



LE BEAUMONT and the DROMADAIRE

**Ships from the East India
Company 1757-1778**

**Patrick VILLIERS
Brigitte NICOLAS
Pierre ICKOWICZ**

Jewels of the Château-Musée de Dieppe collections, the *Beaumont* and the *Dromadaire* are the only surviving examples of the 600 and 900-ton vessels from the French East India Company. They stand as the last remaining evidence of the Company's quest to find the ideal ship for voyages to India and China. Despite the victories of the Bourdonnais and the capture of Madras during the War of the Austrian Succession, the Company sought a design capable of evading the Royal Navy by organising a competition between the King's shipbuilders and those of the Company.

From 1755 to 1765, the Company pitted the finest naval engineers and shipbuilders against one another to draw up plans for vessels destined for India and China. Whilst the plans from the 1755 competition have been preserved, regarding the period models, only the *Beaumont* remains: a magnificent model of the 900-tonne ship that sailed to China and that was subsequently lost while coming to the aid of the American Insurgents.

As for the 600-ton vessels, there is another model, the *Dromadaire*, an ex-voto built by a ship's officer. It serves as a reminder of the hardships endured by the captains and crews, mostly Bretons, mainly from the districts of Lorient or Saint-Malo, as they brought back the porcelain, Indian textiles, ivory and teas so highly sought after in Europe.

By reconstructing the history of these two ships, along with the assistance of curators from the East India Company Museum in Port-Louis-Lorient and the Château-Musée in Dieppe, Patrick Villiers offers us a magnificently illustrated new perspective on this major trade, one of the driving forces behind the 17th and 18th centuries maritime economy.

COMPOSITION OF THE WORK

*Hardback, 208 colour pages
Including 370 photographs or etchings
as well as 8 double-page ship plans.*

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| Ch. I: Europeans and China, from the Portuguese era to the VOC. | Ch. V: The East India Company in the face of the return to peace: 1749-1755. | Ch. XI: The <i>Beaumont</i> and China under the Company's flag: 1765-1770. |
| Ch. II: The ships of the first French East India Company. | Ch. VI: 1755: the East India Company chooses Antoine Grognard. | Ch. XII: The <i>Beaumont</i> and free trade with China, 1770-1777. |
| Ch. III: Gilles Cambry, the Elder, and the first ships of the East India Company. | Ch. VII: The Company's ships facing the Seven Years' War. | Ch. XIII: Brigitte Nicolas: The <i>Beaumont's</i> cargoes to China. |
| Ch. IV: The Company's vessels in the face of war at sea: 1739-1749. | Ch. VIII: The East India Company and privateering. | Ch. XIV: Pierre Ickowicz: Dieppe, ivory and China in the 18 th century. |
| | Ch. IX: The flute <i>Le Dromadaire</i> , from success to shipwreck. | Ch. XV: The ships of the East India Company and the V.O.C. |
| | Ch. X: The <i>Beaumont</i> and the 900-ton vessels bound for China. | Ch. XVI: The <i>Lyon</i> , the <i>Bonhomme Richard</i> and the War of Independence 1778-1779. |

Photos from the book



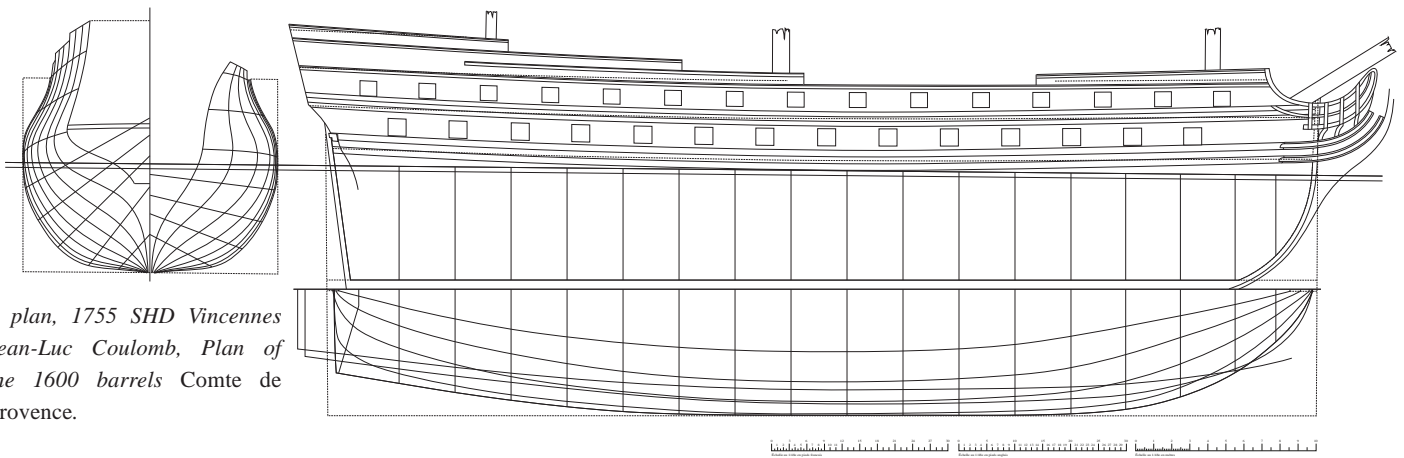
Image excerpts



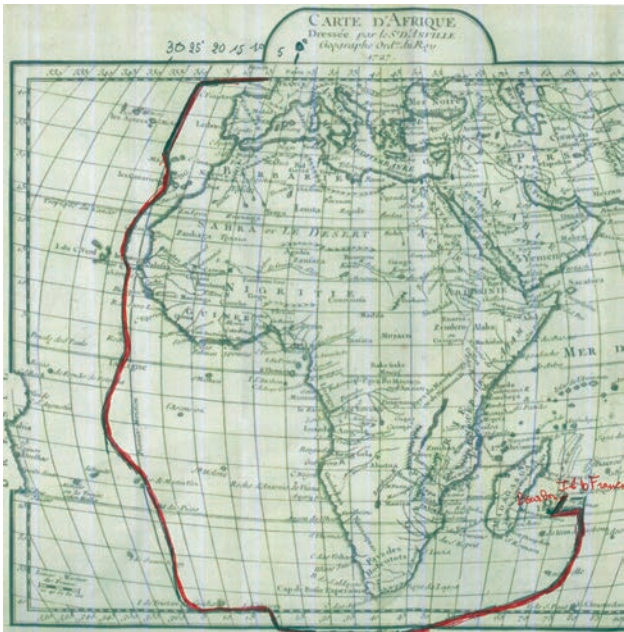
Battle of the Pitt against the Saint-Louis, two ships of the East India Company, NMM



Naval battle of Goudelour, Aché plate 4, ANOM Aix en Provence.



1 plan, 1755 SHD Vincennes Jean-Luc Coulomb, Plan of the 1600 barrels Comte de Provence.



Dromadaire travel card.



Painted tea caddy, Museum of the East



Gold ingot, Prince of Conti, Drasm India Company.



Porcelain, Compagnie des Indes Museum, Lorient.



Ivory Castle-museum of Dieppe.