On Sunday, August 10th, 1997, the XVII International Congress of Vexillology began with the registration of the participants and their guests. The site of the Congress was the BMW Pavilion at the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront, a complex of restaurants and shops developed from a Cape Town historic waterfront. Held under the patronage of President Nelson Mandela, there were a total of 81 participants from 18 countries that gathered here to enjoy a week of vexillological fellowship and scholarship. Although the day began with overcast skies and beautiful Table Mountain was veiled at the top in clouds, soon the skies cleared as did the mountain. For the remainder of the week there was bright South African sunshine with cool evenings - just delightful weather for the Congress.

At the registration inside the BMW Pavilion, flags of all the nations of the participants were hung in an impressive display. There were several tables setup from various vexillological associations selling items. Our treasurer, Peter Orenski, did a tremendous job organizing and overseeing the NAVA table. He promoted NAVA by handing out applications and selling the Native American flag chart (Thank you Peter for doing this for NAVA!). The remainder of the afternoon was devoted to socializing, as vexillologists greeted each other for the first time or caught up with news with old friends.

At 5:00 PM the registrants were bussed to the Cape Town Civic Centre for a civic reception by Her Worship the Mayor, Alderman Theresa Solomon, on behalf of the City of Cape Town. Unfortunately the mayor was unable to attend this function as she was in Athens, Greece dealing with Cape Town’s Olympic bid. Instead, Alderman Arthur Jacobs, Acting Mayor, received the participants. A buffet followed with the emphasis on South African cuisine and Cape wines. The evening concluded with Mr. Jacobs addressing the group and welcoming everyone to the “Mother City.” Frederick Brownell, South African State Herald, also thanked all the vexillologists for coming to the Congress and wished their stay in South Africa to be an enjoyable one. He concluded by thanking the members of the Southern African Vexillological Association for all their hardwork in making this congress become a reality (SAVA is to congratulated for all the work done in making this congress successful, especially since this organization was founded just seven years ago!).

The next day was the official opening of the Congress. The South African Navy Band played the South African national anthem and the South African, Cape Town, F.I.A.V., SAVA, and the XVII IGV flags were hoisted at the flag raising ceremony. Several addresses followed by Mr. Theo Stylianides, Chairman of SAVA; Mr. L.P. MH Mtshali, Minister of Arts, Culture, Science and Technology; and Dr. Emil Dreyer, Secretary-General of F.I.A.V. The last speech was delivered in place of the presidential address, as for the first time in F.I.A.V.’s history the sitting president died while in office. Dr. Whitney Smith next gave an eulogy to F.I.A.V.’s past president, Dr. William Crampton (this eulogy was published in the (continued on page 3)

PHOTOS:

1 View of Devil’s Peak and Table Mountain from the Victoria and Alfred Waterfront area, site of the XVII I.C.S.V. This landmark appears on the XVII I.C.V. flag, Cape Town’s civic flag, and the Cape Metropolitan flag.

2 Mr. Fred Brownell, South African State Herald; Ms. Helen Curzon-Siggers and Mr. Russel Kennedy of Australia; and Mr. Rolf Hinterberger of Switzerland; hold a proposed flag for Australia. The flag is red at the hoist with a black fly containing golden stars.

3 Mr. Fred Brownell, South African State Herald (left) and Mr. Mike Clingman, Director of the National Flag company of South Africa (right), stand by the first prototype of the new flag of South Africa. This flag was manufactured by National Flag and Mr. Brownell was instrumental in the development of the final design. The flag was part of the exhibit on the process of adopting a new South African flag at the State Archives in Cape Town.

4 Left to right: Bruce Berry of South Africa; Peter Orenski of the United States; Emil Dreyer of Switzerland; and Whitney Smith of the United States; take a moment to pose inside the courtyard at the Castle of Good Hope.

5 Vexillological congresses are not all lectures and tours—much of it is fellowship as demonstrated at this “watering hole” on the Waterfront. Left to right, front to back: Ralph Kelly of Australia, Emil Dreyer of Switzerland, Jim Croft of the United States, Fred Brownell of South Africa, Ralph Bartlett of Australia, and Michel Lupant of Belgium.

6 left to right: Michel Lupant of Belgium, the new F.I.A.V. President; Ales Brozek of the Czech Republic, winner of the prestigous Vexillon Award; and Emil Dreyer of Switzerland, the outgoing Secretary-General of F.I.A.V.

