NAVA’S NEW PRESIDENT

JOHN M. PURCELL

He is also a member of the following honorary societies: Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Eta Sigma (for freshmen), Phi Alpha Theta (history), and Sigma Delta Pi (Spanish).

His interest in vexillology began during World War II. “As a boy,” he relates, “someone gave me a world map around which were the flags of various nations to be cut out and put on pins. Only the major nations were provided, so I began to search out the lesser known flags until I — about age 15 — had a world map with all the flags on pins.” Drawing his own flags, and searching out his own information, over the years instilled his interest in the various colors, shapes and textures, he continues. As his collection, knowledge and interest increased apace, his fascination extended to include city and county flags in the United States. He has authored numerous articles in his specialty, and at last report statistics revealed more than 100 miniature national flags, several dozen actual city flags, and several hundred slides.

One of the more interesting speeches given at past NAVA meetings was John's description of the municipal flags that he personally discovered, and his adventures in doing so, on various trips around his state; the talk did much to ignite a similar “flaggy” spark among his auditors. On this subject Lynn Knights retorted, “John is very persuasive in getting new (NAVA) recruits into the city flag studies.” He repeated, “He is a good pusher at that,” his wife Mary Knights concurring.

John learned of NAVA through The Flag Bulletin, and is a charter member. He did not attend his first convention until the Boston meeting in 1969 (NAVA-3) and has only missed one since (1977). He has served the Association as Corresponding Secretary, 1974-1976; in 1975 he hosted NAVA-9 in Cleveland, and was recording Secretary, 1979-1980. Just recently at NAVS-15 in Ottawa, John Marshall Purcell became our new president.

Tall, handsome, personable, witty, he has “no other hobbies, as such,” he says, but “lots of interest in music, theater, socializing, travel, reading (especially science fiction).”

The best of luck, Mr. President.

Dorothy H. Claybourne
NORTH AMERICAN VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

NATIONAL ARCHIVES, OTTAWA
27 AUGUST 1981

The meeting was called to order by Vice-President Woody Ridgway at 2:45 p.m. Members were asked to sit in the section to the Vice-President's left, non-members, to the right, to help in the tally of votes. Vice-President Ridgway then announced that the official parliamentarian for the meeting was Dr. Whitney Smith, and that the official tellers for the meeting were Jeanette Doetsch and Jane Burkett. Vice-President Ridgway expressed regrets that President Robert Gauron and Corresponding Secretary Dorothy Claybourne could not be present. Mr. Ken Huff was asked to read the minutes of the last meeting. Mr. Huff stated that the minutes had already been published in NAVA NEWS and asked if there was anyone present who needed to have them read, or had corrections or additions. Inasmuch as there were no questions or comments, Mr. George Cahill moved that the minutes as published be accepted. The motion was seconded by Janet Doetsch and approved unanimously.

The officers were then requested to give their reports, beginning with the President, Mr. Robert Gauron. In his absence Vice-President Ridgway read his report. Vice-President Ridgway then reported on the decisions made by the Executive Board at their meeting held on Sunday evening, 23 August, 1981. The board discussed at great length Honorary Memberships. It decided to name an Ad Hoc Committee to review and establish guide lines for Honorary Membership to be reviewed at the next meeting. A certificate of Merit Award was also considered which would be dis cussed by the same committee. The committee would consist of Dr. Whitney Smith, Lynn Purcell; Treasurer, Grace Cooper; and Recording Secretary, Ken Huff. This committee would report at the NAVA 16 meeting. The executive Board did not approve use of the NAVA insignia in advertisements.

There was no report from the Corresponding Secretary. The Recording Secretary had no report as his duties actually began at the current meeting. The Treasurer, Grace Cooper provided a copy of the Financial Statement for each member for the period October 8, 1980 through August 17, 1981. Cash on hand as of August 17, 1981 was $2,022.28. Dr. Cooper was unable to attend the annual meeting, but was able to be present at the Executive Board meeting held on Sun­day evening. It was moved by George Cahill and seconded by Whitney Smith to accept the Treasurer's report, approved unanimously.

