

NO. 193 JANUARY — MARCH 2007

NAVA News

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
North American Vexillological Association

Vexillology's 50th Anniversary

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Flags flying at Rockefeller Plaza, New York, USA



FROM THE PRESIDENT

A Tale of Two NAVAs

Dear NAVAITES,

As you'll read elsewhere in this issue, we're in the midst of some major changes with respect to editing NAVA News. The next few months will be difficult, but I firmly believe that we'll get things back on a regular schedule. As I mentioned in Reno last October, one change we're making is having the mailing done professionally rather than in-house. I'd appreciate some feedback on the service they give us, particularly regarding the condition of your copy when you receive it. Let us know.

Planning is continuing apace for NAVA 41 in Hartford. By now, there is a web page with registration information and a call for papers. The Connecticut Historical Society is looking forward to showing us its very interesting flag collection; overall, it should be another fine convention. Start thinking about your paper or exhibit!



In the last issue, I said that the one negative aspect of NAVA 40 was the discussion of the bylaws amendment on voting. Our current bylaws limit voting on officer elections, bylaws amendments, etc., to members who are physically present at meetings. The amendment at NAVA 40 would have allowed absentee and/or proxy voting. This proposal was on our recent membership survey and the results were overwhelmingly (70%) in favor of the change.

Meeting reaction, however, was almost entirely negative. The clear consensus was NAVA should be governed by those who attend meetings. Treasurer Ted Kaye cast the only vote in favor of the amendment – I did not call for negative votes because I didn't want them to go into the record.

Afterwards, Ted summarized by saying there seemed to be two NAVAs. I'll call them "NAVA One" and "NAVA Two." NAVA One members typically are longtime members, with the wherewithal to attend meetings regularly, provide most officer candidates, and enjoy a web of personal ties and camaraderie based on their mutual acquaintance. For NAVA One members, their membership experience revolves around meetings and personal contacts.

Then there's NAVA Two, the rest of the membership. It's harder to generalize about them, but I'd say most probably joined NAVA because of their interest in our publications and a desire to be part of the bigger vexi-community. For NAVA Two members, the primary benefit of membership is access to our publications and perhaps networking with other vexillologists in their areas and around the world by

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Contact Peter Ansoff: pres@nava.org

LETTERS

Mail Call

To the Members of NAVA:

It is with great regret that I must take leave as your

NAVA News Editor. Personal problems have made it difficult for me to perform my duties in a timely manner. It has been a great run, what with 32 issues and more color than ever before. I hope you have enjoyed it as much as I have. The Board will announce elsewhere who will take my place; whoever that is I will try to assist as much as I can. I still have ideas for features in NAVA News! I thank you for your continued support and hope to see you all in Hartford!

DAVE MARTUCCI
Washington, Me.

To The Editor:

First, I would like to commend Ted Kaye and all involved in the recent publication "Good Flag, Bad Flag," an attempt to provide good, sound guidelines to flag design. Trying to promote better vexillography in the world is to be commended. However, there are two points I would like to raise; maybe it could provide a discussion by other NAVA members.

First is the claim that the Italian flag (p. 7) is a "good design." I realize it is used here as an example from the second principle "Use Meaningful Symbolism" and although it fulfills this requirement I do not believe it fully adheres to principle 5 (p. 12), "Be Distinctive or Be Related." Italy's national flag is just one shade different in its vertical fly stripe from that of Ireland's flag. This is not exactly the case as Indonesia, cited as having a bad design, being similar to Monaco, Poland, and Cantabria, Spain, where the stripes are either the same or reversed. In my

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NAVA News

HUGH L. BRADY, INTERIM EDITOR
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Special Note on NAVA News

Dave Martucci is no longer able to continue as editor of *NAVA News*. Dave has worked hard over the last few years to improve the quality of this publication. His combination of vexillological knowledge and editorial skill will be sorely missed, and I know that you'll all join me and the other Board members in wishing him all the best.

Hugh Brady has generously agreed to step in as interim editor, and has quickly and efficiently produced the issue that you hold in your hands.

The editor essentially performs two functions: acting as a "funnel" or collection point for articles and other contributions, and also performing the layout work to prepare the actual issue for review and submission to the printer. The main qualifications for the job are experience with layout software, and a willingness to work with the president, the treasurer, the *NAVA News* editorial board, and the printer/printer to produce issues on a timely schedule. A basic grounding in vexillology is, of course, a big plus. We're also open to different ways of dividing the effort; for example, we could envision the "funnel" and layout tasks being performed by two different individuals.

If you think you might like to be part of the *NAVA News* team, or know of someone else who might, drop me a line (pres@nava.org) or give me a call at 703-941-0494 (evenings). This will not be an easy transition for *NAVA*, but I'm confident that we'll work through it.

PETER ANSOFF
President



Ancient Roman bas-relief showing vexillum. SHANE STEZELBERGER

Milestones

The 50th Anniversary of "Vexillology"

By FLAG RESEARCH CENTER

Flags have interested people for hundreds of years. The first significant book was published in 1695 in the Netherlands; it illustrated all flags known to its authors — mostly European — with brief text. Those making their living from the sea were probably the most interested in the work.

Interest broadened as more flag charts and books were published. The interest remained practical; flag misidentification could mean an enemy attack or fines imposed by shipping authorities for display of an unauthorized flag.

The democratizing trends of the 20th century, coupled with an interest in flags by historians and others, spurred new publications for scholars and the general public, but there was no systematic gathering and publication of flag information.

Flags were generally considered a mode for presenting heraldic

symbols, not a distinct area of human knowledge with its own traditions, subject matter, and literature. Heraldry's failure to explain flags' most important aspects led a few individuals to focus on all aspects of flags.

Whitney Smith was one of those, frustrated not only by the difficulty of finding flag information but by the lack of any recognized term for the study of flags. On an unrecorded date in 1957, using his schoolboy Latin, Smith coined the term *vexillology*, based on a combination of the Latin *vexillum* ("flag") and the Greek suffix *-ology* ("the study of"). Some objected to the word because it combined Latin and Greek, considered by linguistic purists to be a barbarism. (The practice is common. Other Latin/Greek combinations include: television, sociology, and automobile.) "Vexillology" is justified because the Greek word *simeion* ("symbol") was already used for the medicine's semeiology, or the study of symptoms.

