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COLLECTOR'S CORNER  
by Nick Artimovich  
“R IS FOR RHODESIA”

It’s been a while since the last column in this series appeared and I am sorry for disappointing all of my faithful readers. I am glad to resume this series of articles outlining the changes in national flags over the last century or so. If you are missing any of these articles, beginning with “A is for Afghanistan”, please write to me and I’ll be glad to send you the missing ones for just the cost of copying plus postage.

I am also pleased to discover that there are some sharp-eyed vexillologists reading this column. Even before I received my July/August 1991 issue of NAVA News I received a phone call from a member questioning my description of the flag of the Kingdom of Portugal as being white at the hoist and blue at the fly. I had fallen victim to the photograph of the small unmounted flag in my collection which showed the back of the flag, hence my error. The flag of Portugal before the revolution of course had the blue half of the field next to the hoist, not the white.

A few months ago members received a copy of the 1991 NAVA reprint, the flag plates of 1769 from the Diderot encyclopedia. I offered to let NAVA reproduce my set in hopes that the reprint would generate interest in the history of national flags. The concept of a “national flag” had not really been developed at that time, so most of the flags shown represented the ruling family or “the state” rather than the people of the country as a whole. Two of the first true “national flags” were to debut shortly after the Diderot encyclopedia was printed; they were the flags of the United States and France. During the 19th century many more

Continued on Page 2

NAVA 26 SAN ANTONIO

Plans for this year’s convention are moving along quite smoothly. Host Pete Van de Putte has selected the Emily Morgan Hotel as the site for NAVA 26. This beautiful facility is located in the heart of downtown San Antonio, and is quite literally (as we might say in these parts) within spitting distance of the Alamo. Two lanes of asphalt and a pair of sidewalks are all that separates the hotel from the outer wall of the Cradle of Texas Liberty. Hotel room rates are $75.00 per night.

Registration costs have been set at $125.00 and will include all meals, outings, and other amenities. Pete is planning for a Mexican buffet dinner and Mariachi band on Friday night, so you won’t want to arrive too late. Also, we have some wonderful prizes and surprises in store: “Vexi-Jeopardy” (based on the TV game show) for prizes is one example. Only three people will be needed for this; all of those interested in participating will be required to answer qualifying questions at registration time.

While most of the “work” at the convention will be slated for Saturday, there will be activities and festivities on Sunday. There will be no registration inserts enclosed with NAVA News, as Pete will be mailing complete details and invitations to attend to every member individually.

We look forward to seeing everyone in San Antonio, October 9, 10 and 11!

Dave Pawson  
Committee for NAVA 26

HEAR YE THIS - HEAR YE THIS

The time has come to consider giving a presentation at the 26th meeting of the North American Vexillological Association. This is not a call for papers, but a reminder that the “Call for Papers” will be forthcoming in the next NAVA NEWS. Please put on your thinking caps and come up with something extremely interesting and informative talks. We are always looking for presentations that delve into areas that have not been previously explored. Please be fresh with your ideas for presentation, the ones we have all heard before are not as interesting as something new. Again we would like to keep the talks to 30 minutes, however, if you deem that another 10 minutes is quite necessary to adequately cover your subject material, please note this and we will try to fit it in. By the same token if you will need only 20 minutes, as well, let us know in case someone does need the 40 minutes. Your request will be considered in the best interest of convention time restraints as well as your presentation.

In preparation, please note that a complete copy of your text as well as a 200-250 word abstract (summary) of your paper will need to be submitted to the program chairman by an adequate deadline for your inclusion into the program. Time slots will be assigned in regards to your equipment needs as well as your subject material.

So Ladies and Gentlemen, start your thinking! Think of your subject, think of what equipment you will need, think of what time your need, but THINK! Let’s make San Antonio a most provocative and productive NAVA Convention.

Rich Kenny  
Vice-Pres. & Program Chairman

FRANCIS HOPKINSON HONORED

FLAG DAY CANCELLATION

Although the Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee voted against the Francis Hopkinson stamp, the Postmaster in Philadelphia is allowing a special cancellation honoring Hopkinson on June 14, 1992 — Flag Day. The cancellation illustrated will be used at a temporary station set up at the visitor’s center at 3rd and Chestnut Streets, Philadelphia, PA 19106 and also one in front of the Bordentown Post Office at 14 Walnut Street, Bordentown, NJ 08505-9998. Both temporary stations are named ‘Flag Day - Francis Hopkinson Station’. The Philadelphia Station will be open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Bordentown, NJ from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The Bordentown location is tentative to local weather conditions. Check the area if the weather is inclement.

