captures Château Gaillard.

1215 Siege of Rochester Castle.

1238 Henry III extends the Tower of London's defensive walls northwards and eastwards, doubling the castle's area.

c.1240 Louis IX of France extends the fortifications of Carcassonne.

1271 Muslims capture Krak des Chevaliers.

1275–1281 Edward I of England, one of the foremost castle-builders of his time, expands the Tower of London into a concentric fortress with a triple gatehouse defence.

1283 Edward I begins a big castle-building programme in Wales with Conwy, Harlech and Caernarfon.

1291 Destruction of the port of Acre marks the end of Crusader kingdoms in the Holy Land.

14th century Castle design reaches its fullest development in northern Europe.

1337 Outbreak of the Hundred Years' War between France and England.

1346 Himeji Castle, Japan, built.

1385 Bodiam Castle built.

15th century Castles figure less in military strategy as conflicts tend to be settled on the battlefield rather than by sieges.

1486 Man Mandir palace, Gwalior, begun in India. (Gwalior had been fortified since AD 773.)

16th century Increasingly, lords prefer to build themselves comfortable houses rather than castles.

1600 Siege of Fushimi Castle, Japan.

1608 Himeji Castle, Japan, rebuilt.

1642 Outbreak of Civil War gives English castles a new lease of life.

1646 Siege of Raglan Castle.

1649 English Parliament orders the demolition of castles. When this proves too expensive, their 'slighting' (partial demolition) is ordered.

18th century Castle ruins are considered 'picturesque'. Medieval or 'Gothic' architectural styles are revived.

1799 Luscombe Castle built (a house in disguise).

1820–1830 King George IV restores Windsor Castle.

1820–1845 Penrhyn Castle built in Norman style.

1861 Viollet-le-Duc starts restoring Pierrefonds Castle.

1869 King Ludwig II of Bavaria begins Neuschwanstein.

1919–1947 William Randolph Hearst creates and recreates Hearst Castle, California.

2006 Oxford Castle, formerly a prison, becomes a luxury hotel and visitor attraction.

2007 Colditz Castle becomes a youth hostel and escape museum.

Index

A

Acre 49, 70
amputation 61
Antioch 56, 63
archery 44, 90
armour 16, 30–34, 49, 137
Arthur, King 158–160
Auberoche 46
Austen, Jane 164
Azuki Castle 129

B

Baibars, sultan 70
bailey 8, 12, 16, 18, 31, 43, 76, 91, 96, 97, 129
bailiff 36, 37
ballista 45
battering ram 47, 71, 121
battlements 9, 44, 70
Bayeux Tapestry 12
Beaufort Castle 60
Bedford Castle 53
belfry 42, 43, 58
Benevento, battle of 34
Bernard of Clairvaux 67
Berwick Castle 136
Bodiam Castle 137–139
Boleyn, Anne 21
Bothwell, earl of 175, 176
Bran Castle 167
building workers 100–101
Bunyan, John 161, 162
Bury St Edmunds 27
butler 37, 74, 139
Byzantines 57

C

Caen, France 49
Caernarfon Castle 100, 179
Camelot 158, 160
cannon 136, 140, 141
Carcassonne 178
carving at table 29
Castel del Monte 178
Castle an Dinas 177
Castle of Otranto 164
chamberlain 73
chapel 16, 17, 97
Charles I 177
Charles II 22, 150
Château Gaillard 94–97, 179
Chillon Castle 178
Chittorgarh 119, 124–126
Civil War 140, 150
Coca Castle 158
Colditz Castle 173
concentric castles 8, 69, 91
constable 35, 87, 101
Constantinople 56
Conwy Castle 100
cooks 37, 74
Crema, siege of 52
crenel 69
crossbow 44, 94
crow (engine) 46
Crusades 49, 53–70, 96, 107
curtain wall 8, 16, 95

D

daimyo 128, 129, 131
dining 76, 77
disease 41
doctors 61
donjon 15, 16
Dracula 165
Dragsholm Castle 175
drawbridge 95, 137
Dover Castle 91, 178
dungeons 15, 19, 162
dung farmers 88

E

Edinburgh Castle 136
Edward I 46, 100, 101, 115, 136
Edward III 18, 136
Edward the Confessor 10
elephants 121–123
ewerer 37, 84
excommunication 52
executions 21

F

fairytales 155, 156, 162
falconry 105–107
feudal system 25
fire 42, 47, 48
firearms 128, 129, 135, 136, 172
fish 78, 79
flanking towers 90, 91, 119
Franks 56, 58–65
Frederick Barbarossa, emperor, 52, 173
furniture 80, 82
Fushimi Castle 131

G

garderobe 88
gatehouse, gates 8, 50, 119–122, 137
George III 150
George IV 149
Glamis Castle 175
Godfrey of Bouillon 49
Goodrich Castle 142
Gormenghast 168
Greek fire 46, 57
Grey, Lady Jane 21
Gwalior Castle 121