Smith began using "vexillology," which first appeared in print in his 1959 *Arab World* article. Two years later, in *The Flag Bulletin's* first issue, use of the word was proposed to those interested in flag study. Quickly adopted by most of them, the cognates *vexillologist* and *vexillological* were soon established. In 1964, United Nations staff in New York accepted *vexillology*; many dictionaries followed.

That new word, created 50 years ago, altered the world of flags by encouraging individuals to think of flag study as a discrete and significant aspect of scholarship, one deserving of thorough analysis and the development of new institutions such as vexillological journals, associations, operating principles, and concentrated analysis.



Whitney Smith.

BOOK REVIEW

Georgia's Hallowed Banners

By TED KAYE

What a treat—a full-color book with a fine assortment of historic flags, all well-described and documented!

This nicely-produced book presents images and descriptions of over 80 flags held in the collections of the Georgia State Capitol. As would be expected, more than three-fourths are Civil-War-era flags; the rest range from the Spanish-American War up to today's Iraq conflict. Each has a depiction of 6 to 12 sq. in. in area with up to a page of narrative placing the flag in historical context and describing its provenance. Description tables in the back give information (as appropriate) on the field, canton, cross, stars, star separation, edge, border, designation (inscription), heading/attachment, obverse/reverse, battle honors, and other information. A section of historical photos shows "Georgians and Their Flags."

The book begins with a concise essay on modern flag conservation by textile conservator Fonda Ghiardi Thomsen, who worked extensively with the collection. Sponsored by the secretary of state's

HALLOWED BANNERS

Historic Flags in the Georgia Capitol Collection



Ordering Information

HALLOWED BANNERS tells the story of the historic flags in the Georgia State Capitol collection, with color photographs and descriptions of 82 historic flags from antebellum times to the 21st century
Price: \$20 (\$3 s&h)
Order: (404) 656-2846 or (404) 651-7600
jhuneke@sos.state.ga.us
tfrilingos@sos.state.ga.us
www.sos.state.ga.us

office, the two-year book project was led by Ed Jackson of the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, author of *Flags That Have Flown Over Georgia* and lead staffer in

the adoption of the latest Georgia state flag. The project team included Thomsen, Jackson, the director of the Georgia Capitol Museum, the flags' curator, historians knowledgeable about Georgia military history, and several others.

Perhaps the most delightful aspect of the book is how it presents highlights of a collection that was not purposefully assembled—it does not attempt to be comprehensive or representative of its subject, rather it showcases the best of an interesting assortment of flags proudly owned and cared for by the state of Georgia.

Contact Ted at treas@nava.org

OBITUARY

Half-Staff: Klaes Sierksma

By FLAG RESEARCH CENTER

Klaes Sierksma, born 2 July 1918, died 21 March 2007 in his 90th year. The Netherlands' grand old man of vexillology, Sierksma was an early contributor to the international advancement of that discipline. His wife, Berber Sierksma-Zeeff, was always at his side supporting his endeavors.

When Whitney Smith proposed to hold the First International Congress of Vexillology (in 1965), Sierksma offered his home as the venue and made all arrangements. He also hosted the 6th Congress in 1975. Together with Smith and Louis Mühleman, Sierksma drafted the original statutes for the International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV) and served as a member of its three-man governing board from 1969 until 1981.

Sierksma provided production assistance for Smith's 1965 flag chart, *Flags of the World*. Author of many articles on flags and heraldry, he edited the vexillological journal *Vexilla Nostra* from 1965

until 1984. Flag protocol and terminology were among the many topics he worked on. Numerous Dutch town flags were designed with Sierksma's assistance.

Sierksma's books included *Nederlands Vlaggenboek* (1962) on Dutch civic flags and commentary for the facsimile of *Flags of the World 1669-1670*, a 17th century manuscript. He delivered many lectures on flags. In 1975 Sierksma translated Smith's *Flags Through the Ages and Across the World* and provided a Dutch-language vocabulary for it.

His work was long carried on in the name of the Foundation for Banneristics and Heraldry. Instead of vexillology, he preferred the term *banistiek* or, in English, banneristics — words he had invented.

Sierksma always showed that he was proud to be from Friesland. He promoted the language and the flag of that Netherlands province whose flag, he insisted, dated to the 11th century. Friesland in his opinion was that it was *bêste lèn fan d'ierde*, "the best country in the world."



Call for Meeting Papers and Flag

If you wish to present a paper or set up a display at NAVA 41, please mail the following to 1st Vice President Devereaux Cannon by 1 July 2007:

- 1) Your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address if available;
- 2) Title of your paper, presentation, symposium, workshop or exhibit;
- 3) Abstract of your paper, presentation, symposium, workshop or exhibit;
- 4) Type and size of exhibit area and/or equipment needed, including tables, electrical requirements, Audio/Visual equipment, etc.

Please send a complete copy of the paper (in publishable form in both hard copy and electronic file) by 1 September 2007.

Presenters who have not provided this copy will be deleted from the meeting schedule.

Send materials to:
Devereaux Cannon
c/o Old Republic Title
201 4th Ave N, Ste 150
Nashville, TN 37219-2011
USA
(615) 244-2101

e-mail: vp1st@nava.org
NAVA reserves the right to accept or reject any presentation without prejudice.

To submit a design for the NAVA 41 meeting flag, e-mail submission(s) to Devereaux Cannon by 30 June 2007. With a color rendering of the design, include your name, address, telephone number, and email address if available. By snail mail, postmarked no later than 30 June 2007, to:

Devereaux Cannon
159 Womack Rd
Portland TN 37148-5454
USA

Preview: NAVA 41

The Connecticut home of one of America's oldest cities will host the 41st Annual Meeting. The Hartford-area town of Glastonbury is the site for this year's premier vexillological event in North America.

