Patriotism Often Expessed In Emotion-Packed Symbols

Popular Symbol
A popular symbol seen on posters was Columbia. In the late 1700s, the female symbol of America was an Indian Princess of Liberty. By the 1780s, the Columbia we recognize today had appeared. She usually is pictured as a strong, long-haired woman wearing a classical draped gown and Greek sandals. Sometimes she wore a Liberty cap and carried a flag and sword or an olive branch.

Collectors today search for all types of posters including those from World War I and II. The most popular are those with the traditional symbols of the country.

KNOW YOUR ANTIQUES by Ralph & Terry Kovel from: NEW ENGLAND COUNTRY ANTIQUES, July 1984

"CHIEF, AT THE DISPLAY OF THE FLAG, IS THE HEART SUPPOSED TO BEAT TRUE OR SKIP A BEAT?"

Columbia appears on this World War I poster by Francis Adams Haisted and V. Aderente. It was issued in 1914.

Patriotism is most easily expressed through emotion-packed symbols. The flag, the American eagle, Columbia, the Statue of Liberty, Uncle Sam, and many other symbols have represented the United States through the years.

During the 20 months of World War I when the United States was at war, patriotism was inspired through these symbols and others on posters. The public was told to enlist, conserve food, plant gardens, work harder, buy bonds, and support the armed forces on more than 2,500 different designs of posters.
NOTES from
Grace Rogers Cooper
NAVA President

Fellow-Member of NAVA, what have you done for your Association this year? Yes, it is your association. We need you and we need your help. Have you paid your dues? If you don’t pay your dues, we can’t manage financially. Dues are our only source of income. It costs money to print the News and to mail it to the membership. Help us stay in the black by paying your dues “on time.” NAVA dues are payable by the calendar year; they were due January 1, 1985. We also want to publish an updated yearbook which will use most of our reserves.

Have you contributed an article to NAVA News? We all live in different parts of Canada, United States, and several countries abroad. There are many interesting vexillological happenings going on all across the land. If it is a short story, clip and mail to the Editor, with the full citation so proper credit can be given to the original source. If it is a longer story, be creative . . . write a summary and send it in. You can do it, and you always wanted to be a reporter.

Are you planning to attend the Annual Meeting in Kansas City in October? You should; this is our “once a year” chance to get to know and talk to our fellow-members. The Board recommended and you approved Kansas City in an effort to try to accommodate as many members as possible. This is just about as centrally located as we could find. It is an effort to have more members in attendance than we have ever had before. Will you be there?

Have you prepared a Paper for the Annual Meeting? If you haven’t already submitted your “Presentation Form” to Nick, we hope you are planning to do so very soon. We know you have some interesting information about flags that we will all want to hear. Although we prefer that you deliver it yourself, if you are unable to attend it can be delivered by another member.

Have you volunteered to serve on a committee or serve NAVA as an officer or in some other way? We need to know what you would like to do and the work that you are willing to do for NAVA. It is work, but we can all help. Write us and tell us what work you will do.

CANADIAN FLAG ASSOCIATION FORMED

Inspired by the success of NAVA 18, on February 6, 1985 the local organizing committee formed the Canadian Flag Association.

The purpose of the Association is to promote awareness of the significant history and tradition of flags, especially those of Canadian interest.

We intend the Association to be complementary to NAVA and will encourage prospective members to join both organizations.

Anyone interested in joining CFA can do so by sending $10 Canadian to:
Betty Lee, Treasurer, Canadian Flag Association c/o The Flag Shop, 2081 West 4th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1N3, Canada

Tallest Flagpole?

Robert LaBorde thinks he has the tallest flagpole in the nation. He put it up outside his ministorage warehouse at Shreveport, La., to honor U.S. servicemen who died on Anzio Beach during World War II and because he wanted something people could see from all over.

LaBorde isn’t absolutely certain the 152-foot-high pole is the tallest. It carries a beacon to warn fliers and will be marked on future aviation maps of the area. LaBorde says he’s spent $42,000 on the project and that includes $3,200 for the 40-by-80-foot flag that will fly from the pole.

from: THE OREGONIAN, 22 February 1985
Proposed Flag for the Region of the Kingdom of Gibraltar

Under this title, an article of a proposed flag for Gibraltar, appeared in the Spanish magazine "YA," on Dec. 5th 1984.