Submitted by Earl P. Williams, Jr.
COUNTRIES ... Continued from Page 1

countries adopted the national flag concept through various political means, most notably through the revolutions of the 1840's. Germany is an example, although "German unity" didn't come about fully until 1870 when the black-white-red tricolor of the "North German Confederation" was adopted. The flag of Portugal mentioned above is a 20th century example of the change of a country's flag from one symbolizing royalty to one which encompassed the people, the nation. And then there is the United Kingdom, which still doesn't have a "national flag". The "Union Jack" (technically, the "Union Flag") is the flag of the united kingdoms of England, Scotland, and (Northern) Ireland. The British subject is not permitted to fly this flag at sea, and although its use is tolerated on land, it is technically the state flag of Britain, not the national flag. (This has not stopped the average Englishman from flying the flag at every holiday, and displaying it on any and every piece of merchandise he wishes to sell. In a practical sense, by sheer force of use the Union Jack is more of a national flag than those of many other countries.)

This issue I have cheated somewhat on the descriptions of one of the flags. I have repeated the herald's description for the flag of Zimbabwe word-for-word, and then tried to translate it into something we collectors could better understand. Just look at an illustration of the Zimbabwe flag and you will understand why I didn't try to do it alone.

(As usual, I have indicated those flags that I have in my collection by showing the size in parentheses.)

RHODESIA, SOUTHERN (Zimbabwe)

1954-1963 Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Federation dissolved at end of 1963. Nyasaland becomes Malawi, Northern Rhodesia becomes Zambia, and Southern Rhodesia adopts B — British Ensign with badge of Southern Rhodesia in fly. (This is identical to pre-1954 flag except that color shade is changed from dark blue to sky blue.)

1968-1979 V—W—V vertical tribar with coat of arms in center. (4"x6")

1979 Flag of Zimbabwe/Rhodesia.

Late 1979 Flag of Greater Britain re-hoisted pending elections.

1980-date "Vert, of a fess gules, fimbriated by two bars or, a bar sable, issuant from the dexter a pile argent fimbriated sable charged with a Molet of five points gules debruised by a representation of the Great Zimbabwe Bird." That is, a field of V-Y-R-Y-V with a W triangle fimbriated N at the hoist. A R five-pointed star is on the triangle, upon which is superimposed a Y "Zimbabwe Bird".

ROMANIA

pre-WWII R-Y-B vertical tricolor. State flag had royal arms in center.

1948-1952 Socialist arms with ears of wheat, forest scene, oil derrick, sunburst, tricolor ribbon with country's initials "RPR". (3x5)

1952-1965 R star added to top of arms. (12"x18")

1965-1989 Ribbon modified to read "Republica Romania Socialista". Use of plain tricolor curtailed. (4"x6', 3'x5")

Dec. 1989 Tricolor with arms cut from center used. (4"x6")

12/89-date Plain tricolor used as national and state flag.

RWANDA

1961-date R-Y-V vertical tricolor with N letter "R" in center.

4 x 6 CORNER

by Don Healy

This issue I can report a lot of new flags that are available. With the past two years offering flag changes faster than either you or I can keep track of, it had to happen that my list of good news for you collectors would grow.

Here are the latest ones you should be able to find because all are UN members:

Congo

Romania (w/o arms)

Belarus

Armenia

Ethiopia (w/o arms)

Kyrgyzstan

Tajikistan

Georgia was not admitted on March 3, 1992, so its flag may not be available.

U.N. Welcomes 9 New Members, 8 From the Former Soviet Union

The flag of Azerbaijan being raised yesterday on First Avenue as the General Assembly welcomed eight former Soviet republics as new United Nations members. Moments later, the flag of the world's oldest independent republic, San Marino, which was also admitted, was raised on the pole at right. The admissions raised to 175 the number of countries in the United Nations.

From The New York Times, March 2, 1992

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4 x 6 CORNER

by Glenn Nolan

My collection of 4"x6" flags continues to expand. Any fellow collector that could use any of the following, can write me. I'm willing to sell extras (some only have a single extra) at my cost, or possibly a trade could be worked out.

Corporate Flags: Valvoline; Ashland Oil; Super America.

City Flags: La Mirada, CA; El Cajon, CA; Garden Grove, CA; Norwalk, CA; Huntington Beach, CA; Santa Fe Springs, CA; Newport, RI; Glen Dale, AZ; Savannah, GA; Brandon, MO; Toledo, OH; Racine, WI; Fort Wayne, IN; Bardstown, KY; Poughkeepsie, NY; San Rafael, CA.

Miscellaneous: "Celebrating Knoxville, TN"; "Celebrating Cincinnati"; Cincinnati - 200 Years; Kentucky Bicentennial; Union League of Chicago; "Retreat Heli" Korean War flag; U.S. Coast Guard - 200 Years; Churchill Downs Race Track; Indianapolis 500 Auto Race (2 different designs).
UNDER ‘X’ FLAGS: WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

by Byron W. Ward

We have all seen the claims at one time or another, worded like “there have been 5 flags over Podunk” or the alternative “Podunk has been under 5 flags”. The following article was precipitated by questions arising from the article I recently wrote concerning Amelia Island, which claimed to be “the only place in the United States to have been under eight flags.” Because this involves so much straight opinion, I have opted to write in the first person. As always, the scientific method prevails, and dissenting views are welcome.