Just nine miles southeast of the Gothic-style State Capitol, Glastonbury is strategi-



ties to meet and exchange ideas with vexillologists from across North America at social events such as meals and tours of local sites of interest.

Don't miss a chance to enjoy the company of like-minded flag enthusiasts over a three-day weekend held 12-14 October 2007. Also, 30 June is the deadline for early-bird registration and for submitting proposals for the meeting flag, a feature of NAVA meetings for almost 30 years.

**More: www.nava.org
contact vp1st@nava.org**



cally located within easy driving distance of Boston, New York City, and Providence and 20 minutes from the state's major airport, Bradley International, which hosts carriers diverse as Air Canada Jazz, Continental, and Southwest.

NAVA 41's home base is the Hilton Garden Inn, and special meeting rates at the Inn and its sister hotel, the Homewood Suites, are available from \$99-\$119 USD.

Meeting attendees will hear engaging, cutting-edge presentations of the latest flag scholarship and enjoy numerous opportuni-





New Flag for Maturín, Venezuela

By RAÚL JESÚS ORTA PARDO

In December 2006, NAVA's colleagues in Venezuela helped the city of Maturín (pop. 400,000) adopt a flag, coat of arms, and anthem. The capital of the state of Monagas in eastern Venezuela, Maturín is named for an indigenous chief (*cacique*). In August, city leaders formed a committee which approached the Venezuelan Association of Symbolology ("VENEZIMBOL") for assistance in developing municipal symbols, a project coordinated by local historian Prof. Edgar Rondon. VENEZIMBOL's president, the vexillologist and heraldist Raúl Orta Pardo, led the effort.

In perhaps the first hands-on use of the Spanish version of NAVA's guidebook *Good Flag, Bad Flag* (translated by Gus Tracchia and now available online on the NAVA website), Orta Prado trained the contest jurors in the principles of flag design. They evaluated contest entries and scored them using the "K Scale", which awards flags zero, one or two points for each of the five basic design principles, for a composite score which can range from zero to ten. They presented five finalists to the public for a pop-

ular vote verified and ratified by the municipal council. A coat of arms and anthem were also chosen.

Prof. Felix Cetrone, a music teacher, created the winning flag design. The flag is a vertical tribar in proportions of 2:3, of equal stripes of red, yellow and blue (from the hoist). Ten yellow five-pointed stars are arranged vertically on the red stripe, slightly off-center toward the hoist. A stylized image of the head of an indigenous chief in black is centered on the yellow stripe. The red stripe alludes to the blood spilled by the heroes of Maturín—the sacrifice and the passion of the men and women who wrote the history of the municipality; the yellow stripe recalls the wealth of the area; and the blue stripe represents its hydrological resources. The stars symbolize the city's ten parishes and the central image represents Cacique Maturín, a chief who lived with his tribe on the bank of Guarapiche River and died in battle against the Spaniards in 1718.

Next project: a flag for the municipality of Turén.

Contact Raúl at rjortap@gmail.com



1)



2)



3)



4)



5)



A Cornucopia of Designs

This page depicts alternate designs for the flag of Maturín. Designs were submitted under pseudonyms.



FLAG DESIGN

California Town Picks Bold Design

From NEWS REPORTS

The town council of Paradise, California, selected a bold design from two other finalists to be the town's official flag in April 2007. Designed by resident Glenn Harrington, the flag will soon find its way onto the town's flagpoles.

Paradise is an incorporated town near Chico, in the northwest foothills of California's Central Valley. It spreads out on a wide ridge which rises between deep canyons on either side.

The flag's design eschews words or specific symbols, opting for symbolic takes on Paradisian images running horizontally across the banner. A red ribbon running along the bottom symbolizes the ridge, atop of which run bands of green trees, white clouds, and blue sky.

A committee reviewed 181 designs submitted by residents or school students and narrowed the field down to 11 after two rounds. "It was amazing how the top ones pretty much stood out," said Councilor Frankie Rutledge. After the committee narrowed the field, the public voted on the designs.

Vice Mayor Scott Lotter cast the lone vote against the winning design because the word "Paradise" didn't appear on the flag. He said nearly all city flags from the League of California Cities include a municipality's name or a city seal.

Mayor Steve "Woody" Culleton said the committee reviewing the designs researched NAVA's survey of 50 state flags noting that the more popular, well-regarded designs excluded words or seals. Lotter dismissed the survey as one person's opinion.

Harrington said afterwards that initial concepts for his design included one with the town seal in the middle. He decided the design should be simplified. Concentrating on what symbolized the town in his mind, he had the winning concept in about an hour. "For me, the experience of Paradise is coming up to it, your transition from the scrub to the towering pines and the canyon," he said.

The town will have a graphic designer prepare a final version of Harrington's design. Harrington will receive a \$250 prize donated from the community.

Original information from the *Chico Enterprise Record*

From top left: *The Flag of Paradise, California.*

The 11 finalists exhibited by Town Councilor Alan White.

Paradise Flag designer Glenn Harrington with his creation.

The public unveiling of the flag by Paradise Mayor Steve "Woody"

Culleton and town councilors on May 5, 2007. The flag will hang in the town council's chambers. SARAH KINGSBURY

MEMBER FLAG

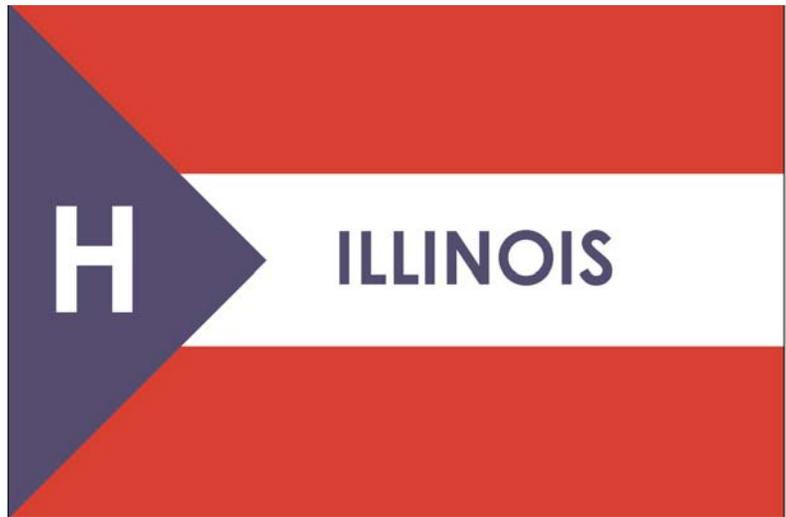
80-Year-Old Member Waves Her Flag

NAVA member Elizabeth Hardy sent in her personal flag design.

