THE FLAGS OF THE '94 MEXICO ELECTIONS
By John Gamez

If the percentage of registered voters that actually voted in a national election were any measure of the strength of democratic institutions, Mexican democracy would certainly be near the top. In the Aug. 21st general election nearly 78% of registered Mexicans voted in what is considered to be Mexico's cleanest election ever.

As in all other elections since the late 1920's the PRI (Institutional Revolution Party) has controlled the election process in Mexico. Although Mexico is a republic it is in effect a one party state. Despite charges of corruption and tyranny the PRI has kept power because of the perception of the PRI itself. The PRI took the reigns of power just after the revolutionary period early in the century. During that period a firmly entrenched President Porfirio Diaz would not leave office and Presidents Francisco Madero and Venustiano Carranza were assassinated. In the countryside, generals led revolutionary armies and the economy was in chaos.

The election of Alvaro Obregón in 1928 brought about peaceful changes of power, no re-election, social stability, and economic progress unmatched in the third world. It also brought a degree of political and social repression. Although there have been numerous political parties in Mexico, the PRI government has through various means kept them from power. One method is the requirement that people who hold special licenses or who are members of trade unions must become PRI members.

During elections the PRI emblem and flag can be seen everywhere in Mexico. The emblem is green, white, and red, with a white "P" and "I" and a black "R" (Fig. 1). The flags themselves are usually white.

This past election was cleaner but more tumultuous. President Carlos Salinas de Gortari's hand picked successor, Donaldo Colossio, was assassinated. His replacement, Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, faced unprecedented debates with opposition candidates—in this case PAN (National Action Party) candidate Diego Fernandez and PRD (Democratic Revolution Party) hopeful Cuautemoc Cardenas.

Along with the other minority parties, the flags of the PAN (Fig. 2) and the PRD (Fig. 3) waved defiantly. This time, however, the PAN actually had a slim chance of toppling the PRI from power.

The PAN flag illustrated is blue with a white and blue central emblem. The legend "CHIHUAHUA" on the flag may indicate that it is used by that particular state's branch of the party. The flag of the PRD is golden yellow with a black sun, rays, lettering, and thin square border.

The surprise element of this election has been the armed revolt of the Zapatista movement. Named after Emiliano Zapata, he was one of the generals leading peasants in revolution over land and political reform early in this century. The EZLN (Zapatista Army of National Liberation) is led by the charismatic and mysterious Subcommander Marcos. The goals of the EZLN...
A MESSAGE FROM THE
PRESIDENT

Meetings
Although Spring is just around the corner, it's time to start thinking about the
NAVA Annual Meeting this Fall. During a business trip in January, I was
able to stop by Flags USA and visit Peter Kinderman, our host this year. Plans
are proceeding on schedule for us to meet at the Quality Hotel Riverview in
Covington, Kentucky, just across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio. Peter has
planned visits in Cincinnati to two sites of vexillological interest on Saturday
afternoon. Our banquet site, scheduled for the Texas Deck in the hotel, will
afford us a grand view of Downtown on Saturday night.

If you wish to give a presentation at the meeting, or wish to set up a display
relating to vexillology, please contact Gustavo Tracchia, NAVA Vice Presi­
dent and Program Committee Chairman. Gus is working closely with Peter to
see that our 29th meeting runs like clockwork.

The international travelers among you will certainly be interested in the
International Federation of Vexillological Associations in Warsaw, Poland.
Time is getting short for that meeting, and information was provided in the last
NAVA News. I have only attended one FIAV meeting, that in Washington,
DC, in 1977, but I can highly recommend them to anyone having an interest in
flags of the world.

Books
In my column in the January/February issue, I announced that a limited
number of copies of Thirteen Star Flags, Keys to Identification were available.
I obtained four copies of Grace Cooper’s out-of-print book gratis from the
Smithsonian Institute Press. The books went to Gus Tracchia, Mark Le
Messurier, Peter Edwards, and Peter Ansoff, the four fastest to call me with their
request. Our thanks to these members whose donations added a total of $108
to the NAVA treasury! I also wish to thank the half-dozen or so members who
requested a copy and didn’t get one. I’m sorry that we couldn’t accommodate
everyone.

