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HERMIONE LAFAYETTE'S FRIGATE

at the service of the American
independence

A study accompanied by historical
documents from 1764 to 1793

Patrick Villiers
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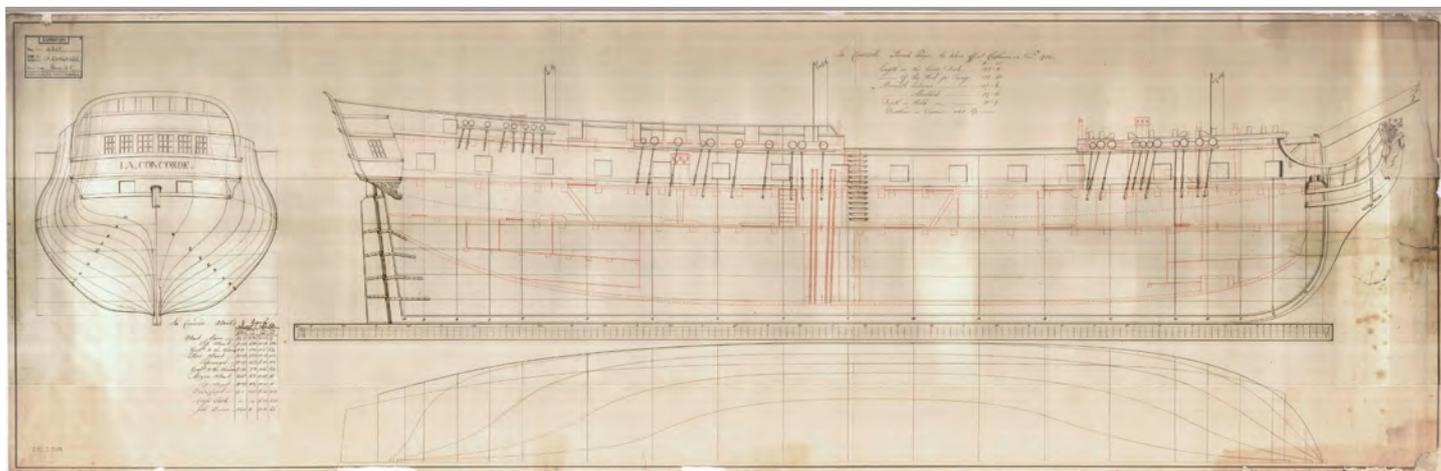
Hermione, Gilbert de Lafayette financed his own ship *Victoire* in 1777, with the assistance of Louis XVI's secret service. The sale of its cargo of weaponry financed his glorious 1777 to 1778 campaign that owed him the rank of an American general, and allowed him to become the friend of Washington and other main insurgent generals. The crossing of the Atlantic by Lafayette and *Hermione* symbolizes four years of indefectible support of the American cause by France. Here Patrick Villiers and Jean-Claude Lemineur offer us the opportunity to join the destinies of two heroes of the American War of Independence with a beautiful frigate, representative of the victorious struggle for control of the Atlantic Ocean indispensable for the independence of the United States. From the names of the crew members to the commissioning of *Hermione* through the cargo of weaponry of *Victoire*, many documents had been lost in archives up to now, or were only known by a few specialists.

BOOK MAKEUP

A book in
the
23x31 cm
format
that
includes

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|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| I. | Lafayette, legends and realities of his involvement at the service of the Patriots | XIV. | <i>Hermione</i> and Latouche Tréville at the service of the Insurgents |
| II. | Rochefort and the 12-pounder frigates: 1763 - 1780 | XV. | 1781 naval battles of Chesapeake and Yorktown Louisbourg |
| III. | Maritime commerce, the Ushant victory, the Spanish alliance, the stakes in the War of Independence | XVI. | <i>Hermione</i> and La Fayette, the last American missions |
| IV. | Lafayette from Brandywine to Valley Forge, the birth of an American general | XVII. | At Suffren's service: <i>Hermione</i> and Du Perou in the South Atlantic and the Indian Ocean, 1782 - 1784 |
| V. | Lafayette and Admiral d'Estaing, from Newport to Boston | XVIII. | The wreck of the <i>Hermione</i> in the twentieth century |
| VI. | Lafayette, Comte de Broglie's plan and the 1779 landing attempt | | Historical annexes: |
| VII. | A new departure to America: Ternay, Lafayette, Rochambeau | | • Hermione's crew muster roll |
| VIII. | <i>Hermione</i> and her builders: the Chevillard brothers | | • Instruction au memory to serve as Sieur de La Touche, lieutenant |
| IX. | A frigate built in six months, a model construction | | • Instruction Vergennes to Lafayette |
| X. | Latouche Tréville, from <i>Rosignol</i> to <i>Hermione</i> | | |
| XI. | <i>Hermione</i> 's crew in 1780 | | |
| XII. | The mystery of <i>Hermione</i> 's guns | | |
| XIII. | <i>Hermione</i> and Lafayette, the journey to Boston | | |

