LE ROCHEFORT 1787

Harbor yachts

MONOGRAPH AT 1/36

All the plans of the frame.

Gérard DELACROIX

Created by Colbert in 1666, the city of Rochefort is unusually located since its harbor-arsenal, built on the Charente river, is about twelve miles away from the sea following the river. Although this exceptional distance from the sea protected the harbor from enemy fleets for centuries it caused problems, however, that were unsuspected at the time of its creation. Indeed, in the XVIIth and XVIIIth centuries, the depth of the Charente river made it impossible for large vessels to sail up and down the river without first unloading their equipment, arms and ammunition. The Navy thus created a flotilla to assist and equip the vessels that had to remain anchored in the Aix roadstead while waiting to be fitted out or laid up.

This flotilla consisted of several kinds of small vessels: lighters, yachts, transport-ships or brigs from the harbor. As an illustration of these types of ship we chose the yacht, inherited from from Dutch workers who came to drain the swamps of the Charente during the 17th century.

This small elegant craft is of a simple construction with basic rigging, since only fitted with one mast and three sails. The book includes a booklet and a set of 16 plates of drawings. In the booklet, a chapter describes the creation of Rochefort and the reasons that led to the constitution of the flotilla. A presentation of the lighters and yachts, and more specifically the yacht Le Rochefort, complete this article. The construction and laying out of the Le *Rochefort* are detailed in instructions abundantly illustrated with 3D figures, followed by a commentary on the plates including a precise description of the rigging.

COMPOSITION OF THE WORK

96-page booklet and 16 plates of drawing assembled in a folder with flaps illustrate by Jean Bellis.

- The Rochefort dockyard and its specifics
- Harbour yachts and lighters
- The yacht Le Rochefort and its construction
- Comments on the plates
- Scantlings, painting and iron work
- Rigging

RIGGED MODEL			HULL ONLY		
Length	Width	Height	Length	Width	Height
78	15	58	54	15	16

Measures in cm

LE ROCHEFORT

Reduced plates extracts