SPECIAL THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ISSUE!

The Third International Congress on Vexillology will be held in Boston, Massachusetts, on Sept. 5th through Sept. 7th, 1969. All NAVA members are urged to attend and to register early, using the form which has already been mailed out with the latest issue of the Flag Bulletin.

The location of the Congress headquarters and of the various meetings and lectures will be announced to registrants at a later date, or it may be obtained by contacting the Secretary-General of the Congress, Dr. Whitney Smith, at 17 Farmcrest Ave., Lexington, Mass., 02173 (telephone (617) 861-8008).

All members who have lectures or talks on any aspect of flags are urged to present them at this Congress. Already promised are talks (some with slides or films) on the flags of Haiti, Spain, New Jersey, Brussels, American Cities, and Friesland; also on naval flags and heraldic flags.

NAVA members are reminded that their own 1969 Annual Membership Meeting will be held during the Congress, and that therefore they will not have to travel to both. A list of the items on the agenda is printed below. Motions to be submitted to this meeting may be sent to the President.

The NAVA meeting is of course open to all members without charge, but if they want to attend the banquet and talks and lectures of the Congress, it will be necessary for them to pay the Congress registration fee.

The NAVA meeting will take place on Saturday, Sept. 6th, immediately following the 3rd International Congress banquet. Items included on the agenda are:

- Announcement of awards and presentation of booklet to members
- Reports of the officers
- Reports of the standing and special committees
- Election of new officers
- Old business
- New business.
THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF THE U.S. FLAG

by Frank Wuttge, Jr.

The present flag of the United States, with thirteen stripes and a star for every state, had its origin in the Bronx, a century-and-a-half ago.

The flag committee of the United States Congress, under its local Congressman Peter H. Wendover, held its meetings at Dominick Lynch's Blackrock Farm, on the westerly portion of Clason's Point in the Bronx near the present Commonwealth and Soundview Avenues, and not far from the New York office of the Flag Research Center.

Here the finishing touches were put on the legislation which was introduced in Congress in March, 1818, by Congressman Wendover, often known as the "Father of the American Flag." The idea, however, is credited to Captain Samuel Chester Reid, hero of the Battle of Fayal in the Azores, an action which prevented the British fleet from helping the invaders of Louisiana, thus enabling Gen. Andrew Jackson to defend New Orleans successfully.

Captain Reid, who had become harbor-master for the Port of New York, was aware that by that time an additional five new states had come into the Union. To add another stripe for every new state appeared to be awkward, especially since there would be more new states to enter. He suggested rows of stars as a naval ensign, and for a merchant flag stars arranged in the form of one large star. The Flag Committee consulted with Captain Reid and decided on the present form.

The burning question of the time was "What shall our Flag be?" The flag of Col. Armistead had 15 stars and 15 stripes, due to the admission of Vermont and Kentucky. The public was greatly moved by the stirring words of Francis Scott Key as he saw this flag flying over Fort McHenry. They were being sung to the tune of "Anacreon in Heaven," to which various other patriotic words had previously been written. However, they were rather limited as to content, while the words of Francis Scott Key were everlasting.

On July 4, 1818, the flag of 20 stars and 13 stripes became official, including in its canton stars representing the five new states: Tennessee, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana and Mississippi.

Thus the year 1968 was the sesquicentennial of the flag law which permanently gave the nation a flag of 13 red and white stripes, and as many white stars on a blue canton as there are States in the Union.

The music of the band from Blackrock Farm could be heard across the Bronx River at Hunt's Point. The attendant public excitement induced the young poet, Joseph Rodman Drake, to write the poem known to every school-child in the nation, "Ode to the American Flag" to which Fitz-Green Halleck made a contribution which Drake accepted:

"Forever float that standard sheet!
Where breathes the foe but falls before us,
With Freedom's soil beneath our feet
And Freedom's banner streaming o'er us?"

The words of Francis Scott Key and their accompanying tune were first designated officially during the Spanish-American War by Adm. Dewey in 1898, who ruled that wherever a national anthem seemed called for, the "Star-Spangled Banner" was to be sung.

* * * * *

FREEDOMS FOUNDATION NAVA President Whitney Smith has recently served as a member of a committee that placed the name of Mrs. Chester H. Lehman in nomination for a Freedoms Foundation Award, in recognition of her part in building the Flag Plaza--Scout Center in Pittsburgh.

