The Vexillological Society of Ireland
Cumann Vexilleolaíoch na hÉireann

21 Idrone Terrace
Blackrock, County Dublin

The Vexillological Society of Ireland was formed on 3 March 1984 and the organization is already off to a great start with the publication of the Irish Vexillology Newsletter.

The aim of the association is "the promotion of the scientific and scholarly study of flags and flag usage in all their aspects."

The inaugural Committee of the society consists of the four founder-members: Doug Keag (Bangor, County Down), David Kerr (Newtown-abbey, County Antrim, Déirdre Ó Brógáin (Blackrock, County Dublin), and Séamas Ó Brógáin (Blackrock, County Dublin). The following officers were elected: president, David Kerr; secretary, Séamas Ó Brógáin; treasurer, Déirdre Ó Brógáin.

Membership of the society is open to all individuals resident in Ireland; associate membership, to individuals not resident in Ireland; and institutional membership, to corporate bodies and commercial enterprises in Ireland or overseas. The annual membership subscription in all categories is £10.

The Vexillological Society of Ireland/Cumann Vexilleolaíoch na hÉireann has adopted a flag of its own. It consists of a green field (for Ireland) bearing a yellow V (for vexillology).

When a midlife yen for change hit Swedish-born fashion photographer Anders Holmquist 12 years ago, he decided to do something really different: design and sell flags. Not the orderly regimental kind, but giddy creations called personal or environmental flags.

"Things moving in the wind seem magical," says Holmquist, whose studio is ablaze with reds, oranges, yellows, and just as many shades of greens, blues and violets. "It's the balance between the colors that counts."

Holmquist's designs embrace the bright hues of African and Balinese fabrics and an almost metaphysical appreciation of wind and flags common to Japan and the Himalayan regions. His clients include businesses, institutions, and such individuals as artist Andrew Wyeth, musician Stevie Nicks, and actor Larry Hagman.

Prospective flag owners may bring their own design ideas and browse through one of Holmquist's two galleries, called The Colors of the Wind, in Santa Fe, New Mexico, or Santa Monica, California. Often Holmquist will spend hours administering a color test and exploring a client's views on color, wind and life.

Says the vexillographer, "A personal flag is a way of making a statement about your identity."
NOTES from Grace Rogers Cooper
NAVA President

The call is out for papers to be presented at NAVA 19, Kansas City, October 1985. If the form is not included with this issue of the NEWS it will come with the next one. Begin to plan your presentation now.

The Board would like to have more of the members take an active part by presenting papers at the meetings. As our NAVA “Invitation to Membership” states, we are—by our act of joining—people who are interested in the scientific and scholarly study of flag history and symbolism. Although it is true that many of us feel that we have more to learn than to contribute, just as many of us could contribute more than we credit ourselves with being able to do. Papers do not have to be long, representing years of research and study. Papers may be quite short, presenting a detailed study of a single point of interest about a flag or symbol. The information we present in these papers should certainly be documented; we want others to know where we got the information and how we arrived at our conclusions. The sources we use are most productive when they are primary ones—original letters, diaries, court records, inventories, order specifications, accounts, manuscripts, actual flags, and so forth. Published books, long out of print and little known or ones that had a very limited circulation, can add to the work also. When we are confined to a locale (and few of us have unlimited time and money to travel extensively to do our research), we may not always be able to find the primary resources that we need. We can circumvent this by finding out just what types of primary information sources are available and then direct the research into that area. If you know the information may be located in another area, or if your interests are on an international level, you may be able to find a NAVA member in the area that might be willing to help. Ask them to help you find the answers and in exchange offer to do the same amount of research for them in your locale. This is less than ideal as research takes much more time than we plan, and we cannot expect our colleagues to take the same amount of time that we would to find the answer to a specific question. Such an arrangement would only be suitable when it was mutually beneficial, but a great research partnership could develop.

We have received a suggestion from Woody Ridgway that we print summaries of the NAVA 19 Papers in the NAVA News. I think this is a very good suggestion. The form that you will fill out requests that you include a description, which should read “summary,” to be put on the back of the form. Please edit carefully so the summary will be in usable form. It should be noted that all Papers proposed for presentation are subject to review. NAVA has always tried to include all the appropriate papers offered; however, acceptance of a paper is not automatic upon the receipt of the form. Some of the summaries may be in issues of NAVA News prior to the October Meeting to whet your appetite for the full program that will come in Kansas City.

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND NAVA 19
Kansas City, Missouri, October 11, 12, & 13, 1985

KANSAS CITY, THE LARGEST CITY
IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI, INVITES YOU!

