No. 3

Research and news of the North American Vexillological Association
Recherche et nouvelles de l’Association nord-américaine de vexillologie

September 2018
Septembre 2018

Vexillum
Incorporating NAVA News and Flag Research Quarterly

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Top: The flag of Yale University.
Right: The flag of Iceland.
Source: Shutterstock

The Banners of Yale

The Flags and Arms of Iceland
Dear Reader:

In 2018, there are so many ways to learn about flags that it is almost impossible to keep up with them all. While our connected world has many advantages, one drawback is its lack of permanence. Valuable information that is posted on an apparently stable website disappears overnight. Tidbits that are relayed in a comments thread are pushed into irretrievability by later posts and ripostes. It can be difficult to trace the history and provenance of vexillological research that is published online.

Current members of NA VA are privileged to inherit a long history of vexillological scholarship. From its earliest days the association published a newsletter (NAVA News), followed by the journal Raven, and then Flag Research Quarterly, and now Vexillum. Back issues are available in many libraries as well as on NAVA’s website, www.nava.org. This enduring legacy of vexillological scholarship is just one of the many reasons all vexillologists should be NA VA members.

However, our scholarly history does not consist only of publications—our annual meetings have provided more than fifty years worth of education, companionship, and mutual support for North America’s vexillologists. Our estimable web editor, Pete Loeser, has underway a project to better document the history of our yearly gatherings. Please visit http://nava.org/all-annual-meetings to see his fine work. Pete is still seeking additional information; for example, you may know something about featured tours or activities, names of attendees or organizing committee members, awards and honors, titles of talks, and the like, especially for meetings held in 1999 and earlier. Please contact Pete at webeditor@nava.org with missing information and suggested updates.

Despite NAVA’s excellent track record in publishing vexillological research, there have been occasional instances when a worthy talk from an annual meeting failed to see print. We are pleased to rectify one such oversight. In 1991, Gus Tracchia was presented an honorary mention for the William Driver Award for his talk on “The Banners of Yale’s Residential Colleges.” We are pleased to present that paper, here retitled as “The Banners of Yale,” in the current issue of Vexillum. As a work presented in 1991, the paper necessarily omits discussion of certain changes in the number, names, and symbolism of Yale’s residential colleges; we will publish an update in the next issue.

Elsewhere, we are pleased to present another of Wim Schuurman’s studies on European flag history, this time covering the tiny republic of Iceland. In more timely coverage, we also reveal the new flag of Sioux Falls, and enjoy some flag humor related to the recent soccer World Cup. And, as this is our last issue before voting begins in NA VA’s first-ever online election, we are pleased to present you with information about the candidates on the ballot.

I look forward to meeting many of you in Québec City come October. It will be an opportunity add yet again to the long history of NAVA and vexillology.

Steve Knowlton
Editor, Vexillum
Dear fellow NAVAns,

By the time you read this, NAVA will be on the verge of a historic event: election of its leaders by the popular vote of the entire world-wide membership. Along with establishing fundamental fairness among members, this will have another important effect: it will encourage the executive board to focus even more on the expectations and desires of the members. To channel Sellar and Yeatman’s *1066 and All That*, this will certainly be a Good Thing. However, it will make it more urgent for the board to address the issues that I raised in my previous column: How do we align NAVA’s goals and priorities with the desires of the membership? How do we synchronize the stated purposes of our organization with the need to retain current members, attract new members, and maintain a “big tent” for those with varied flag-related interests?

I don’t know the answers to those questions, but I have an idea of where the discussion needs to begin. We all need to face the fact that today’s NAVA is qualitatively and quantitatively different from the one that was founded in 1967. We are bigger, more diverse, and more complex. We can’t go back—we need to work out ways in which we can accommodate our members’ interests without compromising our principles of apolitical scholarship. I don’t think that there’s a magic bullet that will accomplish this. What we need instead is a common understanding—perhaps in the form of a revision to our articles and/or bylaws—that will allow us to face the future together as a “peaceable kingdom.” As I’ve said in previous columns and other venues, we need everyone’s help in figuring out how to do this.

Meanwhile, planning for our NAVA 52 meeting in Québec City continues apace. As you’ve seen on the web site, we have a fine variety of presentations on the agenda—so many, in fact, that we’ve had to tweak the schedule to accommodate them. It should be a great weekend, and we hope to see you there.

Meanwhile, please enjoy *Vexillum* 3!

Peter Ansoff
President, NAVA
pres@nava.org

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<td><strong>Kazutaka Nishiura</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Noah Osterhage</strong></td>
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Election Guide

Note for Readers:
NAVA’s first electronic election will commence September 10, 2018, and polls will close October 1. We are pleased to present here the report of the Nominating Committee, the candidates for Nominating Committee selected by the Executive Board at its meeting on July 12, 2018, and a brief profile of each candidate on the ballot.

Report of the Nominating Committee
July 24, 2018
To the North American Vexillological Association Executive Board
Dear Board Members:
In accordance with the Association Bylaws, by unanimous agreement, we present the following proposed slate of candidates for the elective officers of the Association for the 2018–2019 year:

For President: Peter A. Ansoff
For First Vice President: Steven A. (Steve) Knowlton
For Second Vice President: Stanley K. (Stan) Contrades
For Secretary: Edward B. (Ted) Kaye
For Treasurer: James J. (Jim) Ferrigan III


Candidates for 2018–2019 Nominating Committee, Nominated by the Executive Board:
Christopher Bedwell
David B. (Dave) Martucci
William J. (Bill) Trinkle

Candidate Statements

Candidate for President
Name: Peter A. Ansoff (incumbent)

Prior NAVA Positions Held:
• President, 2004–2008, 2017–
• Second Vice President, 2003–2004
• NAVA News Editor 2008–2013

NAVA Annual Meetings Attended: All since NAVA 36 (2002)

NAVA or other Vexillological Publications:

What are your goals for the upcoming year, and how do you hope to implement them?

1. Continue to encourage discussion of NAVA’s goals, priorities, and scope of activities, with the objective of achieving consensus on those issues
2. Continue to prioritize and strengthen member support by: a) maintaining timely publication schedules, b) emphasizing transparency of NAVA governance and responsiveness to members’ concerns, c) expanding and encouraging wider member involvement in NAVA governance and operations, d) continuing development and improvement of the NAVA web site as a “go to” source of information for both members and the public, e) rationalizing and expanding NAVA’s presence in social media
3. Ensure that budget planning and execution are realistic, disciplined, and transparent
4. Initiate a comprehensive restatement of the NAVA bylaws to reflect current practices, eliminate unnecessary detail, and improve readability and accessibility
5. Conduct a review of NAVA’s practices regarding awards and rationalize the award system to reduce costs and eliminate duplication

What experience, within or outside of NAVA, has helped you prepare for this position?

1. Recently retired from a 38-year career as a logistics analyst, with experience in establishing, documenting and analyzing management processes
2. Actively involved in NAVA and vexillology since 2002, with experience in both the scholarly (papers/presentations) and activist (flag design and adoption) areas, as well as publications, conference planning, and governance.
Candidate for First Vice President
Name: Steven A. (Steve) Knowlton

Prior NAVA Positions Held:
• Second Vice President, 2017–2018
• Secretary, 2014–2015
• Flag Research Quarterly Editorial Board, 2012–2016
• Awards and Honors Committee, 2013–2015
• Co-editor, Flag Research Quarterly, 2016–2017
• Editor, Vexillum, 2018–
• Chair, Publications Committee, 2017–2018

NAVA Annual Meetings Attended: All since NAVA 46 (2012)

NAVA or other Vexillological Publications:
• “Applying Sebeok’s Typology of Signs to the Study of Flags,” Raven 19 (2012)
• “Armorial Banners for U.S. States: A Proposal for Flag Designs” (with Laureen P. Cantwell), Flag Research Quarterly no. 2 (June 2013)
• “Evocation and Figurative Thought in Tennessee Flag Culture,” Raven 20 (2013)
• “A National Flag Quilt: Its Origins and Appeal” (with Jessica A. Knowlton), NAVA News 222 (June-July 2014)
• “Contested Symbolism in the Flags of New World Slave Risings,” Raven 21 (2014)
• “Flag Proportions: Thoughts on Flag Families and Artistic Unity within Displays of Multiple Flags” (with Adam C. Sales), Flag Research Quarterly no. 9 (2016)
• “‘Show Me the Race or the Nation without a Flag, and I Will Show You a Race of People without Any Pride’: Flags of Black Nationalist Organizations,” Raven 24 (2018)
• “Flags for the Fallen,” Vexillum no. 1 (March 2018)

NAVA or other Vexillological Talks Presented (other than those listed under publications):
• “Flag Proportions: Thoughts on Flag Families and Artistic Unity” (NAVA 48, 2014)
• “Old Flags, New Meanings” (with Anne Platoff–26th ICV, 2015)

Awards or Honors:
• Driver Award (2012)
• ICV Best Paper Award (with Anne Platoff) (2015)

What are your goals for the upcoming year, and how do you hope to implement them?
The positions of First and Second Vice President officially have no portfolio, but are simply members of the executive board. In my capacity as Second Vice President in 2017–18, I have supported the efforts of the association to improve transparency, communication, effectiveness of our efforts, and reliability of our publications and online presence.

