COLORS OF THE WIND

TUMBLING WATERS PRESENTS ANDERS HOLMQUIST

"A flag is a beautiful manifestation of windpower." this quote of Anders Holmquist beautifully personifies "Colors of the Wind", an exhibition of his original-design flags which is on display at Tumbling Waters Museum, 131 South Perry Street in Montgomery, from April 1 through July 14th of this year.

Holmquist is a vexillographer — a designer and maker, philosopher and bearer of flags and an individual who, in the words of Edmund N. Bacon, "has perceived a blank spot in our culture and has proceeded with great sensitivity to fill it with the richness of his. As a city planner and urban designer, I have been sad about many of the monumental civic spaces we have created through urban renewal because they are barren and dull. Mr. Holmquist, by his recreation of the vexillographer's art, brings life to the cities."

Born in Stockholm, Sweden, Holmquist studied Bauhaus-based design in Saarbrucken and left a successful photography career to pursue a fascination with color and movement and the variety of emotions one experiences while watching a flag. He talks of the meditative and peaceful effects of watching yards of brilliant fabric unfurl, the pageantry and heraldry
historically associated with flags and banners; the playfulness and excitement which the colored works can produce.

Since embarking on the sometimes lonely voyage in a field in which Mr. Holmquist is considered one of the few craftsmen, he has designed flags for Salvador and Gala Dali — a white crown on a blue ground for her castle in Europe; Andrew Wyeth — a star which consists of several shades of blue against a black background; St. Mark's-in-the-Bowery; American Indian Movement leader Dennis Banks; and one for King Carl XVI Gustav of Sweden's recent visit to New York.

The flags and personal symbols that Mr. Holmquist designs are entirely different from those fashioned for kings and dukes from the Middle ages through the 19th century, where a whole lion on the crest signified the most powerful family and a lesser family had a half a lion. Indeed, most of Holmquist's original designs are abstract or cubist in inspiration and are comprised of pastel and primary colors.

"People today who order flags are seeking an expression of their identity," Mr. Holmquist has stated. And while the motif is an important aspect of the personalization, clients are often given the color test developed by Max Luscher, the Swiss psychologist, which Holmquist maintains reveals a person's color preferences. When Andrew Wyeth commissioned a flag for his home in Maine and Holmquist suggested it be blue and black, Wyeth was quite amused as these colors rarely appear in his paintings. The color test confirmed Holmquist's intuition.

His flags are made of oxford-grade 100% nylon — the weave and weight used for ski jackets and umbrellas — and Holmquist usually does some of the handwork, insisting on the personal touch. And although he considers the nylon superior to the once-prevalent cotton that dominated the flag industry, Holmquist feels that the old-fashioned bunting had some definite advantages. "It is heavy and when unfurled in the wind, it has big and gracious movements. Nylon has less weight and flutters more. But it is lovely in its translucency."

In addition to flags and banners, Holmquist designs what he calls wind objects. These include colorful windsocks, especially useful for boat owners, and their derivative, rather larky objects called windcocks. He also is very concerned with flags as elements of rational and positive environmental art — believing that they are far more effective than advertising billboards — and is working with architectural planners and designers in understanding the impact of a flag, where the great space required for their effectiveness is readily available above the roofs of any building. In addition to providing a cityscape of jubilant color and pattern, flags are respectful of energy conservation and contribute vitality instead of environmental pollution.

During his extensive travels in the Far East to study art and culture, Mr. Holmquist became especially interested in Tantric art and in Tibetan prayer flags which should be simple and easy to read at a distance. He likes to quote the Tibetan lama who said: "A flag moves in the wind. Is it the flag that moves or the wind? Neither: It is the mind that moves."

"Colors of the Wind" by Anders Holmquist will be on display at Tumbling Waters Museum from April 1 through July 14 and the public is invited to attend the Opening Reception on Sunday, April 1 from 3 to 5 p.m. There will be a film presentation by Mr. Holmquist and those interested are welcome to meet the artist afterwards. In addition, the Museum has plans to hold an architectural workshop by Mr. Holmquist to educate planners and designers about the prospect of incorporating flags into urban planning. Elementary students are also encouraged to view Mr. Holmquist's flags on display at the Museum for reference in designing their personal flags for "Here Comes My Flag" in a flag design contest which will be sponsored by the Museum later this spring.