Besides being the largest city in Missouri, Kansas City is also the largest city closest to the heart of the continental United States. The Westport Area in K.C., which runs along the Kansas border is the last stop the early pioneers made before their wagon trains ventured out on the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. It was also the scene of the “Battle of Westport” during the Civil War. Westport, Swope Park, and the beautiful Country Club Plaza are all within this industrial city. Our Saturday afternoon tour bus will pass through these areas on our way to the Liberty Memorial, our first stop during the 1985 NAVA Convention Tour.

The Ramada Inn Southeast has a block of rooms reserved for delegates attending NAVA 19. Please make your reservations by September 11th with the Motel at 6101 East 87th St., Kansas City, Missouri 64138, Phone 816-765-4331. A credit card number or one day’s deposit is required with the reservation. Be sure to let the reservation clerk know that you are attending NAVA 19 so that they will give you the delegates’ discount, $42.00 per night for the three convention nights. This Old-English-Inn Style Motel has 256 rooms graciously furnished and plenty of free parking for R.V.’s and private vehicles. Their in-house restaurant, “Capt’n Jeremiah Tuttles,” serves excellent food. Their lounge, “J.T.’s,” is a great place to dance, sip your favorite beverage, or just relax. A fast food diner is available across 87th Street. Benjamin’s Trail Town, one block up the hill, serves a first class country breakfast in its rustic country cafe with a .05 cup of coffee.

Bannister Mall Shopping Center, with its many fine shops and restaurants, is located within walking distance. For those who prefer to ride, a courtesy car is available free if you make your request known at the front desk.

The group tour will be Saturday afternoon. First stop will be the Liberty Memorial. This monument of peace was dedicated on Nov. 1921. The memorial consists of five elements: The Torch of Liberty, World War I Museum, Memorial Hall, The Sphinxes, and the Frieze. The museum, located in the West Building, is the only military museum in the U.S. specializing in the first World War period. The Memory Hall, located east of the tower, contains the famous French painting, "Pantheon De La Guerre." This painting shows many personal flags and banners of the kings, rulers and national colors of the early 1900’s.

Stop Number 2 will be the Harry S. Truman Library. Many gifts given the President by foreign countries are displayed here, as are campaign exhibits which include flags, buttons, posters and other memorabilia. Visitors get a good perspective of the use of flags in the American political campaigns. The archives are available for research by appointment only.

For those delegates whose spouse is interested in genealogy, the Federal Archives & Records Center is located just a few minutes from the Motel. The motel courtesy car will be glad to drive you over and pick you up. This center contains all the rolls of the American Revolution, Census of all the States from 1790 to 1910, pensions and land records. Because of the limited number of viewing machines (35), you should make an appointment by contacting the Federal Archives & Records Center, 2306 E. Bannister Rd., Kansas City, Missouri, Phone (816) 926-7271.

By special request, we are having two preconvention tours. Thursday evening, Oct. 10th, transportation will be furnished at a minimal cost to Arthur Bryant Barbecue for one of their famous barbecue meals. Bryant’s was made famous when President Harry S. Truman dined there. Every President since has eaten there while in town.

The second tour on Friday morning, Oct. 11th, will be a visit to the Watkins Mill and Museum. We will leave the Ramada Inn at 9 A.M. and return at approximately 1:30 P.M. The Mill heralds the beginning of the industrial age. The first circular saw mill and the first grist mill in the country were installed here in 1848. These mills were saved by our very own Grace Rogers Cooper before her retirement from the Smithsonian. We will return by way of the Elms Hotel built in 1890. This grand hotel serves excellent meals.

For other tours after the closing of the NAVA meeting, see Woody.

The Kansas State Archives at Topeka is a one and one half hour drive west on 170. To Eisenhowers Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas, is three and one half hours west.

See you in Kansas City!
by Tom McNicol

Becoming a state is not as easy a task as the 50 stars on the flag would have you believe. No one knows this better than the supporters of statehood for the District of Columbia, who for decades have waged a relentless battle to free the District from its colonial chains.

While many of the arguments for and against statehood are based on weighty economic or philosophical issues (taxation without representation is tyranny; more taxation with representation is stupidity), little attention has been given to how life in the 51st state would be different than it is now. Many of the changes that statehood would bring are trivial, but hardly inconsequential. They would create just enough chaos in one's everyday routine to poison many on the idea of statehood forever.

New name, old habits. If statehood were granted, the District of Columbia would be admitted to the union as the state of New Columbia. While the change would legally take effect immediately, convincing three-quarters of a million people to mend their ways overnight would likely be a more daunting task. It may be a small matter if most of the inhabitants of New Columbia mistakenly refer to their place of residence as Washington, D.C., but when the habit spills over to the written word, the real problems begin. A massive effort to obliterate any reference to the District of Columbia would have to be undertaken—letterheads, business cards, phone books, street signs and road maps would have to be reprinted to reflect the name change. While this would sit well with area printing services, few businesses would likely share the same enthusiasm.