It has a field of red-white-red stripes with a blue triangle at the hoist. She writes "The 'H' stands for me while 'ILLINOIS' represents my home state."

A member since 1990, Ms. Hardy's areas of vexillological interest are 4"x6" flags, state flags, and England.

Members are encouraged to send in their personal flag designs for inclusion in the NAVA Member Flag Registry. Send your photos, drawings and descriptions to navanews@nava.org or mail to: Member Flag Registry, 1977 N Olden Ave Ext PMB 225, Trenton NJ 08618-2193 USA.



Flag of Elizabeth Hardy, Jacksonville, Illinois, U.S.A.

Korean Trophy Flag For *U.S.S. Pueblo*?

From NEWS REPORTS

Historian Doug Sterner proposed an unusual offer in the chilly negotiations between North Korea and the United States over the fate of the *U.S.S. Pueblo*, the Navy intelligence ship seized by North Korea in January 1968.

Sterner suggests returning a Korean battle flag held for more than a century in the U.S. Naval Academy Museum, a war trophy from a little-known clash between U.S. and Korean troops in May 1871. The large yellow flag is one of the few Korean military relics from that short conflict, known as the "Weekend War".

"History has turned on smaller things than a flag", said Sterner, from Pueblo, Colo. "We have a flag that we essentially took illegally from Korea when we encroached on Korean territory and North Korea has the *U.S.S. Pueblo*, a ship they took illegally. Returning their flag would be the right thing to do and [North Korea's] return of the *Pueblo* would be the right thing to do."

In May 1871, a fleet of five U.S. warships anchored off Kanghwa Island, Korea, hoping to establish trade relations with that country. In a misunderstanding over whether Korea's king had granted permission, the U.S. forces moved up a river and came under fire from a fortress on the island. A Marine/Navy landing party attacked the fortress and captured it. Inside, Korean troops under Gen. Uh Je-yeon fought to the last man.

Uh's battle flag was captured, displayed aboard the *U.S.S. Colorado*, and taken back to Annapolis as a war trophy. Sterner noted the irony that Uh's flag

journeyed aboard a ship named for Colorado while North Korea holds a ship named for Pueblo, Colorado.

North Korea keeps the *U.S.S. Pueblo* on a river near Pyongyang as a trophy of its long conflict with the U.S. While ignoring the subject at times, North



Korea has periodically indicated a willingness to talk about returning the ship.

Sen. Wayne Allard, a Colorado Republican, has asked U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to include returning the flag as an offer in her ongoing talks with North Korea.

"Offering to return Gen. Uh's battle flag could be key to resolving this long struggle," Sterner said.

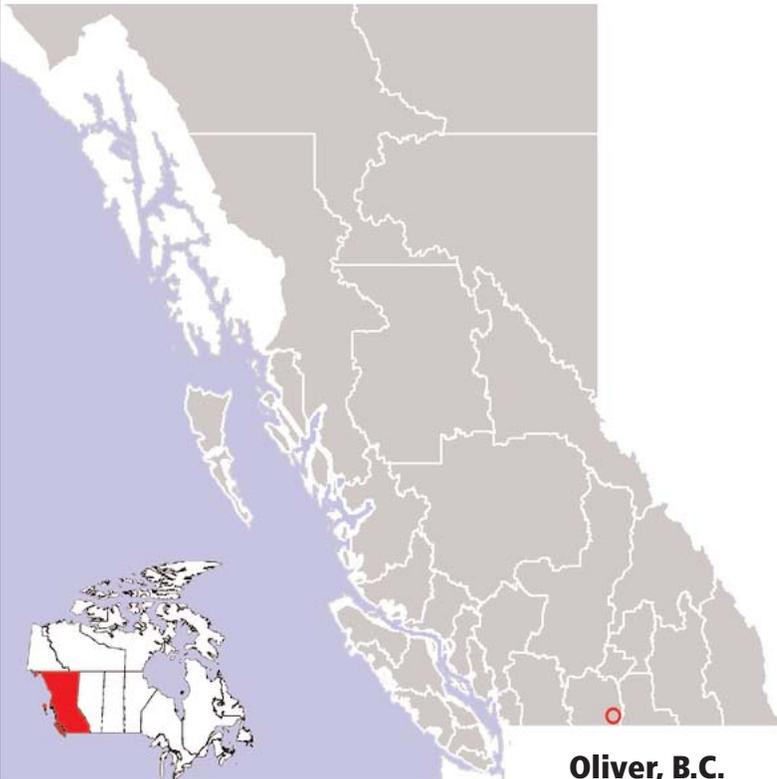
Original information from Peter Roper, Flag Could Be Key to Return of *USS Pueblo*, *Pueblo Chieftain* (Apr. 21, 2007).

The large Korean battle flag of Gen. Uh Je-yeon, aboard the U.S.S. Colorado after being captured in battle in May 1871.

Oliver, British Columbia

By James Croft

The design of the Oliver flag is based on the geography of its surrounding area. The city of Oliver, population 4,369, is located in the northernmost part of Canada's only true desert, the Sonora, at the southern end of the Okanagan Valley. The golden yellow on the flag represents the dry lands, while the blue field signifies the waters of the South Okanagan Irrigation Project. The town's namesake, British Columbia's Premier "Honest" John Oliver, created this settlement in 1921 for veterans returning from the First World War and promoted the irrigation system to make this land prosper. This project transformed the area into a viable agricultural region, especially for fruits such as cherries, apples, and peaches. The sun, inside the "O" for Oliver, is emblematic of the sunny climate and is "the other essential ingredient in growth as well as a vital element in Oliver's quality of life"



Oliver, B.C.

