

FLAG PLAZA AND STAMPS NAVA President Whitney Smith had the opportunity to preview these two new and important American vexillological events in a recent trip to Pittsburgh. The Flag Plaza is a program in that city, run by the Allegheny Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America (serving 13000 adult leaders and 36000 Scouts) and made possible by the generous gift of the widow of Chester H. Lehman, a Pittsburgh industrialist. The Plaza, consisting of five flagpoles from which 31 historic flags will be hoisted over the course of each month, is set before the new Scout building in a dramatic location in the heart of the Golden Triangle. The estimated 10000 persons a year who will participate in the flag-raising ceremonies and the thousands of others who will benefit from the patriotic educational program also being undertaken by the Allegheny Trails Council, will have a chance to see original paintings of the historic flags and films on the United States flag. Booklets will also be available giving pictures and information on the flags.

The opening ceremonies of the Flag Plaza will be held on 4 July 1968. At that time the Post Office Department will release in Pittsburgh the first sets of historic flag stamps. Engraved in color, the ten stamps will give some of the important flags of the Revolutionary War. The Allegheny Trails Council is selling special first-day cachets, as described in the enclosed sheet. NAVA members who are able to get to Pittsburgh for the 4th are strongly urged to do so.

LAWRENCE PHELPS TOWER, President of the United States Flag Foundation and a NAVA member, is to deliver an address on flag desecration at the Metropolitan Club of New York on 25 April.

DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., was the first black American to be honored by a Presidential order for the flying of the United States flag at half-staff. Recent dignitaries honored by half-staffing have included United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, Sir Winston Churchill, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and Walter Williams, last surviving Civil War soldier.

CONGRESS REPORT M. Louis Mühlemann and the Swiss Society of Vexillology, who so expertly organized the 2nd International Congress of Vexillology in Zurich last Fall, have announced the imminent publication of a Report for this Congress. It will be 6" x 9" in size and roughly 160 pages long. It will contain copies of the lectures and speeches delivered during the Congress, including some illustrations. A full list of the participants and a complete Congress program will be published as well. Both for those who were at Zurich and those who were unable to attend, this volume will constitute an indispensable addition to a collection of flag materials. The price of the book, postpaid, is \$7.25. A check for this amount, made out to the account of the Société Suisse de Vexillologie, Union Bank of Switzerland, should be sent to the bank or to M. Mühlemann. Book orders should be sent to M. Mühlemann at Niederhofenrain 31, 8702 Zollikon (Zurich), Switzerland, as soon as possible.

First Day Covers would be issued for this event. The ten cacheted envelopes, available at 35¢ each, 3 for \$1.00, 5 for \$1.65 and the full set of 10 for \$3.25 will bear full color illustrations of the flags depicted on the stamps as well as historic scenes where each flag was flown.

Each cover will contain an insert relating a history of the flag portrayed on the stamp. The covers will be unique and unusual because of the striking artwork and of the extensive research on the history of the ten flags. Artist and historian, Don Hewitt of New Jersey, is the designer of the illustrations.

In addition to the ten Official First Day Covers, the Foundation will offer a limited quantity of Official First Day Ceremony Programs, each with the ten flag stamps affixed, for those unable to attend the ceremonies. A very limited printing of 5,000 is planned. They will be available at \$4.00 per program, First Day of Cancellation included.

Funds derived from the sale of the Official First Day Covers and First Day of Issue Ceremony Programs will be used by the Flag Plaza Foundation through Allegheny Trails Council Boy Scouts of America to further expand and enhance its unique American Heritage Programs. This program has been specifically established to stimulate an enhanced patriotic sentiment for the American Flag by the youth of America and engender respect for the flags of other peoples and nations.