7 Ralph Bartlett of Australia, F.I.A.V. Congress Secretary-General, presents Kevin Harrington of the Canadian Flag Association/Association Canadienne de Vexilologie, which is the host association for the XVIII I.C.V. in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, (and NAVA member), with the F.I.A.V. flag and gavel for the next congress. In the foreground is Theo Stylianides, Chairman of the Southern African Vexillological Association, and his wife, Eleanor Stylianides.

8 F.I.A.V. President, Mr. Michel Lupant of Belgium, with Kevin Harrington of Canada, pose in front of the Canadian flag, as Canada is the host nation for the XVIII International Congress of Vexilology.

XVII INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS, (continued from page 1)

last issue of NAVA NEWS on the front page). A minute of silence followed the eulogy in his memory.

Speeches were given on various topics of vexillology throughout the week, with a full day outing on Wednesday. On this day the participants began their tour at the Castle of Good Hope, the oldest surviving building in South Africa. It was built between 1666 and 1659 and today it houses the regional headquarters of the South African Army in the Western Cape, the William Fehr collection of art, and a military museum. There was a tour of the grounds and the group was able to see the parading of a regimental unit. Of particular interest to vexillologists were the six South African historical flags that flew from the western bastion wall commemorating the era of history of the Castle.

After visiting the castle, the next stop was the National Archives of South Africa in the Cape Town Archives Repository. An “Exhibition of Flag Designs and Prototypes Which Led to the South African National Flag” was displayed there. This display showed the process for a new national flag for South Africa. By the time the Commission on National Symbols began the evaluation process, more than 7,000 designs were received from the public. Later some graphic design studios submitted proposals. The exhibit showed some of these designs along with the steps of the process to the final design. The first prototype of the new South African flag was on display and Frederick Brownell, South African State Herald, who was instrumental in designing this flag, answered questions about the process.

After lunch at a wine estate in Paarl, it was off to Franschhoek and a visit to the Huguenot Monument. Erected in 1948 to commemorate the immigration of the Huguenots, who were French Protestant refugees, to the Cape in the late 17th century. Nearby were museums describing the history and life of the Huguenots in the Cape, along with articles, such as furniture, that they had in their homes. The buses than proceeded to Stellenbosch. This town was founded by Governor Simon Van der Stel in 1679 and is the second oldest town in South Africa. It is lined with beautiful oak trees and many fine stately homes can be found here with their distinctly Cape Dutch gable fronts. This South African architectural design is so distinctive it has worked itself into the designs of some South African coats of arms. The buses then returned to the waterfront area.

From Monday through Thursday, in the evenings, F.I.A.V. conducted business sessions. The following were elected: Mr. Michel Lupant - President; Mr. Charles Spain Jr. - Secretary General; and Mr. Bruce Berry - Congress Secretary General. Vexillological associations and institutions voted in as full members of F.I.A.V. were: Heraldry and Vexillological Society of Malta; Deutsche Gesellschaft fUr Flaggenkunde (German association); Societé Bretonne de Vexilologie (Brittany association); and Burgee Data Archives (NAVA member Peter Edward’s institute in Toronto, Canada). Mauritius Buch Verlag, a German publishing house, was admitted as an associate member. The delegates voted for Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, as the site for the XVIII International Congress of Vexilology in 1999. This site was the only proposal received.

Friday arrives and at noon Piper Duncan Macmillan of the Caledonian Society plays his bagpipe as the flags are lowered at the closing ceremony. On Friday evening the participants were bussed to the closing banquet at the Kelvin Grove Club. There final speeches were made, as Mr. Michel Lupant, the new F.I.A.V. President, praised SAVA and the excellent work they did in preparing for this successful congress. Mr. Aleš Brožek of the Czech Republic received the Vexillon Award from the Flag Society of Australia for outstanding work in vexilology. Aleš well deserves this award for the hard work he has done in recording bibliographical data on vexillological publications. Finally, Ralph Bartlett, Congress Secretary-General, presented Kevin Harrington of the Canadian Flag Association/Association Canadienne de Vexilologie, and NAVA member, with the F.I.A.V. flag and gavel, as the CFA will host the XVIII International Congress of Vexilology in Victoria, BC in 1999. With that the banquet closed, as did a very successful Congress.
The flag of the XVII International Congress of Vexillology contains a blue field with a yellow central horizontal stripe in the form of a stylized representation of Table Mountain. This mountain rises above Cape Town and is the most prominent geographical landmark on the Cape Peninsula. The five stars conjoined in a cross, the three blue ones on the yellow stripe and two white ones, are derived from the Southern African Vexillological Association (SAVA) flag. This symbol of the Southern Cross constellation represents the host association and the fact that the XVII ICV was taking place in the southern hemisphere. The color of the Congress flag are derived from both the FIAV and the SAVA flags. It was designed by Frederick Brownell, South African State Herald. (Proportions: 2:3).

