



SUMMER 2015 – A SEASON OF DIVERSITY



Summer 2015 has seen a remarkable surge in new cruise ship orders. These ships are being built for different markets and feature a wide range of design ideas that are bound to bring excitement to the cruise industry. Top row: Crystal's 100,000-ton newbuilds will feature a 1:1 passenger to crew ratio and be topped with seagoing condominium apartments for sale. Crystal will introduce their first expedition vessel, CRYSTAL ESPRIT, and is also adding a river cruise division. (Crystal Cruises) Middle row: Silversea's SILVER MUSE, 40,000-tons, will be a modified and slightly expanded version of the SILVER SPIRIT. Richard Branson announced the launch of Virgin Cruises, which will build two 110,000-ton "boutique" luxury cruise ships with distinctive profiles. (Silversea Cruises and Virgin Cruises) Bottom Row: Costa Cruises' 150,000-tonner will be powered by liquefied natural gas (LNG), and TUI will add MEIN SCHIFF 7 and 8. (Costa Cruises and TUI)

NEXT EVENTS: Membership meeting: Friday, September 25 – Bill Miller, 175th Years of Cunard; The Ocean Liner Bazaar – Saturday, October 3; Cruise on REGAL PRINCESS - Saturday, October 10; WSS PONY 50th Anniversary celebration – Saturday, October 24

ADDRESS: PO Box 384, New York, NY 10185-0384

E-MAIL: wsspony@gmail.com

WEBSITE: www.worldshipny.com

MEMBER PHOTO OF THE MONTH



AZORES at Honfleur, France, June 2015

(Bob Allen)

MUSEUMS, LECTURES AND HARBOR CRUISES

CONTACT THESE INSTITUTIONS BY EMAIL OR PHONE FOR CURRENT EVENTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

SOUTH STREET SEAPORT MUSEUM www.southstreetseaportmuseum.org or 917-492-3379.

MYSTIC SEAPORT www.mysticseaport.org or 860-572-0711.

VANCOUVER WSS & VANCOUVER MARITIME MUSEUM www.worldshipsocietyvan.ca for information or if you visit, contact Glenn Smith: 604-684-1240, email glenn.smith@worldshipsocietyvan.ca. Next meeting: Wednesday, October 14.

NEW SOUTH WALES WSS: Meetings are held at the Uniting Church Complex in Lord Street, Roseville. Contact the branch at PO Box 215, Strathfield, New South Wales 2135, Australia for additional information.

THE NATIONAL LIBERTY SHIP MEMORIAL, INC. www.ssjeremiahobrien.org or liberty@ssjeremiahobrien.org or 415-544-0100. 1275 Columbus Avenue, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94133-1315.

PROJECT LIBERTY SHIP www.liberty-ship.com or 410-558-0164.

NEW YORK WATER TAXI, www.nywatertaxi.com or 866-989-2542. Harbor cruises departing from both South Street Seaport Pier 17 and Pier 84 at West 44 Street. Hop on – hop off service throughout New York Harbor is offered as well. Contact via website or telephone for departure times and prices.

CIRCLE LINE DOWNTOWN, www.circlelinedowntown.com or 866-989-2542. Harbor cruises on the ZEPHYR from April to December, and aboard New York Water Taxi from January to March, departing from Pier 17, South Street Seaport.

CIRCLE LINE, www.circleline42.com or 877-731-0064. Circle Manhattan and other harbor cruises, departing from pier 84 at West 44 Street.

NEW YORK WATERWAY, www.nywaterway.com or 800-533-3779. Trans-Hudson ferry service and special-event cruises.

THE NATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM www.lighthousemuseum.org or 855-656-7469. Contact for schedule of cruises and events.

THE WORKING HARBOR COMMITTEE www.workingharbor.com or 212-757-1600. Cruises to both remote and well-travelled parts of New York Harbor - the Hudson River to view tugboat races, Gowanus Bay and Erie Basin in Brooklyn, and a circumnavigation of Staten Island.

