NEW REGIONAL CHAPTER
GREAT WATERS

MINUTES OF THE CHARTER MEETING
KETTERING, OHIO

by John Purcell

Five NAVA members from Michigan and Ohio and one from Illinois (guest Bruce Cameron of River Forest, IL) met at the home of Glenn Compton in Kettering, Ohio, on Saturday, May 11, 1991, to form a regional chapter comprising members from Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Besides Glenn and Bruce, in attendance were David Breitenbach (Grosse Point Park, MI), Peter Kinderman (Cincinnati, OH), Glen Nolan (Harrison, OH), and John Purcell (Brunswick, OH). John, who had polled the members from these four states and, with Glenn Compton, organized the gathering and called the meeting to order as chairman pro tempore. A brief discussion about the chapter organization and goals ensued, after which the matter of dues was taken up. It was decided that chapter members should pay $5.00 annually to cover the cost of duplication and postage.

Officers were then elected for a one-year term. Glenn Compton was elected president; Peter Kinderman, vice president; and John Purcell, Secretary. For the sake of expediency until the chapter grows larger, Glenn Compton was also elected Treasurer in order to minimize the mailing of receipts back and forth, since he likely will be incurring the most costs initially.

Choice of a chapter name was raised next, and caused considerable discussion. The logical geographical names such as Ohio Valley or Great Lakes Chapter were ruled out because each eliminated one state of the four. Glenn Compton suggested using some combination of the first letters of each of the state’s names, e.g., MIKO or OMKI, etc., but none of the variations seemed to gain general approval. Other ideas concerning common state trees, flowers, birds and the like all proved to be futile, since none are common among the four states, but the only one proved to be the Miami Indians, a name that would only cause confusion with Florida’s Miami, so it was rejected. At length, Glen Nolan suggested linking the Great Lakes and Ohio River together as “Great Waters”. Glenn Compton moved that the name be adopted; Peter Kinderman seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Discussion about procedure for a flag design for the chapter was the next item on the agenda. It was decided that Glenn Compton would notify all persons who responded to John’s survey as wanting to participate in a chapter about what transpired at the meeting, and also the procedure for flag design. All chapter members who wish to submit a flag design should send it to Glenn Compton at 3075 Mountville Drive, Kettering, OH 45440-1442 by July 1, 1991. Glenn will then send a form with the designs on them to all members to vote on the design they like best. Dues should also be sent to Glenn.

The last item of business was to set a next meeting date. The members decided to meet twice a year, in May and November, if possible. The next meeting will be hosted by John Purcell in Cleveland on Saturday, November 9, 1991. Further details will be forthcoming closer to the date. The meeting was then adjourned at 3:30 p.m. to the program portion. Most had brought flags and flag items to share with the members, and Glenn Compton surprised the members with a large-size NAVA lapel pins that he had made. Socializing and conversation, with refreshments provided by Glenn Compton, continued informally for some time afterwards. A great time was had by all!

“CHESAPEAKE BAY CHAPTER” WELCOMES NEW ENGLAND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

by Nick Artimovich

On June 8 four members of the Chesapeake Bay chapter met with New England Chapter President Lynn Knights during his journey south. Grace Cooper, Jon Radel, Tom Carrier, and Nick Artimovich enjoyed the hospitality of President Knights at his RV at a recreational vehicle campground in College Park, Maryland. One of the principal topics discussed was whether to formalize the Chesapeake Bay Chapter. It is NAVA’s oldest chapter, with annual meetings dating back at least to 1983. So far there has been no need to collect dues since the costs of correspondence (consisting of a letter invitation to the annual meeting) has been donated by the meeting hosts.

Recent acquisitions were also displayed for all to see and admire. A couple of German visitors to the RV park kept pointing to Nick’s 9 foot by 14 foot East German flag saying “Nicht Gooedt”, loosely translated: “you trying to start something, buddy?”. Other passers-by didn’t have the foggiest notion of where Tom’s 10 foot by 19 foot British Royal Standard was from. All admired the NEChapter flag that Lynn brought, along with a few others decorating his RV lot. And Jon Radel had a box full of flags made in Poland sent to him by a correspondent who only asks for Country/Western music tapes in return. Jon also had a fascinating little collection of national and organizational flags from the People’s Republic of China.

NAVA business discussed included the loss of membership subsequent to the dues increase. The loss of valued members concerns us all, and we would like to do what we can to reduce the cost of the printing/distribution of NAVA publications. Hopefully dues can be modified and NAVA can regain some of its long time members. We look forward to the report of the special committee looking into this matter.

Ed. Note: One step toward formalizing this “chapter” was Nick was voted Chesapeake Bay Chapter President.
COLLECTOR'S CORNER

"P is for Portugal"  
"Q is for Qatar"

by Nick Artimovich

PAKISTAN
1947-date  W vertical stripe at hoist one quarter the length of flag, remainder field is V with a W crescent.