Extracts from the plans





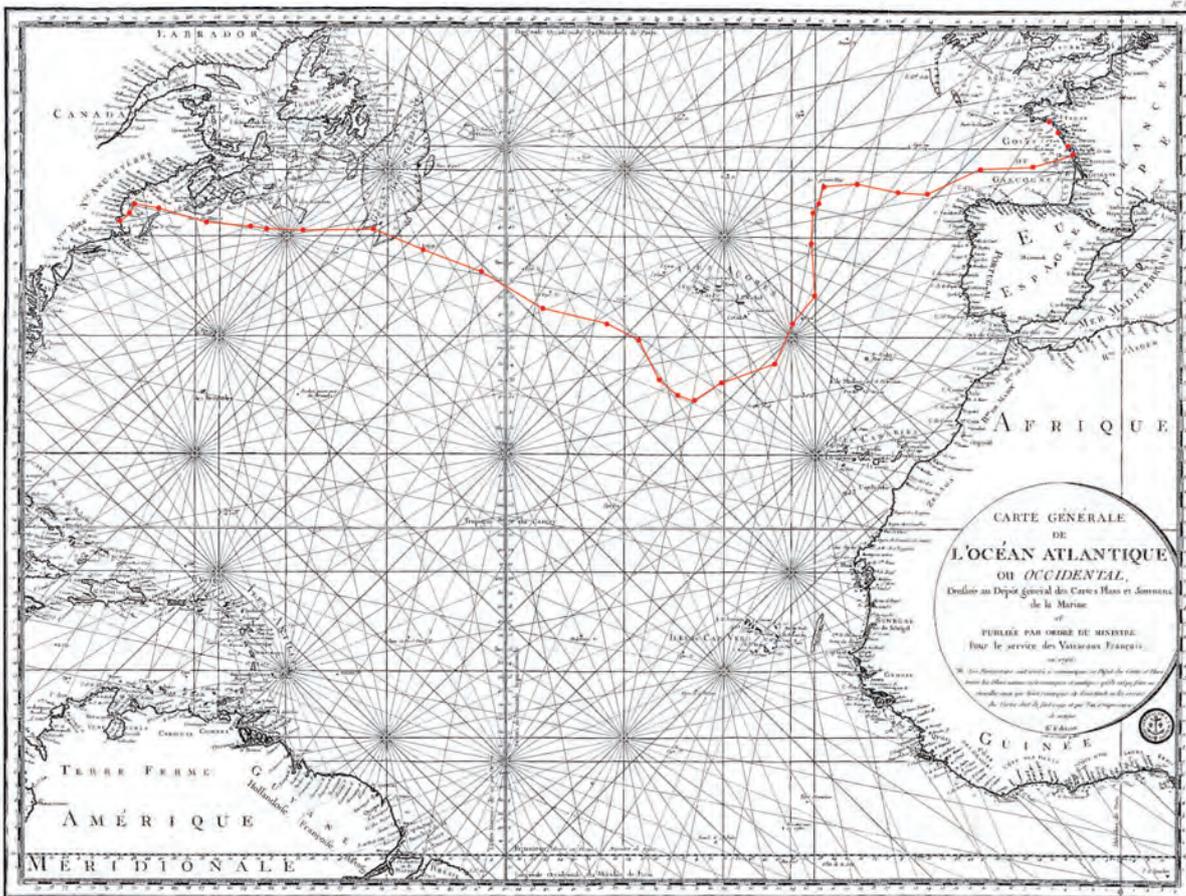
▲ *Combat between Belle-Poule and Arethusa by Rossel de Cery. This first engagement heralded the start of a long series of victories by French frigates. The drafts of Belle-Poule, built a Bordeaux in 1766 were a considerable inspiration for the construction of the Rochefort frigates, and in particular Hermione. Commissioned by Louis XVI to produce representations of the combats of the War of Independence, Rossel de Cery is a precious and particularly reliable reference.*



▲ *Lafayette and Washington at Brandywine in 1779: under Washington's eyes, Lafayette asserted himself in the eyes of Americans by his bravery as well as his tactical ability. He earned his stars as an American general in combat.*

Lafayette and his servant Jams Armistead at Yorktown in 1781. Landing at South Inlet on 12 une 1777, the first American Lafayette met was a black slave of insurgent colonel Benjamin Huger. As soon as he arrived in America, Lafayette fought slavery. At Yorktown his servant, the slave James Armistead, provided important information to attack the British. In 1786, Lafayette requested and obtained that he be freed by the Virginia Assembly, a first victory in his fight for the emancipation of black people in the United States.

► *A portrait of Latouche-Tréville by George Rouget in 1841, from the Musée de l'Histoire de France at Versailles. According to Napoléon the 1st, who made him an admiral in 1803, Latouche-Tréville was the best French admiral of the Revolution and Empire eras. He showed himself to be one of the best frigate commanders of the War of Independence, not only by transporting Lafayette, but also in the service of the American cause from Louisburg to Yorktown.*



◀ *A sidescript on Lafayette's voyage from Latouche-Tréville's logbook that enabled us to recreate precisely Lafayette's trip aboard Hermione, the speeds that were attained and the struggle against bad weather.*