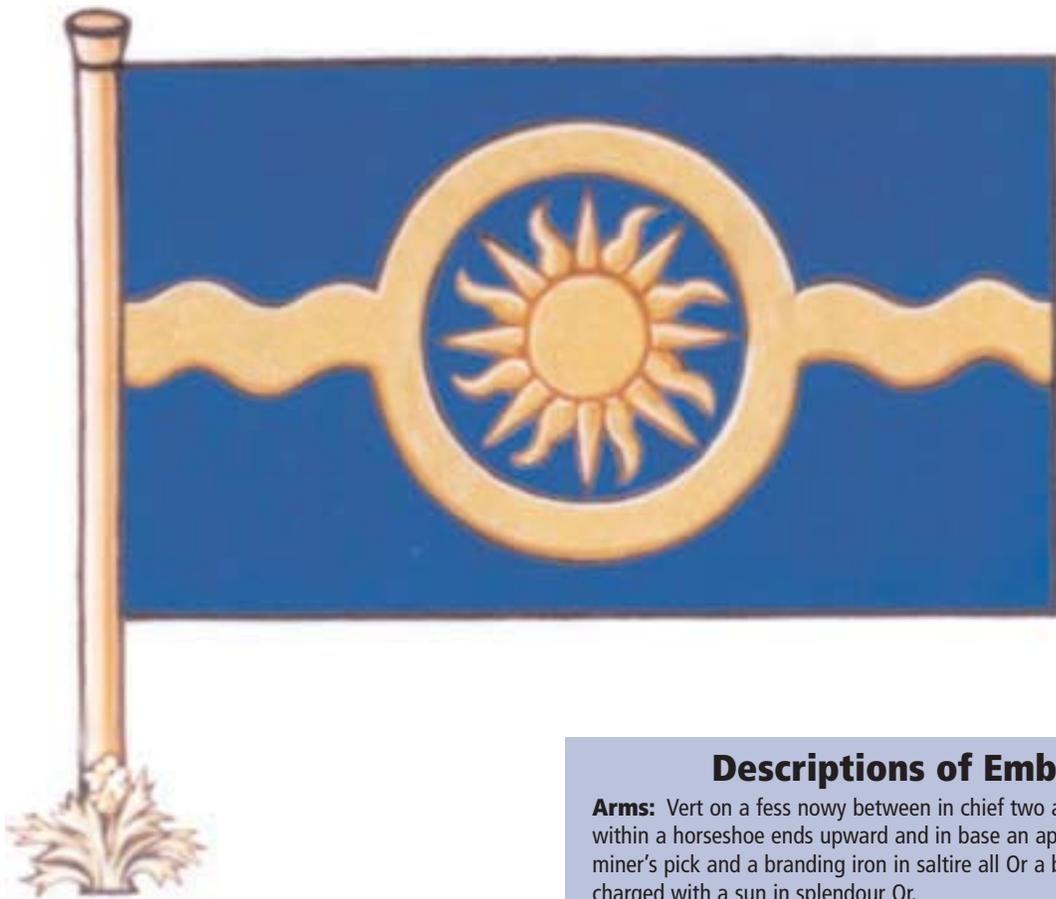
The town's coat of arms continues this motif in several ways. The motto is "Borne of the Waters—Blest by the Sun" (the town's slogan is "Share Our Place in the Sun"). At the base is the compartment containing sage plants on a desert scene, reflecting the landscape prior to the project, with wavy blue and white stripes representing irrigation. The green shield signifies the verdant land, while the irrigation

project is again symbolized by the wavy blue stripe superimposed on the yellow stripe. The yellow sun is displayed once more in the center of the shield. Two apples at the top of the shield are each surrounded by an upturned horseshoe, while another apple at the base surmounts a crossed pick and branding iron, all in golden yellow. The apple derives from Oliver's earlier symbols and commemorates the first orchards there, while the horseshoe signifies the importance of horsepower to early agriculture and transport.

The crest bears a golden mural crown, which signifies civic authority and contains a band of grapevines emblematic of the new viticulture industry. Oliver is known as the "Wine Capital of Canada" and has the largest concentration of vineyards and commercial wineries in British Columbia (and approximately 10% of all of Canada's wineries).

Above the mural crown is the head of a Salish woman. Its use pays tribute to the Salish, the First Peoples who lived in this area and their Okanagan Valley homeland. It also commemorates "Indian Head", another name for the nearby McIntyre Bluff. The red and gold wings in her coronet derive from the Scottish McIntyre coat of arms and honor Peter McIntyre, the area's first orchardist and the namesake of McIntyre Bluff.

The supporters are local fauna: a California bighorn sheep on the observer's left, representing the natural environment, and a mare on the right, commemorating the early pioneers. Both are in the principal colors of the shield, with bodies in gold and horns, mane, and hooves in green. (It is a common heraldic practice to make supporters the colors of the shield rather than to use their natural colors.) Each animal bears an Okanagan tartan collar, symbolizing the domestic arts of the town. Its use differentiates the Oliver animals from other coats of arms that might use these same supporters. Oliver's previous flag (illustration # 2) has a white field with a light green disk in the center bearing the outline of a naturalistic mountain range in dark green. Surmounting the disc is a black torch with yellow and red flames, on which is a red apple. Wrapped around the disk is a dark blue scroll with "OLIVER" on the left and "B.C." on the right. Both have lettering in the same dark blue as the scroll on an area of yellow.



Descriptions of Emblems

Arms: Vert on a fess nowy between in chief two apples each enclosed within a horseshoe ends upward and in base an apple surmounting a miner's pick and a branding iron in saltire all Or a bar wavy nowy Azure charged with a sun in splendour Or.

Crest: Issuant from a mural coronet Or charged with a frieze of grape leaves Vert the head of a Salish woman Proper wearing a coronet Or heightened with two eagles wings per bend Or and Gules.