The flag of the Southern African Vexillological Association is blue with a white chevron and five white 4-pointed stars, a reference to the Southern Cross symbolizing southern Africa. The chevron surmounts an inverted chevron of yellow, which refers to vexillology. (Proportions: 2:3) (Source: The Flag Bulletin, No. 139, pg. 39.)

The new flag of Cape Town was unveiled on 1 July 1997 at a special meeting of the City Council. The flag is based on a logo which is used on civic stationery, vehicles, buildings, and other municipal property. The design was based on ideas submitted by artists, with a design studio developing the final image. A prize of Rand 1,000 (about U.S. $220.00) was offered in this competition for the winning design. The winner of the contest was the artist whose design was considered closest to the final product (the name of the artist was not given at the time of this publication).

This flag, which could be seen flying at the Cape Town Civic Centre and at the BMW Pavilion, site of the XVII ICV., incorporated in its design a white depiction of Cape Town’s famous geographical landmark Table Mountain. The mountain is placed against a blue and green field. The blue, which occupies two thirds of the upper section of the fly from the hoist to the fly, signifies the unpolluted sky. The green section in the upper fly was not given in the symbolic explanation. At the bottom of the flag is a red stripe representing the “vibrant city lying in the shadow of the mountain.” The dash of a yellow line symbolizes the cosmopolitan nature of Cape Town’s population. (Proportions: 2:3) (Source: City of Cape Town bulletin Vol. 19, no. 7, July 1997).

The Cape Metropolitan authority administers an area consisting of six civic authorities: City of Cape Town, City of Tygerberg, South Peninsula municipality, Blaauwberg municipality, Helderberg municipality, and Oostenberg municipality. This authority has recently adopted a flag, although at this time the official symbolism has yet to be received. However, the famous Table Mountain is shown on a white field, an obvious reference to “The Cape.” The colors which form the central image from top to bottom are dark green, light green, white with purple lines, purple and green. Developed by a design studio, it is evident that this flag can only be manufactured through screening as the colors flow into each other. (Proportions: 2:3) (Special thanks to Bruce Berry of SAVA for this data).

In January 1994 the National Olympic Committee of South Africa (NOCSA) awarded the South African bid to the City of Cape Town as the site for the summer Olympic games in 2004. Cape Town’s original Olympic logo was a ribbon in the Olympic colors and a stylized Table Mountain being crossed by an athlete in blue. After Cape Town was chosen as the city to represent South Africa in the Olympic site bidding the logo was changed and unveiled on 18 August 1995.
The new logo has a map of the African continent with Cape Town's geographical position highlighted with a red disc. This symbol represents the flame of the Olympic torch and signifies the spirit of the games. It also symbolizes the African continent. The colors are those of the Olympic colors and those found in the new national flag of South Africa. The red disc at the bottom of the logo not only represents Cape Town's position but also that of South Africa. It is also emblematic of the South African sun (a sun symbol appears on the tail fins, along with the colors of the new South African flag, on the airplanes of South African Airways, and travel literature refers to "Sunny South Africa"). The whole design also reflects African art and the camouflage of a zebra skin. In addition, the logo gives the image of the freedom of the Olympic movement and the cosmopolitan vitality of the "Rainbow Nation," as South Africa has become known.

A flag has been developed with this logo as the main symbol. It has a white field with the logo in the center and beneath the logo on three separate lines in black block letters is: "CAPE TOWN; 2004; CANDIDATE CITY." Below the lettering are the five Olympic rings in their respective colors. This flag, during the time of the XVII I.C.V., could be seen flying from hotels and various other buildings throughout the city, even from the top of a hotel under construction. At Cape Town’s international airport, many of these flags were in vertical form flown from poles (that is a long hoist and short fly). On September 5th, 1997, the International Olympic Committee chose Athens, Greece as the site for the 2004 summer Olympic games.

