NEW BOOK: THE AMERICAN FLAG, 1777-1924
Cultural Shifts from Creation to Codification

SCOT M. GUENTER

In The American Flag, 1777-1924, Scot M. Guenter traces the socio-historical developments and modifications of the uses, customs, and rituals associated with the national banner of the United States of America, from the Continental Congress's first Flag Resolution of 1777 through the Second National Flag conference held in Washington, D.C. in 1924. This work reexamines the history of the American flag in light of the theoretical foundation that commitment to the flag is something culturally determined. Emphasis is on the varied contributions of a wide range of individuals, organizations, and institutions to the shifting uses of the national banner in American society. The manuscript of this work was consulted by the Supreme Court as an historical authority in the ongoing controversies over flag desecration.

Military and naval uses of the American flag, the author points out, predominated in the eighteenth century. But as the nineteenth century continued, the significance of the flag grew in patriotic music, literature, artwork, rhetoric, and demonstrations. Moreover, the firing on Fort Sumter triggered a sudden elevation of the flag to most honored status in American "civil religion".

Following the Civil War, veterans' organizations, hereditary societies, and popular children's magazines all participated in a movement known as the cult of the flag, in which flags were placed in public schools and rituals such as The Pledge of Allegiance were instituted. As the United States became a major world power, flag desecration statutes sought to curb the exploitation of the American flag in the growing field of advertising in the early years of the twentieth century. Following the First World War, the American Legion gathered representatives of influential patriotic and military organizations to establish officially a national code of flag etiquette that endures - only slightly altered - to this day.

As this volume shows, the flag is clearly a dynamic, powerful, ubiquitous, and complex symbol. Guenter's study illuminates the flag's use and significance in a range of historical and social contexts and raises many questions of historical and sociological importance. For example, how and why did the veneration of the flag develop and disseminate? What roles did such diverse categories as folk legend, high culture, commercialization, popular music, international diplomacy, gender issues, and military conflict play in this development?

Continued on Page 4

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! HEAR YE!
CALL FOR PAPERS — NAVA 25

Included with this issue of NAVA News is an official call for papers for NAVA 25 to meet in Minneapolis, Minnesota, 11-13 October 1991. It's never too early to start researching and planning your participation. Remember why you joined NAVA in the first place: to become more involved in the ongoing study of flags. Use the opportunity of this convention not only to explore the rich and varied cultural offerings of this "City of the Lakes," but also to unite with other enthusiastic vexillologists, and to share some of your knowledge and interests with them. Start thinking now about a particular flag topic you might develop, a research interest you can turn into a) contribution to the information we continue to accumulate in our study of flags.

There are many directions you might go with your presentation. The continuing smoldering of nationalism and ethnic concerns in the USSR and Eastern Europe is one broad area rich in materials crying out to be examined; so is the dynamic and varied use of flags by so many peoples throughout the world in response to Saddam Hussein's movement into Kuwait and the subsequent Gulf War. How about debates over flag design or reports on new flags or new uses of flags? Perhaps you're more interested in flag technology, flag ritual, or flag history. Are there particular flag ceremonies you have analyzed; have you a fascinating story about a local, regional, or state flag? What about flag legislation or cross-cultural flag encounters?

These are just a few possibilities... take advantage of your own knowledge, of local research options, and of the months ahead to fashion a presentation to share with the rest of NAVA in Minneapolis next October. Please read carefully the enclosed application form, paying attention to deadline dates, and send it along to the Program Chair in time to be considered for participation in NAVA 25. See you in Minneapolis!
"IS THIS OUR UNION, JACK?" Legislation before the European Council brought by the European Council proposes the establishment of a European Register of Shipping (EUROS). In effect this legislation would establish a European Flag of Convenience. The legislation provides for the Commission to establish "... the form of, and rules governing the flying of, the flag...

The effect is that for British registered vessels, the new Euroflag would fly alongside the Red Ensign or any Privilege Flag worn by a ship. The order of precedence is not established.

