A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

NICHOLAS ARTIMOVICH

Thanks to Peter Kinderman and his Convention Committee, another successful NAVA annual meeting is behind us. NAVA 29 in Covington, Kentucky, was enjoyed by all of the 70 or so attendees, due in large part to the excellent advance planning into hotel, meeting, and tour arrangements that the local organizers worried over for the last few months. We will fondly remember the Greater Cincinnati area for years to come. Congratulations to Don Healy for his Driver Award winning presentation on flags of Native American peoples (you will all have a chance to read that paper when it is published in the third volume of Raven.)

Some important changes have taken place in the North American Vexillological Association recently. The most noticeable change for readers of NAVA News is our new Editor-in-Chief. Jim Croft of Northampton, Massachusetts, will take over the duties from Grace Rogers Cooper beginning with the next issue, Jan/Feb 1996. Jim has been a member of NAVA longer than I have, so he has a good idea of what the members have wanted to see in their newsletter. Please send Jim your feature length articles dealing with your research into any aspects of flags. News clipping should be sent to our new Vexi-Bits editor, Dave Pawson, of Plano, Texas. Dave, like his able predecessor Don Healy, will be summarizing pertinent articles to help keep us up-to-date with flag happenings across Canada, the U.S.A., and elsewhere. Devereaux Cannon of Portland, Tennessee, has joined the NAVA News team to help in preparing camera-ready pages to save some of the printing budget that can be devoted to printing more pages, more photographs, etc.

Your Executive Board also has a new face: William Trinkle of San Francisco, California, has replaced Peter Edwards as Recording Secretary. Bill is also the chairman of NAVA's new Special Committee on Goals, and has already put a lot of thought into which directions NAVA and its members can focus their talents. Watch for interesting developments from that quarter in the future.

Peter Van de Putte and his daughter Vanessa Van de Putte, of San Antonio, Texas, have agreed to assume the duties of NAVA Historian, taking over from Mark Liss. Vanessa, as some of you might recall, won the award for the best non-commercial display at NAVA 27 for her work on flag durability. This is certainly evidence of her deep interest in vexillology.

John Purcell of Brunswick, Ohio, has agreed to chair the Publications Committee. Up to this point, the NAVA News Editor was ex officio head of the Publications Committee, but with the establishment of Raven as an important NAVA product we felt it necessary to designate a person in a position to oversee both operations. Scot Guenter will continue to be Editor in Chief of Raven, with Jon Radel in charge of its production. They will coordinate routine production matters just like Jim Croft and Dave Pawson will for NAVA News. As a former NAVA President, John Purcell is a knowledgeable administrator who will consult with the Editors regarding scheduling, budget, and other higher-order matters to keep publications on schedule. (Ed. Note: The Membership List is published by the Membership Committee.)

I welcome all of our new volunteers, they have a challenge ahead of them to keep NAVA running as the excellent organization that we inherited. I also want to express my appreciation to Grace Cooper, Don Healy, Peter Edwards, and Mark Liss for their years of hard work in their volunteer positions that helped NAVA become what it is today. I only hope that I can continue to shepherd it wisely with the help of the rest of the Executive Board, the Committee Chairs and Members, Consultants, and you, the valued members of NAVA. You, the vexillologists of the U.S. and Canada, are NAVA. Get active! Let us know your thoughts about the organization, suggest improvements, volunteer for a committee, write a Letter to the Editor, or, better yet, research and write an article for use in NAVA News. Bill Trinkle's articles on flag research in the September/October issue can be used by each of you to document some aspect of vexillology that no one else knows much about. Finally, make plans to join us in Sacramento, California, next October and help celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the California Bear Flag!

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Nicholas Artimovich, President; Gus Tracchia, Vice President; Kin Spain, Treasurer; Mary Ann Docktor-Smith, Corresponding Secretary were re-elected to serve NAVA for 1995-1996. Recording Secretary Peter Edwards chose not to serve again and William Trinkle was elected to fill that position. Pictured above are, left to right, Artimovich, Tracchia, Docktor-Smith, Spain, Trinkle, and Edwards. Presiding Officers are holding their respective office flags.

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President Artimovich presents the Driver Award to Donald Healy for his paper Flags of the Native American Peoples of the United States. Don has the distinction of being the first NAVA member to win the award for a second time. In 1988 he won for his paper Evolutionary Vexillology. The award is sponsored by the National Flag Foundation and is for the best paper presented by a NAVA member at the Annual Meeting. Important factors in judging the papers are research and the presentation of new, documented information.
1. The chair (Artimovich, president) called the 29th annual meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. 48 voting members were present.