PANAMA
1903-date  Quartered, first quarter W with a B star, second R, third B, fourth W with a R star.

PAPUA - NEW GUINEA
1962-1971  Field is N — with Papuan bird of paradise in full color near hoist.
1971-date  Diagonally divided, lower hoist is N with five W stars representing the “Southern Cross”. Upper fly is R with Y silhouette of bird of paradise.

PARAGUAY
1842-date  Horizontal tricolor of R-W-B. Seal in center of W stripe shows National Emblem on obverse and Treasury Seal on reverse.

PERU
1825-date  Vertical tribar of R-W-R. State flag has arms of 1825 in center.

PHILIPPINES
1898-date  W triangle at hoist with Y sun and three Y stars. Field is divide horizontally B/R.

POLAND
pre-1918  W Field with B diagonal cross. R canton with W eagle (flag used to represent Poland as part of Russian Empire.)
1918-date  Field horizontally divided W/R. State flag shows R shield with W eagle in center of W stripe. From 1918 to WWII the eagle had a gold crown. From WWII to 1990 the crown was omitted. In 1990 the crown was restored.

PORTUGAL
1910-date  Field divided vertically one-third V, two-thirds R, old arms without crown placed on dividing line between V and R, with a Y armillary sphere in the background.

QATAR
pre-1949  R field with W serrated band placed near hoist. Sometime the R field had W diamonds and/or the name of the country in white.
1949-date  Color of field changed to reddish-brown. No diamonds or text added.

NAVA XXV
MINNEAPOLIS

OCTOBER 11th, 12th & 13th, 1991

Have you registered for the conference in Minneapolis? We encourage you to stay at the conference hotel, the price is very low, it is next to everything, and if there are football, baseball, or basketball tournaments on those dates, rooms downtown are at a premium.

Please send your registration to: Lee L. Herold — NAVA 25 1611 S.W. 1st St. — Miracle Mile, Rochester, MN 55902.

Cost is $125 ($135 after 9/10), Twin Cities Highlights Tour Saturday afternoon at $13, pre-conference Arts Tour at $19, and post-conference dinner at $19 Sunday evening.

The conference will be at the Marquette Hotel, $69 single or double, 7th & Marquette Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55402, (612) 332-2351. Room registration should be made directly with the hotel, information will be sent with your conference registration. Be sure to mention NAVA when you register.

NAVA 25 FLAG designed by Kevin Harrington

On a blue field a white V surcharged with a gold star. A red ribbon entwines around V and star to form the stylized figure 25. The “V” stands for vexillology, the red, white and blue for NAVA, the gold star for Minnesota whose light illuminates our conference. The red ribbon and star derive from the Minnesota state flag. The lines of the V also may represent the Upper Mississippi river where it is broken by St. Anthony’s Falls at the lower center of the flag. This indicates the site of Minneapolis, the host city.

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CONTRIBUTORS

Nick Artimovich  
Joseph Paul Fox  
Kevin Harrington  
Lee Herold  
James Lilipinski  
Dave Pawson  
John Purcell  
Byron Ward

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14 INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY

BARCELONA, SPAIN

by John M. Purcell

The fourteenth International Congress of Vexillology was opened on Sunday evening, June 30, 1991, at the historic Palau de la Generalitat (seat of government of Catalonia) with a welcoming reception by our host, the Associació Catalana de Vexillologia (ACV). Delegates from Africa, Australia, Europe and North America were warmly welcomed and had the opportunity to meet and renew old friendships in the charming patio of the Generalitat. NAVA members attending included Randy Beardsley (accompanied by his wife, Mary), George Cahill, Grace Cooper (NAVAs official representative), Bruce Drucken­miller, John Purcell, and Whitney Smith (accompanied by his wife, Vicki).

At 9:00 A.M. the next morning, the Congress got underway officially in the Auditori Sant Jaume” (St. James Auditorium), located just across from the Generalitat. During the next four days, until Friday, July 5, mornings were devoted to scheduled presentations by the conferees in Catalan, English, French, Italian and Spanish. For the listeners who did not understand all those languages, simultaneous translation services were provided. The talks were widely varied, dealing with all aspects of flag research from the traditional areas of historical and political vexillology to computer programming and conjectures about vexillology in the future.

Each afternoon attendees were treated to a vexillological or cultural visit. Monday we went to the Institut d’Estudis Catalans (Institute of Catalan Studies) where we were treated to a seminar on the computer programs that the Institute has established, and a brief introduction of the vexillological project (explained more fully by Sebastia Herreros Aguie of the ACV later in the week) designed to set up a bibliographical format for all kinds of vexillological entries. On Tuesday, after an elegant reception at the Ajuntament de Barcelona (City Hall) and a welcome by His Excellency, Mayor Pasqual Maragall, we toured the site of the 1992 Olympic Games and had a talk by the creators of the symbols to be used by the Barcelona Committee.

