

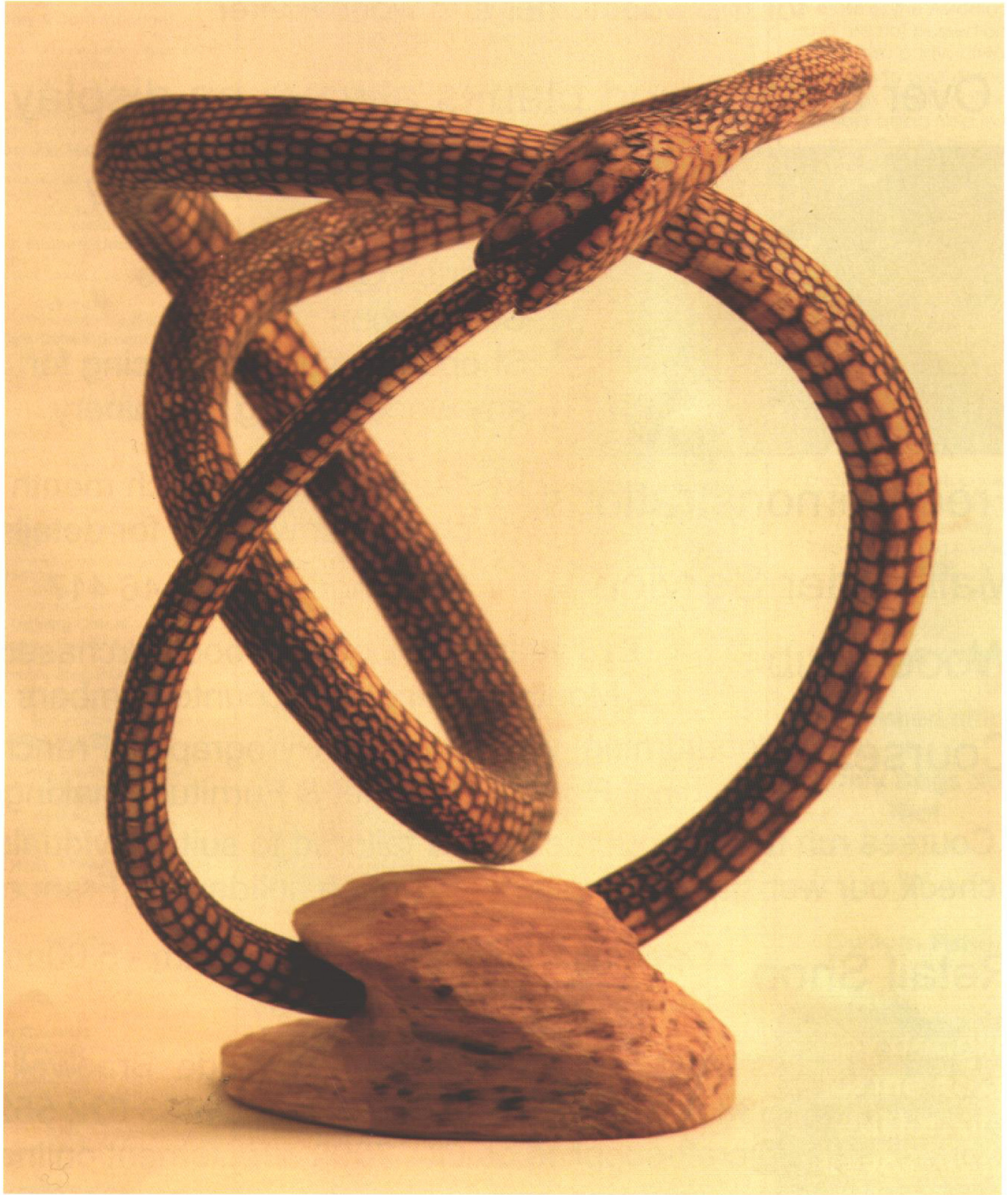


# *Revolutions*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF WOODTURNERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

Issue No 87

December 2008



[www.woodturners.co.uk](http://www.woodturners.co.uk)

# Woodturning in the Fjords

Bob Neill

This was the fourth Woodturning Cruise along the Western Coast of Norway. The event was staffed by some of the top craftsmen from around the world. Norwegians included Johannes Rieber, Asmund Vignes, Jostein Tvedt, Kjell Musland, Erik Lauritsen and Rune Hjelen. Others who came from the USA, Australia, the UK and Sweden included woodturners Stuart Mortimer, Richard Raffan, Jimmy Clewes, Mark Baker, Dick Sing and Nick Agar; woodcarvers Wayne Barton and Richard Reimes; pyrographer Bob Neill; pole lathe turners Gavin Phillips and Clare Bannister; Rosemaling\* painter Unni Marie Lien and Merlin power carver Arthur Aveling.

There were nearly 200 passengers, including over 20 demonstrators, from 15 different countries on the voyage. It began on 11 August 2008 in Stavanger where Odd-Erik Thjomoe, the organizer of the event, is the managing director of a woodturning centre. The MS GANN, our ship for the two week voyage docked at a different port every day, where many local people came on board to watch these famous woodworkers demonstrating, and sharing, their skills. These appreciative Norwegians saw woodturning, chip carving, pyrography, relief carving, rosemaling painting\*, pole lathe turning and much more. During the passage between ports, the demonstrators gave individual tuition to many passengers, sometimes well into the night!



**MS Gann, home for fourteen days**

The weather was favourable for almost the whole trip with the fjords and mountains providing an ever-changing dramatic backdrop to all the activities. At the majority of stops, visits to places of interest were organized and led by knowledgeable local guides. Some passengers took the bus over the mountains from the Geiranger Fjord and met up with the ship further along the coast at Molde. In Tromso, a visit was arranged to the modern Cathedral and to the Lapp Exhibition with its many artefacts associated with Amundsen and other famous explorers. At the

crossing of the Arctic Circle, King Neptune paid a visit and many passengers were rewarded with a special certificate to commemorate the event. Meal times gave everyone the opportunity to chat about the various activities and make new friends. The Chef and his staff provided delicious meals, many of which were based on traditional Norwegian recipes.



**The demonstrators**

For the organizers, the trip proved to be a great success, both in promoting woodworking and as a commercial venture, with sales in the shop exceeding expectations. For me, this was another very enjoyable visit to Norway with the added bonus of much better facilities on this newer ship. Many thanks are due to Odd-Erik and all his staff for their hard work in planning and organizing the event.

We are looking forward to the next trip which is scheduled for August 2011. Keep an eye on my stand at the shows for all the latest information, or check out the website [www.woodturningcruise.com](http://www.woodturningcruise.com) regularly for any news as it becomes available.

\*Editor's note: For those not in the know, as I was, an internet search reveals "rosemaling painting" to be something akin to what we know in this country as canal art.



**Extra curricular activities**



Richard Raffan and student



Nick Agar texturing his work



Unni Marie Lien - Rosemaling

**ACTIVITIES ON BOARD MS GANN**  
All photographs courtesy of Bob Neill



Nick Agar - work in progress



Asmund Vignes and student



Bob Neill - Pyrography and colour