



A Windmill (Model) for the La Perouse Museum

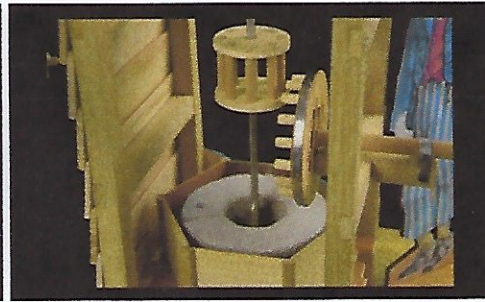
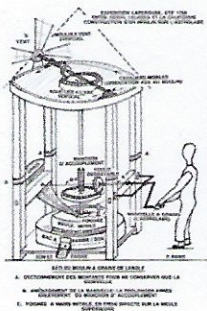
The Friends of the Lapérouse Museum (FOLM) wish to finance a model of the *Astrolabe* windmill to be exhibited in the La Perouse Museum and suggest a contribution from supporters.



Drawing by Duché de Vancy 1786



The windmill on the stern of the *Astrolabe* was an innovation which characterised the ship's profile and made it very recognisable. It was due to the engineering ability of Captain Fleuriot de Langle, commander of the *Astrolabe*. Captains Lapérouse (*La Boussole*) and Fleuriot de Langle (*L'Astrolabe*) were very keen to preserve the crews' morale and health. The bakers on board were complaining that the millstones they operated manually with great pain were breaking the grain and not grinding it into a suitable flour to make good bread. Knowing the importance of bread in the diet of French people, and therefore to the morale and spirit of the crews, as well as their health, Fleuriot de Langle with the help of a crew member with previous miller's experience decided to build a mill that could be operated by sail power and/or by a crank. The windmill was manufactured and installed after the port of call in Hawaï (Maui) en route to Alaska. Grain was easier than flour to store, and less prone to being infested by plague. The result was impressive, while before they could only produce 10/12 kg of a bad quality flour per day with the hard labour of 4 crew members who had to be replaced every 4 hours, now they could mill the equivalent of 100 kg of good quality flour per day. The *Astrolabe* windmill was given to local communities in Monterey (California), when Lapérouse and Fleuriot de Langle noticed how difficult it was for the women to grind grains using a cylinder on a flat stone. A replacement mill was built for the ship after its departure from the city.



A model was built in Albi in 2019, (Height 80 cm while the original was 3 metres) to be sent to Monterrey on the occasion of an exhibition to celebrate the 250 years of the City.

The Friends of the Lapérouse Museum (FOLM) are proposing to finance a similar model to be exhibited in conjunction with the millstone found in the wrecks of the ships in Vanikoro as a demonstration of its use; a didactic tool for young visitors.

Your Contribution:

You may wish to contribute individually to finance the purchase. The cost is approximately \$6,000. A list of Miche and Baguette donors will be published in FOLM Facebook page as follows:

- Miche donor:** \$500 and more.
- Baguette donor:** \$200 to \$499
- Croissant donor:** \$20 to \$199

Contribution to FOLM for the purchase and transport of a model of the *Astrolabe* Windmill:

Name of Account: The Friends of the Lapérouse Museum:
BSB: 082 274
Account: 85 523 7978
Description: Windmill & your Name //Amount: \$.....