Goals
In my first President’s message last year, I mentioned that I wanted to
establish a committee to develop goals for NAVA members and our “affiliated
organizations” like those in New England, Chesapeake Bay, Great Waters,
Texas, Golden Gate Area, Cascadia, etc. Bill Trinkle has told me that he is
interested in such a venture. Therefore, I have appointed him as chairman of
a special committee to look into establishing a formal committee on NAVA
Goals. Any members who wish to join Bill in this effort and ultimately work
on the Goals committee should write to Bill and let him know that you are
interested. Bill’s article in the last NAVA News suggested that NAVA
members research local museums that may have flags in their collections, and
to document them when they are found.

Budget
No one seemed to notice in the Nov/Dec issue of NAVA News that we
project a significant deficit for this year. Well, at least no one cared enough to
write. While our experience has been that one or more expenditures fall by the
wayside and can be used to offset overruns in other areas, that is no way to run
a fiscally sound organization. Our publications are our greatest expense,
Of course, as this is how we maintain contact with the three quarters of you who
do not attend the annual meeting.

NAVA News Editor Grace Cooper has done an outstanding job in improving
the quality of this newsletter. Grace has offered some suggestions that
would help reduce the cost that may or may not influence the appearance of the
printed product. The first suggestion, which she made is in the “Editor’s Notes”
in the Jan/Feb issue, “If we can submit our material in camera ready form our
cost would be reduced greatly.” Grace explained that this means the entire page
must be “camera ready”, which includes the full text in columns, all illustrations
in the correct size and location, and includes the page number and the NAVA
News issue at the bottom of the page. Each page submitted might appear
different from those produced by Ace Printing (which is done on contract.)
Would the variation in typefaces bother anyone out there? Reviewing back
issues of this newsletter reveals that many included actual articles cut from
newspapers, etc. It got the message across all right, but it looked like the “cut
and paste” job that it was. We may consider this degradation in uniformity
worthwhile as a way to avoid increasing the dues. Your comments are
welcomed.

Ed. Note: In this Issue, pages four and five were prepared camera ready by

Don Haly. Page six was prepared camera ready by Lee Kennedy. I thank these
two members for offering their services so that we can see if we can lower the
cost of producing the newsletter. The figures will be in the next NAVA News.
We will continue to have some of the pages prepared by the Printing company’s
type-setter as we have so many short items, several to a page, that need to be
included. At this time it does not help to send articles on disc, no matter which
type they are. This will come next. And concerning illustrations of flags, sharp
line drawings in black and white are the best. Felt-tip pen and color do not
 reproduce clearly and newspaper pictures, especially when the print from the
back shows through, are the hardest to use especially when the illustration must
be reduced in size. Sharp, clear photographs in black and white do not reproduce
in like detail.

*****

MISSOURI WAR RELICS as they appeared in
Harpers Weekly, July 6, 1867

NAVA Member Francis M. “Bud” Barnes spent 16 yrs in the Missouri
legislature and sponsored the restoration of the Civil War flags. The program
halted after he left in 1992. You may offer help to this cause by writing to
Missouri Civil War Battle Flags Preservation, Inc., 19 Highgate Road, St.
Louis, MO 63192.

*****

Con’d from pg. 1 FLAGS....MEXICO

shows two Mexican soldiers taking down a flag allegedly left by the Zapatistas.
The black and white photo shows a plain vertical bicolor. My impression is that
it is black and red - the colors of strike in Mexico.

A color news photo shows the masked Subcommander Marcos holding in
his hand a folded green and red flag. It is impossible to tell if this is a regulation
Mexican flag or if the emblem has been altered as in past revolutions.

That same photo shows Marcos standing behind a podium at a ceremony
where he symbolically passed the struggle from the armed EZLN to the
“civilian” CND (National Democratic Convention). The emblem or flag of the
CND is only partially shown in the photo and is reproduced here (Fig. 4). On
a green background is a white silhouette of an eagle and red letters - the colors
of the Mexican flag.

Fig. 4
BOOK REVIEWS
By William J. Trinkle

William Crampton's the World of Flags
RAND MCNALLY and COMPANY, copyright Andromeda Oxford Limited (1994); ISBN 0-528-83720-6; U.S. $12.95; 66pp; "Children's" book; 9½ x 12" (24 x 30½cm); hardcover; Flags authenticated by The Flag Research Center and The Flag Institute.