We were welcomed on Wednesday afternoon to the picturesque city of Sant Sadurni d’Anoia by its mayor, Sr. Marcel Gaborro. There we had a convivial luncheon, followed by a fascinating tour of the Caves Codorniu, where some of Spain’s finest champagne is produced. Thursday was a tour of lofty Montserrat, a mountainous monastery that is home to the Black Virgin of Catalonia and is where the uniquely shaped first flag of Catalonia is housed in the monastery museum. Another excellent luncheon was followed by a business meeting of the ICV, Friday afternoon was free for shopping or other touring on our own.

Business meetings of the ICV were held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and Thursday afternoon. President Hugh Robert Boudin of the Societés Vexillologiques Belgique, and Congress Secretary Ralph B. Bartlett of the Flag Society of Australia, were re-elected to their posts; Emil Dreyer of the Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Fahnen und Flaggenkunde/Societe Suisse de Vexillologie was elected as Secretary to replace Whitney Smith, Flag Research Center, who declined to run for office again.

The Congress culminated in a splendid banquet on Friday night, July 5, lasting in true Barcelona fashion until the wee hours of the morning. In ceremonies just prior to dinner, William Crampton of the Flag Institute (Great Britain) was awarded the second Vexillological prize for his prolific vexillological work in the past two years, and Whitney Smith was honored as ICVs second Vexillology Laureate. After the awards we dined on course after course of savory Catalan cuisine accompanied by delectable beverages, and were treated to a delightful program of international songs by the Coral Baluard, a chorus composed of talented Catalan singers, followed by the terpsichorean wizardry of the Esbart Lluís Millet, a dance ensemble that performed the intricate and physically demanding steps of three regional folk dances. As we made our farewells, promising to meet again in 1993 at the next conference, in Zurich, we warmly thanked our hosts for one of the best congresses ever, and I am certain that those of us in attendance will never forget the outstanding hospitality, excellent planning, and hard work that made the ICV 14 such a fine success.

**GOVERNMENT AGENCY HOLDS FLAG AUCTION**

by Nick Artimovich

June 28, Washington, D.C. The General Services Administration (GSA) today held an auction of obsolete Department of Transportation (DOT) flags. These flags were designed and used from the inception of the DOT in 1967 until the Department’s seal and other graphic indicia were modernized in 1982. The flags consisted of various sizes and materials, but only four different designs. They were:

**DOT agency flag:** White field with red disk containing white triskelion. Red disk is bordered in black with text in white: “Department of Transportation United States of America.”

**Secretary of Transportation:** Dark blue field with white triskelion surrounded by 13 white stars.

**Under Secretary of Transportation:** Red field with white triskelion and stars.

**Assistant Secretary of Transportation:** White field with dark blue triskelion and stars.

The original triskelion logo was designed by a DOT employee and his family in 1967 to symbolize progress. In 1980 a graphic arts firm redesigned all DOT graphics, letterheads, signs, flags, etc. for a more modern look. The major difference is that the seal now consists of a light blue disk with a white triskelion spinning in the opposite direction. The same basic suite of flags is still used, except that the seals (with text but without stars) appear in the center of the field. Also, the flag of the Assistant Secretary is yellow with the seal in white.

The old flags that were auctioned at 11:00 A.M. in the DOT courtyard here in Washington had been kept in storage ever since they were replaced. Most flags were 52” x 66” indoor flags, with gold fringe, but there were some larger and some smaller outdoor flags for use on signs, cars, etc. Bidding was spirited among the 60 to 80 DOT employees and members of the public present. Most flags sold for $16 to $21 as long-time employees enjoyed the opportunity to get an “official” souvenir of their agency.

This writer, also a DOT employee, took the opportunity to add one of each of the fringed indoor flags to his collection. When discussing the flags with an official in charge of the auction, this writer was told, “If it weren’t for your requesting one of these old flags, they would have been burned.” (GSA regulations dictated that the obsolete property was to be auctioned or destroyed if no other agency could use the property.) Upon request, this writer can supply information on the DOT seal and flags. Also available are a small number of 4” x 6” DOT agency flags for sale or trade.
AESTHETICS IN FLAG DESIGN:
ONE MEMBER'S OPINION

by Byron W. Ward

Having noticed comments relating to flag aesthetics interspersed throughout the NAVA News, I have decided to commit my own thoughts on the subject to paper. The following is entirely composed of my own opinions and I am not at all proposing that anything contained within should be carved in stone and revered as a commandment of vexillology. Open and hearted debate over the opinions contained herein is welcomed and encouraged.

