
Title Page: Illustration depicting the salute to the United States flag written by Colonel Balch in 1889.


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Founded in 1967, the North American Vexillological Association / Association nord-américaine de vexillologie is a United States and Canadian bi-national, non-profit, scholarly organization dedicated to vexillology, the study of flags and their cultural, historical, political, and social significance. It is one of the largest associations of its kind in the world. The Association recognizes and promotes excellence in vexillological scholarship through its publications program, annual meetings, and flag conservation and flag research grant programs. The Association serves historians, educators, museum directors, government officials, flag retailers and manufacturers, writers, and designers.

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Editor’s Notes

With this volume Raven continues its standard format: several excellent articles on varied flag topics. All four were presented as papers at the Association’s annual meeting in 2012 in Columbus, Ohio; they represent the pinnacle of vexillological scholarship in North America and include the winner of the Captain William Driver Award.

The offerings in this volume continue a Raven tradition of broad and diverse flag scholarship. All four articles answer questions—and leave a few more for the future—about the history of flags or a specific banner, about how they were, and are, used, and some of the deeper issues of flag design.

This publication is a team effort: thanks go to the members of the Editorial Board, who review and approve all submissions to this journal; plus an additional thanks to Annie Platoff for her invaluable proofreading assistance. I would also like to take this opportunity to give my deepest thanks to Ted Kaye, long-time editor of Raven, whose assistance, advice, and continued efforts with respect to scheduling, editing, proofreading, and publishing this issue have kept (I hope) the new editor on the right path.

As usual, Raven generally follows the Chicago Manual of Style; however, it adopts the more logical British style of presenting quoted material inside the commas and periods that belong to the surrounding sentence.