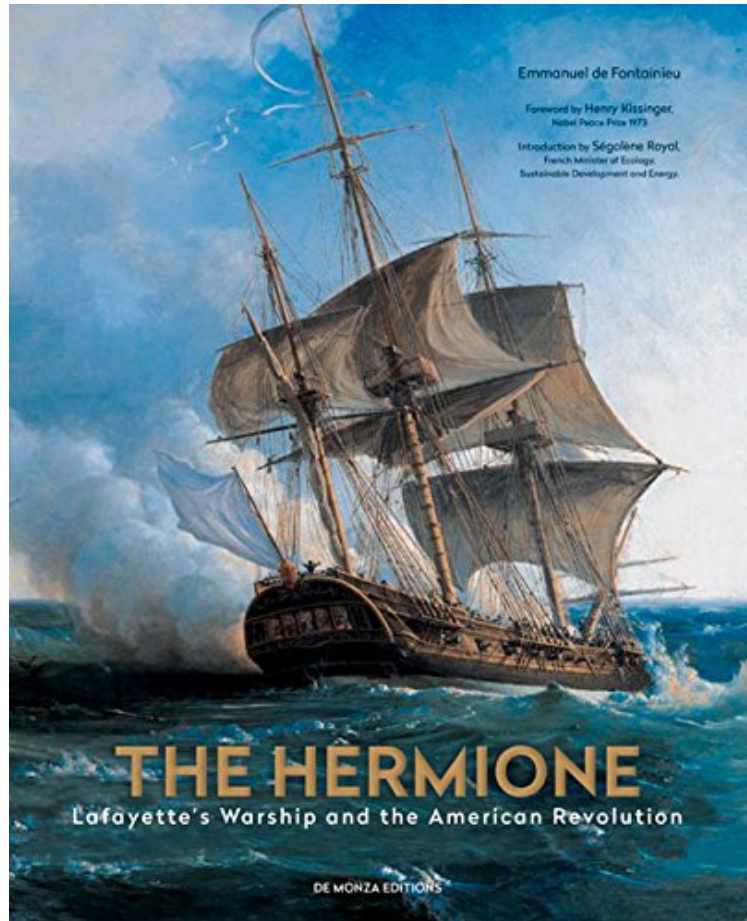


# The Hermione: Lafayette's Warship and the American Revolution

*Emmanuel de Fontainieu*

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Enhanced by illustrations, maps, and letters, this book provides a museum-quality experience detailing the thrilling

accomplishments of Lafayette and his legendary warship, the *Hermione*, in support of the colonists' cause during the American Revolutionary War. Lafayette, on a secret mission from King Louis XVI, was to inform George Washington and the Congress that France would support the American colonies in their conflict with Great Britain. Once on American soil, Lafayette shed his diplomatic role for an important military assignment, helping to mastermind the decisive Virginia campaign that brought hostilities to an end. While Lafayette excelled on the battlefield, his ship, the *Hermione*, was burnishing its own legend as part of the crucial maneuvers that led to the defeat of the much larger British navy—and ensured the American victory. The descriptions offer fascinating insights into the building of the arsenal in Rochefort under Louis XIV and Colbert, the development of the French navy, 18th-century naval strategy, and shipbuilding techniques. Also profiled is the ambitious undertaking of the nearly two decades-long project to meticulously recreate the *Hermione* and prepare it for a new transatlantic voyage, again on a mission of friendship and goodwill.

About the Author Emmanuel de Fontainieu is the director of the Centre International de la Mer in Rochefort and a member of the Steering Committee of the *Hermione-Lafayette* Association. He lives in France. Dr. Henry Kissinger is a world-renowned writer, political scientist, and diplomat. He served as the National Security Advisor and Secretary of State and won the 1973 Nobel Peace Prize. He lives in New York City. Ségolène Royal is a prominent member of the French Socialist Party, the president of the Poitou-Charentes Regional Council, and the French Minister for Ecology, Sustainable Development, and Energy. She lives in France.