

# Whitney Smith



## Historical References

[1974] The personal flag of NAVA's President, Dr. Whitney Smith, was designed c 1960, and executed in damask in 1974. The flag is 24" square. Black hammer for Smith on white; white book bound in black on red for reading, writing, and publishing—and arms of Harvard (three books on red—Dr. Smith's alma mater[]). The flag was displayed at the eighth Annual Meeting in Baltimore, Maryland.

[2002] In 1960, Smith designed his own personal flag: square like a heraldic banner, two halves separated diagonally from the staff downward, with an open book in white outlined in black on the lower, red half "because I am a historian who writes books, also because three open books grace the flag of my alma mater, Harvard University." On the white half there is a black hammer, the tool of a smith. Smith who, through flags, retains the sense of adventure and excitement he has known since boyhood adds: "The white and black come from the Templars, and I have adopted their motto: 'Dear to my friends; deare to my foes.'"

[2014] A new addition to the banquet was the appearance of a 2' x 2' replica of Whitney Smith's personal flag.



## FLAG SPECIFICATIONS

WHITNEY SMITH

Year designed: 1960 Designer: Whitney Smith

Mfg dimensions (inches): Hoist: 23.5 Fly: 26.5

Mfg ratio: 1:1 No fringe Mfg type: appliqué

Manufacturer: Dixie Flag Manufacturing Co. (San Antonio, Texas) Year mfg: 2014

Citations: Caleb Bach, "Behind Bountiful Borders: Pursuing a Lifelong Passion, Whitney Smith Has Documented the Origins and Significance of Hundreds of Flags of the Hemisphere," *Américas* (English Edition) 54:6, p. 43 (Nov.-Dec. 2002); NN 7:3, p. 1; NN 22:3, p. 3; NN 34:1 (#169), pp. 9, 11; NN 47:3-4 (#223), p. 3

**Notes:** Dr. Smith had a small version of his personal flag, approximately 4" square, on his desk (pictured on left) at The Flag Research Center. This flag was sewn by his mother, Mildred Gaffney Smith, and was probably the first version of the flag to be made.

In 2014 Dixie Flag Manufacturing Co. made the replica of Dr. Smith's flag, and the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas purchased it from Dixie and donated it to NAVA.

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**Dixie Flag**

## NAVA 11 *continued from page 43*

"I, as I am sure many others are, am personally indebted most directly to Dr. Whitney Smith, Jr. who has done such an unbelievable amount of work in a field he has made known as Vexillology."

[1997] The flag has a dark blue field with a red abstract "77," fimbriated white, incorporated into its design. This figure has several symbolic references. First, one "7" signifies this was the Seventh International Congress of Vexillology. Since this flag was also used for NAVA 11, which was being held in conjunction with the ICV 7, the number "11" is represented by the diagonal white upright section of the "77." The double numeral sevens represent the year of the Congress, 1977. Finally, the figure symbolizes the reason the Congress was held in Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, to commemorate the bicentennial of the adoption of the national flag by the Continental Congress on June 14, 1777. The colors red, white, and blue are found in the flags of the host nation, the United States, and Congress organizer, the North American Vexillological Association.

**Notes:** The flag was originally manufactured in 1975 by Paramount Flag Co. (San Francisco). The 1991 annual meeting minutes state that Lynn Knights indicated "NAVA's Washington conference flag was missing." This assumed that the Congress flag belonged to the Association, instead of belonging to The Flag Research Center, which was also a Congress organizer.

Another flag was manufactured and donated by Bill Spangler of Dettra Flag Co., probably in 1994, after an inventory of the NAVA Flag Collection was conducted by James J. Ferrigan III and Richard A. Kenny at the request of the executive board.

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Dr. Smith's flag is the badge of the Whitney Smith Fellows. It is 1 1/2 inches square and is pictured below at actual size.



## Past presidents / Anciens présidents

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Whitney Smith+, Ph.D. LF FF WSF FFI FVAST (1967–1977)

John Lyman+, Ph.D. (1977)

The Rt. Rev'd D. Ralph Spence (1977–1978)

The Rev. John R. B. Szala+, M.Ed. (1978–1980)

Robert S. Gauron+ (1980–1981)

John M. Purcell+, Ph.D. FF WSF (1981–1983)

Grace Rogers Cooper+, WSF (1983–1986)

Doreen Braverman (1986–1987)

Woodrow W. Ridgeway+ (1987–1989)

Donald T. Healy (1989–1991)

Scot M. Guenter, Ph.D. LF FF WSF FVAST (1991–1994)

Nicholas A. Artimovich 2d (1994–1996)

Charles A. Spain, Jr., J.D. WSF (1996–1998)

David B. Martucci (1998–2004)

Peter A. Ansoff (2004–2008)

Hugh L. Brady, J.D. FF (2008–2014)