MOUNT VERNON'S HISTORIC FLAGS

The great Frederick of Prussia declared that the achievements of the American leader and his compatriots, between the twenty-fifth of December 1776, and the fourth of January, 1777—a space of ten days—were the most brilliant of any recorded in the annals of military action. A splendid flag, taken from the Hessians at Trenton, composed of two pieces of heavy white damask silk, bearing devices embroidered with gold thread, and the words FOR OUR PRINCE and COUNTRY, in Latin, exquisitely wrought in needlework, was presented to Washington. It was afterward hung up in the great hall at Mount Vernon, but only on one occasion, for Washington was careful never to make even the most trivial display of mementos of his own valor. This flag was his first trophy of the kind in the war for independence.

And all through the war, prudence, sagacity, skill, energy, and great wisdom, marked the acts of Washington. His last battle was at Yorktown, where another trophy, similar to that at Trenton, was secured. It was the flag of the seventh British regiment, made of heavy twilled silk, six feet in length and five feet four inches in width. The ground was blue; the central stripe of the cross red; the marginal ones white. In the centre was a crown, and beneath it a garter, with the usual inscription in Norman French—Evil be to him who evil thinketh—enclosing a full-blown rose, the floral emblem of England. This flag, with another, was presented to Washington by a resolution of the Congress, passed ten days after the victory, and was hung in the hall at Mount Vernon on the single occasion referred to. It had been sadly tattered during the conflict. Until lately it occupied a place near the Hessian flag, in the Museum at Alexandria, where they were deposited by the late George Washington Parke Custis.

Like the E-flags of World War II, C-Flags will sprout all over the United States in recognition of civic good turns by corporations and associations under a new citation program unveiled at the White House by President Ronald W. Reagan.

The program was developed under James Coyne and thirty-three flags have already been awarded to organizations which have achieved success in private sector community initiatives. Further details can be secured by calling 202/626-2723.
NOTES from Grace Rogers Cooper NAVA President

The International Federation of Vexillological Associations will have its XI Congress this year in Madrid, Spain, May 26-31. All NAVA members have received an invitation to attend. We hope you are well acquainted with this organization (sometimes referred to as FIAV, the letters of the organization's name in French). It unites associations and institutions, throughout the world, whose object is "work, studies, and research about flags and banners, both contemporary and historical."

It is an association of associations. Members are organizations, not individuals. NAVA is one of approximately twenty member organizations from the United States, England, Italy, France, Spain, Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, Belgium and Switzerland, and Sri Lanka. In order to exercise its vote, each (organization) member must be represented by an individual to whom full powers are delegated. For this year's Congress I have delegated Dr. John Purcell to represent NAVA. John is eminently qualified to fill this post not only as past president of NAVA with continuing work and interest in vexillology, but also because of his expertise in the Spanish language. We will all benefit from a full and descriptive report that he will be able to furnish. But although we can have only one voting member at the Congress, as many as can go are urged to attend.

If you plan to present a paper, preliminary summaries must be sent before February 28, 1985. Final texts must be sent before April 15. The activities planned include visits to several interesting museums and to a special commemoration of the Spanish Flag for the celebration of its Bicentennial. 1985 is a most important year for vexillologists in Spain. If you haven't received a brochure and you want to attend, write Congress Secretariat, Virgen de Iciar, Madrid - 23, Spain. Write today. Wouldn't it be terrific to spend the last week of May in Spain?

FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES of NEW ENGLAND

The "flag of the United States of New England" was first used as part of a promotional mailing to illustrate the editorial purpose of New England Monthly Magazine: a general interest publication for New Englanders, residents of an area linked by a shared history and geography.

The staff decided to develop the image into a true flag, available to readers. It can now be found flying above private residences and commercial businesses.

Further information can be obtained from the magazine at P.O. Box 446, Haydenville, Mass. 01039.

VEXILLOGICAL CARTOON

This "Indian Scout" overlooking the skyline of downtown Kansas City, Missouri, will be looking for your presence at the NAVA 19 meeting, October 11, 12 & 13, 1985.

Page 2 NAVA NEWS/January-February 1985
It’s common place now to call Mrs. Arnold Munyon of Bird City “the Betsy Ross of Northwest Kansas.” During the past three and a half years, Mrs. Munyon has made 47 flags including 27 Stars and Stripes. Patriotism is a part of Mrs. Munyon’s life as well as her career as a music teacher.

While a music teacher at Benkelman, Nebraska, she decided to make some American flags for the seventh grade class which was in the process of studying the westward expansion. Mrs. Munyon has always worked hard to make her classes more interesting and unusual. “I wondered if the kids really understood how the flag developed along with the country,” she said in a recent interview.

