

# Pole to Pole by Bob Neill

## Woodturning with a Difference in the Fjords

Right: Bob with *Craftsman Magazine* at North Cape. Far right: Instant Gallery. Examples of work brought on board by passengers.



Right: Mike Mahoney (USA) giving some one to one instruction.



Right: Anna Bergerforth (Germany)



This was truly another 'Cruise with a Difference'; we not only enjoyed the spectacular coastal scenery but also gained so much from the variety of World Class Turners, Carvers and a Pyrographer. On board, we had 117 passengers from various countries including the U.S.A., Norway, Germany, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales. There were 16 demonstrators who worked a rotation system on a variety of lathes - One Way, Nova, Vic Marc and Delta. The carving equipment was supplied by 'King Arthur's Tools' Lancelot and Merlin, and the Arbotech was also in use.

During the trip, the passengers saw demonstrations of various techniques: Jimmy Clewes (U.K.) did large platters, hollow forms and colouring; Mike Mahoney (U.S.A.) demonstrated large hollow forms and bowl saving using the McNaughton Centre Saver; Asmund Vignes (Norway) made small hollow forms and inlay work using the Ring Tool; Johannes Michelsen (U.S.A.) 'The Hat Man', made hats of various shapes and sizes; Elizabeth and David Powell (U.S.A.) used the DMT sharpening range; Arthur Aveling (U.S.A.) and Kjell Musland (Norway) produced large wooden spoons; Watanabe (Japan) and Manfred Ikeda (Japan) showed us traditional carpentry - basic joints using Japanese saws; Petter Herud (Norway) made octagonal boxes with thread chasing; Nigel Voisey (U.K.) showed spindle turning and made small salt and pepper pots;

Anna Bergerforth (Germany) and Knut Lien (Norway) demonstrated the texturing and colouring of large candle holders; Peter Bowman (Sweden) used various sanding machines; Fred Holder (U.S.A.) made Chinese Balls and other small turnings; Bob Neill (U.K.) demonstrated pyrography and decorative techniques on turned plates and bowls and ran a 'Hands-on Workshop'.

During the 13 day voyage, the demonstrators entertained the passengers with a Masterclass or a general interest demonstration. At other times, and frequently into the night, at sea, individual tuition was given!

We stopped at a different town each day, where M.S. Gann became a floating shop and demonstration area for the many local woodturning enthusiasts. During these sessions, large crowds gathered around demonstrators, or 'have a go' in the pyrography workshop.

The occasional visit out on deck to view the spectacular landscape was very refreshing. At each port, the local Tourist Board organised visits to places of interest - Museums, Churches, Art Exhibitions etc. We had a surprise visit during our stop in the town of Molde, when the Prime Minister of Norway, Kjell Bondevik, came on board to see the woodturning activities.

Other special memories include the custom of wetting the head as you crossed the Arctic Circle. For Jimmy Clewes and myself, this was a significant moment because 2 years' earlier, we had been teaching near the Antarctic, on the Falkland Islands. So we, like another intrepid traveller, had gone from POLE to POLE.

The last day came too soon and the end of another memorable experience. Where would you see 16 World Class Turners in one location for 2 weeks, demonstrating, advising, teaching and chatting? We were all very grateful to Odd Erik, Mette and all the staff on M.S. Gann for the hard work in planning and organizing the event. Many of us are looking forward to 2007, when Odd Erik plans to run another Cruise. It might be a bigger boat next time... Keep an eye on my stand at the shows for all the latest information... See you on the next Cruise.

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Below right: The Oh Oh Bird Egg Competition - one of the many social events on board. America got the gold... Wales disqualified.