Reports were then given by the various committees. Vice-President Ridgway stated that the Auditing Committee could not give a report as all of the members of that committee could not get together. There was no report from the Budget Committee. The Membership Committee report was given by Ken Huff. He stated that there were 250 active members; 50 associate members; 13 organizational members; and 2 honorary members, for a total of 315. Mr. George Cahill gave the report for the Program Committee. The place of the next annual meeting would be Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the dates — October 8, 9, 10, 1982. The host would be Mr. George Cahill. It was suggested that the 1983 meeting would be held at West Point, New York, with Mr. Randy Beard acting as host and program chairman. The Public Relations Committee Report was given by Rev. John R.B. Szala.

In a special committee report headed by Mr. Lynn Knights, words of thanks in a citation form were read to the members. These citations were to be sent to Sandra Armstrong, Ruth Grimshaw, and Canon Ralph Spence for the very nice programs and hard work they had done to make91CV/NAVA-15 such a great success. The citations were adopted unanimously. The corresponding secretary would mail the citations to the aforementioned.

There being no unfinished business, the meeting then moved on to new business. Rev. John Szala suggested that NAVA dues should be increased, due to the increase in postage rates and other expenses. He suggested that dues for active members should be raised to $12.00 a year and associate members accordingly. After some discussion, Rev. Szala motioned that the dues for active members be raised to $12.00 and the associate members would remain the same $4.00 for U.S. members and $7.00 for foreign members). This change would become effective January 1, 1982. The motion was seconded by Jeanette Doetsch and carried by the members present.

Other new business discussed was that a budget be submitted to the Executive Board for each annual meeting for approval. After much discussion, it was decided not to do so. Mr. Cahill stated that he will check with the President to try and follow guidelines for the next meeting. Mrs. Doreen Braverman motioned that in Section 3: B2 of the by-laws that “spouse” should be substituted for “wives (or husbands).” After some discussion it was unanimously accepted.

Jeanette Doetsch reported the present Nominating Committee's nominations for officers for 1981-1982: President, Dr. John Purcell; Vice-President, Woody Ridgway; Treasurer, Grace Cooper; and Recording Secretary, Ken Huff. It was moved that the Recording Secretary be told to cast one ballot for the entire slate; the motion was carried unanimously. The nominating committee consisting of Dr. Whitney Smith, Lynn Knights, and Jeanette Doetsch were unanimously re-elected.

There being no more new business the meeting was suspended at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Kenneth R. Huff
Recording Secretary
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
EXECUTIVE BOARD

The NAVA Bylaws state that among the duties of the President is that he shall "make the annual report of the Executive Board at the annual membership meeting."

As President, I am happy to make this report during the 15th year of NAVA's long life. But I am most unhappy at not being able to attend NAVA-15 because of circumstances beyond my control.

This has been a short year, only 10 months long, because our annual meeting is being held in August instead of October. But it has been a year of one national crisis after another. First, a possible U.S. Postal Service strike, then an actual Canadian Post Office strike, and finally a for-real U.S. air controllers' work stoppage—all threatening NAVA's communications and transportation for this meeting.

NAVA is in excellent shape because of the hard work and cooperation of its Executive Board and members. At this time I would like to extend my personal thanks to a number of people.

First, a sincere "thank you" to our three past NAVA presidents, who are listed as consultants on the NAVA letterhead—Dr. Whitney Smith, for his good advice and mailing of NAVA membership forms with The Flag Bulletin; Rev. John R.B. Szala, for so ably editing NAVA NEWS and the NAVA Yearbook; and Rev. Ralph Spence, for organizing a splendid International Congress of Vexillology-9 and NAVA-15.

Then a bouquet of gratitude goes to each Executive Board member—to Vice President Woody Ridgway for his good suggestions; to Corresponding Secretary Dorothy Claybourne for her tons of correspondence and her article about Ottawa in NAVA NEWS; to Recording Secretary Ken Huff for his story about past NAVA meetings in NAVA NEWS; and to Treasurer Grace Cooper for keeping the NAVA membership roster and financial house in order.

Finally, I would like to thank also Bill Spangler and his secretary, Marie Cassel, for their fantastic job in keeping up-to-date the NAVA membership list and mailing NAVA publications.

Just one suggestion based on my past year's experience as President. I recommend that each year the program Chairperson and Committee submit a budget to the Executive Board for approval because of these times of inflation.

