The Name, Colours and Symbols of Québec
by Kevin Harrington
President, Canadian Flag Association / l'Association canadienne de vexillologie

I. The Elements of the Flag

The Cross

The cross was used on banners and surcoats in the Crusades. The white cross was found on the regimental flags in use by various army units in New France. A flag with a white cross on a blue field also flew over the habitation established by Champlain and is sometimes attributed to him, but actually corresponds to the flag worn by French merchant vessels during the 17th century.

The colour White

The use of white on banners dates to the times of Joan of Arc and the house of Orleans. A flag composed entirely of a white field was often used in conjunction with blue flags bearing fleurs-de-lis. White had been considered the Bourbon dynastic colour as well and predominated as a French colour until 1794.

The colour Blue

Blue was the colour of the revered cloak of St. Martin. A blue flag strewn with fleurs-de-lis became the war flag of France. The number of fleurs-de-lis was set as three early in the 12th century. Blue is the colour attributed to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Blue and white—the symbol of purity—are especially her colours.

The Fleur-de-lis

Literally, the 'flower of the lily,' the origin of the fleur-de-lis as a heraldic emblem is lost in legend. The lily, the iris growing along the Lys River, the toad, and the tip of the pike (the weapon), are all possible sources of this device. The use of fleur-de-lis (and heraldry itself) was abolished during the French Revolution and, in fact, the fleur-de-lis has never reappeared as a national emblem of France—not even on a postage stamp! The lily as a symbol of purity is again an emblem associated with Mary.

II. Some Flags that Preceded the 1948 Flag

The Carillon Banner

This flag, 'found' in 1889, was allegedly the one carried by French troops that defended Fort Carillon (Ticonderoga) against British assaults in 1758. On one side of this white or blue cloth are golden fleurs-de-lis and a representation of the Blessed Virgin. This flag was celebrated in Octave Crémazie’s poem, but its authenticity as a military flag is open to debate. Most likely, it was a religious processional banner. Crémazie's espousal of this idea, however, was decisive in winning French-Canadians over to the idea of a blue and white flag (as opposed, say, to the red, white, and green tri-band of the 1837 Patriotes or to the Tricolore of France.)
The Tricolore

The three historic colours of France were united in the form of the Tricolore and national cockade. The French Tricolore was originally ignored in French Canada as an emblem of an anticlerical republican state born in revolution. However, the Anglo-French alliance in the Crimean War and the visit of a French naval vessel in 1855—the first since the Conquest—brought the Tricolore into use among French-Canadians during the later nineteenth century and into the 1920s.

The Carillon-Sacré Coeur Flag

In 1902, Abbé Elphège Filiatrault hoisted over his presbytery in St. Hyacinth a version of a Carillon flag—a flag of blue, with white fleurs-de-lis placed in each corner pointing to the centre—traversed by a white cross. It was enthusiastically received and led to the formation of committees to propose a national flag for French-Canadians. In 1903, the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus above two wreaths of maple leaves in saltire, was placed in the centre of the white cross. The Sacred Heart image derives from the devotions to the heart of Jesus, initiated by the French visionary nun, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque. This Catholic practice had increased considerably by the 200th anniversary of her death in 1890. The new flag of the Canadiens came to be called their national flag and was raised in western Canada as well as in Québec.

The Carillon-Sacré-Coeur flag

III. The 1948 Flag

In 1935, the journal Action Nationale argued for the suppression of the religious emblem. The desire arose for a simple fleur-de-lis flag. Efforts by Quebeckers (Québécois) in 1945 and 1946 to get the Canadian government to adopt a distinctive national flag (un drapeau véritablement canadien) for Canada were unsuccessful, so they lobbied their own government to take action. In 1948, an official flag was proclaimed by Order-in-Council of the Quebec government. The flag, generally called the ‘fleurdelisé flag,’ bears a white cross on a sky-blue field and with a white fleur-de-lis in each corner modified so that each fleur-de-lis is placed in a vertical position. The flag’s official proportions are six by four. The arms of the cross are one unit wide. In 1952, the Québec legislature approved the flag. The tone of the blue has darkened over the years. Could this be a further attempt to secularize the flag?

Québec flag

Whereas the older flags mentioned above were flown by French-Canadians throughout Canada, Québec's flag is specific to Québec. Acadians and other francophone groups in Canada have developed their own flags.