The award to Mrs. Lehman stated, in part: "It is a great privilege to convey to you the congratulations of the officers and trustees of the Freedoms Foundation upon your selection as recipient of the National Recognition Award for your leadership in establishing the Flag Plaza the Chester H. Lehman Memorial, an inspiring project."

Announcement of the award was made from Valley Forge, on Washington's birthday.
KENNEDY INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT—UNDER 12 FLAGS

by John Lyman

Most international air traffic on the east coast of the United States passes thru Kennedy International Airport, located in New York City's Borough of Queens, and owned by the Port of New York Authority (a joint creation of the states of New York and New Jersey). Coming home from Europe the other day, I was interested to note the number of flags that are displayed around that airport.

In the reception area for arriving international passengers, there were ten flags hanging on the wall: (1) the United States flag, (2) the red-barred flag of the U. S. Customs Service, (3) the Department of Agriculture flag, symbolic of plant quarantine (Query: With its four stars, isn't this really the Secretary of Agriculture's flag?), (4) the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service Burgee, (5) the New York State flag, (6) the Department of State flag (the U. S. seal on a white disk on a blue field, equivalent to the Secretary of State's flag without the stars), (7) the Port of New York Authority flag, (8) the New York City flag, (9) the New Jersey State flag, and (10) the U. S. Public Health Service flag.

Outside the terminal building is a row of six flagpoles. Normally these fly the U. S. flag, the New York State flag, the New Jersey State flag, the Port of New York Authority flag, the New York City flag, and the Borough of Queens flag. However, since the United Nations General Assembly was in session that day, the U. N. flag was hoisted from the second pole, the Port Authority and the Queens flags were missing, and the sixth pole was bare.

At the Federal Building near the entrance to the airport, the U. S. flag was flying again alongside the crimson standard of the Federal Aviation Agency.

Omitting duplications, this makes a total of 13 flags that may be displayed around the airport (although only 12 seem to be flown concurrently. Of these, the United Nations flag and the New Jersey State flag are "courtesy flags," but the other 11 all represent some kind of political or administrative authority with whom the arriving traveller, depending on his papers, the state of his health, or the articles in his suitcase, might run afoul.

La Guardia Airport, also in the Borough of Queens and also owned by the Port of New York Authority, has the same row of six flagpoles as Kennedy International Airport. The same six flags that I have listed above fly there; I have never seen the United Nations flag at La Guardia.*

Newark Airport, the third commercial airport belonging to the Port of New York Authority, has only five flagpoles, since the Newark City flag replaces the New York City flag and the Borough of Queens flag, there on the Hudson's right bank. In this case the New Jersey State flag is symbolic of actual jurisdiction, while the New York State flag is the courtesy flag.


---

FLAGS OF
WORLD WAR I.

An interesting series of historical paintings featuring flags of many nations appears in the current issue of American Heritage (June, 1969). The article is entitled "The Banner Years," by David G. Lowe, and the paintings were made by artist Childe Hassam (born 1859). They reflect the patriotic fervor that swept the nation on its entrance into the war in 1917. The mayor of New York ordered that flags of the Allies be displayed on Fifth Avenue as a patriotic gesture, and he designated various blocks to honor different countries. All buildings displayed one or more flags each. Hassam, who grew up near Boston and was imbued with a strong patriotic feeling for his native land, painted a number of scenes of Fifth Avenue, each showing numerous Allied flags proudly waving in a riot of color.
MEMBERSHIP BROCHURE

Included with this issue is a copy of the new NAVA Membership Brochure. This brochure was authorized at the 1968 annual membership meeting. It contains full, complete information about the Association, including organization, aims, membership, publications and affiliates. An application blank is printed on the back, which can be torn off and mailed to the treasurer. All members are urged to use this brochure to recruit at least one new member each from among their friends and associates. Additional brochures are available from the Corresponding Secretary and can be obtained on request.

OFFICIAL SEAL OF THE INTERIOR DEPT.

The U. S. Department of the Interior is reverting to its original seal with the "buffalo design," after a new design (far right) ordered by former Secretary Udall failed to catch on. Present Secretary Walter J. Hickel is arranging the switch back from the modern design, which one Senator had recently called a "Madison Avenue fantasy." It was said to represent symbolically the sun, mountains and water, framed by a pair of hands. The buffalo won.