(Source: SAVA Newsletter 13/95)

(Note: The Olympics have never been held on the African continent).

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**VEXI-BITS**

*Edited by John H. Gámez*

*London Times,* June 7, 1997. Dr. William Crampton was eulogized following his death. The three column obituary touched on the major points of his life and emphasized his work in vexilology. The article included a photo of Dr. Crampton at NAVA 26 in San Antonio. (Submitted by Charles A. Spain.)

*Spokane Spokesman-Review,* Albany, NY, June 25, 1997. Prison guard Edward Kuhnel was suspended from duty because he flies a Nazi flag outside his home. He was later reinstated because he could not legally be fired for his political beliefs even though they "represent the most despicable tendencies of mankind" according to a state arbiter. (Submitted by James M. White.)

*Houston Chronicle,* June 13, 1997. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a proposed constitutional amendment outlawing flag burning by a margin of 310-114. Proponents of the amendment say that flag burning is tantamount to a hate crime. Opponents scoff at the notion. Rep. Jack Ackerman, D-NY said, "...if a jerk burns a flag, America is not under siege...and we are not threatened." (Submitted by Charles A. Spain)

*The Miami Herald,* June 15, 1997. Editor Jim Hampton commented that the U.S. House passed the flag burning amendment because they are "Unable to deal with the serious issues facing this country..." He goes on to say that because flag desecration is legal it is rare. Therefore making it illegal will make it the crime of choice for those who wish to draw attention to themselves. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.)

*The New York Times,* June 16, 1997. An editorial comment by Horace Feeland Judson is directed at the meaninglessness of the proposed constitutional amendment against flag burning. Citing examples such as cancelled flag stamps and burned paintings of flags he illustrates the vagueness of the proposed amendment. He closes by stating that the amendment is not a defence for the flag but rather "...an attack on freedom of political argument." (Submitted by Ana K. Weisz.)

*The New York Times,* June 17, 1997. Three additional letters to the editor were published concerning the flag burning amendment. Each one commented specifically on the editorial written by Mr. Judson. Two letters supported his views. The other letter took the opposing view. Concerning the American freedom to burn the flag, Timothy P. O’Niel asked, "Cannot a free people waive this one useless freedom to honor all those who have waived the basic freedoms of life in the service of our country?" (Submitted by Ana K. Weisz)

*Houston Chronicle,* March 27, 1997. An editorial commentary aimed at the proposed flag burning amendment concludes that a "...flag burning amendment to the Constitution would cause more harm to the republic than the evil it purports to combat." (Submitted by Charles A. Spain)

*The Scottish Rite Journal,* July 1997. An article written by W. Gene Sizemore, Rear Admiral, USN, (Ret.), states that the proposed flag burning amendment "is a case where personal rights must be tempered for the common good of society." He feels that the Founding Fathers defined "free speech" as "...words as a vehicle for reasoned discourse. Flag burnings and other violent acts do not contribute to reasoned discussion." (Vexi-Bits Ed.)

(continued on page 6)

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New York Daily News, July 3, 1997. Columnists Cokie Roberts and Steven V. Roberts spoke against the flag burning amendment. They describe it as just another Republican scare tactic aimed at getting the public not to vote Democratic. According to Roberts and Roberts, "The only sacred American icon that's smoldering these days is the Constitution. And the folks lighting the matches are the authors of the flag burning amendment." (Submitted by Ana K. Weisz.)

San Antonio Express-News, July 3, 1997. Columnist David Broder announces the inauguration of Citizens for the Constitution. This nonpartisan organization is dedicated to educating the public on what it calls "unrestrained attempts to amend the Constitution." It's charter points out that "constitutional amendment proposals have become the favored first step panacea for all societal ills, rather than a solution of last resort." In addition to the flag burning amendment, over 100 proposed amendments have been introduced in this Congress so far. (Vexi-Bits Ed.)

San Antonio Express-News, June 11, 1997. According to the Citizens Flag Alliance, 81% of all Americans would support a constitutional amendment to prohibit flag burning. They claim that the "...vast majority (of Americans) rejected the idea that such an amendment would somehow curtail freedom of speech." (Vexi-Bits Ed.)