The single biggest problem with the design of many flags is that they do not read correctly on both sides, which is most notable when a flag contains wording or lettering. If we were still in the age of standards and banners I would probably be much more amenable to the labeling, but that age is at least two centuries past. The flags of today are, almost without exception, “heading-to-fly” type flags and are, as often as not, viewed from the reverse side when flying from a flagpole. Happily, of the world’s 169 independent nations (and choosing a country’s “civil” flag where there is an option), only ten nations deemed it proper to include wording or lettering on their flags. Of these, only Saudi Arabia and Rwanda have wording that is visible from any great distance. Of the two, Rwanda gets my vote for the most unacceptable national flag, greeting onlookers with a large double flag, that is often as not, viewed from the reverse side when flying from a flagpole. These 10 do not include Alaska, the reverse of which presents a view of the Big Dipper available only to Alaskans very far from home (about 150 light years away, according to Carl Sagan).

I am not such a stickler that I advocate only flags that are symmetrical down the central vertical axis and thus read perfectly correctly on both sides when printed by standard processes. Canada and Quebec are examples of this type, as are the only two state flags that fit the category: Arizona and New Mexico (it may be surprising to some that the Union Jack is not vertically symmetrical). Although serious students of heraldry may object, I have no problem with the reverse view of symbols, figures, or coats of arms. The rampant lion of Scotland may face right or left, whichever way the wind blows.

One may argue that the “doubling” of a flag, either with the same design (most common with the POW-MIA flag) or with an official “reverse” design (such as the flag of Oregon) solves the “reverse problem”, but I must disagree on two counts. First, the doubling of a flag also doubles its price, thus limiting its use. Second, although the double flags may be available commercially in larger sizes (at least 2’x3’), to find a double spearhead or 4”x6” flag would be rare, indeed.

Flags that are too complex bother me. A flag belongs to all of the people of a particular region and should be easily and economically reproducible (by screen printing or dyeing) and some consideration should be given to not overwhelming school children when they attempt to draw their flag. Flags with intricate seals (such as that of my own New York State) and complex scenes are not among my aesthetic favorites. Flags more complex than the U.S. Flag (64 parts, including stars, stripes and field) enter my “too complex” category (and if I were a Belgian, the Stars and Stripes might be included).

Of course, one can go overboard in simplicity as well. I draw my personal “simplicity line” at a tricolor. France, Italy, Ireland: OK; Poland, Indonesia, Monaco: not OK (and confusing); Libya: ridiculous. I put only one U.S. state flag in the “too simple” category: Alabama. To proponents of the Earth Flag: it is at once too simple (a circle on a blue background) and too complex, utilizing a very intricate 4-color “photo” printing process that is not within the scope of most manufacturers - or at least is too expensive. Additionally, the copying of a proposed “universal symbol” and “flag for all people” strikes me as rather cross.

If I had to single out a group of flags that irritated me the most, it would be municipal flags in the United States, most of which are patterned after many state flags. The standard formula: put the seal or arms on a blue background (or go really wild, after lengthy debate, and choose a different color background). Then, in many cases, erase all doubt and use of symbolism by spelling out the name of the municipality in bold, block letters. Most beg for the comment: “Who cares?” My dream is for small municipalities to adopt a colorful, fairly simple, highly symbolic flag without any wording at all. The colors would appeal to the young and old alike. The simplicity would promotes wide reproduction in all sizes. The symbolism would motivate the local populace to learn about the flag and to explain it to not-so-enlightened outsiders. I’m not holding my breath waiting for this to happen.

I’ll end with my personal favorites.

NATIONAL FLAGS: U.S.A. (of course, I’m highly biased), Canada, U.K., Nauru (small country-excellent flag).

U.S. STATE FLAGS: Maryland, Ohio (even though it is an oddball burgee), Texas. (Wyoming would have been included if it didn’t contain the state seal).

ANOTHER FAVORITE: The NAVA flag (symbolic, colorful, and even though it contains a letter, a “V” is symmetrical).

THE COMPASROSE

The EMBLEM OF THE ANGLICAN COMMUNION, the Compasrose, was designed by the Rev. Canon Edward N. West of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, New York City.

At the center of the circular emblem is the red cross of St. George on a silver shield, a reminder of the origins of the Anglican Communion and unifying link to the past within the Communion today. Encircling the cross is a band bearing the inscription “The Truth shall make you free”, in the original New Testament Greek, the language studied by all scholars within The Communion.

From the band radiate the points of the compass, the major divisions colored in gold and blue and the minor divisions in green and gold. The compass symbolized the world-wide spread of the Anglican faith. Surmounting the shield at the north is a miter, the symbol of the Apostolic Succession, which is essential to all the churches which constitute the Anglican Communion.

Flag Available

The Compasrose is at the center of a blue and gold flag designed with the approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Information is available from the flag’s designer, the Rev. Bruce Nutter, Pan-Anglican Workshop, 772 Brunswick St., Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3B 1H9. His goal: the Compasrose flag in every Anglican parish!