I hope to contribute to making and sticking to a sound budget and supporting activities that will increase our membership, through appropriate investment in activities that are vital to our membership and through encouraging timely execution of our plans. I currently also have the privilege to be chair of the Publications Committee, and I will offer to the president my continued service in that role. Should the president re-appoint me as chair, I will aim to keep Vexillum and Raven on schedule. We can do that by assigning duties with clear deadlines and working with vendors well ahead of the mailing schedule. I will also strive to keep our website updated, which is easily done via electronic communications with our excellent volunteer webmaster.

What experience, within or outside of NAVA, has helped you prepare for this position?
I am an academic librarian by profession, and am familiar with the standards for research, citation, and publication. I have served on the editorial board of two library journals and am a reviewer for a third, have been Chair of the Publications Committee for the Tennessee Library Association, and have been editor of Flag Research Quarterly and Vexillum since 2016.

Candidate for Second Vice President
Name: Stanley K. (Stan) Contrades

Prior NAVA Positions Held:
• Publications Committee, 2018–

NAVA Annual Meetings Attended:

NAVA or other Vexillological Publications:
• Flag-related research projects for the US Coast Guard Historian’s Office (Exhibit Center Curator, Collections Manager)

What are your goals for the upcoming year, and how do you hope to implement them?
My focus will be to execute an enjoyable, meaningful, and effective meeting next year (2019; in conjunction with ICV 28). Other goals include supporting the other members of the NAVA Executive Board as best as I am able, and continue vexillological research/publishing to add to the available body of knowledge.

What experience, within or outside of NAVA has helped you prepare for this position?
While my internal NAVA experience is limited, I believe my career as a senior Air Force officer (retired after almost 30 years) allowed me to develop skills (e.g., organizing, leadership) relevant to supporting NAVA events and activities.
Candidate for Secretary

Name: Edward B. (Ted) Kaye (incumbent)

Prior NAVA Positions Held:
- Secretary, 2017–
- Treasurer, 2001–2012
- Editor, Raven, 1996–2012
- Budget Committee, 2001–2012
- Membership Committee, 2013–present
- Webmaster, 2004–2005
- Organizing Committees, NAVA 21, 28, 40, 41, 43, 44, 45, 47, 50, 52

NAVA Annual Meetings Attended: 20 in total—NAVA 21 (1987), 28, 30, 33, 35–51

NAVA or other Vexillological Publications:
- Have written or edited over 1,300 flag-related articles and books
- Compiler, Good Flag, Bad Flag (Vexillonnaire Award, 2001)
- Managing Editor, ICV24 (NAVA 25) Proceedings
- Editor, The Vexilloid Tabloid, 2011–

Vexillological Talks Presented (at NAVA Meetings):
- “State of Jefferson and Its Flag” (1994)
- “A New Flag for Utah?: The Utah Flag Design Contest” (2002)
- “Flags over Antarctica” (2003)
- “American City Flags—The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly” (2004)
- “American Indian Flags and the Lewis & Clark Bicentennial” (2007)
- “Redesigning the Oregon State Flag: A Case Study” (2009)
- “American City Flag Redesign: A Welcome Change” (2017)

What are your goals for the upcoming year, and how do you hope to implement them?
In the past year, the current board has accomplished significant gains for NAVA: 1) Publications: rationalized NAVA publications by combining NAVA News and Flag Research Quarterly into Vexillum, our full-color general-interest flag magazine published consistently and on time, and by planning Raven 25 as a full book: Vatican Flags, 2) Online Membership: replaced PDC with a more reliable, lower-cost system on our website and merged three unconnected member databases into one, 3) Finance: reconciled and reported the prior 5 years of financials and budgeted to live within our means, raising money for unbudgeted extraordinary projects, 4) Transparency: invited all members to all board meetings, published full minutes promptly, and issued Semaphore monthly, 5) Website: rationalized and updated nava.org, reinstated the member directory, personal flag registry, and commercial members page, and added missing publications, minutes, and annual meeting histories, 6) Membership: retained more members that we lost for the first time in years, increased responsiveness to member inquiries, and reinstated the annual member survey, 7) Elections: instituted on-line voting with all NAVA members participating, 8) Annual Meeting: planned it more fully, communicated it earlier, and priced it more affordably than in the recent past, 9) Volunteers: brought many members into new committee and project roles, expanding the base of NAVA involvement.

Building on these gains, in the coming year we can focus on: 1) Membership: growing our membership ranks by a) recruiting more new members, b) retaining more existing members, and c) returning many past members—through increased member contact, outreach through our commercial members, and more coordinated media appearances, 2) Publications: continuing and improving our Semaphore/Vexillum/Raven offerings by expanding the number of contributors and continuing to publish on time, 3) Leadership Development: bringing more NAVA members into all aspects of running our volunteer organization by publicizing opportunities and reaching out to members.

What experience, within or outside of NAVA, has helped you prepare for this position?
Served as the secretary or treasurer of 10+ non-profit boards, over 100 man-years of non-profit board experience, a career in banking and corporate management, long tenure with the Oregon Historical Society, retired as CFO of a small technology company. See above for NAVA experience.

Candidate for Treasurer

Name: James J. (Jim) Ferrigan III (incumbent)

Prior NAVA Positions Held:
- Treasurer, 2017–
- First Vice President, 1986–1989
- Protocol officer, last several years
- Chair, NAVA 21/ICV 12 organizing committee, 1987

NAVA Annual Meetings Attended: Numerous since NAVA 14 (1980)

NAVA or other Vexillological Publications:

NAVA or other Vexillological Talks Presented:

Awards or Honors:
- Driver Award (1984)
Candidates for Nominating Committee

Name: William J. (Bill) Trinkle (incumbent)

Prior NAVA Positions Held:
- Vice President, 1996–1997
- Recording Secretary, 1995–1996; Secretary, 2008–2011
- Chair, Program Committee, NAVA 44 annual meeting

NAVA Annual Meetings Attended: NAVA 28 (1994)–29, 40–45, 50–51

What kind of candidates do you believe should serve on the NAVA Board, and how do you plan to identify them?

Board members need to have a deep interest in the study of flags, have shown a willingness to volunteer to assist the organization, have a general ability and willingness to attend the annual meetings and the regular board meetings, a friendliness to all members no matter their level of interest, focus on the interests of the organization and all its members as distinct to their own interests.

Name: David B. (Dave) Martucci (incumbent)

Prior NAVA Positions Held:
- President, 1998–2004
- NAVA News Editor 1999–2006

NAVA Annual Meetings Attended: Wow! NAVA 1 (1967)–4, 27, 30, 32–41, 45–46, and 51

What kind of candidates do you believe should serve on the NAVA Board, and how do you plan to identify them?

Enthusiastic volunteers, motivated, active, dedicated to the organization. They are identified by reference, personal contact, and direct discussion of the job.

Name: Christopher Bedwell

Prior NAVA Positions Held:
- Second Vice President, 2012–2013

NAVA Annual Meetings Attended: 42 (2008), 44–51

What kind of candidates do you believe should serve on the NAVA Board, and how do you plan to identify them?

The ideal candidates will provide solid administrative/managerial and leadership experience, preferably in a non-political/“non-partisan” fashion, drawing upon principles of open government and transparency, accountability, and ethical fiscal/financial/fiduciary stewardship balanced by the concept of emotional intelligence. Through collaborative efforts of open and frank discussion tempered by civility, the Nominating Committee seeks leadership that fosters meaningful member engagement with flag enthusiasts of all interests and creeds, thereby enriching their experience and those of the Association, while constantly evolving and nurturing potential new areas of interest to maintain NAVA as the dynamic (and FUN!) organization of its charter.

