

4/16/07 Day 91 – At Sea - Monday, 16 April, 2007: This was a calm and sunny day at sea giving us a chance to catch up a little bit on the blog and relax without having to worry about tour schedules.

First of all, just an additional note on yesterday's input for Monte Carlo. Citizens of Monaco are exempt from income taxes which foreigners have to pay. However, there is a sales tax that raises money from tourists as well as citizens. A curious fact is that citizens of Monaco are forbidden to enter the gaming rooms of the casinos. Enforcement of that law is possible by requiring patrons to show passport or other evidence of citizenship when they enter.

The main event of today was a White Elephant Auction held in the Queen's Lounge. The purpose was to contribute to the Gifts of Love Program that raises money for a children's charity in Casablanca, Morocco. After three months of feverish shopping in the various ports of call many passengers are now coming to grips with the reality of getting all their stuff packed up and carted home. As sanity starts to creep in this White Elephant sale is an outlet for all that stuff that now seems less attractive than when we first bought it. Unwanted articles are donated to the event and then a silent auction process is used to decide who the lucky new owner will be. The proceeds go to the Gifts of Love Program. Barbara went to the event and came back with the only the following pictures. Whew!!

Here are a few photos Barbara took during the frantic bidding process.



Check out our neighbor, Glen Smith, on the far right. He must have found the perfect souvenir for the whole cruise.

The Cruise
Director's staff in
black and white
shirts on stage keeps
track of the bids and
tries to maintain
order.

We got some news
by way of CNN on
television and the
newspapers on
board that there had
been some terrorist
type bombings in

Casablanca, Morocco. This started the rumor mill buzzing about cancelling the visit to Casablanca.



The evening entertainment after dinner was the production the "Hats Off" dance routine by the Holland America dancers. They did the show with great energy and expertise. In Dubrovnik they had come back on board from an assignment on the Prinsendam. We were glad to have them back.