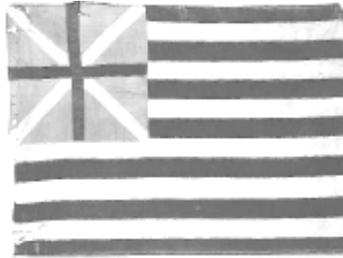




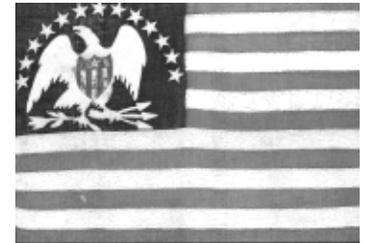
ARE THEY REAL OR ARE THEY ... ?



"Washington Inaugural Banner" sold for \$262,500.



"Grand Union Flag" sold for \$165,500.



"Indian Peace Flag" sold for \$35,850.

Recently, several auctions offered items of interest to vexillologists. Sotheby's, the famous auction house in New York City, broke all records with its May 23, 2002 Americana Show. Seventy-six flags from the collection of Thomas Connelly of Gladwyne, PA sold for \$1.3 million. Sotheby's retained Dr. Jeffrey Kohn of Elkins Park, PA as its consultant. Dr. Kohn is the same consultant for Sotheby's who "authenticated" the 37 star US Flag supposedly given to Abraham Lincoln just before his death and two years before the 37th state was admitted. Vexillologists who study such things agree this is an impossibility, as was recently discussed in *Flagmaster*. Dr. Kohn is also the same dealer who supplied many of these flags to Mr. Connelly, creating a very large impression of conflict of interest.

The premier items of the sale were two flags whose designs alone belie the claims made for them. One, the biggest money getter at \$262,500, was supposedly used at George Washington's Inaugural, but no substantive documents prove that claim. Instead, a series of suppositions and assumptions are used to "prove" this fact. As aptly termed by the Flag Research Center, this is perhaps "the

ultimate logo on a bedsheet." By virtue of its cloth components and design, NAVA's President believes it dates from the late 19th century.

Also likely to date from the late 19th century, a copy of the first American flag, the Continental Colors, sold for \$163,500. It is a typical 1876-era design that omits the fimbriation around the St. George's Cross. It also has cloth components likely to date from the Centennial era. Indeed, Sotheby's was not sure how to date this item themselves, giving it a Revolutionary War origin in their preliminary press release but backpeddaling to a 1790-1810 date in their auction catalog. Even if that is true, it is a replica, not an authentic period piece.

Wide claims were made by Dr. Kohn for several other flags sold for record prices by Sotheby's leading vexillologists to question his research. He is unknown in NAVA.

Another auction was scheduled to offer a document that would have been important to vexillologists. Freeman's had planned to auction off a collection of previously unknown manuscripts purported to have come from the pen of Francis Hopkinson, widely credited as the father of the US Flag, including one

remarkable musical score entitled "The Union Flag" and inscribed to Mistress Betsy Ross. If authentic, this would have been the only known connection between these two figures who are central players in the story of the first flag.

However, shortly before the auction was to have taken place, it was discovered these works were more likely to have come from the pen of an infamous Philadelphia forger, Charles Bates Weisberg. Upon hearing of the revelation, Freeman's cancelled the auction and David Bloom, Freeman's vice president of rare books said "Unless we catalog it as a forgery, I don't want to sell it."

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Two Early American Ensigns

by Henry W. Moeller

The Pennsylvania state arms depict an early example of an American flag hoisted on an ensign staff. Early versions of the arms show two different versions. The first is a blue ensign with red and white stripes in the canton. It appears in a 1785 or earlier painting.² (See figure 1.) The second appears as an engraving in a Philadelphia magazine in 1787. It is a striped flag with dots (stars?) in the canton. (See figure 2.) An attempt will be made in this article to establish when the American naval ensign made its first documented appearance and to examine new information about the designer of the American naval ensign.

The Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania directed that the state arms be cut in printer's metal. They also ordered on April 19, 1779 that Caleb Lowne, a Philadelphia engraver, be paid the sum of thirty-five pounds for engraving the Pennsylvania state arms.³ Caleb Lowne did other work for Francis Hopkinson and the state of Pennsylvania for on September 14, 1779 "an order was drawn on the Treasurer in favour of the Honourable Francis Hopkinson, esquire, for the sum of Seventy-six pounds, the amount of Caleb Lowne's account for cutting a seal for the [Pennsylvania] Court of Admiralty."⁴

It is not known who designed the Pennsylvania state arms after the Royal arms were burned on July 8, 1776 in Philadelphia or when the

arms were designed. The escutcheon of the state arms had to have been completed before the printing of paper currency in March or April of 1777,⁵ which depict them.



Figure 1: Detail of the ship on the Rutter painting c.1785. Note the ensign is blue with a canton of red and white stripes. The two pennants are red and the longer one also has 13 vertical red and white stripes at the hoist. Independence National Park.

Arms of Pennsylvania at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, Pa.

Robert Giannini, Associate Curator of Independence National Historical Park at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania recently met with the author. During the conversation the author briefly told Mr. Giannini about his ongoing research on the Pennsylvania seal. Then he asked Mr. Giannini if he would examine the flag on the ship in the arms of Pennsylvania in the Supreme Court chamber at Independence Hall. (See figure 1.) On January 7, 2002, Mr. Giannini responded that the painting of the coat of arms of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania still

hangs in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court chamber in Philadelphia and that "yes" there was a flag on the ship in the coat of arms.⁶ The painting bears the inscription; "G. RUTTER/PHILADA/PINXIT." PINXIT is a Latin word meaning to paint or draw a picture. G. Rutter was the artist.⁷

George Rutter was an eighteenth century ornamental painter who painted fire buckets, fire hats, drum heads, window shutters, doors and tavern signs.⁸ He was also a Philadelphia flag or banner painter. George Rutter's shop adjoined Plunket Fleeson's shop in the 1769, 1780 and 1791 Philadelphia tax rolls.⁹ Plunket Fleeson is identified as a Philadelphia upholsterer and newly arrived from London and Dublin according to the *Pennsylvania*

Gazette on August 1, 1739.¹⁰ In a 1755 newspaper advertisement in the *Pennsylvania Gazette*, P. Fleeson identifies himself as a flag maker and drum repairer for militia companies.¹¹ Plunket Fleeson advertised in the newspaper called the *Pennsylvania Journal and Weekly Advertiser* on January 18, 1775 as making colours for sea or land.¹² It appears that George Rutter continued to make flags after P. Fleeson's death, for in 1798 Rutter's silk flag painting skills are compared with those of a competitor in a newspaper advertisement.¹³

George Rutter in all likelihood earned his living by doing many different types of painting, and painting flags was probably only a

on the Pennsylvania State Arms

small part of his ornamental painting business. But George Rutter was more than a flag painter; he was also active in the Philadelphia militia throughout the American Revolution.¹⁴ So if he painted a flag on a ship in the Pennsylvania coats of arms, one would assume it would probably be an accurate rendition as opposed to an artistic flight of fancy.