San Antonio Express-News, August 20, 1995. Local columnist T.R. Fehrenbach once defined the word "flag" as "A symbol that inexplicably drives weirdos to acts of desecration." (Vexi-Bits Ed.)

Nava Member DISCOVERS ANCESTOR’S FLAG

While visiting The Bennett Place State Historic Site outside of Durham, North Carolina, Michael Malpass discovered his great-great grandfather’s (Sergeant Hanson Malpass) regimental battle flag displayed at the visitor’s center. Being a flag enthusiast, he has been looking for this flag for several years. The Bennett farm was the site of the surrender of the Army of Tennessee by General Joseph Johnson to General William T. Sherman 17 days after Appomattox. The battle flag belonged to the 51st North Carolina Infantry and was never surrendered. It was later donated to the state after the turn of the century. The flag is an Army of Northern Virginia pattern, fourth bunting issue with painted battle honors including Battery Wagner and Cold Harbor.

The Miami Herald, March 23, 1997. Citizens in Appleton, WI are demanding the recall of a judge who dismissed felony charges against a teenager who defaced on the flag. Outagamie County Judge John Des Jardins ruled that Wisconsin’s 1919 flag desecration law was unconstitutional. Despite the ruling, locals have turned against the youth. He says, “all the people hate me now." (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture)

Florida Today, Melbourne, FL, May 28, 1997. A group of teenagers are believed to have burned the flag flown at the home of war veteran Bob Gagnon. Gagnon had been speaking to the teens earlier. They jeered him when he asked why they weren’t flying flags in front of their homes just before Memorial Day. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture)

San Antonio Express-News, June 11, 1997. Many Palestinians were angered by the recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. They responded by burning U.S. and Israeli flags. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture)

Florida Today, June 15, 1997. Many Palestinians were angered by the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. They responded by burning U.S. and Israeli flags. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture)

Houston Chronicle, April 28, 1997. Former Presidents Carter and Bush were seen in Philadelphia at the Presidents’ Volunteer Summit wearing T-shirts bearing the event’s flag inspired logo (Fig. 2). (Vexi-Bits Ed.)
**VEXILLIANA**

NAVA looks at the World's Vexillological
Newsletters and Journals

by Kevin Harrington

Australia

_Crus Australis_ has produced its 46th number, successfully balding a scheduling backlog. It has a new textured cover and two key essays on Australia’s’s flags and symbols. A. C. Burlon and astronomer John Oevin provide a beautiful account of the Southern Cross, ‘the premier symbol of the southern hemisphere’, quoting Dante to the effect that we in the north are “widowed,, deprived forever of the vision of their light’.

Ralph Kelly is responsible for the attractive color plate ‘Flags of Australian Loyalty’ and a reproduction of the Bowman flag. Natalie Young deals with the development of a sense of identity through flags in Australia, and touches on little known events such as the Red Flag Riots of 1919 and the Lambing Flat goldfields riots which produced an anti-Chinese banner. Two magical Aboriginal accounts of the Southern Cross also appear in this issue.

Brittany

The Breton Society of Vexillology (Kevarzhe Vannielouniezh Breizh) admitted to FIAV in August has registered a 7.7 if vexillological publishing has a Richter Scale! Its summer issue _Ar Banniel_ (basically in French, with a little of the Celtic tongue Breton) has 37 pages, lots of pictures, with a colour plate of the flags of the city of Quimper (Fig. 1). And, judging from the number of reprints from local newspapers, flags are a popular item in Brittany. Ordinary membership at 150 Francs, send to A. Rault, KVV, BP 4427, 22044 Sant-Breig Cedex 2, France.

**FIG 1: THE COMMUNAL FLAG OF QUIMPER**

(N/W AND Y/W/B)

**Czech Republic**

_Vexi Info_ 32, published by the Flag Data Centre, is a special issue (July-August 1997) for the XVII Congress in Cape Town. In it short biographies are given in English for 13 Czech vexillologists, including two septuagenarians, heraldist Jiri Louda and geographer-vexillologist Ludvik Mucha.

