A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT ...SCOT GUENTER

You should probably be receiving this issue on a summer’s day in July, no doubt after the Glorious Fourth, perhaps around the French celebration of Bastille Day. I hope you’re having an enjoyable summer and are already hard at work preparing presentations to give or tables of display at our annual NAVA meeting (every autumn, traditionally on the Columbus Day/Canadian Thanksgiving weekend), which you’ll recall will be held this October in Portland, Oregon. We try to move around to accommodate as many members as possible. Last year we convened in Maine, this year we will gather in Oregon, next year we shall congregate in Cincinnati, Ohio. Those members who live in western Canada and the western United States who have never attended a national meeting of NAVA should make a special effort to check out the activities our host Harry Oswald is planning for us—i promise you’ll be glad you did.

If things went according to plan (remember, to meet press deadlines I’m writing this around Memorial Day), then a few weeks ago New York City was host to a significant flag event: participants in the “Raise the Rainbow” project carried the largest flag ever in the Stonewall 25 International March on the United Nations on June 26, 1994. The commissioned flag for the event is thirty feet wide and a mile long, the rainbow flag of the international gay and lesbian movement. The history of the rainbow flag as a gay/lesbian symbol is covered in Jim Ferrigan’s essay on the subject published in FLAG BULLETIN 130 (1989).

The two men most responsible for “Raise the Rainbow” are Gilbert Baker, who participated in the gay appropriation of the rainbow flag as discussed in the Ferrigan essay, and Cleve Jones, founder of the Names Project AIDS Memorial Quilt. This flag event is structured as a fund-raising activity: individuals interested in helping carry the massive symbol up the Fifth Avenue parade route were asked to contribute at least $50 a person. Ideally, Raise the Rainbow aims to raise over half a million dollars for HIV/AIDS organizations.

I have no way of reporting from my Memorial Day vantage how successful Raise the Rainbow will be or what kind of media coverage it will receive—though I would imagine that some shots from the Goodyear blimp would make impressive visual images for television. Even if the planners should fall short of their goal I commend them for using a flag event not only to move around to accommodate as many as possible. Last year we convened in Maine, this year we will gather in Oregon, next year we shall congregate in Cincinnati, Ohio. Those members who live in western Canada and the western United States who have never attended a national meeting of NAVA should make a special effort to check out the activities our host Harry Oswald is planning for us—i promise you’ll be glad you did.

VEXI-PLAGIARISM

BY JOHN H. GAMEZ

Where do commercial artists get their ideas for new logos? This reporter thinks that it may be from old flag books.

One of the most challenging aspects of the world of fine and commercial art is originality. What we understand as “modern” art is actually art based on principles that date back several centuries. Very little art can be considered original. It is the rare artist that makes an artistic breakthrough. Even then, the breakthrough is made using the centuries old concepts of line, shape, color, and spatial relationship.

In commercial art the goal is to create a design that “sells” a product. A saleable design is usually produced at the expense of originality. This is done by making the ordinary seem extraordinary or by taking the refined or antiquated and modernizing it. This is necessary because of the transitory nature of some logos. It needs to seem new and acceptable immediately, because it will eventually be forgotten.

A good example of this is the logo for the 1994 “Final Four” (Fig. 1) - a tournament to determine an NCAA basketball champion. We can interpret this logo on three levels:

1. THE SPORTS FAN.

If he were to notice the logo at all, it would tend to enhance the importance of the tournament that it represents by the free use of gold which is symbolic of winners. The legend “FINAL FOUR - NCAA - 1994” emphasizes the moment.

The basketball symbolizes the sport. The green and red quadrants represent the four surviving teams vying for the championship. The gold, three dimensional band is emblematic of the traditional championship rings awarded to players. Of course, the crown represents the coveted title of “champion”.

2. THE FINE ARTIST.

Although this is a well executed piece of commercial art, it has little redeeming value. Its lack of originality relegates it to being just another “slick” logo not worthy of mention.

3. THE VEXILLOLOGIST.

After a brief examination of this logo it can be easily determined that it is basically the same. The arms has been transmuted into a gold band floating around the basketball. Finally, although stylized, the crown ensigns the shield.

It is often said that art imitates life. In this case, it seems that art imitates vexillology.
CRUX AUSTRALIS Vol 9/1 & 9/2, January - June 1993 - continues the coverage of a search for a new Australian flag in both issues documenting many proposed designs. Also covers the design of the new flag for the Australian Capital Territory and the new arms of South Australia. The big revelation is that South Australia "piping shrike" is a fictitious bird, the real bird depicted is the common magpie.

*****

The Flag Bulletin - #154 - devoted primarily to a thorough review of 20th century Polish flags and arms. It points out many slight changes in the Polish eagle and covers lesser known flags.