I purchased this book in January 1995 through a major chain bookstore, and unfortunately I have not had the time to review in detail for printing errors. I doubt that with Bill Crampton and the FRC (presumably Whitney Smith) doing the authenticating any other type of errors are present. I counted 264 "Flags of the World" with effort to present proper proportions, and numerous other drawings, photographs, etc., of flags. The "new" South Africa is presented, the states of the U.S. (South Dakota with "THE MOUNT RUSHMORE STATE"), some British subdivisions, Canadian provinces, and Australian states and territories. The book is divided into 21 chapters.

As a relative newcomer to active vexillology, but who has been exposed, luckily, to numerous Crampton books, I have always been impressed with his ability to associate himself with colorful, stimulating works. Whether we like it or not, the serious study of flags can only continue to grow, if our numbers substantially multiply. Books like THE WORLD OF FLAGS are our best propaganda. My only disappointment is that good books and good people are too often limited to the realm of "juvenile literature". There is nothing juvenile about the beauty and meaning of flags, which leads me to...

Saving "Old Glory", The History of the American Flag
Desecration Controversy
Robert Justin Goldstein
WESTVIEW PRESS, INC. (1995); ISBN 0-8133-2325-8; U.S. $27.95; 163pp; 6½ x 9¼" (17 x 23½cm); hardcover.

I have only had this book one week and have only been able to read the first two chapters (98pp.)—"Origins of the American Flag Desecration Controversy 1890-1907" and "The Interpretation and Application of State Flag Desecration Laws, 1899-1964", so what I can say about this book is unfair to Professor Goldstein. Goldstein is a historian of civil liberties; he admits at the outset his own view toward this "extremely disputatious topic"; and this is not a book (or maybe then again it should be) for those whose patriotism can only be supported by blindfolds.

In my view, these 98 pages were humorous at places, fascinating in their detail, and terrorized me with the record of dogmatism, fear, bigotry and violence which have been associated with the idea of protecting "old Glory", a flag which, if nothing else, symbolizes freedom and love of our great nation. Did you know that on June 7, 1862, a civilian Confederate "citizen" was hung after being convicted of treason for "pulling down, dragging in the mud, and tearing to shreds an American flag"? A misguided William B. Mumford was so executed, one of many such facts this book recounts.

Taking a step back from the politics, religion and emotion which this issue gives rise to in all Americans, from a vexillological view, this book cannot help but remind us that "a flag is more than 'a piece of cloth'." (to quote Grace Cooper). A flag can be or become a symbol which can change and even destroy life, as well as give life. This book is a forceful answer to those who would laugh at those who study flags and call our interest a "dillentante's delight". Like Matheson's CANADA'S FLAG (1986) and SAVA's detailed reports on the activities leading to the new "interim" Republic of South Africa flag, SAVING "OLD GLORY" takes us inside of the world of meaning and action, darkness and piercing light of patriotism, which truly envelopes "THE WORLD OF FLAGS". This is a book to be read!

Steven Kroll's by the Dawn's Early Light
The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner
SCHOLASTIC INC.: text copyright, Steven Kroll (1994); illustrations copyright, Dan Andreassen; first published 2/1994; ISBN 0-590-45054-9; U.S. $14.95; 40pp; 8½ x 11" (22½ x 28½cm); hardcover.

Children's book on the history of the writing of what has become our National Anthem, with a bibliography and 17 beautiful and powerful illustrations taken from Mr. Andreassen's original oil paintings.

GREAT WATERS ASSOCIATION OF
VEXILLOLOGY SELECTS
NAVA 29 FLAG

The design was submitted by Mr. Secundino Fernandez of New York City. His description is as follows:

The background of this flag is formed by the basic forms and colors of the flag of the City of Cincinnati. The white stands for purity with the wavy blue lines standing for the Ohio River. Superimposed is a large red V formed from the NAVA flag. Within the triangle formed by the V is a red letter C which stands for the City of Cincinnati as is depicted on the flag of the city.

The members of the Great Waters Association of Vexillology wish to thank Mr. Fernandez as well as the others who sent entries. We hope to see all the NAVA members in Cincinnati in October. (NAVA 29 will be held October 6-8 at the Quality Inn Riverview, Covington, Ky, across the river from Cincinnati and closer to the Cincinnati airport.) Details on the cost and registration for NAVA 29 will appear in the May/June NAVA News.