She spent much of her own time researching her subject thoroughly. The area libraries helped, but it was also necessary for her to purchase books that specialized in the subject of American flags.

“I’ve done enough research to get a major in history, I think,” she remarked. Mrs. Munyon also expressed her love for her country and it’s inspirational history was a catalyst in her decision to carry through with her flag project.

This modern day Betsy Ross works on about four or five flags at one time. It is simpler that way because she uses a sewing machine and doesn’t have to change the thread so often. She uses the Betsy Ross cut for making the stars.

“I read where she (Betsy Ross) showed George Washington a five pointed star was simpler to make than a six pointed star,” recalled Mrs. Munyon. “She showed him with just one cut of the scissors.”

Betsy Ross would probably have benefited from Mrs. Munyon’s time-saving method of placing the stars on the flag. Mrs. Munyon cuts out the star and places it on the blue field. Then, on the other side of the blue field she places a white piece of material. She then sews the first star on the flag while at the same time sewing the white cloth on the opposite side. When she is finished it is only necessary for her to cut away the excess white material and she has another star.

The cloth material she uses is a polyester double-knit. The first few flags Mrs. Munyon made were of cotton, but she found that the double-knit did not wrinkle and the flags would display better. The majority of the flags are three feet by five feet, but some of the flags resemble our early American flags with square dimensions.

Mrs. Munyon has cut and sewn a total of 1,118 stripes and 2,042 stars to make her collection of 27 American flags. Mrs. Munyon’s flag collection consists of all 27 American flags in addition to replicas of all the flags that have flown over Kansas. The Kansas flags date from 1540 to when Kansas became a state in 1861.

Why hasn’t Mrs. Munyon made the state flag? “Some day I’ll get up enough nerve to try the Kansas flag,” she commented.

What kind of reaction does Mrs. Munyon get from her flag presentations? “You know that’s what encouraged me to keep making flags,” said Mrs. Munyon. “The little kids, first graders, were tremendously interested in them.” she

From: “KANSAS,” 3rd issue, 1978, published by the Kansas Department of Economic Development
WW II vet to return historic German flag

by William F. Miller
Cleveland Plain Dealer
8 July 1984

An historic German flag, taken as a World War II souvenir by a former GI from Euclid, Ohio, will be returned to St. Goarshausen, a romantic 660-year-old city perched on the edge of the Rhine River below soaring cliffs, the home of the Lorelei legend. The Lorelei Rock, a large rock in the river near the city, produces an echo that inspired the story of a beautiful maiden. She was Loreli, meaning rock elf, whose songs lured Rhine Boatmen to their doom.

While searching homes in St. Goarshausen for snipers, Hubert J. Johnston found the flag neatly folded and hidden behind a sofa in a well-kept home.

"It was beautifully made and it looked old, so I took it as a prize of war, as so many of us did in those days," he said.

The 5-foot by 4½-foot flag, a beautiful piece of work in excellent condition, has a satin-like finish embellished in gold. One side is red, white and black, with the name of a veterans' group. The other side has the legend, in German: "Always faithful and ready for the glory of the Reich."

The flag has historic value because it is from a veterans group that no longer exists.

It was a lot easier taking the flag than returning it, said Johnston, 70, who has been trying to get it back to its original West German home for the last six years.

Johnston's letters to the city administration were returned unopened. He asked for help after reading in The Plain Dealer about a historic volunteer fire department flag of Frueholz being returned to Germany through the help of the Federation of German-American Societies here.
Attention:
YOUR NAVA DUES ARE NOW DUE

You won't want to miss a single issue of NAVA NEWS. Send in your remittance today.

Thank you.

North American Vexillological Association

January 1985
The annual dues will be determined at the annual meetings of the association and will be payable before the first day of a calendar year for membership during that year.

NAVA BY-LAWS
Article III, F

ACTIVE MEMBER ($12.00)
ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBER ($25.00)
ASSOCIATE MEMBER ($4.00)

available only to students, spouses of members and persons not residing in North America

Name: ________________________________  last  first  middle

Address: __________________________________________
________________________________________

* Foreign remittance must be in U.S. dollars or postal money order.
Send to Treasurer:
Mr. W.W. Ridgway
9133 Grant Lane
Overland Park, Kansas 66212
State Flags on Stamps

Based on the 50 State Flags Stamp Series of 1976, with meaningful vignettes of state struggles and triumphs. Covers pre-colonial times through admission into the Union. Full color stamps of each state flag carefully reproduced. Soft cover. only $5, postpaid

Inadvertently, our typesetter left off the source of the book, State Flags on Stamps, mentioned in the November/December 1984 issue of NAVA NEWS.

One may secure a copy of this publication by sending $5.00 to:

LINN'S STAMP NEWS
911 VANDEMARK ROAD
BOX 29
SIDNEY, OHIO 45365