THE NOBLE MARITIME COLLECTION, www.noblemaritime.org or 718-447-6490. Maritime lectures and art exhibits at the Sailor's Snug Harbor Cultural Center on Staten Island, NY.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

SHIP	FROM	TO	VOYAGE	PASSENGER(S)	DATE
DISNEY DREAM	Port Canaveral	Port Canaveral	Bahamas	John Witkowski & Minerva Moises-Witkowski	06/15

SHIP'S LOG - MAY

Our May meeting took place on a beautiful summer day, spring having been misplaced. In opening remarks, Chairman Marjorieann Matuszek pointed out Ted Scull as the perpetrator of the crossword puzzle in the latest Porthole. She then introduced Greg Fitzgerald to introduce the speaker, long-time member Paul Klee, since Paul and Ted have been friends for over 50 years.

Paul, a former documentary filmer for the United Nations, prefers "classic-looking" ships, and vessels with a purpose rather than cruise ships. His program was a combination of his own ship experiences and history of passenger shipping of the time. As benefits the work of a professional camera wielder, we saw some spectacular photographs, among them one from the deck below of the LIBERTE sign on the top deck, and another of a humongous wave breaking over the bow of a liner during Hurricane Daisy. Paul also illustrated his comments with photos of memorabilia such as menus and brochures. (It should be explained that some vessels that Paul sailed on were photographed at other times, and a few photos were provided by the lines' publicity offices.)

Paul's introduction to ships came at age seven, on the LIBERTE. On a crossing aboard the UNITED STATES, he discovered that he liked rough weather. He and Ted met on the FLANDRE. Other vessels of his youth included the QUEEN ELIZABETH and the GROOTE BEER, a student ship.

During Paul's working years, he found himself more frequently in airports, but still observed all the maritime goings-on, and we saw many of the vessels he visited but never sailed on, as well as much of the plentiful old tonnage he encountered in Greece. "Not to leave out North America," he showed us the JOSEPH AND CLARA SMALLWOOD, a utilitarian ferry that sailed between Newfoundland and Nova Scotia.

From a 1970's sailing on the FRANCE came highlights as well as some old traditions, like horse racing, and deck chair rugs emblazoned with the year of "birth" and line's name.

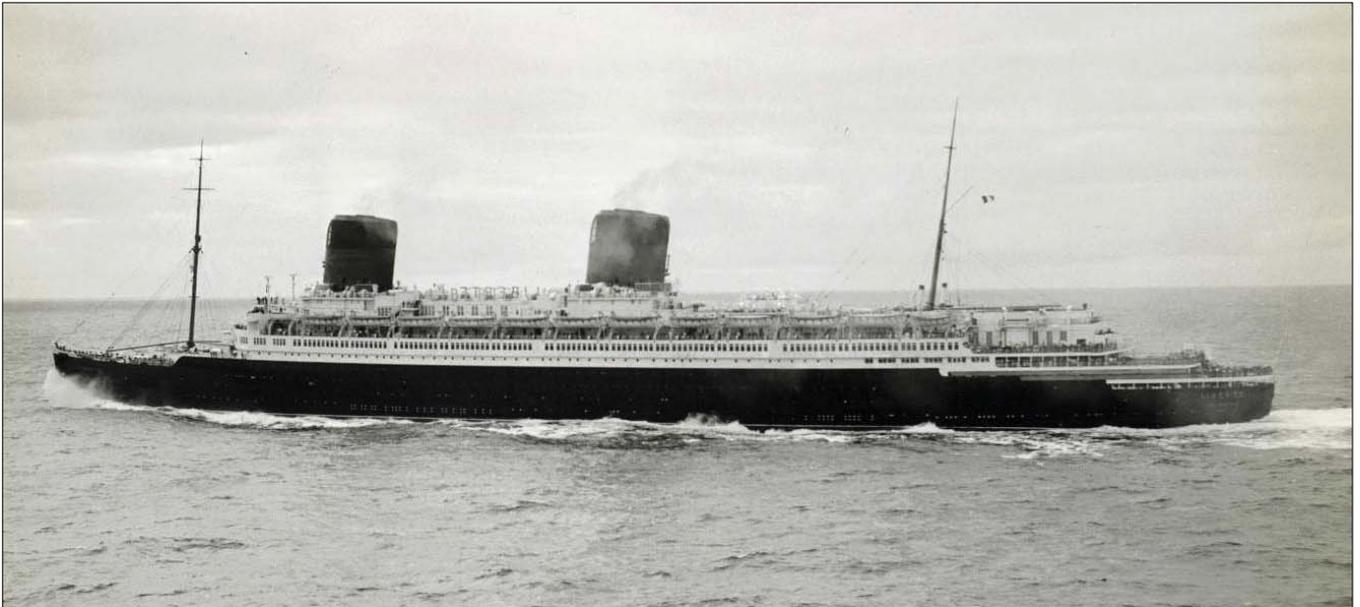
In the early 1990's Paul, his wife Maya, and their car crossed on the Polish container / ro-ro ship TADEUSZ KOSCIUSZKO, and we were treated to a brief but comprehensive picture of a freighter crossing. The Klees also enjoyed and photographed the Swiss lake steamers, which date from the early 1900's.

