Visitors to Ottawa this October, in addition to attending **NAVA 49**, will get to experience Canada’s national capital in one of the most beautiful times of year, as the temperatures cool and the fall colours appear in the Gatineau Hills across the Ottawa River.

Hosted in the Ottawa Marriott Hotel, the annual meeting is located in the city’s downtown, close to numerous museums, restaurants, and shopping. The Canadian War Museum, the Canadian Museum of Nature, the Bytown Museum, the Canadian Museum of History, and the National Gallery of Canada are all within walking distance or a short taxi ride away. Restaurants satisfying most tastes are readily available throughout the downtown core and particularly in the Byward Market a few blocks away, along with a blossoming craft beer industry and numerous bars and pubs. The hotel adjoins Sparks Street, Canada’s oldest pedestrian mall, and the 150-store Rideau Centre is just a few blocks away.

There’s always something happening in Ottawa in the autumn, and mid-October is no exception. The Ottawa International Film Festival is on. So is the Rendez-vous des Saveurs de l’Outaouais, this being a gastronomical highlight of the Outaouais region, held at the Casino du Lac-Leamy across the river in Gatineau, Québec.

See [www.ottawatourism.ca](http://www.ottawatourism.ca) for details on these and other attractions. We look forward to welcoming you in Ottawa at NAVA 49!
President's Column

Long time NAVA member, George Cahill, dubbed this time of the year as “the Twenty-One Days of Freedom.” While as an organization, NAVA does not promote national patriotism, our members do certainly study and enjoy this fascinating part of the phenomena of flags.

Nevertheless, the days stretching from the last week in May to the first week in July mark the time of the year when flag interest in the United States and Canada is at its greatest. In the United States Memorial Day, Flag Day and Independence Day are the major flag flying holidays, and the red maple leaf flies proudly on July 1st for Canada Day. However, our customary annual experience notwithstanding, this year has produced an unusually intense media interest in vexillological topics.

Recognized as experts in the area of flag scholarship, NAVA members often find themselves called upon to be interviewed by broadcast and print media reporters. Being NAVA’s president, for example, I have recently been interviewed by reporters from Rolling Stone (see reprint of this article on page 4), the Boston Globe, the Washington Post, the Associated Press, and some lesser known local newspapers and various broadcast outlets. Additionally, our Public Affairs Officer, Jim Ferrigan, has been interviewed by other reporters and has as well arranged yet other interviews for NAVA members with still more reporters. Ted Kaye, who is a member of NAVA’s Flag Design Committee, with his assignment assisting in the redesign of Fiji's national flag, has given a number of interviews. NAVA’s members, to put it simply, are in great demand.

I have observed repeatedly that our Association members are strongly content oriented. We want the story of flags not just told, but told correctly. You can help us know the vexillological subject areas that are the focus of your flag study by filling out your member history in our new website. Also, if you are comfortable talking to a reporter or being on microphone or on camera—drop Jim Ferrigan an email at media@nava.org and let him know what vexillological topics you feel qualified to present. When media requests come in, we usually have very limited reaction time, and we need to be ready. Also let Jim know if you are interviewed and are quoted in an article or news story. He will report on our media contacts at NAVA 49 in Ottawa.

I have found many reporters aren’t really seeking new information, but rather have outlined or written their articles and want us to supply sound bites to validate conclusions they have already reached. One reporter from the D.C. area explained, “A congressman told me we have the oldest national flag in
continuous use. That is correct, isn’t it?” “No,” I
answered. “Our flag dates from 1777 and there
are other national flags older than ours, which are
still in use.” “Well, the current version of the Stars
and Stripes is the oldest isn’t it?” “No, the fifty star
flag, our current version, only dates to 1960.” He
continued to rephrase his question every way he
could think of while trying to maneuver me into
saying what he wanted to hear. Finally, unsuccess-
ful in that effort, he gave up and may have
gone looking for someone else to interview.

A Media Style Guide is included in this issue of
NAVA News on page 4 for your use and to share
with reporters. The Guide is brand new, so if you
have comments/suggestions please share them
with me at pres@nava.org.

It is hard to find others who share our interest
in flags, and media interviews help us spread the
word. Please mention NAVA and our website at
nava.org anytime you are contacted by media or
asked by anyone about your interest in flags. We
are always seeking interesting people who share
our interest for flags.