Tumbling Waters Museum is a non-profit educational institution incorporated in 1974 for the study, display, interpretation and preservation of flags, flag-related and symbolic objects. For more information, contact Ms. Janet Smith at the Museum at 262-5335.
NOTED VEXILLOLOGIST DESIGNS FLAG FOR OLDEST PROTESTANT CHURCH

Dr. Whitney Smith, Director of the Flag Research Center in Winchester, Mass., and former President of NAVA has designed a special flag to mark the observance of the oldest continuing Protestant Church in America, the First Congregational Society in Salem, Massachusetts.

This year marks the 350th anniversary of the church’s having been gathered by the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony on August 6, 1629.

Among the distinguished clergymen who have served the parish were Roger Williams, founder of the First Baptist Church in America; Hugh Peter, Chaplain to Oliver Cromwell; Thomas Barnard, who turned back an advance of British troops in 1775; William Bentley, personal friend of Thomas Jefferson.

Two of the witches who were put to death at the height of the witch hysteria in 1692 were members of the Church: Giles Cory and Rebecca Nurse.

Of particular interest to vexillologists, is that Governor Endicott, a member of the Church, committed the first recorded deed of flag desecration on these shores when he cut the cross of St. George out of the King’s colors.

The symbolism of the 350th anniversary flag is as follows: There are two levels of meaning: the chalice is a traditional symbol of Unitarianism; the letter S for Salem is figured in the flame; and the three major and one minor bands of color stand for the three and one-half centuries of the Church.

The color symbolism could be seen as follows: white is for peace and the snows of New England (the field of the flag); red is for sacrifice and brotherhood of men and women who share a common blood everywhere in the world (first flame); yellow is for the wealth of knowledge and the light of reason (second flame); blue for the Church’s tradition and loyalty (third flame); and green is for youth, the future, the expression of a Church 350 years old and still growing (the fourth flame).

At another level of symbolism, the chalice can be seen as the institutional structure of the Church which supports the flame of faith; it is little in and of itself but without it the flame cannot exist and continue.

The flame can be seen as the congregation in another way — it is constantly changing, constantly composed of different elements, yet it always seems the same. The variety of colors recalls both the rainbow (and the covenant with man which God made after the flood) and the stained glass windows of the Church.

The flag will be raised officially over the Church for the first time at a special ceremony on Monday, September 17, 1979.

The present Minister of the Church is NAVA’s current President, the Reverend John R. B. Szala.
HE'S HAD IT — The Marquis of Bristol and his wife have flown from England to exile in Monte Carlo because of what he called Britain's "absolutely unfair and penal tax system." An admitted monarchist, the marquis is taking his fortune, family, chef, chauffeur and 900-year heritage plus his personal flag out of Britain. He said he wants to "earn some money without bloodsucking taxmen breathing down my neck." (UPI)

DETTRA FLAG COMPANY PRINTS A PLUG FOR NAVA

If interest in flags is your cup of tea you can become a member of a group of people whose eyes brighten whenever the subject takes the spotlight. Historians, manufacturers, collectors, researchers, hobbyists and travelers are some of the avenues of flag interest represented in the membership of the North American Vexillological Association (pronounced VEX-ILL-LO-LOGICAL). Founded in 1967, NAVA has become North America's primary organization for the exchange of ideas among flag buffs of all interests. Have a special flag interest? Want to share it with others? Want to find someone who shares your interest? NAVA is the place.

NAVA participates in the International Vexillological Congress, promotes special studies of flags, new publications, even reports on rare flag happenings here and abroad.

NAVA members gather annually to exchange ideas, renew old friendships and make new ones. The official publication, NAVA NEWS, includes information of specific and general flag interest. It's a great way to meet fellow vexillologists. Membership is modest, only $8.00 a year. For additional information, write to NAVA, c/o Michael Tancey, Treasurer, 10845 U.S. Highway 20, Osceola, Indiana 46561 or to Dettra Flag Company.