FLAGS IN PHILATELY

A slight mix-up seems to have occurred in connection with a new stamp issue commemorating the Anglo-French Concorde super-sonic airliner. According to the Christian Science Monitor, both the British and the French flags appear side by side on the nine-penny denomination. But in the French flag the red instead of the blue seems to be next to the flagpole, except that there is no flagpole. A London stamp dealer was quoted as giving this explanation: "You have to imagine a stiff breeze blowing the British flag in one direction and the French flag in the other, with a single invisible flagpole in the middle." The stamp will be available this summer.

ST. EUSTATIUS COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMP

NAVA Corresponding Secretary Robert Gauron reports the following exchange of letters between himself and the United States Post Office Department:

Mr. Reuben E. Barrick, Director, Office of Design, Engraving and Development, United States Post Office Department, Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Barrick:

"On Jan. 27, 1968, I sent you a letter urging the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the U. S. Post Office Department to approve the printing of a postage stamp commemorating the first salute given by a foreign government to the American Flag flown by a United States naval vessel. The salute was given by the Dutch at Fort Oranje, Saint Eustatius, Netherlands West Indies, on Nov. 16, 1776. We would sincerely appreciate information as to what action has been taken on the printing of this commemorative stamp."

The Post Office Department replied: "We have received similar requests for a stamp for the first salute to the American Flag by the Dutch at Fort Oranje, Saint Eustatius, Netherlands West Indies on November 16, 1776. However, up to the present time we have been unable to include it in our stamp program, which is limited to about 15 commemoratives a year. This request remains in our active files for consideration as future stamp programs are developed. Sincerely, (signed) Virginia Brizendine, Director, Division of Philately."

FLAGS ON THE MOON
At this writing, still previous to the Apollo 11 flight, it appears that the United States flag will be the first flag to be raised on the moon. According to the Washington Post, an amendment was added by the House to the NASA appropriation bill specifically stating that only the United States flag was to be hoisted by the astronauts on their arrival at the moon's surface. And this in spite of the suggestion by the State Department that the United Nations flag be used instead, possibly as a gesture of good will. NASA's plan now is to plant not one but two U.S. flags. One will be wired to the pole so that it will stand out straight in the airless void. The other will be raised, and then lowered after a few minutes and brought back to Earth for presentation to Congress, which provided all the funds for space exploration.


Also to be carried along on the flight are a set of flags of the 50 states, the District of Columbia and United States territories, plus flags of other nations, as well as that of the United Nations. These flags will stay in the lunar module, since the astronauts will be too busy at this point to waste time raising and lowering 50 or more flags. The flags will be brought back to earth, where they will be highly prized due to the historic nature of the trip.

OTHER FLAGS TO THE MOON
A U.S. Naval Academy flag has gone to the moon and back. Astronauts James A. Lovell and William A. Anders, both Academy graduates, took the small Brigade flag with them when they circled the moon last December. And that's not the only place this same much-travelled flag has been. It was originally taken by Lovell on his two-week voyage around the earth in 1965. Later on, it was taken along on a Navy deep-sea dive to the bottom of Hudson Canyon in the Atlantic Ocean. It now resides at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

FLAGS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES
As reported in the Baltimore Sun, a problem has arisen regarding the proposed display of the flag of East Germany at the next Olympic Games in Munich in 1972. It appears that up to the time of the Tokyo games in 1964, both East and West Germans were considered one team under one special flag—the black, red, and gold flag with the Olympic rings. At the Mexico games in 1968, the two teams were separate, each with its own uniform.

Now, however, the International Olympic Committee has decided that the East German team must be allowed to display its own national symbols at Munich. This will be embarrassing to the West German government, not only because it doesn't recognize East Germany, but also because Munich has already invested large amounts of money in preparation for the Games, which it stands to lose in case of cancellation.

The West German Cabinet, according to the report, in attempting to solve the problem, agreed that the Committee's permission for East Germany to display their flag did not constitute recognition by West Germany. They then decided that the Olympic Games should be treated as a special case. In Munich, the East German flag would be allowed, but on other sports occasions taking place within the West German borders the previous arrangement would have to hold.

This solves the problem only temporarily, since many other sporting events will be taking place later. But viewers may expect to see East German flags flying in Munich.

NAVA IN THE ENCYCLOPEDIA
An entry under the name of the North American Vexillological Association will appear in the ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ASSOCIATIONS, soon to be published in a revised and up-dated form. This well-known reference work is published by the Gale Research Company, Book Tower, Detroit, Michigan.