IV. Other Symbols of Québec

The motto: Je me souviens - I remember. Adopted in 1883 by Eugène Taché, architect of the National Assembly building in Québec City. The motto appears in blue letters on a white scroll edged in blue.

The arms: Authorized on 9 December 1939. They resemble those granted by Queen Victoria in 1868, except that the chief, or upper portion, bears three gold fleurs-de-lis on blue (azure) instead of two blue fleurs-de-lis on a gold (or) field. The blason reads: Tierced in fesse, 1. Azure, three fleurs-de-lis or; 2. Gules (red), a lion passant guardant, or; 3. Or, a sprig of three leaves of sugar maple, vert (green) veined of the field.
The Banner of Arms: The elements (tinctures, divisions, and charges) of the shield of arms, described above, are expanded out to fill a square field. This flag is sometimes seen flying from the Assemblée Nationale and elsewhere in the capital.

Quebec: Banner of Arms

The floral emblem: Adopted in 1963, the provincial flower is the white garden lily or madonna lily (lilium candidum).

The bird: The snowy owl (harfang des neiges) was chosen in 1987 by the National Assembly as Quebec's aviary emblem.

Snowy Owl

Patron Saint and Holiday: St. John the Baptist (St. Jean Baptiste) is Quebec's patron; his feast day is the day of the Fête Nationale, 23 June.

V. The Capital and Site of NAVA's 32nd Convention in October, 1998

Quebec City, population 167,000, has been the capital of Quebec since Confederation in 1867, and was capital of the French empire in North America. It was a 'national' capital from the British conquest 1759 of Canada/New France until the mid-1800s. The city has been called the 'Gibraltar of North America,' a strategic location dominated by the promontory of Cap Diamant. It developed as a port of entry and exit for oceangoing sailing vessels. The explorer Jacques Cartier wintered near here during the 1530s and Samuel de Champlain, explorer-administrator, founded a trading post here in 1608. An old seal of Quebec City shows the site. A woman, allegorical of Canada, reclines under a mountain. Near her are a beehive, a beaver, a cornucopia, and an oval shield showing a lion holding a key in his right paw. A sailing ship enters the harbour.

In 1673, Count Frontenac proposed a coat of arms for the city—a blue field strewn with yellow fleurs-de-lis, a black beaver on yellow in chief, and two moose as supporters. Another coat of arms showed a crowned lion on a red field, with the lion holding keys. Later arms of the city, perhaps dating from the 1940's, depict a sailing vessel in base and two keys in saltire, surmounted by a maple leaf, in chief.

On 20 September 1988 arms were granted to the city by Canada's Chief Herald, Robert Watt. The flag, the first granted by the new heraldic authority, has a blue field with a crenellated silver border (like the battlement of a fortress); in the centre is a ship in full sail, in gold. The arms resembled the assumed arms, but with some heraldic corrections. The blason reads: "Azure, on a base Barry wavy Argent and Azure an ancient ship under full sail. Or, on a chief Gules fimbriated Or two keys in saltire Or surmounted by a maple leaf Vert." The new motto reads: "Don de Dieu feray valoir," meaning, 'I shall put the gift of God to good use.'

Quebec City: 1988 Arms

Quebec City Flag

Quebec City is a busy tourist town throughout the year. Its winter symbol is Bonhomme Carnaval, a jolly, red-tuqued snowman.

Editor's Note: As noted in Kevin Harrington's article, NAVA's 1998 convention will be held in Quebec City in October 1998. A competition to design a convention flag will be announced very shortly; watch this space in the next issue.
Dear Editor:

While flying back from Florida, I noticed the logo on a US Airways (formerly USAir) plane. It was a simple gray box, from which emerge 5 horizontal gray stripes, which apparently represented the U.S. flag. This appeared on the tail of a Boeing 767.

I called the airline when I arrived home. I expressed disappointment at the fact that the airline's simplistic, one-color design of the U.S. flag would be used on planes traveling abroad. My memories go back to seeing the U.S. flag below the wings of Pan American Clippers, before the war, and remembering with pride seeing a mighty plane flying the red, white, and blue.

The airline explained it was using a "stylized rendering" of the U.S. flag, and that it could not use the actual U.S. flag for commercial purposes. The airline also explained that a correct rendition of the U.S. flag indeed appeared on each plane, as is the custom of all U.S. air carriers flying overseas.