Things I Learned En Route To Looking Up Other Things:

That the red flag, symbolic of revolution originally had the opposite meaning: It was used by the French royal government to declare martial law, and seized by the mob to represent its opposition to the monarchial regime. (A neat historical irony.)

Sydney Harris
Toledo Blade
December 12, 1978

ODD FACTS

Nova Scotia is Canada's only province with its own flag granted by royal charter. The flag originated with the Charter of New Scotland given in 1621 to Sir William Alexander by James, King of England as James I and of Scotland as James VI.

Toledo Blade
March 6, 1979
BARBARA FRITCHIE

Barbara Fritchie, 95 years of age, hung out the Union flag in defiance of Gen. Jackson's Confederate troops.

QUESTION: Who was Barbara Fritchie?

ANSWER: Barbara Fritchie was the heroine of a famous episode of the Civil War. The incident, which is supposed to be historical fact, is the subject of a ballad written by American poet John Greenleaf Whittier.

According to the legend, Confederate Gen. Thomas (Stonewall) Jackson led his troops through the town of Frederick, Md. Barbara Fritchie, 95 years of age, hung out the Union flag in defiance of the Confederate troops. It is said that Gen. Jackson was moved by the old woman's courage and ordered his troops not to harm her.

The most famous lines in the poem are "Shoot if you must, this old gray head, but spare your country's flag," she said." A reconstruction of Barbara Fritchie's home is now a historical museum in Frederick.

John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892) wrote the ballad about Barbara Fritchie in 1863. Whittier was a Quaker and opposed to violence. A New Englander by birth, Whittier also wrote of his preference for allowing the South to secede rather than to risk war.

— Ron Berthel 3/9

The bunting that tripped John Wilkes Booth—The U.S. Treasury Guard flag used as bunting around Abraham Lincoln's box at Ford's Theatre the night he was killed has its own history. It belonged to the Treasury Department's militia, whose function was to guard the president—and the department—in the event that the Confederates got across the river and into Washington. The Lincolns had decided at the last moment to attend the showing of Our American Cousin at the theater the night of April 14, 1865, and theater officials, after a frantic search for something appropriate, grabbed the flag to drape the box.

After shooting Lincoln, John Wilkes Booth leaped from the box to the stage and shouted, "Sic semper tyrannis! The South is avenged!" But he caught his spur in the folds of the flag bunting, ripping a four-inch tear in it, and broke his left leg. He managed to limp across the stage and down the stairs to the rear of the theater where a horse was waiting.

He rode off into the night but died 12 days later—either by suicide or a soldier's bullet—as federal agents and Army officers set fire to the barn where he was hiding.

The blue flag with a painted eagle emblem in the center that had decorated the president's box that night was put on display at Ford's Theatre when it reopened. Over the years the flag's silk became deformed by fluctuations in the temperature and humidity, its color faded and its emblem began to crack and split.

The problems were so serious when the flag was brought to the Conservation Laboratories last year that a fabric specialist from Bern, Switzerland, was flown in. For a month the expert, Marie Masson, and Park Service conservator Toby Raphael worked to restore the flag. They removed its damaged backing, vacuumed it, washed it in mineral-free water with a neutral detergent, dried it rapidly under glass so that the paint would adhere better and replaced its backing with three layers of flannel. For a frame they wanted low-acid wood, so they made one of birch and basswood.

Now restored, the flag—with its four-inch tear carefully preserved (the small white streak on the right side of the flag in the picture)—was shipped back to Ford's Theatre in January with the advice that it be displayed in a climate-controlled room of 55 percent humidity and 60 to 65 degree temperature.
NAVA 13 FLAG

In the last issue of *NAVA NEWS* a composite of the NAVA 13 flag and logo by Alfred Znamierowski was illustrated. In actuality the flag (correctly shown above) has alternating stripes of black and orange with the superimposed figure of a black witch bordered in white. The logo only is the same black witch with white letters on her veil reading "NAVA XIII".

