

INFO FIAV

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At the 1985 General Assembly of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV) held in Madrid, Spain, by general consensus it was agreed that FIAV should have a newsletter of its own for better communication among members. In response to this, the Secretary General for the Federation has undertaken to provide the first such newsletter. It is anticipated that subsequent issues will appear immediately after and before each International Congress of Vexillology with a special report whenever FIAV activities require this.

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1987 FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

In anticipation of the 12th International Congress of Vexillology, each FIAV member is reminded to:

Provide written credentials to its delegate to the General Assembly;

Submit in writing in advance to the Secretary General any amendments it has for the proposals for new FIAV statutes;

Submit to the Secretary General for Congresses any proposal it wishes to make for the organizing of the 14th International Congress of Vexillology;

Urge its own members to register and attend the 12th International Congress of Vexillology in San Francisco.

FIAV BOARD NOTES

On 28 and 29 March 1987 the Board of the Federation – consisting of President Rev. Hugh Boudin, Secretary General Dr. Whitney Smith, and Secretary General for Congresses William Crampton – met in Brussels, Belgium. Many questions relating to the upcoming 12th International Congress of Vexillology (San Francisco, 12-16 August 1987) and the Statutes of the Federation were discussed. The Secretary General for Congresses submitted his provisional draft for *Guidelines for the Organisation of International Congresses of Vexillology*, which will be published for the use of future congress organizers.

The FIAV Secretary General submitted a report on the status of members, as requested by the last General Assembly. He noted that no response had been received to letters sent two years ago, inquiring whether the Flag Section, Heraldry Society, and the Sezione Vessillogica, Accademia di S. Marignano, were still active and interested in participating in FIAV. The President noted that he had received letters from the Association Francaise d'Etudes Internationales Vexillologiques and the Office Généalogique et Héraldique de Belgique indicating that they were withdrawing from the Federation.

The report of the Statutes Commission was considered and the Board also drafted some proposals of its own for a new constitution for FIAV. Copies of these are being sent to all members for consideration, so that discussion and a vote can be made at the forthcoming General Assembly.

The following decisions were made by the Board:

1. Subject to the approval of the General Assembly, the offer of the Flag Society of Australia to hold the 13th International Congress of Vexillology in Melbourne, Australia, in 1989 was approved.
2. Presentations and awards are not to be made at International Congresses of Vexillology in the future without the knowledge and permission of the Federation.
3. Proceedings must be published for each International Congress of Vexillology with an optimum format and presentation and as wide a distribution as possible. The responsibility for publication will rest with the editor of the official journal of FIAV, who agrees to maintain the original text languages and to publish the proceedings within two years of the Congress in question.
4. The 14th International Congress of Vexillology should be held in Europe. Any member willing to undertake the organization is requested to submit a formal proposal to the Board.

5. In the future any modifications to protocols of a General Assembly must be sent to the Secretary General within six months of the receipt of those protocols so that those who were present at the General Assembly may comment on the modifications.

6. In the future all delegates from FIAV members to a General Assembly must have written credentials to hand to the President at the opening of the first session of the General Assembly.

7. New applicants for membership in the Federation are to be voted on at the beginning of the General Assembly and allowed to participate in that General Assembly, if elected.

8. The new Board of the Federation is to be elected at the end of the last General Assembly session, its officers taking responsibility from the old Board after the adjournment of that General Assembly.

9. Nominations for election to the Board are to be made by delegates to the General Assembly; voting is to be individually and successively, for the President, FIAV Secretary General, and Secretary General for Congresses. All candidates for a given office are to leave the room to allow for discussion of their merits; they are then to return and voting is to take place for that office.

10. No action of the Board is valid unless approved in person at a meeting of all Board members or unless endorsed by the signature of all Board members on a written statement of the matter in question. If possible, the Board is to meet at least once in person between International Congresses of Vexillology.

FIAV STATUTES

In Madrid at the 11th International Congress of Vexillology, a Statutes Commission was appointed to review the existing statutes and submit proposed changes. In addition the Board was charged with the responsibility of developing membership application procedures. In the course of discussing these, the Board discovered a number of important points not properly addressed by the existing statutes or by the new proposals. For example, voting is supposed to be by a two-thirds majority, but no provision is made for the election of members of the Board in the case where there is more than one candidate and none receives the required two-thirds majority. The Board therefore developed a proposal for a FIAV Constitution to be considered in the event that the statutes drafted by the special commission are not approved.

In accordance with the charge made at the time the special commission was established, following discussion a vote will be taken to accept or reject as a whole the proposal submitted; the same will be true with regard to the constitution proposed by the Board. The only amendments which will be considered are those submitted in writing in advance to the Secretary General; these will be provided in written form to delegates at the General Assembly in San Francisco