FORGOTTEN PLACES, FORGOTTEN FLAGS

SAMOS - A FLAG FOR PYTHAGORAS

by Kevin Harrington

The fertile island of Samos in the Aegean Sea is separated from Asia Minor (Turkey) by a strait only one mile wide. It has been part of modern Greece only since 1912. However it has been intimately linked with Greece since time immemorial. It is the birthplace of Pythagoras whose work in geometry to this very day is part and parcel of every child’s education. Aesop and Anacreon resided in Samos, so did Antony and Cleopatra for a short time (his last winter with her).

The island is 27 miles by 14 and crowned by Mount Kerkis 4,724 feet in height; in fact the word samas is an old Greek word (may be Phoenician) for ‘mountain’. Its hills are vinecovered, its harbours deep. At the height of its prosperity in classical times, 535 B.C., the Samiote navy ruled the waves. Long a stronghold of democracy, it was part of the Delian League and an ally of Athens. It has been conquered many times over the centuries, and often depopulated and resettled. Spartans, Persians, Romans, Byzantines, Genoans and Turks at one time or another held it. Most recently Germans, British (1943) and partisans (1947) vied for its control.

The Turks took over the island of Samos in 1350. Much later, in 1835, Samos acquired self-government with regional council and a Greek ruler, called the Prince of Samos, who was appointed by the Ottomans. A coat of arms for the Prince is illustrated in the National Encyclopedia of Greece. The design is not clear, but there is a lion’s head in the chief. The 1820s had been a period of national re-awakening of the Greeks. Angelomatis tells us that at this time there were raised in Samos and Cyprus white flags with a blue cross. The island played such a leading part in the uprising against the Ottomans, that, among the Turks, the expression ‘to go to Samos,’ meant to meet certain death.

Other sources suggest similar flag designs for Samos. Gordon, in 1915, makes reference to the similarity between the Creton and the Samian flags. . . . Samos with its white cross on red above and blue below, or, in other words, red over blue divided into four by the broad St. George.” (p. 235). The Admiralty’s Flags of all Nations (1915) provides an illustration of the flag in its section on Turkey. The blue colour is of a slate or greyish blue shade.

However, Guy Cadogan Rothery, writing in 1915, states that Samos first had a flag that was blue with a white triangle charged with a cross couped. Then he describes the flag that replaced it this way, ‘per fess red and blue, near the staff, impaling on the two columns a white cross couped’ (p. 310). This does vary from the design Gordon mentions. However the description coincides exactly with an illustration of the flag of Sisam (Samos in Turkish) in the Turkish encyclopedia of 1967.

A Turkish source (1938) illustrates the flag of Sisam (Samos) as a vertical bicolor of red and blue, with a white couped cross on the blue fly, and gives the date of 1857 for this flag.

Americans will note with interest that the first vessel bearing a Greek flag to land in a U.S. port carried wine from Samos. This cargo was delivered to Boston without duty in honour of the occasion, August, 1835, (Preble, p. 97).

Vathy, a port on the north coast, is the capital of Samos.

Samos declared a union on the island with Greece in 1912 but it was not until March 13, 1913, that Greeks actually entered Samos at which time we assume the Greek national flag was substituted for the local banner, as a Samian flag disappears entirely from vexillological sources published since the First World War.

TEXANS AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING

by John H. Gamez

Marie Carlton, president of TADD, is proud of the TADD flag. Not just because she designed and hand makes each flag, but because of what it represents.

TADD was founded on January 10th, 1989 by Marie Carlton and Suzette Williams for the purpose of educating the public on the dangers of drinking and driving. Marie Carlton’s motivation for starting this organization was her daughter Cath’s death, caused by a drunk driver. Co-founder Suzette Williams is also a victim of a DWI. She lost both legs in a 1984 accident.

TADD works with such organizations as the Miller Brewing Co. and Anheuser-Busch to spread the word about DWI. They sponsor a TADD booth at major festive events, billboards, posters, and bumperstickers. TADD has received a $10,000 grant from the Beer Institute and the 1989 VOICE AWARD from the Bexar County Anti-DWI project.

SOURCE LIST:
Preble, George Henry, The Symbols, standards, flags, and banners of ancient and modern nations, n.d.
‘Samos’ Encyclopaedia Britannica, New York, 1929.
‘Samos’ Megale Elliniki enkyklopaideia, Athens, 1956 -? -1964?

‘Bradford gives an interesting flag note (p. 71) from the island of Aegina, close to Athens: “Aegina, incidently, was one of the first places over which the Greek national flag was formally hoisted. It was different to the modern flag, being red and gold in colour. Th flag that we know today owes its origin, it is said, to the white kilts of the Evzones and the blue breeches of the sailors. If this is so, then England may be said to have played a further part in Greek history, for the first blue uniforms seen in the Aegean belonged to British sailors”.