NAVA 13 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Felicitations!

Herewith is a tentative schedule for NAVA 13. Your comments and suggestions are invited.

The Keynote Speaker for the Banquet on October 6 will be Mr. Nathaniel Abelson, Map Librarian at the United Nations. He will address us on the history of flag events at the U.N. and has expressed the possibility of delivering a second paper dealing with a regimental flag of the American Revolution.

The optional Ecumenical Worship Service at the First Church in Salem has been written into our program because of strong interest in same. There will be a list of Services at the other Houses of Worship within the Salem community for those who may wish to attend elsewhere.

Mike Tancey's suggestion to sponsor a member for 1979 warrants unanimous backing from all of us (see Letters, back page, Ed.). We do need to broaden our base by bringing into our association the academics, the hobbyists, the manufacturers, the historians, and the museum curators.

Might I suggest that each of you re-read the minutes of the 12th annual membership meeting in Montgomery?

Cordially,

Rev. John R. B. Szala

NAVA 13 TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Friday October 5, 1979
5:00-6:00 pm Icebreaker at the Hawthorn Inn
6:00-? Supper on your own
8:00-9:00 pm Film presentation Brainstorming session with NAVA Officers re bylaws, future programs, etc.
9:00 pm Executive Board Meeting

Saturday October 6, 1979
9:00-10:00 am Registration - Danish and Beverage
10:00-10:30 am Official opening ceremony
10:30-12:30 am Historic Salem Tour
1:00 pm Luncheon at the Hawthorne Inn
2:00 pm Lecture/Presentation #1
2:30 pm Lecture/Presentation #2
3:00 pm Lecture/Presentation #3
3:30 pm Break
4:00 pm Lecture/Presentation #4
4:30 pm Lecture/Presentation #5
5:00 pm Lecture/Presentation #6
5:30 pm Break
7:30 pm Banquet/Keynote Speaker
10:30 pm Workshops
NAVA 13 CACHET

Mr. Harold A. Diceman of Ottawa, NAVA member and heraldic designer for the Canadian Armed Forces, has designed this special cachet for NAVA 13.

The cachet will be engraved on envelopes which will include the postal frank and date of the opening of the NAVA meeting in Salem, Mass.

Members attending the meeting will receive a copy of the envelope. Others wishing to secure one may do so by sending $1.50 to NAVA'S President:

John R. B. Szala
197 Jefferson Avenue
Salem, Mass. 01970

PHILATELIC EXCHANGE

Flag stamp collecting is a pursuit of many NAVA members and several have expressed a desire to contact other interested members for the purpose of exchanging stamps and information. For addresses of these members, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to the editor. If you wish to be included in this exchange, please advise.
Associate member Edmund Midura, presently "distinguished visiting consultant" heading the Mass Communication program at the American University in Cairo, alternates between being a newspaperman and a professor of journalism, but his interest in flags is constant. His career during the past 20 years has taken him from Philadelphia's Inquirer, the Milwaukee Journal and Baltimore Sun to the Universities of Maryland, Rhode Island and Iowa, where he received his PhD. During his extensive travels, Midura has observed flags and flag customs, while also developing his collection of flag stamps. He has authored articles for Aramco World and Linn's Weekly News based on his vexillological knowledge and promises to do a piece for NAVA NEWS on flag stamp collecting, a special interest of his and one that will appeal to many of our readers.

Flags are a shared interest in the Midura family, as is their love of travel and adventure. Edmund Midura's personal and family flag symbolizes unity in the interconnection of the three bars that represent the three ethnic strains that are combined in the Midura family. The colors are not significant, except that the combination is pleasing to them. Midura relates that the design evolved during a downpour while on a camping trip. Sheltered from the rain in their camper, the Miduras and their four children designed flags for themselves and for the family. This design survived.

Jonathan Midura designed his own personal flag and that of his mother, Patricia. At the age of 10, Jonathan is a budding vexillologist, although his designs to date are based on personal aesthetic expression, rather than strict symbology.

