



# LA FLORE

*From the frigate  
to the cruiser  
1847-1900*

Alban LANNÉHOA

**L**a *Flore* was one of the last great sailing ships in the French Navy and was started on the ways in 1847. Outclassed by the great innovations of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century, represented by the explosive shell, the armor and the steam engine, she was threatened by obsolescence before even being launched and owed her survival to an impressive transformation decided in 1858 allowing her to be lengthened and fitted with a steam engine. Launched in 1869, she was used with the novel designation as a “cruiser”, a nimble and tough vessel intended to wage war against enemy commerce.

Sailing in the Pacific Ocean, she saw a young officer come aboard at Valparaiso : during this campaign, the

midshipman Julien Viaud would become the famed writer Pierre Loti, who got the inspiration for his early novels in Easter Island and Polynesia. Becoming in 1876 the “*Ecole d'application pour les aspirants de marine*”, or Midshipmen training school, *La Flore* cruised for several years in the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, picking up another great writer, Jules Verne upon the occasion of a call at Vigo. *La Flore* finally became the flagship of the Indan Ocean fleet and of the North Atlantic, becoming the privileged witness of major historical events of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century : the early conquests of the colonial era, the troubles surrounding the piercing of the Panama canal and the beginnings of American imperialism and up to escorting the statue of Liberty to New York.

Alban Lannéhoa, a naval officer, leads us in the discovery of this incredible condensed naval history both literary and scientific, of the second half of the XIX<sup>th</sup> century. This richly illustrated work of 168 pages completes in a useful manner, the reference story on the history of frigates in the French Navy in the post 1850's era published by Hubert Berti and Jean Boudriot. This last chapter in the history of sailing frigates, before the unprecedented metamorphosis of our navy is accompanied by two plans that will allow you to discover the details surrounding the design of this generation of vessels.

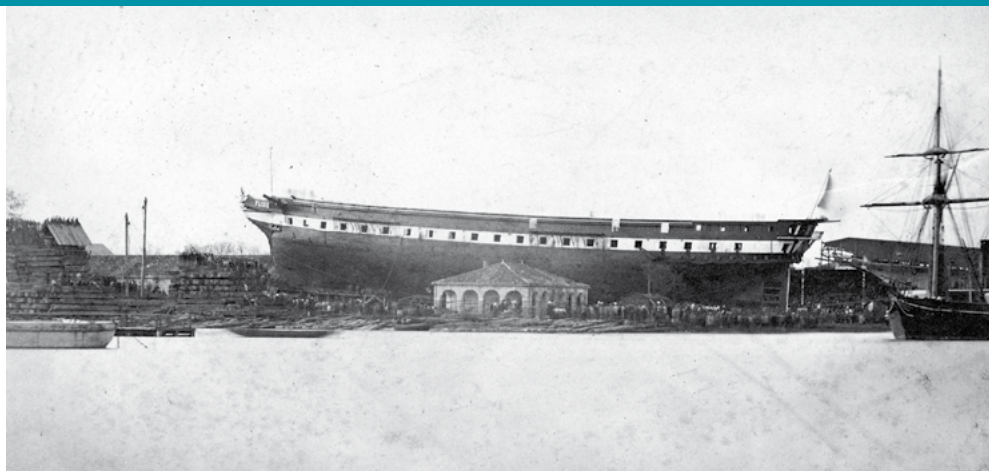
## MAKE-UP OF THE BOOK

*This study comprises 168 pages of text plus 220 photographs and two 1/100<sup>th</sup> scale drafts.*