*****

The Flag and Banner - Vol. 6, #3, January, 1994 - reports on the flag of "Cascadia", (Fig. 3) the Pacific region of the U.S. and Canada composed of the province of British Columbia and the U.S. states of Oregon and Washington. It also features articles on Symbolism and Flags and a profile of NAVA member and CFA president Kevin Harrington.

*****

SAVA Newsletter (Southern African Vexillological Association) - #7, December 1993 - devoted to events leading to an interim flag for South Africa. Documented are many proposals, none of which made it as the new interim flag (see Fig. 4); but serve as a valuable document in the effort to accommodate a diverse population with a single meaningful symbol.

*****

Flagscan IX-1 Spring 1994 - salutes Scandinavia with articles on Norway Sweden and the Faeroe Is. New to your reporter were the Nazi flags of Sweden and Norway.

*****

A New Yorker Cartoon from Peter Edwards - (see Fig. 2)
PREPARE YOUR PRESENTATIONS
BY RICH KENNY, PROGRAM CHAIRMAN, NAVA 28

Or is it, Present your Preparations. Well, take both into consideration because it is time to "CALL FOR PAPERS" for NAVA 28.

We have had very good success with the presentation scheduling for the NAVA meetings in the recent past; therefore, we will continue with what has been successful. We ask that original research of new information be presented. We will exercise the 30-minute (strictly enforced) basic limit on presentations. If, however, you need another 5-10 minutes to adequately cover your material, please request this on your proposal form, otherwise you will be given a 30-minute time slot. On the other hand, if your presentation can adequately be completed in 20 minutes (or whatever) please indicate this as well so our scheduling can be effective. Your request will be considered in the best interest of convention time restraints.

Application deadlines are set for a purpose. A convention schedule must be prepared and printed in a timely manner. If will help each one of you to have your presentation well researched, well formulated, well written and well rehearsed so you will feel comfortable when the time comes to deliver your paper. A 200-250 word abstract (summary) of your paper with your completed application must be submitted to the program chairman by 15 August 1994. The complete transcript of your presentation must be submitted by 15 September 1994. Disregarding these deadlines could preclude inclusion of your presentation. Please delineate equipment needs; we can only have the equipment ready for you if we know what you need.

Again I want to thank all those who gave presentations at the NAVA 27 meeting in Portland, ME, for following the guidelines and therefore making the program run smoothly. I am looking forward to another great program of presentations this year in Portland, OR. Thank you for your cooperation and contributions to NAVA 28.

HISTORIAN'S CORNER
BY MARK LISS

As I grew up dreaming about the pirates of old, Blackbeard, Captain Kidd, etc., I thought, boyishly, that all pirates flew the same "skull and crossbones" flags and each acted entirely without restraints. Only when I chanced upon fellow NAVA member Robert Gauron’s twenty-five-page report “Fascinating Flags of Plundering Pirates and Profiteering Privateers” did I learn otherwise. Copies of reports like this are in our archives and are available to NAVA members at $2.25 per page. For your own copy of Robert Gauron’s illustrated documented essay send $6.25 payable to NAVA, to Mark A. Liss, prepayment includes postage.

CHANGE IN THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG?
SUBMITTED BY RON STRACHAN

Northern Territory News, Saturday, April 16, 1994 — CANBERRA: The Australian Labor Party officially dropped the Union Jack from its new national logo yesterday in a move tied to the ALP desire to change the national flag.

ALP national secretary Gary Gray said the change was in line with public comments by Prime Minister Paul Keating and the generally held view of the Labor Party about the flag.

The previous logo featured the Australian flag, which has the Union Jack in the top left corner.

The new logo retains the same red, white and blue colours, the Southern Cross and the seven-pointed Commonwealth star featured on the flag. The only missing symbol is the British emblem.

OPPOSED

Mr. Keating has stated publicly his desire for a new flag without the Union Jack. That attitude is widely shared in the Labor Party but is vehemently opposed by the Coalition parties.

Federal Opposition Leader John Hewson quickly attacked the ALP move, saying it showed total disrespect for most things most Australians held dear.

"If you look at any of the polling on attitudes to the Australian flag, there's overwhelming support for the flag," he said.

Mr. Gray, unveiling the new logo yesterday after it was approved by the national executive told journalists the move followed discussions with rank-and-file party members.

The new national logo was designed by Sydney company Gido-Faber and adopted by the New South Wales branch last year.

Mr. Gray said anyone who believed the change was another attack on the monarchy was "stupid".

*****

The rules and regulation covering the Northern Territory Flag are contained in the NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA FLAG AND EMBLEM ACT No. 24 of 1985.

FLAG OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

The Northern Territory Flag was flown for the first time at the ceremony in Darwin on 1 July 1978 which marked the grant of Self-Government to the Northern Territory.

The flag-raising ceremony was held on the Esplanade, overlooking Darwin Harbour, and was acknowledged with a 19-gun salute from H.M.A.S. Derwent.