Letters addressed “Washington, D.C.” would be at the mercy of the post office employees, who without fear of rebuke could smugly stamp “no such address” on every such letter that came their way. As if that weren’t bad enough, the post office would have to come up with a two-letter abbreviation for New Columbia that wouldn’t result in everyone’s mail going to North Carolina.

The new District of Columbia. Even after New Columbia is admitted as the 51st state, there would still be a District of Columbia, comprised entirely of federally owned land and buildings. The newly constituted District of Columbia would have no residents—only workers. Thus, the seat of the U.S. government would literally be a workers’ state, a thought that would probably amuse the Soviets no end if they ever stopped to think about it.

The new District of Columbia would also likely retain the name Washington, a title that would also be claimed by the residents of New Columbia. The capital of New Columbia would be the city of Washington, as would the capital of the United States. It would then be possible to stand on the edge of Washington, cross a street, and end up in another Washington. Tourists asking directions to Washington would have to be questioned further to find out which one they mean.

The new flag. Hilda Mason, the lone Statehood Party representative on the District council, thinks she’s solved the problem of fitting another star on the U.S. flag. Mason’s office sports a larger-than-life 51-star flag specially designed to answer charges that there’s no room on the flag for another star. As it turns out, there’s plenty of room, but no one’s yet found a way to tack on the additional star without making the field of stars look cluttered. Flag purists say that at least Alaska and Hawaii had the sense to be admitted together, thus preserving the vaguely symmetrical star configuration.

The shadow delegates. In 1986, local voters will choose three candidates to represent the District in Congress in the event that statehood is granted. This strategy—to elect potential members of Congress before statehood is approved—has been employed with success by seven states, most recently by Alaska. In Alaska’s case, the “shadow delegates” performed the role of lobbyists who represented the wishes of their constituency 4,000 miles away. It has been suggested that since the Capitol is just a stroll down Pennsylvania Avenue, it would be wasteful to pay a senatorial salary for a job that can be done on one’s free time. “Maybe so,” says Charles Mason, a longtime statehood supporter in the District, “but I don’t know many people with that long a lunch break.”

Statehood supporters say that all of the technical problems of becoming a state are merely a sidetight to the real issue of self-rule. On one level, they are unquestionably correct. There is a glaring inconsistency in a government that claims to promote self-determination around the world, but stops short of applying that principle closer to home.

However, the final judgment on statehood will be based not simply on democratic principles but on how decolonization will affect the precious daily routine. Taxation without representation is tyranny, but having your mail end up in North Carolina isn’t much fun, either.
The Two Flags on Iwo Jima

Perhaps the most famous war photograph in U.S. history was taken 40 years ago this month, when Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal snapped five Marines and a Navy man in the act of raising the American flag on Mt. Suribachi, the volcanic peak that commands the island of Iwo Jima. The photo won the Pulitzer Prize for Rosenthal and was the model for the U.S. Marine monument in Washington, D.C.

Up until 1977 not even Rosenthal knew where the flag had come from. It was that year that Joseph Hopkins, born in Salem, Massachusetts, to a descendant of the Plymouth Colony, revealed the story to writer Norman Boas. Hopkins commanded a landing ship at Iwo Jima when, on February 23, 1945, "A Marine came aboard my ship and asked for the largest Navy flag we had. When we had stopped over in Pearl Harbor, someone had given us a rather torn and battered flag that had flown over a heavy cruiser." Hopkins gave the Marine the flag that eventually appeared in Rosenthal's photograph and is now enshrined at the Marine Historical Museum in Washington.

But that was the second American flag that flew over Mt. Suribachi that day. The first was photographed by Louis Lowery of the Marine Corps, whose picture arrived in the U.S. a full month after Rosenthal's, thus escaping attention. The first flag was too small to be seen by the troops still fighting to secure the island and by the ships offshore. That was why the unidentified Marine — who must have been one of the five, along with Navy Pharmacist's Mate John Bradley, who raised the second flag — came to Hopkins for a bigger one.

Bradley is the only survivor of the six flag-raisers, three of whom died on Iwo Jima. Lowery and Rosenthal are still living. Joe Hopkins died in 1980 and is buried in Marblehead, Massachusetts, not far from the Town Hall where there hangs a copy of Archibald Willard's famous painting, "The Spirit of '76" — another stirring symbol of American courage in war.