2. Motion: "That the call for Adjournment be at or before 11:30 a.m." Francis/Randall. Passed.

3. Ferrigan and Healy were appointed by Artimovich to act as election inspectors.

4. Edwards noted the following revisions to the draft Minutes of the last annual meeting: Item 3 - "scrutineers" to read "inspectors". Item 4 - "That the Minutes" to read "That the draft Minutes". Item 6c - add the words "other than the annual report forms from the Illinois Secretary of State". Item 12 - Motion to read "That should the president be unable to attend ICV 16, Guenter be the first alternative and Healy the second". Motion: That the revised Minutes of the 1994 Annual Meeting at Portland, OR be accepted as distributed at this meeting". Edwards/Guenter. Passed.

5. Officer's Reports
   5a. The treasurer (Spain) presented his report (Appendix A) noting that the closing balance shows a gain of $10,140.52 for the year.
   5b. The recording secretary (Edwards) presented his report (Appendix B).
   5c. The corresponding secretary (Docktor-Smith) presented her report (Appendix C) noting that back issues of NAVA News were being sent to potential members.
   5d. The vice president (Tracchia) presented his report (Appendix D) noting Healy's efforts in compiling an inventory of NAVA's flags.
   5e. The president (Artimovich) presented his report (Appendix E) noting the averting of the potential problems at the ICV 16 meeting in Warsaw.
   Motion: "That the reports of all the officers be accepted as presented" Francis/Clard. Passed.

6. Appointed Officer's Reports:
   6a. The protocol officer (Ferrigan) presented his report (Appendix F) noting the half-staff policy and the yacht club/flag code discrepancy.
   6b. The parliamentarian (Healy) presented his report (Appendix G). He also noted, as delegate to ICV 16 (Appendix H), the rejection of the proposed constitutional changes and the admission of six new members.
   6c. Registered agent: Artimovich reported on behalf of Aitchison that there had been no correspondence other than the annual report forms from the Illinois Secretary of State.
   6d. The historian (Liss) presented his report (Appendix I) and noted his wish to step down.

7. Committee Reports:
   7a. Audit: Kinderman reported that the books had been reviewed and were in order.
   7b. Budget: Spain reported, on behalf of Pawson, a budgeted income of $10,550 and expenses of $13,375 for a deficit of $2,825 for 1995 - 1996.
   7c. Convention: Kinderman thanked all those who had assisted with organizing the convention and the designer of this year's flag, Secundino Fernandez.
   7d. Membership: Docktor-Smith reported that the total membership was now 343. (see Appendix A)
   7e. Program: Tracchia noted the changes in the program and the flexibility of the presenters.
   7f. Publications: The editor (Cooper) reported that she had been able to save $1,025.87 over the year due to contributors supplying camera ready text and her wish to step down as editor.
   7g. Publicity: Harrington reported that NAVA was now listed in the World Directory of Organizations. Guenter reported that Raven was at the proof reading stage. Healy suggested sending "fillers" to radio stations.
   Smith cautioned the NAVA should emphasize its scholarly basis.
   7h. Continental Cooperation: Tracchia suggested that this mandate be picked up by the proposed Goals Committee.
   Motion: "That the committee reports be accepted as presented". Trinkle/Compton. Passed.

8. Old Business
   8a. NAVA 30: Sacramento, Ferrigan stated that he would report on the arrangements later in the weekend.
   8b. NAVA 31: Chicago, Docktor-Smith reported that receptions could be combined with the National Independent Flag Dealers Association, volunteers are needed and members will be polled for suggestions. Harrington suggested that a list of antiquarian booksellers be supplied.
   8c. NAVA 32: Quebec City? Artimovich will invite the provincial representative to NAVA 31.
   8d. Other Old Business: Discussion on hosting ICV 18, importance of selecting a city of international appeal, Washington, DC and Vancouver, BC were suggested.

9. New Business:
   9a. Budget: Motion: "That the budget be accepted as presented". Healy/Kenny. Passed. (Appendix J).
   9b. Proposed Special Committee on Goals. Trinkle was appointed as chair.
   9c. Proposed Amendment to Bylaws: The vote to change the Bylaws passed, but did not receive a 2/3 majority. The vote to reconsider was defeated and thus the Bylaws stand unchanged.