This has been a good year for NAVA, and our association's coming 16th year promises equally great things.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Gauron

From the top: a) Barbara Huff of Palos Hts., Illinois and Chia-Chu Chang of San Francisco oblige the camera with a smile; b) "If you look up yonder," says Canon Spence, "you can see the flag of Cill Choinnigh."; c) Alfred Znamierowski of Cedar Grove, N.J. and Whitney Smith of Winchester, Mass., discuss the charms of an ancient Union Jack; d) Wladislaw A. Sokolov of the Soviet Union and Ottfried Neubecker of Wiesbaden, Germany display an interesting flag from Armenia for their colleagues.
REPORT OF THE TREASURER
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
8 October 1980 through 17 August 1981

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cash on Hand Oct. 8, 1980</th>
<th>$2257.12</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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INCOME

- **Dues:**
  - Active: 1623.95
  - Organizational: 225 (9)
- **Assoc. Foreign:**
  - 268 (43)
  - 1116.95 (4)

- **Interest, NOW Checking Account:** $41.15
- **National Flag Foundation:** 100.00
- **NAVA XIV, Repayment of Advance:** 370.57

**Total Income:** 4,885.79

EXPENSES

- **Printing, NAVA NEWS**
  - Form Letters, checks, etc.: 1083.46
  - Application forms: 110.17
  - 101.25

- **Postage, NAVA NEWS**
  - 425.27
  - Miscellaneous: 32.72

- **Contribution to International Congress Report Publication:** 1000.00
- **Driver Award, and Expenses:** 106.09
- **State of Illinois Non-profit Organization, Filing Tax:** 5.00

**Total Expenses:** 2863.51

Cash on Hand, August 17, 1981

Grace R. Cooper,
Treasurer
REPORT OF THE
NAVA NEWS EDITOR

No one will deny that NAVA NEWS is an indispensable link which binds our diverse vexillological family into a nuclear unit.

More important, our quarterly newsletter serves to bridge the gap between the annual meetings of the Association and by helping isolated members to maintain identification with the parent body.

Since again assuming the role of NAVA editor last year, my primary objective was to make sure that NAVA NEWS would be published with regularity. This goal, I’m happy to say, has been achieved.

Attempting to fulfill the expectations of our members and present a newsletter whose contents reflect their myriad interests is no easy task.

The mechanics of compiling an issue transcend the aspect of being a chore to that of a labor of love when one receives as much cooperation as possible from one’s colleagues.

This cooperation consists in receiving tear sheets from newspapers and magazines, and/or articles for possible use.

NAVA NEWS is first and foremost a “family organ” and cannot compete with the more scholarly vexillological journals, nor can it possibly herald the birth of every new flag. Hopefully, it serves as a catalyst to stimulate interest, encourage research, build bridges of friendship, and simply, allow one and all to receive a tangible commodity for one’s dues and to make one feel that in some way he or she is contributing to the on-going promotion of the science of vexillology.

NAVA cannot afford to subscribe to a professional clipping service, nor would the time frame of publishing NAVA NEWS make such a service feasible.

Therefore, NAVA NEWS must do what it is capable of doing best — i.e., fulfilling those objectives already stated. However, the calibre of its contents can be continually improved, but this is dependent upon each member’s input. The newsletter can only reflect the members’ interest or lack thereof, and the ingenuity of the editor.

The NAVA YEARBOOK is again a reality. The 1980-81 edition recognizes the site of NAVA-15 and the 9th International Congress of Vexillology and acknowledges the vital and important role of NAVA’s Canadian members, associates and organizations.

The current Yearbook is the sixth volume since the first was published in 1972-1973.

I sadly regret that not everyone opted to return his or her completed questionnaire and I encourage all to do so in the future so that the NAVA YEARBOOK can be a more viable resource and tool.

It is my hope that I have served you, NAVA, and vexillology within the past year.

Respectfully submitted,

John R.B. Szala

FURLONG BOOK PUBLISHED
Member Edits Important New Flag Book

Dr. Harold D. Langley, NAVA member and flag expert on the U.S. flag for the Smithsonian Institution, has expanded and edited So Proudly We Hail: The History of the United States Flag. He is Associate Curator of Naval History in the Department of Science and Technology at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.

The authors, William Rea Furlong and Byron McCandless, who were advisors to three U.S. presidents, devoted much of their professional lives to this collaboration. Their definitive, authoritative, and up-to-date history, for which Dr. Langley has provided the editorial support, is being published this fall by the Smithsonian Institution Press.

