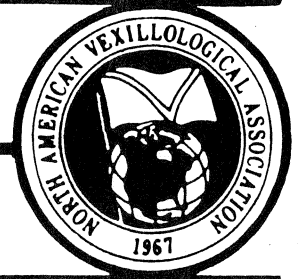


NAVA NEWS



NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

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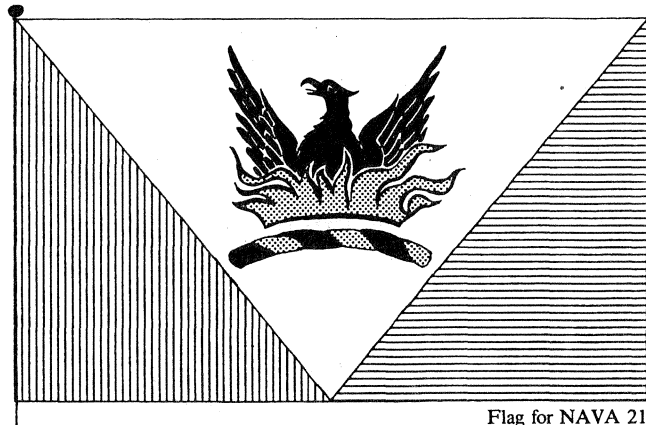
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Flag for NAVA 21

INTERNATIONAL FLAG CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN SAN FRANCISCO MAYOR DECLARES CITY OF FLAGS WEEK

Delegates from a dozen nations representing all seven continents will converge on San Francisco August 12-16 for the twelfth International Congress of Vexillology. Vexillology is the study of the history, symbolism and usage of flags and political symbols.

Recognizing the event, and in honor of the 210th anniversary of the adoption of the U.S. National Flag, Mayor Dianne Feinstein today issued a Flag Day Proclamation declaring City of Flags Week in San Francisco (10-16 August) during the week of the Congress. Flag Congress organizer Jim Ferrigan said "We hope the citizens of this great festive City will show their true colors by flying or displaying flags of all kinds during City of Flags Week in San Francisco."

Ferrigan also pointed out that although the Congress is a gathering of scholars and professionals there will be a number of special events open to the public including:

- ** The Fifth Annual "City of Flags Design Competition held in conjunction with the San Francisco Fair and International Exposition. This year Bay Area residents are asked to design a flag that best represents peace, trade, and cultural exchange among the nations of the Pacific Rim. The entries, due by 8 August, will be juried at the Flag Congress. (For more info call 415-474-3965;)
- ** A display of American flags through history at the San Francisco Public Library; and
- ** A display of the world's largest collection of U.S. city flags in the Rotunda of City Hall.

The biennial flag conventions are sponsored by the Federation Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques, a global group of organizations devoted to the study of flags. This year's Congress also coincides with the 21st Annual Meeting of the North American Vexillological Association.

On June 14th, 1777 the Congress of the United States passed the following resolution officially adopting the U.S. National Flag: "Be it resolved that the Flag of the united states be 13 stripes alternate red and white, that the Union be 13 stars white in a field of blue representing a new constellation."

Proclamation

WHEREAS: San Francisco is called "the City of Flags;" and

WHEREAS: The International Flag Association, Federation Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques, and the North American Vexillological Association have chosen San Francisco for their joint Congress — which will be held this August, when flag experts from around the world convene in our City; and

WHEREAS: Many San Francisco institutions, including the City Fair and International Exposition, the National Maritime Museum, the San Francisco Public Library, and the Presidio of San Francisco, will participate in the 1987 FLAG CONGRESS by arranging flag-related exhibitions and activities; and

WHEREAS: The City salutes those involved in the FLAG CONGRESS; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, Dianne Feinstein, Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, do hereby proudly proclaim August 10-16, 1987 as CITY OF FLAGS WEEK IN SAN FRANCISCO and do commend its support and celebration to all citizens.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City and County of San Francisco to be affixed this fifth day of June, nineteen hundred and eighty-seven.

Dianne Feinstein
Dianne Feinstein
Mayor



April 14 1987

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council:

San Francisco is honored to be the site of a "World Flag Congress," which is being held here in our City this coming August.

The Flag Congress will be a concurrent meeting of the Federation International Association Vexillologiques (F.I.A.V.) and the North American Vexillological Association (N.A.V.A.).

Since vexillology is the study of flags and since San Francisco was once known as the "City of Flags," my office is giving its full support to the decoration of the San Francisco City Hall Rotunda with the largest collection of U.S. city flags ever assembled.

We currently have over 300 flags in this collection. If your city is not yet represented, I invite you to join with those already participating in this exciting display by donating a full-sized (3x5' or 4x6,' new or used) flag of your city, which we will happily include in our Rotunda display. Contact James Ferrigan III at 450 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103 for further information.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and please participate in San Francisco's "World Flag Congress" from August 9-17, 1987.