10. 1995-1996 Executive Board Election: The following were elected on individual votes: Spain (Treasurer), Trinkle (Recording Secretary), Docktor-Smith (Corresponding Secretary), Tracchia (Vice President) and Artimovich (President).

11. 1995-1996 Nominating Committee Election: The following were elected: Herold (Chair), Purcell and Edwards.

12. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. on a KennylR. Smith motion.

Peter Edwards
Recording Secretary 1994-95.

Errors and omissions to these draft minutes should be reported to the recording secretary. Appendixes are attached to the original copy of these draft minutes.

NAVA 29 PRESENTATIONS

Robert Coykendall, Research and Investigation on Vexillology.
William Trinkle, Four Freedoms Flags.
Peter Orenski, The Flag of New Milford.
Scot Guenter, Flags Used in a Contemporary Vietnamese-American Community.
Don Healy, Flags of the Native American Peoples of the United States.
Glen Compton, Flags of the United States Air Force Museum.
David Coughtry, Rebecca Flower (1739-1814?) American Patriot and Flag Maker.
Kevin Harrington, Flag of the Formosan Republic (Taiwan) 1895.
Whitney Smith, Symbols of Anglo-American Unity.
Lee Kennedy was scheduled to present a paper Managing Your Collection; he was unable to attend and copies were distributed to the audience.

PAGE 2 NAVA NEWS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1995
1994-1995 NAVA TREASURER'S REPORT (ABRIDGED)

The 1994 closing balance/1995 opening balance was US$10,399.41 and the closing balance was US$20,539.93, a gain of US$10,140.52 (NAVA also has a US$5,000.00 certificate of deposit that is not included in the balance). If the balances are adjusted to delete the convention income (under the presumption that convention income covers convention expenses), prepaid dues, and accrued expenses, the balances are then approximately US$6,300 for 1994 and US$13,600 for 1995, a gain of US$7,300.

Part of this gain is that NAVA did not print or mail the 1995 volume of Raven and the 1995 membership directory in the 1994-1995 fiscal year. The budgeted funds for these projects totalled US$3,700 and will have to be spent in the 1995-1996 fiscal year. This leaves an adjusted gain of approximately US$3,600. Another part of the US$7,300 gain is due to the fact that the 1994 convention made US1233.97 more in income than expenses due to the wise stewardship of convention host Harry Oswald.

As far as the 1994-1995 budget, the results are good. NAVA made US1,741,72 more in income that projected and spent US$6,669.47 less in expenses than projected (of course, the drop in projected expenses includes the US$3,700 "saved" by not printing and mailing Raven and the membership directory). The net result is a US$5,956.19 gain. Under Grace Cooper's stewardship, NAVA News spent US$1030.20 less than projected in printing. The officers spent only US$70.33 out of a budgeted US$300.00 for supplies, and saved well over a thousand dollars in other areas. The 1994-1995 budget projected a deficit of US$2,455.00, so even it all the budgeted funds had been spent on Raven and the membership directory, NAVA would have had a US$2,256.19 gain.

The bottom line is that NAVA has approximately US$13,600 in nonconvention/nonprepaid dues/nonaccrued expenses funds in the bank with an additional US$5,000.00 certificate of deposit, all totalling US$18,600 in "unencumbered" funds. At least US$3,700 of this money will have to be "deficit" spent in the 1995-1996 fiscal year for the delayed Raven and membership directory. This allows NAVA the ability to take on one-time expenditures such as printing a new NAVA Handbook and a new supply of membership cards. NAVA may also need this financial cushion while it experiments with changes in the format of NAVA News and copes with increases in international postage rates.

1995-1996 NAVA BUDGET

All amounts are in US dollars.

Income

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Annual Business Meeting, Item 9a, Budget Approved.

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¹ 1995 and 1996 volumes.
² Donation from National Flag Foundation.
³ Annual mail box rental and fees for forwarding mail from Trenton, New Jersey address.
⁴ Annual corporate registration fee, calligraphy, copying and long-distance telephone calls for committees other than publication committee, printing membership cards, et cetera.
⁵ Correspondence, membership renewal notices, forwarding of exchange publications, et cetera.
⁶ Copying, long distance telephone calls, supplies, et cetera.
⁷ 1995 and 1996 volumes.
⁸ Publication of the membership directory has been moved from the spring to the fall so that all dues paying members for that year are included in the directory and so the directory can be distributed at the annual convention.
⁹ The deficit is due to the fact that Raven was not printed and mailed in the 1994-1995 fiscal year.