NAVA XXIX
THE QUEEN CITY
CINCINNATI, OHIO

MAP/FLAG CHART
By Edgar Michael Malpass

The World Map/Flag Chart offered by U.S. News & World Report is a great deal. I found it to be very accurate and up-to-date, (includes the new South Africa flag!). The only errors I found were the Afghanistan flag has since been replaced and the proportions of the new South Africa flag seem to be too long in it's length. Nevertheless, what I really like about this chart is that it does present each flag is it's official proportion.

Map measures 26½" x 39½". Colorful flags of the world border, printed on non-glare paper. The cost is $4.95 plus $4.00 shipping in a crush-proof tube. The shipping cost to each additional order to the same address is only $1.00, U.S. News Specialty Marketing, c/o Sisk Fulfillment Dept. 4400M, P.O. Box 463, FederaIsburg, MD 21632. MD residents add 5% sales tax, D.C. residents add 5.75% sales tax.

VEXI TIDBIT
Submitted by Earl P. Williams, Jr.

From the Wall Street Journal, 2/10/95, "Rebel-Flag Battle Opens Old Wounds, Builds New Alliances" by Tony Horwitz.

One paragraph from the article:

Still another suggestion comes from Charleston rap group called Da Phlayva. The group used the rebel flag on a recent album cover—but colored the banner in the black, red and green hues of black liberation. The irreverent emblem has sprouted on T-shirts and license plates, and band member Herman Bryan suggests raising it over the statehouse. "That way, we'd have a flag that represents all Southerners, black and white," he says.
Around The Publications
Edited by Don Healy

Nordisk Flagstakt - #19 - features an article on the rank flags of Norwegian Military officers such as the Inspector General of the Royal Norwegian Home Guard (see Fig. 1). It also updates the continuously status of the flags of the internal divisions of Russia. It features the first report this editor has seen for the Kabardino-Balkarsk republic which is found in the Russian portion of the Caucasus Mountains. (See Fig. 2). The flag is light blue bearing two narrow white stripes, one each near the top and bottom of the flag. In the center, also in white is the representation of a mountain.

The Flag and Banner - Oct 1994 - discussed flags used at the XV Commonwealth Games held in Victoria, BC in August, 1994. It features the flag designed for the games (see Fig. 3), and offers readers a matching quiz to identify the national flags of these nations participating.

The Flagship (new letter of the Chesapeake Bay Flag Assoc. - Vol. 1, No. 1) introduces this new publication and features an article on the history of the flag of the President of the United States, showing seven separate designs used or thought to be used from the 1700s to the present day.

The Flagship, Vol 2, No. 1 - reports on the most recent meeting of the group, the most recent meeting of NAVA and reports on the updating of the flag display at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington.

Lihuvat Varit, Issue 3-94 - features an overview of the flags of Malta, but the most interesting items are reports on the Azawad - a rebel movement from northern Mali and a new flag attributed to Gaza. The Palestinian authority based there is supposedly using a new version of the traditional Palestinian flag. This new design includes two red stars on the white stripe presumably representing Gaza and Jericho, the two areas under Palestinian control. (I have yet to see this flag on any newscast or in any magazine or newspaper photos).

The Azawad of Mali are using a flag of light blue over white having a red triangle at the hoist.

Kabardino - Balkarsk
Flagmaster - #177 - offers a selection of articles tied to two commemorations. First it recalls the twenty-fifth anniversary of the first flag on the moon by reviewing the processes and work involved in the achievement and ends up with the flag of the European Space Agency. [It also gives a kudo to our own Annie Platoff's article in The Raven].

It then salutes the fiftieth anniversary of the Normandy invasion. Two articles look at different sides of the event. One reviews the flags of participating military units while the other goes over several flag designs proposed by the anti-Nazi forces in Germany during World War II.

Flagmaster also reports on the growing popularity of local or regional flags in Great Britain with updates on several flags including the "Cross of St. Magnus, an increasingly visible flag used by Orkney Islanders. That flag
Around The Publications - Cont'd

is yellow and has a red Scandinavain cross throughout.

Finally, there is an article discussing the coats of arms employed by Yugoslavia from its inception in 1918 up to the present truncated state.

