

MORE

WOODTURNING

the newspaper for turners

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Norwegian Woodturning Cruise 2004



Our cruise ship, MS GANN, was not very large, but large enough for the 100 plus passengers on board for the cruise. This ship is a training ship for young men and women planning to work the cruise lines. Most of the students were on leave for the period of the cruise. The students on board were experiencing their first cruise with passengers on board.

by Fred and Mildred Holder

The Norwegian Woodturning 2004 was sponsored by the company WWW VERKTOY AS. It was a floating woodturning show where customers were invited on board to see the latest equipment and a group of well known turners demonstrating their special skills. Both the 1998 and 2001 cruises were considered a success. This third trip was with the same ship as 2001, the MS GANN. This cruise was a way to see Norway at its most spectacular, in late summer. During the tour we visited over 12 cities along the coast from Stavanger to Honningsvaag and the North Cape and return. The cruise was organized by Odd-Erik Thjornoe, managing director of WWW VERKTOY AS and Mette Fjermestad a very helpful young lady.

Our part of the cruise began when Fred and Mildred Holder and Mapril Corderman, Mildred's sister, arrived in Stavanger about 4:00 pm on August 16 after 18 hours of travel from Seattle, Washington. It was raining fairly heavily at the time we boarded the bus that would take us near to the pier where the MS Gann was docked. We were welcomed on board and helped with our luggage down to our rooms. Once all passengers were on board, the ship departed for our first port of call MALOY where the local people could come on board and view demonstrations and



This exhibit was just a part of the tools that were available for visitors to purchase when they came on board the ship at a port of call.

purchase woodturning supplies. We arrived in the afternoon and the first team of woodturning demonstrators began showing their skills for the local visitors.

I should mention that the first woodturning team was made up of Petter Herud of Norway on the Oneway 1440 lathe, Johannes Michaelsen from the USA on a Vicmarc outside and up one deck, Mike Mahoney from the USA on a Vicmarc lathe inside, and Anne Bergerfurth of Tyskland on a Vicmark lathe. The second team consisted of Nigel Voisy from the UK, spelled off by Knut Andreas

Lien, on the Oneway 1440, Asmund Vignes of Norway on a Vicmarc outside, Jimmy Clewes of the UK on a Vicmarc lathe, and Fred Holder from the USA on a Nova DVR 3000. These two teams alternated as the cruise progressed.

In addition to these woodturning demonstrations there were a number of ongoing demonstrations that were presented whenever we were in port and



Johannes Michaelsen turning one of the many hats he turned during the period of the cruise.

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visitors were allowed on board. These included: Arthur Aveling from the USA demonstrating the Lancelot power carving tools, who was assisted by Kjell Musland from Norway; Elisabeth & David Powell from the USA with the line of DMT sharpening tools; Peter Boman from Sweden who was demonstrating the Kirjes Sanding System that he had designed; Bob Neill and his wife Del from Wales who were demonstrating and teaching pyrography; and Watanabe from Japan who was demonstrating Japanese style joinery. He spent a great

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deal of time making boards flat and square before hand cutting the joints, he used no power tools.



Bob (The Burner) Neill doing pyrography wearing his new Johannes Michaelson made baseball cap.

Bob Neill also continued to work and show passengers how to do pyrography when the ship was underway. At these times, the passengers got a chance to play. Although not actually demonstrating, Victor Verrecchia, managing director of Vicmark Machinery PTY LTD, was on board for most of



Odd-Erik Thjomoe and Victor Verrecchia talking early in the cruise. Victor and his wife were with us most of the cruise.



Fred Holder and Gorst duPlessis discussing the making of the Chinese Ball. Gorst indicated that he had made them on his ornamental lathe.

the cruise. I was pleased to get to know him and enjoyed several chats with him during the course of the cruise.