— courtesy of Norman Boas

North American Vexillological Association
Oaks, PA 19456

VEXILLOLOGICAL CARTOON

from: YANKEE MAGAZINE
February 1985

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from: BADISCHE NEUESTE
NACHRICHTEN KARLSRUHE
14 May 1982
Dear Members,

For the past two years you've received a form tucked into a mid-year issue of NAVA NEWS which began "IT'S NOT TOO SOON TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR NAVA Annual Meetings. As coordinator of the lectures and exhibits at NAVA 17 (NYC) and NAVA 18 (Vancouver, B.C.), I've had the pleasure of receiving your "presentation proposal forms" and discussing many fine presentations with fellow members months in advance of the Annual Meeting. I look forward to seeing those completed forms arriving in advance of NAVA 19 to be held in Kansas City, Missouri (October 11-13, 1985).

Don't worry about preparing your presentation too early -- I've already received one title "Banners of Aceh" that sounds intriguing (just try and find any reference to the Sultanate of Aceh 1500 to 1894. My library of flag books and prints dating back to 1769 yield no mention of Aceh.) Many of us have developed lectures from our own observations in everyday life, from aspects of our own collections, and from tracking news events. Others have spoken of their vexillological tours overseas, their in-depth academic research, and their volunteer or professional efforts in vexillology or related fields.

If you are thinking of preparing a presentation for NAVA 19, keep in mind the "Driver Award", available for the best presentation made at the Annual Meeting of the North American Vexillological Association. Driver award winners evidence original and scholarly research, and receive a $100 prize, generously provided by the National Flag Foundation. Any active individual member of NAVA is eligible, with the exception of NAVA officers.

Just consider why you belong to NAVA -- your work, hobby, or interest -- and see if you can translate that into a lecture topic. Add a little research to develop a 20 to 30 minute presentation, and you may be our 1985 Driver Award winner at Kansas City. Please remember to send me your "PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM" as soon as you can. It will really help Woody Ridgway and me to put together a memorable program for NAVA 19.
March 30, 1985

Dear NAVA members and friends,

Complying with NAVA's Bylaws, it is my duty and pleasure to inform you of the forthcoming 19th annual meeting, which is being held in Kansas City, Missouri on October 11-13, 1985. The event will officially open with registration and reception at 4:00 P.M. Friday at the Ramada Inn S. E. an opening ceremony will be conducted at 7:30 P.M.

I hope you are planning to join us there, Mr. Woody Ridgway, is chairman for the meeting. He is working hard as I write this making all things ready for our arrival and subsequent activities.

The order of business at the annual business meeting will be as follows:

1. Reading of the Minutes
2. Reports of Officers and Standing Committees;
3. Reports of Special Committees;
4. Unfinished Business;
5. New Business;
7. Election of the nominating committee.

I would like to remind officers and chairmen of committees herewith to prepare their annual reports for filing with the Recording Secretary. Also, I want to suggest to the members with personal flags that they bring them to exhibit them at the banquet.

We arrane to come and help us make it the interesting and successful conference it can be only if you are there!

Sincerely yours,

[Signatures]

Mr. Lynn Knights,
Corresponding Secretary
PROPOSAL FORM FOR PRESENTATIONS

Dear NAVA Member:

It's not too soon to begin planning for NAVA 19, October 11, 12 & 13, 1985. We are hoping for the active participation of as many NAVA members as possible. If you have a presentation on any aspect of vexillology that you wish to give at NAVA 19 (or have it read in your absence) please complete this form and return it by AUGUST 15 to:

Nicholas Artimovich
NAVA Vice President
6260 Lightpoint Place
Columbia, Maryland 21045 U.S.A.
Telephone (area code 301) 997-9684

YOUR NAME:

ADDRESS:

TITLE OF PRESENTATION:

APPROXIMATE LENGTH (30 minutes or less):

EQUIPMENT NEEDED:

_____ KODAK CAROUSEL SLIDE PROJECTOR
_____ 35mm KODAK MOVIE PROJECTOR
_____ 16mm SOUND MOVIE PROJECTOR
_____ CASSETTE TAPE PLAYER (no synchronization)
_____ BLACKBOARD / CHALK
_____ FLIPCHARTS / EASEL / MARKERS
_____ OVERHEAD PROJECTOR (transparency)
_____ OTHER:

I (WILL/WILL NOT) BE ABLE TO ATTEND NAVA 19 TO MAKE THIS PRESENTATION.

Please use the back of this form to give us a brief description of your presentation.
NORTH AMERICAN
VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

NAVA 19 COMMITTEES

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** N.A.V.A. 19 Host Committee, Member in the Kansas City Area