When were the Pennsylvania arms painted? A petition from George Rutter appears in the *Pennsylvania Mercury* on November 18, 1785. It reads "Coat of Arms—A petition from George Rutter and Martin Jugiez, [carver and gilder], enclosing an account for painting the Arms of this State & over the seat of the Supreme Court of Judicature, and praying payment of the same (was presented to the General Assembly of Penna.)." If the newspaper advertisement is correct, the Pennsylvania arms were painted before November 18, 1785.¹⁵

On February 19, 1796, after eleven years of petitioning the legislature, George Rutter and Martin Jugiez gave up their efforts to receive compensation for painting the arms in the Supreme Court chamber. When curators at the U.S. Park Service examined their petitions and debates they learned that Rutter and Jugiez painted and framed the arms before they fixed them to the wall of the Supreme Court chamber over the judges' bench. They also discovered two sketches, one drawn in 1801 and the other in 1804(?) depicting the court as well as the Rutter painting on the wall with the Pennsylvania arms.¹⁶ During the nineteenth century the arms disappeared, probably during a remodeling or renovation of the chamber. They reappeared in 1961 when they were located in private hands and purchased by the U.S. Park Service in order to return them to their original location in the Supreme Court chamber where they can be viewed today.¹⁷

The ensign that appears on the ship under full sail has thirteen red and white stripes in the canton and

a blue field. The top and bottom stripe in the canton are red. American naval flags with thirteen stripes in the canton and a blue field first appeared at the Battle of Valcour Island, Lake Champlain on October 11, 1776. The canton of the Valcour Island flag had red, white and blue stripes.¹⁸ The London *Public Advertiser* also described a canton with red and white stripes and a red field on November 14, 1776 when it stated "...the Colours are a red field with thirteen Stripes where our Union is placed, denoting the United Rebellious Colonies."¹⁹ The use of thirteen stripes in the canton is also not unique to naval flags. There are at least five extant flags that were used by land-based forces with stripes in the canton.



Figure 2: Detail of the ship on the arms depicted in the *Columbian Magazine*, 1787.

What ship is depicted on the arms?

A ship by definition is a large seagoing vessel. It is a sailing vessel having a bowsprit and usually three masts, each mast having lower, topmast and topgallant sails. Was George Rutter painting an imaginary ship in the Pennsylvania arms or was he painting a Pennsylvania vessel with which he had some familiarity during the American Revolution? Was he painting a ship used in the Pennsylvania state navy or was it a merchant ship?

When the author first observed the painting his immediate reaction was this is a ship and a flag belonging to the Pennsylvania state navy. But

John W. Jackson, the expert on the Pennsylvania navy said all ships in the Pennsylvania navy were painted black and yellow.²⁰ The ship in this painting does not have a black and yellow hull. It is possible the ship was painted black and yellow and the colors have aged and changed over time, but to answer that kind of a question with any degree of certainty would require forensic work by a scientist well versed in art and chemistry

How many ships were in the Pennsylvania navy? There were fifty-seven crafts of all description in the Pennsylvania navy.²¹ But, according to John W. Jackson, author of the *The Pennsylvania Navy 1775-1781* there were **only two ships** in the navy. One of the two ships in the Pennsylvania navy was the *General Greene*. She was originally designed as a merchant vessel, but did yeoman duty as a privateer. The *General Greene* was owned by the state of Pennsylvania and she was regarded as part of the Pennsylvania navy. The *General Greene* was sold out of public service on November 1, 1779.²²

The second vessel was the *Montgomery*. She "was the flagship of the fleet, but encountered many vicissitudes in its short existence before being destroyed on November 21, 1777."²³ She also carried fourteen eighteen-pound cannon. The author believes George Rutter did not draw the *Montgomery* because if he did, he would have shown evidence of piercing for the cannon on the side of her hull. Thus, the ship must be an imaginary merchant ship or the *General Greene*!

An evolutionary stage in the development of the American flag?

Betsy Ross advocates believe the American flag was first hoisted on Pennsylvania navy vessels—ideas that may have their origin in a lecture William Canby gave before the Historical Society of

Continued on Page 4

Pennsylvania in 1870. Then there are those who believe Pennsylvania navy vessels displayed the Stars and Stripes on their ensign staffs along with Continental Navy vessels. And not to be overlooked for their advocacy is the American public who believe our national flag was born on June 14, 1777 and almost instantly became a universal symbol used by all her citizens on land and at sea.

Many vexillologists also take umbrage with British Admiral Sir Thomas Pye's statement when he wrote on October 25, 1777 that the American flag was **only** carried by Continental ships with commissions from the Congress.²⁴ But the question Admiral Pye raised continues to surface despite our willingness or unwillingness to answer it. Did Pennsylvania navy ships fly a flag other than the stars and stripes during the American Revolution? Did they fly a flag that in some respects mimicked the American flag? Could they have hoisted the flags depicted on the Pennsylvania state arms?

Or is the ensign uniquely Pennsylvanian?

In *The Day and Night Signals; for the Fleet Belonging to the State of Pennsylvania* published in 1777 by William Bradford at the London Coffee House in Philadelphia, the original thirteen signal flags used by the Pennsylvania navy are illustrated.²⁵ There is a note written in ink in an otherwise printed document that states "All signals by day to be answer'd with a Red and White Striped Flag at the Ensign Staff by the Galleys and Batterys."²⁶ Is the ship ensign in the coat of arms, the Pennsylvania state navy flag a predecessor to the Pennsylvania state flag in 1779?

The Pennsylvania state flag was adopted by the Pennsylvania legislature on September 18, 1779. It was a blue flag "with the arms of the State worked thereon."²⁷ This flag was flown on special occasions and was reported to have been flown at the Market street wharf on April 23, 1783 following the declaration of peace.²⁸ And after more than two

centuries have elapsed, the flag continues to represent Pennsylvania. What does the flag on the [1785] Pennsylvania coat of arms and the Pennsylvania state flag have in common? They are both blue. A blue flag with red and white stripes was used a third time after the American Revolution. In 1799, Pennsylvania militia regiments were provided with two colors for each regiment. One color had a dark blue field. The second had a field of red and white stripes.²⁹



Figure 3: U.S. Admiralty Seal designed by Francis Hopkinson in 1780.

When did Pennsylvania adopt its own ensign?

Captain William Richards wrote to the Pennsylvania Committee or Council of Safety and said, "I hope you have agreed what sort of colours I am to have made for the galleys, etc... as they are much wanted;" and again on October 15, 1776 when he wrote, "The commodore was with me this morning and says the fleet has not any colors to hoist if they should be called on duty. It is not in my power to get them until there is a design fixed on to make the colors by."³⁰ It is not known when the design was agreed upon, but it is known that 89 yards of red, 105 yards of white and 166 yards of blue bunting appear in William Richards' store on February 23, 1777.³¹ Note there is almost twice as much blue bunting as red!

When was the bunting in William Richard's store made into ensigns? There are two entries in the records of the State Navy Board, May 29, 1777. "Present William Bradford, Joseph Martin, Joseph Blewer, Paul Cox [placed] an order on William Webb to Elizabeth Ross for fourteen pounds, twelve shillings, two pence for making ship colors and put into William Richards stores..."³² In addition, Ann King was paid twelve pounds for furnishing 32 yards of bunting for the fleet on September 10, 1777 and on September 24, 1777 Ann King was paid for "making sundry Colours for the fleet."³³

The author is not saying that the flag made by Elizabeth Ross or Ann King was the ensign that appears on the arms of Pennsylvania. What the author is saying is that flags were made for the Pennsylvania Navy in 1777 and there are receipts to document their date of manufacture.

Arms of Pennsylvania published in 1787

The second engraving of the arms of Pennsylvania (and New Jersey) appears in *The Columbian Magazine, or Monthly Miscellany* in June 1787. The ship under full sail has an ensign with dots [stars?] in three linear rows in the canton and stripes in the field.³⁴ (See Figure 2.)