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FLAG OF THE SHORT-LIVED REPUBLIC OF FORMOSA (TAIWAN)
by Kevin Harrington

Summary of a Lecture at NAVA 29, Cincinnati/Covington, October, 1995

One hundred years ago this summer a little-known flag flew in the skies of Formosa (Taiwan). The Treaty of Shimonoseki had brought the war between China and Japan in 1894 to a close - this war had been fought mainly in Korea and Manchuria. However one of the treaty's provisions was the transfer by China of her island province of Formosa to the Japanese.

The Formosans - especially the notables (merchants, civil servants) - felt betrayed by this article of the Treaty. They complained to the Emperor of China in vain. The people resisted the Japanese aggressor and set up an independent republican state with flag, seal, and presidential office. They were promised support from a Great Power. The republic lasted fewer than ten days as no support came.

The flag is described by a number of eye-witnesses but no actual flag seems to have survived.

In this paper the author provides us with documentation of the declaration of independence and descriptive accounts of the flag by contemporaries. He brings into question the flag design illustrated in an Asian journal and reprinted in The Flag Bulletin (Summer, 1968). He presents two or three design possibilities based on the portrayal of the tiger in Chinese art.

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Republic of Formosa flag 1895

NAVA NEWS NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1995 PAGE 3
**VEXI-BITS**

Edited by Don Healy (523 Centre St., Trenton, N. J. 08611)

New York Times, Aug. 17, 1995 - In a vote delayed one day by Hurricane Felix, the residents of Bermuda voted 76% to 24% to remain a British colony.

The Times, Trenton, NJ, Aug. 19, 1995 - Prime Minister John Swan of Bermuda resigned yesterday after Bermudians voted heavily against his proposal for an independent Bermuda. The Prime Minister had vowed to do so should the vote go against his proposal.

Globe & Mail, Toronto, Aug. 4, 1995 - The Royal Yacht "Britannia" has been put up for sail. Arguments have raged in Britain over the worth of keeping the 40 year old yacht which costs the government $22 million a year to run. The yacht will not be sold to anyone planning to take it out of British waters when it is decommissioned in 1997.

Among the floating palaces exotic memorabilia is the white ensign that flew from Capt. Robert Scott's sledge during his ill fated Antarctic expedition. The flag was removed in 1912 when Capt. Scott's body was found. A member of that expedition, a Commander Evans, presented the flag to King George V in 1913. (submitted by Peter Edwards)

Houston Chronicle, July 23, 1995 - In a column on the significance of flag-burning, syndicated columnist Mike Royko writes: "If we ranked national problems on a scale of 1 to 10,000 (10,000 being high), flag burning would be about a two. It's a bit more serious than the high cost of beluga caviar or the growing practice of putting ketchup on hot dogs." Among the items Mr. Royko considers more important are mosquito bites, double parking, cat-hair allergies and post-nasal drip. (submitted by Kin Spain)

Philadelphia Inquirer, Sept. 23, 1861 - [yes, that is not a typo], the newspaper's Civil War correspondent reports that upon Upton's hill [probably in Virginia from surrounding text] "a new flag was displayed." "The upper stripe is blue and the lower one white, with a red star or circle in the middle." (submitted by Timothy Lynch)

Houston Chronicle, July 30, 1995 - An exhibit entitled "The Treasures of the Czars", the most significant collection of royal and state treasures ever to leave Russia, will be appearing at the Kansas International Museum in Topeka thru December 31, 1995. Object include decorative art and arms of the Czars like a Fabrage finial made for the coronation of Czar Nicholas II in 1896. (submitted by Kin Spain)

Toronto Star - April 22, 1995 - The mayor of Lansing, Michigan reported on Michigan Militia extremism that he personally faced. In 1993, carrying on a decade old tradition, Mayor David Hollister raised the flag of the United Nations to celebrate United Nations Day. Some 200 members of the Michigan Militia crashed his seemingly innocent celebration. The crashers taunted schoolchildren and police were needed to hold back the demonstrators while Mayor Hollister raised the UN flag. The demonstrators called the mayor an "agent of some foreign government"; declared the ceremony "a Communist conspiracy" and talked of "Russian tanks in northern Michigan. Leaders of the Militia said at the time that the United Nations was a "source of global domination" and "America's sovereignty was being threatened". They also claimed to be the "last vestige of hope for democracy". (submitted by Peter Edwards)