***

TADD’s flag of white, black and red can be seen flying proudly from their home office at 211 San Pedro, San Antonio, TX 78205. TADD is a non-profit organization.
NO SEVENTH FLAG FOR TEXAS, BUT REVERSE OF STATE SEAL MODIFIED
by Charles A. Spain, Jr.

The Texas Legislature adopted an amended version of house concurrent resolution 7 regarding the Republic of the Rio Grande and its flag. The text of the resolution as originally filed appeared in the March/April 1991 NAVA News. The adopted version is identical except for the deletion of the final phrase "and officially recognize it (the Rio Grande) flag as the seventh flag over Texas." The resolution thus honors the memory of the Republic of the Rio Grande without adding a seventh flag to the Texas canon. I wonder if the Six Flags Over Texas amusement park in Arlington had anything to do with this.

The legislature also modified the design of the reverse of the great seal by adopting senate concurrent resolution 159. The resolution reads in pertinent part:

RESOLVED, That the design for the reverse of the Great Seal of Texas shall consist of a shield, the lower half of which is divided into two parts: on the shield's lower right is a depiction of the Alamo; the shield is circled by live oak and olive branches, and the unfurled flags of the Kingdom of France, the Kingdom of Spain, the United Mexican States, the Republic of Texas, the Confederate States of America, and the United States of America; above the shield is emblazoned the motto, "REMEMBER THE ALAMO," and beneath the shield are the words, "TEXAS ONE AND INDIVISIBLE;" over the entire shield, centered between the flags, is a white five-pointed star . . .

The revised design was adopted at the request of the State Preservation Board because the reverse of the state seal will be rendered in stone on the rotunda floor of the underground expansion of the Texas Capitol. The legislature established the description of the reverse of the state seal as the official design, rather than adopting specific artwork as was done in 1961. This will allow the artist to correct inaccuracies in the flags present in the official 1961 artwork, especially the incorrect French flag and the Confederate naval jack. The new description also deletes the word "GOLIAD" from the phrase "REMEMBER THE ALAMO-GOLIAD," changes the color of the star from gold to white, and mentions the presence of the Alamo on the reverse of the shield.

In an unrelated matter the legislature adopted house concurrent resolution 212. The resolution requests Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari to return or loan to the State of Texas the Louisiana Volunteers Flag that allegedly flew over the Alamo. Similar, unsuccessful requests were made for the New Orleans Greens flag in 1965, 1969, and during the

removed it from the senate's calendar before it came up for a floor vote. I presume this was because the bill was filed late in the session and was unlikely to pass before the legislature adjourned sine die on May 27, 1991.

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ON USA MILITARY FLAGS
DESER T STORM FALL OUT
by James Lipinski

Now that the dust of Operation Desert Storm has somewhat settled, an initial assessment of the vexillological and heraldic impact can be shaped. The act of mobilizing so many reserve organizations and reconstituting some active units resulted, of course, in a flurry of organizational flag and unit shoulder sleeve insignia (shoulder patch) activity within the Army. Organizational colors were pulled from storage, redesigned, or even, as in the case of some demobilized World War II units, had suspended designs for them completed. Several new flags and some shoulder patches were created. Two new medals were designed and issued. Two additional battle streamers were added to the Army Flag.

Of interest to this writer was the Central Command flag. The Central Command, which ultimately provided the overall command for Desert Shield/Storm, General Schwarzkopf, is a purple activity (joint command, with Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine personnel therein -hence, all service colors together create purple). Operating at the DOD level, the command does have a unit flag, pictured below. Yet, during the briefings conducted by the Commander in Chief and/or his assistants, only the US Flag and the Saudi Flag were displayed. My inquiry to the DOD Public Affairs office resulted in a response indicating that the Saudi Flag was used, rather than the Command Flag, as a mark of courtesy to the host country.

The Central Command Flag is a 3'x4' bleached white field, charged with the device depicted in Figure 1. The device has a multitude of colors, and could be seen on the front of the briefing lectern during operational briefings. Designed by The Institute of Heraldry, US Army, in 1987, the logo has undergone only minor changes since.

Of interest is the fact that General Schwarzkopf did not use the Command logo on his stationery. Rather, he used a 4-star General's Flag, with the letterhead, "Commander in Chief, United States Central Command, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, APO NY 09852." Letters from his aide de camp had no letterhead.

Until March 26, 1991, Army personnel assigned to the Central Command had no shoulder patch. The patch approved at that time for their wear was designed by Ms. Nadine Russell, Chief, Creative Heraldry Branch, The Institute of Heraldry, US Army. The patch (Figure 2) is shaped like a shield and features a palm frond leaf, a sword in hand of a palm frond leaf, a sword with palm frond leaf victory insignia, a palm frond leaf, an olive branch, an olive branch and a palm frond leaf.

