



### SLOOP OF WAR "HORNET"

*Model by Mr. R. Hammond Gibson  
Presented 1958 by the builder*

Built in Baltimore in 1805 by William Price after designs by Josiah Fox, the *Hornet* was one of the most successful naval vessels in the War of 1812. In February, 1813, off Guiana she captured the 18-gun British brig *Peacock* and sank her after an action of only 15 minutes. On continued swings around the Atlantic in company with the *Constitution* and other frigates, the *Hornet* captured many prizes. On her last cruise in 1815 she engaged and sank the British sloop of war *Penguin* off the island of Tristan da Cunha in the South Atlantic. She successfully ran the British blockade of the American coast many times and was one of the few American craft to survive the whole war. She was finally lost in a hurricane off Tampico, Mexico, in 1829.

A naval hull of Baltimore clipper characteristics, the vessel displaced 440 tons and carried a complement of 140 men. Her length was 106'9"; beam, 29'7". Her armament consisted of two long 12-pounders and 18 carronades, 32-pounders. The model is built to a scale of 3/16 inch to a foot. Her rigged sail plan, method of rigging and details of her spars were taken by Mr. Gibson from authentic sources, principally from Howard I. Chapelle's book, *The American Sailing Navy*.

The Baltimore-built *Hornet* was the third American naval vessel to carry the name, besides the little privateer of the same name built in Baltimore in 1812. The present aircraft carrier *Hornet*, more than 40,000 tons displacement, is the namesake of this famous naval vessel.