NAVAN NEWS JULY/AUGUST 1994 PAGE 3
THE STAGGERED 48-STAR FLAG

BY THOMAS E. FOLEY

Anyone over 45 should have a fairly good memory of the 48 star flag (1912-1959), with its stars in 6 even rows with 8 stars to each row.

In 1975, while in Tucson, I acquired a 48 star flag which had a different star pattern from the norm. It’s stars consisted of 6 staggered rows, 8 stars to a row. I was told this flag came from an elderly lady’s estate. Since then I’ve had an interest as to why this flag was made in a staggered pattern, and what the circa of this star pattern was.

In early 1912, both New Mexico and Arizona were admitted to the Union. A joint War and Navy board headed by Admiral Dewey recommended that the new 48 star flag have 6 even rows of 8 stars each. President Taft accepted this design February 14, 1912. Also, President Taft issued executive orders on June 24, 1912, and October 29, 1912, which established specific rules as to the size and design of the 48 star flag. Finally, America would have a flag that would comply to a specific design, ending the wide variety of star patterns that each prior U.S. flag had in its past.

When did the staggered 48 star flag originate? Robert T. Banks has a post card with a photograph of a young girl attired in patriotic dress, holding two staggered 48 star flags. This is postmarked “Dec 11 1907” which shows that this style of flag was manufactured during the era of the 45 star flag. Another collector located a staggered 48, which had “G.A.R. 1908” printed on it’s stripes.

What are the styles, sizes and materials of the staggered 48 star flag? I know of two styles:

No. 1

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No. 2

<p>| | | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Style one appears more common than style two.

These flags are made from the material common for flags of the early 20th Century; silk, glazed muslin and cotton for table flags and , cotton and bunting for full sized flags.

Table flags appear more common than full sized flags, although one collector has a staggered 48 which is 10 feet hoist, by 17 feet fly. Who manufactured these flags? I know of only one flag with a manufacturers mark, and that flag is marked on the heading, “NAVY 5x8”, on a flag which the collector advised me is 4 feet 10 inches hoist, by 7 feet 10 inches fly.

Although it’s impossible to determine the exact date of the origin of the staggered 48, it certainly was in use prior to 1912. 48 star flags may have made such an early appearance in order to represent a completion of America’s “Manifest Destiny”. The staggered design was probably selected as stars in staggered rows were commonly used by flag manufacturers in the late 19th and early 20th Centuries.

If there are other persons who know more about the staggered 48 star flag, please write NAVA and let us know.

Source:


THE FLAGCHART FROM THE FLAG RESEARCH CENTER

REVIEWED BY DON HEALY

Flag charts have been an important vexillological tool for hundreds of years. In recent years several new flag charts have appeared from Australia and several sources in Europe. With a large number of national states and the high cost of color printing, everyone in current release has meant compromises in quality - usually with the size of the flags show.

Now since the late Mr. Chang’s gloriously large flag charts of the 1970’s has there been a truly impressive poster size flag chart. The Flagchart, as its definitive name implies, corrects that noticeable omission.

The chart, a collaboration of the Flag Research Center of Winchester, MA and Shipmate Vlag Produktion of the Netherlands is a generous 27” x 38” and contains 290 flags shown in a standard 2x3 format and will be accurate until April 28, 1994 when South Africa’s new transitional flag appears.

The chart includes all national flags, most dependencies and merchant flags. The chart does not skimp on color accuracy - not one iota. Located near one another (for easy comparison), Pakistan, Portugal, Sao Tome & Principe and Saudi Arabia, for example, each have different shades of green! Mongolia with its Chinese Red stripes looks very different from the standard red used in most charts.

The chart is not perfect, however, but I have never seen an error free chart, yet. The major error is Gabon which is inverted. (For the perfectionist, a scalpel or Xacto knife could cut out Gabon, invert it by gluing to a large card board backing and reattaching it from behind.)

Other problems lie in omission, but this can be attributed to editorial discretion. It is nice to see Palestine, Somalia and Bougainville included, but why not Abkhazia, Srpska and Western Sahara. Why Serbia, but not Montenegro?

With such minor omissions and only one correctable error, this chart is a must for all vexillologist, their kids and any classroom.

For those interested, I’m including an order form so you not only check out the reasonable price, but order at the same time! As for me, I’m getting a dozen - gifts for nieces and nephews - it never hurts to propagandize vexillology and this is a perfect, colorful way to do it!!

THE FLAGCHART®

AUTHENTICATED BY THE FLAG RESEARCH CENTER

290 flags in full color showing all independent nations and dependent territories. Accurate as of 1 March 1994 — all the latest designs. Country names in English and native languages. All charts shipped rolled (not folded) in heavy mailing tube. Exact designs, color shades, and proportion ratios. Flags of 14 international organizations. 70 x 100 CM — 27” x 38” — printed on heavy coated stock.