The Midura's experiences of the Middle East include impressions of Cairo as a flag festooned city, always ready to honor dignitaries from other nations. Their knowledge of local flag customs and displays is partly due to acquaintance with Mr. George Chakar, owner of the flag making firm Drapeaux Giova. Mr. Midura suggests that flag makers can be privy to political developments as suppliers to governments and by analysis of changing symbols and protocol.

Of their life abroad, Edmund Midura is an eloquent voice for the family collectively and expresses the warm appreciation of a different culture that results from closeness and understanding. "I've not regretted it", states Midura. "Egypt is a fascinating place that has given me much in the way of perspective on America and life in it. Egyptians are good, kind and moral people who live in a very difficult time and place. I admire them and find most of them to be very nice people. Nicer than some back home!" Of the negative aspects, Midura's chief concern is the lack of medical facilities, which could become a serious problem in an emergency.

We had hoped to greet the Miduras upon their return to the U.S. this summer and bid them welcome to NAVA 13 in Salem. This goal is now delayed as they have elected to remain in Cairo for another year. Perhaps NAVA 14 in 1980 will find the Miduras in attendance.
NAVA PROFILES

Hugh McClellan
NAVA'S VICE PRESIDENT

This is the man Past Pres. Ralph Spence titled “The Executive” at NAVA 12. At the meeting in Montgomery Rev. Spence paid tribute to Hugh McClellan for “a mammoth piece of work”. “When we were going thru a period of no leadership,” he said, Hugh picked up on a number of areas that were vacant and carried through, taking over all sorts of responsibilities that were not those of the Treasurer.”

The son of parents who were fifth cousins, Hugh was born in 1911 on George Washington's birthday in Newark (Wayne County), New York. A few years after graduating from Newark High School he went to work for Eastman Kodak where he remained for 42 years, retiring in 1972 from the New York City Region as district sales manager in the radiography markets division.

He now operates Hugh McClellan Associates, a small retail flag business he fell into by fate, and found he “had something to learn” about flags. His sources of information included The Flag Bulletin, and “discussions with Whitney Smith gave me added flag information and prompted me to join NAVA” he explains. He became vitally interested in NAVA upon attending his first meeting in Baltimore in 1974, “gaining some great contacts and friends” declares Hugh. “By being commercially oriented and not particularly studious, my approach to vexillology is more practical than scientific” he explains. Especially interested in the flags of the U.S., McClellan is at present engaged in a study of flag proportions.

McClellan and the former Elizabeth Atwell were married in 1936 and have two daughters and a son. The couple live in Southern Pines, N.C., where he is active in the Masons, Elks, and other organizations. He is conducting a patriotic essay contest among local jr. high school students for the Elks. Hugh also plays golf (with a 17 handicap), travels, fishes, gardens and tinkers. He wryly states he is “mainly retired”.

Hugh joined NAVA in 1972, was elected Treasurer in 1977 and became Vice President in 1978. He stresses that “More women should become officers, more patriots and flag makers and hobbyists; everyone with a flag interest should be active in NAVA.” He concludes “I am deeply concerned about NAVA as an organization, and can only hope that my ideas for its continued success are constructive.”

(Hugh is shown pictured with his personal flag. Adopted in 1977, the flag reflects his Scotch ancestry and his career in the field of radiography. See NAVA NEWS Vol. XI, No. 1.)

QUOTABLE QUOTE

“A flag should be simple, readily made and, above all, capable of being made up in bunting; it should be different from the flag of any other country, place, or people; it should be significant; it should be readily distinguishable at a distance; the colors should be well contrasted and durable; lastly, and not the least important point, it should be effective and handsome.”

From instructions given to the Committee for the Flag and Seal of the nascent Confederate government at Montgomery, Alabama in 1861.
NAVA 12
A RETROSPECTIVE WITH PHOTOGRAPHS

Official group photo with Tumbling Waters Museum in background.

Snapshots courtesy of Dorothy H. Claybourne

Charles Brannon, John Purcell, Mike Trawick,

Ralph Spence and John Szala

Bill Spangler and Ralph Spence

Randy Beard with Ken Hughes
Dear NAVA Members,

Thank you for your continuing support of NAVA as demonstrated by your membership renewals.

