



NAVA NEWS

THE NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Donated by N. Artimovich II
to NAVA 1988

Vol. VI No. 2

Washington, D.C.

April, 1973

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BATTLE FLAGS FURLED AT LAST

When the U. S. Army in Viet Nam recently closed off its operations, a ceremony only 20 minutes long sufficed to end nearly eight years of war involving more than 500,000 U. S. soldiers. Maj. Gen. Morgan G. Roseborough, the last commander, personally furled the Army's blue battle flag with his command's red, blue and yellow sword crest, on the stage of a theater near the Tan Son Nhut Air Base.

A 20-man guard of honor of American soldiers stood outside the theater, and a color guard in chrome helmets occupied the stage. Flanking the stage were the flags of the countries that joined America in the Viet Nam fiasco. They included those of the Philippines, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand, whose new governments have practically washed their hands of involvement in the conflict.

(—The Washington Star-News).

ICV-5 London 1973

The Fifth International Congress of Vexillology will be held in London, England, from September 13th to 18th, 1973. Residence has been arranged at College Hall, University of London, for a charge of £40, which is equivalent to about \$96.00. This includes full board and lodging at College Hall, all Congress expenses and the gala dinner. Hotel accommodations are available nearby for those that prefer them. A list is available from The Flag Institute, 13 Union Walk, Chester, CH1 3LF, England.

Participants not residing at College Hall will be charged £20 (about \$48.00) which covers all Congress expenses. Persons not able to attend but desiring to receive papers of the Congress should send £5 (about \$12.00) with their request to the Flag Institute. Arrangements can also be made to accommodate families of delegates at College Hall. Rates are available from the Flag Institute on request.

NAVA has appointed a committee to determine the lowest possible fares for the round trip to London, based on group rates.

The Congress will include the usual full program of lectures, displays, meetings and sight-seeing, as well as social events. Excursions include visits to the National Maritime Museum of Greenwich, the National Army Museum, and the College of Arms. Displays of flags, flag publications and flag manufacturing have already been arranged.

Potential lecturers should inform the Flag Institute of their intent and topic. Subjects for the agenda for the meeting of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations should be sent to Dr. Whitney Smith at the Flag Research Center, 3 Edgehill Rd., Winchester, Mass. 01890.

CIVIL
WAR
FLAGS

Those whose vexillological interests favor the Civil War era will be especially interested in a publication being authored by H. Michael Madaus entitled, "Designating Flags and Corps Badges." More than 150 Union Army flags have been included and most will be illustrated in full color by Robert D. Needham, a renowned artist in the field of flags. The publication promises to be quite comprehensive in tracing the history and development of these important flags. The book is expected to be available early in 1973.

STREAM-
LINING
THE ARMS
OF DENMARK

"The wild men of Denmark have dieted and exercised and have come to look somewhat milder in the process," said one newspaper of the new modernized national coat-of-arms adopted by official Denmark following Queen Margrethe II's formal approval.

When the Queen ascended the throne on the death of her father, King Frederik IX, she could not use a number of ancient titles only inheritable in the male line of descent. All pictorial reference to them in the coat-of-arms therefore had to go. At the same time a general streamlining took place.

The two bearded and half-naked men supporting the shield as symbols of national manhood and power, emerged somewhat taller, slimmer and more athletic-looking, with less hairy legs and less ferocious, more philosophic, facial expressions. Missing entirely are an angry swan and a sword-wielding knight, representing Danish rule over populations in what is now northern Germany. A ram symbolizing the Faeroe Islands was replaced by a sheep. The polar bear of Greenland was slightly stylized to look less like a caged specimen in a zoo. (—A.P.)

FLAG OF
MINERVA

The President of the Republic of Minerva (current population zero, elevation three feet at high tide) says the world will soon sit up and take notice of the "newest and smallest nation on earth."

Minerva, consisting of two coral reefs lying near the Tropic of Capricorn about 900 miles north of New Zealand 250 miles south of Tonga, is a private venture of seven investors with a capital of \$250,000.

Disenchanted with the complexities of modern life in the United States, the stockholders were determined to start their own country. They designed a Minervan flag incorporating a gold torch of liberty on a blue (for the sea) background.

Unfortunately, the King of Tonga has also laid claim to the island. One of the organizers, Morris C. Davis of Los Angeles, said that the Republic of Minerva plans to negotiate with the king. "We certainly don't want to go to war over it," he stated. (A.P.)

FLAGS IN
PARADES

In Seattle, Washington, it is illegal to stage a parade through the city streets unless the procession is headed by a flag at least 52 to 66 inches in length. The flag, of course, must be the Stars and Stripes. (U.P.I.)

(Items on this page contributed by Michael E. Tancey, Jr.)

