THE EDITOR'S IN-BASKET

A feature article on Annin & Company appeared in the SPECTRUM section of the Newark, N.J. Star-Ledger for June 9, 1974. The five-page story was complete with color photographs showing close-ups of colorful flags in the process of manufacture. United States flags, flags of the separate states, flags for the United Nations, flags for foreign nations, for Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and religious organizations are made in the company's plants in North Jersey.

(—contributed by Don Healy)

A project entitled "NEW GLORY" has been initiated as an American Revolution Bi-centennial project to honor "Old Glory" and to bring its spirit to other flags of the past, the present and the future. Sponsored by the Santa Barbara, California, Museum of Art, the program is undertaken with aid from the National Endowment for the Arts, and other contributions.

The project's goal, says a museum release, "is the exhibition and display of distinguished designs in historic and contemporary American flags for cities, states and other public groups." New flag designs will be judged and winners selected. All art museums are eligible to participate in displays and exhibits.

Liason with the North American Vexillological Association and the Flag Research Center will be maintained.

For information write to NEW GLORY, c/o Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, California, 93101. (—The National Observer, 22 June 1974)

A list of the 150 independent countries of the world is available free of charge from the Research Department, National Geographic Society, Washington, D.C., 20036. The list includes the capital of each country, and its territories or possessions. A handy reference tool, current as of 1974.

Correction! NAVA News of March, 1974, incorrectly stated the Pennsylvania automobile license plates were yellow on black. They are yellow on blue. (Mee culpa! — Ed.)

(—contributed by John Singer)

Plan to visit the Netherlands next spring! From April 16th through 20th, 1975, the Sixth International Congress of Vexillology will be held in the Netherlands. (These dates are before the summer air fares go into effect). At the last such congress in London in 1973, 13 NAVA members were present. Let's do even better this time! Present plans are for the Congress to take place on board a ship traveling the inland waterways of Holland and the IJssel Lake (formerly the Zuider Zee) and starting at Amsterdam. If you are interested write to Klaes Sierksma, Brink 36, Muiderberg, Netherlands.
Since Frederick Patten (NAVA NEWS, VII:1) claimed the reference I made to the three elephants on the flag of Laos was incorrect, I have looked into the matter.

I believed the emblem to represent three elephants because four legs are visible, whereas most polycephalic animals, real and imaginary, are quadrupeds, not polypeds. This is seen quite clearly, for example, in the side view of the tricephalic elephant on the king’s flag used in Thailand in the late 19th century.

Moreover, a letter from 1956 in my files, received from the Royal Laotian Embassy in Washington, refers to three elephants. Finally, symbolically, three elephants make more sense than one with three heads; the former might symbolize, when brought together, three kingdoms united into one, whereas the latter would suggest one kingdom splitting into three parts.

Nevertheless, it appears that the official interpretation favors the three-headed elephant, since reference to such appears in the constitution. The extra legs probably are not the hind legs but extra forelegs added for artistic balance only, without regard to zoological logic. (It must be admitted that the "three elephants theory" also has an artistic problem: where are the bodies of the three elephants?).

The interpretation that the three heads stand for the three former kingdoms is suspect. If adopted after their union, such an elephant would have been an appropriate symbol for the creation of the nation. In fact, the Lao flag was used by the Kingdom of Luang Prabang and was imposed on Laos when it was created, i.e., when Luang Prabang annexed the other two kingdoms. Therefore, if it represented them it was only as territories claimed by the royal house of Luang Prabang, not as equal constituents of a new state.

Mention should also be made in passing of the 14th-century kingdom of Lan Xang, which modern Laos looks to as its spiritual predecessor. The name means "Million Elephants."

From John A. Singer, apprentice vexillologist, Dover, Penna.:  

Flags on Non-Russian Peoples Under Soviet Rule, published by the Flag Research Center is excellent and greatly appreciated. I have observed a flag which is not included in that booklet and which may be of interest to NAVA members. It appears as crossed with an American flag on an oil painting of a Grand Mufti of Balkan Tatar Muslims hanging in a mosque in Brooklyn, New York. The mosque was erected by a group of immigrant Muslims escaping the "Red Plague" from various nations, and is said to be a Tatar Islamic religious flag with no national attachment. On a white field, centered, is a gold crescent and star. The horns of the crescent face West, rather than East which is predominant in Islamic flags. Recently the painting was conspicuously retouched to reverse the crescent, presumably to make it conform with other similar flags. The flag manufactured in New York for this community has the gold and star facing East on an emerald green background.
LECTURE POSSIBILITIES FOR NAVA MEETINGS

by Whitney Smith

The heart of each year's NAVA meeting is the giving of lectures by members, based on their activities and research in the field of flags. Many members, however, are hesitant to plan a talk—perhaps they don't know a good subject, or feel everything has been dealt with already.