Boletin Informativo - August/September 1994 - offers a paper on the multiple flags for the President of Argentina. New to your editor is the Presidential flag for use on automobiles. It is the national flag with the arms in the center of the white stripe, replacing the “Sun of May”.

Vexi-Bits

Edited by Don Healy

Toronto Globe & Mail - Oct 24, 1994 - An advertisement in this issue offered a “Stick up for Canada” sticker. The intent of the sticker is to allow Canadians to show their love of country and support for national unity by affixing a 7”x3” modification of the national flag to their automobiles, lunchboxes, hard hats, etc. The registered design (therefore not shown) is the national flag with the Maple Leaf replaced by a large red heart extending nearly to the upper and lower edges of the white square and spreading across approximately 3/4 of the pale. (submitted by Peter Edwards)

Member Gary Csillaghegyi reports he had an opportunity to see the new Presidential standard of Boris Yeltsin while Mr. Yeltsin was visiting Seattle several months ago. The 45cm square flag is composed of the national tricolor bearing the new national arms, an eagle very similar to the old Czarist emblem. Gary reports that the dragon in the center is gold, but has green wings. Gary says he is considering making a copy of the flag for himself (NAVA members may already be aware of the beautiful workmanship that Gary puts into his flags)

Member John Hall reports that while he and his new bride, Linda, were in Dublin, Ireland they spotted a few yacht ensigns that may be of interest to readers. The Royal St. George Yacht Club flies a blue ensign bearing the Irish tricolor in the canton and a white Imperial crown in the fly. The Royal Irish Yacht Club uses a white Irish ensign bearing a crowned harp in gold in the fly. Lastly, the Royal Dublin Yacht Club (possibly) bears a green Irish ensign with the crowned harp in white.

The Economist Oct. 1, 1994 - in an article on the effect of the upcoming reintegration of Hong Kong back into China in 1997, the magazine reports the great trading houses of Hong Kong are already making accommodations. The house of Swire Pacific has already changed the markings on its Cathay Pacific Airlines by removing the Union Jack and adopting an oriental jade green paint scheme for its planes. (submitted by Peter Edwards)

Member Jim Ferrigan reports seeing on the news a new version of the flag of Chechnya since the civil war began this January. The flag is the same green flag with the white, red, white stripes near the bottom, but with the addition of a white crescent and star in the upper hoist. The horns of the crescent, according to Jim are facing the upper hoist corner.

USA Today - Nov. 15, 1994 - The long awaited civil trial has begun to determine the fate of the Confederate battle flag that currently flies over the statehouse in Columbia, South Carolina. South Carolina is the last state flying the battle flag over its dome and the NAACP contends that the flag is a racist symbol of oppression while supporters claim it is a legitimate symbol of South Carolina’s historic past.

New York Times - Nov. 18, 1994 - The Delta Kappa Psi fraternity chapter at Montclair State University in Upper Montclair, New Jersey was convicted of “conduct unbecoming a fraternity” and ordered to perform 150 hours of community service by the school’s “Greek Council”. The punishment, which works out to 5 hours per member, was for fraternity member Thomas Sebok draping a Confederate flag over the fraternity’s emblem in the student cafeteria. The “Greek Council” is the judiciary court that oversees the university’s thirty-seven different fraternities and sororities.

The Spokane Review - Jan. 4, 1995 - New Stevens County (WA) commissioner J. D. “Andy” Anderson was sworn in one hour before the other county commissioners and caused a stir when he wrote his own oath and refused to take it in the Superior Court room. Other county officials speculated that Mr. Anderson, a constitutionalist who claims some state laws are invalid, wanted to avoid the traditional pledge to uphold state laws. Mr. Anderson objected to the courtroom because the flag in the room bore gold fringe. Mr. Anderson contends that gold fringe on the flag means that the United States is under “admiralty law”, not the U.S. Constitution. (submitted by Jim White)

Toronto Globe & Mail - Jan. 4, 1995 - British Columbia Premier Mike Harcourt said that a request for a BC flag from a veterans group would not have been ignored if he had known about it. The Premier’s office rejected a request from former senator Jack Marshall, who asked for a $25 flag for a memorial to the disastrous 1942 Dieppe raid in which 900 Canadian soldiers were killed and 1,900 were taken prisoner. The request had been refused, because, to save money, complimentary flags are no longer offered. Mr. Harcourt is sending an apology to former senator Marshall and the veterans [hopefully, he will include a flag with the letter]. (submitted by Peter Edwards)