### MAKE-UP OF THE BOOK

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <p><b>I. From privateering to the cruiser</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Rochefort inheritance</li> <li>The 30-gun frigate</li> <li>A double technological and strategic evolution</li> <li>The transformation</li> <li>The launching</li> </ul> <p><b>II The ship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masts and sails</li> <li>Steam</li> <li>The furnishings</li> <li>Steering</li> </ul> <p><b>III The crew and life aboard</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The officer staff</li> <li>Warrant officers</li> </ul> | <p><b>IV The first campaign (1870-1872)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The war of 1870</li> <li>Peru and Chili</li> <li>Easter Island</li> <li>Polynesia</li> <li>Honolulu and San Francisco</li> <li>The return to France</li> </ul> <p><b>V A training ship (1876-1879)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The training school</li> <li>The education</li> <li>The Saint-Michel III</li> <li>A third busy campaign</li> </ul> <p><b>VI The flying squadron (1881-1883)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reforming the instruction</li> <li>The Cherbourg naval review</li> </ul> | <p>A campaign with reduced ambitions</p> <p><b>VII The Southren Seas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crossing the line</li> <li>The South Atlantic</li> <li>On the emperor's trail</li> <li>The Eastern Mediterranean</li> </ul> <p><b>VIII Madagascar (1882-1883)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Malagasy question</li> <li>Zanzibar and Nossi-Bé</li> <li>Majunga</li> <li>Tamatave</li> <li>The Shaw affair</li> </ul> <p><b>IX The North Atlantic (1884-1886)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Panama canal</li> <li>Liberty lighting the world</li> <li>Quebec and New Orleans</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|

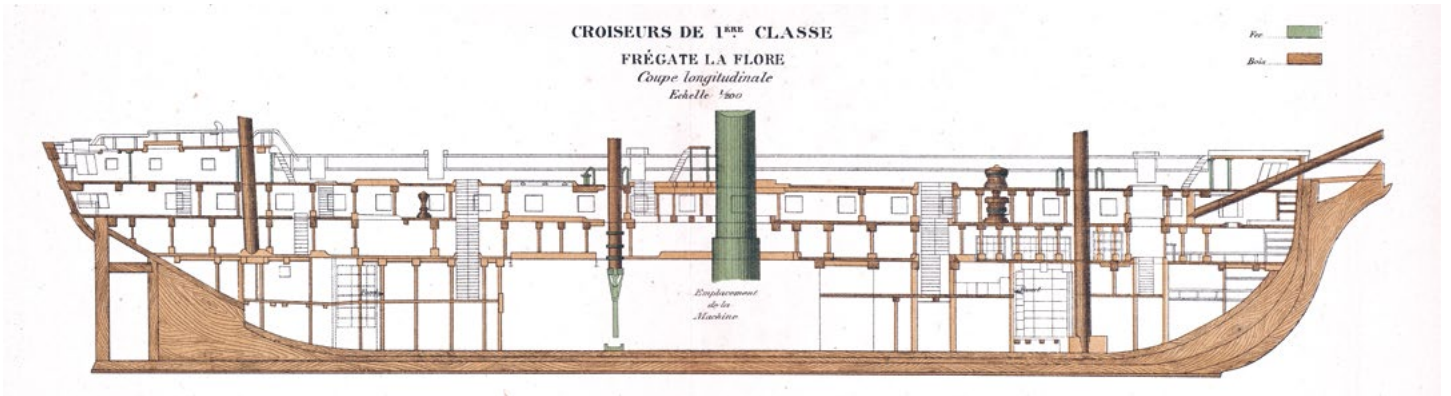
## Some photos



*La Flore in the moments preceding her launch on February 27 1869. A numerous crowd watched the event.*

SHD Rochefort 2G4 904 037.

## Image excerpts



Longitudinal view of the furnishings of the Flore at her launching.  
The furnishings used for the Circé were picked up, including the improvements made on the ways :  
Raising of the decks and use of a low-profile boiler. Aide mémoire of the Naval Artillery.



The last construction slipway of the Rochefort shipyard, occupied by the Flore from 1847. Relief plan designed by Jean-Maric in the 1840's  
Touboulic, naval engineer. Hèbre Museum, Rochefort

## 2 plates in 1/100 scale

