



VÉNUS

18 GUNSHOT FRIGATE

1782

of SANÉ engineer

A 1/72th Monograph

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The frigate *La Vénus*, referred to as an 18-pdr because of the caliber of her main artillery, was conceived and designed by the engineer Sané and built in Brest in 1782. It is one of the prototypes of the 143 similar frigates which were to be built in every port of France and continental Europe from 1780 to the end of the French Empire. Often imitated by the British, Sané's 18-pdr frigates enjoyed remarkable success during their lengthy career. The last ones, built at the end of the Empire (1813) were not dropped from the lists until about 1850.

The French archives abound in accounts of the valorous actions led by Sané's frigates. Other episodes, like the story of the *Médusé* whose wreck was found on the banks of the Arguin are less commandable.

The documentation we offer here brings the *Vénus* to life. Further research, which was facilitated by documents in French and British archives, as well as archives in the many other countries occupied by the French Empire, enables the construction of the *Vénus* and other frigates of the same type with a particular decoration or distinguished military career. The *Vénus* herself had a non-combative and humanitarian career. Her captain, de Rossily, the former commander of the lugger *Le Coureur* at the time of the famous battle of *La Belle Poule*, sailed her on a voyage of discovery in the Red Sea, the Persian Gulf, and the Indian Ocean before her complete disappearance during a hurricane with all crew and cargo, on 31 December 1788 after having set sail from Saint Paul de la Réunion.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MONOGRAPH

75 p. booklet,
24x31cm
format,
including:

- I The history of frigates in the French navy
- II Analysis of the results of research which enabled the writing of the monograph
- III Commentary and analysis of 13 photographs of ship's models in the Musée de la Marine in Paris, two paintings by François Roux and two plates from the *Atlas du génie maritime* (The Atlas of Naval Genius)
- IV History of the campaign of the *Vénus* in the Indian Ocean from 1785 to 1788
- V Detailed commentary with all necessary information on the 13 plates at 1:72th scale, with several drawings of details of fitting at 1:36th scale
- VI Complete vocabulary of fitting and rigging.

LISTS OF PLATES

A set of 13
plates at 1:72th
scale
including:

- I Shape of the hull, longitudinal plans
- II Shape of the hull, cross-cut plans, front and rear views of the frigate, cross-sections
- III Planking of the hull
- IV Construction of the head, and the quatergaleries in the stern.
- V Plan of the ship's battery and a partial longitudinal section.
- VI Plan of the forecastle and partial longitudinal section.
- VII Fitting and details
- VIII Elements of the masting
- IX Elements of rigging for masts and various pieces of fitting
- X Longitudinal sails and standing rigging
- XI Installing the square sails of the foremast and mainmast, issue of rigging on the outside of the hull
- XII Installing the square sails of the mizzenmast, issue of rigging on the deck.

RIGGED MODEL			HULL ALONE		
Length	Width	Height	Length	Width	Height
90	20	120	62	20	20

Centimeters

Extracts from the plans