Rear Admiral Furlong, NAVA’s first Honorary Member, was for many years the Department of the Navy’s authority on flag matters and consultant to Congress; he helped draft a uniform code of flag etiquette, and designed both the 49- and the 50-star U.S. flags.

Also a leading vexillologist for the Department of the Navy, Commodore McCandless was a consultant to Presidents Wilson, Roosevelt, and Truman.

So Proudly We Hail not only traces the U.S. flag’s evolution from colonization to the moon landing but also lays to rest many controversies and misconceptions about the flag’s history. In carefully researched chapters the authors tell of the flags around which Americans have rallied in significant revolutionary campaigns or battles, and in giving detail on the origins and early usages of the flag they deal factually with such folk traditions as the Betsy Ross story, the Genesis of Old Glory, and the flag shown in Emanuel Leutze’s “Washington Crossing the Delaware” painting. They make clear the later growth and development of the flag as it corresponds with the growth and development of the nation.

The 256-page scholarly work is further enhanced by fairly profuse color (108 plates) and black and white illustrations (82). The 8½ x 11” book is available at $9.95, paper, and $22.50, cloth.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
...and plan to attend another exciting NAVA meeting.
Two speeches are already scheduled for the meeting: Dorothy Hite Claybourne will speak on "The Oriflamme" and John M. Purcell, NAVA’s new president, will give an address on "Flags in the Commercial World."

PITTSBURGH
Renaissance City of America
Site of NAVA-16
October 8, 9, 10, 1982

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT NAVA 15

WHEREAS, CANON D. RALPH SPENCE has hosted the Ninth International Conference of Vexillology and NAVA XV, assembled in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, August 24 - 27, 1981, in the 29th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada; and
WHEREAS, through his efforts, the members have gained much knowledge and history of Canadian and International vexillology; and
WHEREAS, his untiring and dedicated efforts, despite postal and logistical problems, and ecclesiastical duties in Her Majesty’s realm of Scotland, provided this successful assembly; be it therefore

RESOLVED, by NAVA XV assembled in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on August 27, 1981, that this Resolution be presented to CANNON RALPH SPENCE as an expression of our sincere appreciation and thanks for a “job well done.”

WHEREAS, MRS. RUTH GRIMSHAW, Aide and personal secretary to Canon Ralph Spence, has devoted endless hours in preparation of the Ninth International Conference of Vexillology and NAVA XV, assembled in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, August 24 - 27, 1981, in the 29th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada; and

WHEREAS, the success and enjoyment of this conference has been enhanced through her untiring and dedicated efforts; be it therefore

RESOLVED, by NAVA XV assembled in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on August 27, 1981, that this Resolution be presented to MRS. RUTH GRIMSHAW as an expression of our sincere appreciation and thanks for a “job well done.”

WHEREAS, MRS. SANDRA ARMSTRONG, acting as coordinator for the Ninth International Conference of Vexillology and NAVA XV, assembled in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, August 24 - 27, 1981, in the 29th year of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada; and
WHEREAS, through her personal contacts and efforts has made this conference pleasant and successful; be it therefore

RESOLVED, by NAVA XV assembled in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on August 27, 1981, that this Resolution be presented to MRS. SANDRA ARMSTRONG as an expression of our sincere appreciation and thanks for a “job well done.”

Approved by:
W.W. Ridgway, Acting President
Submitted by:
Members of the Resolution Committee
Lynn Knights  E. Jane Burkett
Mary Knights  Jeanette Doetsch
JAMES CROFT, RECIPIENT OF DRIVER AWARD

James Croft, a young NAVA member, became the third recipient of the Driver Award which was established by the National Flag Foundation, based in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1979.

"South African Civic Flags" was singled out by the Executive Board at NAVA-15 in Ottawa as the best paper presented and worthy of recognition by the Association.

James is the Director of the Institute of Civic Heraldry, R.F.D. 4, Enosburg Falls, Vermont 05450, which is a center for collecting and disseminating data on civic coats-of-arms from throughout the world.

He spent a year in South Africa researching that nation's flags and presented a paper on his experiences at the 7th International Congress of Vexillology held in Washington, D.C. in 1977.

The first NAVA member to be presented the Award with its one hundred dollar cash prize was Mr. Robert S. Gauron of Lombard, Illinois at NAVA-13, Salem, Mass., for his paper, "The Life and Achievements of 'Old Glory' Driver - Godfather to the United States Flag."

