

# Norwegian turning cruise: a race odyssey 2001

**T**urners of various races – Japan, the USA, Canada, Norway, Sweden, Holland and the United Kingdom – took part in a woodturning and woodcarving odyssey up the coast of Norway, in August. The cruise was organised, like previous ones, by Odd Erik Thjomøe and Mette Fjermstad of Verktoy, and ran smoothly. The back of the ship was fitted out as a floating craft supplies store and workshop.

The ship visited 12 Norwegian cities, from Stavanger in the south to Tromsø in the north, and took in the Lofoten Islands in the Arctic Circle. While in port, the displays of tools and craft supplies were open for sale to the public and the demonstrators showed off their skills.

At sea, those on board could use

the seven lathes and the demonstrators gave freely of their time and experience.

Stuart Mortimer demonstrated hollow-sphere turning, Allan Batty platter, box making and screw threading, and Jimmy Clewes deep hollowing in wet wood and platters, which Bob Neill then decorated with pyrography. Harry Memelink, from New Zealand, developer of the Exocet deep-hollowing tool, showed what this tool is capable of, while Dale Nish turned weed pots/ring holders. Petter Herud demonstrated the turning of three, four and six-sided threaded boxes, and Åsmund Vignes, used the ring tool to hollow out bell shapes to 1.3mm thickness in less than three minutes.

Tim Clay showed how many bowl blanks you could obtain from one piece

of timber, and gave a talk on the proper grinding of tools and the composition of grinding wheels. Two Norwegian carvers – Rolf Taraldset and Kjell Muslim – also demonstrated.

Dave Muckle, of Darlington, County Durham, who was on board for the whole trip and sent us the details upon which this news item is based, summed it up as follows:

“After travelling nearly 2000 nautical miles and seeing some of the most dramatic scenery in the world, living with 183 people from all over the world, all tuned into the same subject, I can only say that I learned more about woodturning in those 12 days afloat than I would have believed possible. I came home invigorated, knowing that I could take my turning to a higher level. It was the experience of a lifetime!”

Jimmy Clewes, platter turning.

Allan Batty turns a box in a Norwegian port.

Dale Nish tackles a weed pot/ring holder.