Letters

July 25, 2018

To the editor:

I devoured the June issue of Vexillum. I finished reading nine of the feature stories in one sitting—that’s pretty much the entire issue consumed in one flag feast.

Nice work.

Appreciatively,

Peter Lichtgarn
New York City

Note for readers: the following correspondence was received as an open letter to NAVA members, and Dr. Phillips is kind enough to share his response to Mr. allen.

June 29, 2018

Dear readers,

Of all the nifty stuff I’ve been sent over the years by being a vexor with a shield, Japanese Heraldry and Heraldic Flags has to be the niftiest. [Ed.: This title, edited by David F. Phillips and published by the Flag Heritage Foundation, was distributed to NAVA members along with Vexillum no. 1 in spring 2018.] The finely detailed drawings are a marvel. Thanks for the efforts from all contributors.

I would like to request a bit of latitude in limiting heraldic development to Japan and Western Europe, however. A tradition of bearing symbols upon a shield existed among the Plains “Indians” of North America; they may or may not have been inheritable. These “medicine shields” are depicted in Seven Arrows (1972), a set of semi-continuous tales by Hyemeyohsts Storm told in an un-Western way, although the designs are by the author.1 The introduction explains the overall “Medicine Wheel” cosmology apparently shared by many tribes. Additional material is available online, and “heraldry” is an accepted term.

phil allen

June 29, 2018

Dear Mr. Allen,

Thanks for your kind words about our book. We’re glad you liked it.

I take your point about the Plains Indians and will look up Seven Arrows. Certainly the Indians of the Pacific Northwest have a well-developed quasi-heraldic art, used on totem poles, heraldic columns, and other forms of display.

Best wishes,

David F. Phillips
Berkeley, California
Trustee and Editor for the Flag Heritage Foundation

Flag Humor—World Cup Mashup Flags

Stan Zamyatin Moore, a member of NAVA’s sister organization Vexillology Ireland/Brateoláíocht Éireann, followed the FIFA World Cup soccer tournament this summer. To commemorate the matches, he blended the flags of competing countries, producing sometimes humorous, sometimes beautiful flag designs.

Argentina vs Croatia

Brazil vs Serbia

Argentina vs France

Brazil vs Switzerland

Belgium vs England

England vs Colombia

Brazil vs Costa Rica

France vs Denmark

Germany vs South Korea

Panama vs Belgium

Portugal vs Iran

Germany vs Sweden

Mexico vs Brazil

Spain vs Russia

Germany vs South Korea

Panama vs Belgium

Portugal vs Iran

Germany vs Sweden

Mexico vs Brazil

Spain vs Russia

Nigeria vs Argentina

Sweden vs Mexico

Nigeria vs Iceland

Sweden vs Switzerland
The Banners of Yale

Text and photographs by
Gustavo Tracchia

Editor's note: This paper was presented at the 25th Annual Meeting of
NAVA, held in Minneapolis in 1991, where it received an honorable
mention for the Captain William Driver Award for Best Paper. Although
some time has passed between the paper's composition and its publica-
tion, it remains an important contribution to vexillology. Please note
that changes to the number of colleges and the names of some colleges
have occurred since this article was written; an article in the next issue of
Vexillum will bring readers up to date on those changes.

The Arms and Flag of Yale

Yale University was founded in 1701 as the Collegiate School,
in Killingworth, Connecticut. In 1718 the college was renamed
"Yale" after Elihu Yale (1649–1721), an English merchant and
president of the East India Company and a benefactor of the
original college in Connecticut who donated land in New Haven
to build the college.

The arms and the device on the flag of Yale are derived from the
seal adopted by the Trustees of Yale College in the early eigh-
teenth century. The flag is adapted from the arms and seal, and
has a field of solid blue, known as Yale Blue for its peculiar hue
described as dark grayish-blue (Pantone Matching System number
PMS 289) (figure 1).

The field is charged with an open book in white at the center of
the field, inscribed with the Hebrew characters הָעֵדוֹתָה הָיָה שָׁמֲעָה—for
ha-Urim veha-Tummim, or Urim and Thummin. The use of Hebrew
identifies the book as the Bible; the text refers to the names of
sacred lots cast for the purpose of ascertaining divine will (e.g. in
Exodus 28:30; Numbers 27:21; Samuel 14:40; Ezra 2:63). When
the Old Testament was translated into Greek in the third century
B.C., the literal meaning of the terms “Urim and Thummin” was
no longer clear; among the ancient renderings given were “Light
and Truth”. This interpretation was chosen and used in Latin as
the motto of the college: “Lux et Veritas”, usually inscribed on a
ribbon below the shield.

The Arms and Flag of Residential Colleges of Yale

Yale's residential colleges followed the example of old English
small colleges. At first, the curriculum emphasized the intellectual
welfare of the students and included social studies, the humanities,
and natural sciences. With time, Yale increased in size and its
curriculum became more complex and diverse. In 1930 Edward S.
Harkness (class of 1897) donated funds to build eight residential
colleges in the tradition of eighteenth and nineteenth century
England. Donations by John W. Sterling and Frederick William
Vanderbilt followed, adding two more units to the residential
college complex. Finally with donors such as Paul Mellon and
John Hay Whitney two new colleges were added in 1962 making
a total of twelve. Although some of the buildings follow the
archetypical “Ivy” college building style, some show daring modern
U.S. architectural concepts.

To the delight of this flag enthusiast, all of these colleges
adopted distinctive symbols and shields of arms represented in flags
and banners following European heraldic traditions. The flags are
actually armorial banners but unlike the English colleges, which
display their flags outdoors on special occasions, in Yale's case the
flags are kept indoors, adorning special halls and/or banquet halls.
The actual shields, however, are seen in the entrances of nearly all
of the residential college buildings.

Each college also adopted a bookplate, china and silverware, a
mace, a blazer, and a tie which can be replaced by a scarf for less
formal occasions.

Berkeley

Reverend George Berkeley (1685–1753), Dean of Derry and
Bishop of Cloyne (Ireland) donated land and books to Yale College
in early 18th century. With a gift in 1934 by Edwards S. Harkness,
this residential college was named in honor of Bishop Berkeley.

Figure 1. The flag of Yale University.

Figure 2. The flag of Berkeley College.
Berkeley’s flag has a red field with a white chevron and white pattée (or formée) crosses taken from the seal shown on the deed of the plantation Berkeley donated to Yale in 1733 (figure 2). The original coat of arms of Bishop Berkeley had the arms chosen for the college in the first and fourth quarters only. The arms are shown at the main entrance of the college building (figure 3).

**Branford**

In 1702, ten Connecticut congregational ministers founded the Collegiate School’s library by donating books. Their first meeting was held in the home of Reverend Samuel Russel in the town of Branford. The construction of Branford College began in 1917 and its flag has two horizontal stripes in 1:4 proportions from top to bottom (figure 4). The upper is yellow with three elm leaves in green to symbolize the permanent establishment of Yale in New Haven. The lower is a field of Yale Blue charged with ten open books of white, displayed in rows of four, three, two, and one, from top to bottom.

**Davenport**

As with Berkeley, the flag is an adaptation of the family arms, a white field with a black chevron and three crosses crosslet fitchy also in black (figure 7). The actual arms of Reverend John Davenport can be seen at the entrance of Davenport College, with two “yales” as supporters (figure 6). Yales, like griffins or dragons, are fabulous heraldic beasts of ancient lineage (figure 8). With diverse and capricious descriptions, yales have been represented in various different forms. The word may derive from the Hebrew yael, ibex. Rev. John Davenport was a descendent of one of the founders of the colony and the first to propose establishing a college in New Haven.
Timothy Dwight
Yale had two presidents named Timothy Dwight. The first (1752–1817), class of 1769, is known as TD IV and his grandson (1886–1899), with the same name, class of 1849, is known as TD V. The flag of this residential college is a banner of the arms of the Dwight family. Like Jonathan Edwards College, the actual arms of Timothy Dwight the Elder are seen engraved on a silver tankard of his grandfather, although only the first quarter was used for the college’s arms. Red is the only color that can be seen on that tankard. As such, the flag is a white field with two horizontal stripes of 1:3 (figure 9). The upper stripe is red with a white crescent at the center, points upward. This crescent is the mark of cadency used in heraldry to denote the second son, although in many instances the descendants of that second son incorporate the cadency as part of their own arms. The lower stripe is white with a passant lion in red and a cross crosslet fitchy below the lion, also in red. As in the case of Davenport, the arms are seen on the iron gates of the residential college supported by yales (figure 10).