First, while the phrase “under a flag” is most often used when referring to a geographical area, it may also be used when referring to a person or group of people, or objects. It is said of Charles M. Sweeney, an American soldier of fortune, that he served in “seven wars under five flags”. For another example, it would also be proper for a ship’s captain to boast something to the effect “my vessel has served under six flags during its thirty years at sea”.

Hence, possible the scope of the phrase “under a flag”, let us now attempt a definition. Subject to the laws of an autonomous government with an adopted flag might do as a start, and contains three elements. First, “subject to the laws” implies ownership of land as well as control of its populace. Next, an “autonomous government” indicates that the government is globally independent of any other government, either in its internal or external affairs. Finally, the government must have an adopted flag, which is not a consideration currently (as all independent nations extant today have adopted flags), but it is historically.

Now, with something of a scope and somewhat of a definition, let us now discover some of the enormous number of problems involved with the determination of whether or not an entity (being a person, geographical place or thing) has been “under” a particular flag.

First, the concept of “autonomous government” involves many legal and historical aspects, many of which are highly subjective. On a 1-to-10 scale, the United States would be a 10 (definite autonomous government), while tending toward the 0 (and absurd) end would be something like me declaring my own land and property to be an independent nation. I might draw up proclamations, issue passports and money, run up my own flag, refuse to pay taxes to any “foreign” nation, and after a week or so dissolve my “government” and rejoin the United States without any notice from anyone outside my own own family (and the men in the white suits who haul me away to the funny farm). In between these two extremes lies a wide grey area, especially given historical examples. Tending toward the upper end of the scale are the governments of Northern Cyprus (currently) and the Confederate States of America (historically). Tending toward the lower end of the scale would be the many independent lords and barons who held absolute dominion over tiny areas of Europe during the Middle Ages (as well as several of the “governments” pertaining to the claimed flags of Amelia Island covered in my last article).

I will leave to future debate the question of where to draw the line between autonomous and non-autonomous governments. Most likely, many would have to be examined on an individual basis utilizing lengthy criteria that I will not attempt to delineate here.

The question of whether or not an historical autonomous government had a flag or not will also be subject to much debate in the more obscure historical examples. Tending toward the "tact", most likely, there would be a special anniversary; let’s celebrate together. Remember the Alamo, and KEEP STUDYING THOSE FLAGS!

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT . . .

Scot Guenter

Just the other day I was delighted to get my hands on a copy of "THE FLAGS AND SEALS OF TEXAS" written by NAVA member Charles A. "Kinz" Spain. Jr. This fine piece of scholarship was published as South Texas Law Review, Volume 33, No. 1, February 1992. Those of you lucky enough to attend NAVA 25 in Minneapolis will recall Kin’s Driver Award winning presentation, which served as the nucleus of this major essay. Kin’s keen lawyer’s love (my goodness, what a poetic sentence I’m constructing here . . . ) for detail is demonstrated not only in his comprehensive sweep of the materials but in the rich and informative footnotes, which themselves can offer directions for further vexillological inquiry and discussion. If you were all students in my class, I would assign this as required reading before we gather in San Antonio next October.

Are you aware of a thorough, well researched guide to and analysis of the flags and seals of your state or province? (By this I mean not a general guide book to all the states and provinces but one specific to your particular, distinct governmental region.) If so, a review and summary of the material (including bibliographic data and where, if possible, to purchase it, as well as cost, if any) would be a useful contribution for you to send to NAVA News. Similarly, if you discover a sufficient or current study is not available, here would be an excellent opportunity for you to do some research, gather vexillological expertise in a specific area, and then share it with the rest of us in San Antonio or in the pages of this or other vexillological periodicals. Does anyone have a current thorough bibliography of such articles, essays, brochures, and pamphlets they might want to make available to the NAVA membership? Comments are welcome.

I’m writing this on a beautiful spring afternoon in northern California, but my thoughts are turning toward some beautiful afternoons I spent in San Antonio at a culture studies convention just last year. Those who know the city will agree with me that the downtown Riverwalk area is a splendid spot to convene: fine cuisine, friendly folk, the cultural riches of a major urban center coupled with down home Texas casual comfort that includes an appreciation and celebration of the Lone Star State’s multicultural diversity. I am excited about going back next autumn, and I’d like to greet as many of you in person there as possible, so mark your calendars and start researching your presentations. The silver anniversary is a special anniversary; let’s celebrate together. Remember the Alamo, and KEEP STUDYING THOSE FLAGS!