While no design has been officially adopted, owners of pleasure craft in Western Europe have begun using the European flag of blue with twelve stars in a circle adding their native national flag in the canton. This version of the European flag with German, French and Italian Flags in the canton has been sighted and reported. Also English yachtsmen are reputedly flying this version of the Euroflag with the Union Jack in the canton, hence the title of the article. This produces sort of unofficial Blue Ensign with a badge, which unfortunately resembles the Flag of the Cook Islands.

The above mentioned European yachtsmen are flying these new flags instead of their own national flag. The author of the article points out that under British law any flag not the recognized colors of a country used on a vessel would constitute piracy! On the other hand, it could be argued that the presence of the national colors in the canton constitutes an 'embellished' form so that yachtsmen wouldn't have to hang from the yardarm.

From 'Is this our Union, Jack' by John Edwards.

"Children pass through three stages of conceptual evolution: exploration—the earliest scribbles, exploitation—recognizable shapes and relationships, and consolidation—the waning of creative spirit and the waxing of draftsmanship. These stages are reflected in the flag designing submitted by the sixteen children."

The first stage is exemplified by the 'Pussy-Cat' flag submitted by Damien Chillemi. This is an abstract cat with the tail forming the pole and the body, roughly, forming body of the flag culminating in pointed ears at the top of the flag. What is not clear is whether this is a flag for pussy-cats, or a flag that happens to have a pussy-cat on it.

The second stage is represented by a variety of flags incorporating standard Australian symbols: koalas, kangaroos, boomerangs, emu, the Southern Cross, and the Aboriginal Flag.

The third stage shows more drafting skill while dropping some of the symbols. Kangaroos, koalas and the Southern Cross still appear. The Seal of Australia appears for the first time.

The most interesting of this last group was submitted by Sharon Chaston (16). A relief map of Australia in vivid colors is supported by a koala and kangaroo in the same fashion as a heraldic shield. Regrettably, conventionality is the strongest impression conveyed by all of these flags. All of the designs are realistic in adult eyes, except perhaps the 'Pussy-Cat' Flag, in their construction, composition, and designs. This points to the conclusion that... concepts of flag, patriotism, and national awareness are learned—early perhaps in a child’s development but still after the more fundamental concepts of family and home. Only the appearance of koalas, a cuddly and passive animal, appealing to children, really distinguishes the children’s flags from adult designs. All of the other design elements are traditional adult themes.


QUOTABLE QUOTES (Slightly relevant)

"I carry my son on my shoulders so he can see the flags," said a young father. "He is only two, but he does not understand it, but perhaps he will remember this moment in our history that began with grandness and is ending with sadness." — from a woman inter-

U.S.A. CIVIC FLAGS (4” x 6”)

by James Croft
P.O. Box 365
Northampton, MA 01061

Some of these flags may be difficult to obtain but many are not. My suggestion is to write to the city clerk or to go to the local library and look in the yellow pages for a flag company in that city and to write to them.

Allentown, PA
Anchorage, AK
Anchorage, AK
Baltimore, MD
Baltimore County, MD
Bellflower, CA
Blue Springs, MO
Branon, MO
Catskill, NY
Charlotte, NC
Chaska, MN
Chicago, IL
Cleveland, OH
Covington, KY
Dallas, TX
Denver, CO
Dover, DE
Dover, NJ
Elmira, NY
Frankfort, KY
Franklin, OH
Fraser, MI
Garden Grove, CA
Hackensack, NJ
Hamburg, NY
Harrison, NJ
Hempstead, NY
City of Industry
Johnson City, TN
Kansan City, MO
Key West, FL
Lakewood, OH
La Salle, IL
Long Beach, CA
Los Angeles, CA
Mercer County, NJ
Millville, NJ
Milwaukee, WI
Mobile, AL
Monterey, CA
Montgomery, AL
New York, NY
North Bergen, NJ
North Miami Beach, FL
Norwalk, CA
Ocean County, NJ
Palm Springs, CA
Palo Alto, CA
Panama City, FL
Reno, NV
Roswell, GA
San Francisco, CA
San Diego County, CA
Santa Fe Springs, CA
Santa Rosa, CA
Saugus, MA
Savannah, GA
Sparks, NV
Swampscott, MA
Trenton, NJ
Valerisao, IN
Walnut Creek, CA

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George F. Will: "A retired Egyptian diplomat once said, 'Egypt is the only nation-state in the Middle East. The rest are tribes with flags.'"

