

Day 23 Aug. 16 – At Sea – on to Torshavn Faroe Islands – Cruise Critic Meeting – Michael Millwood – David Smith

The day started with the Maasdam cruising north in the Atlantic Ocean towards Torshavn in the Faroe Islands where we will arrive tomorrow morning. There was a light rain and continuation of the bumpy ride that we had all night. As the day wore on the weather and sea improved and by noon we had calm sea and sunshine.

Cruise Critic Meeting: At 10am Louise (happyglobetrotter) opened our last Cruise Critic meeting of the Voyage of the Vikings. About 30 people attended in the meeting in the Crow's Nest. Louise introduced Bill and Betsy (amicus). They are two new Cruise Critic members who had boarded the Maasdam in Rotterdam. Larry (webecruisnnow) said the private tour he had put together in Reykjavik was fully booked and the agent preferred to be paid in Euros. We then all expressed our appreciation to Louise for serving as the coordinator of Cruise Critic meetings and the luncheon during the 2009 Voyage of the Vikings. Here are some photos taken of a few of the people attending the gathering.



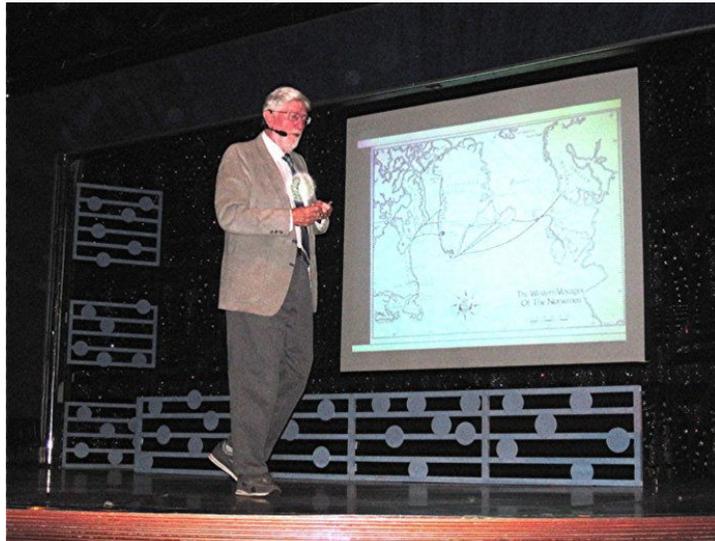


A few more general comments were made and then the meeting broke up into small groups as we all got more acquainted with fellow Cruise Critic fans.

During the meeting a good omen in the form of a rainbow appeared on the port side. We all wondered how far under the surface we would have to look to find the pot of gold.

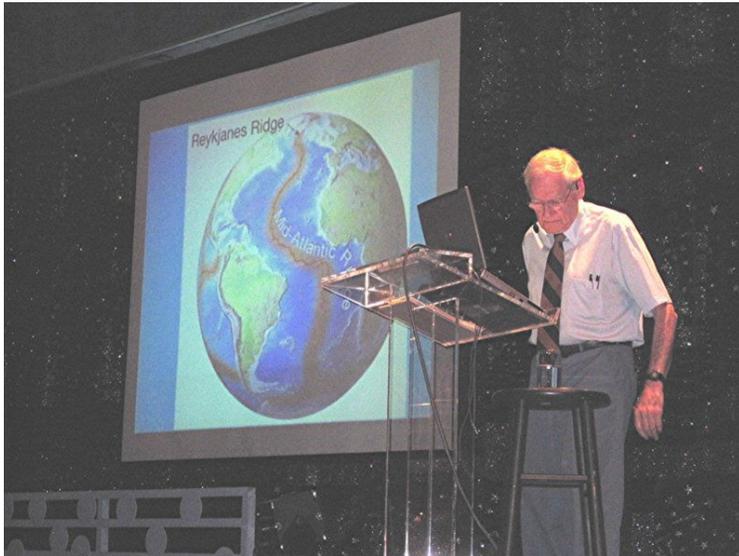


Michael Millwood: There were two sessions of Exploration Speakers today in the Rembrandt Lounge. These are part of a series presented by experts to provide background information about the geology and history of the part of the world explored in the Voyages of the Vikings. First was Michael Millwood, shown on the right, who discussed the causes and results of voyages by Norwegians in the years around 870 AD. He said that most of these people were not the Vikings who raided and plundered Europe but were settlers who established farming communities primarily in Iceland.



He described one explorer named Flock whose adventures were described in Nordic sagas. Flock depended on a capability of ravens to detect when land was near and to fly

in the direction of the land. He would take ravens on his exploration voyages and periodically turn one of them loose. If he was far from land the raven would return to the ship. However, if the raven detected land in the distance it would fly in the direction of the land and Flock would then sail a course in that direction. The sagas say that is how he discovered Iceland. The ability of ravens to perform in this manner is another item to be added to the list of research topics when we return home.



David Smith: The second speaker was David Smith, shown on the left, who discussed the geology of the Atlantic Ocean basin. Specifically he discussed the forces active along the rift that exists on the floor of the Atlantic Ocean and extends across Iceland. The volcanoes of the rift as well as the glaciers have had a major role in shaping the geology of Iceland.

These activities as well as attention to the blog took up most of the day. The dress for dinner was formal so as a special touch there was an ice sculpture of a dolphin to greet us in the upper Rotterdam Dining Room.





The steward who keeps us all germ free gave Barbara a squirt of Purell as we entered the dining room.

It was a quiet day at sea. Tomorrow we will be touring the village of Torshavn on the Faroe Islands. We expect to be docked in Torshavn about 8am tomorrow.