THE FLAGCHART

Retail: 1 chart = $7; 2 charts = $14
Wholesale: 12 charts = $50 (fax for shipping charges)
HANDLING AND SHIPPING CHARGES: 1 or 2 charts (no extra for second chart) — surface rate $3 (USA and Canada); $4 other countries; airmail $7 (any country)

Massachusetts residents only: Sales tax ($.35 per chart)

FLAGS OF ASPIRANT PEOPLES

202 flags in full color of liberation movements and non-independent nationalities. No repeat flags from the 1990 chart Flags of Non-Independent Peoples. 60 x 85 CM — 23 1/2” x 33 1/2” — printed on heavy coated stock. Includes World map with numbered key to locations of flag usage. Edited by Ralph Bartlett and John Edwards of Vexventures. All charts shipped rolled (not folded) in heavy mailing tube.

FLAGS OF ASPIRANT PEOPLE

Retail: 1 chart = $18; 2 charts = $36
Wholesale: 12 charts - $180 (fax for shipping charges)
HANDLING AND SHIPPING CHARGES: 1 or 2 charts (no extra for second chart) — surface rate $4 (USA and Canada); $5 other countries; airmail $10 (any country)

Shipping and handling charges must be added to all prices; for Massachusetts residents only, add $.90 per chart for sales tax.

ORDER ROM FROM: FLAG RESEARCH CENTER, Box 580, Winchester, Mass. 01890-0880 U.S.A. FAX: 617-721-4817

PAGE 4 NAVA NEWS JULY/AUGUST 1994
MAMMALS ON STATE FLAGS

BY DAVID BLOMSTROM

What class of vertebrates are most frequently depicted on North American flags, at least on the state/provincial level? If you think the answer is birds, you’re wrong. I count ten state flags that depict birds, one (Louisiana) a pelican, the others the “American eagle”.

But no less than sixteen state flags depict mammals, some hosting two or three species. States which depict their official mammals (or “state animal”) on their flags include Maine (moose), Wisconsin (badger), Wyoming (bison), California (grizzly bear), and Oregon (beaver).

(Here’s a little flag trivia: It is interesting that Wisconsin’s reverence for the badger stems from the word being applied to early miners, who spent so much time underground. A flag is the only place you will find a California grizzly bear; it is extinct in the wild. Residents of the Wolverine State may never put a wolverine on their flag because wolverines do not inhabit Michigan.)

Other state flags which depict mammals are flown by Delaware (cow); New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota (horses); Missouri (grizzly bears), and Idaho (elk).

State flags which boast more than one species include Oregon (beaver, elk, oxen), Michigan (elk and moose), Kansas (bison, cattle or oxen, and horses), South Dakota (cattle and horses), Vermont (white-tailed deer and cow).

Cattle and horses are not native species, of course, although horses evolved in North America, and some Native Americans even claim they never died out, as scientists claim. (Another vexillological mammal that is not a native is George Washington, who is depicted on Washington State’s flag. However, this article is about mammals other than Homo sapiens.)

Some of the above-mentioned animals also appear on state seals, while Alaska’s seal adds the fur seal to the species roster.

While no Canadian province recognizes an official mammal, Canada’s furred fauna certainly makes its presence known on provincial and territorial arms. Newfoundland’s ancient arms portrays an elk, perhaps meant to be a caribou, since elk are not native to Newfoundland. That’s what I once read, anyway - I can’t remember where. I wonder if the animal might be meant to be a “Scandinavian elk,” or moose.

A white-tailed deer graces Nova Scotia’s arms, while Ontario’s arms depicts a “Canadian deer” (presumably another whitetail) and black bear. The prairie provinces celebrate the bison on Manitoba’s arms and flag and the pronghorn on Alberta’s arms.

The “stag” and “ram” on British Columbia’s arms can probably be assumed to be an elk and bighorn sheep, though the sheep is white like a northern Dall sheep, which ranges from Alaska south into northern British Columbia.

Fauna of the Far North is represented by an arctic fox and two narwhals on the Northwest Territories’ arms, the fox also appearing on the flag. Symbols referring to the fur trade also appear on the Northwest Territories’ arms and flag and on the Yukon Territory’s arms.

From this mammalian menagerie emerge three vexillological champions. The horse and domestic cow each appear on five state flags. The most popular native species is the elk, which features on three state flags.

Before continuing, I will eliminate the cow from this article. To my way of thinking, the only North American cattle breed that is really exciting is the pronghorn on Alberta’s arms.

The elk on Michigan’s flag looks like it has been through the laundry almost as many times as the moose which helps it support the shield. The elk on Idaho’s flag is nearly as difficult to find as if it were in an Idaho forest. The elk on Oregon’s flag resembles a microorganism.

It’s time the elk and horse received due vexillological recognition. My proposed South Dakota state flag depicts a horse that is alive and full of energy. It represents the nickname Coyote State, a moniker actually inspired by a speedy horse which won a race. It is thus a good symbol for Caucasians.