An email that I received commented on changing
the Flag Design Committee from a Standing
Committee to an Advisory Committee as was
explained in the last Semaphore. I had explained
that this was to include more NAVA members
serving on that committee, and the suggestion
was made that we need to include more members
on all of our committees. I replied that I agreed
totally. Two initiative have recently been adopted
to increase member participation.

- Term limits were adopted two years ago to
  provide for regular turnover in certain key
  positions such as elected officers and editors.
- A new Organizational Member Advisory
  Committee was created in recent months
to give organizational members a voice in
  Association considerations. When, for instance,
  it was suggested that we move our Annual
  Meeting to June, our organizational members
  advised NAVA’s leaders that June and July for
  them is like the Christmas Season for Santa
  Claus. They would be too busy to attend.

As I was elected president, following a prior
six-year presidential administration, I opted at first
to make only necessary changes for the positions
that are appointed by the president. It is a long list
and I wanted to get my feet wet before jumping
in over my head. Also, we were confronted with
some difficult challenges where I did not want
to change horses mid-stream. Nevertheless, I
am anxious—as are the other members of the
Executive Board—to draw more members into
activity. We have extremely capable and talented
members that can make exceptional contributions
to our Association.

Even with our current Executive Board elected
ten months ago in New Orleans, we have had a
learning curve that always comes with change.
It would not be feasible to change all committee
members or appointed officers at once, but we
do have many opportunities to serve and there is
always a need to bring in new people. We have,
if the change for the Flag Design Committee is
approved at our Annual Business Meeting in
Ottawa, four standing committees, five advisory
committees, and positions on two editorial boards.
Please review the leadership positions listed on
our website’s home page by clicking on “About
Us” and then selecting “Leadership” on the drop
down. If you are interested in serving in any of
the appointed positions, please send me an email
at pres@nava.org so I can add you to my list of
candidates. I can’t guarantee I will place anyone in
a specific assignment, and the timing for changes
are dependent of various factors. Nevertheless, I
want to include NAVA members in assignments
where they are interested and willing to serve.
We send NAVA News 225 out to the Association’s membership as we head into what promises to be a stellar NAVA 49 annual meeting in Ottawa on October 16-18.

Most of you recognize that we’ve had quite a vexillological ride this year with regard to the sensational controversy concerning the Confederate battle flag which, until recently, had flown on the state capitol grounds of South Carolina. As NAVA President John Hartvigsen mentions in his column, Association officers, spokespersons, and members were all engaged by the national media to weigh-in on this controversy. As Editor-in-Chief for NAVA News, I fielded several requests for interviews and enlisted help from Protocol Officer James Ferrigan, Spokesperson Ted Kaye, and our president.

In this issue of NAVA News, we reprise one of the most widely publicized pieces on the topic, an interview with President John Hartvigsen for Rolling Stone magazine; and also offer a commentary from Dr. Ken Reynolds—our host in Ottawa for NAVA 49—entitled, “The Confederate Flag Question through Canadian Eyes.”

We also include a fascinating and thorough research paper by NAVA 47 Driver Award winner Dean Thomas on the flag of the U.S. Vice President in addition to a report from member Tiago José Berg of a creative and engaging educational exercise conducted in South America entitled, “Black Awareness Day in Brazil: Teaching with the Pan-African Colors.”

Finally, in response to the torrent of media inquiries and coverage for our Association this year, we’ve put together a Media Style Guide in the column to the right which should be helpful moving forward.

Looking forward to our vexillological fellowship in Ottawa,

Byron DeLear, Editor-in-Chief, NAVA News

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**Media Style Guide**

**North American Vexillological Association | Association nord-américaine de vexillologie**

The organization based in Canada and the United States promotes vexillology, the scholarly study of flags. While most members reside in North America, its membership stretches around the globe and includes “any and all persons’ interest in any and all aspects of flags.”

NAVA does not promote any national, patriotic, political, religious, or commercial position or viewpoint. Rather, NAVA provides a neutral forum where various views can be presented through the presentation of scholarly papers or publication of scholarly articles in the Association’s journals and publications. However, views presented by those preparing presentations or articles do not represent the official view of the Association.

