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Cover illustration: Sextant by Mercier, on loan to Lapérouse from the Académie de Marine, Brest, recovered from the *Boussole* shipwreck site, Vanikoro, on 4 May 2005; held by the Musée de l'Histoire Maritime de Nouvelle-Calédonie, Noumea. Courtesy Pierre Larue (Association Salomon) (see Morrison and Barko, pp. 1–40).