Dallas Morning News, May 25, 1995 - "Picture this - a flame in the shape of Ellis county's (Texas) borders. The county courthouse jutting out from the center flanked by the Texas and United States flags. Above and below are the words 'Ellis County, Established 1845'. Can you guess what it is? It's the new Ellis County flag! Of course the flag will be in red white and blue colors. (submitted by Kin Spain who wishes to state that he thinks it is awful)

The Rotarian - June 1995 - The Rotary Club of Jonesboro, Arkansas, home of Arkansas State University, donated a set of national flags representing the homelands of all students attending the university. The set of flags hangs in the lobby of the university library. The set of flags was initially purchased in 1991, only months prior to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Undaunted the Rotarians quickly updated the display with the new appropriate flags. The club has pledged to keep the collection up to date. (submitted by Mark Sutton)

Newsweek, May 1, 1995 - To show his opposition to the Republican sponsored anti-flag-burning amendment, Arizona biologist Warren Apel has begun an endless flag burning via the Internet. At http://www.indirect.com/user/warren/flag.html, browsers can watch a digital Stars & Stripes go up in flames. Mr. Apel says he would never consider burning an actual flag.

Protestors spawned their own response complete with a fire extinguisher at http://www/pic.net/flameout/oldglory. (submitted by Peter Edwards)

Darwin News, Darwin, NT, Australia - Sept 16, 1995 - Australian billionaire businessman Kerry Packer is believed to have bid A$52,000 at a charity auction in Sydney to purchase an Olympic flag alleged to have been stolen by Australian Olympic swimmer Dawn Frazer from the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. The theft of the flag led to the permanent "ban" of Ms. Frazer from swimming. Mr. Parker's successful bid translates into about US$40,000 or $50,000 Canadian. (submitted by Ron Strachan)

New York Times, Sept. 14, 1995 - Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have come closer to settling there differences. Greece has agreed to lift its blockade of all traffic and goods to Macedonia in exchange for a written statement from Macedonia that its constitutional guarantee of protection to all Macedonians applies solely to citizens within its current borders and those carrying its passports. Macedonia further agreed to remove the 16 pointed "Star of Vergina" from its flag. Not yet resolved is Greece's objection to the use of the name "Macedonia", but this will let Macedonia enter the United Nations under its current name and the two nations will exchange diplomats. (submitted by several readers)

Florida Today - September 3, 1995 - The US flag the went into space in the first Mercury capsule, Alan Shepard's Freedom 7, was taken back into space aboard the shuttle Atlantis to mark the 100th manned spaceflight by the United States. (submitted by Bernard Couture)

The Press Journal, July 15, 1995 - 1994 saw the peak year, 154,224 flags were flown from the special hidden...
flagpole. The reduction was caused partly by budget constraints. (submitted by Bernard Couture)

Globe & Mail, Toronto, Sept. 14, 1995 - Based upon the wording in the question to be put to the Quebec voters on October 30th, the new national emblem for a separate Quebec would be the weasel. This would push aside the current Canadian beaver. (submitted by Peter Edwards)

Shocking Grey (catalogue) - Fall 1995 - Yet another variant of the Gay Pride Rainbow flag has appeared. It is shown in Figure 1.

Sons of the American Revolution Magazine - Summer 1995 - J & T Creations, a company out of Arlington, Texas is offering mailing labels with many different historic United States flags and custom designed flag logos. The flags range from the Revolutionary War thru the Civil War and include several Texan flags. (submitted by Ernest Owen)

Comanche News - July, 1995 - The Comanche Nation has begun issuing automobile license plates for vehicles belonging to tribal members that normally are resident on their tribal lands. These supersede the license plates issued by the State of Oklahoma. In the center of the plate is the seal of the Comanche Nation that appears on their national flag.

flags, the Hall contains a wide assortment of Civil War artifacts and memorabilia including a lock of hair from General Robert E. Lee. One of the flags on exhibit is that of Ware’s Tigers, the First Regiment of Texas Cavalry (see Figure 3) which later merged into a Louisiana unit. (submitted by Ernest Owen)

San Francisco Chronicle - Sept. 1, 1995 - The Doublet USA company won out over 100 competitors for the contract to manufacture 5,000 flags for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games in Atlanta. Doublet’s low bid was somewhere over the $1,000,000 mark. (submitted by Bill Trinkle)

### Around the Publications

Edited by Don Healy

Vexil-la Catalana - April-July 1995 - Continues its dramatically beautiful computer generated documentation of the civic flags of Catalonia. More than twenty municipalities are represented in this set plus the regional flag, the flag of the Catalan Vexillological Association and the standard of St. Ot. This is your editor’s first glimpse of this publication; it sets a standard (no pun intended) for all others to follow. One simple flag described in the set of individual sheets, one per flag, is shown. This column can not do justice to the presentation, but at least we can pass along this sketch and our recommendation. Due to the length of Vexi-Bits this column has been shortened.

