



NAVA NEWS

THE NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Vol. IV No. 2

Washington, D.C.

March, 1971

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NEW YORK 'FLAG MAN' FLIES BANNERS DAILY

Every day when the weather is fair, Robert Cathcart of New York City raises the United States flag at sunrise and also the flag of whatever country or countries happen to be in the news that day. He has a collection of several hundred flags, both state and national. His hobby has earned him the name of "the flag man" in his neighborhood. (A.P. story submitted by Stephen B. Hall of Charles Town, West Virginia).

MORE ON TALL FLAGPOLES

Mr. Hall also submits information to the effect that the tallest flagpole, with a height of 175 feet, is located at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy at Kings Point, N.Y. He quotes his source as the November 16, 1970 issue of Commerce Today, published by the Dept. of Commerce, containing a special article on the Academy and including a picture of the actual pole.

Whitney Smith reports that this same flagpole has a height of 172 feet according to C.F. Chapman's "Piloting, Seamanship and Small Boat Handling, 1968-9 edition, page 364. So, take your choice.

Mr. Smith also quotes the Boston Sunday Globe of Oct. 4, 1970, which in turn is quoting from the "Guinness Book of Superlatives" as follows: "The tallest unsupported flagpole in the world flies the American flag in Calipatria, California. The pole's height is 184 feet and it weighs 18,000 pounds. The diameter of the pole tapers from 24 inches at the bottom to five inches at the top."

So there we are. Are there any higher bidders?

NAZI SWASTIKA FLAGS, ANYONE?

In Vienna, Austria, souvenirs of the Nazi era are in increasing demand. Half a dozen firms, employing scores of seamstresses and die-casters, are having trouble keeping up with their orders for swastika flags, souvenir emblems, medals, shoulder patches and arm-bands, from collectors all over the world, many in the United States. (Submitted from the Pittsburgh Press by John Szala).

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FAREWELL Also submitted by our sharp-eyed reporter in Pittsburgh is the following item from Parade Magazine in the Pittsburgh Press: "Next month will be the last in which a passenger ship flying the U.S. flag leaves an Atlantic Coast port. The cost of operating American-flag vessels is almost twice that of foreign-flag vessels, which is why the Prudential-Grace Lines, Inc., is halting its Atlantic passenger runs. This leaves only four U.S.-flag passenger ships in service anywhere: the President Cleveland and President Wilson of the American President Lines, and the S.S. Monterey and S.S. Mariposa of the Matson Lines, all of which generally ply the Pacific Ocean."

FLAG MIS-CELLANY In Filipstad, Sweden, the sarcophagus of John Ericsson, who built the ironclad "Monitor," is always covered with an American flag (Ripley's "Believe it or not.") * * * * "Vexillologically" is claimed by W.S. to be the only word in the English language containing five l's. * * * * Members are reminded that their annual dues are tax deductible. * * * * NAVA is now listed in issue No. 2 of New Associations and Projects (NAP), the quarterly supplement to the Encyclopedia of Associations. * * * * The International Federation of Vexillological Associations will be listed in the next edition of the Europa Yearbook and Directory of the International Union of Associations.

PHILATELIC FLAG NEWS Uruguay has issued a 500-peso air mail stamp with a handsome flag in color on it. Printed in red, white, and blue, the design depicts the flag of 33 patriots who came to Uruguay in 1825 and led the revolution which was responsible for establishing Uruguay as an independent country. The flag carries the motto in Spanish, "Liberty or Death." This high denomination air mail was issued in an edition of 100,000 copies. (Western Stamp Collector, January 19, 1971).

A most unusual philatelic specialty, new to your Editor, appears to be the collecting of flag cancellation postmarks from different cities and towns. Probably the most attractive and popular of U.S. postmarks, Flag Cancels were used in some 3,200 towns from 1894 to 1941. They also were used in exhibitions, naval and military stations, territories, streetcar post offices and Railway Mail Service. A monthly publication, "Flag Cancel Forum," is edited and issued by veteran Flag collector John R. McGee. To obtain a free copy, send a business-size (#10) stamped, addressed envelope to him at P.O.Box 98-R, Greenbelt, Maryland, 20770. (From the Western Stamp Collector, Feb. 2, 1971, with thanks to John Szala).

Flags on Stamps. A handbook by this name, containing a check-list of approximately 5,000 different flag stamps from 144 countries, with descriptions, 64 illustrations, and articles, is available for \$3.00 from the American Topical Association, 3308-W North 50th Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, 53216.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS The Fourth International Congress of Vexillology will be held in Turin, Italy, from 24 to 27 June, 1971, under the auspices of the Accademia di s. Marignano. Those who attended any of the previous Congresses in Muiderberg, Zurich, and Boston, will want to join their friends and colleagues again. Those who have not had the opportunity to share in the fine fellowship of the Congresses and to participate in their activities should make every effort to be in Italy for what promises to be the most memorable Congress to date. For details, write to the Secretary, Fourth International Congress of Vexillology, Via A. Avogadro 26, 10121 Turin, Italy.