Canada

The fall issue of the Canadian Flag Association’s journal _Flagscan_ covers the XVII Congress In Cape Town, flag news from the Comoros, Kazakhstan (Fig. 2), Montserrat, Nunavut; and a flag proposed for Canada back in 1942. Its lively letters section discusses the standard of the late Diana, Princess of Wales; old military ensigns, and Quebec’s flag flying protocol. It gives short reviews of the 37 flag and heraldic publications.

The June issue of _Heraldry in Canada_ shows the arms and flag of the late Hans Dietrich Birk. The great heraldic artist and scholar died this year at his home in Scarborough, ON. There is an article on the arms of Lech Walesa, former president of Poland, with notes on the emblem of Danzig. ‘New heraldry for Notre Dame’ by D. Boulton, discusses the development of heraldic symbols suitable for use by universities in the U.S.A.

**FIG 2: THE NAVAL ENSIGN OF KAZAKHSTAN**

(R/B/-/W AND Y/B)

**Italy**

_VexillaItaliana_ celebrates the bicentenary of the Italian tricolor (vol. XXIV, 1, 1997) with an article by the distinguished Italian vexillologist and CISV director Aldo Ziggio is on the development of the tricolor from the Transpadanian and Cispadane Republics, the Lombard League, to the Cisalpine and later Italian republic. Signor Ziggio also provides an overview of the flags of historic states within the Italian peninsula, for which Mario Fabretto has generated by computer a most attractive colour plate (24 flags). The editor of V.I. is Alessandro Martinelli whose e-mail is al martinelli@agora.stm.it

**Latin America**

Jorge Daniel Bacci and Luis Washington Q, inaugurated in 1996 a new organization Asociacion Latinoamericana de Vexilologia & Heraldica. Its first publication _Banderas y Escudos de America Latina_ is a monograph on the symbols of the state of Solis (today’s Uruguay). The address of the new group is ALVH, General Soler no. 2565, 5800 Rio Cuarto, Cordoba, Argentina. We regret not seeing the directors at the 17th ICV as they had hoped to attend and introduce their new society to other vexillologists.

The 20th number of _Estandarte_, the bulletin of the Argentine Association of Vexillology, provides a history of the Radical Party, Union Civica Radical, its flag, a white over red bicolor. 7.5:18, and its emblem.

**VEXI-BITS, (continued from page 6)**

_Vero Beach Press Journal_, May 26 1997. Israel was abuzz with talk after a photo of an Ultra Orthodox Jew burning an Israeli flag was published on the front page of the Maariv newspaper. The act, which is illegal in Israel, was condemned by Prime Minister Benjamin Netan- yahu. No reason was given for the act. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture.)

_Florida Today_, June 12, 1997. At Camp Humphries, South Korea, the 43rd. Mobile Army Surgical Hospital furled its flag for the last time. The unit was deactivated to make room for a new Forward Surgical Team. Ceremonies for the 43rd received national attention because this unit was the inspiration for the mythical "4077'th" of the hit novel, movie, and long running television series _M*A*S*H_. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture.)
"NOT ONE STRIPE ERASED"

by Richard R. Gideon

Vexillologists and Civil War buffs alike will be interested in a “find” at the Greene County Historical Society in Waynesburg, Pennsylvania. A late or post Civil War era flag has been found, wrapped in old newspaper, in the museum. The flag is approximately 5 1/2 feet wide by 11 feet long, with a canton of 38 inches by 36 inches, vertically polarized. The 36 stars are arranged as follows: an oval of 23, with three stars in each corner, and one large star in the middle of the canton. Around the middle star is a donut circle with the inscription “NOT ONE STRIPE ERASED, NOT ONE STAR DIMMED!” Ironically, the bottom red stripe is missing.

The flag is made of wool bunting, tight weave, and, considering the environmental conditions it had to resist, has withstood the test of time quite well. The red dye on the stripes has decayed in some areas (but still retains a characteristic 19th century hue), the white has yellowed, and the canton retains a deep blue, although somewhat lighter than Navy. There are a few holes in the material, and some rips, but the patriotic slogan is easy to read, and it appears on the obverse side only. The stars on the reverse side are individually cut and appliqued, as are the stars on the front. Sewing lines from the reverse side may be seen around the obverse stars owing to less than perfect alignment. (A similar star arrangement may be found in the catalogues of Evans & Hasseall, but this flag’s detail work would not measure up to Evans & Hasseall’s standards.) The canton was pieced together out of separate pieces of blue fabric (somewhat irregularly), although it would appear the pieces came from the same bolt of material. A rope passes through the header as an attachment.