During the coming months it is the hope of the officers of NAVA that our fine organization can be of great value to you. Your suggestions are important to NAVA and we hope to hear from more of you. The addresses of the officers are listed below for your convenience.

Ken Hughes, our new NAVA NEWS editor, will be grateful for any news items or cuts that might be of interest to the membership. That includes a clear black and white sketch of your personal flag!

President John Szala is making big plans for NAVA 13 at Salem, Mass., the site of the fabled witch trials. With a little effort by each member, 1979 will be a banner year for NAVA.

May I suggest that you sponsor a new member for NAVA during 1979? With 200 paid members NAVA has a sound base, but 100-200 additional members would strengthen our vexillological network and allow for additional services and benefits.

Thanks for your support!

Sincerely yours,

Michael E. Tancey

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MR. KENNETH W. HUGHES
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Dear Fellow NAVA Members:

I have been asked to coordinate the lectures and talks to be given at NAVA 13 in Salem Mass., October 5-8 1979. I should like to invite anyone wishing to give a presentation or lecture to contact me directly at my address noted above prior to August 1, 1979 if possible. I expect to be in South America after that time until mid-September, so would like to prepare as much of the program as possible before departing.

If you know of someone who might give an interesting talk on a flag-related subject and could attend the meeting at his or her own expense (NAVA does not have reimbursement funds available), please suggest that he or she contact me.

We welcome your participation and hope you will consider giving that talk you’ve been mulling over!

Hope to see you all in Salem.

Best wishes,

John M. Purcell

VEXILLOLOGY VEXES

Editor:

I reiterate the observation I made when NAVA was first organized and the coined word “vexillology” was first proposed. The word is unfortunate because it fastens a Latin stem, “vexillo-” onto a Greek suffix, “logy”. That is a practice which should be shunned. A preferable word in my opinion would retain the “logy”, but prefix it with an appropriate Greek stem.

As far as I know, in classic Greek a word for flag was not developed, presumably because flags were not much used until after the day of that language. However, there is a perfectly good Greek word which acquired the meaning of “standard”, Its transliterated combining form would be “semeio-”. We could thus say “semeiology”.

11
MORE LETTERS

If a word from the Germanic rather than classical background of our language is sought, we could say “flaglore”.

Appreciating your having solicited the views of the membership I remain
Very truly yours,
Douglas Henry, Jr.
Nashville, Tennessee

Editor:

Today I received the January/March 1979 issue of NAVA NEWS for the files of our Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde and having read “About Vexillology” I would like to observe that “vexillology” does not appeal to me (and still much less the awkward construction “banneristics” invented by Mr. Sierksma at the same time . . . Ask Dr. Whitney Smith!).

Though English is not my native tongue, I would suggest “flaglore” (cf. “folklore”) as a more appropriate expression in this context. Why use Latin/Greek constructions if ones own language can be used just as well?

Looking forward to further comments with interest.
Kind regards,
Anton Jansen
The Hague (Den Haag)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow NAVA Members:

I want to acknowledge the response of members in contributing to NAVA NEWS. It is gratifying that after a “dry” spell during the transition of the NEWS from John Szala’s able ministrations to my fledgling attempts, communiques are beginning to trickle in.

Do not be discouraged if your every item is not immediately and fully reported. Sometimes things “fit” in terms of space, dating, content and schedule, and sometimes they don’t. Keep those cards and letters coming.

It would be churlish to impose standards of acceptance, but we cherish most that material which is easily reproducible. We lack an art staff and our budget is limited. The cost of preparing items for print can be a factor in determining use. Please send best original copy, line drawings, photo, etc. We will be happy to return these to you.

A source of articles that will be of interest to you is the biographical “profiles” being prepared by Association Historian and Yearbook Editor Dorothy Claybourne. If you have been selected for a profile, please respond. Also, if you have not returned questionnaires for this year’s NAVA Yearbook, please do so. Don’t be an anonymous entry.

Respectfully,
Ken Hughes