H

hall 15, 16, 76, 139
Harlech Castle 100, 101, 179
Hastings, battle of 11, 14
hauberk 30, 32
Hearst Castle 154
Hedingham Castle 77
Henry II 90–92
Henry III 18, 51, 53, 87
Henry VIII 20, 29
Hesdin Castle 116
Himeji Castle 129, 132–134
Hogwarts 168–169
horses 30–32, 67, 109
Hospitallers 65, 67, 68, 70, 91
hostages 46, 52, 63
Howard, Catherine 21

Hundred Years' War 138
hunting 63, 103–107
Husterknupp 53

I

Indian castles 117–127
Innocent II 55
Innocent III 102
insects 83
Ivry Castle 102

J

James II of Scotland 136
Japanese castles 126–134
Jerusalem 55, 56, 58, 63, 68
John, king 48, 51, 91, 94
Josse de Dinan 98

K

Karak Castle 63
keep 8, 15, 89–91, 95, 96
knights 24–28, 30, 31, 35, 49, 50, 59, 71, 109
Krak des Chevaliers 60, 68, 70, 91, 178
Kumbhalgarh 120
Kyoto 131

L

ladders 43, 49, 96, 120
lady of the castle 71–73, 85
lavatories 87, 97, 139
Le Sap 41
London 14
loophole 38
Ludlow Castle 46, 98, 99
Ludwig II of Bavaria 153
Luscombe Castle 146, 147

M

machicolation 69, 119
Malahide Castle 176
Malbork Castle 178
Malory, Sir Thomas 158, 159
mangonel 45, 49, 130
manners 72, 77, 86
Marie of Romania 167
Marion de la Bruyère 98–99
marshal 35
Mary Queen of Scots 175
masons 100–102
Matilda, queen 92, 174
mêlée 109
merlon 69
military theory 90, 91, 117, 118, 121
mining 38, 48, 89, 96, 97
moat 8, 13, 42, 43, 87, 88, 119, 121, 137
motte 8, 12, 13
Muslims 55, 56, 60–65, 67, 70
Mysteries of Udolpho 164

N

Neuschwanstein 152, 153, 179
Normans, Normandy 4, 8–11, 15, 27, 56, 59, 89
Northanger Abbey 164

O

Okiku, legend of 134
Orford Castle 90
Oxford Castle 92, 174

P

Padmini, princess 125, 126
pages 28, 30
pantler 37, 74, 139
pavise 44
Peake, Mervyn 168
peasants 26, 41
Penrhyn Castle 148
Pevensey Castle 14, 172
Philip Augustus 94, 96
Philip the Good 116
Pierrefonds Castle 151, 153
pigs 48, 108
Pilgrim's Progress 161–162
popes 55, 56, 102, 110
portcullises 69, 95
practical jokes 116

Q

Queenborough Castle 88

R

Raglan Castle 140–143
Rajasthan 125
ransoms 50, 65, 107, 109
ravens 22, 23
Red Fort, Agra 119
Repton, Humphry 147
Richard I, Cœur de Lion 17, 18, 46, 94, 96, 97
Richard II 138
Roaring Meg 141–143
Robin Hood 104
Rochester Castle 16, 48, 51, 89, 148
Romania 165–167
Rouen 94
Roundheads 140, 141, 150
Round Table 160
Roxburgh Castle 136
ruins 144, 145

S

Saladin 63, 70
samurai 128–131
Saone Castle 60
Saxons 9, 10, 104
Shakespeare, William 157, 161
sheriff 36, 51, 56
siege engines 45–47, 52
sieges 38–53, 130, 135, 140
slighting 143
starvation 21, 41, 92, 96, 130
Stephen, king 92
steward 35, 36, 73
Stoker, Bram 165

T

talus 38, 69, 120
Taq Castle 122
taster 37
Templars 66
Teutonic Knights 66, 178
torture 52
Toulouse, siege of 49
tournaments 103, 109–113

Tower of London 14,
18–22, 87, 143, 177
Traitors' Gate 20
trebuchets 45–47, 70, 130
Tripoli, count of 68
Turks 53, 55, 165

U

Uch Castle 124
Urban II 55, 56

V

vassals 26
Viollet-le-Duc, Eugène
151, 153
Vlad Dracula 165, 167

W

walls 43, 47, 69 91, 95,
121,143, 172
Walpole, Horace 164
wardrobe 80
water 41, 78
weapons 30, 31, 34
William I, the Conqueror
11, 14, 18, 104, 150, 172
William II 104
William Marshal 109, 110
Winchester 32, 158, 160
windmills 70, 95
Windsor Castle 149–151,
154
wine 78
World War II 22, 172, 173
Wyatville, Jeffry 149, 151