Sincerely yours,

Dianne Feinstein
DIANNE FEINSTEIN
Mayor

DF/ws

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The 4" x 6" Corner

Here are some more flags to be on the lookout for when hunting down 4" x 6" flags:

Lesotho (1987 design)
Constitution Bicentennial (white)
Constitution Bicentennial (dark blue)
Azores

I hope you have luck in obtaining these latest issues.

Don Healy, 523 Centre St., Trenton, NJ 08611

THE COLLECTOR'S CORNER

With this issue of NAVA News we continue a column designed to expose members to the world of collecting flags and flag related memorabilia. The illustrated articles will feature antique U.S. flags from the collection of Nicholas Artimovich.

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The "Collector's Corner" is a regular feature of Nava News illustrating flags and flag related collectibles. The 30 star flag shown is the third in this series describing actual flags from the 19th century.

The 30 star flag was official from July 4, 1848 to July 3, 1851 and was the 12th official variation of the Stars and Stripes. The 30th state admitted to the Union was Wisconsin on May 29, 1848. This example measures 30" x 40" and is cotton with all stitching by hand. The stars on this flag were sewn to one side of the canton only. The flag was then reversed, and the stars were exposed by cutting out the canton behind them. The stars on the reverse are, therefore, somewhat smaller than those on the obverse.

Collecting period U.S. flags is a challenging pursuit in the field of antiques. U.S. flags tended to be used until worn beyond repair then respectfully destroyed. Military standards and ensigns with some history behind them are an exception and are often found in museums. They are eagerly sought by militaria collectors when found in the antiques marketplace. Unadorned flags such as this one are far less common, but relatively inexpensive due to the reduced demand. For example, a common stars and stripes from the civil war period (1860's) would command from \$300 to \$500, yet the same flag with a regiment's battle honors would be worth up to ten times as much. (A Confederate flag with history could sell for over \$10,000.) The beginning flag collector should be able to purchase original 45, 46, and 48 star flags readily in the \$25 to \$50 price range (for sewn bunting flags) late 19th century flags range from \$100 to \$300 and pre civil war flags can be a bargain at \$500 and up.

U.S. Flags prior to the 1820's rarely, if ever, come onto the collector's market, but may command prices upwards of \$5,000 if authentic. This should not discourage the potential collector,

as one can acquire a wide variety of star patterns, materials, methods of manufacture, overprints etc by restricting their collection to the last third of the 19th century.

A final note on the values quoted: they are based upon my recent experience with militaria collector's shows, and American mail auctions: two forums with knowledgeable dealers. It is still quite feasible to come across late 19th century flags in a variety of sizes at quite affordable prices through flea markets, general antique shows, and persistent prowling of antique shops.

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The fourth flag included in this first series of the "Collector's Corner" is a 31 star flag of the period July 4, 1854 to July 3, 1858. The state of California was admitted to the Union on September 9, 1850 as the 31st.

This illustration of a flag used during the Republican National Convention of 1860 in Chicago, Illinois. The flag is of glazed muslin, measuring 11" x 14". The painting of "Virginia" across the stripes was for the flag's use by that southern state's delegation to the convention. The Author's collection includes another 31 star flag, and two 33 star flags bearing the names "Massachusetts", "Georgia", and "Maryland". The 31 star flag had been superseded by the time of the convention, but the suppliers of the flags may have assumed that the magnificent "Great Star" pattern would overcome the fact that two states were not represented. The correctly starred flags for the Georgia and Maryland delegations also featured the "Great Star" pattern, and it is difficult to tell the difference without taking the time to count the stars.

The Great Star pattern was not uncommon on flags of the mid 19th century for patriotic use by the public. Naval flags tended towards prosaic patterns with stars in rows, while army and militia flags often arranged stars in circles.



WELCOME: We wish to welcome the following new member to NAVA:
Dennis J. Graham, San Francisco, CA

ANNOUNCEMENTS: October 29-30, 1987 Harrisburg, PA. Pennsylvania Capital Preservation Committee Flag Symposium. Issues concerned with preservation and documentation of collections and individual flags will be addressed by invited speakers. Registration fee: \$60.00. Contact CPC - Flag Symposium, Rm. 144, Main Capital, House P.O. Box 231, Harrisburg, P.A. 17120, (717) 787-2743.

STARS & STRIPES: The book was put together by a flag collector/artist and presents 100 versions of the American flag by some of America's best known artists. It is uniquely both an art book and a flag book, 144 pages, with full color throughout. This book cost \$14.95 and can be ordered by sending check or money order to your News Editor.

North American Vexillological Association
Oaks, PA 19456

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