Yet other geographic problems remain. An early explorer having landed on a beach may have claimed “this land I am standing on and all land around it for a million miles”, or words to that effect, for his flag, but that certainly does not mean that the Northwest Territories can lay claim to having been under the Spanish or Portuguese, or whatever, flag. Conflicting historic claims, some near to settlements, some far away, also arise. Finally, there is the moon, which has many U.S. flags upon it, but popular and legal sentiment prevents any claim of this satellite being “under” our flag.

Should vexillologists even venture to offer up an opinion (or opinions) in the highly subjective determination of how many flags have flown over a particular space? My answer is yes, but only if asked, and with tact. There is nothing positive to be gained by entering upon a crusade to boost something to the effect “this land we are fighting for”. The jury (the public) will then determine ‘yea’ or ‘nay’, and we are left to the government’s or the ‘prudence’ of the individual soldier to act.

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NAVA SHOPPER
NAVA & FIAV FLAGS STILL AVAILABLE

The following items are still available through the treasurer. Until the items listed are available, so please do not write asking for anything else. All items available are on a first-come, first-served basis.

 ITEM QTY. PRICE
4x6 NAVA 16 (Pittsburgh) 13 $2.50
4x6 NAVA 20 (Trenton) 2 2.50
4x6 NAVA 23 (Dallas) 23 2.50
4x6 NAVA 25 (Minneapolis) 64 2.50
4x6 NAVA organization 20 2.50
NAVA 23 keytags 9 2.00
NAVA 24 (Toronto) lapel pins 8 2.00
4x6 FIAV 2 (Zurich) 9 2.50
4x6 FIAV 3 (Boston) 16 2.50
4x6 FIAV 5 (London) 18 2.50
4x6 FIAV 7 (Wash., D.C.) 15 2.50
4x6 FIAV 8 (Vienna) 13 2.50
4x6 FIAV 9 (Ottawa) 24 2.50
4x6 FIAV 10 (Oxford) 10 2.50
4x6 FIAV 12 (San Francisco) 2 2.50
4x6 FIAV organization 21 2.50
6x10 FIAV organization 3 5.00

3x4½ NAVA flags are still available (See NAVA News Jan/Feb '92, p. 3 for details). Cost $30 - North America, $35 overseas, (shipping included).

OBsolete Flags

Dettro has very kindly donated some obsolete flags to the NAVA Shopper. Thanks a whole bunch!

We have 1,114 OLD Nevada flags in 4x6" mounted on plastic staves. A dollar a piece is all we’re asking on these. SPECIAL $10.00 for a dozen, $75.00 per hundred.

We also received about 500 unmounted OLD Nevada flags. $3.50 the dozen here. Want them all? Send $50.00.

WOW!!! 3x5' Nylon, OLD Nevada flags! $12.50 each, and we have only 20.

We also have 4x6" Cambodia/Kampuchea/that-place-next-to-Vietnam flags of the old, old, new, old traditional design, 183 mounted, about 150 unmounted. Same prices as Nevada. Want all the unmounted ones? Give us $15.00.*

*Unless substantial quantities have been sold, the price for all the unmounted flags will be for all the unmounted flags, and not a specific quantity.

Again, we thank Dettro for making these fantastic bargains available to our members through NAVA Shopper.

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Super Special! While going through my attic I found a bunch of USA Bicentennial flags. I will GIVE THESE AWAY with the purchase of any 3x4¼ foot NAVA flag or 3x5' OLD Nevada flag. Buy one, get one! I’ll even throw one in with any purchase of 4x6" flags in excess of $25.00!

Dave Pawson, Treasurer
(Address on Back)

THE ALAMO:
SAN ANTONIO'S BLAZON

by John H. Gamez

(Continued from March/April NAVA News)

On 16 February 1861 Confederate forces known as the “Alamo Rifles” and others staged a bloodless coup at the Alamo. General Twiggs surrendered his command and arms to the rebels. On that day a “lone star flag” flew over the Alamo.

This was to be the last military action in San Antonio. The Alamo, however, would remain at the center of controversy for years to come. By the turn of the century the Alamo was surrounded by commercial development. By that time only the first floor walls of the convento and the church remained of the Alamo. When developers sought to demolish the convento for a hotel site, Adina de Zavala intervened.

Adina was the granddaughter of Lorenzo de Zavala, first Vice President of Texas. She had a dream of restoring the mission to its former glory as a monument to San Antonio’s colonial heritage.

She was opposed by members of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, an organization that she was a prominent member of. They wanted the Alamo church to become a shrine to the fallen heroes of the Alamo. They felt that the convento was unimportant and obscured the view of the “true Alamo”. The DRT contended that a convent would never have been constructed in front of a church and should therefore be demolished.