The full name of the Association in English is North American Vexillological Association and in French, Association nord-américaine de vexillologie.

The acronym “NAVA” is the accepted shortened reference for the organization. When writing about the Association, please follow these guidelines:

- In the first reference, the full name of the Association is preferred: “North American Vexillological Association and/or (as appropriate), Association nord-américaine de vexillologie.”

- When a shortened reference is needed, the terms “NAVA” or “the Association” are acceptable for subsequent use.

- Please avoid the attributing views of members as expressed in NAVA publications as being the official views of the Association.

Please visit our website at the link: [nava.org](http://nava.org) for more information.
‘It’s Come Back to Haunt Them’: Flag Historian on the Confederate Flag

Rolling Stone magazine interview with John Hartvigsen who weighs in on the racist symbol, citing “progress” in America’s reaction after Charleston, South Carolina shooting

By Simon Vozick-Levinson | June 25, 2015

The murder of nine black churchgoers in Charleston, South Carolina, by a white supremacist last week has touched off a national conversation about the Confederate flag. Widely considered to be a symbol of hate, the flag can be seen in photos of confessed shooter Dylann Roof and flying near several government buildings in the South. In the wake of the Charleston massacre, the Republican governors of South Carolina and Alabama have called for the removal of the Confederate flags from their statehouse grounds (Alabama’s flags were removed Wednesday), and retailers including Walmart, Amazon, Sears and eBay have banned the sale of Confederate flag merchandise.

For flag scholar John M. Hartvigsen, the strong feelings stirred up by this issue make sense. “Flags are, by their nature, very emotionally charged,” he tells Rolling Stone. “And emotions are running high on this right now.”

Hartvigsen, who lives in Utah, is president of the North American Vexillological Association—vexillology being the scholarly study of flags—and he can’t help pointing out that the banner at the center of today’s news isn’t even a proper Confederate flag. “I study flags, so I’m a nitpicker,” Hartvigsen says. In fact, he notes, the primary flag used by the Confederacy was the so-called “Stars and Bars,” which resembles an American flag with fewer stripes—not the emblem widely circulated by white supremacists and Southern nostalgists in later years. “What we’re calling the Confederate flag, the rectangular one, really wasn’t flown during the Civil War except on a few naval vessels,” he says. “It was picked up by some veterans’ groups after the war, and then used by the Ku Klux Klan.”

In 1961, the South Carolina legislature gave that ersatz rectangular flag—the one the Klan favored—a place on the state capitol’s dome, in an open act of disrespect masked as a gesture to commemorate the centennial of the Civil War. It wasn’t until nearly 40 years later, in 2000, that South Carolina moved to take that flag down and put up the square version that currently features in a war memorial near the statehouse. That square flag is, in fact, an authentic battle flag used by several Confederate regiments during the Civil War. But once again, Hartvigsen has a bone to pick with the uninformed. “As a vexillologist, I’d say the battle flag doesn’t belong there,” says Hartvigsen. “It was never flown on a stationary pole. It was carried into battle by soldiers.”

“So that’s a little strange,” he adds. “And now it’s come back to haunt them.”

Hartvigsen draws a contrast between the tangled history of Confederate imagery in this country and the decisive way Germans rejected the Nazi flag after 1945. “[World War II] changed the attitude in Germany towards flags,” he says. “The flag of the Third Reich became illegal to display. And even in recent times, they just don’t use flags the same way we do in the United States—even the current flag of the Republic of Germany.”

For all the pain stirred up by the flag this month, Hartvigsen sees some hopeful signs in the fact that these issues are being openly discussed. “Look at the difference in how we’re reacting to this now, rather than the way it was during the days of the struggle over civil rights,” he says. “Back then, you had a church bombed and four black little girls were killed—and white Southerners were not that upset about it. Today, look at how we’ve come together. That’s progress.”

Above: Confederate flag on the South Carolina State House grounds on July 6, 2015. South Carolina Legislature voted that afternoon to remove the flag after Governor Nikki Haley urged them to consider removing the symbol following the killing of nine members of Emmanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina on June 17. Joshua S. Kelly, Creative Commons

Reprint courtesy of Rolling Stone
The Confederate Flag Question Through Canadian Eyes

By Ken Reynolds, Ph.D.