"A Jordanian official refers contemptuously to Kuwait and other Gulf States as 'oil wells with flags.'"

M. George F. Will quotes from The TORONTO STAR, August 8, 1990 as printed in FLAGSCAN: The Voice of Vexillology in Canada, Issues 19 and 20, Vol. 5, Nos. 3 & 4, Fall-Winter (Sept.-Feb. 1990-91.)

VEXI-BITS will return with the next issue focusing on patriotic expressions during the Gulf War. I want to acknowledge all of the clippings all of you have submitted. Keep them coming! John Linden, 3177 Chateau Way, #207, Livermore, CA 94550.
SYMBOLS OF TOCANTINS STATE, BRAZIL
by Creighton S. Kern

The Brazilian state of Tocantins was incorporated on January 1, 1989. Word has been received from the cultural affairs office of the Brazilian embassy in Washington describing the arms and flag of the new state.

The Flag (Fig. 1) is diagonally striped, orange at the top triangle, white for the central stripe, and blue in the lower fly triangle. In the center of the white stripe is an orange sunburst of 24 rays. There are 8 long rays and 16 shorter rays.

The Arms (Fig. 2) reflect the colors of the flag. Starting at the top of the shield, the background is blue, bearing the upper half of the sunburst (same as the flag) in orange. Below this, dissecting the shield is an arc of white supporting a blue chevron. The area below the chevron, completing the shield, is orange.

The palm fronds surrounding the shield are green, while the ribbons appear in blue with white letters. Above the shield is a blue five pointed star fimbriated in orange.

Further information concerning Tocantins and its symbols will appear in other flag journals in the near future.

NEW IRAQI NATIONAL FLAG
by Don Healy

The Republic of Iraq altered its national flag at the commencement of hostilities between the Allied Coalition and the Republic of Iraq on June 16th, 1990.

The basic flag is the same, but the Arabic script for the phrase “Allah Akbar” or “God Is Great” has been added to the central stripe between the pre-existing green stars. The new addition, like the stars is also in green. See the accompanying figure for the new design.

SERBIAN FLAG IN THE NEWS
by Don Healy

March 10th, 1991, newspapers reported on anti-government demonstrations in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, capital of the Republic of Serbia. Prominently displayed in the photos accompanying the article was a Serbian flag, different from any used by independent Serbia before 1918 or the Nazi-backed puppet regime of World War II.

The Flag (figure above) contains the three traditional stripes of all Serbian flags - red over blue over white. Overlaying the three stripes is a stylized cross taken from the Arms of Serbia. What is different are the character in the four corners of the cross. Usually displayed as a Cyrillic letter akin to our 'C' and inverted on the hoist side of the cross, the flag shown in the photo uses these figures as a kind of border to the central cross. In the past, one dubious variant of these arms showed the four corner elements as crescents. Could this be a new republican flag for Serbia?

CONTRIBUTORS
John H. Gamez
Scot Guenter
Don Healy
Lee Herold
Rich Kenny
Creighton S. Kern
Richard A. Libby
John Lindert
David Pawson
Gus Tracchia

PERSONAL FLAGS OF NAVA MEMBERS
BURGEE OF RICHARD A. LIBBY

The Lion rampant comes from the Libby crest “Lion rampant dexter azur on ermine”. Obviously the representation of ermine would be too confusing on to the eye on such a simple and small flag, which is white with a royal blue design. I modified the blue at the swallow-tails to make them more easily visible and to add some degree of design to the flag. I fly the flag quite regularly at the top of my flag pole at my waterfront home.
PHALERISTICS, HERALDRY, VEXILLOLOGY
THE WHITE EAGLE OF POLAND
by Gus Tracchia

Throughout its one thousand year history, Poland has maintained a sense of unity and nationhood despite losses of independence and drastic frontier shifts. The nature of its past and recent history, has made Polish people preserve the old symbol of the white eagle. We see it in flags, banners, coat-of-arms, and orders and condecorations regardless of the type of political system or government.