Francis Hopkinson became editor of *The Columbian Magazine or Monthly Miscellany* in April 1787, two months before the Pennsylvania arms appeared in print.³⁵ On April 14, 1787, Francis Hopkinson wrote to Thomas Jefferson and said, "The Proprietors of the [Columbian] Magazine, have engaged me to undertake the Management of the Work—to which they are by no means competent themselves."³⁶ It is not known how long Francis Hopkinson remained as magazine editor but he appears to have held the position until at least January 1788. "Sometime in [1788] Hopkinson turned the editorship over to Alexander James Dallas, an energetic young lawyer and man of affairs, who was later to become Secretary of the Treasury under President Madison."³⁷

Francis Hopkinson besides being

the editor of *The Columbian Magazine* also claimed to have designed the American flag and submitted bills for “the great Naval Flag of the United States” and “The Naval Flag of the United States” to the Continental Congress in May and June of 1780.³⁸ Based on this information, it is almost certain that Francis Hopkinson was well versed in the appearance(s) of the American flag and as editor of the magazine would have sought to portray it accurately before the American public.

The engraving with the Pennsylvania arms as illustrated in Figure 2 has been attributed to John Trenchard, although it does not have his signature on the engraving. John Trenchard was the magazine engraver as well as one of the proprietors for the *The Columbian Magazine*.

Trenchard began his engraving career as an apprentice under James Smithers.³⁹ James Smithers engraved the Pennsylvania arms on paper money for the Philadelphia printer, John Dunlap. Perhaps apprentice Trenchard participated in the Pennsylvania currency engraving of the arms with Smithers!

James Trenchard also engraved the obverse of the Great Seal of the USA in the *Columbian* magazine in September 1786 and signed it as *Jas Trenchard Sculp*. He then published the reverse of the Great Seal in the frontispiece in the October 1786 issue.

Richard Patterson and Richardson Dougall, authors of *The Eagle and the Shield, A History of the Great Seal of the United States* wrote that Trenchard’s written remarks and explanation for the Great Seal must have come from Charles Thomson [Secretary to the Congress] or William Barton [a Great Seal designer] and then they added “It would seem, at the least that Barton must have had some hand in Trenchard’s publication” of the Great Seal.⁴⁰

Conclusion

Francis Hopkinson, besides being the editor of *The Columbian Magazine*, claimed to have designed the American flag and submitted

bills for the naval flag of the United States to the Continental Congress. Based on this information, it is almost certain that Francis Hopkinson was well versed in the appearance(s) of the American flag and as editor of the magazine would have sought to portray the Trenchard engraving (?) accurately before the American public. If Francis Hopkinson in an editorial capacity did see the American ensign illustration as it was being prepared for publication, it is likely that this is a representative example of an early American naval ensign.

The question also remains as to what Francis Hopkinson was observing. Was he observing an American ensign before or after the American Revolution? What type of ship was he observing in the Pennsylvania state arms?

This question becomes very real when one examines the ship ensign

on the U.S. Admiralty seal designed in 1780 by Francis Hopkinson with the two Pennsylvania arms discussed in this paper.⁴¹ The U.S. Admiralty seal ensign has stripes but no canton. (*See figure 3.*)⁴² Was Francis Hopkinson illustrating a merchant ship ensign as opposed to a flag of sovereignty for the admiralty court?

Undoubtedly, there are many remaining, unanswered questions, but future studies of early American engravings should also provide us with some more answers.

Thanks to the following for their assistance: Chris Adey, Cathy Cherbosque and Susan Krasnoo, Huntington Library; Andrea Leraris and Robert Giannini, Independence National Park; Henry Parker, PA Archives; Don Wilcox, William Clements Library; Earl Williams; Jordan Rockford and Max Moeller, PA Historical Society; Keith Arbour; David Martucci.

Footnotes

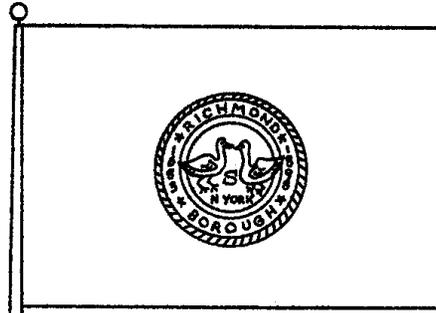
- 1 In naval terminology, the flag hoisted on the stern of a ship is generally known as an ensign.
- 2 Following the Declaration of Independence, the arms of Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, New Jersey [see Editor’s note, below], Delaware and Georgia (reverse) had a ship under full sail in their arms. A number of these ships have flags in the ensign position. Ships are one of the principal classes of charges that have been depicted on arms from antiquity to the present. [Editor’s note: The reference here is to the arms of the Governor of New Jersey, William Livingston, whose arms were adopted on a temporary basis for the state from October 1776 to May 1777, when the new state arms were adopted and cut into a seal. Zieber (Heraldry in America) states the crest was originally a “ship in distress” but that William changed it to “a ship under full sail” about 1742.]
- 3 *Colonial Records of Pennsylvania* 11:752 (Hereafter cited as C.R.)
- 4 C.R. 12:102
- 5 Paper currency of Pennsylvania was examined at the Library Company in Philadelphia, Pa. The paper currency printed in March or April 1777 has a ship under full sail and an ensign in the escutcheon, but there is no visible

- detail in the ensign.
- 6 Personal communication with Robert Giannini, January 7, 2002
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- 9 *Pennsylvania Archives*, 6th Series Vol. 1.
- 10 Prime, op. cit., p. 201
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Continued on Page 6

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- 35 Mott, Frank Luther. *A History of American Magazines 1741-1850*. New York: D. Appelton. 1930. p.94-95.
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- 37 Mott, *op. cit.*, p.96
- 38 Hastings, George E. *The Life and Works of Francis Hopkinson*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1926.
- 39 Stauffer, David M. *American Engravers Upon Copper and Steel*. Part I & II. New York: Grolier Club. 1907.
- 40 Patterson, Richard S. and Richardson Dougall. *The Eagle and the Shield: A History of the Great Seal of the United States*. Washington: U.S. Govt. Printing Office. 1976. pp. 49 and 87.
- 41 An impression of the U.S. Admiralty seal is at the Pennsylvania Historical Society at Philadelphia, Pa.
- 42 Figure 3 was drawn by David Martucci from an impression of the original seal (see footnote 41). It

Staten Island May Replace Its Flag



STATEN ISLAND (BOROUGH OF RICHMOND)

Flag shown in the Flag Bulletin in 1963



New flag proposed in 2002

One of the five boroughs of New York City, the Borough of Richmond, known more familiarly to New Yorkers as Staten Island, is considering changing its flag. The *New York Times* reported on February 17, 2002 in an article by Denny Lee entitled "No Stars, Nor Spangles, But a Banner Nonetheless" that State Assemblyman Robert A. Stranieri of Staten Island "introduced a bill that would designate an official Staten Island flag, based on an informal, and virtually unknown, emblem that rarely flies over City Hall. The bill, introduced last year, foundered in an Assembly committee. But Mr. Stranieri's hopes were raised this month when a measure was introduced in the City Council seeking its approval."

The article states the borough is the only one of the five that has no official flag. This is untrue. Manhattan is the only borough of New York City without an official flag although the City Flag is usually used as a symbol of Manhattan.