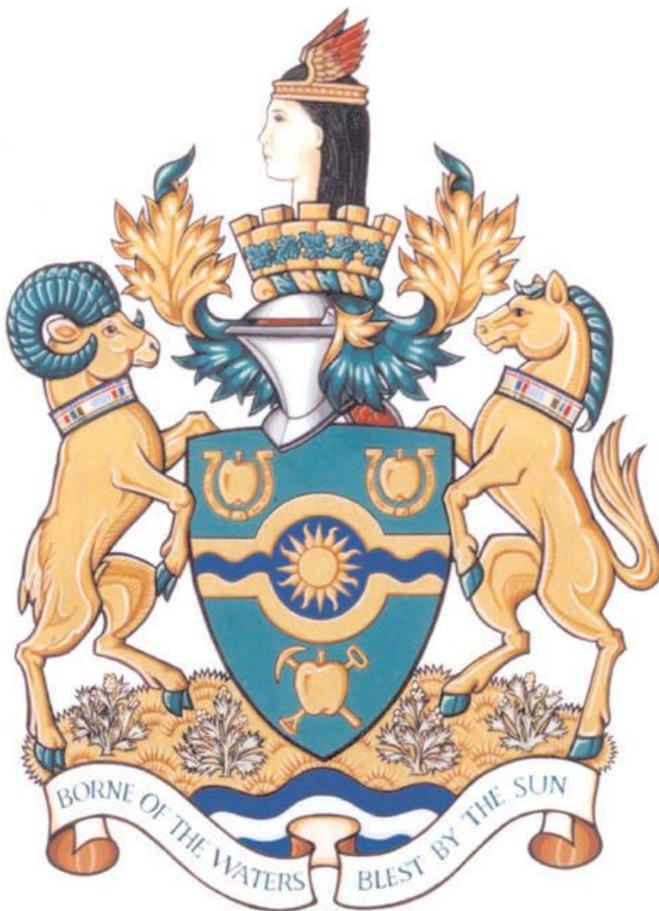
Supporters: On a field Or set with sagebrush plants (*Artemisia tridentata*) Proper rising above Barry wavy Azure and Argent dexter a California bighorn ram Or attired and unguled Vert gorged with a collar of Okanagan tartan proper sinister a mare Or maned and unguled Vert gorged with a like collar.

Motto: BORNE OF THE WATERS BLEST BY THE SUN.

Flag: Azure a bar wavy Or over all a bezant charged with a hurt there-on a sun in splendour Or.

Badge: A hurt rayonne Or charged with an apple within a horseshoe ends upward also Or.

Flag description: Proportions 3:5; On a dark blue field a wavy golden yellow horizontal stripe bisecting the flag. In the center on a dark blue disc surrounded by a circle is a sun bearing sixteen alternating wavy and straight rays, all being golden yellow.





United States Navy League Flag

by DAVID B. MARTUCCI

Many different organizations during World War II in the United States gave support and comfort to the home folks while their loved ones were off fighting. One such organization that was vexilliferous was the United States Navy League, whose flag was featured in posters designed to tell the world a household member had joined the Navy.

NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**Budget Summary
(U.S. Dollars)**

	2006 BUDGET	2006 ACTUAL	2007 BUDGET
INCOME			
Dues	12,000	9,615	11,500
Driver Award	250	375	250
Misc Sales	500	664	500
Contributions - General	750	1,016	1,500
Contributions - Consolidated	---	215	---
Contributions - Raven	---	300	---
Interest	375	375	375
NAVA Meeting	6,000	8,650	6,000
TOTAL INCOME	19,875	21,210	20,125
EXPENSES			
Publications			
<i>NAVA News</i>			
Layout	2,200	2,200	2,200
Printing	2,550	4,410	3,400
Mailing	1,500	1,363	1,500
Total	6,250	7,973	7,100
<i>Raven</i>			
Layout	1,500	1,500	1,500
Printing	2,500	2,781	2,500
Mailing	500	145	500
Total	4,500	4,426	4,500
WEBSITE			
Fees	350	243	350
DIRECTORY			
Printing & Mailing	50	---	50
Meetings (Annual Mtg.)	6,000	6,832	6,000
Administration			
Post Office Box	450	557	450
Mailings/Office Postage	600	1,333	500
Supplies	200	275	200
Bank Fees	150	180	150
Insurance	500	---	---
Telephone	75	---	75
Driver Award	250	250	250
Transfer to Conservation	---	215	---
Contingency	500	---	500
Total	2,725	2,810	2,125
TOTAL EXPENSES	19,875	22,284	20,125
SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	-	(1,074)	-
UNRESTRICTED FUND BALANCE		21,922	21,922

TREASURER'S REPORT

NAVA Finances: Solid Shape But Some Challenges

In 2006, after two years of surpluses, NAVA ran a minor deficit, falling short of our budgeted goal of breaking even. We are still in solid financial shape with strong reserves.

2006 RESULTS

There were several reasons for last year's results: While NAVA 40's success contributed a surplus, and contributions from generous donors helped underwrite several NAVA programs, they were not enough to offset multiple delays in the publication of NAVA News, which likely contributed to the significant shortfall in membership renewals, and expansion of NAVA News to full color, which significantly over-ran the printing expense budget.

2007: A BUDGETED SURPLUS

The 2007 budget (approved by the budget committee and the board, and adopted at NAVA 40 in Reno) calls for income and expenses resulting in a balanced budget — in fact, a surplus, as we've provided for a contingency as well. In essence, it's a conservative, steady-state budget.

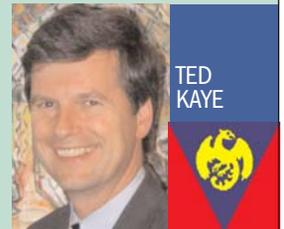
Since its adoption, the membership approved an increase in membership dues, in order to fund full color in NAVA News and mailing-services expenses previously provided on a volunteer basis. Actual 2007 results will reflect increased revenue and expense in those categories.

CURRENT CHALLENGES

NAVA's membership revenue has declined, although many members are paying for multiple years. We need to solve our NAVA News problem. Its unreliable publication schedule not only reduces the value of membership in NAVA, but also undermines multiple other initiatives that depend on a timely newsletter. The board is making changes to address this challenge.