We saw photographs of the QE2 in various liveries, and some of the QUEEN's tandem sailings, with a beautiful shot of all three, with a background of fireworks, too close.

Paul is happy that we still have ships doing trans-Atlantic crossings, and that we can still see the Atlantic in its various moods. "I never tire of the ever-changing Atlantic," he says.

For this spectacular (forgive the repetition) program, Paul received the book "Over and Back."

Marge Dovman



Paul Klee's first Atlantic crossing was on the LIBERTE, French Line's flagship of the 1950's

(French Line / Bob Allen collection)

SHIP'S MAIL

Dear Editor:

My wife and I have sailed several times on Holland America Line's passenger ships and on Cunard Line's passenger ships. I have even sailed the old QUEEN ELIZABETH and ROTTERDAM! The contrast could not be starker!

We have the run of the VEENDAM, WESTERDAM and NOORDAM. But huge sections of the QUEEN MARY 2 and QUEEN VICTORIA are exclusively for Queens Grill and Princess Grill passengers, who are far more higher paying passengers.

The Dutch have a monarchy but there is only one small bust of former Queen Beatrix on the VEENDAM to evidence the Royal Dutch Family. But on Cunard ships there are so many references to the British Royal Family that Americans with any knowledge of American History should be a bit uncomfortable!

Cunard takes very seriously British Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli's advice. "Everyone loves flattery; and when you come to Royalty, you should lay it on with a trowel."

Cunard ships literally drip with things British Royal! The Queens Room chock full of British royal memorabilia where the Queen's annual holiday speech is broadcast. The King's Court and Royal Court Theatre. And other royal this and royal that!

A big hoopla on board QUEEN MARY 2 on the Queen's diamond jubilee complete with huge numbers of Union Jacks everywhere and a special dinner menu with a picture of the Queen on the front cover. All the passengers at dinner, including many Americans, were asked to stand and sing the British national anthem and give three cheers to Her Majesty! The three Cunard ships are even named after British sovereigns!

We were dismayed on QUEEN MARY 2's Independence Day Cruise by how much Cunard, which ironically is a brand owned by Carnival Corporation, an American company, underplayed America's birthday! Not a copy of the Declaration of Independence to be found! No American flags! The Captain did not even tell the passengers where to view the spectacular fireworks in Boston! No American patriotic music! No pictures of the Founding Fathers! No singing of the Star Spangled Banner or America the Beautiful or God Bless America! No special program in the theatre!

It seems that Cunard wants us to believe that the sun still shines on the British Empire and that we Americans in 1776 had no right to disengage from things British royal! And that a passenger boarding a Cunard ship is entering Buckingham Palace! All this though a majority of Cunard passengers are American!

Of course, each to his or her own tastes. But my wife and I will take Holland America Line ships with their democratic mien any day over the appallingly British royal stuffiness of the Cunarders!

A shame because the Cunarders are splendid ships!