Dr. Emmett Mittlebeeler of Washington, D.C. was the winner of the second William Driver Award for his panel discussion on flag profanation held at the NAVA-14 meeting in St. Louis, Mo.

All of Mr. Croft's colleagues extend their heartiest congratulations and their appreciation to the National Flag Foundation for making this annual award possible.

NAVA DUES
Effective January 1, 1982, NAVA Dues will be $12.00 per year for Active Members. Up until that date, you may renew your active membership at the old rate of $8.00 by sending that amount to NAVA's Treasurer: Mrs. Grace Rogers Cooper, Route 9 West, Great Capacon, West Virginia 25422 (April-November), or 509 68th St., Holmes Beach, Florida 33510 (November-April). Do send the appropriate amount.

THE FLAGSTAFF

NOTES FROM JOHN M. PURCELL
NAVA PRESIDENT

What a great conference! The 9-ICV/NAVA-15 meeting in Ottawa August 24-27, 1981, was top-notch in every respect. The very capable Canon D. Ralph Spence, a past president of NAVA, was the host and organizer of a meeting that will long be remembered for its stimulating lectures, interesting tours and sumptuous meals. Delegates to 9-ICV came from around the globe to participate in an exchange of vexillological data and scholarship. Many new friends were made, and representatives of various nations could be seen constantly in conversation between lectures and at meals discussing our favorite subject: vexillological news. The loud applause of those present at the closing banquet for Ralph and his efficient colleagues, Mr. Auguste Vachon, Mrs. Sandra Armstrong and Mr. Ruth Grimshaw, attested to the splendid job done by them and the very successful meeting which we all enjoyed so much. A great big thanks again to our Canadian friends for making this one of our very best meetings!

I am proud that the NAVA members present voted me as your president for the coming year. I hope to carry on in the fine tradition of our immediate past president, Bob Gauron, who worked very hard during the past year to strengthen NAVA and to move in new directions. I plan to rely a lot on his capable advice. Thanks, Bob, for a fine job well done! Thanks, also, to our "unflappable" vice president, Woody Ridgway, who stepped in at the last minute to chair the NAVA-15 meeting when unforeseen circumstances prevented Bob from attending as he had planned. Woody was more than equal to the challenge, and we are lucky to have him continuing as our competent "veep." Dorothy Claybourne as Corresponding Secretary, Grace Cooper as Treasurer and Ken Huff as Recording Secretary were elected to continue in their positions. Many thanks to each of them for their valuable contributions year around. I think that we are especially fortunate that Rev. John R.B. Szala agreed to remain as Publications Chairman: as the conscientious editor of NAVA NEWS and the Yearbook, his work is appreciated and enjoyed by all of us, and is the principal means by which we are able to keep in touch.

NAVA-16 will be held next year in Pittsburgh, PA, October 8-10, 1982. It's not too soon to begin to make plans to join us there. Why not consider giving a talk, too? Maybe you have some aspect of vexillology to which you have devoted much time and would like to share it with all of us. In a later issue I'll talk more about that, but right now circle those dates on your calendar. If you've never been to a NAVA meeting, there's no time like next year to start. We'd love to meet you - and do we ever have a lot to talk about!
THE SPORTSMEN OF SKULKING CREEK

Fishing and hunting were formally recognized as sports in America in 1732 when the Schuylkill Fishing Company was formed, outside Philadelphia. Pronounced School-Kill, a Dutch word meaning skulking creek or hidden stream, the Company had its own flag of state, emblazoned with a crown and three perch in white against a red background. While faithful to George III, when the American Revolution began, the flag was soon changed to red, white and blue with thirteen stars and stripes. Symbolically, the stars surrounded the silhouette of a white perch, a gregarious and delicious fish so abundant in the lower Delaware and its tributaries that it appeared at every meeting, which included meals of fish and game freshly killed for the occasion.

Although the company could lay claim to the origin of planked shad, the carefully fried perch was the display piece of all festive boards. Indeed, to qualify as a citizen of the Company one was required to fry a half dozen perch in a longhandled iron skillet and turn the lot simultaneously by flipping them into the air. Even present-day members are pressed to learn this manual feat.