Because of the size of the flag, the number of stars, and its construction, it is unlikely that this was a military flag — although at this point anything is possible. The 36 stars indicate either a late Civil War production or a post war flag; made somewhere between 31 October 1864 and 1 March 1867. Those dates represent the admission of Nevada and Nebraska, respectively, into the union, with Nebraska making the 37th state. Since the flag officially changes on the 4th of July following admission, the Greene County flag could have been made almost anytime before 4 July 1867. Due to the patriotic phrase adorning the flag’s union I vote for the 1865 date.

Then there is the matter of the donut with the printed patriotic slogan, and the more intriguing question of what happened to the bottom stripe. Research on all of these questions continues, and anyone with information about this flag, or flags with a similar slogan, is urged to call or write to the parties listed at the end of this article.

The Greene County Historical Society is one of the largest county museums in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and its collection includes priceless papers dating from the American Revolution, textiles from the 1700’s, a narrow gauge steam locomotive, and a very interesting flag. Initial conservation steps have been taken, but the museum needs to obtain the proper storage and display units so that this flag may continue to intrigue generations to come. Your tax-deductible contributions, payable to the Greene County Historical Society, would be greatly appreciated. For more information call Brenda Giles, Administrator, at 1-412-627-3204, or write the Greene County Historical Society, P.O. Box 127, Waynesburg, PA 15370 USA. You may also wish to visit their website at www.greenepa.net/~museum/. In addition, Richard R. Gideon Flags is providing free information about this flag project as it becomes available. Just contact RRGFLAGS@AOL.COM.
BOOK REVIEW
Rev. David N. Bechnann


This lovely booklet, though brief, ably summarizes the history of the South Carolina state flag. The book is well supplemented with helpful illustrations.

Ms. Wates traces the use of the two symbols of the flag, the crescent and the palmetto tree, from Fort Moultrie up to the time when the basic design of the flag was officially adopted as the State flag (28 January, 1861). Details of the legislative debates are included.

She introduces the reader to an intriguing theme that followed the adoption of the State flag, viz. the positioning of the crescent. She demonstrates from written sources, engravings, and a photograph taken in 1911, that the original design and intent was for the crescent to face upward, its points horizontally equidistant from the top of the flag (Fig. 1). Such would have been the positioning on Moultrie’s flag. The crescent pins worn on the hats of the South Carolina troops were the inspiration for the use of the symbol and they were thus positioned.

We know, of course, that variants existed. For example, John Crute, in his Emblems of Southern Valor (Louisville: Harmony House, 1990, p. 50) illustrates a State flag presented to the 1st South Carolina Regiment Rifles on 19 July, 1861, which has the crescent angled so as to face toward the top of the flag hoist (the same position as the present day State flag). Ms. Wates acknowledges that there was a lack of specificity in the minds of the flag makers which led to difficulties. She also relates that after the war, toward the end of the century, there was debate, not on the positioning of the crescent, but of the colour of the field as well, after a bill was introduced in the State Legislature in 1899 which proposed to change the colour to purple.

Ms. Wates does not fail to mention the various other designs that were invented during the early days of the independent nation of South Carolina, but sadly she does not go into much detail regarding them. She briefly mentions one flag with a palmetto tree, surrounded by a serpent, and she gives a few details regarding the swallowtail “Se­cession Flag” that was eventually flown over the U.S. Customs House in Charleston on 21 December, 1860, and subsequently by the C.S.S. Dixie. She gives no description of any other such flags save for one which was called The Sovereignty Flag of South Carolina” (Fig.2). She spends some time on this one, relating the incident of its having been hoisted over the Alumni Hall at Yale University on 20 January, 1861, and providing two contemporary illustrations. The book would have been richer had it included more detail regarding the various other “Palmetto flags” of the period. For this information, we must refer elsewhere, such as to Dr. Madaus’ Rebel Flags Afloat (Winchester: The Flag Research Center, 1986).