FLAGS IN THE NEWS

by Sharon Doerr

OOPS!
WRONG
FLAG

British Aircraft Corporation officials are trying to find out who was to blame for their supersonic Concorde flying to Angola, a Portuguese overseas province in southwestern Africa, displaying the flag of an anti-Portuguese guerrilla movement. The plane crew thought they were flying the flag of Angola. However, Angola has no flag of its own. The offending pennant belonged to the Movement for the Liberation of Angola, an African organization at war with the Portuguese in the province. Officials at B.A.C. have offered apologies to the Portuguese government. (N.Y.T.)

HALF-
STAFF
RECORD

For nine months during 1972 and early 1973, the flags in the U.S. capital were being flown at half-staff on the average of one day in four. This was due to the overlapping mourning periods of the deaths of former Presidents Truman and Johnson, followed by that of F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover. The deaths of the two former Presidents lowered U.S. flags throughout the nation for an unprecedented 51 consecutive days. They would have remained at half-staff a week longer had not President Nixon ordered them raised to the peak to mark the home-coming welcome of U.S. prisoners of war from Viet Nam. (Washington Star-News).

BICENT-
ENNIAL

U.S. House of Representative investigators have urged a complete overhaul of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission because of wasteful spending and haphazard management procedures. The Bicentennial Commission is a 50-member group charged with planning the nation's 200th Anniversary Celebration. One of the issues criticized is the payment of \$35,130 to a firm to design the official bicentennial symbol. (Pittsb'g Press).

FLAG
CODE

According to a U.S. Senate source, a move is expected soon to introduce a bill to revise the U.S. Flag Code. The objection to the present code, which hasn't been overhauled since 1942, is that it is too vague. During the Viet Nam war, the radical Left exploited the flag as a symbol of protest, which aroused Congress to consider changing the code. Every state has its own laws on flag desecration. The statutes of Massachusetts and California have been declared unconstitutional, while other states such as Colorado, Oklahoma and Indiana have strengthened their flag-desecration laws. (The Christian Science Monitor).

NEW
FLAGS

The April 2, 1973, issue of the weekly National Geographic School Bulletin contains an article on the flags of eleven new nations that have become independent in the past five years. The flags appear in color on a double-page spread which includes a map of the world with the new countries spotted on it. Single copies of this issue are available from the School Service Division, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., 20036.

STATE
INSECT,
ANYONE?

The Maryland State Legislature, in its 1973 session, has voted the checker-spot brush-footed butterfly, often called the "Baltimore butterfly," the official State Insect of Maryland. The Maryland Entomological Society proposed the butterfly as the ideal insect because of its orange and black colors, the official State colors. There was some opposition. One member felt the honeybee was a better choice because of its industrious and productive nature. A woman legislator thought the State Insect should be the lady-bug. Opposition from the clergy, who had been expected to favor the praying mantis, failed to materialize. Maryland already has an official State Flag, Flower, Bird, Dog, Fish and Sport, and now an Insect. What will it think of next? (The Washington Star-News).

NEW UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SYMBOL: The Corresponding Secretary of NAVA who is an Assistant Minister at the First Unitarian Church of Pittsburgh reports that the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has adopted a new symbol that reflects its spirit. It shows a chalice with a flame burning the oil of helpfulness, spreading light and hope. Known on five continents and in more than 20 countries where the UUSC has worked, the elements of the original logo have been retained in simplified form. The original designed by Austrian refugee Hans Deutsch, who was helped by the UUSC to escape from Hitler's Nazis during World War II, was adopted in 1941. The modernized work is by Boston artist Hrair Vartanian.



THE NEW UUSC SYMBOL



ONE VERSION OF THE OLD UUSC SYMBOL

MESSAGE FROM
NAVA PRESIDENT

NAVA President Whitney Smith urges as many members as possible to consider attending the 5th International Congress in London. The time (September 13 - 18) was especially selected so that off-season air fares would prevail, and the accommodations arranged for in London offer a real bargain, room and board and all expenses about \$100 for five days. NAVA is to be host to the 7th International Congress in 1977. Since we expect members of the Federation to come here from Europe, we should try to make a good showing in attendance at European meetings.

LAPEL PINS
AVAILABLE

Members who have not received a lapel pin featuring NAVA's flag and whose dues are paid up for the current year may secure one of the same by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the Corresponding Secretary, John R.B.Szala, 248 Spencer Ave. Pittsburgh Pa. 15227.

NAVA YEARBOOK

John Szala deserves a vote of thanks from all the membership for a superb job done on putting out a great NAVA Yearbook!

INTERNATIONAL
FLAG NEWS

Watch for a new name, and possibly a new flag, for the country of the Philippines. The convention for drafting a new constitution has included a provision to re-name the country Maharlika, a word from the Tagalog language meaning "noble, dignified." The nation already uses the Tagalog spelling "Pilipinas" on its postage stamps.

The Bahamas, a British colony lying southeast of Florida and north of Cuba, expect to gain independence in July of this year. Details of the new flag design have not yet been released.