Jonathan Edwards
A theologian, philosopher, and naturalist, Jonathan Edwards (1703–1758) graduated from Yale in 1720. The flag for this college was taken from the arms engraved on a silver tankard. The tankard is preserved at the New Haven Historical Society. I had the opportunity to see the actual engraving which was the basis for the arms and flag. The main device for the flag is featured in the first and fourth quarter of the family arms: a rampant lion in green. The second and third quarters of the Edwards arms are ermine. The college flag combines these two elements of the family arms into an ermine field with a rampant green lion at the center (figure 11).

Morse
This residential college was designed by the famous Finnish architect Eero Saarinen (1910–1960) who studied architecture at Yale and was known for the St. Louis Gateway Arch, the TWA Terminal at John F. Kennedy Airport, and Ezra Stiles Residential College also in Yale, as well as many other futuristic buildings across the USA (figure 12). This college honors Samuel F. B. Morse (1791–1872), class of 1810 and inventor of the telegraph. The flag of the college is based on the Morse family arms, a white field with a red axe per pale between three black bezants in a 2 over 1 configuration (figure 13). The axe is frequently but incorrectly called a battle axe (but a battle axe has two blades, one on each side). The heraldic name of the disc form known as a bezant derives from Byzantine coins in circulation during the Middles Ages and considered legal tender. A joke among students residing at Morse College holds that the dots on the family arms might have inspired Morse to create in the widely known Morse code of dots and dashes. It is only a joke.
Pierson
Reverend Abraham Pierson (1646–1707) was Yale's first rector. The flag has a black field with three yellow suns displayed vertically at the center (figure 14). On each side of the suns a narrow yellow vertical stripe is charged with black ermines. The arms are referred to as “canting arms”, as the golden suns and the black color suggest the syllables of the bearer’s name: the sun piercing the darkness.

Saybrook
This Tudor mansion-style building recalls the town of Saybrook, Connecticut, the last site of Yale College before it moved to New Haven. The name of the town is a combination of the names of the original owners of the site, Lord Saye and Sele and Lord Brooks. The field of the flag is divided in four equal quarters reproducing the arms of these two nobles (figure 15). The first and fourth quarters are of a blue field with three rampant lions in gold in a two over one configuration representing the arms of Saye and Sele. In the second and third quarters are the arms of Brooks, a black field with a yellow Greek engrailed cross with a yellow border with five black roundels on the cross, one at each arm and one at the center of the cross. The students of Saybrook residential college go by the nickname of Seals.

Silliman
Benjamin Silliman (1779–1864) was the first professor of chemistry at Yale, teaching from 1802 to 1853. He later expanded into mineralogy, geology, and pharmacy. Silliman has been called “the father of American Scientific Teaching”. The flag has a white field with three vertical wavy stripes of red converging at the base of the flag (figure 17). At the center of the field is a green horizontal stripe with three yellow acorns. The colors of the flag derive from the four elements, red for fire, white for the air and water, and green for earth. The acorns are devices taken from the Vanderbilt coat of arms (for the college's benefactor). The college holds an important collection of minerals—among them one discovered by Silliman, very appropriately named Sillimanite (figure 16).

Ezra Stiles
This is the other residential college built by Eero Saarinen. For this building Saarinen departed from the conventional “ivy” league type of construction and chose instead the sober Etruscan style seen in the northern towns of Italy, particularly the town of San Gimignano. Ezra Stiles (1727–1796) was a theologian, lawyer, scientist, and philosopher who graduated from Yale in 1746. He served as Yale’s president from 1778 to 1795. The flag is based on the arms granted to Stiles by the College of Heralds in 1785: three horizontal stripes of equal size, black over yellow over black (figure 18). On the top black stripe, two yellow fleurs-de-lis. The center stripe is yellow with a design that heraldry calls “fretty”, which can be loosely translated as “ornament”. The lower black stripe has one yellow fleur-de-lis at the center.
Trumbull

Jonathan Trumbull (1710–1785) was governor of the colony and later the first governor of the state of Connecticut. The flag is white with three bull's heads in black, two over one, the old device of the Trumbulls (sometimes Turnbulls or Trumbles) of Scotland. The current designs of the flag and arms of the college are adapted from the seal of Governor Trumbull (figure 19). However, on the actual flag (figure 20), the field is not white, as it should be, but gray. Perhaps the fabricators took the description of the arms as a “field of silver” too literally, not knowing that on flags and banners silver is represented by the color white. Nevertheless the same situation occurs on the flags of Calhoun, Davenport, and Morse.

Among the armorial devices seen inside the college are the arms of three colleges/universities that conferred degrees to Jonathan Trumbull: Harvard, Yale, and Edinburgh. At the opposite end of the dining hall, over the door, appear the arms of George Washington, one of Trumbull’s closest friends, and beneath the arms the motto “we must consult Brother Jonathan”, a frequent saying of George Washington, referring to Trumbull’s wise counsel.

Notes

I have tried to describe the flags using vexillological rather than heraldic terminology. However, sometimes when trying to describe complex devices shown on the flags but taken from the arms, vexillology’s sister discipline heraldry saved the day.

For a bibliography on the subject of these colleges, to the best of my knowledge there is none. The information on this paper is the result of a personal research done on site, mainly at the Yale library, but also in the libraries of the residential colleges.

Furthermore, residential college administrators and students were very much impressed when first exposed to vexillology and excited and eager to provide archival information on the subject, that at least on the surface, no one seemed curious before about why their residential college had this or that device. However, in all fairness, in one or two instances, when my access to information available only to those with scholarly credentials was blocked, those administrators and students were inspired by the idea of flag research and overcame those barriers on my behalf.

I am very grateful to several people who were instrumental in my research:

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On heraldic vocabulary and proper heraldic terminology my sources were: A Guide to Heraldry by Ottfried Neubecker and Basic Heraldry by Stephen Friar and John Ferguson.1

A special thanks to Carlos J. Spinelli, a student at Yale who set up appointments with the different residential college administrators. He also gathered names and phones numbers and served as a guide throughout the campus.

Gustavo Tracchia has served as Treasurer and First Vice President of NAVA and has presented and published numerous vexillological research projects. A past recipient of the Ottfried Nuebecker Medal and the William Driver Award and a Fellow of FIAV, he is retired and lives in Queens, New York.

The graphic design community in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, celebrated the successful conclusion of a long process when the city council finally adopted a flag for the city on July 10, 2018. The Committee to Establish a Suitable Flying Banner for the City of Sioux Falls, under the leadership of designer Hugh Weber, had pursued that goal over four years.

When NAVA researchers prepared American City Flags (Raven 9/10, published in 2003), only three cities on their initial list of 150 were non-vexilliferous, and Sioux Falls was among them. Rapid City, the next-largest city in South Dakota, took its place in the book.

In 2014, a year before podcast/radio host and design commentator Roman Mars gave his now-famous TED Talk on city flag design, he visited Sioux Falls and sparked community interest in designing a city flag. As a result, on U.S. Flag Day that year, a kick-off event to start the effort to design a flag for Sioux Falls was sponsored by OTA (a group connecting the creative class of people and ideas in the states of Minnesota, South Dakota, and North Dakota) in partnership with the AIGA (American Institute of Graphic Arts) and the Sioux Falls Design Center. NAVA member and Good Flag, Bad Flag compiler Ted Kaye skyped in as the featured speaker to a large group of designers and interested community members.

The resulting competition received over ninety flag designs, worked through a two-stage paneled jury voting process, and engaged over 3,000 public voters who expressed opinions on six finalist designs. After a gallery showing of the top six designs, the same design emerged as the clear winner in each of the two categories of “Best of Show” and “People’s Choice” and was announced in August 2014.

The central feature of the design is a stylized depiction of the cascade in the Big Sioux River, which gives Sioux Falls its name, shown in blue and white. The blue is the same shade as on the flag of South Dakota. A sun in the upper hoist also recalls the South Dakota flag, representing the city’s importance as the most populous in the state. The pinkish red field near the bottom of the flag recalls the Sioux quartzite quarried in Sioux Falls, from which many of the important buildings in the city are built. The upward direction of the central design represents the growth of Sioux Falls. The combination of red, white, and blue recalls the U.S. flag, while the design and precise shades are distinctive.