But it represents Native Americans, also. Although South Dakota recently scrapped the official nickname Sunshine State in favor of Mount Rushmore State, the eventual completion of an even greater monument in the Black Hills may necessitate another change, to Crazy Horse State. The horse’s yellow color represents the now defunct nickname Sunshine State, the predicted future nickname Crazy Horse State, and South Dakota’s grasslands.

The blue pattern on the fly represents my native state’s fertile “East River Country,” the jagged edges the rugged “Missouri River Breaks.” Orange triangles suggest arrows: South Dakota’s strength derives from the land. An orange stripe represents the Badlands, while a blue stripe is symbolic of the Black Hills. A yellow star represents the Black Hills’ gold and is a reminder that the Black Hills, or Paha Sapa, remain sacred to native Americans. Three NAVA members said they didn’t care for my proposed Idaho state flag. With its green and yellow stripes, one suggested it looked too much like Togo’s flag. Gary Caillagehey suggested the elk on Idaho’s over-crowded seal might look nice on a flag.

Accordingly, I transplanted the elk from Idaho’s current seal and flag to my design. The elk represents Idaho’s fauna and majesty. The eight-rayed “Rocky Mountain North Star” represents Idaho’s snow-capped mountains, the four main rays also recalling the state flower (the four-petaled Syringa) and the state gem (the normally four-rayed star garnet). The star’s gem-like appearance further symbolizes the nickname Gem of the Mountains.

Diagonal stripes suggest Idaho’s mountainous terrain. The colors green and yellow represent forests and grasslands separately, agriculture together.

Blue represents Idaho’s waters, particularly the Snake or Shoshone River, which forms much of Idaho’s southern boundary.

Engaging in a bit of vexillological subliminal suggestion, I think the stripes/star combination suggest an award, such as a blue ribbon or medallion while the elk suggests a trophy. Overall, the design speaks of Idaho’s natural beauty, the quality of its environment.

Guess what mammal would share my proposed Idaho coat of arms (not yet drawn up) with the elk? Actually, there are a couple. Either a mountain goat or bighorn sheep supporter would represent Idaho’s mountains. Representative state fossils are the woolly mammoth (the Hagerman Horse, on this design.) The elk will be depicted on the shield or as a crest. No other state emblem unites the elk and horse.

I’d like to hear comments on my flag designs for South Dakota (my native state) and Idaho. Do you have other designs in mind for these states?

I’m also interested in learning about mammals that are depicted on various emblems, including those on the municipal level, and those from foreign nations. I’m familiar with mammals on national flags, though I’m always looking for anecdotal information that isn’t readily available in books about flags, The Flag Bulletin, etc.

David Blomstrom, P.O. Box 95465, Seattle, WA 98145, (206) 527-1690.

But it represents Native Americans, also. Although South Dakota recently scrapped the official nickname Sunshine State in favor of Mount Rushmore State, the eventual completion of an even greater monument in the Black Hills may necessitate another change, to Crazy Horse State. The horse’s yellow color represents the now defunct nickname Sunshine State, the predicted future nickname Crazy Horse State, and South Dakota’s grasslands.

The blue pattern on the fly represents my native state’s fertile “East River Country,” the jagged edges the rugged “Missouri River Breaks.” Orange triangles suggest arrows: South Dakota’s strength derives from the land. An orange stripe represents the Badlands, while a blue stripe is symbolic of the Black Hills. A yellow star represents the Black Hills’ gold and is a reminder that the Black Hills, or Paha Sapa, remain sacred to native Americans. Three NAVA members said they didn’t care for my proposed Idaho state flag. With its green and yellow stripes, one suggested it looked too much like Togo’s flag. Gary Caillagehey suggested the elk on Idaho’s over-crowded seal might look nice on a flag.

Accordingly, I transplanted the elk from Idaho’s current seal and flag to my design. The elk represents Idaho’s fauna and majesty. The eight-rayed “Rocky Mountain North Star” represents Idaho’s snow-capped mountains, the four main rays also recalling the state flower (the four-petaled Syringa) and the state gem (the normally four-rayed star garnet). The star’s gem-like appearance further symbolizes the nickname Gem of the Mountains. Diagonal stripes suggest Idaho’s mountainous terrain. The colors green and yellow represent forests and grasslands separately, agriculture together.

Blue represents Idaho’s waters, particularly the Snake or Shoshone River, which forms much of Idaho’s southern boundary.

Engaging in a bit of vexillological subliminal suggestion, I think the stripes/star combination suggest an award, such as a blue ribbon or medallion while the elk suggests a trophy. Overall, the design speaks of Idaho’s natural beauty, the quality of its environment.

Guess what mammal would share my proposed Idaho coat of arms (not yet drawn up) with the elk? Actually, there are a couple. Either a mountain goat or bighorn sheep supporter would represent Idaho’s mountains. Representative state fossils are the woolly mammoth (the Hagerman Horse, on this design.) The elk will be depicted on the shield or as a crest. No other state emblem unites the elk and horse.