Comanche News - August, 1995 - The Comanche Veterans Memorial opened recently. It honors those Comanches that served in the Second World War, Korea and Vietnam. In the center of an arc of memorial stones fly the United States and Comanche national flags (see Figure 2). Behind each stone is a flag pole bearing either the flag of the branch of the armed forces to which the veteran belonged or the POW-MIA flag for those that either were POWs or are MIAs. Each stone bears a bronze plaque with the name and pertinent data about one of the veterans. The memorial is situated in Lawton, Ok, the capital of the Comanche nation.

Army Times - March 6, 1995 - reports on the Civil War flag collection on display in Memorial Hall in New Orleans. In addition to many Confederate
Many thanks to the hosts of NAVA 29, Peter Kinderman, Chair; David Breitenbach (also photographer), John Purell, Glenn Compton, Glenn Nolan, and Terry Amann. In preparation for the opening ceremonies the group marched in, each carrying an appropriate flag. The Riverview Hotel was an excellent choice with convenient meeting rooms, good food, spectacular views from the rooms and from the revolving restaurant on the top floor, and did you notice those flags perched on the balconies of the 16th floor (and visible from inside in the banquet room).

Over 65 members and guests attended from twenty-three U.S. states and one Canadian province. Ten were attending their first NAVA meeting; James Ritchie was one and he liked everything about the meeting.

In addition to the interesting sightseeing tour of Covington and Cincinnati, we had an educational tour of the 126-year-old National Flag Company still occupying their original building in Cincinnati. The work is limited to custom orders of several types. We learned to appreciate even more than we did that there is much detailed work in translating a design on paper into a flag.

The photos show a few of the presenters; and we remember the papers, listed on page two, appreciating all the research and work of each. Peter Orenski’s ‘Flag of New Milford’, the hunt for a city flag design, was a six-month saga. He made the flag contest a picnic of fun and games. Peter was charming and infectious in his presentation and showed many of the wonderful flag examples - good and bad.

The hosts also treated us to two mini tours, one to FLAGS USA that enabled us to pick up a favorite flag or a treasured souvenir, and we were presented with a gift of a 4" x 6" Cincinnati flag. Our second stop was the beautiful Cincinnati Public Library to see Rich Kenny’s exhibition of 55 Ohio city flags - exhibited from three levels of an open center court. Rich had installed this exhibition on October 1 and it ran through October 8. It was the largest collection of Ohio city flags ever assembled.

Remember, copies of the presentations are on file with the Historian and they can be obtained at $.25 per page. The Drive Award paper, Don Healy’s Flags of the Native American Peoples of the United States will be printed as Raven III, which will be distributed to each NAVA member.

Grace Cooper

FLAG OF THE ORKNEY ISLANDS (SCOT.)

submitted by Bill Cogswell

A while ago, I became aware of the existence of a flag for the Orkneys (north of Scotland). Both Janet, my wife, and I are members of the Gunn Clan, and the Gunns sprang from there. I don’t remember where I heard of this flag, possibly in the NAVA News, possibly in The Flag Bulletin. Anyway, I wrote to the Orkney Tourist Board who put me in touch with a supplier, Orcadian Crafts in Kirkwall. When I received the flag, I wondered about its colours, Red and Yellow, and queried the owner of the shop. He sent me a description/discussion of the flag (also called St. Magnus’ flag) a copy of which I have included.

There is a strong case for the adoption as the island flag for Orkney of a red Scandinavian - style cross on a yellow background, as originally proposed by flag experts Kenneth C. Fraser of St. Andrews University and Alan Macartney, Chairman of the National Flag Trust.

The genesis of the flag was the design put forward by Roy Gronneberg for a Shetland Flag, a white Scandinavian - style cross on a blue background. This flag, now in widespread use, unmistakably conveys Shetland’s twin heritage of a Norse background and the fact of belonging to the Scottish realm for over 500 years. The flag designed for Orkney, by taking the colours of the Scottish Royal Standard but translating them into a Scandinavian format, conveys the same symbolism.