The Schuylkill Fishing Company has had members from all walks of life — each one a fishing fan. The list has included prominent Americans, including soldiers, statesmen and professional and business leaders. Lafayette and General Pershing were honorary members. There can only be thirty members in the organization at one time. Guests may visit the Castle only in the company of members; when the Castle is occupied by a private party, any member can have access to another’s angling box or locker without being considered an intruder; religious and political discussions are banned. Delightful in its simplicity, this ancient organization has maintained an unbroken link with the past, keeping faith with the ideals of the founders, two centuries ago.

from: American Farm & Home Almanac for the year of our Lord 1982, Lewiston, Maine 04240

A “GRAVE SIGNAL”

One of the peculiarities of 19th Century America was the fear of being buried alive, a phobia perhaps inspired by the tales of Edgar Allan Poe. Coffins were patented which featured elaborate “life signals” in case of “doubtful death.” One of the most ingenious of these was a contraption consisting of a cord placed in the hand of the doubtful deceased and connected to a bell. The 1882 “grave signal,” which at the touch of the hand released a flag above ground, was certainly the most confidence-inspiring — judging by the name of its inventor, Albert Fearnaught.

from: Life, 20.IX.63

BOOK REVIEW

SYMBOLS: MYTH, MAGIC, FACT, AND FANCY by Fred Rosebury, 133 Bacon St., Natick, Mass. 01760, paperback, $10.00.

Vexillologists who take their hobby seriously are constantly in search of books dealing with or related to flags to expand their libraries.

SYMBOLS: MYTH, MAGIC, FACT, AND FANCY by Fred Rosebury is a real treasure! This 389 page 8½ x 11 book is filled with fascinating data on both ancient and contemporary symbols, many of which have made their appearance on flags.

In his introduction, the author states that “we believe we make and control symbols; more often it is the symbol, especially the printed word, that controls us.” This profound statement sets the tone for the twenty-two chapters of a book which will provide one with information, hours of pleasure and much food for thought.

Those who imbibe in the pleasures of vexillological research can ill afford not to have such a valuable resource at hand.

LETTERS

A friend of mine returned from Santa Fe, New Mexico, after a business trip. He mentioned that Santa Fe is the only state capital without an airport. I counted with some trivia of my own: remembering that the new capitol building had been laid out like the Indian sun design used as a state symbol, I said “Did you know that New Mexico has the only capitol building whose design is based on the state flag?” To which he responded immediately, “Oh, I’m sure there must be other rectangular capitol buildings.”

Whitney Smith
FLAG OF THE AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

June 5, 1981

Dear Mr. Szala:

Thank you for your kind letter of May 28 inquiring about the ARRL flag appearing on the October, 1980 cover of QST.

My amateur radio hobby and flag interest converged when the American Radio Relay League, the bi-national society of radio amateurs, announced a contest, giving few details except that designs must be received by March 1, 1979. I sketched for several months and had occasion to see Whitney Smith's book, Flags Through the Ages and Across the World, and found in it many good ideas and interesting histories.

The League leadership did not indicate what it had in mind. ARRL was founded in the early radio days and is American and Canadian. Yet its membership includes amateurs all over the world. Symbolizing certain of the abstract concepts involved, without being trite, added to the challenge, and complicating matters further was ARRL's emblem, familiar to hams down through the years, with initials and other symbols within. The winning design would have to incorporate the emblem, I felt.

There were approximately 300 entries, and I submitted about 30 designs, sketched on letter-size white paper, using color felt tip pens.

The winner was one of the simpler designs. It displayed horizontal stripes of both broad and narrow width in imitation of Morse code which, when read from top to bottom, spelled “QST,” an abbreviation or signal used by hams meaning “Attention all radio amateurs, a bulletin of interest follows.” It is used almost exclusively by ARRL and its members and is, of course, the name of their monthly journal. Both the emblem and the journal go back to approximately 1912.

The leadership was pleased with the design but inquired whether it could be slightly modified or refined so as to avoid too much resemblance to the Stars and Stripes. I found an easy solution to the problem and one which would have the happy advantage of adding more symbolism. The modification was well received and the design was officially adopted at the national convention in Baton Rouge in January, 1980, at headquarters, Newington, Connecticut. Copies of it are available now for purchase.