It is surprising that the political system established in Poland in December of 1944, did away with many pre-war distinctions while preserving the Order of the White Eagle. Consequently, the highest and oldest Polish honor existed during Communist rule, and still exists in current Polish law. Also, independently, it is bestowed by the Polish government in exile in London, which bases itself on the Constitution of 1918.

For a long time, Poland fought against introducing honorary distinctions, but in 1705 the resistance was broken by King Augustus II. In attempting to regain the Polish throne. In November of that year, a secret meeting was held between Augustus II, Czar Peter the Great of Russia, and Polish supports of the Saxons (Augustus came from the Saxo line). That day the king handed out the first honors to his followers. The awards were in the shape of an oval medal with a white eagle against red background, with the inscription PRO RIDE ET LEGE.

In 1709 the king replaced the medal with a cross, and it has maintained its basic shape until now. The order was worn on a white band with gold-leafed edges. Later, in 1713, the white band was replaced with a blue one, and that is how it has remained. In those days, the Order of the White Eagle was among the most highly rated awards in Europe. It was placed above the Danish Order of the Elephant, the Prussian Order of the Black Eagle, and the Russian Saint Andrew's Award.

After 1795, Poland disappeared from the map and the Order of the White Eagle was included third in the system of Russian orders. The design was also altered. The cross was put on the background of the black, two-headed Russian eagle.

The reviving of the old orders dating from the years of the aristocratic Polish Republic, was one of the most important elements of state tradition. It is therefore not surprising that in 1918, the Virtuti Militari Order and the Order of the White Eagle (as the supreme honor) were both reinstated.

On February 4, 1921, the Polish Legislative Sejm approved a law restoring the order. The law states that "... at the head of the knights of the order stands the Grand Master of the Order and Chapter". The head of the state (the president), became a knight and was the Grand Master and head of the Chapter. After the outbreak of World War II, the chapter of the Order of the White Eagle was transferred to London, where it continued its functions. Apart from successive presidents, the White Eagle was only awarded on two occasions during the war; to Henryk Liberman, and Wladyslaw Sikorski. Since 1945, the chapter awarded the order to Solidarity Leader Lech Walesa.

Today, at the eve of new elections in Poland, the situation is very interesting. If Lech Walesa is elected president of Poland he will automatically receive the Order of the White Eagle and become Grand Master. Does this mean that for the first time in history it will be awarded twice to the same person?

Phaleristics is the discipline studying orders and condecorations, and is very much related with vexillology and heraldry. It is in Poland where this relation is more dramatic since the usage of the white eagle is found in the coat-of-arms and in all types of flags, as well as in other orders and condecorations.

The polish white eagle is one symbol which has been used for a long time in the coat-of-arms of polish kings.

Boleslav V, Duke of Cracow, shows an eagle on the shield of mounted warrior and it is clear that by this time (1227), the armes of the country were becoming recognizable as a white eagle with gold beak and claws on a red shield.

After 1607 the armes of the Kings of Poland were quartered with Lithuanian. The armes of Lithuania are on a red background, a fully armored knight of white, with a gold patriarchal cross over a shield of blue.

Also, the white eagle is widely used in royal banners, usually of plain red, or in some cases the reverse of the flag is white with the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa, also known as the Black Madonna. Since the 10th century, when Mieszko I converted the nation to Christianity, Poles have turned to the Catholic Church for guidance, for comfort, and during years of foreign domination, for preservation of the very Polish nationality. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Polish armies felt a divine mission in defending the faith against Orthodox Muscovites, Muslims, Turks, and Lutheran Swedes. Polish catholicism if fully symbolized by Our Lady of Czestochowa, a portrait of the Virgin Mary brought to the Jasna Gora Monastery in 1382. After the famous defence of Jasna Gora against the Swedes in 1655, King John Casimir committed the Polish Kingdom to the care of Our Lady. In the Hall of Knights of the Jasna Gora Monastery, we can see, hanging from the cornice, two rows of banners of the Polish troops fighting in the Second World War in Poland and elsewhere (Battles of Britain and Montecatini). These banners are either red with the white eagle, or white with the image of the Virgin Mary. Other flags have on side the eagle over red, and on the reverse the image of the Virgin Mary over white.