According to the *Flag Bulletin*, Volume II, Number 4 (No. 8, Summer 1963), page 46, the Borough of Richmond "flag, adopted in 1948, con-

differs in several respects from the image shown in *NAVA News* #171 as follows: rather than vertical stripes on the shield, the emblem is a chevron with 13 divisions, 7 on one side and six on the other, not unlike a design proposed for the US arms by Thompson, after Hopkinson's details; the anchor at the base is on a blue field and has a rope; the stars along the bottom arc are eight-pointed instead of five-pointed; and, as stated in this paper, the flag worn by the ship is 13 stripes.

sists of a blue background with a large version of the borough seal emblazoned in orange in its center. The seal bears the legend 'Richmond Borough' (in orange) and '1683-1898' (in white). In the center are two sea gulls, birds which abound on the island's salt-water marshes, the letter 'S' (for Staten, the name of the Dutch legislature), and the abbreviation 'N York'.

"The year 1683 marks the island's organization as Richmond County and 1898, its incorporation into New York City. The designers of the flag were Ferdinand Fingado and Loring McMillen, who worked at the request of the then Borough President, Cornelius A. Hall. The seal itself is of colonial origin."

The new flag is described in the *Times* as follows. "The flag, which features two sea gulls flying over a green mountain with the words 'Staten Island' written in gold block type, was the winner of a 1971 contest held by the borough president."

"It's a light blue sky, which to me represents morning in Staten Island," Mr. Stranieri said, lest anyone be confused about the symbolism. "Every day is a bright day in Staten Island. The birds represent the environment. The mountain is not the is not the garbage dump, but the hills. And the skyline looks like the skyline when you approach on the ferry."

"Only three copies of the flag are thought to exist. The first is kept at Borough Hall. The second, at City Hall, is dusted off every four years and unfurled during mayoral inaugurations. Mr. Stranieri ordered the third last year for his unsuccessful campaign for borough president."

Some Red-Flag Plan to Alter District Symbol

By Michael Vasquez *Washington Post Staff Writer*

Saturday, June 22, 2002; Page B01

George Washington's long-retired coat of arms could be pressed into battle once again, this time for the cause of congressional representation for the District, under a proposal being pushed by some members of the D.C. Council.

A year and a half after placing the slogan "Taxation Without Representation" on the city's license plates, local lawmakers are contemplating adding similar words to the District of Columbia flag.

The flag's design — two red bars and three stars against a white background — was inspired by the first president's family emblem. It has represented the city since 1938, and some, including Mayor Anthony A. Williams (D), are urging caution before altering such an important symbol of the city.

D.C. Council member Phil Mendelson (D-At Large), the author of the bill to change the flag, said his goal is to educate the millions of tourists who visit the nation's capital each year.

Many Americans are unaware that, although D.C. residents pay federal taxes and the city has a population larger than Wyoming's and comparable to those of several states, the District has no voting representative in Congress.

"What this is about — I hate to make the pun — is flying the issue nationally," Mendelson said.

He hopes that once tourists learn of the District's plight, they will contact their members of Congress and demand full representation for residents of the nation's capital.

Any change to the District's status, whether through a constitutional amendment or the granting of statehood, would need the approval of Congress. The District, an overwhelmingly Democratic jurisdiction, has had trouble wooing Republicans to its cause, no doubt in part because D.C. representation could tilt

the balance of power in a closely divided Congress.

Mendelson said the new flag would be a temporary measure, like a battle flag. Once the battle is won — and the District has a representative and two senators in Congress — the old flag would fly again.

Supporters have not agreed on the exact phrase that would be placed on the flag. Some have suggested adding the word "no" to the beginning of the taxation phrase, while others favor a slogan that asks for "Statehood Now."

A final vote on the flag change is unlikely until after the council's summer recess. So far, nine of the 12 other council members have voiced support for the idea, enough votes to override a mayoral veto.

All laws passed in the District, however, are subject to congressional approval, and Congress would have the final say over whether to allow the new flag.

While acknowledging that anything is possible, a spokesman for Rep. Constance A. Morella (R-Md.), chairwoman of the House Government Reform subcommittee on the District, said congressional interference in the matter is extremely unlikely.

Last week, the D.C. Council held its first public hearing on the flag proposal. Local activist groups such as DC Vote enthusiastically praised the idea as a necessary step in the battle for equal voting rights.

But local historian Philip Ogilvie has been critical, arguing that the flag is the oldest symbol the District has and that it should be left alone.

"By putting something like a motto on a flag, you tend to take away the simplicity and beauty of the flag," said Ogilvie, adding that the wording would make the flag look like an advertising banner.

Ogilvie also worries about the po-



tential cost of replacing all the current flags. Proponents said the cost could be reduced by phasing in the new flags over a few years as older ones deteriorate.

Historians aren't the only ones bothered by the proposition. Flag buffs frown on it, too.

Last year, the North American Vexillological Association conducted an online survey that rated 72 U.S. and Canadian flags on their design qualities. The District flag placed eighth, winning praise for its basic colors, which are easier to reproduce, and its symbolism. But add the voting rights logo, and association Vice President Andrew Biles says the District would be "down near the bottom."

Biles said flags often wave in the wind, making any lettering on them difficult to read.

Mendelson isn't too worried about the results of future flag surveys. "We can fly our flag to win a beauty contest," he said, "or we can use our flag to secure our rights and liberties."

The mayor has not taken a stand on the matter. His press secretary, Tony Bullock, said Williams would like to see more public debate on the merits of a new flag before any legislative action is taken.

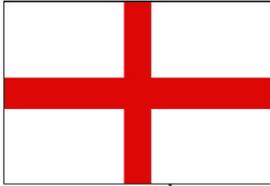
"There seems to be a rush to conclude this issue before anyone's had a chance to think about it a little bit," Bullock said, "and that disturbs the mayor."

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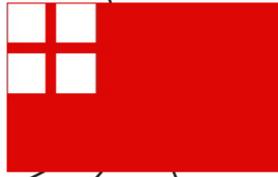
Genealogy of the American Flag



The nine segments on Benjamin Franklin's famous 1754 cartoon probably inspired the 9 stripes in the original Sons of Liberty Flag.



England
Since 1277

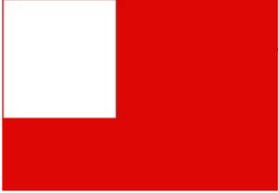


Great Britain
Red Ensign
c1621-1707

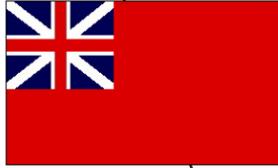


Scotland
Since the
1200s

LOCAL FLAG TRADITION



Massachusetts Bay
1634-c1686

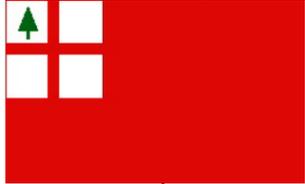


Great Britain
Red Ensign
1707-1801



Sons of Liberty
1765

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240 Calderwood Rd
Washington ME 04574-3440 USA
(207) 845-2857
vex@vexman.net