The designer is Dr. Roberto Galan y de Bordallo, de Bas y Couque, a graduate, holding various degrees in: Genealogy, Heraldry, and Nobiliary Law, and this flag is to be used by the inhabitants of Gibraltar and also by the inhabitants of the municipalities of Castellar, Jimena, La Linea, Los Barrios, San Roque y Tarifa which are outside of the occupied zone, hence forming the Kingdom Region.

A Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir:

RE: NAVA NEWS, Vol. XIII, No. 1

I would like to point out that the historic "Hessian" flag supposedly taken from the Hessians at Trenton is not a Hessian flag. It is, in fact, a regimental flag of the margraviate of Ansbach-Bayreuth. The initials are those of the last margrave Christian Frederick Charles Alexander. The red eagle is the Brandenburg eagle, the margraves of Ansbach-Bayreuth being a junior branch of the house of Brandenburg. Since it is not likely that Hessians fought under Ansbach flags, the flag was probably taken from an Ansbachian unit (or it simply stayed on in the New World as many Ansbachian soldiers did).

Sincerely,

Arnold Rabbow
Casperistrasse 3
D-33 Braunschweig,
Germany

FLAG-WAVING MACHINE

Today's Americans are second to none when it comes to waving the flag. Now a Torrance, California man has patented a flag-waving machine that allows one to demonstrate patriotic fervor at the flick of a switch.

"This country is falling apart," millionaire inventor-manufacturer William Bounds says, "because our production and technology has been moving overseas. My products are one hundred percent American made; so I invented this little electric machine that waves a six-by-eight-inch flag to symbolize this fact."

Bounds (who started out during the Depression with holes in his shoes) has made his fortune marketing his own inventions, which include adjustable salt-and-pepper mills and the teaspoonless measure-of-sweetness sugar dispenser. At present, the flag-waving machine is just a promotional gimmick used in the William Bounds Ltd. display booth at housewares shows. But Bounds says he is open to serious financial offers from anybody who wants to produce and market the device.

"People giving speeches could place this machine next to them to wave the flag," Bounds points out. "And the machine could be enlarged," he says, "to accommodate a really large flag."

—Eric Mishara

from: OMNI, January 1985
Texans remember Alamo and its flag

by Jerry Lynas

A Mexican officer cut down the Texans' flag after the siege of the Alamo, claiming it as a trophy of war.

Now two Texans lead a drive to recover the flag, preserved at Mexico's Museum of Natural History in Mexico City.

The Texans want the flag back in time for next year's Sesquicentennial.

Leading the drive are Claude V. D'Unger, 38, and Clayton Umbach, 29, both of Corpus Christi. D'Unger is an oilman and Umbach a flight instructor at the Corpus Christi naval air station.

"The flag represents a significant historical artifact, not only to Texans, but to American people as a whole," Umbach said. "Very few realize the majority of Alamo defenders were volunteers from the United States and Europe, who had answered the calls to aid Texas in seeking her independence from Mexico.

"Most of the true Texans involved were homesteaders who had been in Texas six years or less."

The flag, blue silk trimmed with a gold fringe, bears the inscriptions "First Company of Texan Volunteer! From New Orleans," and "God and Liberty."

A number of volunteers from Eastern states joined the Texans at the Alamo and perished under their colors when the entire garrison fell after 13 days of siege.

A week after the assault on the Alamo began, 32 Texans from Gonzales came to help defend it. Included in their number were two 16-year-olds and a 15-year-old youth who took his father's place so the father could stay and care for his eight other children.

The Gonzales volunteers died with the original defenders when the Mexican forces finally engulfed the Alamo and ended the siege.

D'Unger said the flag lay crumbling in a file drawer in the Mexico City museum for 125 years. It was brought out of storage and partially restored in 1960, he said.

Action to recover the flag began with D'Unger contacting his congressman, U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz. Ortiz in turn wrote to John Gavin, U.S. ambassador to Mexico, and Jorge de los Reyes, Mexican ambassador to the United States in Washington, seeking the flag's return. The Mexican ambassador wrote to the director of the Museum of Natural History, where the flag is kept.

All Texans in Congress will receive letters asking congressional support for the move to reclaim the flag.

from: Beaumont Enterprise (Beaumont, Texas)
15 February 1985