Another widely used design is that of the standards used by the Polish Cavalry. These standards are of white background with a red maltese cross and and eagle in the center. These designs, very similar to Prussian flags, can also be seen at the Hall of Knights of the Jasna Gora Monastery.

The Eagle of Poland and the image of the Virgin Mary, the first over red and the latter on a white background, could be also considered as the basis for the bicolor Polish flag.

The history of Poland is very complex and very old. It is not the intention of this brief information to cover all its aspects. As always, I am trying to share information gathered while traveling in Poland. I am sure there are many other important aspects that I have ignored, but it will be nice and refreshing if someone will bring them to my attention, and at the same time, to the rest of the members of NAVA.

NOTE: I request information or titles of books on U.S. medals and condecorations. Gus Tracchia, 82-67 Austin St., #205, Kew Gardens, NY 11415.

Continued from Page 1

Guenther's use of interdisciplinary analysis and his thorough understanding of a wide range of flag-related incidents and materials leads to the conclusion that to learn more about the evolving relationship between the flag of the United States and the American people's shifting perceptions of themselves is to learn more about some fundamental complexities of this nation's heritage, its present identity, and its possibilities for the future.

About the Author: Scot M. Guenther is assistant professor of American Studies at San Jose State University. He received his doctorate in American Studies from the University of Maryland, and he has published articles on vexillology (the study of flags) in The Flag Bulletin, Flagscan, John and Mary's Journal, and Crux Australis. Before coming to San Jose State, the author taught in history, English, and American Studies programs at the University of Maryland; the Johannes Gutenberg Universitat in Mainz, West Germany; the Wichita State University; and Dickinson College.

ORDER FROM: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 440 Forsgate Drive, Cranbury, New Jersey 08512.

Editor's Note: We congratulate Scot, NAVA's Vice President, on the publication of The American Flag, 1777-1924.
AOTEAROA: SOME LESSER KNOWN FLAGS
by Don Healy

To many, the initial reaction to the title may be — lesser known flags? I’ve never even heard of Aotearoa.

But, rest easy, Aotearoa is the Maori name for their homeland, a land known to most of the outside world as New Zealand. Within New Zealand, both English and Maori are official languages and government buildings are being identified in both tongues, news broadcasts are delivered in both, and the country is referred to by either term.

Aotearoa, in case you are wondering, means “Land of The Great White Cloud”, a fitting appellation for the land down under the “Land Down Under”. The mountains that form the spine of both the North and South islands capture clouds as they sweep across the Tasman Sea and create one long stretch of billowy white that can be seen long before the islands become visible. It was these clouds that led the ancestors of the Maori to New Zealand, initially.

Here, under those long white clouds, fly many different flags, many of which are well known to the vexillologist. Many diverse flag books and charts have recorded the national flag and its main derivatives - the red ensign, the white ensign of the New Zealand navy, the light blue ensigns of the Air Force and civil aviation.

What has been overlooked, not only from Aotearoa, but other lands as well, are some of the less widely used flags. These include city flags, yachting flags, and governmental department flags.

During the week preceding the 13th International Congress of Vexillology, I had the great good fortune to wander Wellington and other areas of Aotearoa. New (to me) flags were everywhere to be found.

Three city flags were discovered, Wellington (Fig. 1), Auckland (Fig. 2), and the City of Lower Hutt (Fig. 3), a northern suburb of Wellington.

As you can see, the three cities represent three different styles of flag design. Auckland, with its banner of arms, is very traditional and complicated. The flag, yes, there is only one, and even the city librarians were amazed to find that the city had adopted a flag way back in 1955, is in the city hall of Auckland. In the chief, the two compartments contain a blue field bearing a gold cornucopia and in the fly, a red field bearing a pick and shovel in natural color. The base of the flag bears a schooner in natural color on white sailing upon the blue water.

Wellington, the capital, avoids the complication of a banner of arms, and as a result, has a flag that flies outdoors, allowing itself to be seen by residents. The ship appearing in the center is similar in style to the ship appearing on the national arms, but carries an heraldic dolphin on its white sail.