The colors of the field are common to the fields of US and Canadian flags. The stripes and panel are derived from the two national flags. The field has 16 divisions corresponding to the 16 geographic divisions of the ARRL. The horizontal red stripes spell QST in Morse and are proportioned according to the international convention for Morse proportioning. The emblem, in blue and white, is placed at the meeting of the vertical panel and the horizontal stripes. A fimbriation occurs at the meeting of the top horizontal red stripe and the red panel, and at the meeting of the bottom horizontal red stripe and the red panel. I felt it necessary because the panel and the stripes are derived from national flags, and intended it to emphasize their separate integrity. The emblem reads properly from each side.

I chose the overall proportions of the U.S. flag, 1 to 1.9. Because the horizontal stripes are derived from, but modifications of, the American stripes, I felt it would not be inappropriate to modify slightly the red panel. It is 1/5 the length of the flag in width, rather than the official 1/4. The vertical dimension of the emblem in relation to the width of the flag is arbitrary and based simply on aesthetic considerations. It was also hoped that setting it off-center in the fashion described would mean that it would be seen more easily from the flagstaff.

There are, I suppose, about 165,000 League members out of approximately 365,000 U.S. and Canadian amateurs, and I have received, I would guess maybe 1,000 cards, letters and other responses to the design. All of this has been a great deal of fun for me. (There have been very few “discouraging words,” and most of the responses have been very favorable.)

I am enclosing the suggested symbolism and specifications I furnished the League, and editorial in the issue you referred to, and a color copy of the cover. I do not have a black and white glossy.

It does not appear I will be able to join you in Ottawa for NAVA-15. I know all will have a very enjoyable time.

Sincerely,

Ralph G. Holberg, III
P.O. Box 47
Mobile, Alabama 36601

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PROPORTION GUIDE

LENGTH = WIDTH X 1.9

3/27 WIDTH
(Broad Stripes)

1/27 WIDTH
(Narrow Stripes)

1/5 LENGTH

1/27 WIDTH (or less)

3/27 WIDTH

1/27 WIDTH (or less)

NAVA NEWS/FALL 1981 Page 9
John and June Trevithick of the Duchy of Cornwall, the land of Prince Charles of England, right, with the Cornish flag, the white cross of St. Piran, patron saint of the miner, on a field of black.

FLYING THE FLAG

An Akron Ohio couple have been ordered to appear in federal court Sept. 11 for refusing to dismantle their flagpole or buy a $75 license to fly the American flag at their summer cottage. Donald and Dorothy Seabeck of Uniontown were ordered to buy a license after surveyors found the flagpole, erected in 1961, was located on federal land, just a few feet over their property line. "I thought the government is what the flag is all about," Mrs. Seabeck said. "This is my flag, and my flagpole. I don't want to give in on it."

from: The Citizen (Ottawa) 24.VIII.81

SADAT HONORED BY EMPIRE STATE BUILDING

The illuminated upper floors of the Empire State Building in New York City were floodlighted in the colors of the Egyptian flag in honor of President Anwar el-Sadat upon news of the peace maker's untimely death at the hands of assassins.

The flag's colors are "red for sacrifice, white for purity and black to commemorate the past," said Stephanie Sachs, who spoke for the building's management.

from: The New York Times 8.X.81

SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE FLAG

The State President, Mr. Marais Viljoen, and the Minister of Police, Mr. Louis le Grange, with the new South African Police flag. The State President presented the flag to the Commissioner of Police, General Mike Geldenhuys, who accepted it on behalf of the Police at a parade at the South African Police College in Pretoria recently.

from: South African Digest 3.VII.81

Simplot Flag Makes Waves in Boise.

J. R. Simplot, the Idaho potato king, is probably best known as one of a group of commodities speculators who tried to corner the futures market in Maine spuds four years ago. Out in Boise, Mr. Simplot now is creating another kind of flap. He has been flying a 50-foot-by-30-foot American flag on a 100-foot pole outside the hillside mansion he's building, and some of his neighbors aren't saluting.

"It's really noisy," says Jo Inzer Smith, who lives about two blocks away. "It sounds like a giant whip cracking and popping, and there's also the clanging and banging from the lines hitting the pole." Mrs. Smith says the flag has awakened her as early as 5 a.m. Other neighbors are griping that the floodlights illuminating the flag cast a frightful glow into their homes.

Some approve. "I like it. It looks good up there," says Kenneth Putzier, who lives nearby. William Maxwell, a spokesman for J. R. Simplot Co., says he has got many compliments on the flag. "Jack (Simplot) cherishes and deeply believes in America," Mr. Maxwell says, "and it doesn't surprise me that a guy who has the wherewithal and the right property would order up the biggest flag he can to show his patriotism."