The designer, Max Rabkin, described himself: “I’m an American citizen who grew up in South Africa and is now studying in Germany. I’m not in any design-related field, but I’ve always had a strong interest in flags. When I was a small child, South Africa became a democracy and at the same time adopted its beautiful flag. It left me a strong impression of the importance of flags as a symbol of who we are. I learned about the competition to find a flag for Sioux Falls on the vexillology section of reddit.com, which often runs its own fantasy flag design competitions, and is also a place to discuss flags in general. Immediately on reading about the competition, it was clear to me that I wanted to use the falls themselves as the central element, since they’re naturally central to the city itself.”

However, after the design’s selection in August 2014, the promoters ran into resistance from Mayor Mike Huether and
A reluctant city council. Despite an active campaign for adoption, the flag effort failed to receive official acceptance. Undeterred, the Sioux Falls Design Center staff declared it the “People’s Flag of Sioux Falls” (a tactic used recently in other communities with stalled flag-adoptions, such as Columbus, Ohio; and Milwaukee, Eau Claire, and LaCrosse, Wisconsin). They patiently promoted its use and it spread organically through the community for four years. “It’s been a really cool snowball effect”, said South Dakota Arts Council member Zach DeBoer. “It now is truly the people’s flag.” Downtown businesses launched a campaign for the design, selling full-sized flags, patches, and pins. The Vishnu Bunny tattoo parlor even offered to ink a few permanent ones for free. City councilor Pat Starr noted, “Behind the scenes, there was this rebel feeling [surrounding the flag].”

After Paul TenHaken, promotional guru and former CEO of Sioux Falls-based Click Rain marketing technology agency, was elected mayor in May 2018, the Design Center’s director, Kellen Boice, presented the proposal again, to a warmer welcome. However, an unforeseen sticking point arose. A debate began after the flag committee asked the designer to sign a full release of the design to the Creative Commons. Zach DeBoer, a flag committee member and owner of Exposure Gallery & Studios, advocated for a release, stating that open access to the design would allow for any person or business to reproduce the flag, making it truly belong to the people, noting that “flags shouldn’t belong to anybody, but should represent everybody.” However, some city councilors were concerned about the lack of copyright protections over the design. Councilor Rick Kiley worried that without establishing some sort of formal intellectual property ownership, another city could legally adopt the flag as its own. Other council members thought the design might be altered in ways that did not express the true “brand” of Sioux Falls, including concerns over possible changes in color, interpretation of the symbolism, and the addition of obscenities.

Ultimately, the city council resolved to keep the design open for public use, meaning that anyone can reproduce, wear, or sell the flag. Pat Starr, one councilor concerned about protecting the city’s brand, was satisfied by the Creative Commons requirement that the design could not be modified without permission, and said that the flag reflects a strong ground level effort to identify, unite, and inspire citizens of Sioux Falls. He drafted the adoption resolution, saying, “this is the way government should be done…from the grassroots efforts of people in our community who worked hard to bring this forward.”

The city council voted 8–0 to adopt the four-years-unofficial design as the flag of Sioux Falls. Roman Mars wrote: “Congratulations, I’m glad the effort united people. That is the ultimate goal.” The siouxfallsflag.com website provides usage guidelines and specifies the colors as Red PMS 57-15 C, Blue PMS 106-15 C, and Yellow PMS 10-8 C, saying “The Sioux Falls flag is public domain and yours to use. We only ask that you take a peek at the brand standards and make sure you are using the correct files and colors. A flag this beautiful deserves to be presented in all of its glory.”
The adoption of a flag for Iceland went hand in hand with the acquisition of greater autonomy and, ultimately, the country’s independence in 1944. The process involved creative and quirky visionaries as well as politicians with persistence. This study shows that much consultation and debate within a parliamentary environment—and very little violence—led to the achievement of the goals of independence and a unique national identity. This process was widely supported by the population. Articulate and critical Icelandic politicians, as well as a number of artists, played a crucial role in the development of the country’s national flag.

**Middle Ages**

An excavation in Stöðvarfjördur, in the Eastern Fjords, shows human presence in Iceland just after 800 CE. It was an outpost used by Norwegians during the temperate season to exploit the natural resources of the island. The first real settlement was founded in 874 by Ingólfur Arnarson. Starting in 930, the tribal chiefs of Iceland gathered in an annual meeting at Thingvellir in the Reykjavík area.

This annual meeting, called the Althingi, is considered the world’s oldest parliament. This form of government is sometimes called Thjóðveldid Ísland, or the Icelandic Commonwealth. A coat of arms of twelve silver and blue bars is attributed to this commonwealth (figure 1).

In the high Middle Ages, no flags were used in Iceland, but seals and arms were (figure 2). The oldest known seal is from Hrafn Sveinbjarnson, who died in 1213; on it was his name and the image of a raven (hrafn). In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, a number of Icelanders were knighted and were assigned arms. Loftur Guttormsson the Wealthy is said to have borne a white falcon on a blue field as his arms, but displayed a snake on his seal. Torfi Arason’s arms were a polar bear on a blue field with a rampant demi-bear as a crest. Björn Thorleifsson had the same kind of design, except that an entire polar bear served as the crest.

Around 1220, Iceland entered a period of civil war, the Sturlungtijd (the time of the Sturlungs, who were the most powerful clan). In 1262 this period ended with the Norwegians seizing power. In those years, Icelanders swore the oath of allegiance to the king of Norway, Haakon IV. There is a roll of arms from France dating to around 1280, called the Wijnbergen Roll of Arms. On the back of sheet number 35, the roll shows arms titled le Roi d’Islande (King of Iceland). The bottom two-thirds of the shield consists of blue and white bars, and the top one-third is a chief of gold. A red lion stands rampant over all. In its paw, the lion holds a blue ax with its handle countercharged by the bars (figure 3).

These arms indicate the relationship of Iceland to Norway, as the Norwegian royal coat of arms has a golden lion rampant on a field of red. In this version of the Icelandic royal arms, the colors are reversed, and the bars from the arms of the Icelandic Commonwealth are added (figure 4).

**Early Modern Era**

When Norway formed a political union with Denmark in 1536, Iceland was included in the polity. Like Greenland and the Faroe Islands, Iceland became a Danish crown possession. At that time there was no need for an Icelandic flag, because flags were used...
only at sea, and Icelandic ships flew the Danish flag. By 1592, Iceland had received a coat of arms from the Danish government; on a red field, a stockfish was shown in silver, and crowned in gold (a stockfish is a cod or similar fish, split and dried in the open air without salt; it has long been a staple of the Icelandic diet and the island’s chief export) (figure 5). These arms remained in use until December 11, 1903. The split cod had been associated with Iceland in medieval and early modern iconography. An image of a split cod appears in the margin of a calfskin manuscript from around 1360 that discusses Icelandic church matters (figure 6). The map Carta Marina, published by Olaus Magnus in 1539, shows a cod on a shield similar to the later arms; only the colors are different (figure 7). The arms of Iceland were included in the full quartering of the arms of the King of Norway and Denmark (figure 8). During the early years of the child king Christian IV of Denmark (who reigned from 1588 to 1648), a Council of State exercised the regency until 1596. In 1592 the Icelandic Althingi appointed Jón Jónsson, a lawyer, to submit a number of cases to Council of State; one petition was a request for an Icelandic seal, to be held in the custody of the governor of Iceland for use in royal affairs. In a letter to the governor dated May 9, 1593, the Council of State declared that it had granted the request and made a seal, which was presented to Heinrich Chrag, governor of Iceland, with the instruction to store it safely and to ensure that it would not be misused. The seal is made of silver and shows a headless cod with a crown above it. The numerals “1593” surround the cod, and “SIGILLVM INSVLÆ ISLANDIÆ” (Seal of the Island of Iceland) is inscribed in a circle around the edge (figure 9). A later seal issued to the governor of Iceland in the seventeenth century also bears the crowned stockfish. The cod also appeared on gold coins minted in Denmark in 1591. Iceland Represented in the Danish Royal Arms

In 1814, Denmark ceded Norway to Sweden as a consequence of the Napoleonic Wars, but Iceland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands remained under Danish rule. Norway’s royal lion was removed from the Danish state arms, and replaced with the emblems of Iceland, Greenland and the Faroe Islands. In the lower dexter quarter, the Icelandic cod, split and cleaned, appeared in silver on a bright red field with a golden crown above it (figure 10). (Greenland was represented by a polar bear, and the Faroes by a ram.) In the second half of the nineteenth century, some Icelanders began a campaign to replace the cod as the symbol of Iceland with a white falcon on a blue field. By decree of King Christian IX of October 3, 1903, the arms of Iceland were stipulated as “a