Lower Hutt, one of Wellington’s largest suburbs, uses a very modern design based upon its geographic position along the banks of the Hutt River. This rather simple design is seen flying from virtually all municipal buildings within Lower Hutt.

The three cities show a direct inverse relationship between simplicity/cost and use of their civic symbols, a lesson that should not be lost on other flag designers.

In Wellington, one flag that is commonly seen is that of the New Zealand Railways Corp. (Fig. 4). That’s the company that not only runs the railroads, as you may have suspected, but also operates the Wellington to Picton ferry service which connects the two islands. Those ferries, the Aratika and the Arahura, both fly the Railways banner as a house flag.

The handsome flag used by the Railways Corp. is not the only government agency to use a handsome flag. The Department of Conservation flies a striking flag (Fig. 5) from all its buildings, and uses the design as a letterhead as well.

As might be expected from an island nation, many of the flags flown in New Zealand tie closely to the sea. Wellington’s Royal Port Richardson Yacht Club flies its burgee (Fig. 6) over its headquarters on the edge of town.

Continued on Page 6
In Auckland, the Auckland Harbor Board flies its banner of arms (Fig. 7) from its buildings along the waterfront of New Zealand's largest city.

One other common design seen throughout the country, though only rarely in flag format, is the logo of the 14th Commonwealth Games (Fig. 8) which occur in Auckland in January 1990. When used in flag format, the logo is centered on a plain white field.

Lastly, a flag seen occasionally throughout the land is one man's idea for a new national flag (Fig. 9). New Zealand's floral emblem is the silver fern. This is just one of many types of ferns that are native to New Zealand, though not as common as most. New Zealand is a fern lovers paradise, with a tremendous proliferation of these prehistoric plants to be found everywhere in great abundance. The silver fern is also used on the uniforms of New Zealand's famous rugby team, the All Black, and before the appearance of the "fighting kiwi", was used on a black flag as a local sports flag. The "fighting kiwi" has become a popular symbol and replaced the silver fern banner, but the proposed flag for New Zealand uses only an unfurling frond instead of an entirely opened frond that appears on the sports flag. The concept of the fern flag brings together much more native symbolism, than does the current national flag. The use of the fern also ties into the art of the native Maori, many of their designs are based on unfurling ferns. The colors of the proposed flag utilize two of the three Maori traditional colors: black, white and ochre.

Although the push for a new national flag is minimal, the one proposal that exists, bodes well for such a project. After experiencing New Zealand first hand, the proposed flag is an attractive and fitting design for one of the world's most magnificent lands; a land of green ferns and long white clouds.

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FLAGS IN JAPANESE MONS

by John H. Gamez

- The Mon is an insignia used by individuals, families, or organizations in Japan. Like European heraldry, they are applied to armor, flags, clothing, and possessions. They are also used as corporate logos.

- The Mon originated during the Nara period (710-794) as symbols for the court aristocracy. Over the centuries they were adopted by the Warrior class and eventually the commoners.

- Unlike heraldry, the Mon is not restricted to an exacting form. A single Mon can be shared by many families and individuals can adopt nearly endless variations of the same design. Motifs vary from things in nature to abstract geometric designs. Some Mons pun the family name or symbolize the user's occupation.

The name "Hata" means "flag". The Mons for Hata show flags with staffs. The Mons shown are (1) Two flags in a diamond, (2) Two crossed flags, (3) Six right-hand rotating flags, (4) Three staffs forming a circle with flags, and (5) Flag in a circle.

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**Sources**


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**4 x 6 CORNER**

After a series of "theme" corners I'm returning to a more traditional mix of flags for you collectors to hunt up. I'll lead off with the big change in the recent past, but after that they get down right outrageous. You may have a hard time finding all the others, but rest assured, they do exist. If you want them, it may just take a little digging, after all, the longer this column goes on, the more obscure the flags I'll be reporting on.

- Sudan (1987 design - old 1956 flag reborn)
- Second Amendment
- Theater Masks (comedy & tragedy)
- Republican Party (elephant)
- Mozart
- Beethoven
- Bach

"Thank You"
Shamrock (on white)
Colma, CA
Key West, FL
Alameda, CA
San Leandro, CA

Don Healy, 523 Centre St., Trenton, NJ 08611

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LETTERS...