They failed to note that while the padres may have been adept at saving souls, they were not skilled architects or engineers. The Alamo’s crumbling bell towers can attest to that. The varied layouts of San Antonio’s four other missions would also indicate that there was no specific pattern for the placement of mission buildings.

Such a threat was de Zavala to the DRT’s vision of the Alamo she was banned from the organization and the name of the local chapter was changed from “de Zavala” to “Alamo Mission”.

The DRT’s obsession with the battle of March 1836 and their control over the exhibits in the Alamo have molded the public’s perception of the mission for decades. The DRT has promoted the notion that the Alamo is the “Cradle of Texas Liberty” and a hallowed shrine to the selfless martyrs defending it. Visitors can walk out of the mission for decades. The DRT has promoted the notion that the Alamo is the “true Alamo”. The DRT contended that a convent would never have been constructed in front of a church and should therefore be demolished.

Because of the Alamo’s fame as San Antonio’s most famous and popular tourist attraction the city has earned the moniker “the Alamo City”. The current city phone book lists 525 businesses and organizations named Alamo, from Alamo Academy of Fine Arts to Alamo X-Ray Clinic.

San Antonio’s new multi-purpose domed stadium has been dubbed the ALAMODOME.

In one form or another the Alamo serves as a prominent symbol on city flags, coats of arms, vehicle decals, police badges and patches, corporate logos, military insignia, sports insignia, and all manner of shoddy to upscale souvenirs.

San Antonio has had a rich and varied history and has a promising future, but it is overshadowed by the Alamo mythos. Visually, the Alamo is San Antonio.

SOURCES


Mission Arches Proposed by Miss DeZavala”, San Antonio Daily Express, 22 February 1907.


Richard G. Santos, “Proposed View of Mission San Antonio De Valero, circa 1790” (Report, Office of Archivist of Bexar County, 8 December 1965).


A FLAG FOR A SOUTH AMERICAN COMMONWEALTH
ARGENTINA 1810-1816
by Gus Tracchia

The choice of the word commonwealth describes a new entity within the old borders of a former state. It also implies something well short of a union or a federation. The model is the collection of notions that were once ruled by Britain.

The British Commonwealth is very well known and is the only one in existence. The recently created Commonwealth of Slobic Republics is still very much in its infancy and has more disagreements than agreements. However, the idea of a Commonwealth is not a new one. We already mentioned the union of the former British colonies, founded to preserve cultural and economic links useful to all, and to create a defense against outsiders.

In 1815 a similar arrangement was proposed by some of the newly independent former Spanish colonies in South America. In 1808 Napoleon Bonaparte took as prisoners the King of Spain, Charles IV, and his son the future Ferdinand VII. The colonies in Latin America formed governments to replace the viceroys, whose authority had ceased to exist since there was no longer a Bourbon King in Spain. In Buenos Aires, as in Santiago de Chile, governmental “Junta’s” were formed to replace the viceroys appointed by Charles IV. These Junta’s operated as self-governmental bodies formed mainly by local elements, but in a kind of loose coordination with a Central Junta located in Seville. The function of the Junta’s was to govern “in the name of the Bourbon King of Spain”. The specific mention of “Bourbon” was made because Spain had a new King, Jose Bonaparte. Also, during that period, the possibility existed for the establishment of a different royal house in the American colonies.

Two of the proposed royal houses were the House of Bonaparte and the House of Braganza of Portugal. The Junta’s were seen as interim governmental bodies which would function until the Bourbon King could return to the throne. The Junta of Buenos Aires kept always the promise of governing in the name of the King Ferdinand VII. Although Ferdinand was a prisoner, he was the King of Spain since his father Charles IV had abdicated in his favor.

The Junta’s found themselves in a very convenient position. They were able to give the impression that they were keeping the King’s properties safe, when in reality they were waging war against Spain itself, since Spain was then ruled by a different monarch, who the Junta did not recognize.

The policy, gave to the Junta of Buenos Aires time to be recognized as the autonomous government of what they began to call the United Provinces of South America, and later of the River Plate. Furthermore, they hoped to avoid involving other European monarchies in favor of the deposed Spanish Kings and the royalists.

Everything changed in 1814 after Waterloo and the restoration of Ferdinand VII as King of Spain. The Junta of Buenos Aires had, at that point, no intention of relinquishing the liberty and independence it had enjoyed for those four years. Thus, the Junta decided to petition the King about the formation of a Commonwealth of Hispanic Nations. The petition consisted of the following: Ferdinand would remain as King; and the locally-formed government would retain independence, keeping its parliaments and appointed local authorities. In sum, the Junta did not want to return to the previous absolutism, but rather to a freer and more independent relationship between Monarch and the colonies.