Figure 5. Arms of Iceland as a dependency of Norway and then of Denmark, circa 16th century–1903. Source: http://wappenwiki.org/index.php/Iceland

Figure 6. Detail of a medieval manuscript about Iceland (circa 1360), showing a stockfish as the emblem of the island. Source: http://www.hubert-herald.nl/Island.htm

Figure 7. Detail of the Carta Marina map by Olaus Magnus (1539), showing arms of Norway and Iceland. Source: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/e/e6/Carta_Marina.png

Figure 8. Detail of the arms of King Frederick II of Norway and Denmark, showing the crowned stockfish of Iceland in the lower sinister quarter. Engraving by Lauterbach (1592). Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Armorial_achievements_of_Denmark?uselang=nl#/media/File:Frederik_den_Andens_v%C3%A5ben_-_Lauterbach_1592.png

Figure 9. Wax impressions from seals of the Icelandic government, issued in 1593 and in the 17th century. Source: http://www.hubert-herald.nl/Island.htm

Figure 10. Detail of the arms of Iceland, showing the Icelandic cod, surrounded by a golden crown, and the inscription “SIGILLVM INSVLÆ ISLANDIÆ”. Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Armorial_achievements_of_Denmark?uselang=nl#mediaviewer/File:Frederik_den_Andens_v%C3%A5ben_-_Lauterbach_1592.png

In 1550 King Christian III of Denmark sent Governor Larentius Mule to Iceland with a royal seal. Whether the king had the seal made on his own initiative or at the request of the Icelanders is not known. The aim of its issuance was to guarantee to the king and others that the documents on which the seal was printed were issued by the correct authorities. This seal has apparently been lost and the image is unknown, but it may have contained a cod emblem.
white Icelandic gryffalcon on a blue field” (figure 11). Many Icelanders regarded this deeply symbolic, hardy, and noble bird as a more impressive emblem for their country than the cod. The Icelanders had long regarded the stockfish arms as a humiliating symbol that the ruling Danes had established for them. In popular conception, the blue field and the silver falcon were considered older symbols than the stockfish arms, although this was not the case.

The First Flag for Iceland
The idea of a unique Icelandic flag was first suggested in the early nineteenth century by the Danish adventurer Jørgen Jørgensen. In the summer of 1809, Denmark and Great Britain were at war, following the British attack on Copenhagen in 1807 (during the Napoleonic Wars). Jørgensen joined a British merchant crew sailing for Iceland as interpreter; upon discovering that the Danish governor of Iceland would not permit trade with the British due to the war, Jørgensen led a small party of his sailors to arrest the governor and declare himself “protector” of the island. He was arrested by a British naval crew two months later, but lives in Icelandic memory as Jörndur hundadagakomungur (“Jørgen the Dog-Days King”).

While in power, on June 26 Jørgensen posted an announcement in the streets of Reykjavik proposing a separate flag for Iceland. A second announcement on July 11 stated that the Icelandic flag should be blue with three codfish in the canton (figure 12). Jørgen’s choice is difficult to explain today. He later said that he had hoisted the old flag of Iceland, which was based on the national seal. One may suppose he meant only the codfish emblem and not the color. He may have been aware that in 1752, royal treasurer Skúli Magnússon had instructed Eggert Ólafsson to design a flag for the first industrial workshops in Reykjavik and the two ships which served the workshops, Fridrikssók and Fridriksgefa (Frederick’s Wish and Frederick’s Goodness, referring to King Frederick V). The flag showed a split salted cod with the letters PH, for Privilegde Islandske Interesser (Privileged Icelandic Interests); this was not a national flag, but rather the flag of a shipping company.

When choosing a color for his flag, Jørgen may have taken into account the fact that blue was popularly regarded as a national color for Iceland. In an 1857 article about the Icelandic national costume as worn by women, painter Sigurdur Gudmundsson stated that the national color of Iceland in the Middle Ages was the same as in his time: dark blue (“raven blue”). The cod with the golden crown was shown on a red shield only after it had been incorporated in the Danish coat of arms, the primary colors of which were red, yellow, and blue.

On July 12, 1809, the flag prescribed by Jørgensen—blue with three codfish in the canton—was raised on the flagstaff of the Petraeus warehouse in Reykjavik. The British frigate Margaret and Ann, which was offshore, fired a salute of eleven cannon shots in its honor. This flag disappeared when Jørgen’s short reign ended, but it was the first idea for a national flag for Iceland.

The previously mentioned painter Sigurdur Gudmundsson argued in the nineteenth century that the national emblem—both the flag and the arms—should be a white falcon with wings spread, on a blue field. This design had support from high school and university students, among others.

The Campaign for an Icelandic Flag
At the instigation of parliamentarian and historian Valtrýr Gudmundsson, in 1885 the Icelandic Althingi determined that Iceland had the right to a separate flag for its merchant marine. That same summer, the Constitutional Law Committee proposed a bill for a national flag for Iceland in the parliament’s lower chamber. The proposed flag would be divided into four rectangles by a red cross with a white border. Three of the sections should be blue with a white falcon in each. The fourth, the canton, was red with a white cross—the Danish flag (figure 13). The bill was tabled, but it is the first time that the three colors of blue, white, and red were proposed for an Icelandic flag.

On March 13, 1897, the poet Einar Benediktsson wrote an article in the newspaper Dagsska, in which he claimed that the falcon flag was not in accordance with international traditions and had to be replaced. He proposed a white cross on a blue field.
then announced the following royal decree:

The Danish flag would still be used by ocean-going ships. That could be used in Iceland and the Icelandic territorial waters; State and explained that the issue could be resolved by a royal flag to King Christian X at a meeting of the Danish Council of again in 1913. After the end of the parliamentary session in 1913, a special flag will be approved by law for Iceland. The design will be determined by a subsequent Royal Decree if the Prime Minister has been given the opportunity to find out what the wishes of the people in Iceland are in this area. This flag can be hoisted anywhere in Iceland and Icelandic ships can sail under this flag in Icelandic waters. However, it is our wish that on the building or grounds of Iceland’s government, the Danish Dannebrog flag with the swallowtail should be flown in a place no less honorable or smaller than that of the Icelandic flag. This, our supreme decree, in no way limits the right to use the Dannebrog flag as in the past. All parties involved must behave in accordance with this decree.

While issuing the decree, the king remarked that he had naturally assumed that the Icelandic flag would not be noticeably similar to that of another country. He alluded to reservations made during the flag debate, that the blue and white flag was very similar to the national flag of Greece; the only difference was the shape of the cross (figure 15).

The Flag Commission of 1913

After returning to Iceland, the prime minister appointed a committee on December 30, 1913, to investigate the design of the new flag. At the request of the flag commission, the prime minister asked the king if he would give his approval to the blue-and-white flag. The king replied that he would not, because it looked too much like the Greek flag. After an investigation by the supervisor of the Maritime College, it was also believed that in conditions of poor visibility such a flag could be confused with the Swedish flag, which had a yellow cross on a blue field.

The committee therefore presented two proposals for the color of the flag:
(1) bright blue with a bright red cross bordered in white, or
(2) white with a sky blue cross, with a narrow white border and a wider blue fimbriation (figure 16).

On the first day of the parliamentary session, July 1, 1914, Hafstein explained developments in the flag issue and distributed the report of the flag commission. He described the obstacles to ratification of the blue-white flag, and explained that he had not felt able to propose a different design to the king. Some members of parliament wanted to look more closely at the flag issue. A majority voted to appoint a commission to choose a flag for Iceland, without regard to royal prerogative. They argued that
a special flag issued by royal decree would diminish the importance of a flag selected by the representatives of the Icelandic people. Members of the Althingi were not unanimous about the colors. Some wanted a blue-white flag with a large white star in the canton, while others preferred the committee's main proposal for a white cross on a blue field with a red cross on the white.

The joint proposal of the Upper and Lower Chamber committees for a parliamentary resolution on the design of the flag recommended three designs:

1) the blue-white flag unchanged,
2) the same flag with a large white five-pointed star (pentangle) in the canton, and
3) the blue flag with red and white cross (called the tricolor).

After debate the pentangle design was abandoned, leaving a clear choice of recommendation between the blue-white flag and the tricolor.