As has often been said in the past, in one form or another, flags are heavily laden with emotion. In fact, that’s a part—probably a large part—of their appeal. If they didn’t mean anything, or tweak some sentiment, or resurrect memories (good or bad)—they’d simply be identification.

The question of the continuing use of the Confederate flag certainly qualifies as an emotion-charged debate. Making the story more complicated is the multiplicity of flags that are singularly described as the “Confederate flag”—in the case of the flag that flew on the grounds of the State House of South Carolina in Columbia, one of the military or battle flags of the Confederacy. (For the sake of simplicity, I will also continue the use of the collective title in the text that follows.) It is, possibly, the most prominent flag question that the citizens of the United States of America currently face.

Search “Confederate flag” on Google and you receive 13,400,000 results instantaneously. (For comparison’s sake, searching “American flag” brings 31,000,000 and “Canadian flag” just 825,000.) Google’s “news” category alone brings forth 895,000 stories—the most recent when I looked being an article just 25 minutes old.

Now, not all of these pieces discuss the recent flag debate resulting from the situation in South Carolina, but the vast majority appear to do so.

The media storm over the flag covers a wide range of publications and news outlets. At the national level, The Atlantic Monthly asked “Why is the Flag Still There?” National Public Radio wrote about “The Complicated History of the Confederate Flag,” while CNN considered the “Confederate battle flag: Separating the myths from facts.” Newsweek offered that “Even Jefferson Davis’s Great-Great-Grandson Thinks the Confederate Flag Should Go.” The Los Angeles Times wrote about “What you should know about the Confederate flag’s evolution.” John Hartvigsen, NAVA’s President, was interviewed by Rolling Stone magazine for its piece, “’It’s Come Back to Haunt Them’: Flag Historian on the Confederate Flag” in an attempt to gain some background context and analysis from within the vexillological community.

Since June 2015 there have been numerous rallies in support of the flag. Various individuals appear to have been fired for posing with, or permitting the use of, Confederate flags. Flags have been banned from various places—and discussions continue as to further possible prohibitions. At least one television network stopped broadcasting the 1980s comedy, the “Dukes of Hazzard,” because of the display of the Confederate flag from “The General Lee,” the show’s Dodge Charger. Attempts to remove the display of Confederate flags from NASCAR race grounds have been attempted, but don’t appear to have entirely succeeded in eliminating the symbol. Flag stores and other retailers have either stopped or are considering ending the sale of Confederate symbols.

This activity is clearly not limited to the American South, as stories from Michigan, South Dakota, Minnesota, Maine, and other states can attest. But the story—and the overall question concerning the use of the Confederate flag—continues to spread outside of the United States as well. For example, in August of this year, online media wrote about an Argentinian clothing store, John L. Cook, which uses the Confederate flag as its logo and on some of its merchandise. Even in Canada, at least one high school has banned the wearing of the Confederate flag on bandanas, belt buckles, and backpacks by its students. And a group in Nova Scotia, “Citizens against White Supremacy,” are attempting to have the displaying of Confederate flags made into a hate crime in Canada.

Let’s be clear, as a Canadian vexillologist, I don’t have a dog in this fight and consider myself a neutral observer. However, it’s readily apparent even up here to the north that, from the recent extensive coverage of the matter that it has unleashed or, at least, renewed, a firestorm of controversy, albeit certainly not for the first time for this symbol of the Confederacy.

Although, as vexillologists, we are not particularly used to the intensity of such a debate (the 1964 adoption of the Canadian maple leaf flag and the relegation of the Canadian Red Ensign to history has nothing on this). We might also choose not to weigh in on the pro- or anti-Confederate flag positions. The Confederate flag question is, however, undeniably a part of the culture of flags we aim to study.
For much of its existence, the office was seen as little more than a minor position, if not a political grave. John Adams, the first Vice President, was the first of many who found the job frustrating and stupefying, though this result was brought on largely because of his embarrassing George Washington over his quibbling in the Senate as regards formal titles for the President. Despite Adams’ unswerving loyalty to Washington, he was sidelined from executive and cabinet matters for both of Washington’s terms of office as a result. When Adams was elected as the second POTUS, his political opponent—Thomas Jefferson—became Vice President under the Electoral College rules of the time and his undermining of Adams in the political arena further alienated the Vice Presidency, thus resulting in the election laws being changed to ensure that the President and Vice President were elected on the same ticket.