This was another pleasant part of the cruise. The visiting with people that you know but only see once or twice a

year. I had some nice chats with Mike Mahoney, Dick Sing, and Gorst duPlessis. There were lots of others that I chatted with, whose names I can't remember. If you are reading this and you are one of those people, I apologize for

forgetting your name.

Although not official demonstrators, Mildred and Mapril spent much of their time carving during the trip. They were each awarded a burned disk designating them as a member of the carvers corner. They each sold a couple of pieces of their work and stimulated a number of others to want to carve. Gorst duPlessis, an ornamental turner from Louisiana, was impressed enough that he carved one of the Celtic knots as a present for his wife. He carved it with a pocket knife, but did an excellent job in spite of the tool handicap. They shared many copies of their patterns.



Mildred and Mapril carving in the sunshine. You can see Mapril's hand in the lower right hand corner of the picture.

Unfortunately, the weather didn't hold and they spent most of the trip carving inside.

When the ship was underway, passengers had the opportunity to use the Oneway and Vicmark lathes and could receive some excellent tutorage

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as all of the demonstrators were willing to help when asked. Also, while we were underway there were several woodturning demonstrations scheduled just for the passengers benefit.



Jimmy Clewes assisting a passenger who is turning. Jimmy is an excellent teacher.

While in Maloy, the first team demonstrated for 3-1/2 hours. Petter Herud was demonstrating a multi-sided threaded box made from African Blackwood. Johannes Michaelsen was demonstrating the turning of a hat. Mike Mahoney was demonstrating nested bowls. Anne Bergerfurth was demonstrating the turning of precision balls or spheres. Anne also did a very nice bowl shaped piece to hold a candle. The second team of turners then took over for another 3-1/2 hours of demonstration. Since I was involved for the full 3-1/2 hours demonstrating the making of the Chinese Ball, I was unable to view the demonstrations of the others on the team. This was pretty much the sequence of events at each port of call, with the order of the two teams being reversed from stop to stop.

In Geiranger fjord the mountains rise steeply to 1800 meters and you can see small farms and beautiful waterfalls approximately 700 to 800 meters up the mountainsides. At the end of this long fjord, we arrived at Geiranger. A number of the passengers chose to take the 7-1/2 hour bus tour to Molde where they would re-join the cruise ship. Once the tour passengers were off loaded, the ship continued its course to Molde.

In Molde, local residents came aboard the ship to view demonstrations and purchase woodturning and wood-working tools. The turners demonstrated for the public from 5:00 pm to 9:30 pm.

On the trip toward Namsos, demonstrations for the passengers were presented from 10:00 am until noon by Johannes Michaelsen turning a wooden hat and Jimmy Clewes decorating a bowl/platter.

The next day in Namsos the cruise organization had arranged a guided tour for passengers to Spillum planning mill and the Spillum Museum. The woodturning demonstrations took place until 7:30 pm.

On Friday August 20 on the way to Bodo, demonstrations were provided for the passengers by Mike Mahoney



The demonstrators for the cruise: from the top left: Peter Boman; Karianne Kay; Fred Holder; Mike Mahoney; Bob Neill; Petter Herud; Jimmy Clewes; Knut Andreas Lien; Watanabe; David Powell; Anne Bergerfurth; and Odd Erik Thjomoc. From the left kneeling: Kjell Musland; Asmund Vignes; Mette Fjermestad; Arthur Avling (almost hidden by Johannes' hat); Johannes Michaelsen; Elizabeth Powell; Victor Verrecchia; and Manfred Ikeda.



Mike Mahoney coring a bowl in one of his demonstrations. He is using the Kel McNaughton Coring System.

doing a hollow form and Fred Holder turning a Chinese Ball. At Bodo passengers could take a boat trip to the small fishing village of Kjerringoy. It is one of Norway's richest trading communities, dating back to the 18th century, before



Fred Holder with the Chinese Ball he has just completed. There was good interest on this project on the cruise.

the steamship. This place is also well known as the location for several movies. It has kept its original architecture, maintaining its timeless and amazing uniqueness. There was also a theatre show and a guided tour. While in Bodo, demonstrations ran from 1:00 pm until 7:30 pm. We got underway at about 8:00 pm for Tromso.