Long time NAVA member Florence Hutchinson was featured in an article in the Journal-Courier (city unknown, but presumably somewhere near Jacksonville, IL) honoring Florence in her effort 25 years ago to have the Illinois state flag conform to written specifications. Mrs. Hutchinson has long been proud of her effort to have the eagle on the Illinois state flag appear in natural colors and the addition of the state’s name to the flag. (submitted by Kin Spain)

Macleans - Dec. 26, 1994 - citing a quote from Quebec Premier Jacques Parizeau on the subject of Quebec independence. The Premier said “Get me a half-dozen Ontarians to put their feet on the Quebec flag and I’ve got it!” (submitted by Pete Edwards)
OLD FORT NIAGARA FLAG

BY E. LEE KENNEDY

Old Fort Niagara History The history of Old Fort Niagara spans three centuries and three governments. Situated at the mouth of the Niagara River on Lake Ontario, the Fort controlled access to the Great Lakes during the early years of this country. The French established Fort Conti, the first settlement in 1679, and later built the first permanent building: the commanding French Castle in 1729, then lost the fort to the British in 1759 during the French and Indian War. After trading ownership several times, the British returned the fort to American hands in 1815. Now jointly administered by the Old Fort Niagara Association and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the site lies adjacent to Youngstown NY, about 30 miles north of Niagara Falls, and opposite Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario within cannon range of Canadian Fort George.

On December 19, 1913, British assault troops captured Fort Niagara and its 15 star-15 stripe garrison flag. Shortly thereafter, the flag was presented to H.R.H., The Prince Regent, later King George IV, who gave the flag to General Sir Gordon Drummond, commander of British forces in Upper Canada at the time of the battle. Until 1994, the flag remained in the family castle of Megginch, near Edinburgh, Scotland, having passed to The Honorable Mrs. Cherry Drummond, the Baroness Strange, great-great-nephew of the General.

Diane Rieger: Heroine The flag’s whereabouts remained a mystery until 1984, when the Parks Canada confirmed the existence, location, and ownership to the Old Fort Niagara Association. Early efforts to bring Lady Strange and the Fort together proved unproductive, until Diane Rieger, the 17 year old daughter of Robert Rieger, the President of the Association, succeeded in gaining permission to see the flag. In August, 1993, Bob and Diane Rieger; Brian L. Dunnigan, Executive Director; Dennis Farmer, Curator; and Michael Blank, Flag Committee member flew to Scotland to examine the flag.

They found one of the earliest extant American 15 star flags, similar in design to the Star Spangled Banner. Except for some fire damage in 1969, the flag had survived 180 years of display and souvenir hunters. In December, Bob Rieger announced the purchase of the flag for $100,000, roughly $150,000.

Then, in March 1994, the Riegers brought the flag home to a gala celebration, joined by many, including Mrs. Drummond, her son and daughter, NAVA members Coykendall, Edwards, Eviningham and me and our wives. The warmth and enthusiasm for the flag was simply unparalleled. Remarkably, the Association has raised the funds to purchase and preserve the flag.

The flag is presently at the Textile Conservation Laboratory of the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation at Pebbles Island, NY where vacuuming, stabilization, and preparation for display are underway. Ms. Deborah Trupin expects to complete the work in time for the opening of a new museum and visitor center.

The Old Fort Niagara Flag The flag measures 22’-6” along the hoist and 27’-3” along the fly and is similar in design to the 32’ x 40’ Star Spangled Banner. Since few American flags made before 1840 still exist, the flag is of special interest. The illustration shows the flag correctly proportioned as it currently exists. The flag is made of 18” plain weave single ply z-twist 20-24x26-32 count wool bunting (which accounts for the 22’-6” dimension). Early analysis suggested that the flag contained 14 stars and 15 stripes, but closer examination showed 13 stars remaining, and clear evidence of the 15 star SSB pattern. The weight light plain weave linen stars are set into the canton, and measure 10” in diameter—quite small proportionately, when compared to other flags of the period.