Very truly yours,

Stephen Schoeman, Ph. D.



s.s ROTTERDAM V

(Holland America Line / Bob Allen collection)

PONY member and frequent cruise passenger Dr. Stephen Schoeman much prefers Holland America Line vessels' subtle reminders of their Dutch heritage to the "appallingly British royal stuffiness of the Cunarders." Seen here is the ROTTERDAM V, on which Dr. Schoeman and his wife have sailed.

CRUISE WITH PONY WORLD SHIP SOCIETY

Join members of PONY World Ship Society on their annual cruise. We sail October 10, 2015 on the REGAL PRINCESS for 7 days to New England and Canada, round-trip from New York. For more information, contact Brad Hatry at Pisa Brothers Travel. Call 212-265-8420 x 222, or 800-729-7472 x 222. Email brad@pisabrotherstravel.com.

THE BAZAAR IS COMING!

The annual ocean liner bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 3, 2015 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM at the Abigail Adams Smith Auditorium, 417 East 61st Street in Manhattan. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to view and buy superb ocean liner memorabilia!

SHIP NEWS

Ship News will return in the September issue of The Porthole.

SEA-ING THE PRINCESS

Date: Sunday, July 26th. Event: PONY Branch's visit to Princess Cruises' SEA PRINCESS for lunching and touring. Weather: Too darn hot! Nonetheless, 112 members and friends boarded the SEA PRINCESS to enjoy the occasion.

The vessel was just starting the last, 40-day leg of a world cruise, round trip from Australia.

Strangely, aside from a moderate wait before security began to function, we boarded right away, thereby being deprived of much opportunity for socializing.

Once aboard, there were guided tours for those so inclined, while others took their own tours. There was also some free exploration time between tours and lunch and again after lunch.

The 77,499-ton, 857-foot-long SEA PRINCESS, in service since 1998 and refurbished in 2102, has comfortable-looking and attractive décor, with furnishings in shades of deep red and brown. The Wheelhouse Bar, with its maritime artifacts and paintings, would most likely be a favorite with our group.

Our three-course lunch was served in the Traviata Dining Room by good-natured stewards, and special requests, at least at this reporter's table, were pleasantly seen to. We had choices: Cold Smoked Salmon and Soused Crayfish Tails (well, that's what the menu said) or Fettuccine Alfredo as appetizers, Trout Almandine or Chateaubriand of Beef Tenderloin as entrees, each with appropriate vegetables. No choice on the dessert – we were forced to enjoy the heart-shaped Princess Love Boat Dream ("rich chocolate mousse on brownie") – probably our best dream ever! Lunch ended with the usual beverages, and such goodies as chocolate-covered strawberries. However, we were each limited to a single glass of wine or soft drink; anything more came at a cost.

Having eaten over fill, and explored and fantasized to the best of our abilities, we forced ourselves ashore to deal with New York's tropical weather.

With thanks to David Hume and Marjorieann Matuszek for their respective arranging and hosting.

Marge Dovman



Princess Cruises' SEA PRINCESS, seen here at New York on July 26, hosted 112 PONY members and friends on a very warm summer day.

(Bob Allen)

CRUISING FROM

AUSTRALIA & ASIA

2015 - 2016

Sailing from Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Fremantle & Asia