From Earl Williams:

"Francis Hopkinson Flag" decals are now available in size 3" x 4½" from The Flag Guys, 283 Windsor Highway, Newburgh, NY 12553.


From Gary Randall:

I am writing to inquire about the purchase of Past NAVA flags. I am very interested because I am a flag collector. I couldn't make the last meeting in Toronto, October 90, but I would like to receive the 24th NAVA flag, if possible.

Editor's Note: There are no NAVA 24 flags (4"x6") available; write to David Pawson, Treasurer, for NAVA flags that are available.

From Richard Crossett:

FLAG, one of the Eyewitness Books published by Alfred A. Knopf, New York. I found this volume in the children's section of a bookstore in Minneapolis, but any vexillologist will find it is a beautiful addition to the bookshelf. Every page is filled with full color illustrations and photographs covering such subjects as the anatomy of a flag, heraldic flags, flags at sea and several pages of the flags of major countries of the world. The author is William Crampton. 8½ x 11, 64 pages, hard cover, about $13.00

GAVA'S FIRST YEAR
GOLDEN GATE AREA VEXILLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

With the meeting in San Jose, GAVA brought to a close a most successful first year of existence with 14 Charter Members and an average attendance of 9 persons at four quarterly meetings. Meetings were held in Oakland, San Francisco, San Leandro and San Jose. GAVA thanks all who had the interest to attend the meetings and become Charter Members, to those who hosted meetings and all others whose interest and input was felt.

The first meeting of 1991 was held March 10th. Flag designs, NAVA by-laws, and newspaper clippings for John Lindert's Vexillological Musings column were on the agenda.

BUSY AS A BANNER?
AN OPINION
by David Pawson

What a stupid expression! I hope it never gains a foothold in our language. A flag should not be busy. Unfortunately, too many flags are busy. Too many elements are crammed onto them that they look more like cloth postcards than banners. Such flags tend to be both uninspired and uninspiring.

Many flags could be greatly simplified, yet lose none of the message intended. As a case in point, let us consider the flag of Green Bay, WI. This flag has the following elements — all depicted in yellow on a green field:

- a forest
- a roll of paper towels
- a football helmet
- a carton of milk
- an ore freighter
- the name GREEN BAY

There may be more elements which I have overlooked, but these are enough for my purposes.

The flag depicted here could just as well represent Green Bay. The green-white-green stripes represent the end zone of a football field (junk the helmet). They are arranged at an angle to portray the angle at which the bay cuts into the Wisconsin mainland (sink the ship). The white stripe is the same color as milk, and thereby alludes to the dairy industry (cut down the rest of the trees) as well as depicting the paper being rolled (put the towels back in the kitchen). In addition, the green-white-green represents the changing of the seasons - summer to winter to spring. Finally, drop the name. Apparently having failed to adequately represent Green Bay, the present flag bears the name. This design ought not.

With a little imagination and a lot less clutter, a simpler, more distinctive flag can be made for most cities and states - even a few countries. So let's not have our flags working quite so hard: let's leave it to the beavers to be busy.

WELCOME...
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

JOAN E. BEARD; Active,
162 N. Lombard Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302

JOHN G. BLAIR; Active,
406 Rutger St., Rockville, MD 20850

ARTHUR W. HAND; Active,
P.O. Box 841, Eureka, CA 95502

RAYMOND J. JETT, JR.; Active,
3905 W. 187th St., Torrance, CA 90504

GORDON C. LAWRENCE; Foreign,
24D Wavetree Rd., South Woodford, London E18 1BL, United Kingdom

JEREMY LEIGH; Student,
840 Van Buren St., Herndon, VA 22070

KENNETH R. MEILE; Active,
P.O. Box 129, Forest Grove, OR 97116-0129

BYRON W. WARD; Active,
15 Blue Jay Dr., Newburgh, NY 12550

ALL MEMBERS NOTE:
Identification Key to numerical/letter designation that follows some members' names and addresses: The numbers 1, 2 and 3 indicate order of interest. The letters indicate subject interest. If not recorded, the interest was not submitted. Information should be mailed to the Treasurer immediately. The 1991 membership list was prepared in June.