Tromso is a beautiful and picturesque city. It is often being called the Paris of Norway. Tromso is the capital of Northern Norway and boasts a major university, the Polarinstittut, Northern Light Observatory and several other important institutions. Passengers could join a bus trip and visit the Ishavscathedral then stop at Tromso museum with the famous lapp-exhibition. There was much more to see such as a ride on a gondola

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to the top of Citymountain to get an absolutely fantastic view over Tromsø and its spectacular surroundings. Unfortunately, when we visited, the top of Citymountain was in clouds and we had no view. While in Tromsø, demonstrations ran from noon to 5:00 pm. Shortly after the last demonstration, we got underway for Honningsvåg the northern most city in Norway.



King Neptune has just slapped Mildred with a piece of seaweed to make her close here eyes. Then he could put a dab of chocolate onto her forehead.

On the way to Honningsvåg, we crossed the Arctic Circle and all passengers were requested to go to the fun-tail of the ship for a ceremony. When we got there, King Neptune came up the stairs to the deck and began mark-

ing the people as visitors to the land above the Arctic Circle. He generally swished them with a piece of seaweed and then dabbed some brown gooey stuff (which turned out to be chocolate) onto the center of their forehead. It was a big farce, but fun for all and we received a certificate stating that we had crossed the Arctic Circle.

From Honningsvåg there was a bus trip back to the North Cape. Several passengers went on this tour. Unfortunately, the tour members going to the North Cape Center were a bit disappointed by the view because of the heavy fog. But most enjoyed the large screen display showing views from a helicopter. The movies of the Aurora Borealis were awesome.

While in Honningsvåg, only Team 2 demonstrated. Odd Eric said that he thought most of the residents visited the ship. One little boy was extremely impressed with the Chinese Ball and wanted one in the worst way. Had I not felt it would start a trend that I couldn't meet, I would have given him one. We left Honningsvåg as soon as the passengers on tour to the North Cape had returned.

We headed out to sea again with our destination to be Svolvær. The ground swells became fairly heavy and the ship rolled and pitched a bit. At 10:00 pm a slap stick mock trial was held with Asmund being accused of opening a port-

hole and flooding his room. Gorst duPlessis was selected to play the part of the prosecuting attorney. Gorst said it would have been nice to have had a script, fortunately he did have a printed out sheet of the charges brought against Asmund. A number of witnesses were called to prove that he was guilty. It was a big farce and each of the witnesses were asked to swear that nothing they said would be the truth. He was finally found guilty by a 99 percent vote of the jury as was Odd Eric for being an accomplice. Both were sentenced to walk the plank the next day.

We arrived in Svolvær and were there for only a few hours before getting underway again. Team 1 demonstrated for the somewhat limited number of visitors from the city. We were entertained by a story about the Oh Oh Bird and were asked to watch for a set of OH OH Bird balls. Asmund and Odd Eric dressed in survival suits were required to walk the plank shortly before we departed for Mosjøen. The life boat stood by to pick them up. All went well and they survived the sentence.



The OH-OH bird has large balls. When he lands he goes Oh!Oh!

On our way to Mosjøen, we had a side trip up a beautiful fjord (Trollfjord) that was very narrow with mountains rising up on either side. At the end of the Trollfjord was a little house. We did not stop, but simply turned around and returned to our previously set course for Mosjøen.

We arrived in Mosjøen at about 2:00 pm. There was a very good turnout at Mosjøen with people arriving on board as soon as the gang plank was extended. Team 2 demonstrated first and the press came on board. The young lady reporter seemed to be very impressed with my Chinese Balls and took quite a few pictures both of me turning and of the finished Chinese Ball. Unfortunately, I'll not get a chance to see if my picture and the picture of the Chinese Ball made it into print. I had a very good crowd for my demonstration in this port. There seemed to be a lot of interest in the Chinese Ball in this city. I then gave as short demonstration of the thread chasing tool that I had brought with me to show people that you do not need two tools to chase threads. Team 1 took over and demonstrated until

7:30 to a very good crowd of visitors. We got underway about 8:00 pm. That evening, Bob Neill gave an interesting slide presentation of how his work has evolved over the years.