I’d like to hear comments on my flag designs for South Dakota (my native state) and Idaho. Do you have other designs in mind for these states?

I’m also interested in learning about mammals that are depicted on various emblems, including those on the municipal level, and those from foreign nations. I’m familiar with mammals on national flags, though I’m always looking for anecdotal information that isn’t readily available in books about flags, The Flag Bulletin, etc.

David Blomstrom, P.O. Box 95465, Seattle, WA 98145, (206) 527-1690.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2
NEW MISSISSIPPI FLAG ASSOC.

CoFFEE, the Confederation of Flag and Ensign Enthusiasts, extends a cordial invitation to all who wish to join this new and innovative flag organization. This informal group is committed to the study and research of the history of flags in Mississippi and to disseminating information about present-day flags used in this State and around the world.

"Hot CoFFEE" is the name of the newsletter and the first issue gives a history and description of two Mississippi municipal flags, West Point and Hattiesburg, Part I of a series. Copies can be obtained by joining CoFFEE, #3.00, to Clay Moss, P.O. Box 12901, Jackson, MS 39236. Clay Moss and Paige Herring are the Co-Founders of the group; they also jointly designed the CoFFEE flag, which is simple and distinctive, three horizontal stripes of equal width. The top stripe is white and represents the State flower, the magnolia; the middle stripe is French blue and symbolizes the Mississippi River; the bottom stripe is forest green and stands for the flora and agriculture of the State. The proportions of the flag are 10:17.

GOLDEN GATE AREA VEXILOLOGICAL ASSOC. MEETS IN SAN FRANCISCO

SUBMITTED BY RICH KENNY

We gathered at the home/store/factory of Steve Tyson. In attendance were Phil Allen, Martin Francis, Ron Hesson, Jim Ferrigan III (along with wife Eneko and son Jim IV), Bill Trinkle (new member from S.F.), Rich Kenny and Host Steve Tyson.

Steve started the meeting by telling us of the positive and negative aspects of owning/running a small business. It seemed there were more negatives than positives. Phil shared information on the placement of the 51st star for the U.S. flag (for Puerto Rico?), an article about Religions of Hatred Flags (S.F. Chronicle 6 Feb. 94) and reminded us that 1995 is the 25th anniversary of Earth day as well as the 50th anniversary of the U.N. Martin reminded us of his involvement with and invited us to the San Leandro Flag Day Celebration on 11 June 94. Ron brought news clippings concerning flag changes around the world, as well as a Nat’l Geographic picture of a flag burning in the USSR. Jim brought his usual plethora of flag information to share, starting with several African nations to the E. German flag. He also brought information concerning the 1st Nat’l Confederate Flag of 17 and another term. All consented and the motion was carried. A motion was made to re-elect the other officers if they should choose to serve nominated for another term as President and was elected unanimously. A mail meeting notices to these people. He also suggests creation of associate membership for people who live outside the four state area but would like to attend meetings and/or receive copies of the minutes. Associate members would pay $2.00 annual dues they could not vote or hold office.

Motion made and seconded to create the associate membership category. Motion was carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

I. We seem to have lost touch with several people who initially expressed interest in joining the group but could not attend one of the earlier meetings. We should recontact them to see if they are still interested and let them know we are still around. Glenn has a current list of NAVA members in the four states. We will compare addresses with the initial responses we received and mail meeting notices to these people.

II. Officers were elected for the 1994-1995 term. Glenn Compton was nominated for another term as President and was elected unanimously. A motion was made to re-elect the other officers if they should choose to serve another term. All consented and the motion was carried.

III. The next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, November 12 at 1:30 in Cleveland, Ohio at the home of John Purcell. John said that depending on the anticipated turnout, he will host the meeting on the campus of Cleveland State or at his home in suburban Brunswick.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15. Refreshments were served and members discussed their latest acquisitions of flags, books and other items of interest.

CHESAPEAKE BAY FLAG ASSOC.

SUBMITTED BY NICK ARTIMOVICh, PRESIDENT, CBFA

For over ten years it has been the tradition for vexillologists in the Greater Baltimore/Greater Washington area to meet informally to share news of interest on our favorite topic, FLAGS. We have most frequently aimed at the "Patriotic Period" between Flag Day and Independence Day for this gathering. This year Pat and I are inviting you to our house on Saturday, June 25, at 1:00 p.m. Bring flags to show, projects to discuss, questions to ask, stuff to trade or sell, whatever. At sometime we may try to conduct some "Chesapeake Bay Flag Assoc." business, but that will not be the emphasis of the afternoon, as all of the "regulars" are aware.

