



# HERMIONE

*Frigate of the American War of Independence*

1779 - 1793

**A 1/48 SCALE MONOGRAPH**

*The book includes all timbering plans*

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On March 10, 1780, The Marquis de Lafayette boarded *Hermione* on his way to the coasts of North America. He left to announce the arrival of royal troops to fight the English occupier on the side of the insurgents. The crossing was accomplished in the record time of 48 days. This performance was due to *Hermione's* excellent nautical qualities. In fact, *Hermione* was a new-generation frigate built before the revolution. Started on the ways in December 1778, she benefited from important advances that were brought about by a new concept developed during the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century that translated into seagoing capabilities well beyond those of vessels built

according to older designs. Like the other frigates of her generation she allied speed and firepower, allowing her to rival those of the Royal Navy. But what did *Hermione* look like?

Surprisingly, nothing specific remains concerning her, except for the information that she was constructed on the same plans as *Concorde*, built in 1777. As it turns out, *Concorde's* lines were taken off by the Royal Navy after her capture in 1783, and the plans were kept at the NMM in Greenwich.

It is fair to believe that *Hermione* is similar. However, the plans reveal some peculiarities specific to *Concorde*, which is and not present on *Hermione*. Her battery is pierced for 14 gunports to each side, not counting the chase ports. The arrangement of the gunports, which is obviously different, results in a reduction of the quarter-galleries volume. Finally, between 1777 and 1783, the existing frigates were the object of many modifications that *Concorde* was not spared. What were they compared to the original? Did they also apply to *Hermione*? Although she was built on the same plans as *Concorde*, *Hermione* was distinguished by some notable differences in her overall aspect.

Her looks were thus undefined and remained to be discovered!

Gathering all historical and archeological elements, referring to different works dealing with contemporaneous naval construction and examining the plans of similar frigates, on the strength of his experience on the subject Jean-Claude Lemineur attempts to give to *Hermione* a look that is the most probably close to reality.

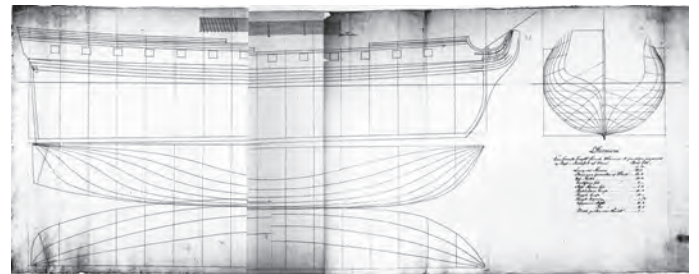
## ORGANIZATION OF THE MONOGRAPH

An initial chapter is concerned with the nautical qualities that warships must have possessed. They were especially mediocre for vessels built during the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> because of the use of obsolete concepts. The new design concepts that were adopted toward the end of that period are described next, as well as the improvements in performance and sea-going capabilities that resulted.

A second chapter is the object of a detailed study of documents concerned with the architecture and characteristics of sister-frigates, a study that allows the identification in a plausible manner, of the various poorly

known aspects of *Hermione*.

Thirty-four plates, most of them with comments, provide a detailed picture of the ship.



## LISTE DES PLANS au 1/48

1. Schematic elevation
2. Schematic plan view
3. Vertical view of frames
4. Construction of the stern
5. Construction of the stern-frame
6. Construction of the hawse pieces I
7. Construction of the hawse pieces II
8. Profiles of aft frames 1 to 6
9. Profiles of aft frames 7 to 12
10. Profiles of aft frames 13 to 19
11. Profiles of aft frames 20 to 29
12. Profiles of the main frame and forward frames 1 to 5
13. Profiles of forward frames 6 to 11
14. Profiles of forward frames 12 to 18
15. Profiles of forward frames 19 to 24
16. Timbered elevation
17. Plan of the bottom of the hold
18. Between-decks plan
19. Timbering of the gundeck and castles
20. Gundeck and its furniture
21. Castles and their furniture
22. Lengthwise section
23. Cross-sections
24. Built-up elevation
25. Decoration of the stem and stern-frame
26. Artillery and furniture
27. Elements of furniture
28. Plans of masts and yards
29. Mast fittings
30. Mainmast masts and rigging
31. Foremast masts and rigging
32. Mizzen masts and rigging
33. Running rigging (1/72 scale)
34. *Hermione* under sail (1/72 scale)

RIGGED MODEL			HULL ALONE		
Length	Width	Height	Length	Width	Height
140	70	110	101	24	22

Centimeters

## Extracts from the plans