New England
Ensign
c1686-c1775



Sons of Liberty
1775



Continental
Colors
1775-1777

GREAT BRITAIN
AMERICA



New England
Ensign
1775-Present



South Carolina Navy
1775

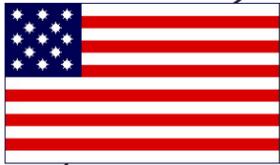
Stars and Stripes
1777



Massachusetts
Navy
1775-1971



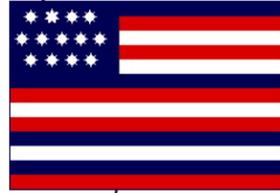
1782



1779



1783



1779



After 1784



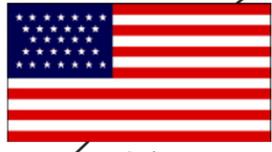
1814



1820



1796



1851



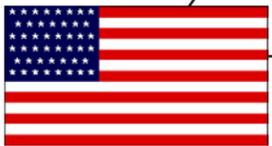
1861



Since 1960



1870



1908



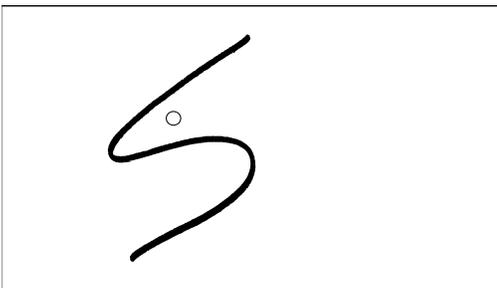
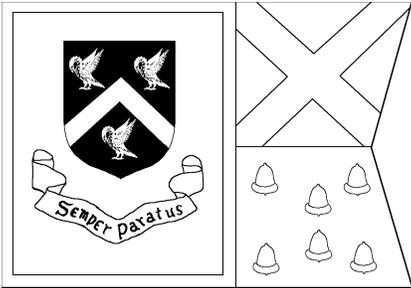
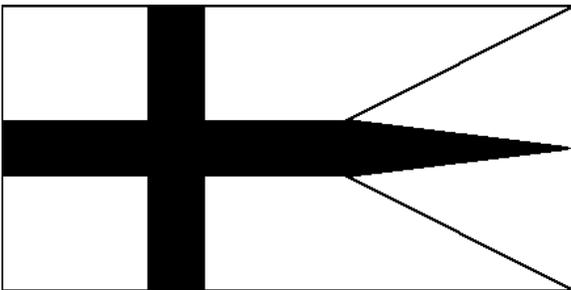
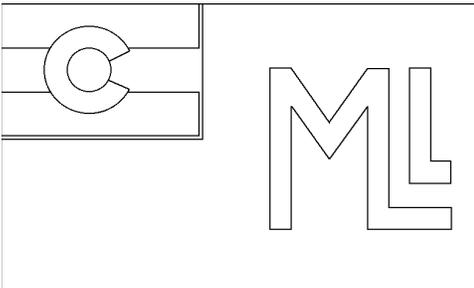
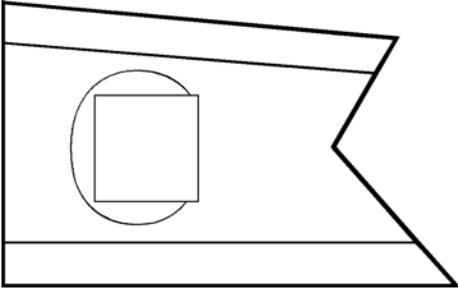
1912

THOUSANDS OF VARIANTS

MEMBERS SHOW THEIR FLAGS



Top to bottom, the personal flags of Bruce Baky, James Collier, Michael Larsen, Eric MacCallan, David Mead and Steve Tyson.



In response to the renewal form in the last NAVA NEWS, six members have sent in the designs for their personal flags. One other has sent in a description. Here are the explanations.

Bruce Baky of Radnor, PA, member since 2001, has adopted the traditional Hungarian colors in an unusual form,

that of a bottom "schwenkel." The flag features the "arms associated with the early Kings of Hungary, but also a quasi-religious symbol widely used" on a white field, bordered red and then with the red-white-green-white triangles (clockwise from top hoist) typical of middle European monarchies. The arms show eight red and white bars on the left and a white double-barred cross on red issuing from a gold crown on top of three green mountain peaks. Over all is the Crown of St. Stephen.

James R. Collier of Bremerton, WA, member since 1995, has adopted a flag based on the US Navy Broad Command pennant, white with blue stripes at the top and bottom with a blue "C" and square red "box" on the white. The "C" represents the Collier family and the red box represents the "square dealing" which is the family motto. Along with his brother John, James Collier operates a business called Cee Square Enterprises.

Michael L. Larsen of Dallas, TX, member since 1970, has adopted a forest green flag with the Colorado State Flag, fimbriated white, in the canton and his cipher "MLL" in the fly in old gold. He writes, "The Colorado Flag because I am a 4th generation Coloradan. Forest green is for the pine trees of the Colorado mountains. The symbol is a combination of my initials MLL and represents a western brand. The colors forest green and old gold also represent my alma mater, Colorado State University."

Eric MacCallan of Earlysville, VA, member since 1996, has adopted a Scandinavian ensign type design of a black cross on white. It is the same dimensions as the Swedish Naval Ensign.

David R. Mead of Twin Falls, ID, member since 1970, has adopted a flag bearing the Mead coat-of-arms (a black shield bearing three peli-

cans and a chevron in gold; on a gold ribbon, the motto "Semper Paratus" in black) on a white compartment, bordered gold and in the fly two other compartments, the upper bearing a white St. Andrew's Cross on blue and the lower bearing six gold acorns with brown caps on green. He writes, "The coat-of-arms and motto are of the historic Mead family line of England, who arrived in America in 1630. The blue and white St. Andrew emblem is the flag of Scotland (on my mother's side), blue for the ocean and the white of the white caps, also the signal flag for "M" — I am a retired US Navy Captain — and the acorns are for our six children, 'from little acorns mighty oaks grow'. The green is for this good earth." Proportions are 1:1.3.

Steve Tyson of San Francisco, CA, member since 1986, has adopted a red stylized "S" with a blue eye on a Spanish yellow background.

Phil Allen of Berkeley, CA, member since 1978, sent us a description of a flag that is most unusual. He describes it as "a bolt of lightning [from upper fly to lower hoist] upon a sea of roiling plasma — cannot be visualized without obliterating the viewer. I don't want to be (get) sued for having people kill themselves for gazing upon my flag." A footnote indicates the motto "You'll Never Walk Alone" in Latin should be in the upper hoist corner. NAVA has declined to attempt to draw this flag as per Phil's request, cited above.

NAVA offers its members a registry of their personal flags (or organizational flags for organizational members) as a service. This registry can serve to protect your design from adoption by others and also lets the other members see your colors! Please send a line drawing, sketch or other illustration in the Registry, along with its meaning and symbolism. Contact us if you need help designing a flag. Send your info to: **NAVA Member Personal Flag Registry, PMB 225, 1977 N Olden Ave Ext, Trenton NJ 08618-2193 USA.**

Your flag may also be shown on NAVA's award winning web site at <http://www.NAVA.org/>

Graphics and photographs in GIF or JPG format may be emailed to navanews@nava.org.

Monday, June 3, 2002

<http://www.thescotsman.co.uk/scotland.cfm?id=599302002>

MSPs are feeling blue over shady Saltire business

Hamish MacDonell, Scottish Political Editor

Most Scots do not mind what colour it is as long as it is blue and has a white cross on it.

But the precise shade of blue in the Saltire is about to become the subject of major debate in the Scottish parliament.

MSPs are to be asked to rule on the correct shade of blue following a decision by the Lord Lyon to give the Scottish parliament the power to decide on the colour of the national flag.

A petition will be submitted to the parliament this week, calling on MSPs to make a decision on the correct colour for the Saltire now that they have been given jurisdiction over it.

The row over the colour of the Saltire has rumbled along for the last two years, ever since an initial petition was submitted to the Scottish Parliament asking MSPs to decide which blue should be used.

At that time, two parliamentary committees ducked the decision, arguing that the colour of the Saltire was a reserved matter and had to be decided by Westminster.

Dr John Reid, the then Scottish Secretary, also tried to avoid getting involved, insisting that any shade of blue would suffice.

But the Lord Lyon King of Arms - the arbiter of all heraldic matters in Scotland - has decided that the colour of the Saltire is not a reserved matter and should be decided by the Scottish parliament. The Lord Lyon stated in a letter to the Saltire Society: "It seems to me that if anyone is to define a colour for the national flag this would need to be the Scottish parliament.