All hand stitched, most of the seams are 1/4” French double seams sewn with a running stitch, 8 stitches/inch. The linen heading contains a hemp 5/8” rope sewn together using nautical stitching found on sailboats. I was able to make limited preliminary measurements and observations during the exhibition.

The blue remains remarkably true and vibrant, the white moderately darkened, while the red lies somewhere between a medium red and a rust-colored burnt sienna. Except for the fabric that surrounds the burn, which is understandably dry and brittle, the balance is resilient and shows little loss of tensile strength.

I mapped the outline of the lost fabric over my computer drawing of the flag, and estimate that about 50-60% of the flag remains. Curiously, washing the flag following a fire in 1969 seems to have stabilized the fibers at a neutral pH level—remarkable, when you consider the strength of some English ‘soap flakes’.

The future An Army warehouse at Old Fort Niagara will be converted into a museum and visitor’s center for the display of the flag and other artifacts and memorabilia of the Old Fort, and is expected to be completed by mid 1996. If you would like to make a contribution to the Association, send your check to P.O. Box 169, Youngstown NY 14174-0169 (tel 716-745-7611). Our thanks to Bob Coykendall for his paper presented to NAVA in Portland OR last October. We’ll be thinking about the flag come May first, the bicentennial of the birth of the second American Flag.
LETTERS...

Editor, NAVA News:

I have been surprised by the interest shown by some members in my report to "Vexi-bits" (NAVA News Nov/Dec '94) on the flag of St. Thomas' College illustrated on a Sri Lankan postage stamp. However, what was not printed was my additional comment and the main reason for my report - that this was unusual as the vast majority of flags appearing on postage stamps are national flags.

As our president in his "Note" (NAVA News Jan/Feb '95) referred to flags on postage stamps, I thought the following list of some of the few flags that could be considered non-national, depicted on postage stamps in the last two years would be of interest:

Radical Peoples Party (Argentina), British Paralympic Association (UK), President's (Martius), Manx (UK), Olympic (Mongolia), Queen's University (Canada), European Community (Senegal), Sons of Liberty (Honduras), Free French (St. Pierre and Miquelon), NATO (Maldives Islands), Royal National Lifeboat Institution (UK), United Nations (Micronesia), Red Cross (Australia), Girls Brigade International (St. Kitts), Boy Scouts of Malta (Malta), 13 star US (Antigua), Bunker Hill (Honduras), Co-operative Consumer Service (Sri Lanka), naval signal flags (Jamaica) Betsy Ross (Grenada), Musaeus College (Sri Lanka), Castille and Leon (Poland).

On another semi-vexillophilatelic subject, David McClosky and his fellow Cascadians should be pleased to know that the map on the 1993 US 29c Oregon Trail stamp omits the Canada-US border!

Peter Edwards
117 Airdrie Road, Toronto, ON, M4G 1M6, Canada
Phone/Fax (416) 423-9979
Internet: peter Edwards@scribe.sbe.scarborough.on.ca

Dear Ms. Cooper:

Chairman Mao may very well have said what John Gamez credits to him in his recent article (see: Cashing in on the Cup, January 1995, NAVA News), but if he did he was merely quoting Karl Marx. In 1844 Marx wrote in his Kritik der Hegelschen Rechtsphilosophie: "Die Religion...ist das Opiem des Volkes.

This attribution should surprise one, for Mao has never been accused of being an original thinker.

Sincerely yours,
Richard T. Claus, P.O. Box 716, Gwynedd Valley, PA 19437

More About the UN Flag

Dear Ms. Cooper:

I recently came upon the enclosed article from Santa Fe The New Mexican, January 14, 1995, and I thought it might be of interest to NAVA News readers. Aztec, New Mexico, is in the northwestern corner of New Mexico.

Respectfully
Arthur L. Olivas, 1909 Thomas Avenue, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Courtroom's U.N. Flag upsets man - Aztec - The United Nations' flag is on display in the courtroom of state district Judge Benjamin Eastburn, and a local gun-rights defender suggests that could be seen as an erosion of U.S. authority.

Eastburn has said he has no plans to remove it.

"It was there when I walked in. I inherited it," the judge told the Daily Times of Farmington.

Guy Shephard, active in San Juan Citizens for Second Amendment rights, wrote to Eastburn that a flag has "an inherent quality of implying some specific philosophy or authority."