Still, the office was only subsequently regarded by Presidents as being solely useful in helping get them elected to office, and—once ensconced in the White House—having the VP representing him in the Legislative Branch as the Vice President has the largely ceremonial position of President of the Senate. Other than that, the Vice President was an unimportant political figure to whom the President did not have to deal with in order to get things done, and thus was little more than a “stand-in” at functions that the President didn’t want to be bothered with. The majority of politicians did not care to be elected to the office as a result. An excellent example of this is that when the Whig Party asked Daniel Webster to run for the Vice Presidency on Zachary Taylor’s ticket in 1832, he demurred, replying: “I do not propose to be buried until I am really dead and in my coffin.”

The public seemed to echo the politician’s disinterest in the Vice Presidency. Calvin Coolidge was so obscure as Warren Harding’s Vice President that Major League Baseball sent him free passes that misspelled his name, and a fire marshal failed to recognize him when Coolidge’s Washington residence was evacuated.
The Vice Presidency was also used as a means to render impotent political enemies. When John D. Rockefeller expressed extreme concern at Theodore Roosevelt's politics, he arranged to have Roosevelt run as William McKinley's running mate in the 1896 election. However, this move backfired on Rockefeller when McKinley was assassinated and Roosevelt assumed the Presidency. There is further irony in the fact that one of Rockefeller's descendants became Vice President under Gerald Ford in 1974.

For many years, the Vice President was given few responsibilities. Garret Hobart, the first Vice President under William McKinley, was one of the very few Vice Presidents at this time who played an important role in the administration. A close confidant and adviser of the President, Hobart was called "Assistant President." However, until 1919, Vice Presidents were not included in meetings of the President's Cabinet. This precedent was broken by President Woodrow Wilson when he asked Thomas R. Marshall to preside over Cabinet meetings while Wilson was in France negotiating the Treaty of Versailles. President Warren G. Harding also invited his Vice President, Calvin Coolidge, to meetings. The next Vice President, Charles G. Dawes, did not seek to attend Cabinet meetings under President Coolidge, declaring that "the precedent might prove injurious to the country." Vice President Charles Curtis was also precluded from attending by President Herbert Hoover, though Curtis did have the unique honor of being the only Vice President of the United States to formally open the Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles (1932).

In 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt raised the stature of the office by renewing the practice of inviting the Vice President to cabinet meetings, which every President since has maintained. In 1937, John Nance Garner became the first Vice President to be sworn in on the Capitol steps in the same ceremony with the president. Vice Presidents were traditionally inaugurated at a separate ceremony in the Senate chamber. Gerald R. Ford and Nelson A. Rockefeller, who were both appointed to the office under the terms of the 25th amendment, were inaugurated in the Senate chamber.

Garner's successor, Henry Wallace, was given major responsibilities during the war, but he moved further to the left than the Democratic Party and the rest of the Roosevelt administration and was relieved of actual power. Roosevelt kept his last Vice President, Harry Truman, uninformed on all war and postwar issues, such as the atomic bomb, leading Truman to remark, wryly, that the job of the Vice President was to "go to weddings and funerals." Following Roosevelt's death and Truman's ascension to the presidency, the need to keep Vice Presidents informed on national security issues became clear, and Congress made the Vice President one of four statutory members of the National Security Council in 1949.

Richard Nixon reinvented the office of Vice President. He had the attention of the media and the Republican Party, when Dwight Eisenhower ordered him to preside at Cabinet meetings in his absence. Nixon was also the first Vice President to assume temporary control of the executive branch, which he did after Eisenhower suffered a heart attack on September 24, 1955, ileitis in June 1956, and a stroke in November 1957.

Until 1961, Vice Presidents had their offices on Capitol Hill, a formal office in the Capitol itself and a working office in one of the Senate office buildings. Lyndon B. Johnson was the first Vice President to be given an office in the White House complex, in the Old Executive Office Building. President Jimmy Carter was the first President to give his Vice President, Walter Mondale, an office in the West Wing of the White House, which all vice presidents have since retained. Because of their function as Presidents of the Senate, however, Vice Presidents still maintain offices and staff members on Capitol Hill.