Please contact me or any board member with any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

Contact Ted at treas@nava.org



Letters: Political, Social, & Cultural Aspects of Design

continued from page 2

estimation, the Italian and Irish flags can easily be confused by a lay person who is not Italian, Irish, or of Italian or Irish descent. To make the Italian flag distinctive a symbol should be added to the center of the white stripe. (There is the matter of the Irish flag being the reverse of the Cote d'Ivoire's, but that is another matter.)

Second, political, cultural, and social aspects of flag design are not discussed in the guide. The Turkmenistan flag (p. 5) is considered bad and it is suggested that the complicated rug pattern be omitted. Yes, this would make the flag simpler (flag manufacturers would probably rejoice) but to the Turkmen people this may be short of

blasphemous. They take great pride in the production of their carpets and consider them an integral part of their culture. The suggestion of the carpet's omission is a direct contradiction to principle 2, "Use Meaningful Symbolism." This rug motif is a very meaningful symbol to the people of Turkmenistan and is why this symbol is included in its design.

Principle 3 states to use 2-3 basic colors. Again I agree with this principle, which keeps flags simpler and more cost-effective.

However, think of the new South Africa flag which uses 6 colors, if one includes white. Any vexillologist who traveled in 1997 to Cape Town to attend the 17th International Congress of Vexillology can attest to this flag's overwhelming popularity with every racial group and how its endearment by the populace has found this flag design on items from band-aids to clothing and many things in between. Could anyone imagine taking this design to just 3 colors: red, white, and blue, *or* black, green, and gold? Of course not. The design is derived from political considerations to be inclusive of the racial populations of this country. The black, gold, and green from the African National Congress flag and red, white, and blue being derived from the flags of the United Kingdom and The Netherlands—a compromise that has worked very well.

Even though the principles outlined in "Good Flag, Bad Flag" are well intended, this publication lacks the political, cultural, and social symbolic considerations that are integral in flag design.

JAMES CROFT
Northampton, Mass.

Ted Kaye responds:

Many thanks to Jim Croft for his kind comments about "Good Flag, Bad Flag" (GFBF), his earlier review of drafts, and his suggestions which improved the final version.

Jim's point is that since Italy's flag fails the "distinctiveness principle" because it is easily confused with Ireland's, it should not be held up as a "good flag" even if it follows the "meaningful symbolism" principle. GFBF's primary strength is its use of good and bad examples to illustrate each basic principle of flag design. The terms "good" and "bad" are shorthand for "this flag follows this principle" and "this flag does not follow this principle." "Good" does not mean that "this flag follows *all* five principles."

Although I tried to choose flags with successful designs for all of the "good" examples, some fall short of all five principles; three "good" examples have four colors, counter to the "2-3 colors" principle. I stand by Italy's flag as a fine example of "meaningful symbolism," even though it might fail at "distinctiveness."

His second point is that "political, cultural, and social aspects of flag design are not discussed." Although those are downplayed in GFBF for space considerations, they are, of course, reflected in the "meaningful symbolism" principle and pervade all flag design. However, the traditional function of a flag simply precludes extremely complex designs, no matter how important from a political, cultural, or social point of view. No one would deny that a country should use its symbols in appropriate ways. Turkmenistan's incredibly detailed carpet motifs could be utilized with great effect on stationery, tablecloths, uniform patches, wall mosaics, coats of arms and even floor coverings, but they are not successful on a flag whose purpose is recognizability at a distance. So I stand by Turkmenistan's flag as a poor example of "simplicity," even though it succeeds at "meaningful symbolism."

I have no disagreement with Jim's follow-up point, that sometimes more than 2-3 colors can be appropriate (as in South Africa's flag). Indeed, GFBF says "All rules have exceptions...but depart from these five principles only with caution and purpose." While our colleague Fred Brownell's design for South Africa may be the only national flag using all six basic colors as substantial design elements, the flag has been a huge popular and design success—a case where the "2-3 colors" principle was appropriately relaxed explicitly for political and cultural reasons.

GFBF is available electronically on the NAVA website in Word, HTML and PDF versions, as well as in Spanish (courtesy of Gus Tracchia) and French (courtesy of Sophie Rault). Hard-copies of the 16-page booklet are available on Amazon.com, from NAVA commercial members and from the NAVA shopkeeper. Thanks to all NAVA members who are using GFBF actively to promote good vexillography in the U.S., Canada and beyond!

TED KAYE
Compiler, "GOOD FLAG, BAD FLAG"
Portland, Ore.

GOOD FLAG, BAD FLAG

How to Design a Great Flag

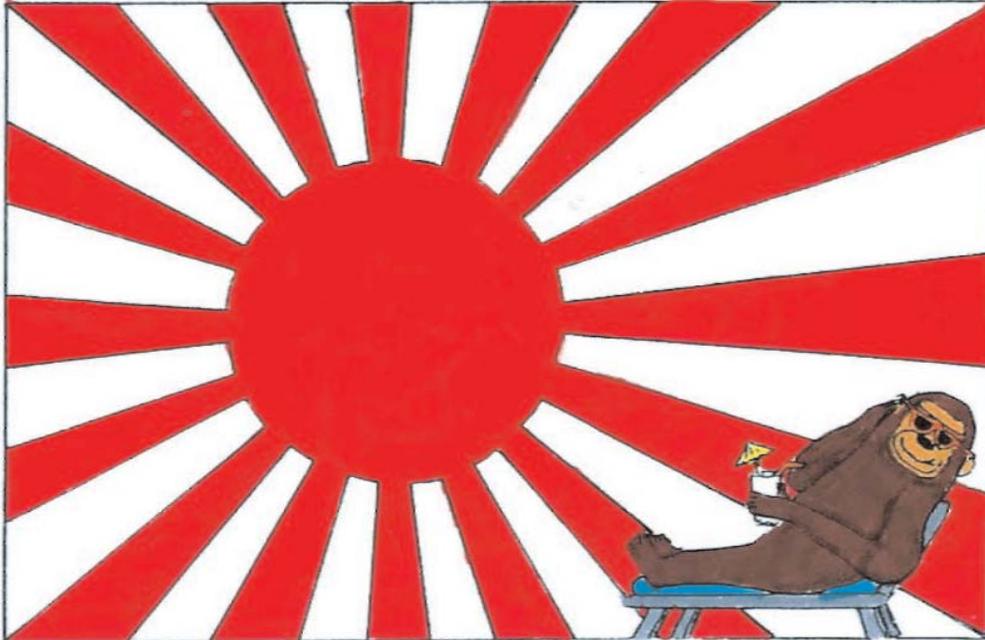


USE 5 BASIC PRINCIPLES TO CREATE AN
OUTSTANDING FLAG FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION,
CITY, TRIBE, COMPANY, FAMILY, NEIGHBORHOOD,
OR EVEN COUNTRY!