A U.S. flag's presence could mean that people who stand before it are subject to U.S. laws, Shephard wrote, so a U.N. flag could be interpreted similarly, "making people subjects of a consortium of nations."

Dear NAVA:

"Bravo" on the first issue of RAVEN. Keep it up!
David R. Mead, Twin Falls, Idaho

WELCOME...

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Mr. Erik Busenbark, Active
31500 1st Avenue S. No. 19-205
Federal Way, WA 98003
Interest: (1) $

Ms. Marcelyn J. Weaton, Active
Frontier Flags
P.O. Box 176
Branson, MO 65615

ADDRESS CHANGES

Mr. David R. Lewellen, Active
920 N. 34th Street, No. 25
Seattle, WA 98103

Mr. Kenneth F. Barnes, Active
724 Trillium Circle
Maryville, TN 37804

Dear Editor:

The Philadelphia Flag Day Association will be hosting a revitalized Flag Day Ceremony this Flag day, Wednesday, June 14 at Independence Hall. The ceremony will begin at 5:00 p.m., EDT. The focus for this year's ceremony will be Francis Hopkinson. For more details, contact:

Mr. Christian Johnson, 315 Monroe Street, Apt. 2, Philadelphia, PA 19147,
Phone: 215-923-9228

Yours sincerely,
Earl P. Williams, Jr.

Dear NAVA:

I take this opportunity to congratulate the association on the wonderful journal, RAVEN which is very informative and well written. Keep up the good work. Wishing you and your family including the rest of NAVA members a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1995.

Yours faithfully,
Costas Christodoulou, Limassol, Cyprus

Dear Grace:

I am sending you copies of the postcards I recently sent to Kevin Harrington, for his collection.

I bought them in the Euro-Shop in Brussels, Belgium in October '92.

Phil Allen, Berkeley, CA

ED. NOTE: one is pictured.
EDITOR’S NOTES

The time has come...for a new Editor. I announced at the NAVA 28 meeting in Portland that this would be my last year to edit NAVA News. I was appointed by President Woody Ridgway in 1987. With the Sept/Oct 1995 issue, I will have completed eight years, 48 issues of NAVA News. It has been a lot of work, it takes many hours but I have enjoyed it. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed, from the two-line letter to the detailed articles. There would be no newsletter without YOU. Since the editor is appointed by the President, please write to Nick Artimovich and let him know if you would like to be considered for the job. Or you might like to recommend another member who might be too modest to suggest himself/herself. It is a commitment; be certain that you have the time to annually produce the six bi-monthly newsletters, as you would not want to accept the job for less than one year but preferably for two or more. To be editor, I believe it is vital to attend the annual meeting.

I have appreciated the suggestions that have been made over the years. Graphicly the Masthead could appear more ’90s, but I like the look that said we’re “over twenty-five”. With the material that was submitted I tried to balance each issue with subject matter that reflected all the members’ interests.

Thanks for your help.

The deadline for the May/June issue is April 1. Please continue to send material to 509 68th Street, Holmes Beach, FL 34217 for this issue.

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PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM

DEAR NAVA MEMBER,

IT'S TIME TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR THE NAVA XXIX MEETING IN CINCINNATI (COVINGTON), OCTOBER 6-8, 1995. WE HOPE TO HAVE MANY FINE PRESENTATIONS OF THE CALIBER OF THOSE GIVEN AT THE LAST MEETING. IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A PRESENTATION OR SET UP A DISPLAY AT NAVA XXIX, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS PROPOSAL FORM TO HELP US SCHEDULE THE MANY INTERESTING EVENTS AT THIS YEAR'S MEETING. PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM TO GUSTAV TRACCHIA BY JULY 31, 1995.

Please include the following:

NAME:
ADDRESS:
TITLE OF YOUR PRESENTATION:

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


If you wish to exhibit a display of flags or related items, please list: Subject, type & size of exhibit, equipment needed, etc.

If you would like to make a 5-minute (or less) talk, please list subject.

With your help I look forward to presenting a great program for NAVA 29 in Cincinnati (Covington).

Yours Truly,

GUSTAV TRACCHIA

82-67 Austin St. # 205, Kew Gardens, N.Y. 11415 USA

(Distributed with NAVA News March/April 1995)