Bernardino Rivadavia, Manuel Belgrano, and Juan de Sarratea, were sent in 1815, as ambassadors from Buenos Aires to Europe charged with the mission of obtaining the blessing for these proposals from Ferdinand VII.

Furthermore, the government of Buenos Aires, had instructed its ambassadors to make similar overtures to the King of England; and also the deposed Charles IV, who was in exile in Italy, should Ferdinand refuse.

Sarratea went ahead to London seeking an audience with George III, and later met Rivadavia and Belgrano in Spain. The English King had “graciously” declined the proposal. However, Ferdinand VII not only declined but promised to reconquer his possessions at all costs, and with the help of other European monarchies if necessary. This was what Buenos Aires feared the most.

Finally the ambassadors met Charles IV and his minister Goday who accepted the offer, but in favor of his son the Prince Francisco de Paula de Bourbon, brother of Ferdinand and brother-in-law of the King of Portugal.

The new entity would be called the United Kingdom of the River Plate, Chile, and Peru.

Rivadavia, with Belgrano’s help, wrote the draft of the constitution and designed a coat-of-arms and a flag. The coat-of-arms was: Per fess blue over white. On the blue field a golden sun. On the white field two hands holding three fleur-de-lis. As supporters, a vicuna and a tiger.

The flag had three horizontal stripes of blue, white and blue, with the coat-of-arms at the center. As you can see the design of the flag (without the arms) was the same one adopted by the United Provinces of the River Plate in 1816. The United Provinces had been using that design unofficially since 1814. Some records even give evidence of its usage since 1810.

Early in that place and time the blue and white colors, displayed in three stripes, were associated with the House of Bourbon. The portraits of the “prisoner King Ferdinand”, which were distributed in Buenos Aires in May of 1810 show Ferdinand wearing the blue-white-blue sash of the Grand Master of the Order of Charles III.

The government of Buenos Aires adopted these colors as a sign of loyalty to the House of Bourbon, since the royalist troops and Buenos Aires troops all hosted the same, or very similar, regimental flags.

When, in 1816, the United Provinces adopted a flag, it was conceived as a “lesser flag”, until an official flag was adopted. The flag Rivadavia designed for the new United Kingdom was intended to be that official flag of “Banderas Mayor” for the United Provinces.

The coat-of-arms of the United Provinces of the River Plate, which had been the Seal of the Congress since 1813, and elevated to the rank of National coat-of-arms in 1816, was also very similar in form and colors to the one proposed by Rivadavia as coat-of-arms of the new entity. Only the republican elements were suppressed.

This “kind of commonwealth” never materialized because the Congress of the United Provinces of the River Plate declared, while those negotiations were going on, that the United Provinces were free from Spain, and they added: “from any other foreign power”.

Two years later, in 1818, congress created the official flag or “Banderas Mayor”, for the United Provinces of the River Plate; it was the same as the “lesser flag” but with a golden sun at the center of the white stripe. The “not so bad” idea of a Hispanic Commonwealth died before it was born.

NOTES:
1. The royalist or regalist did not admit the “liberal” thought that a parliamentary body could legislate in the absence of a king.
2. Augustin de Turbide in Mexico, under the “Iguala Plan”, had also proposed a similar strategy. The “Iguala Plan” gave birth to the Mexican Flag.
3. The offer was not intended to be made directly to the King but rather asked of him to name one of his heirs or other royal prince.
4. The real fear of Buenos Aires was the Holy Alliance which all sovereigns had joined after its formation on September 26, of 1815.
5. The River Plate included: Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay and Uruguay.
6. Eduardo S. Rosenkranz in his book La Bandera de la Patria, gives evidence of the three-striped blue-white-blue flag being used as early as 1810. Also he makes a strong case for the difference in design and purpose between the “Belgranian Flag” with only two stripes which was rebutted by Rivadavia when he was Minister of State in 1812, and the three striped one.
7. The Order of Charles III is one of the most important orders of Spain, ranking immediately after The Golden Fleece. It was created by the grandfather of Ferdinand VII, Charles III, in 1771. The King of Spain is the Grand Master of the Order. The ribbons and sashes are sky-blue, white, and sky-blue. Popular portraits of Ferdinand VII, as well as coins and medals, showed him with the sash of the Order.

THE WORLD’S COLLECTIVE
“NEVER MIND”
by Don Healy

Beginning in 1989, the decline of world communism has had a dramatic and unusual impact on the vexillological makeup of the world. We have witnessed in the last thirty-six months the disappearance of Marxism-Leninism from Europe, the abandonment of the same philosophy in over a dozen Afro-Asian states and most recently the disintegration of what was once the Soviet Union.