Though Walter Mondale's tenure was the beginning of the modern day power of the Vice Presidency, the tenure of Dick Cheney saw a rapid growth in the office of the Vice President. Vice President Cheney held a tremendous amount of power and frequently made policy decisions on his own, without the knowledge of the President.

After his tenure, and during the 2008 Presidential campaign, both Vice Presidential candidates, Sarah Palin, and Joe Biden, stated that the office had
expanded too much under Cheney’s tenure and both had planned to reduce the role to simply being an adviser to the President.

However, the office—like that of the President—does have its own flag and seal. Only official since 1936, the Vice Presidential flag has evolved along with its office from being a political backwater to one of the most powerful figures in the President’s cabinet, and as such, the Vice Presidential flag deserves to be noticed. This paper will show the evolution of the flag that developed into its present form, just as the office itself has evolved.

Note: This paper is not intended to supplant Robert Williamson’s excellent NAVA 47 paper “Exploring the Genealogy of the President’s Flag of the U.S.A., 1915-1959.”

Flag Beginnings
As the first official Vice Presidential flag did not come into use until 1936, this flag was amongst the last high government official flags designed. However, the United States Navy in 1857 did propose flag regulations be in place in the event that either the President or Vice President came on board any of its ships. In this proposal, the U.S. flag would fly at the mainmast and depending upon which official was on board, a gun salute would be fired: 21 for the President and 18 for the Vice President. This proposal was not adopted, but in 1865, the regulations became that the U.S. Flag would fly from the mainmast for the President and foremast for the Vice President. Subsequent regulations switched between the U.S. flag and the naval jack for the honors, but on the last day of 1869, the 1865 regulations were reinstated.

(Unofficial) 1915 Variant
In March 1915, Vice President Thomas Marshall was to represent President Woodrow Wilson at the Panama-Pacific Universal Exposition, which was to include a ceremony on a U.S. naval warship. As there was no Vice Presidential flag in existence at the time, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels and Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin Roosevelt decided to create one for this ceremony. What they came up with was a copy of the Presidential Flag, but with the background in white instead of blue. They were ordered, made, and delivered to the Secretary of the Navy on 19 March 1915. This flag was saluted by Marshall when it was hoisted for the first time on the USS COLORADO.

The flag was used one more time: on the occasion of the state visit of King Albert and Queen Elizabeth of Belgium to the United States in 1919. Marshall was on board the Presidential yacht USS MAYFLOWER hosting the Royal couple, hence the reuse of the flag for this occasion. Whilst some reports stated that the 1915 design would be made official, nothing ever came of that. Marshall asked for—and received both flags that had been made.

1936 Variant
John Nance Garner, who had made the rather unpoltic comment about the Vice Presidency not being “worth a pitcher of warm piss,” must have felt somewhat mollified when the first official Vice Presidential flag was given to him. This flag was based on the unofficial flag used in 1915 and 1919, and depicted the U.S. State Arms of the time in the center of a white background flag. Executive Order 7285 was issued by President Roosevelt making this design official on 7 February 1936.
Unlike the 1915 variant, the U.S. State Arms were not in full color. Instead—as a reverse of the eagle of the then-Presidential flag of a white eagle with blue detailing, the eagle on this flag was colored blue with white detailing, though the beak and talons remained yellow in color, the shield retained its red stripes, and the olive branch stayed green. Like the aforementioned Presidential flag—and the one other major difference from the 1915 variant—four stars were placed on the flag (one in each corner). In the style of the U.S. State Arms of the time, the eagle's head faced towards the viewer's right (sinister) side.

As can be seen in this photo of Vice President Garner holding his newly-bestowed flag of office, the motto reads correctly on the reverse of the flag. No fringe is evident.

**1948 Variant**

The 1948 design of the Vice Presidential flag represents the attitudes towards the office more than all of the other variants. Presidents Roosevelt and Truman worked on the re-design—along with that of their own flags—which Truman made official with Executive Order 10016. It was shown in public for the first time in January 1949, when Alban Barkley took the Vice Presidential oath of office.