Members in this group are concentrated in Maryland, D.C. and Virginia, but also included are those from Pennsylvania, Delaware, New Jersey and West Virginia.
Dear NAVA:

My article on Montana’s state flag and seal will appear in the Sept/Oct issue of Montana Magazine, not the July/Aug issue as originally planned. The editor says she needs more time to confer with the Secretary of State and Supt. of Public Instruction. We would like to enlist their support in getting Montana school children involved with the selection of a new Montana state flag. Montana students elected the grizzly bear to serve as Montana’s state animal in 1983 and promoted a state fossil in 1985; they’re about due for another civics lesson!

The article will tentatively include seven flag designs which readers can vote for. Readers are also invited to submit their own designs. It is not an official vote. Rather, it is designed to get Montanans to thinking about flags and to prepare them for a real vote that will hopefully take place some day.

Thanks to James Croft, John Gamez, Whitney Smith, and Dave Pawson for your advice, guidance, and flag designs.

Oklahoma Today’s editor recently advised me that she might be interested in an article about Oklahoma flags, also. I’ll be submitting it on “speculation” and don’t know how much controversy she’ll allow. I told her I’d like to suggest that Oklahoma’s state seal, also. Do any NAVA members have any comments on it?

Finally, another editor expressed interest in an article about Native American tribal flags, something I have a great interest in, but which I’ve just barely begun to research.

I’ll be searching the indexes of the Flag Bulletin and NAVA News for information on Oklahoma flags and seals and tribal emblems. In the meantime, I welcome information from NAVA members that I’m not likely to encounter in the general literature. This could include information on historic Oklahoma flags and seals, and perhaps county and municipal emblems, as well. I would like to hear from anyone who is knowledgeable about tribal flags, or who knows where I can obtain pictures of tribal flags suitable for reproduction.

Thanks!

David Blomstrom, P.O. Box 95465, Seattle, WA 98145, (206) 527-1690.

******

Dear NAVA,

In regards to the recent controversies surrounding the flags of the Confederacy and Robert E. Lee’s birthday, I have some thoughts.

I am a new member of NAVA and a graduate student in history at Sonoma State University. As far as Lee goes; he freed the Custis family slaves and late in the Civil War pushed for the enlistment of black troops. I would call Lee a very conservative man, but not a severe racist by any means.

By way of illustration regarding Confederate flags, I offer the following example from my own life. Once, an African-American friend was visiting and he saw a Confederate flag in my collection. I was embarrassed, I apologized. He said that it was alright, that ALL American flags were racist symbols. It is true that many racial wrongs have occurred in our history in times and in areas where the stars and stripes flew. In fact, racism remains a problem in America, a society that should be inclusive in nature.

Therefore, why don’t we worry about changing our society rather than the symbols? A racist Confederacy was a bad idea. However, the Civil War is part of our national culture and many individual Confederates were honorable people. Let them have their peace and honor.

Let us cooperate on making America a better place. To argue over the symbols is to miss the point.

Regards,

Keith Keller
2766 Iowa Street
Napa, CA 94558
(707) 252-9156

EDITOR’S NOTE: You might like to meet some fellow CA members at a GAVA meeting (see p. 6). Call Rich Kenny (See insert for NAVA 28).

WELCOME... TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Boyce, James C., Active
Attn. Schonner Poles
P.O. Box 608,
North Falmouth, MA 02556
Interests: (1) KK (2) S

Breschi, Roberto, Assoc. - Foreign
Via Maninini 66
Lucca, Italy 1-55100
Interests: (1) G (2) H/G

Cooksey, Paul, Active
2936 Green Street
Harrisesburg, PA 17110
Interests: (1) U/H/M

Helle, Sigbrit, Assoc. - Foreign
Leignitzer Strasse 5,
Horderstedt, Germany D-22850

Monahan, Richard P., Active
222 N. Grant Street, No. 2
Wooster, OH 44691
Interests: (1) U/H/M

ADDRESS CHANGES

Andreski, Michael T.
225 E. Edgewood Dr. No. 91
Lakeland, FL 33803

Endresen, Nancy
13 Idol Place
Matawan, NJ 07747-1708

Hill, Timothy J.
2809 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95818-3355

Lubick, H.
120 S. San Fernando Blvd. #183
Burbank, CA 91502

Matherne, Randy C.
1367 E. 5th Street
Meridian, ID 83642

Radel, Jon T.
3806 Candlelight Ct.
Alexandria, VA 22310-2248

Welsh, Mark R.
ASP4 CMR 1224 AE
APO, USA 09034

14 Catamaran Drive
Lake Saint Louis, MO 63367-1343

******

Dear Grace,

Imagine my surprise when I saw the flag of Libya displayed in front of each EXXON station in Rockingham County! The local distributor said his advertising department needed to do a little more research and next year they will resume the April “Adopt a Tree” program but will have a leaf or tree on the otherwise plain green flag. My news item got front page coverage as our see.

Gordon White

GADHAFI TAKES HARRISONBURG?

