



by Joseph M. Herrmann

Justice is Served

There are always scoundrels in any group, and the 2011 Norwegian Woodturning Cruise was no exception. Someone on the ship had the nerve to disgrace and to slur the name of Odd Erik Thjømøe by creating a scandalous effigy and hanging it on the railing of the ship for all to see.

INITIAL INCIDENT

It all started innocently enough, as most things do, but it soon mushroomed into an incident that couldn't be overlooked. Most of the people aboard the ship were upstanding woodturners, but there were a few passengers who were scroll sawyers led by Jim Stirling—a most unsavory character. One day a whirligig appeared on the rail of the ship. Everyone got a kick out of it and thought it was rather clever of the person who made it (see **Fig. 1**). It remained there until the winds and rain took their toll, and eventually, it disappeared.



Fig. 1

A rather simple mechanical contraption made from soda bottles and a few pieces of copper pipe was strapped to the railing on the ship.

EFFIGY MOST FOUL

Soon after, a new whirligig appeared on the railing that was a foul effigy of one of the most honorable men aboard: Odd Erik Thjømøe (see **Fig. 2**). It was a sacrilege and no effort was spared to find the man responsible. No



Fig. 2

The effigy looked exactly like Odd Erik and was one of the most despicable things I had ever witnessed.



Fig. 3

Photos began to appear on cameras and fingers started to point in Stirling's direction.

one was talking, but soon the rumors started to fly and photos of Jim Stirling started to appear on cameras throughout the ship. Some folks even had video showing the crazy antics of the effigy that further defamed Odd

Erik (see **Fig. 3**). Fingers started to point at Jim and rumors of an accomplice started to swirl, but no evidence was ever found to support that claim.

TRIAL

An investigation ensued and a warrant for Jim Stirling was soon produced; Sir Richard Raffan, Sir Nick Agar, and Sir Jimmy Clewes were dispatched to make the arrest and to bring the defendant to trial (see **Fig. 4**). The Most Honorable Judge David Muckle presided over the trial and the passengers formed the jury. Odd Erik confronted the defendant and presented the case against him (see **Fig. 5**). The jury found Stirling guilty and decided that he should be sentenced to "walk the plank" as punishment for the offense.

JUSTICE SERVED

Several days passed until we reached a port with a suitable harbor to carry out the sentence. A gangplank was fashioned and preparations were made to carry out the sentence. Jim Stirling was walked to the end of the plank and forced to the edge (see **Fig. 6**). Even though he resisted to the very end, the three noblemen succeeded in pushing Stirling into the cold sea (see **Fig. 7**). Stirling fell to the surface of the water (see **Fig. 8**) and was seen no more (see **Fig. 9**). Justice had been served and Odd Erik's name had been cleansed of the scourge!

A GOOD TIME

I just want to reiterate what a good time I had on the cruise, and I urge you to check into going on the next one in 2014. Information about the cruise is available on the website at www.woodturningcruise.com or by contacting Odd Erik at odderik@verktoyas.no. For those of you who are on Facebook, you can also find information there. Go to "Odd Erik Thjømøe," or "www Verktoy AS," or "Woodturning Cruise-Norway."



Fig. 4

Three respected demonstrators were empowered to make the arrest.



Fig. 5

Odd Erik (blue shirt) lays out the case against the defendant.



Fig. 6

Resistance is futile.



Fig. 7

Jim is tipping backward toward his watery grave.



Fig. 8

He hits the water with a mighty splash.



Fig. 9

Jim was not seen again for the remainder of the cruise, but his ghost haunted the decks.