"Any decision to do this would not cause a conflict with Lyon's jurisdiction."

And now George Reid, the retired accountant from Edinburgh who first raised the issue two years ago, is to table a new petition to the Scottish parliament calling for a ruling on the blue for the Scottish flag.

He believes that he will get an answer this time because the Scottish parliament can no longer dodge the issue by

palming it off to London.

Mr Reid's petition will go first to the petitions committee.

It is then likely to be forwarded to the education, culture and sport committee which could either make a ruling or pass it on to the whole Scottish parliament.

Mr Reid, who is 77, said he started his campaign to establish one proper colour for the Saltire after seeing a whole range of different shades of blue used in Scottish flags.

He said: "This is the oldest national flag in the world. I really became quite angry when I saw flags at Murrayfield and Hampden which were royal blue, powder blue and navy blue."

Mr Reid believes that azure, or sky blue, would be the correct colour and points to a Ministry of Defence regulation which requires the Saltire to be azure blue for military uses. Mr Reid has written to all 129 MSPs asking for their support in his campaign.

Tradition has it that the flag found its origins in a battle fought in 832AD at Athelstaneford in East Lothian when an Army of Picts under Angus Mac Fergus defeated a larger force of Angles and Saxons under Athelstan.

Fearful of the outcome, King Angus led prayers for deliverance and was rewarded by seeing a cloud formation of a white Saltire - the diagonal cross against which Saint Andrew had been martyred - against a clear blue sky.

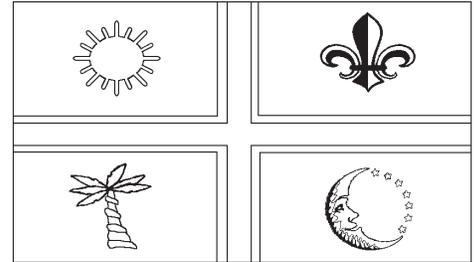
The king vowed that if, with the Saint's help, he gained the victory, then Andrew would become the patron saint of Scotland. The Scots did win and the Saltire became the flag of Scotland.

Mr Reid, an amateur historian, claims that darker blues began to be used for the Saltire in the last century, when dark blue dye was cheaper than sky-blue or azure. Unlike most other countries in Europe, there are no government restrictions on the design of the flag.

Irene McGugan, the SNP's spokeswoman on sport and culture, said she wanted the Scottish Parliament to take



Drawing by A. G. Law Samson



FRANCOPHILES WITHOUT BORDERS

We are a francophile organisation and we created a flag. Our organisation is "Francophile sans Frontieres". We would like your opinion about our design and how we can register it. Please, your input and a prompt response will be appreciated.

The sun, gold on blue, represents Florida; the fleur, black and white on red, represents Canada; the palm, brown trunk and green leaves on red, represents the Islands; and the moon and semi-circle of stars, yellow on blue, represents Europe. In the center is a blue cross bordered white for our French origins.

Thank you,
Nicole Fretigny
nfretigny@aol.com

a decision on the colour of the Saltire once and for all.

She said: "We don't need a law or legislation, all the Executive needs to do is to make a statement recommending the correct colour. I'm sure flag makers would be more than happy to adhere to it."

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designed with kind help from
SSB flag exhibit's curator
at the Smithsonian Museum

NAVA News 35/1 - #173

To the Editor:

Here is a short note concerning the snapshot of a "Hessian" flag in Yorktown in NAVA News 34/4 - No. 172, p. 4:

The "Hessian" flag captured during the American Revolution and presently on display in Yorktown is in fact not a Hessian flag but a regimental flag of Ansbach-Bayreuth. The monogram on it has the initials CFCA intertwined with M.Z.B. underneath in smaller letters. They stand for *Christian Frederick Charles Alexander*, the last margrave of Ansbach-Bayreuth who ruled from

1757 to 1791. The letters M.Z.B. stand for his official title *Markgraf zu Brandenburg*, because the margraves of Ansbach-Bayreuth were a junior branch of the house of Hohenzollern. The senior branch at that time were the kings of Prussia and electors of Brandenburg. Margrave Christian Frederick Charles Alexander is less than fondly remembered in Germany because he was one of the German princes who (like the landgrave of Hesse) hired their male subjects to the British to fight as soldiers in the American revolutionary war. In 1791

he sold his territory to Prussia and went to London to live with his English mistress until his death in 1806.

Of course you may pass on this information to Yorktown if you like (I gathered from Daniel Broh-Kahn's article that the NAVA convention acted as flag police in Yorktown anyway but I don't know if anyone noticed the wrong caption under the "Hessian" flag exhibit there.)

Best wishes
Arnold Rabbow
Brunswick, Germany

NEW MEMBERS SINCE 1 OCTOBER 2001

NEW MEMBER NAME	CITY ST	COUNTRY	AREA OF INTEREST
Mr. Taylor John Albritton	Bunkie LA	USA	To assist in school studies
Miss Amy Billroth-MacLurg	Seattle WA	USA	General Interest
Christine Davis Flags	Ft Lauderdale FL	USA	Manufacturer
Mr. Frank G. Cole	N Hampton NH	USA	
Dr. Anthony J. Forte, MD	Tacoma WA	USA	Flags & symbols as expressing ideas
Mr. Cédric de Fougerolle	Paris	FRANCE	
Mr. J. A. "Earl" Franz	Ames IA	USA	
Mr. E. Glenn Gilbert	Blaine MN	USA	Flag design; sewing flags & kites for fun
Mr. Michael Hazen	Evansville IN	USA	
Ms. Nyla J. Kladder	Grand Jct CO	USA	
Mr. Andrew A. Kling	Great Falls MT	USA	International; US Flag history; heraldry
Mr. Robert H. Knowles	Greenbelt MD	USA	Countries; US historical; local; civic flags
Kosco Flags	Waukegan IL	USA	Historical flag facts & flag codes
Ms. Nava M. Levine	Far Rockaway NY	USA	Jewish flags
Mr. Vincent Malanga	Bayside Gables NY	USA	
Mr. Morgan J. Milner	Arlington VA	USA	Historic; revolutionary & political movements
Mr. Daniel G Morris	Wichita KS	USA	
National D-Day Memorial	Bedford VA	USA	World War II Memorial
Clay R. Patterson	Santa Maria CA	USA	National; subnational; personal; historical
Mr. Martin G. Phillips	New York NY	USA	Heraldry; historic; civic; US & Union flags
Dr. J. E. Pijem, MD	San Juan PR	USA	Historical background
Mr. Glenn M. Richter	Crofton MD	USA	Flag design & history
Mr. Thomas E. Ring	Roseville MN	USA	
Mr. Daniel Salas	Arlington MA	USA	
Mr. Raul I. Sanchez	Weehawken NJ	USA	World flags
Dr. John F. Schilke, MD	Oregon City OR	USA	Design; medieval; history
Mr. Rafi John Sharif	Wheaton MD	USA	Diverse; political-military orders; islamic
Mr. Anell Shipman	DeSoto TX	USA	Protocol, US, Texas, POW/MIA
Mr. John H. Siner	San Francisco CA	USA	Historic; European flags
Mr. Joseph Staub	Los Angeles CA	USA	Heraldic; historic; medieval; military
Mr. Adrian E. Wagner	Amherst NY	USA	History and geography
Mr. David E. Wagner	Amherst NY	USA	History and geography
Ms. Cindy Williams	Greensboro NC	USA	Nations & history of flags
Mr. Jim Williams	Lansing MI	USA	
Mr. Scott Wyatt	Seattle WA	USA	The Companion Flag Project
Dr. Rafael Yates Sosa	Merida Yucatan	MEXICO	

To the Editor,

This is a response to Mr. Luke's inquiry in the October- December 2001 issue of *NAVA News*.

