This monograph is the first in the series to be devoted to a ship of the line. It is of particular interest since the ship we have chosen, the *Fleuron* - as it was conceived by Blaise Ollivier - is the first modern French ship. Moreover it represents a pure example of the French school of naval architecture. An exceptionally complete corpus of documentation includes a full description of the classification and characteristics of the ships, its creator’s own drawings, original sketches of the ship’s decoration and sculptures by Caffieri, and a complete set of information on the ship’s rigging found in a manuscript of the period. Because of the catastrophic losses incurred in our archives, it is extremely rare for us to have been able to collect so much material from irrefutable historical sources.

Gérard Delacroix, who did the drawings for the monograph, is a professional draftsman and a talented ship’s model builder. He assisted his mentor, Jean Boudriot, in developing and completing this study which we are particularly pleased to offer in our collection. The distinguished features of the vessel will attract the attention of discerning model builders. Its superb hull, elegant timbers perfectly defined and described, oblique inner planking, iron knees, bronze and iron cannon, French riggings with round tops all make the construction of this model a formidable challenge. An alternative model of the rigging without timbers may also be built using the instructions at 1/72th scale.

The *Fleuron* was actively involved in very few combat operations but her career was an unusual one in that she cruised the Baltic Sea, where French squadrons rarely ventured, on three occasions. One of these expeditions affords us the opportunity to describe the preparation of a royal ship for a ball that was given on board.

**COMPOSITION**

- 135 p. monograph, 24 x 31cm format, including:
  - Blaise Ollivier’s manuscript
  - J.J. Caffieri’s decorations
  - Rigging manuscript, 1732
  - A biography of B. Ollivier with a bibliography
  - A computer-assisted note on the drawings
  - The history of the *Fleuron* 1729-1745
  - Archival excerpts on the Baltic cruises and on a ball given on board the Bourbon

**LISTS OF PLATES**

1. Schematic views
2. Vertical sections
3. General view of the timbers.
4-6. Drawings of 62 frames
7. Axial timbers and longitudinal section of the timbers
8. The riders and deck cambers
9. Forework
10. Sternwork
11. Construction of the bow
12. Ceiling of the hull
13. Cross sections
14. Longitudinal section and accommodations in the hull
15. Gun deck
16. Upper deck
17. Forecastle, quaterdeck and poop
18. Overview and overhead views
19. Front and rear views
20. Fitting (1)
21. Fitting (2)
22. Fitting (3)
23. Masts and yards
24. Fitting of the masts
25-6. Sails (1/96th scale)
27. Full view under sail (1/72th scale)
29. Various.

**RIGGED MODEL**

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**HULL ALONE**

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*Extracts from the plans*
Extracts from some illustrations and plans