It is doubly fortunate that this bold design is not the property of any other territory and that it ties in neatly with other Orkney connections. For a start, the Norwegian coat of Arms (represented in the County and Island Council’s Coat of Arms) is also yellow and red. Next, the only flags in the international flag code composed of red and yellow represents letters in the word ‘Orkney’ (O, R and Y).

So it is not surprising that the Orkney flag design has found favour with a number of Orcadian skippers, who have displayed the flag on their boats. In so doing they were following the example of fishermen in both Shetland and Bornholm, where semi-official recognition of the flag followed popular adoption.

A further point concerns rival designs or objections to the proposed Orkney flag.

a) The proposal to reverse the colours (yellow cross on red) can be ruled out immediately as this is the flag of Scania (Skane) in southern Sweden.

b) One or two suggestions have been made to incorporate blue either as background or as fimbribication, i.e. side-lining of the cross. The problem with the former is that it becomes almost indistinguishable from the Icelandic flag and could be confused with the flag of the Aaland Islands. The problem with the latter is that it is heraldically incorrect and, by introducing a third colour, more complicated and expensive to produce. Moreover it is very similar to a pan-Friesian flag. In any case the idea that islands have to have blue in their flags to symbolize the sea is a fallacy. Most island flags do not contain blue!

c) It has also been objected that the proposed design was in use by the Danish-Norwegian union in the fifteenth century. That medi­eval flag is of course long obsolete and in any case a link with Nor­way and Denmark is far from inappropriate!

SUMMARY. The proposed Orkney flag is unique, impossible to confuse with any other flag, and above all embodies symbolism appropriate for Orkney. Perhaps the flag could be named the St. Magnus Cross.”
The armorial flag of White Rock, British Columbia, was granted on February 16th, 1992 and was presented to the city on Friday, April 10th, 1992. The flag is based on the shield of the coat of arms and consists of the colors of dark blue and white, indicative of the sea and sky. The huge “White Rock” rises above wavy stripes, symbolizing Semiahoo Bay. Depositied on the shore thousands of years ago by the last Ice Age, it has become the city’s oceanside landmark, along with being the community’s namesake. It also has inspired a romantic legend about the native people. The rock is a Salish salmon honouring the riches of the natural landscape and the Semiahoo people, the first inhabitants of the region.

Today, with 16,000 residents, the City of White Rock confirms in its coat of arms its heritage of the vintage railway station, the pier, its beaches, Semiahmoo Bay and, of course, its great “White Rock”.

The supporters are a mermaid and merman and represent both the men and women who have created this community and the spirit of the sea. The mermaid wears a medallion featuring the masks of tragedy and comedy, symbolic of the city’s lively cultural life, and a floral crown, representative of the city’s gardens. The merman wears a medallion with a locomotive wheel, denoting White rock’s transportation history. It was the opening of the railroad by the Great Northern Railway on March 15, 1909 which was the impetus for the population to increase rapidly. The shield and the supporters rest on sea sand featuring two sand castles and a medallion portrait of the city’s famous pier. These symbols honour two of the city’s greatest attributes, the magnificent beach and the pier. Even before 1900 this area was widely known for its safe beaches, clear, warm sea and excellent climate, the same features which draw so many tourists to the city today. The pier is remembered as it was built by the Federal Government on its present site in 1914-15, and it became a major facility for commerce and recreation.

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The coat of arms contains other symbols. The crest is comprised of a mural crown, a traditional heraldic symbol for civic authority. White Rock’s proximity to the international border, which made the city a natural port of entry, is signified by the maple leaves of Canada alternating with the stars of the United States. Above the mural crown rises a golden sun, emblematic of White Rock’s fine climate, its attractions as a resort, and it is an allusion to the demi-sun in the coat of arms of British Columbia.

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The flag is divided by two horizontal stripes of white over dark blue; the white stripe being one-third the width of the hoist and bearing in its center a representation of a Salish salmon in dark blue, outlined in white. In base, in the center of the dark blue strip, is a representation of the landmark “White Rock” in white above two wavy white stripes.

Special thanks to Diane Middler, City Clerk.