In order to encourage wider and deeper participation in future meetings, the NAVA EXECUTIVE BOARD plans to have a theme for each meeting as a focus for exhibits and lectures. This won't mean that other topics are discouraged, of course.

For the 1974 meeting everyone is asked to bring information about city flags and related symbols. If each person obtained only the seal, arms and flag of his or her own city, it would still produce more material than has ever previously been exhibited at a NAVA meeting. There is still plenty of time to track down this material and put it into a form suitable for presentation (with or without an accompanying talk).

There is also an enormous untapped reserve of talent among the members that should result in good lectures—with a little effort. The following are proposals based on interests of members as listed in our Yearbook: the Executive Board doesn't expect every individual listed to actually be ready to deliver a talk at the next meeting, or that the subject suggested will be chosen—but it would be quite a meeting if only half respond (others are invited to join in, too, of course!):

Charles Brannon, "A Vexillological Tour of Montgomery"
George Cahill, "Types of Flags Used in Scouting"
Harold Diceman, "Relationships Between Heraldry and Flags"
Leslie Dollinger, "Collecting Flags as a Hobby"
Donald Duchene, "Flags of the Twelve Tribes of Israel"
Karlis Dzirkalis, "Flag Usage in Latvia"
Arthur Etchells, "Military Flags of the Spanish Republic"
David Halstead, "Polar Exploration Flags"
Florence Hutchison, "The Oklahoma State Flag"
Creighton Kern, "Flags of African Liberation Movements"
John Lyman, "Maritime Law and Flags"
Howard Madaus, "Wisconsin State Flags"
William Milton, "Silk-Screening as a Flag Manufacturing Technique"
Pual C. Mills, "Flags as an Art Form"
John Mokler, "The Wyoming State Flag"
Ken Morgan, "Changing Tastes Among Flag Purchasers"
Frances O'Donnell, "The Color Guard—an American Folk Tradition"
John Purcell, "The Flags of Portugal"
Ralph Spence, "Canadian Church Flags"
Dennis Swenson, "Personal Flags of Sovereigns"

If you are looking for an unusual topic for research work, here are some suggestions. Each one could keep you busy for at least a year and would make an excellent presentation at a NAVA meeting and/or article for THE FLAG BULLETIN or NAVA News:

"Flags as a Theme in Patriotic Songs"
"Hitler's Blood Banner"
"Arms and Flags of Private Trading Companies and Their Colonies"

(continued overleaf)
"The Influence of Masonry in the United States and the Latin-American Flags and Arms during the Late 18th and Early 19th Centuries"
"Flags of China, 1911-1949"
"Symbols of Independence in the American South, 1860-1865"
"Flags of the 19th Century in Ghana (or Dahomey or Madagascar)"

Another way to approach the question is to go to a local library or historical society, even a small one. Find out what subject matter they have made a special collection on, and then do flag research in the available books. It might produce some unusual results, such as "Flags and Occultism," "The American Eagle in Early Furniture," "Flag References in Spanish Poetry," "Flags on Tombstones." Remember that the smaller the area of specialization you choose, the better chance you have to make yourself the world's leading expert in that field—and the better your opportunity to make some real contributions to our knowledge of flags!

In keeping with the report of our Personal Flag Committee, we are also hoping to have a workshop for the design of personal flags of members.

When you've decided on a topic for the meeting, let President Whitney Smith know so that you can be scheduled.

**NAVA 1974 ANNUAL MEETING**

All members are asked to mark the dates October 12th to 14th on the calendar and save them for the 1974 annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association. The place where the meeting will be held will be announced soon. Anyone interested in running for one of the five elective offices of the association should inform the Nominating Committee of his or her availability in advance of the meeting. Write to the Editor of NAVA News or to Mr. William Driggs, c/o Annin & Co., Suite 1500, 2 Pennsylvania Plaza, New York, N.Y., 10001.

