

ROBERT GIBBONS

When Ivar Bardsen Gave his Chorography

When the old Greenlander,
Ivar Bardsen, gave his chorography,
pointing out Iceland
was seven days sailing due west from Norway,
& that from there Greenland
was two days & nights away, warning
the ice down from the northern recesses
of the ocean had adhered closely
to Gunnbjorn's Rocks,

that those wishing to sail directly
from Bergen in Norway to Greenland
must sail twelve nautical miles
south of the promontory of Reykiannaes,
westward to the high land
of Greenland, the inhabited part
lying most to the east called Skage Fjord,

& that at the harbour of Bere Fjord
there was a great whirlpool called the Whale's Whirlpool
into which the whales entered as the tide went out,
it was then the middle of the fourteenth century,
& it would be over two hundred & fifty years
before Henry Hudson would sail due west
with a copy of Bardsen's directions in his possession.