In the process, twenty-eight flags* have appeared due to these events; four others completely faded from the scene - East Germany, Dem. Kampuchea, South Yemen and the U.S.S.R. The four states that disappeared took with them flags influenced by or proudly proclaiming their Marxist leanings. South Yemen bespoke its Marxist government thru the continued on Page 6

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NEVA MEETING, MARCH 15

The New England Chapter has changed its name to the New England Vexillological Association, NEVA.

Due to Bill Richardson's move to Colorado we will meet in the Day Room of the Mill Apartments at 40 Bridge Street in Milford, New Hampshire. We will meet at noon for a light lunch of sandwiches, etc. that will be provided. Those who wish to skip lunch can arrive at one for the meeting. We will be discussing our independence movement and joining FIAV, our sponsorship of NAVAs, and judging the entries for the flag contest. We will also be discussing the many changes in the flag world. Please feel free to bring items of information to share. We look forward to having all our members attend this important meeting.

Submitted by James Croft

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL FLAG DAY CEREMONY SATURDAY, JUNE 6 1992

The City of San Leandro, San Leandro Unified School District and San Lorenzo Unified School District along with the Hayward Lodge #1867 BPO Elks and Knights of Columbus are planning a Flag Day Ceremony on Saturday, June 6, 1992 from 12:00 p.m. until 2:00 p.m. The program will be held at the San Leandro Community Library, 300 Estudillo Avenue in the City of San Leandro, California.

We are pleased to extend a cordial invitation to you. We would be honored if you could grace us with your presence at this patriotic program and help us to observe this day in honor of our Flag and our great Country of which we are all so proud.

The public is invited to attend this program free of charge and help us observe the Flag Day Ceremony. Refreshments will be served. Thank you kindly. God bless America.

Sincerely,
Fred Pfann, PDDGER
Co. Chairman & M.C.

Martin A. Francis, Consultant
American Flag & History

Terry Staley, Co. Chairman

ATTENTION ALL YOU STUDENTS

Attention all you students and lovers of flags and heraldry, we need you to help with the task of developing a book that will help to define and standardize - maybe even create - the symbology and vexillology of the millennium that is almost at hand. Do you feel capable of taking up such a glorious and far-reaching challenge? If so, then contact Juan Jose Morales, 404 South Osprey Ave., Apt. S, Sarasota, Florida 34236-6840. Who knows, maybe we will become the First Heralds of the entire planet, and of the rest of the Universe as well.
**LETTERS . . .**

I'm searching for small desk size flags of the North American Vexillology conventions. I would like to find NAVA 17, 18, 19, 22, 24 and other convention flags, any information on those flags would be greatly appreciated. My goal is to purchase these flags. I would like to suggest also that you keep on abundant supply of these flags on hand, because many people can not attend your conventions. I would also appreciate any comments on this suggestion.

Sincerely,
James W. Ritchie
615 Walnut Street
Elizabethton, TN 37643

ED. NOTE: If there are any members that have the duplicates of the NAVA convention (Annual Meeting) flags that this member is seeking, please write him. James' suggestion that a sufficient number of (future) convention flags be printed so that each member, so desiring, will have the opportunity to acquire them has been forwarded to the Executive Board, through the President.


With a newspaper clipping of Mel Thomson's Perspective, a column in the Sunday NEWS, Manchester, NH, March 15, 1992, on FRANCIS HOPKINSON: REVOLUTIONARY POET which gives some interesting insights to the man that this author only knows by hearsay, I wish to add the following.

Title - The Flag Paintings of Childe Hassam

I had seen this book of flag paintings in a book store in Springfield but it was $19.95. In a catalog it is now available for $1.95 plus shipping from Edward R. Hamilton, bookseller, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000.

There aren't very many books on flags, but this might be useful information if someone wanted to give a book to a library.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

FRANK L. DRESSLER, 2986 Jonathan Way, Central Point, Oregon 97502, Active;

EARL (Baron) FIANI, IV, Route 2, Box 99, Keswick, Virginia 22947, Active;

G. V. S. 20 V.

TOM A. LEWIS, 1054 La Sombra Drive, Lake San Marcos, California 92069, Active; 1) J.

DAVID K. LOCY, P.O. Box 157, New Richmond, Ohio 45157, Active; 1) H.

PATRICK RIZVI, 130 Ryders Avenue, Dix Hills, New York 11746, Student;

W. 1) W. 2) L. U.

DAVID Slaughter, 8002 NE Highway 99, #243, Vancouver, Washington 98665, Active; 1) N. 2) M. N.

I'm wondering, what was the reason for that particular choice?

Juan Jose Morales

* * * * * * * * * *

In the movie Die Hard 2, which I watched again yesterday on HBO, the plane carrying General Esperanza (Franco Nero) to Washington, D.C.'s airport bears the image of a flag that is recognizable as that of Bolivia with the addition of a Mexican Eagle surrounded by what looks like a garland.

