

Voyage of the Vikings, Report #9, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

In the summer 'north of 60' has no night – dusk merely merges into dawn. Now, back down south, the dark night helps sleep. The name **Rotterdam** comes from a dam constructed in the **Rotte River**, but today the **Maas River** through city center is the largest port in Europe. (Once the busiest port in the world, it has now been surpassed by Shanghai). Starting overcast the weather soon turns



into glorious sunshine as we make our way walking across 'The Swan', (the local name for the beautiful **Erasmus**

Bridge, left) towards the **Pencil** (see the pencil lead on top?) the **Cube Houses** (interesting to look at but hell for interior decorators) and city **Market** (see cruise ship-

style verandas outside and gigantic flowers inside). Buildings unusual – both outside and inside.



Renewal after destruction during WW II resulted in some strange architecture in Rotterdam. Earlier this year we saw renewal in Berlin, also carpet bombed during WW II. We are soon on our way to **The Hague** the scenic seat of Dutch parliament, and 16th-century **Noordeinde Palace**, the king's workplace. It is also home to the U.N.'s **International**



Court of Justice in the **Peace Palace**, and the **International Criminal Court**. Back in Rotterdam on our way through typical Dutch buildings to historic **Delfshaven** (the port where the original 'Pilgrims' departed 1 Aug 1620 for the New



World on the Mayflower), a city landmark, the **Euromast**, gives us a 360-degree view from its observation deck, thence even higher in a rotating donut-shaped

elevator. (Look carefully to see people



rappelling on ropes from the tower deck. Due to time, Bob forfeits that challenge ☺). Before moving to Seattle, the original offices of **Holland America Line** were in a building near our dock (below, right). Also nearby is the **SS Rotterdam** (below, left), the steamship predecessor to our ship. Beautiful for its day. Both are now hotels. Out of loyalty to the HAL brand, we feel 'obligated' to visit each. Held in high esteem by city residents our **MS Rotterdam** is given a grand send-off with many loud claxton blasts from numerous ships around the harbor and countless people waving vigorously along the banks of



the river for some distance as we depart. Having a fantastic cruise, 'till next we have the pleasure of seeing you, love to all, Bob and Kerrell,

<http://lincolnshome.wordpress.com/>