1. I don't know the answer to the question about the name of a flag that appears on a flag's face (e.g., the flags shown on the flag of the Army), but a shield displayed within a shield (e.g., at the fesspoint) is called an **inescutcheon**. If a term doesn't exist, maybe the coining of the term **invexillo**, or something similar to it, would be appropriate. (I have forgotten my Latin.)

2. According to the Flag Code -- U.S. Code, Chapter 10, Sec. 175(k); P.L. 94-344, July 7, 1976, 90 Stat. 810:

"When displayed with another flag from crossed staffs, the flag of the

United States of America should be on the right (the flag's own right) and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag. [in other words, to the viewer's left.]

3. The Army Seal and Army flag are tricky. The Army's original seal was adopted in 1778. At the time, it was called the seal of the Board of War and Ordnance or the seal of the War Office. At the time, there was no Flag Code, so the National Color appeared on the viewer's **right**. The Army flag shown in your illustration reflects this arrangement. The Army flag became official on June 12, 1956. (See Smith, Whitney, *The Flag Book of the United States*, rev. ed. New York: William & Morrow Company, Inc. 1975.) However, the U.S. Army seal was updated in 1947

probably in concert with the War Department's change to the Department of Defense and the creation of the U.S. Air Force. When the seal was updated, the Roman numerals MDCCLXXVIII (1778, when the seal was adopted) were changed to 1775, the year when the Army was created. Also, the position of the national color was changed to the viewer's left, which is consistent with the description that I cited from the Flag Code.

If you wish more information on the Army seal, contact Dr. Eugene Saupp, Jr., The Army Institute of Heraldry. I don't have his phone number or E-mail address, but his fax number is 703-806-4964.

Best wishes,
Earl P. Williams, Jr.

Commercial/Organizational Members

The following Commercial/Organizational Members have renewed, recently joined or upgraded from regular member status. These NAVA Members provide additional support for our activities above those provided by our active members. Please show your appreciation by doing business with them and be sure to tell them that NAVA sent you. Links to the web sites can be found at <<http://www.nava.org/Links/commerlinks.htm>>. We hope the others listed there will also renew their memberships. Links to those who don't will be removed in June.

COMPANY NAME	SERVICES	PHONE	WEB ADDRESS	LOCATION
Annin & Company	Manufacture and wholesale.	(201) 228-9400	http://www.annin.com/	Roseland, NJ USA
Christine Davis Flags	Manufacture and sales.	(954) 527-1605	http://www.christinedavisflags.com/	Fort Lauderdale, FL USA
Clark Library - Periodicals	San Jose State University	(408) 924-2730	http://www.library.sjsu.edu/	San Jose, CA USA
Click and Learn Software	Educational flag computer software	(800) 254-2550	http://www.clickandlearn.com/	Bartlesville, OK USA
CRW Flags, Inc.	Flag sales.	(410) 766-6106	http://www.crwflags.com/	Glen Burnie, MD USA
Elmer's Flags & Banners	Manufacture and sales.	(800) 547-8795	http://www.elmersflag.com/	Portland, OR USA
Excel Sails Flag Co.	Flag sales.	(573) 374-0099	http://www.excelsails.com/	Gravois, MO USA
Flags International®	Manufacture and sales.	(574) 674-5125	http://www.flagsinternational.com/	Osceola, IN USA
Glaser Mills, Inc.	Flag fabric manufacturer.	(516) 466-4028	http://www.glasermills.com/	Great Neck, NY USA
Kosco Flags	Flag sales.	(866) 352-4872	http://www.koscoflags.com/	Waukegan, IL USA
Martin's Flag Co., Inc.	Flag sales.	(800) 992-3524	http://www.martinsflag.com/	Fort Dodge, IA USA
National Defense HQ	Military HQ.	(613) 992-7552		Ottawa, ON CAN
National D-Day Memorial	Historical memorial.	(540) 587-8972	http://www.dday.org/	Bedford, VA USA
Piedmont Flag Company	Flag sales. Living History suttle	(800) 467-0082	http://www.piedmontflag.com/	Maiden, NC USA
Quality Flags	Flag sales.	(888) 953-5247	http://www.qualityflags.com/	Gurnee, IL USA
The Flag Guys	Flag sales.	(845) 562-0088	http://www.flagguys.com/	New Windsor, NY USA
US Naval Academy Museum	Naval flag history.	(410) 293-2108	http://www.nadn.navy.mil/Museum	Annapolis, MD USA
VPL Serials Section	Vancouver Public Library	(604) 331-4022	http://www.vpl.vancouver.bc.ca/	Vancouver, BC CAN



Farewell to the Judge

by Gus Tracchia

The phone rang at eerie hours of the morning and after picking up and saying an unintelligible hello, a fresh shiny voice at the other end of the line said: "Did I play a trick on you?", and once again I uttered unintelligible words. Notwithstanding this, the voice on the line said; "Gus, how would like to sail around Manhattan on a 19th century frigate?" or "Gus, How would like to be the NAVA representative for at the inauguration ceremonies of our city flag?"

On a different occasion, but at the same eerie hours the voice said: "Gus, how would like to be present at the bicentennial of George Washington's inaugural at Federal Hall in New York City?"

Of course, any of those propositions caught my attention and immediately I started listening and speaking in a more intelligible and alert way.

Well, the voice on the phone was Bob Coykendall and that alone will give you an idea of the kind of person Bob was and the copious amount of energy he possessed.

Bob Coykendall passed away on the 27th of December, 2001. He will really be missed not only by his wife Sandy and his sons Glenn, Max and Edward, but also by many of NAVA members who knew him well.

Bob was very instrumental as parliamentarian (1987-1991) by introducing a modified version of parliamentarian rules for NAVA, based on *Roberts Rules of Order*.

Columbia University was his Alma Mater. His studies were interrupted twice. First for World War II, where he served as a US Navy pharmacist mate, and later back in the navy during the Korean War serving as a Navy legal officer.

After these interruptions, he finally graduated a lawyer achieving later the position of administrative law Judge in Buffalo, New York.

"The Judge," so called by many, was also a vigorous champion of the Francis Hopkinson flag design. He spent a full year in Philadelphia researching archives, letters, and walking, as I did guided by him, throughout the streets and places like Hopkinson might have done. Bob often dined at the historic City Tavern in an effort to get as close as he could to his hero.

During a parade by the members of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), all in revolutionary costumes and each of them holding reproductions of historic flag of the revolutionary period, Bob noticed that the "Navy Flag" was not among them. Therefore as an SAR member he introduced the Hopkinson design during a special ceremony at the Plaza Hotel in New York City, with all the pomp and circumstance required for the occasion.

His lectures on the Hopkinson design opposed to the Betsy Ross design were done on a Perry Mason style. Bob the plaintiff, and we the audience as the jury. None of the present will ever forget those exciting lectures full of information and data.

He published two interesting essays: *June 14, 1777* and *Investigation vs. Research in Vexillology*.

He died peacefully in his lovely house at the bank of the Niagara River in Youngstown, New York. Just a few blocks from the historical Fort Niagara where he used to stroll, smoking his pipe, on the walls and ramparts, like he was reviewing the troops and inspecting the fortifications once in place there.