From the beginning, the campaign for an Icelandic national flag was an integral part of the campaign to gain independence for Iceland. The spirit of independence that rose with ideas for a blue and white Icelandic flag undoubtedly played a greater part in the Danish king’s rejection than the similarity to the Greek flag; at least, Greece itself did not express any objections to the draft. The Greek national flag of blue with a centered white cross was used only for the interior of Greece; it would not have caused confusion abroad or at sea, because the Greek flag used at sea had nine horizontal stripes of blue and white.

A new prime minister was appointed, while the parliament was still in session. Hannes Hafstein left his post and Sigurdur Eggerz took over. At a meeting of the Danish Council of State on November 30, 1914, the prime minister outlined the progress of the flag issue to the king and proposed that the king ratify the tricolor. But the king refused to issue a decree to the king at the Council of State on November 22, 1917, after the proposal had been turned down by the chamber.

Prime Minister Jón Magnússon presented the proposal for a flag to the king at the Council of State on November 22, 1917, but the king rejected it after the proposal had been turned down by Zahle. However, both Zahle and the king declared themselves willing to negotiate disputes concerning the relationship between Iceland and Denmark. Jón Magnússon did not resign when the king rejected the proposal, but stated unambiguously in the Council of State that this should not be interpreted as meaning that this issue was not a priority, and that it was known for certain that Iceland's parliament would not drop the matter.

The Act of Union and the Flag

The following year, events took a new turn with the appointment of a joint Danish-Icelandic commission to address the relationship between the two countries. As Allied victory appeared imminent in 1918, it seemed likely that subject peoples and minorities would be allowed to choose which of their neighbors they wanted to be subject to. Denmark attached great importance to regaining the northernmost districts of South Jutland, which had a large Danish majority, that had been conquered and incorporated into
Germany in 1864. For reasons of consistency, Denmark needed to adopt a liberal attitude towards the peoples under its jurisdiction if the country intended to recover its rights in the case of South Jutland. All political parties in Denmark, with the exception of the Conservative Party, preferred to give Iceland a freer hand to strengthen Denmark's negotiating position with the Allies.

The joint commission met for the first time in Reykjavík in the summer of 1918, and determined that Iceland should become independent of Denmark, but retain the Danish king as head of state. The Danish government would represent Iceland in international affairs.

The law on the personal union of Iceland and Denmark under the Danish crown was approved by the Althingi and the Danish parliament and ratified by the king on November 30, 1918. On the same day a provisional law was issued, stating that from December 1, no Icelandic ship would fly a national flag other than the Icelandic flag.

A new royal decree on the flag was also issued. It did not change the shape and colors of the flag as they were decided in 1915, but added a provision that the government and public institutions would fly a swallow-tailed flag (figure 17); further provisions concerning the use of that flag were to be specified in a subsequent Royal Decree.

To comply with the decree of 1915 that “on the building or grounds of Iceland’s government, the Danish Dannebrog flag with the swallowtail should be flown in a place no less honorable or smaller than that of the Icelandic flag,” two flagpoles had been erected on the grounds behind the government building in the summer of 1915, one for the Dannebrog and one for the Icelandic flag. On the first day of December 1918, a flagpole was erected by the door of the government building, which is still there today; the other two flagpoles were left empty.

The Flag of Sovereign Iceland

On Sunday, December 1, 1918, at noon, the swallow-tailed state flag of Iceland was hoisted on the government building as the Crown Union Act entered into force (figure 18). Minister of Finance Sigurdur Eggerz, who was acting Prime Minister during the absence of Jón Magnússon in Copenhagen, said in his speech on the steps of the Government Building that “the king yesterday issued a decree that the national flag of Iceland today will be flying above the Icelandic state… The flag is the symbol of our sovereignty. The flag embodies the most beautiful ideals of our nation; every accomplishment achieved by us increases the value of the flag, whether at sea fighting with the surf and rugged waves, in industrial development, or in the sciences and fine arts; the nobler our nation, the nobler our flag. Its honor and fame is the fame of our nation… We ask the Almighty to us to give the strength to hoist our flag for renown and fame.”

When the flag of the sovereign state of Iceland was hoisted, a twenty-one gun salute was fired from the Danish coast guard vessel Eilandvalk (Island Falcon). Captain Victor Lorenz Lorck made a speech, as did Jóhannes Jóhannesson, speaker of the Althingi. The ceremony ended with the Danish royal anthem and Danish and Icelandic folk songs.

The swallow-tailed flag was hoisted above the government building on December 1, 1918, even though the provisions of the draft law were not finalized until February 12, 1919. In its final form, the proportions were slightly changed from those of the flag of December 1.

The Icelandic Crown

The Kingdom of Iceland had its own distinctive crown that differed from that of the Danish. The Icelandic crown was gold and decorated with blue and red stones. It had a blue cap, and blue pearls on the arches. The crown was topped with a golden cross. This crown was used on the arms and in various flags such as the customs flag, postal service flag, and telegraph service flag.

The Royal Standard

Iceland’s royal standard was established by Royal Order Number 23 of July 5, 1920. It was sky blue with the white Icelandic falcon crowned with the Icelandic crown and facing the hoist (figure 19). The royal standard was used only once, when King Christian X visited his Kingdom of Iceland in 1921.

No model drawing or flag remains extant. However, the flag is depicted in a few contemporary sources, including cigarette albums. The image in the Flaggenbuch of the German Navy from 1939 shows a golden crown above the falcon, not resting on its head.
Flag for the Regent
During World War II the German army occupied Denmark. As a result, there was no contact between Iceland and the king. The office of regent was established by the Icelandic parliament on June 16, 1941, to carry out acts of the king; Sveinn Björnsson was appointed to the office. Half a year later, the regent used his power to decree a coat of arms and a flag for his office: “The flag of the Regent of Iceland will be the state flag of Iceland with in the middle of it a gold capital R on a rectangular panel” (figure 20). When Iceland was proclaimed a republic on July 17, 1944, the office of regent was replaced by that of the president.

The Arms of the Kingdom of Iceland
On February 12, 1919, the same day that the Icelandic flag was formalized, the Kingdom of Iceland adopted arms. The shield represented the flag of Iceland and was topped with the crown of Iceland. As supporters we see the four Landvættir, all in gold with details in yellow or red (figure 21). The Landvættir (land wights) are spirits thought to protect the safety and fertility of a section of the earth. Iceland has four “great guardians”, each of whom protects one of the four quarters of the island: the dragon (dreki) in the east, the eagle (gammar) in the north, the bull (gírandar) in the west, and the giant (bergrisi) in the south. The shield stands on a compartment, the top of which is blue and the front of which is silver with red blocks.

Parliamentary Resolutions and Laws during the Kingdom
In response to a request from the parliament, in 1941 the government of Iceland presented a bill, drawn up by Sveinn Björnsson, confirming the design of the national flag. Björnsson’s bill proposed that the flag should be sky blue (ultramarine) with a white cross and a bright red cross on the white cross, using same words as in the royal decree on the flag. After the committee’s amendment, it was described as follows: “The general national Icelandic flag is sky blue (ultramarine) with a snow-white cross and a fiery red (bright red) cross on the white cross.” (This description is kept in the current flag law, except that the word ultramarine is omitted.) Although there was a debate in Parliament about the bill, it did not come to a vote.

After two more years of intermittent debate, the Flag Law was adopted by the parliament on June 15, 1944. The Icelandic flag had finally been confirmed through a law passed by the representatives of the citizens, rather than through royal decree.

Foundation of the Republic
In the same period the independent Republic of Iceland was founded. On February 25, 1944, the Act of Union expired. A referendum on the constitution of the new republic to be established was then held from May 20–23. Over 99.4% percent of the voters wanted to sever ties with the Danish monarchy; 98.5% percent of the respondents wanted a republic.

On June 17, 1944, the Celebration of the Republic was held at Thingvellir, the traditional site of Althingi meetings from 930 to 1793. Prime Minister Björn Thorðarson led the celebration which was followed by a religious ceremony. The Icelandic flag was hoisted and all members of the parliament declared that Iceland would thenceforth be a republic. The parliamentarians then elected Sveinn Björnsson, the former regent, as the first president.