Trondheim is Norway's second largest city and we had a fairly sizeable group of visitors from the town. A tour was available to interested passengers. The tour included a trip to Tyholt tower and somewhat more. The Nidarosdomen is the largest cathedral in Norway and the Ringve Museum has Norway's largest musical instrument collection. There was much shopping available to the passengers who went ashore.

During our stay in Trondheim, Team 1 demonstrated from 2:00 pm until 5:30 pm when Team 2 took over and demonstrated until 9:00 pm. After the last demonstration, about 10:00 pm a slide show was presented by Roger Bealey of the UK showing many of the pictures he had taken during the trip. He was taking orders for a CD-ROM that would contain several hundred high quality images. The price was 20 British Pounds or 250 Norwegian Kroner. We ordered one even though we had taken about 500 photos on the trip. It turned out that Roger had taken over 2500 pictures. He had to cut the list down to get them onto a CD-ROM. The ship got underway about 11:00 pm with the next stop at Alesund.

In Alesund, four passengers could travel by bus to Aksla for a great view of the city. They then continued to the Atlanterhavsparken and Northern Europe's largest seaworld where 10 large tanks hold over 6.5 million liters of seawater and close to 40,000 fish of many species. While in Alesund, turning demonstrations continued until 7:00 pm. During my demonstration of the Chinese Ball, a local resident, Ayden Tomak wanted to buy one of them. I told him they weren't for sale. He asked what I did with them. I said that I gave them to people who did something nice for me. Just before leaving the ship, he came back and said he hadn't been able to come up with something nice he could do for me and thanked me for the demonstration. He then went to pay for his purchases before leaving the ship. I met him at the exit door and escorted him back to my workstation and gave him one of the Chinese Balls I had made on the cruise. When we arrived home, there was an e-mail from him thanking me again for the Chinese ball. He said, "I would like you to know that it has found itself a good place in our house and you can be sure that we will cherish it." That made me feel good.

That evening, an auction of donated pieces was held with the proceeds going to cancer research in Norway. The auction brought in over 14,000 kroner. The ship got underway about 8:00 pm

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Asmund Vignes doing fine detail work on a small hollow form with a cabinet scraper. He was a master with the ring tool.



A shot of the architecture in Bergen. A mix of the new and the old.



Cheri with her new hat made by Johannes Michaelsen.



Nigel Voisy demonstrating while underway. His egg salt shakers shown below.



Hat that Johannes turned for the auction. Bob Neill burned on the city names.



End of the cruise for us was Kjell Musland's serenade. He made beautiful music.



Whenever we were in port Watanabe from Japan worked on his hand joinery. He spent a lot of time make the boards smooth and square.

with its destination Bergen. The ship would arrive in Bergen about 10:00 am.

There was a bus tour that showed the best of Bergen. Bergen's uniqueness makes it one of Norway's top tourist attractions. The bus tour stopped at Bryggens Museum. It has some unique building architecture and was an interesting walk. Demonstrations ran from 10:00 am until 7:00 pm. I did not demonstrate on this final day of the cruise, because we had to leave the ship at Bergen and fly to Stavanger so that we could catch our early flight to Scotland the next morning.

The Woodturning Cruise 2004 was a very fun time for all. There was information to be learned from some excellent demonstrators, plus there was time when we were underway for passengers to use the lathes and turn under the supervision of the excellent demonstrators on the cruise.

I expect there will be another cruise in 2007. Check their web site for information on it: www.verktoyas.no. I recommend checking the site at least a year in advance.



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