His lectures at NAVA meetings were: in 1984 "Influence of the British colours on the evolution of the American flag." "The Navy Flag," in 1985, and as a Keynote Speaker of NAVA 22, "The Flags of John Paul Jones," given at the Historical House of John Paul Jones, in Portsmouth NH, in 1988.

To the Editor:

The article in the Washington Post on the proposed changes to the DC flag is a good example of how people increasingly want to use letters, words or whole slogans for political or advertising purposes, on flags. It shows the power of flags, often overlooked by most.

I agree that the flag should not be tampered with. But I suggest that flag use has changed, while the thinking of most vexillologists remains in the Middle Ages. We tend to think that simple is better. We deplore lettering on flags.

But heraldry was anything but simple. People used symbols which had meaning in that day. Today's desire to use lettering is a representation of what is significant within our present society.

We are a people of words. Much Pop Art depicts this trend in thought such as paintings of Campbell Soup cans, etc. This is an information society.

Illiterate peoples, today or in the Middle Ages, can only recognize symbols, colors and shapes on anything, including on flags. Given the highly literate and equally advertising minded and manipulated society we live in, one can hardly fault those who want what is the most significant tool in their lives on flags.

Just the suggestion has drawn national attention. Imagine what power would come from actually redesigning the flag with this slogan on it. It might actually get DC on the road to true statehood as nothing else has.

That is the power of the flag, now, or in the Middle Ages to lead people. This is the true purpose of the flag. Not to win beauty contests.

Michael Hale

Elmer's Flag and Banner
mikehale@elmersflag.com

To the Editor:

I disagree in part with Mike Hale's philosophy about flag design. A flag is a piece of cloth blowing in the wind. It will never be a readable printed broadsheet of any sort. Many people apparently conceptualize flags as posters—or printed symbols on a sheet of paper.

It is this simplistic conceptualization of the symbolism which works so effectively on a flag that eventually permits those same people to then believe that words will work just as well on a banner flying in the breeze. I do not agree that the concepts embodied in the principles of good flag design are either antique or a meaningless "beauty contest."

Finally, the one point that has not been made about the District of Columbia flag is that the official description and designation of the flag does not have to be changed; the council could authorize or approve by resolution a "campaign for constitutional statehood" banner with all the wording upon it that they wish for. However, they should leave the long-standing, proper, and successful OFFICIAL design as it is.

Mark S. Ritzenhein
Okemos MI USA
mrutz@acd.net

In the last issue, we reported on the passing of Derkwillem Visser, manager of the Flag Documentation Center Netherlands. We incorrectly attributed the quote to a wife. Rather, Derk was a partner in a same-sex marriage. We regret the error.

FOLDS OF THE FLAG

Q. What, if anything, is the significance of the U.S. flag being folded into three points? Is it for the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Ghost)? I can't think of any other plausible explanation.

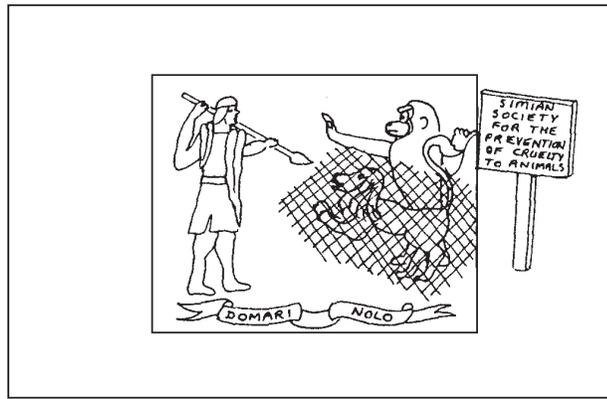
A. There's more to it than that according to the American Legion, which states that the triangle is the end result of 12 folds.

This is what the Legion says each fold represents: (1) a symbol of life; (2) a symbol of our belief in eternal life; (3) honoring and remembering veterans who have defended the nation; (4) trust in God; (5) a tribute to our country, (6) the pledge of allegiance to the flag and to the republic; (7) a tribute to our armed forces; (8) a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, and honoring our mothers, for whom the flag flies on Mother's Day; (9) a tribute to womanhood; (10) a tribute to fathers; (11) for Jewish citizens, representing the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifying, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; and (12) for Christian citizens, representing an emblem of eternity and glorifying, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost.

The Legion adds that after the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat. This is a reminder of the soldiers who served under Gen. George Washington and the sailors and marines who served under Capt. John Paul Jones, and their followers in the U.S. armed forces.

There are no Flag Code provisions requiring any method of folding, by the way.

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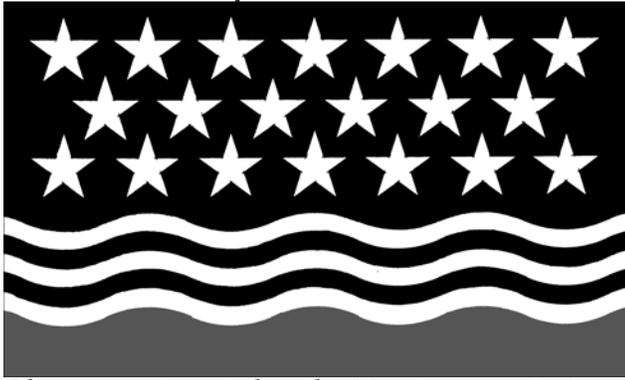
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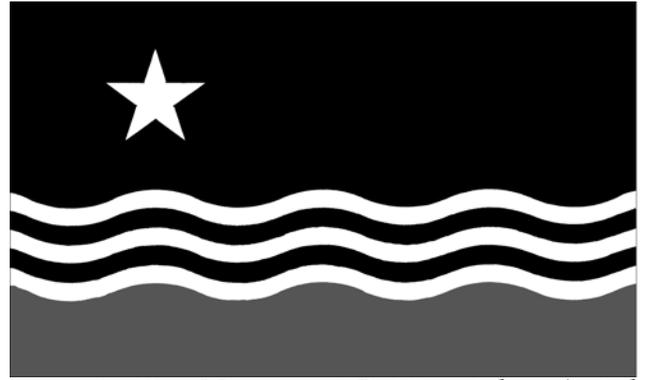
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I became interested in the Mississippi flag issue when I heard about last spring's state referendum on the news. When I saw the proposed new design, I was not surprised it had lost. Political symbolism aside (as if that were actually possible), it was just not an attractive design, and not enough better than the current flag to be worth the cost in political capital. It exemplified everything that's wrong with design by committee.

I thought, surely they could do better. It seemed to me that the problem was how to embody divergent notions of Mississippi's virtues and to memorialize its victories and defeats without forcing people to agree

on what any of those things actually were. Hence, the symbolism needed to be pretty flexible, and not closely linked to one point of view, as with symbols of the Confederacy.

My first version borrowed the idea of twenty stars for the twentieth state, arranging them in three rows. Then I asked myself why anyone in Mississippi would want a state flag that gave nearly equal time to nineteen other states, some of which weren't even in the south. Since I couldn't come up with a good answer to that, I tried another version with a single star, borrowing from the Bonnie Blue Flag, which has a number of historical associations with

Mississippi. But it just doesn't strike me as quite so snappy a design as the one with twenty stars.

On both flags, the red at the bottom is for the red clay soil and to remember blood spilled on Mississippi's ground in toil and in conflict. The waving bands of blue and white represent the river name-sake and the Gulf of Mexico. On the one flag, the 20 stars recall that Mississippi was the 20th state while on the other, the single star stands for Mississippi itself. The stars recall the similar emblem on the US Flag and express the wish for the light of heaven to shine on the state.

*Timothy A. Meyer
Akron, Ohio*



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