My biggest problem with the book is Ms. Wates’ conclusion regarding the flag that was used by the Citadel cadets at Morris Island at the time of the bombardment of Ft. Sumter. Traditionally, it is believed that the flag was the same as the adopted State flag, save that it had a red field. It is currently called by South Carolinians “Big Red,” and may occasionally be seen displayed there, especially at the Citadel. It was thus another of the many “palmetto” flags of the time; a banner with a dominating palmetto tree displayed upon it. On page 5 of her book, Ms. Wates gives the description of the Morris Island flag by Lt. Charles R. Woods, attached to the troops being ferried to Ft. Sumter by the Star of the West. She quotes him as saying, “Before we were fired upon we had discovered a red palmetto flag flying, but could see nothing to indicate that there was a battery there.” Ms. Wates says that Lt. Woods “probably" saw the “Sovereignty Flag." It seems that the only argument she makes for her conclusion is a quote from a local account of the raising of the “Sovereignty Flag” at Yale, where it is termed as a "genuine Palmetto flag."

I believe this is insufficient. Firstly, it is doubtful that the northern journalist really had that much of a reference point for terming the flag a “Palmetto” flag. The proliferation of true “genuine Palmetto” flags in South Carolina, as I have described them, would surely prohibit someone who had seen them from calling the Sovereignty Flag” a “Palmetto flag," for the palmetto tree is only a minor part of the “Sovereignty Flag” design. Perhaps the northern journalist had heard that South Carolina flew a “Palmetto flag” and assumed that this was it.

More importantly, however, is the plain fact that the “Sovereignty Flag” is a St. George’s cross flag. This is obviously the first impression the flag gives, and would especially give at a distance; such as that distance between Morris Island and the Star of the West. The flag being designed after the St. George’s cross pattern, differs so much from the typical South Carolinian flag of the time as to be termed “peculiar.” The Morris Island flag was described as a “red palmetto flag,” and that surely is no summary description of such a flag as the “Sovereignty Flag.”

The latter part of the book goes into detail regarding how the present day appearance of the flag was decided upon after the 1910 Act to Provide for the Display of the State Flag over Public Buildings was passed and Clemson College was instructed to manufacture the flags. Clemson manufactured the flags, with a brief hiatus, until the commercial manufacturers took on the effort.

The booklet includes a glossary of terms and the endnotes supply additional information and helpful bibliographic data. It may be obtained from the South Carolina Museum, Columbia, South Carolina.
FROM THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

We have welcomed a large number of new members this year. All of you deserve thanks for your recruiting efforts—especially Andy Biles and Harry Oswald.

All you new members should plan to come to the convention in Chicago. As you talk flags, listen to presentations, spend time at the display and sales tables, you’ll get a better feel for NAVA. Come—meet and socialize with vexillologists famous and obscure. If you’re a flagnut, or just flag-curious, come meet others like yourself.

Jack Lowe, Chairman of Membership Committee

A NEW FLAG BOOK

In an effort to raise funds to preserve Georgia’s Civil War era flag collection, The Georgia State Museum of Science and Industry has released a “catalog” of its flag holdings. Confederate Flags In The Georgia State Capitol Collection is a 73 page soft cover book filled with color photographs of over 50 flags of that period. While most of the flags are regimental battle flags of the Army of the Northern Virginia pattern there are also diverse examples of the 1st National Confederate flag, 2nd National Confederate flag, and various post-war banners as well. There is even a United States “Reconstruction” flag. A brief summary and background information is given for each flag and regiment with a chart giving the flag’s physical dimensions. For the more serious student of Confederate flags this book could be very helpful in identifying the various sub-patterns of the Richmond Depot issued battle flags. This book can be purchased from Dorothy Olson, Director, Georgia State Museum of Science and Industry, 431 State Capitol, Atlanta, GA 30334. The cost is $23.00 postage paid.

NATIVE AMERICAN FLAGS CARD DECK

Now available the first-ever cards (4.75" x 2.5") of Native flags for traders and collectors. Flags are shown in full color on one side, with brief history, symbolism, and chart in B/W on reverse. Price: $25 for the set of 30 cards + $2.50 mailing (domestic) or $4.50 foreign air mail. Please make checks payable to “Indian Center Museum” and mail to: TME Co., Inc., 101 Bel Air Drive, New Milford, CT 06776. All moneys go to the Museum for producing new flag cards.

NAV’S WEBSITE

NAVA’s new website is online at: http://www.nava.org Comments and suggestions can be sent to Ms. Annie Platoff at: aplatoff@aol.com

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