Unlike the 1936 version, this flag has 13 stars rather than the four that appear on the flags of the other members of the Cabinet. Like the 1936 variant, the flag background is white, and the motto reads correctly on both sides. However, the U.S. State Arms in the center was redesigned, ostensibly to make the flag more distinctive from that of the Presidential flag. The eagle's wings are arched downwards, and while the eagle is facing toward the hoist (dexter) side rather than the fly (like the Presidential flag), the talons only hold one diminished-in-size branch of olive and a single arrow. This diminished eagle contrast with that of the Presidential flag unintentionally showed the relative power of the office to that of the Presidency. Several Vice Presidents disliked the design as a result.

It was also used as a vehicle flag on the Vice President's car, flying on the opposite-side fender to the United States Flag. The car flag—unlike other outdoor versions of this flag—did have a blue fringe.

**1975 Variant**

As mentioned earlier, since Alban Barkley first used the 1948 variant, more than one subsequent Vice President disliked the 1948 design. Nelson Rockefeller, the most critical Vice President towards the design, sought and obtained permission from President Gerald Ford to have the flag redesigned, to reflect the new attitude towards the office.
The redesign that was accepted shows the U.S. State Arms in the center of the flag—redesigned to resemble that of the President’s Flag. In addition, the 13-star circle was removed and four large blue stars were placed (one in each corner) of the flag, reflecting that the Vice President is a member of Cabinet. Also, a heavier blue fringe was added to the military color (indoor version) of the flag, along with blue and white tassels. The traditional white background was retained. This redesign was done by the Army Institute of Heraldry, and approved by President Ford in October 1975, with the issuing of Executive Order 11884. This variant has remained in use ever since.

This flag, however, does have a similarity with the flag of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (below right), in which only by comparing the designs of the U.S. State Arms can one see which flag represents which office.

The motto ribbon and the thirteen star layout on the Asst. Secretary of the Army flag (as seen on right in this close-up picture) marks the only discernable differences between this flag, and the flag of the Vice President.

As confirmed in the aforementioned Executive Order, the Institute of Heraldry laid out precise details of the layout of this flag, as can be seen below. The size of the flag depended on its use: The color size is 4’ 4” x 5’ 6” with a 2 ½” fringe. The Army field-sized version of this flag is 6’ 8” x 12” with no fringe, and the boat (small craft) flag is 3’ x 4’ with no fringe. The U.S. Navy uses different sized Vice Presidential flags, depending of what size vessel he is on (3’ 7” x 5’ 1½” for ships over 600 feet long and 1’ 10” x 2’ 8” for ships under 600 feet long). This flag would be flown from the after masthead.

The color size is the one that appears with the United States flag in the Vice President’s office, and is the one displayed when used in military color guards.

The picture above shows both the Presidential and Vice Presidential flags being used by a military Color Guard, along with the United States flag. The President and Vice President are seen in the background saluting the flags as they pass. The blue fringe of the Vice President’s flag is clearly visible, as is the similarity of the design of the US State Arms on both flags.

As a vehicle flag, the design retains the color’s blue fringe. This example curiously shows the blue stars in a lighter shade than what appears
on the official specifications, indicating that the arms and stars on this vehicle flag are machine-embroidered. As you can see, to a casual eye, this flag can be confused with the vehicle flag of the Assistant Secretary of the Army (on right above).

Like the Presidential flag, the color version of the Vice Presidential flag is hand-embroidered by the same government agency that makes the Presidential flag. Each flag takes 45 days to make. The 15 embroiderers, known as “the flag ladies,” labor at the Defense Logistics Agency’s supply center in Philadelphia. Typically two embroiderers work on one flag at a time.

The President’s and Vice President’s ceremonial flags likely are the finest of their type in the world, due to the amount of hand work involved and the top-notch materials used.

The workshop also makes ceremonial flags for the armed forces. The only “precision” item that is not used on the Vice Presidential flag is the fringing. Regular blue fringe material is used there, unlike the President’s flag that uses gold and silver hand-knotted fringe edging.

The skills of these ladies who painstakingly embroider each aspect of the U.S. State Arms and stars upon a heavy white rayon background can be clearly seen. It is all the more amazing when it is known that there is not two separate pieces of rayon upon which the arms are hand-embroidered and then sewn together. Both sides of the same piece of cloth are embroidered with a precision that is hard even for the most up-to-date machine-embroidery machines to match.

