VANCOUVER’S NEW FLAG

It has long been the aim of the Council and numerous citizens to have the City of Vancouver adopt its own flag. The need for such a flag becomes more pronounced with the forthcoming celebration of the City's 100th Birthday and with the City's hosting of Expo '86 in the same year.

The design was developed by Robert Watt, Director of The Vancouver Museum, and a Fellow of the Heraldry Society of Canada. It arises from the present official City symbols, the Coat of Arms and the Civic Badge. These symbols are a Crown grant of 1969 based very largely on unofficial symbols created in 1903. The colors and the devices that appear on them have, therefore, been part of the life and history of Vancouver for much of its first century.

The basic elements of the design are a chevron of green to represent the land on which the City is built and the forests from which a good deal of its prosperity has arisen. The alternating wavy bars of blue and white symbolize the sea, which, as the City's motto suggests, is the other principal foundation of the City's growth. Both elements, land and sea, combine to give Vancouver its splendid setting and the heritage of a landscape which has been so important to the life of its citizens.

The shield represents Vancouver's status as a corporation and it is made of gold because that is one of the City's official colours. Placed upon the shield is a representation of the City's Badge as a specific mark of civic government using a symbol that is unique to this community. Contained within it are a crossed axe and oar honouring the two original industries.

This flag was approved by Council on May 17, 1983.
NOTES FROM
JOHN M. PURCELL
NAVA PRESIDENT

George Cahill has reminded me that in the November-December, 1982 issue of this publication, I neglected to include one other person in my thanks for gifts to NAVA during NAVA-16 in Pittsburgh. That person is Dave Cornish of Collegville Flag Company, who presented to NAVA a beautifully crafted banner displaying the NAVA seal, which was prominently placed behind the speaker's rostrum at our annual banquet. Dave also volunteered to make for us a 5' X 6' nylon NAVA flag for us to use in future meetings. The omission was inadvertent on my part and I apologize to Dave for not including his name in the original list. I'm sure we are all no less appreciative of his company's fine generosity, in any case, and I hope that though the thanks are belated, they will be accepted as genuine.

A reminder to those of you who are planning to attend NAVA-17 in New York October 14-16 this year (and I hope that includes most of you)—be sure to bring along your personal flag for display at the banquet. This custom of NAVA's began after our joint meeting in Ottawa in 1971 with the Canadian Heraldry Society. It was there that we noticed the impressive display of CHS members' arms on shields across the wall of the dining hall and decided that we might do something similar with our personal flags, which many of us had already designed. The next year in Chicago we had our first display, and each year after that we have continued the custom. In 1975 at our business meeting Cleveland, Ohio, the custom was made official by vote of the members present.

Our best displays of personal flags have been in Baltimore (1974), Cleveland (1975), and Toronto (1976), where a dozen or more flags each year were displayed. In 1978 in Montgomery, many of the personal flags were on exhibit in Tumbling Waters Museum of Flags and so were unavailable for the banquet. Since then only a few members have brought personal flags to the banquet each year for one reason or another.

If you have not designed your personal flag yet, you might give it some thought over the summer before the banquet and have it made in time to bring along. Personal flags vary in design as much as the persons who are NAVA members, but each is symbolic of some aspect of the individual's life. Collectively the flags are fascinating and very colorful; they make a grand show when on display. Bring your personal flag (and a pole with stand to display it properly) along with you this year, and let's try to make our banquet in New York this year really a "banner year!"

A note of thanks, too, is due to Phil Allen of Berkeley, California, who donated his time and talent to the design of the eye-catching NAVA-17 flag featured in the last issue of NAVA News. Phil gave us an interesting and well-researched talk on the National Football League penalty flags at our last annual meeting. Thanks, Phil, for a colorful symbol for our next meeting!

Flag Facts & Fancies
The American flag's most widely used nickname is the "Stars And Stripes," but historians have not been able to discover where that originated. The epithet, "Star Spangled Banner," was first used by Francis Scott Key in 1814, while "Old Glory" came from a Salem, Massachusetts sea captain named William Driver.