**INTERNATIONAL FLAG STANDARD**

Dr. Atlee Grah-Madsen of the Nordic Flag Society, Bergen, Norway, visited Washington recently and presented your Editor with a 27-page draft of his proposed International Flag Standard. This is a new system devised by him using coded numbers and letters, by which any flag may be briefly but completely described in computer language.

This is a significant contribution to vexillology and should be read by all members. A copy will be available at the October NAVA meeting. Dr. Grah-Madsen invites all members and interested persons to comment on the draft standard as soon as possible. His address is c/o Norges Handelsmøyschole, N-5000 Bergen, Norway. He intends to present a final draft for adoption at the Sixth International Congress on Vexillology in the Netherlands in April, 1975.

**OBITUARY**

Lawrence P. Tower, one of NAVA's founding members, died in April 1974. Those who knew him will remember a courtly gentleman of the old school, courteous, friendly, and with a great sense of humor. His devotion to the cause of vexillology was whole-hearted, and he attended all the NAVA annual and international meetings up to and including the one in London in October 1973. Much of his time was spent in Washington lobbying for legislation that would prevent flag desecration. He helped fashion the present law, which provides a year in jail or a fine of $1000 for mutilation, defacing or trampling the flag. His home was in New York City.

**WEDGWOOD POTTERY**

The Stars and Stripes fly beside the Union Jack at the Wedgwood Pottery in England. The manager says, "We always fly the flag of visiting buyers, and Americans are our best customers." —Nat'l Geographic Magazine, July, 1974.
1974 ANNUAL MEETING, BALTIMORE

The 8th Annual Meeting of the North American Vexillological Association will be held at the Maryland Historical Society on the morning and afternoon of Saturday, 12 October 1974, and at the Lord Baltimore Hotel Saturday evening, all day Sunday, and on the morning of Monday, 14 October. Coffee breaks, lunch on Saturday and Sunday, dinner on Sunday evening, and the bus tour Sunday afternoon are included in the registration price. The following program of events is subject to change.

SATURDAY, 12 OCTOBER

10-12:00 AM  Registration and tour of the Maryland Historical Society.
12-1:00 PM  Lunch
1:10-1:40  John Szala, "The Pulaski Flag"
1:40-2:00  Gary Grahl, "Flags Over New York City" (a film)
2:00-2:30  John Purcell, "A Tour of Ohio City Flags"
2:30-2:45  Newton Blakeslee, "Flags on Stamps"
2:45-3:00  Robert Gauron, "Problems in City Flag Research"
3:00-3:30  Coffee break and announcements
3:30-4:00  Arthur Etchells, "Flags of the Spanish Civil War"
4:00-4:15  Dr. Atle Grahl-Madsen, "International Vexillological Terminology"
4:15-5:00  Dr. Whitney Smith, "Symbols of Peace and Pacifism"
7:00-7:30  Paul C. Mills, "The New Glory Project"
7:30-10:00  David B. Martucci will conduct a workshop on the designing and making of personal banners and other flags; all members are invited to participate; those with special talents will assist in exploring all aspects of the problem so that hopefully by our meeting next year all members will have personal or family flags for display.

SUNDAY, 13 OCTOBER

9:00-9:30  Executive Board Meeting (members only); a chance to view exhibits
9:30-12:00  Business meeting of the Association
12:00-1:00  Lunch
1:00-5:00  Bus tour of Fort McHenry, Pickersgill House (birthplace of the Star-Spangled Banner), U.S. Frigate Constellation, and other sites of flag interest in Baltimore.
7:00-11:00  Cash bar, followed by annual banquet and speaker of honor; this year Dr. Harold Langley of the Smithsonian Institution will discuss his experiences in dealing with flags at that institution.

MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER

9:00-9:30  Dr. John Lyman, "Maritime Law and Flag Usage"
9:30-9:50  Dr. Whitney Smith, "The Original Seals of the Thirteen Colonies"
9:50-10:20  Helen Sadler, "Flags of Norway"
10:20-10:40  Jean Hofmeister, "Flags of Baltimore and Maryland"
10:40-11:10  Dr. J.J. de Santa-Pinter, "Native Elements in Puerto Rican Heraldry and Vexillology"
11:10-11:40  Florence Hutchison, "Flags of Oklahoma"
11:40-12:00  "The Story of Old Glory" (a film)