It is therefore not surprising that when Presidents come to the end of their term, they take their flags with them—ostensibly for later use in Presidential libraries. It is not known whether the Vice Presidents do likewise, but given that these flags are works of art and craftsmanship, it would not be surprising if they do take them as souvenirs as there would hardly be a more wonderful piece of memorabilia to have as a reminder of their time in office. The work alone would be worth tens of thousands of dollars.

On average, these flags—at least those that are used in the Vice President’s office at the White House—last for an average of four years. The leather retaining straps within the heading strip has to hold the full weight of the flag (which is not inconsiderable) on the pole, and these straps wear out on the flag first.

Regardless of how long the flag lasts, or of its final disposition, the flag of the Vice President of the United States—along with the seal and the Vice-Presidential fanfare Hail Columbia—brings both dignity and an awareness of importance to the office of the Vice President, and to the person who holds it. No less than the Presidential flag, the evolution and usage of the Vice Presidential flag is something to be aware of both in a historical and current context.
Flags are objects that offer a range of possibilities to support teaching in the fields of geography, history, philosophy, sociology, politics, mathematics, arts and others. I was thinking about the possibility of combining vexillology to the practice of teaching in different areas of knowledge. I proposed to the high school students of the Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology of São Paulo (IFSP) in Capivari, a municipality in the state of São Paulo, Brazil, the construction of flags with the pan-African colors to illustrate the events in celebration of Black Awareness Day in Brazil last November 20, 2014.

Initially, I presented to the students the meaning and the origin of the pan-African colors from two different sets of three colors: green, yellow and red (inspired by the flag of Ethiopia), and red, green and black (inspired by UNIA flag or Pan-African flag of Marcus Garvey). Next, I showed that these colors are used in flags and other emblems of various countries and territories in Africa and the Americas to represent Pan-Africanist ideology and its relationship with black movements in various parts of the world.

At a later stage, we started the process of construction of the pan-African flags using international standards through the application of modules, which allows the enlargement or reduction of a flag with no loss of quality, shape and size of symbols found on every national pavilion. This required a series of mathematical calculations by the students for their correct construction (flag construction sheet). For an equal and harmonic presentation, we established that the flags would have a maximum width of 30 cm (hoist). Therefore, the flags with the most commonly used ratios (1:2 and 2:3) had the dimensions 30 x 60 cm and 30 x 45 cm respectively (fig. 1-5).

The identification and location of African countries was important for placing the respective name of each country on the reverse of flags. This step is associated classically to the geography and was made by students after completion of the flags. The pan-African flags were built with collage techniques using card stock and application of printed symbols (for flags that have coats of arms). The work and understanding on the use of colors, collage techniques, setting and design of symbols demanded the domain of art techniques.

Black Awareness Day in Brazil: Teaching with the Pan-African Colors

By Tiago José Berg*
The meaning of the pan-African colors was also presented to the school community through the development of brochures distributed to people, which involved historical research, especially with regard to black movements and national independences throughout the 20th century. Finally, the flags were displayed in the entrance hall in the main building of the campus, where students, faculty, staff and visitors viewed them. (fig. 6-8).

Black Awareness Day, in Portuguese: **Dia da Consciência Negra** is celebrated every year on November 20 in Brazil as a day “to celebrate a regained awareness by the black community about their great worth and contribution to the country.” The Instituto Federal de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia de São Paulo (IFSP)—São Paulo Federal Institute of Education, Science and Technology—is an institution that offers high and professional education in a pluricurricular form, based on the pooling of technical and technological knowledge to their teaching practices. The IFSP is a public and federal institution directly vinculated to the Ministry of Education of Brazil, known as one of the best high schools in Brazil.

The result of the construction of the flags with the pan-African colors and its presentation on Black Awareness Day in Brazil was very positive for the academic community of Capivari campus. Students involved with the theme had the first contact with vexillology (this is my first year as a teacher of geography at IFSP), learning more about the flags and their significance as national, political and cultural symbols. The construction phase of the flags brought the possibility to apply various knowledge of the school curriculum in a practical and fun way for the students, and revealed several possibilities to assist and enrich the curricula and teachers’ teaching practices.

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