Soon after the first flag was adopted in 1777, a congressman from New Jersey named Francis Hopkinson claimed credit for designing it. Not until 1870 did William Canby, a grandson of Betsy Ross, come forth to state that it was his grandmother who really put the first 13 stars and 13-stripes version of the national emblem together.

Betsy Ross was a Philadelphia seamstress who made flags during the Revolutionary War, but most historians today believe that her grandson's tale is legend—not fact.

The stamp shown above, issued in 1952, shows the Flag Committee consisting of General George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross watching as Betsy wields a needle and thread on our U.S. flag.

But it commemorates a non-event that never happened—most probably.
Essex County Chronicles

A source of pride in ‘Old Glory’

By PHYLLIS SHUTZER
Public Service Director
Essex Institute

It has been a source of pride in Essex County that a Salem man, Samuel Driver, was the first person to name his cherished American flag “Old Glory.”

As early as June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress, sitting in Philadelphia adopted a resolution declaring: “That the flag of the United States shall be of thirteen stripes of alternate red and white, with a union of thirteen stars in a blue field, representing the new constellation.”

The resolution was adopted following the reception of the report of a special committee appointed to suggest a design for the flag. A description follows:

“The stars of the flag represent a new constellation rising in the West. The idea is taken from the great constellation Lyra, which signifies harmony. The blue signifies the covenant of the United States against oppression. The stars in a circle symbolizes the perpetuity of the Union. The thirteen show the number of united colonies. The red is a symbol of defiance and daring, and the white for purity.”

The flag was made according to this design and first carried in the Battle of Brandywine on September 11, 1777. There is a tradition that the first flag with these stars and stripes was sewn by Betsy Ross of Philadelphia at the request of General Washington. There is also the story that George Washington altered the six-point star to the five-point model which Mrs. Ross copied.

Flags of different designs had been in use prior to the adoption of June 14, and continued in use for some time after that.

As the Washington coat of arms contained stars and stripes, it has been suggested that the National flag draw its inspiration from this, but the Congressional committee on the design for the flag does not support this view.

The new flag was hoisted on the naval vessels of the United States and first saluted by a foreign power when the “Ranger,” commanded by Captain John Paul Jones arriving at a French port on February 14, 1778, with the flag flying.

The popular observance of Flag Day was slow in coming. On June 14, 1917, President Wilson justified the declaration of war against Germany which had been made on April 2. In his eloquent address he said:

“We meet to celebrate Flag Day because this flag which we honor and under which we serve is the emblem of our unity, our power, our thought and our purpose as a nation. It floats in majestic silence above us in war and peace. Yet it speaks to us of the past. We celebrate the day of its birth. We are about to carry it into battle, to life it where it will draw the fire of our enemies.”

Although this anniversary is not a legal holiday, it began to be observed in one way or another throughout the country. Special exercises were held in the public schools when children pledged allegiance. This, of course, was before the phrase “Under God” had to be deleted from the pledge along with school prayers.

Locally, it can never be forgotten that Samuel Driver of Salem took such pride in his banner that he always in letters and in conversation, referred to his flag as “Old Glory.”
red, white and blue: From the spectrum.

"I'm still red-white-and-blue enough," said John Glenn during a meeting with Globe editors, "to believe that, long-term, Americans can outproduce anybody." The metaphor is one that will be heard again during a presidential campaign year.

It is also a political color metaphor that sparkles especially well on the Fourth of July, summoning up with stars and stripes every good old-fashioned American ideal. It is, however, a case of the whole phrase being greater - and quite different - from the individual words. More often than not, the American political use of "red," "white" and "blue" has carried very negative connotations.

That is most obvious with "red." The "red-coats" were the bad guys in our revolution, and the red-flag wavers of the French Revolution made everybody uncomfortable. In the 1920s, and again during the Vietnam War era, American police departments maintained "red squads" to investigate and control radicals.

Anti-Communist enthusiasm of the McCarthy era were accused of "looking for Reds under every bed," while the one-world ban-the-bombers who were often the targets of such searches felt it better to be red than dead. Even earlier, members of the radical wing of the Republican Party around the time of the Civil War were called "Red Republicans."

"White" fares better in political contexts. The word "candidate" itself comes from the Latin candidatus, for the white togas worn by candidates for public office in Rome.

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