As do all Army shoulder patches, this patch comes in two versions: the normal colored patch for regular wear and the subdued version for wear on desert and woodland battle dress uniforms. The subdued version is a departure from the usual olive drab green and black colors used for all previous subdued patches. For the first time, the patch is combined khaki and brown colors. Some 600 soldiers are authorized to wear the patch as a permanent combat patch (on the right shoulder), regardless of the unit to which assigned thereafter, indicating they served with the Command in combat. The more than 300 soldiers regularly assigned the Headquarters will wear the patch on the left shoulder.

FIGURE 1 - U.S. Central Command Device For Flag

FIGURE 2 - Shoulder Sleeve Insignia Army Element, US Central Command

WHO HAS ALAMO BATTLE FLAG?
(From: Austin American Statesman, June 24, 1991)

1986 Texas sesquicentennial. The flag was originally part of the collection of the National Museum of History in Mexico City until it was loaned to the National Museum of Interventions for exhibition from 1981 to January 1986. According to an Associated Press release, the flag now is locked away in a basement vault in the National Museum of Anthropology, even though the directors of all three museums deny that they have the flag.

Rafael Salinas de Gortari, a retired Mexican army colonel, succinctly stated the probable Mexican reply as follows: "Well, I'm sure you all have us flags of ours as well. You've got half our land. Maybe we could just keep the flag."

One matter that was not passed by the legislature was a proposal to license the use of the Texas flag or the flag's representation for commercial purposes. If passed, Senate Bill 1381 would have authorized the secretary of state to issue licenses for commercial use of the flag similar to the licensing of the state seal currently in effect. Although the bill was reported favorably by a senate committee, the bill's sponsor, Senator Cyndi Krier,
LETTERS...

I read with great interest J.H. Gamez’s article “FICTIONAL VEXILLOLOGY”. I feel I must point out a number of flaws in this otherwise admirable piece.

Firstly, the title, surely “FLAGS” is a better title than the word used which is clearly an inappropriate use of the ‘V’ word. Somehow there is a shade of disapproval of the study of flags in the use of this ‘V’ word. I’m sure John has no intention of suggesting this. It is the combination of the “Big Word” with “fictional” that it the trouble.

Secondly, I must admit to increased blood pressure when I read the second sentence of the last paragraph. Fictional flags are NOT an interesting ‘sidelight’ to Vexillology. They ARE Vexillology!!! They are an important and much neglected part of the study of flags. Perhaps these fictional flags are the ideal field for John to make his mark in the science. His article seems the right start.

The reasons for “Faking” a flag are still, as yet, badly understood. This aspect must be given a fair go. I look forward to the comments of other vexos.

Before ending I must thank John for putting me out of my misery by explaining Commissioner Gordon’s office flag. There was a flag in his office when Adam West was Batman, (said she, telling her age) and I could never quite get to . . .

Humourous flags are not that rare but I can’t think of one off the top of my small head.

The Simpson’s flag is an unusual combination of colours, a sort of horizontal Ireland with a Blue star in the centre. Full marks to John for his detective work and I look forward to hearing more of his findings!

Your vexillologically,
Steve Duke
P.O. Box 340
Reservoir, Victoria
Australia 3073

P.S. Keep those chapter meetings going!

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RED, WHITE, BLUE

The July 5 front-page photograph of the little boy with the American flag painted on his face gave a great message to each of us: Please educate me properly, give me many opportunities to grow and use my talents and leave me a world so that when I am 80 or 90 years old, my eyes will still sparkle and my smile will still be this infectious.

My congratulations to photographer L.T. Spence for this beautiful and meaningful photograph. I predict a Pulitzer Prize in his future.

Arthur B. Kennon
Crestwood


Josh Thalhammer, 7,
St. Charles

********

WELCOME...
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

+++ : 1) HU, 2) JHU.
KOOT, Mr. R., Foreign, Handellaan 14, 4102 AE Culemborg, The Netherlands, +++ : 1) G, 2) O.
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TRINKLE, William J., Active, 2780 42nd Ave., San Francisco, CA 94116. +++ : 1) T, 2) DP, 3) R.

See NAVA News May/June 1991 for identification key, or the new membership list. Please send information to the treasurer if not recorded.

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Jared Pawson, assistant to the Treasurer, now two months old is already “into” flags.

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NAVA MEMBER IN THE NEWS

RALPH DIXON

The San Marcos Courier (CA) carried a six-column story March 28, 1991, on the first page of their B Section, SPOTLIGHT on Lake San Marcos, entitled “Dixon is Lake San Marcos’ Flag Man.”

In 10 years, local man has collected nearly 200, and he’s still going strong. The story by Robyn Walters of the paper’s staff continues. Ralph Dixon loves flags.

He has one from Indiana University, one of each of the Armed Forces, not to mention one for Easter, Thanksgiving and four for Christmas.

