

# NAVA NEWS

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## NEW OFFICIAL NAVA SEAL

A reproduction of the new official NAVA seal appears at left. This seal is the result of action taken by the NAVA membership at the annual meeting in October, 1968. On a motion by Mr. Cahill, the membership voted to set aside the design for a NAVA seal which had been adopted by the Flag and Seal Committee in March, 1968. After general discussion, the membership agreed that the seal of the North American Vexillological Association should be the design submitted by Mr. David Martucci, the design being the flag of the Association displayed above a globe of the world tilted to give prominence to the map of North America, the whole being surrounded by the name of the Association and the date 1967, within two concentric circles.

The art work for the new seal was prepared under the supervision of Capt. James W. Clark of Bel Air, Maryland. It is his intention to have the original drawing framed, and to present it to the Association as an historic document.

## FLAGS IN THE NEWS

Newspapers far and wide are intrigued by the story of the lack of space for flagpoles in front of the United Nations building in New York. The latest newspaper to take note of this minor crisis is the Manchester Guardian Weekly, which gave it feature treatment. With the admission to membership of Equatorial Guinea, a total of 126 flagpoles is now required to display each of the members' national flag. It may now be necessary to cut down a row of trees in front of the headquarters building to make room.

The new flag of Rhodesia was recently flown over Rhodesia House in London, much to the dismay of several Londoners, who expressed their feelings in no uncertain terms in letters to the editor of the London Times. They not only feel that the flag's appearance in the city is an affront, but that the use of the Rhodesia coat-of-arms on that flag is unwarranted, said coat-of-arms having been granted 46 years ago to the then Colony of Southern Rhodesia, not to the present government.

At the University of South Carolina, display of the Confederate Flag is causing temperatures to rise among members of some of the student groups, who claim the emblem of the Stars and Bars is a reminder of slavery and racism. They want it banned.

The State Flag of Georgia, which also incorporates the Stars and Bars in its design, was the cause of another recent dispute that was carried all the way up to the Pentagon for decision. A soldier from that state, on duty in Viet Nam, had been ordered to remove his state's flag from his bunk, as implying racism. The Pentagon ruled that all servicemen will be permitted to display their state flags in Viet Nam, even if those flags include Confederate symbols (a number of them do).

Add two more places to the ever-growing list of localities where the United States flag is being flown 24 hours a day. The first is Boston, where both the U.S. and the Massachusetts flags have begun flying around the clock, illuminated at night, under a resolution by the House directing continuous display until the end of the Viet Nam war.

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THE FIRST FLAG ON THE MOON

by

William G. Crampton  
 (Member, the Flag Section of the Heraldry  
 Society, London)

The success of the Apollo 8 "moonshot" last Christmas, when three American astronauts circumnavigated the moon, has increased the likelihood that this summer will see the first human beings landing and walking on the surface of our satellite planet. The landing will be made in a special vehicle, the Lunar Exploration Module, which will carry the two chosen pioneers from their orbiting capsule down to the surface and back again. Once landed, they will set up scientific experiments, install apparatus for transmitting data back to earth, and collect specimens of the surface.

Will they also set up an American flag? We know, of course, that there is no atmosphere on the moon, and that an ordinary cloth flag would not display itself. It would, however, be possible to erect an inflexible flag made of some light but rigid composition, with the colours permanently inlaid in fluorescent dyes. This article is not intended to discuss whether it could be done, but to ask if it should be done.

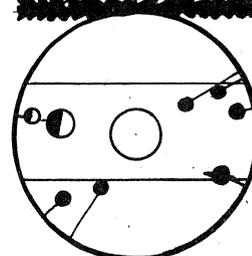
There are, of course, plenty of precedents. When the first Portuguese navigators inched their way cautiously around the coast of Africa, they set up at intervals wooden crosses and pillars called padrões. These served the triple function of landmarks, emblems of their faith, and claims to the sovereignty of the surrounding territory. These columns of the late fifteenth century usually bore the arms of the King of Portugal on an oblong panel beneath the cross. In the late sixteenth century we know that Sir Francis Drake, on his global tour of exploration, set up a copper plate on the site of what is now the city of San Francisco, claiming the region in the name of Elizabeth, Queen of England, France, and Ireland.

The common element in these formal procedures is the act of claiming sovereignty over the territory concerned. Would it be appropriate or desirable for the celestial ambassadors of the U.S.A. to perform this sort of ceremony on the moon? In point of law, a recent international treaty has restricted claims to sovereignty on the moon and the planets. In any event, world politics would make this an unwise gesture, and it might lead to a sort of "scramble for the moon" with the dangers to world peace, on an enormously larger scale, that went with the "scramble for Africa" in the nineteenth century.