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SMITHSONIAN ACQUIRES RARE PRESIDENTIAL STANDARD

The Smithsonian Institution has obtained an early twentieth century flag of the President of the United States from the collection of Nicholas Artimovich. The flag of dark blue silk measures 3 feet by 4½ feet, with the coat of arms of the United States appliqued in silk in the center. A gold fringe surrounds three sides of the flag. It is a rare example of the President’s Standard used by the Navy from the 1890’s to the first World War. (In 1916 Woodrow Wilson abolished the separate flags used by the Army and the Navy in favor of one design for all purposes.)

Artimovich purchased the flag in 1986 from a dealer of American military items. It was labeled as an “unidentified Army field flag” because it did not have a ribbon beneath the coat of arms associating it with a particular regiment. Artimovich recognized the flag as the one illustrated in the U.S. Navy Department’s 1899 book Flags of Maritime Nations as the “President’s Standard,” however. “This is the second Presidential flag I have found on the collector’s market that the Smithsonian has obtained,” says Artimovich. “In the early ’80’s I located a 16-foot long wool flag used on naval vessels when the President was aboard. It was the Wilson-era design, one that was used through World War II.”

“I am pleased that the Smithsonian decided to acquire my flag,” Artimovich continued. “They turn away countless items every year that people want to sell or donate, but the Smithsonian has to be very selective, as storage and display space is extremely limited. I believe this rare and fragile silk flag deserves to be preserved in a professional manner. They have plans to display it in the Museum of American History, near where the First Ladies Gowns are exhibited”.

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Helen Coughtry was attending her first NAVA meeting with her husband David, who made one of the presentations. She said she learned a lot from the talks and enjoyed them very much. In concluding she said, "I'm sorry we missed Portland, Maine. (The Coughtrys are from Altamont, NY, not too far away.) I would encourage members to take advantage of attending meetings when they are held close to Home".

Members do travel all the way across the country to attend meetings. NAVA 30 will be in Sacramento, CA, next year and that will be a very long trip for many of us. But another first time attendee traveled a long distance this year.

Dr. Andrew Biles, Seattle, Washington, joined NAVA in 1994, but he had a conflict that year and was not able to attend the meeting in Portland, Oregon. He did attend NAVA 29 in Covington. When I talked to him it was Sunday morning and he was very disappointed that he was going to miss the lectures on Sunday as his plane reservation was early that day. He had arrived on Thursday. The announcement had listed the dates October 6-8 and the tour was on the 6th. I explained that as Monday was a Holiday, we always had a full meeting day on Sunday. He said, "Its not a Holiday in Seattle". But he did say he would have planned to return on Monday if he had known. I agreed with him that it would be a good idea to include the agenda on the meeting announcement. Then all our "first timers" would know. Andrew said he was enjoying the lectures and hated to miss the Sunday ones.

Grace Cooper

Dear Grace:

Diane and I very much enjoyed the NAVA meeting earlier this month. The Cincinnati/Covington area is a great place for a meeting. We are looking forward to the meeting in Sacramento next year.

We came to the meeting because I wanted to follow up on an opportunity to learn about flag history form experts. My interest began in my teens as a member of the "Give 'em Watts" chapter of the CAR in Springfield, New Jersey. After a forty year hiatus, Randy Beard, Cincinnati/Covington chapter to the meeting in Sacramento next year.

Sunday ones.

We didn't know just what to expect, vexillology sounding like some strange dialect. What we found, were friendly folk, sincere people, (we could tell when they spoke).

Flags are the passion that draws them together and gathers them yearly despite the weather. The people we met were quite diverse, most knew their flag stuff chapter and verse. Some like us just come for knowledge and fun for this we thank you all, every one.

Best regards. Sincerely, Ed & Diane Davenport
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EDITOR’S NOTES

As stated in the March/April 1995 Notes, the Sept/Oct Issue was scheduled to be my last one. I was convinced by the President to do this Nov/Dec Issue to help the Executive Board and the new NAVA News appointees in the transition.

Beginning with this reading, please send all manuscripts to James Croft, Editor, address given in lower left hand corner; news clippings should be mailed to David Pawson, Vexi-Bits editor, address below.

The last of the NAVA 29 items was received on Oct. 30. The completed Nov/Dec copy was delivered to the printer on Oct. 30. After it is typeset, proofed, and printed, it is anticipated that the Issue will be ready for mailing by Nov. 20, 1995.

The deadline for the Jan/Feb NAVA News is December 1. Please send material to James Croft, Editor, and David Pawson as indicated. And Best Wishes to them.

... Grace Cooper

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