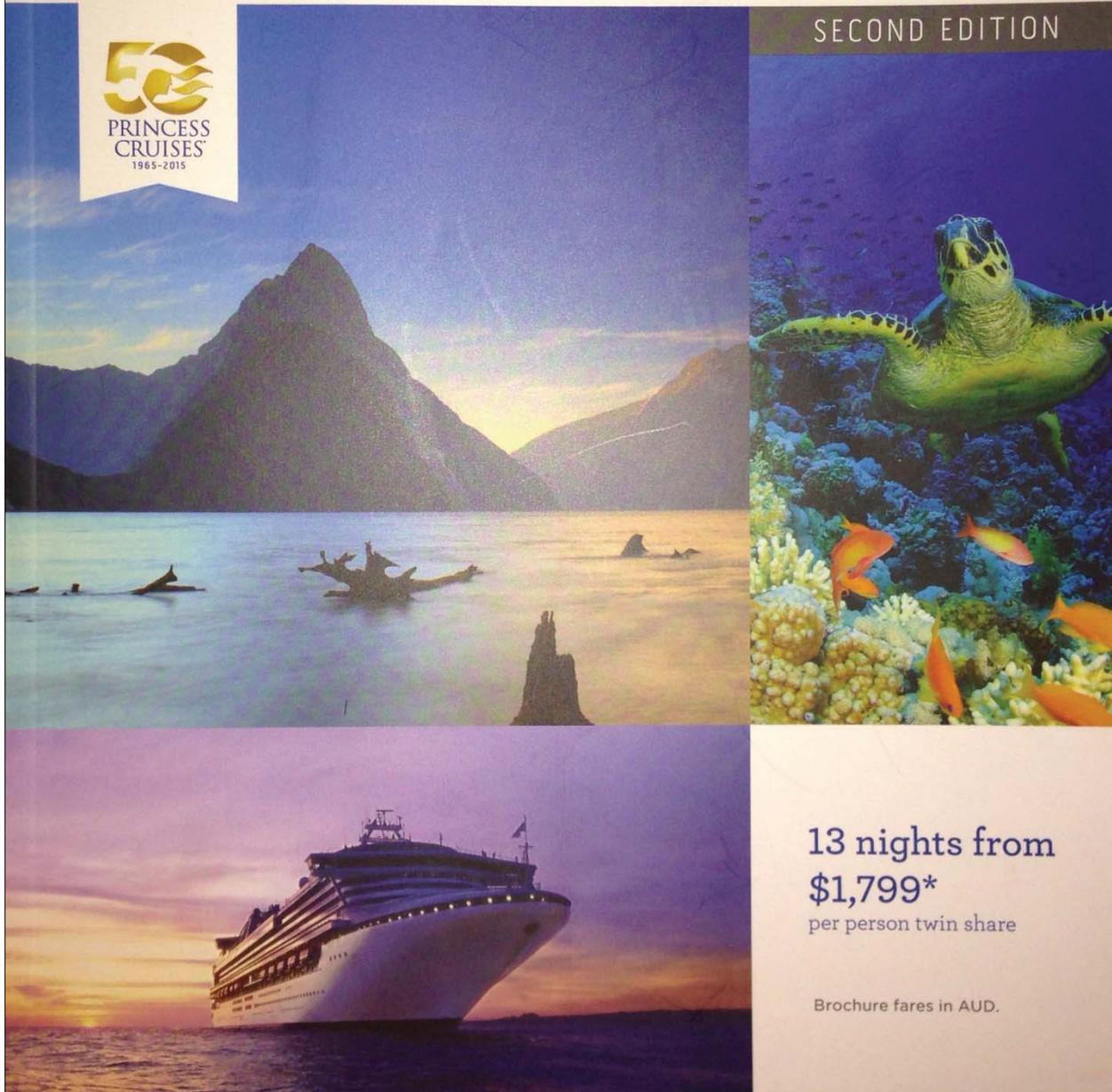
PRINCESS CRUISES

come back new™



PRINCESS
CRUISES
1965-2015

SECOND EDITION



13 nights from
\$1,799*
per person twin share

Brochure fares in AUD.

OFFICERS

Chairman: Marjorieann Matuszek
Vice Chairman: David Hume*
Branch Secretary: Greg Fitzgerald
Membership Secretary: Mario De Stefano
Treasurer: Carol Miles*

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Bob Allen
Mario De Stefano
Greg Fitzgerald
Stuart Gewirtzman
David Hume
Marjorieann Matuszek
Carol Miles*
Doug Newman
Ted Scull*

COMMITTEE HEADS

Finance: Carol Miles
Membership: Mario De Stefano
Newsletter: Bob Allen
Program: Greg Fitzgerald
Special Events: David Hume*
Website: Stuart Gewirtzman

* Past Chairman