Also, please submit your telephone number if you wish to have it included in the 1991 membership list. Please note Treasurer's new address: David Pawson, 1429 Amherst Drive, Plano, Texas 75075-7203.

MEMBERS NOTE:
A - Analysis & Research
B - Books, Charts & Documentation
C - Canadian Flags
D - Design
E - Ecclesiastic
F - Fun Flags, Flags as Art
G - Government & National Flags
H - Historical
I - Ideological
J - Collecting, Hobbyist
K - Lecturing & Exhibitions
L - Local States & Provinces
M - Military
N - Naval & Flages at Sea
O - Opposition, Revolutions & Exile
P - Production, Manufacturing
R - Royal, Heads of State, etc/
S - Sales, Retail & Wholesale
T - Towns, Civic & Municipal
U - United States Flag
V - Vexillolocraphic
W - Worldwide general interest
X - Restoration, Preservation
Z - Terminology

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EDITOR'S NOTES . . .

Ward County (Texas) is having a flag competition open to anyone. There are no restrictions due to residence, age, or any other factor. They want a county flag. When Dave Pawson was researching Texas county flags two years ago, Ward County became aware that they did not have a flag. The deadline for all entries is May 31, 1991. Submit your entry to Pat V. Finley, County Clerk, Ward County Court House, Monahans, Texas 79756. We will ask Dave Pawson, who informed us of this contest, to keep us informed so that we can publish the winning entry.

We hope you remembered to send a flag design to Lee Herald for NAVA 25. The deadline for that was May 1 so it may be too late by the time you read this. Lee’s address is 1611 First Street, SW, Rochester, MI 55902.

A registration form for NAVA 25 is included with this newsletter as is the “Call for Papers”. Please follow the directions and submit as soon as possible. Copies of most of the Papers delivered at the Toronto Meeting are, regrettably, not available as they have not been furnished by the speakers. Please submit the full text, as requested, so NAVA will have a record of this information and so it can be made available to members who are not able to attend the Annual meeting.

If you haven’t paid your dues for 1991, remember according to the By-laws dues are payable as of January 1. Current dues payment is required to have your name included in the Membership List 1991.

This issue goes to the Printer April 5. Deadline for copy for the July/August NAVA News is June 1.

PLEASE NOTE: Treasurer’s change of address; see column at left.
Notice is hereby given that proposals for papers to be delivered at the twenty-fifth annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association are now being accepted by the chair. Please complete and return this form, along with a 250-500 word summary of your topic and presentation NO LATER THAN 15 AUGUST 1991 to: Dr. Scot Guenter, NAVA 25 Program Chair, 201 South Fourth St. #617, San Jose, CA 95112 USA.

Name:
Address:
Phone Number:
Title of Paper:

Although summaries are due by 15 August 1991, A COMPLETE COPY OF THE TEXT OF YOUR PRESENTATION must be postmarked NO LATER THAN 15 SEPTEMBER 1991 and sent to the Program Chair at the address given above. Presentation time limits should be 20-30 minutes. Special requests for more than 30 minutes will be considered but are not assured.

Amount of time you request:

REQUEST FOR AUDIO-VISUAL EQUIPMENT

Many speakers find the use of AV equipment helps in delivering their presentations. Please check any equipment you will need supplied to give your presentation:

_____ overhead projector
_____ slide projector
_____ VCR (please use VHS format)
_____ cassette player
_____ other (specify)

Any questions? Call Scot Guenter at (408) 295-1425. Please respond promptly; pay attention to deadline dates.

N.B. Don't forget the presentation judged by the Executive Board to best further the aims of vexillology through presenting new documented information through research will be awarded the William Driver Award and a cash prize of $100, generously donated by the National Flag Foundation.

Display: Planning a display table? Please give your display a title and send a description of what it will include to Scot Guenter at the address given above NO LATER THAN 15 AUGUST 1991.

SEE YOU IN MINNESOTA IN OCTOBER!!