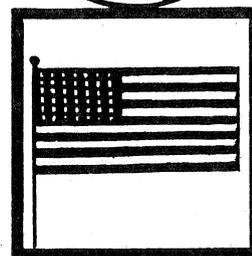
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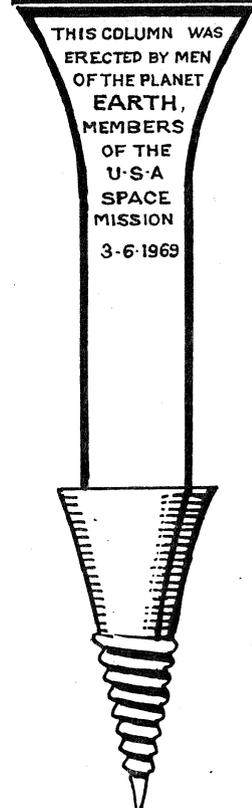
Globe and wreath as on U.N. seal



3-D sphere with planets in position as on day of landing



Panel with U.S. national emblem



Inscription

Plinth with screw-point for affixing in lunar soil

Illustration by Louis Loynes  
 (member of NAVA and the Flag  
 Section of the Heraldry Society)

First Flag on the Moon (cont'd)

A more generous gesture, and one which would be appreciated on both sides of the Atlantic, would be the erection of a monument which, while giving due respect to the achievement of the U.S.A. in first getting men on the moon, would emphasize the future international status of the moon.

One form such a monument might take would be something in the nature of the medieval padrão, and the illustration shows what this might look like. The monument would be made of fibreglass or plastic, possibly in sections that would screw together for easy transport in the LM. The top element of the terrestrial totem pole would be a representation of the planet Earth, as it appears on the flag of the United Nations, only in a spherical form. Under this would be a transparent cube, in which would be a three-dimensional model of the solar system, with the Earth and moon given prominence. The purpose of this would be to illustrate matters beyond any possible doubt for the benefit of any alien life forms that might one day come across the monument. These would of course easily recognise the Earth from its pattern of land-masses, in the top section. The next section down would consist of an oblong with four panels. These could bear the U.S. flag, the U.S. seal, and/or the emblem of NASA. This would be the part that would give credit to the U.S.A., and the somewhat reduced position of the U.S. emblems would take away any element of national rivalry that might otherwise arise.

Finally, leading on down the shaft of the column, there would be an inscription. Here again it would be best to avoid too much patriotic crowing. The form of words would lay emphasis on the achievement of "men of the planet Earth," rather than that of one particular nation-state. One would naturally

expect to see the names of the selenauts duly commemorated, the name of their craft, the date, etc.

An alternative to a monument in the shape of a totem pole would be an ordinary flag pole with a rigid flag--perplexing as this might seem to the alien life forms. The question then arises as to which flag--and for the reasons already outlined, the U.S. flag would not be a good idea. The obvious alternative would be that of the United Nations, which would arouse no suspicions of extra-terrestrial imperialism.

(And there is precedent for this: Hilary and Tenzing, the first men to achieve the summit of Mount Everest, tied a U.N. flag to an ice-axe and planted it at the peak).

The selenauts would still, one presumes, want to put up a separate monument commemorating the occasion. To save space, weight, and effort, we would therefore do best to have the elements of monument, landmark and emblem of the "men of the planet Earth" combined in the one simple device.

\* \* \* \*

## Bibliography:

Ottfried Neubecker: "Der Wimpel auf dem Mond," in Der Herold, Vol. 4, No. 4 (new series; Oct.-Dec. 1959) pp.73-79.

Whitney Smith: "Symbols in Space," in The Flag Bulletin, Vol. V, No. 3 (May, 1966,) pp. 92-96.

EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

If you need extra copies of any issue of NAVA News, they are available free of charge. We always print more than we need, just for this purpose. Simply address your request to The Editor or to The Circulation Manager, and any reasonable number of copies will be forthcoming.

NEW INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERS

Recording Secretary Robert Gauron announces that the following organizations have become NAVA Institutional Members:

1. Annin & Company, Verona, New Jersey, 07044
2. Flag Plaza Foundation, Flag Plaza, Pittsburgh, Pa. 15219
3. National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C. 20036

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The second is Hatboro, Pennsylvania, where a community project resulted in 36 flags, illuminated at night, flying continuously along the Old York Road in Hatboro's business district. (This last item was contributed by Bill Spangler of NAVA News staff).

THE EDITOR'S IN-BASKET A miniature book entitled "Historic American Flags" was published recently by Achille J. St. Onge of 7 Arden Road, Worcester, Mass. The book is all of 2 x 2-3/4 inches in size. It contains 48 pages printed on rag paper, with ten mint 6¢ postage stamps tipped in. It is bound in calf with gold-stamped edges. Single copies of the limited edition of 2,000 are priced at \$6.50.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS All members are requested to change the address on their records of NAVA treasurer Thomas M. Hill. He is now located at 1500 Beacon Street, Brookline, Mass., 02146.

NAVAL FLAGS NAVA Corresponding Secretary Bob Gauron has received a letter from the U.S. Naval Institute, which says in part: ". . . It does occur to me that you may well have members who specialize in the study of Naval flags. You might let them know that we would be interested in having the opportunity to consider for publication in our monthly journal, the U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings, any material that they feel might be of interest to a naval audience." (Signed) Roger C. Taylor, Editorial Director. The address is: U.S. Naval Institute, Annapolis, Maryland 21402.

CASE DISMISSED In Seattle, Washington, a charge of flag desecration against a housewife was dismissed by Justice Court Judge Bill Lewis, according to an Associated Press dispatch. The housewife testified that she did not know it was against the law or contrary to custom to use sections of a United States flag as window-curtains in her residence.

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