The Law on the National Flag was the first legislation signed by the newly elected president of Iceland, on June 17, 1944. The flag law prescribed that a presidential decree should be issued with regard to the flag days and other matters. According to the decree issued on August 17, 1944, public institutions were to hoist the flag on the following days: the birthday of the President of Iceland, New Year’s Day, Good Friday (at half-staff), Easter Monday, the first day of summer (the Thursday between April 19 and 25), May Day, Whit Monday, Icelandic National Day (commemorating the foundation of the republic on June 17), Day of Self-Government (commemorating the Act of Union on December 1), and Christmas Day. Under the law, regulations may be issued with explanatory provisions if deemed necessary. Act Number 20/1987 made a flag day of Seamen’s Day (the first Sunday in June). The current decree relating to flag days and the times to hoist and lower the flag dates from January 23, 1991, as does the announcement of the colors of the flag. In the PMS color system, the color blue of the Icelandic flag has number 287 and the red has number 1795. The blue is a darker shade than during the time of the kingdom.

State Arms of the Republic of Iceland
When the date for the founding of the Republic of Iceland in 1944 approached, Prime Minister Björn Thorðarson appointed three ministerial secretaries (Vigfús Einarsson, Agnar K. Jónsson, and Birgir Thorlacius), along with Dr. Matthias Thorðarson, Keeper of National Antiquities (who had been a consultant for the design of the coat of arms in 1919), to investigate and recommend state arms. A change was requested in connection with the crown over the shield, which had to
be removed when Iceland ceased to be a monarchy. Those who were working on this project discussed changes in the arms itself, in particular whether a falcon on a blue field should be reintroduced. However, it was decided not to make any changes to the arms, nor to abandon the Landvættir as supporters. This was a unanimous decision and it was discussed with the prime minister, who agreed. The crown was removed and the shape of the shield was changed. The supporters were redrawn and a new compartment was adopted; instead of paving blocks, it is plate of basalt columns (figure 22).

At a meeting of the Council of State at Thingvellir on June 17, 1944, the newly elected President Sveinn Björnsson issued the following presidential decree regarding the coat of arms of the Republic:

The coat of arms of Iceland is a silver cross on a sky-blue field with a bright red cross on the silver cross. The arms of the cross will run to the edge of the shield on all four sides. The thickness of the cross is 2/9 of the width of the shield, but the red cross is half the width or 1/9 of the width of the shield, the upper squares are squares and the lower squares have the same width as the upper squares, but are one-third longer.

These arms are the successor to the arms for the kingdom, which had the same interpretation.

**Presidential Flag**
The presidential flag is known as Forsetafaninn (President's flag). This flag was established at the foundation of the republic on July 18, 1944, and is based on the state flag. At the intersection of the cross arms, a white square panel bears the complete state arms (figure 23).

**Figure 23. Flag of the president of Iceland, 1944–present. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Icelandic_flags#/media/File:Presidential_Standard_of_Iceland.svg**

**Acknowledgments**
The author is indebted to Jos Poels for making documents available from his archive. Thanks also to staff from the Icelandic National Archives and the Public Relations Department of the Government of Iceland. Sections of this report have been adapted from the website of the Icelandic Prime Minister's Office. Many thanks are also due to those who have contributed to Flags of the World website.

Wm Schuurman is past secretary of the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde (Dutch Association for Vexillology) and former publisher of Vexilla Nostra.

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**Letters continued from page 7**

*Note for readers: Michael Faul wrote to share what he has learned regarding the raven flag of the Vikings, namesake of NAVA’s scholarly journal Raven.*

August 23, 2018

To the editor:

One other matter regarding “Raven”. This is the result of some not-exactly-vexillological research, but the result was enough to shake my faith in a number of ways.

In 2001, the 19th ICV [International Congress of Vexillology] was held here in York. As the only York resident, it was inevitable that I would be involved in the organisation. Among the events, I arranged a visit to the Jorvik Viking Centre. This is a tourist attraction, which shows the life of York, during the Viking age. Because we were making it a special visit, I provided the centre with a “Viking Pennant” of my own making. This was displayed in the second part of the centre, namely the part where visitors walk, rather than are taken by mobile seats. Many indeed were the photographs taken of this item!

Some years later, I came upon an item of research, which made me stop in my tracks. The item referred to the “Viking Raven Flag” being the first flag to fly in the New World, with the arrival in modern Canada of the early Viking explorers, Erik the Red and his son Leif Erikson. According to this research, neither of them brought the “Viking Flag”, because, at the time, it did not exist.

The tradition was taken from a coin, struck in Yorvik in the 9th century. This coin showed what was later interpreted as the “Viking Flag”. It was not a flag, but a wind-vane. Viking ships wore such wind-vanes as indicators of wind direction. They were of metal, but had ribbons of cloth attached to their outer edges. These were there so that, even if the wind were not strong enough to move the vane, the direction of the wind could still be seen, by the fluttering of the ribbons. It was a mistake to believe that the Vikings bore “national flags” in the modern way.

You can guess my chagrin at having carefully made a “Viking Flag” which had never existed! There were only three known Viking flags, and we cannot even be sure that the raven was an inclusion. One was made in Scotland for a Viking raider, who took it to Ireland; the Vikings were defeated and the flag taken and burned. In another instance, the flag was, again, made, served in battle (which this time the Vikings won), and then disappeared.

The only “Raven Flag” of which we can be sure, was that of the Norwegian king, Harald Hardrada, in 1066. He used it during his unsuccessful invasion of England, which culminated in his death and the defeat of his army at the Battle of Stamford Bridge. In the Bayeux Tapestry, which was woven in order to commemorate the Norman Conquest that followed shortly after Stamford Bridge a (very) small raven pennant is shown, although in the very next section, it is shown dropped onto the ground. There seem to be no subsequent references to a Raven Pennant, either in England, or in Scandinavia.

Thus it seems that the “Viking Raven Flag” has been one of the most enduring legends in vexillology. It is satisfying to uncover such a fact. It is also saddening to have to decry so long a history of a really good flag.

Michael Faul
York, England
Join your fellow members in Québec City, October 12–14, 2018, for the 52nd annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association. We plan an exciting, flag-filled program of presentations, tours, vexi-bits, receptions, and camaraderie at facilities at the University of Québec near the conference hotel. The Whitney Smith dinner will be held at the Parliament of Québec. Full program and schedule information is posted on the meeting web page at nava.org.

NAVA 52 Organizing Committee
Luc Baronian, chair

Watch these Deadlines:
- Papers/Displays, final—August 31, 2018
- Regular registration—August 31, 2018
- Hotel reservation—September 10, 2018

Hôtel PUR Québec
NAVA 52’s host hotel, the 242-room Hôtel PUR Québec at 395 Rue de la Couronne, stands a block away from the NAVA 52 meeting rooms at the University of Québec.

A block of rooms has been reserved through Sept. 10, 2018, for the nights of October 10–15. The room rate is C$199/night plus tax. Use the link on the NAVA website or call 800-267-2002 and ask for the “NAVA 52” or “North American Vexillological Association” rate. Reserve early—space is limited.

Program:
Registration will take place in the hotel lobby Friday afternoon.

The Preble Lecture (3:30 p.m. Friday) will feature Pierre Gendreau-Hétu speaking on “Folk Heraldry and the Motor Vehicle: Québec, Car Plates, and Identity”. The President’s Reception on Friday evening, sponsored by CRW Flags, will welcome attendees to the meeting.

Group dinners on Friday and Sunday evenings will be organized at nearby restaurants; Friday’s will be followed by Vexi-Bits (mini-presentations).

The opening ceremony on Saturday morning will be followed by the first round of presentations, which will adjourn for lunch. Restaurants to meet all tastes are within steps of the hotel.

The tour on Saturday will visit the historic Citadelle de Québec, an active military installation and the secondary official residence of both the Canadian monarch and the governor general of Canada. The Parliament of Québec will host the Whitney Smith Dinner, with its keynote lecture. It will be preceded by a tour of Parliament and the group photo—an opportunity to wear and see a broad range of flag ties and scarves.

The business meeting on Sunday morning will be followed by the second round of presentations, lunch, the traditional flag auction in support of NAVA, the Driver Award presentation, and the closing ceremony (3:30 p.m. Sunday).

Notice to Members of the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA)
Please note the remaining dates and deadlines related to the 2018 NAVA elections, in compliance with the Association’s bylaws:

September 10, 2018: Electronic voting instructions will be distributed by email. Members who do not have an e-mail address on file and those who have requested paper ballots will receive ballots by mail along with instructions for completing and submitting them. The polls will close on October 1, 2018.

October 14, 2018, 9:00 a.m.: Annual meeting of NAVA’s membership during NAVA 52 in Québec.

For the purposes of meeting these deadlines, communications must be received in the secretary’s e-mail box or the NAVA post office box by midnight of the specified date.

Contact sec@nava.org with any questions.

Edward B. Kaye, Secretary