The bleariest-eyed of Mr. Simplot's neighbors hope, now that the family has moved in, that perhaps some grand day in the dawn's early light, Mr. Simplot will decide on a smaller flag. "Unless they've got excellent sound-proofing," says Mrs. Smith, "I don't know how they're going to live with that flag."

from: The Wall Street Journal 10.IX.80
The acquisition by the National Flag Foundation of a 105-year-old painting “One Hundred Years Ago” by William H. Willcox was described, and a special edition was presented to NAVA members, at the ninth biennial meeting of the International Congress of Vexillology in Ottawa this past August. It was executed in 1876 as a part of the U.S. Centennial Celebration.

After having been missing for perhaps several generations, the work turned up in 1971 in an antique shop in Vermont and was later, in 1976, acquired by an art gallery in Manhattan. George F. Cahill, NFF president, saw the painting while it was on exhibition there and, through a generous donor, was able to obtain the painting in 1980. Its first public display was at the Boy Scouts Jamboree in Virginia this summer, with a copy presented there to each Scout and Scouter present.

Quite by accident, following a clue supplied by Whitney Smith, Mr. Cahill learned that the artist had also authored a book, similarly entitled, describing the painting and its purpose. It is not known how long the two pieces, apparently created to be a pair, have been separated. Only one copy of the original 65-page book, privately produced, has been found, this in the New York Public Library. The National Flag Foundation acquired photocopies of the book, thus reuniting, so to speak, the two works. An attractive limited edition was published especially to be included with the reproduction to be given at the jamboree and, later, in Ottawa. NAVA member and historian Gary Grahl headed up the research project, and was the author of the paper presented by Mr. Cahill at the Congress.

The painting is an illustrative history of the U.S. flag, grouping, as outlined by the artist-author’s preface, “the principal events in our struggle for independence.” Beginning at the top of the picture with the shields bearing the St. George and St. Andrew crosses, Willcox shows the transition, in 33 items, from these ancient devices of England and Scotland to the arms and flag of the United States. The painting contains a rather unusual and striking feature also in the portrait of President Lincoln, which can only be seen by squinting.

“One Hundred Years Ago” is apparently a complete departure from the landscapes in which the artist specialized. A member of the Hudson River Valley School, Willcox was born in Williamsburg (later Brooklyn), N.Y. in 1831. During the Centennial era he lived in Philadelphia where he painted and wrote the works described above. The painting will, in time, be on permanent display in the Bicentennial Room, to be constructed as an extension to the Flag Plaza in Pittsburgh’s Golden Triangle.
A VEXILLOLOGICAL OPPORTUNITY!

No single development is likely to alter the Soviet bloc governing systems as much as the birth of Poland's Solidarity union in 1980.

With the advent of social, political, or religious groups, there is the inevitability of new flags and symbols appearing. Thus, vexillologists have seen various types of flags being employed by members of Poland's Solidarity movement in the press and on television. It would be a worthy contribution to the science of flags if someone would begin to document for posterity the flags being used by those brave Poles as their nation goes through a period of transition and change.
TO: All NAVA Members

FROM: John M. Purcell, President

SUBJECT: Committees for 1981-1982

Following is a list of all committee members as of 1 October 1981. Chairmen are reminded to (1) contact members of your committee as needed to accomplish your committee's tasks and (2) prepare a report of your committee's activities for the year to present at the next annual business meeting in Pittsburgh.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Auditing
Ken Huff, Chairman
Emmet Mittlebeeler
William Spangler

Budget
Woodrow Ridgway, Chairman
Grace R. Cooper
John Lowe

Membership
Whitney Smith, Chairman
Dorothy Claybourne
Grace R. Cooper

Public Relations
James Croft, Chairman
Lynn Knights
D. Ralph Spence

Publications
John R.B. Szala, Chairman
Dorothy Claybourne
Peter Edwards

ELECTED COMMITTEES

Nominations
Jeanette Doetsch
Lynn Knights
Whitney Smith

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Certificates
Whitney Smith, Chairman
James Croft
John M. Purcell

Ceremonies
Thomas Carrier, Chairman
Charles Brannon
John Hartvigsen

Program Chairman for NAVA 16
George Cahill

* Special Insert
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