Since the golden eagle does not spend its winters in South America, do you suppose that bird was actually intended to be an Andean condor?

Juan Jose Morales

* * * * * * * * * *

Re: Catalog of the Flag Paintings of Childe Hassam

I had seen this book of flag paintings in a book store in Springfield but it was $19.95. In a catalog it is now available for $1.95 plus shipping from Edward R. Hamilton, bookseller, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000.

There aren't very many books on flags, but this might be useful information if someone wanted to give a book to a library.


Members might want to write for his catalog.

ED. NOTE: Some of us remember the fine exhibition of Childe Hassam Flag Paintings; the catalog may be of interest to those who saw it and to those who didn't.

Elizabeth Hardy

* * * * * * * * * *

In the Friday-to-Saturday night show DARK JUSTICE, which is filmed in Barcelona, an odd location since the City of Counts doesn't resemble any of the population centers of the USA, there is no mention of the State in which the action supposedly takes place, but the Seal that presides conspicuously over the court where the lead character serves as trial of Honduras.

What is obviously intended to be the city flog - one that is the same as that of any of the population centers of the USA, there is no mention of the State in which the action supposedly took place, but the peachy-keen creation Georgia. Also those who didn't.

Abrams, from Edward R. Hamilton, bookseller, Falls Village, CT 06031-5000.

The catalog may be of interest to those who saw it and to those who didn't.


Members might want to write for his catalog.

ED. NOTE: Some of us remember the fine exhibition of Childe Hassam Flag Paintings; the catalog may be of interest to those who saw it and to those who didn't.

Elizabeth Hardy

* * * * * * * * * *

In the Friday-to-Saturday night show DARK JUSTICE, which is filmed in Barcelona, an odd location since the City of Counts doesn't resemble any of the population centers of the USA, there is no mention of the State in which the action supposedly takes place, but the Seal that presides conspicuously over the court where the lead character serves as trial judge clearly indicates that the setting is Sir James Ogilthorpe's peachy-keen creation Georgia. Also very much in evidence, however, is what is obviously intended to be the city flog - one that is the same as that of Honduras. I wonder, what was the reason for that particular choice?

Juan Jose Morales

**CONTRIBUTORS**

Nick Artimovich
John H. Gamez
Glenn Nolan
Byron W. Ward

James Craft
Don Healy
David Pawson

Martin Francis
Rich Kenny
Gus Tracchini
Earl P. Williams

* * * * * * * * * *

ED. NOTE: SORRY, your name had not been sent to me with the list of new members; omission corrected in this issue.

Hoping to be a new member I may be repeating an idea already stated in past issues pertaining to the storing of flags. Having so many, I find storing them in 3-inch PVC pipe caping both ends (with a 1/16" hole in one end to let out the air) to be practical and economical; the cost is about $2.50 per flag. Cheap considering the cost of flags. I use 19" for the 3x5', and 25" for the 4x6' folding the flag in half and rolling them.

Sincerely,
Frank L. Dressler (61 and retired)
3986 Jonathan Way
Central Point, OR 97502

ED. NOTE: SORRY, your name had not been sent to me with the list of new members; omission corrected in this issue.

Although it will increase the cost and the amount of space required to store your flags, it would be better not to fold the flag before it is rolled. It takes a tight roll to fit the flag into a 3-inch pipe; a tight roll on a fold could eventually cause splitting at the fold. I would also recomend holes in the cops at both ends so the air can pass through easily. If any of the "US historic" flags are old ones, that are not reproductions, I would advise not rolling them into a tight roll. This would be very detrimental to the fabric. It would be better to roll them around a cylinder with a minimum of a 4-inch diameter; depending on the fabric and the age and condition of the flag, there are many other factors to consider also.

NAVA NEWS MAY/JUNE 1992 PAGE 7
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Donald T. Healy (1989-91)

**EDITOR’S NOTES . . .**

Vexi-Bits will return with the next issue of NAVA News. Don Healy has volunteered to write the column. Vexillological news clippings may be mailed to him, 523 Center Street, Trenton, NJ 08611-3017.

Send all manuscripts to the Editor; these should be typed, double-spaced, 60 characters per column line; clear line drawings no larger than 8" x 10" are preferred illustrations as there is no extra charge for printing; photographs should be sharp and clear; newspaper pictures should not have print from the reverse side showing through and please do not fold across the picture; syndicated illustrations require permission for reprinting and we request that this be obtained by the person submitting the item.

The North American Vexillological Association is owned by the Membership. NAVA News, managed by the Editor, was circulated Under Second Class Postage Paid at Jamaica, NY, and Trenton, NJ, by Delaware Valley Printers & Mailers, Trenton, NJ, until October 1991. NAVA News has been mailed First Class since November 1991.

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NAVA 26  
OCTOBER 9-11, 1992

**EDITORS NOTES**

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