

# A LITTLE POST CARD FROM THE *CRYSTAL SYMPHONY*

From Bill Miller

**Wed Sep 8<sup>th</sup> Bermuda:** Another day in beautiful Bermuda, moored at the Dock Yard. And another visit with Stephen Card, the celebrated maritime artist, and together we chatter about ships, ships & more ships. And he brings presents: Furness-Bermuda Line & scenic Bermuda 2022 calendars hot off local presses and – hark! – bottles of root beer, cream soda and of locally-made ginger beer, one of my top favorites. Hard to find in the US, very British ginger beer is normally found on the Cunard liners and is a kind of cousin of sorts to our ginger ale, but with more of a kick, a tingle.

Some of Stephen's recent works include an evocative summer evening sailing (below) along the Lower Hudson in the 1930s for Cunard's celebrated *Aquitania* (and with the Hoboken ferry *Scranton* on the left). He is also busily at work for Carnival Cruise Lines, soon to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and so their fleet reviewed in freshly done paintings. Indeed, magical work by a very gifted artist!



*Carnival's 2<sup>nd</sup> ship, the Carnivale (1976) and below the Festivale passes the Mardi Gras, the Company's very first ship*



*The Carnival Magic departing Venice ... and below, for pure Bermuda nostalgia, the Queen of Bermuda & Ocean Monarch together at Hamilton in the 1950s*



*But now back to beautiful, peaceful Bermuda*















*The Viking Orion is in port as well ... then departs at 6 for a 7-night Round Bermuda cruise*



*By 7pm, nightfall begins its slow dance of lingering light, copper-colored skies, the clouds & their formations changing by the second and then that black blanket of night itself coming*

*The Crystal Symphony is radiant in its own lights ... like a diamond bracelet laid out in a shop window!*







**Thu Sep 9<sup>th</sup> Bermuda:** We sailed last night, one day early, due to the expected arrival of Hurricane Larry. Late yesterday afternoon, Stephen Card (himself the onetime Lord High Harbor Master for all of Bermuda) wrote: “Safe departure this afternoon. Run like the blazes!!!!”

Today, the ship is heading due west – supposedly a better course overall in this hurricane’s projected rough seas. Before last night’s dinner, the Captain informed us that Larry, a Category 2 Hurricane, is expected to hit Bermuda at 3pm today. He predicted we would feel the effects and hit heavy swells as early as just 2 hours or so after leaving Bermuda. (PS: Well, last night came & went and by midnight there was barely a shake or shudder or roll; by this morning, even by

lunchtime, we were sailing westward with just a slight pinch of motion & an otherwise glorious day of blue skies, long streams of puffy clouds & glistening seas below. One Crystal loyalist noted, “They don’t do hurricanes on Crystal!”)