Dixon, a Lake San Marcos resident, owns nearly 200. He started collecting flags 10 years ago.

“It all started very innocently,” Dixon recalls. “I remember one friend gave me an American flag, then another friend gave me one and another.”

Next thing you know, I’ve got 100 of them, and now with 200, I still don’t have enough.”

Dixon, 68, is a retired insurance salesman. He has been a resident of Lake San Marcos for 21 years. He and his wife, Jeanette, share the interest in flags.

“I really enjoy all these flags, I’ve flown them all and even worn out a couple,” Dixon said. “I like to buy ones that have the most interesting design and uniqueness.”

There is much more and two photographs of Ralph and his collection.

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EDITOR'S NOTES...

International vexillological greetings to all NAVA members from our Catalanist hosts in Barcelona and from all attending ICV 14 from Italy, Belgium, England, Germany, Switzerland, Australia, South Africa, France, Mexico, Sweden, Czechoslovakia and Spain. It was most heart warming on July 4th to see most of the international attendees arrive at the day's session wearing U.S. flags to pay homage to the U.S. attendees and their country...a most memorable 4th of July. As your official delegate I will present my report on the ICV Meetings at the NAVA 25 Annual Meeting. Full coverage of all reports of the NAVA 25 meeting will appear in the November/December 1991 NAVA News.

Jiri Tenora (with Jose Cesak) published a book and Stylistic Constructions Used in Vexillology, in six languages including English, which can be purchased from him for about six dollars. I purchased my copy in Spain with Spanish money. I don't know just how it can be handled by mail. Write him; his address is Preussenstrabe 20 B, 109-05, 0-1195 Berlin, Germany.

You can now plan ahead. After NAVA 25 in Minneapolis, MN, October 11-13, 1991, you can look forward to NAVA 26 in San Antonio, Texas in 1992, and to NAVA 27 in Portland, Maine in 1993, which will be sponsored by the New England Chapter.

The full slate offered by the Nominating Committee for the 1991-1992 Executive Board are: Scot Guenter - President
Rich Kenny - Vice President
Lee Herold - Corresponding Secretary
Kevin Harrington - Recording Secretary

Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting. Remember the November/December NAVA News will be late. The Issue cannot go to press before October 21st at the earliest, due to the dates of the Annual Meeting, assembling the various reports, photos, etc. Printing and mailing takes three-four weeks.

Have you mailed your Registration for NAVA 25 to Lee Herold? This Issue goes to the Printer July 29. Deadline for copy for the Nov./Dec. issue is October 1.

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Mark A. Liss
President
Heritage Flag Co.
P.O. Box 31521
Houston, TX 77231
USA

NAVA News
1977 North Olden Ave.
Suite 225
Trenton, NJ 08618 U.S.A.

Minneapolis

OCTOBER 11-13, 1991
NAVA XXV

NAVA NEWS EDITOR
Grace R Cooper
HCR 62, Box 43A
Great Cacapon, WV 25422
304/947-7622

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This is my final column as NAVA president, after two wonderful years, I have chosen to pass on the responsibility of managing our organization.

I wish to thank all those who enabled me to "survive" my tenure in office. To the members of the current Executive Board, and last years retiree, Gus Tracchia, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Any of our past presidents will vouch for me when I say it is the four other officers that really shape the day to day operation of NAVA. Thanks.

To Grace Cooper, your NAVA editor, my gratitude for a truly momentous effort getting out the newsletter on time, issue after issue; and for her good counsel when other matters arose.

To Mark Liss, NAVA's Historian, whose job it is to provide NAVA with a sense of continuity. He has done a great service to both present and future members of our little group.

To all the committee members who put time in to see that new by-laws would come about, that we would have a great program in Montreal last year and Minneapolis this year, a dip of the hat in salute to your efforts.

To those involved in organizing NAVA chapters, a foundation for a stronger organization in the future, merci, beaucoup!

To "Kin" Spain who devoted many hours, and supplied me with much guidance, looking at NAVA from a legal aspect that for too long has been neglected. I hope, the work he "assigned" me, puts NAVA on a more stabele footing for some time to come. Without his input, I would not have had the slightest hint of some of the omissions in our legal "portfolio".

It has been an adventuresome two years, many new ideas were tried out, some with some success, others, well, I look at them as educational experiences that needed to be tried. I look upon the upgrade to second class postage as one of the nobler achievements of my tenure. The use of a "professional" mailing service, or at least the one we contracted with, one of my great disappointments, I hope my successor will evaluate the past experiences and improve the situation in that area.

Lastly, thanks to all members of NAVA with whom I had the chance to correspond or talk to over the phone or in person. It is your strength, devotion and love of vexillology that keeps this association growing.

To my successor, whomever he/she is, I wish you the best of luck, smooth sailing and may the wind always keep your banner unfurled!