North American Vexillological Association
The Flag Experts of the United States and Canada

COMPILED BY TED KAYE

CHUMLEY THE VEXI-GORILLA



Chumley the Vexi-Gorilla™ is the creation of Michael Faul, editor of *Flagmaster*, the distinguished journal of the Flag Institute in the United Kingdom. To a field not often blessed with humor's grace, Mr. Faul brings a delightfully light touch, deep vexillological roots, and sparkling whimsy.

Member Passwords

NAVA members need a password to access the Members Only section of the NAVA.org website. To receive or renew your password, follow these steps:

- 1) Go to <http://members.nava.org> or Go to NAVA.org and click on the "Member Login" link.
- 2) Enter your member number in the "Member ID" box.
- 3) Click on "Forgot Password" and an e-mail with your new password will be sent to the email address on record.

Also, update your Member Profile and Member Flag. Email Shane Seivers, NAVA Webmaster, at webmaster@nava.org with any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

NAVA Classifieds

Information sought on flagpoles 1885-1933, especially if related to yacht club buildings. Contact sworth@consultant.com.

Flag Materials Analysis: Fonda Thomsen, LLC. PO Box 607, Ft. Davis, TX 79734 (423)426-2363, fondag@sbcglobal.net.

For sale: select number of Native American flags. Contact Dick Clark (703) 524-2147, csaflags@juno.com.

Seeking information on flags used by Amusement Park Industry ca. 1900 and earlier. Ian Foraker, ian@muncienovelty.com.

Raven Special Members-Only Offer

Back issues of *Raven* at reduced prices! Because of the delays in the previous notice, we're extending this offer!

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Prices include U.S. postage and are good for orders placed only through September 30, 2007. Contact treas@nava.org for Canada/foreign shipping costs.

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President: A Tale of Two NAVAs

continued from page 2

e-mail or correspondence. For them, meetings are secondary. The sense in Reno seemed to be that we don't need to worry about NAVA Two – they're happy with what they're getting and aren't really interested in getting more involved.

You have probably figured out by now that I supported the amendment. I did, and I would have voted in favor of it if I had not been constrained from doing so by my position as presiding officer. Why? Because I think NAVA Two is a vital part of our Association and the key to its future. They are just as much members as NAVA One, and we need to listen to them, pay attention to their needs, and, yes, give them a say in what NAVA does. This is not just abstract philosophy. I strongly suspect that most of our membership growth – which we all want – comes from NAVA Two. True, some NAVA Two people transition to NAVA One – but many don't, and we need to recognize that reality.

As your president, I'm committed to the idea that we want NAVA to flourish and expand its membership and its activities. I believe NAVA Two is the key to achieving that growth. It may be true that giving NAVA Two the franchise would be symbolic, since most elections would turn out the same anyway. However, I shouldn't have to remind anybody in NAVA that symbols are very important.

As always, I value (and solicit) your opinions.

Vexillologically,
PETER ANSOFF
President

Good Start for NAVA Chat Group

By GUS TRACCHIA

A year ago, the NAVA chat group/forum was founded with the blessings of NAVA's Executive Board and the minimum of six subscribers required by Yahoo Groups, the chat group's host. Today, the chat group has 42 members from all over the world, reflecting the broad spectrum of NAVA members' interests.

The NAVA Forum is open to all NAVA members to exchange views and information while participating in stimulating conversations. The idea behind the chat group's creation was to continue the camaraderie we experience during our Annual Meetings as well as to share and discuss news, information and other items related to flags in the same scholarly but relaxed way we NAVA members always do.

During this first year, a variety of subjects came up to the forum which, when needed, were always discussed with the utmost respect and professional way.

It seems the subject with the most participation was triggered when Hugh Brady told us of the Pennsylvania state legislator's web site conducting a vote on a new flag for the Keystone State, since — as per the legislator — the current one (state coat of arms on a blue banner) was too similar to many other state flags. His idea to differentiate the state flag was to add the name of the state on the current design. Several different proposals were shown — all with the name of the state written on the flag — and people were asked to vote for one.

Dave Martucci suggested to the forum to visit the site without voting for any but to instead write to the legislator about the bad idea of adding the name of the state and proposing new flag designs based on sound vexillological principles. Dave's suggestion resulted in 11 proposals for a new Pennsylvania state flag. All of those proposals can be viewed on the chat group/forum web site at groups.yahoo.com, together with pictures posted by members of other flags and flag events.

It's easy to become a member of the NAVA chat group/forum. Go www.yahogroups.com and enter `navaflags` (all together with no spaces and all lowercase.) You will be asked to obtain a Yahoo ID and a password if you do not already have one. After the moderators approve your membership, you can fully participate in the chat group/forum.

I want to thank all for participating and making the group what it was intended to be. I also want to thank José Carlos Alegría and Rich Monahan for acting as co-moderators and counselors.

Our new project is to have a flag for the Forum, but to propose one you have to be in it. So join us! Happy Birthday All!

More: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/navaflags/>

NAVA News Submissions

We welcome submissions from members and non-members alike, sent to navanews@nava.org. Please include high-quality illustrations, if available, and a short list of other works relied on in preparing your submission, with the web address if applicable. Letters to the editor may be edited for length and content.



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