Daily News-Record, Harrisonburg, VA, 4/20/94 - A green flag — which Libya uses as its national emblem — flies on the grounds of the Han De Convenience Store on University Boulevard in Harrisonburg, but Moammar Gadhafi hasn’t rally taken over. This particular green flag is symbolic of Exxon’s “Adopt a Tree” program, in which customers can register all this month to win one of three native Dogwoods up for “adoption” at each participating station.
PORTLAND, the at half mast typhus, smallpox, dysentery. There was nothing for them to do but sit the Confederate battle flag.


FLAG RAISES THREATS SUBMITTED BY EDGAR M. MALPASS

Chicago, Ill.—A column in the Feb. 16 Chicago Tribune tells of funeral home director Ernest Griffin’s Determination to fly the Confederate flag, in spite of criticism from fellow members of the African-American community on the city’s South Side.

Griffin, 81, has flown the flag for almost four years in the memory Confederate prisoners of war who were impounded in Camp Douglas, which was once where Griffin’s funeral home now sits. “Thousands of men were crowded into the camp, in their cotton uniforms, in subzero weather,” he said. “Little heat, bad food, filth, no running water for toilets. They contracted every conceivable disease — typhus, smallpox, dysentery. There was nothing for them to do but sit and brood.”

Griffin found out about the camp in 1978. He also learned that it was at the camp that his own grandfather had enlisted in the U.S. Colored Infantry.

In a ceremony in 1990, he dedicated a Civil War memorial next to the funeral home parking lot. In addition, he flies four flags outside the funeral home — the American flag, African-American flag, a flag honoring prisoners of war, and — at half mast — the Confederate battle flag.

He has received threats but is slowly changing people’s minds. Says Ron Carter, editor of the neighborhood South Street Journal, “I had an overall awakening regarding the Confederate flag” after talking to Griffin. “Even though I believe there are people who fly the Confederate flag to be spiteful and to use it as a racial type of symbol, I see now there is a history to it as far as America is concerned.”

To Griffin, the issue is simple: “That flag is not a symbol of hate. It is a symbol of respect for a dead human being.”

Reprinted in The Civil War News.

EDITOR’S NOTES... NAVA News is August 1.

© 1994 by the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA). ISSN 1053-3338. Material appearing in NAVA News does not necessarily reflect the policy or opinion of NAVA, the executive board, or the editor. Information concerning permission to reprint articles is available from the editor.

First-Class Mail
NAVA XXVIII

PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM

Dear NAVA Member:

This form must be completed and sent to me to have your presentation considered for inclusion in the program of NAVA 28. We encourage active participation of as many members as possible. Please complete this form and return it to me by 15 August 1994.

Rich Kenny, Vice Pres.
4412 Masterson St.
Oakland, CA 94619

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

YOUR NAME:
ADDRESS:

TITLE OF YOUR PRESENTATION;

A 200-250 word abstract (summary) of your paper. Please denote equipment needed (if any) to make your presentation most effective.

A COMPLETE COPY OF THE TEXT OF YOUR PRESENTATION must be submitted by 15 September 1994.

*****************************************************************************************************************************************

If you wish to exhibit a display of flags or related paraphernalia please list:
Type and size of exhibit - - - equipment/space needed.

*****************************************************************************************************************************************

If you would like to make a five minute (or less) talk at the "Members News Conference" please list subject.

*****************************************************************************************************************************************

I am looking forward to presenting another great program for NAVA 28 in Portland, OR. Your interesting presentations will facilitate this.

Vexillologically,

Rich Kenny, Program Chairman
NAVA 28
NAVA 28
PORTLAND, OREGON OCTOBER 7th, 8th & 9th, 1994
CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Hotel Information
Site: Downtown Holiday Inn
Address: 1021 NE Grand Ave.
         Portland, Oregon 97232
         (503) 235-2100
Room Rate: $68.00/Day Single or Double plus 9% Hotel Tax
LAST DAY TO MAKE GUARANTEED ROOM RESERVATIONS IS SEPTEMBER 16, 1994

For additional information contact: Harry Oswald
                                 Phone: (503) 234-2961
                                 1134 SE 60TH ST
                                 PORTLAND OR 97215
To make a presentation contact: Rich Kenny
                                Phone: (415) 531-5170
                                4412 MASTERSON ST
                                OAKLAND CA 94619

------------------------- (cut here) -------------------------

Registration Form

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fee</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$75.00</td>
<td>$75.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Name: .................................................................................................. $75.00
Companion(s): ..................................................................................... $75.00/ea.
Mailing Address: .................................................................................

Telephone No: ( .......... ) ........................................ TOTAL ENCLOSED ______

Banquet food choice (please check one):
  Salmon
  Beef
  Vegetarian
  Special Dietary

List any other special needs: ........................................................................

Make Checks Payable to: "North American Vexillological Association"

Mail Registration Form to: Charles "Kin" Spain, Jr.
                          1512 WOODLAWN BLVD NO 3
                          AUSTIN TX 78703-3345