Does any other company use the U.S. flag in their logo, either real or stylized? I would appreciate any comments and input from members about this issue.

Gerry McCavera
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Media, PA 19603-1043 USA

Dear Editor:

On page 7 of NAV A News XXX (September/October 1997), the NAVA 30 (Sacramento) Convention Flag "is based upon the swallow-tailed flag of the historic 'California 100,' the only unit formed in California to fight in the Civil War..." This is untrue. Although the California Hundred (better known as Company A of the Second Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry) is arguably the best known of the regiments raised in California during the Civil War, this unit was by no means the only unit formed in California to fight in the Civil War.

The following units (whose flags are known) volunteered or were raised in California to fight for the Union cause: the Sierra Guard Battalion; the First California Guard Flying Artillery (part of the Pioneer Corps of California); and the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th Infantry Regiments of California Volunteers. These units saw service against Confederates in California, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah.

Nor was the Hundred the only unit raised in California for service in the East. The California Regiment was raised and saw service as the 71st Pennsylvania Volunteer Regiment of Infantry; the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th California regiments—known collectively as "Baker's Brigade"—was mustered into federal service in the East as the 106th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

Nor was the hundred the only cavalry unit raised in California for service in the East. The California Battalion was raised and served as four additional companies of the 2nd Massachusetts Volunteer Cavalry. They were better known as Sheridan's Cavalry and witnessed the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia.

In addition to these regiments, many Californians went East to serve the Union. The Second Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment contained a number of these soldiers, so much so that a large, elaborately painted silk standard showing the arms of both California and Maine was presented on June 21, 1861 to the Second Maine Volunteers by "ladies of that state now residing in San Francisco." This flag still exists, and is displayed in the Hall of Flags in the rotunda of Maine's state capitol.

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VEXILLIANA

NAV A News looks at the world's vexillological journals and newsletters.

by Kevin Harrington

Belgium

The second issue of Le Vexillaire, a one-page newsletter, deals in colour with the flags of the Ostend Company of the Austrian Netherlands. The editor is Roger Baert.

Canada

The Christmas issue of Flagscan (No. 48) has an article by Canada's Chief Herald, Robert Watt, on the flags and arms of the Kamloops Indian Band. The editor (Kevin Harrington) introduces the local flag of Nevis, the CFA flag, flags of the Indian Empire Durbar of 1877, Gandhi's views on the flag of India in 1947, coronation standards of 1937, and Jammu and Kashmir. Many book reviews and letters.

The December issue of Heraldry in Canada looks at papal armor, the arms of Midway, British Columbia, the arms of Montreal East, and new heraldry for Notre Dame University.
Czech Republic

Vexiologie (No. 105) covers memories of the founding of the Vexillological Club of Prague, the NAVA meeting in Sacramento, flag news from the Comoros, Lauban, Australia's Capital Territory, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Czech, with title page in English.

Finland

Kari K. Laurla publishes on a regular basis a pamphlet on Scouting flags and symbols, Lippuja ja Muita Tunnuksia, bursting with black-and-white illustrations. The text is in Finnish.

The glossy issue (No. 3/97) of Liehuvat Varit, edited by Pentti J. Mantynen, discusses British flags and standards, and coats of arms (in colour) of Finnish places. The text is in Finnish, with some Swedish. Many Finnish flag manufacturers advertise in this magazine.

Germany

Roman Klimčik of the World Vexillological Research Institute, Bonn, has published an exhaustive work on the flags, arms, and seals of the Free State of Danzig. The text in German, with 46 colour illustrations executed by Dr. Mario Fabretto whose fine computer artistry has also appeared in the latest Vexilla Italica.

Spain

The December issue of Banderas (No. 65) describes the very armorial Portuguese civic and regional flags, the colours and standards of the Guardia Real, William Walker's flag-related activities in Nicaragua, and Tibetan prayer flags. A colour plate of Spanish flags is enclosed: the Spanish Vexillological Association flag, the flags of Tenerife, and two civic flags. Jaime Olle i Casals writes on the search for a Buenos Aires flag with illustrations of many proposals. The text is in Spanish.

The fall issue of Gaceta de Banderas, edited by FIAV President Michel Lupant, includes an index. A panoply of Slovenian flags is presented in issue number 41. Issue number 40 features the new arms of Bulgaria, Irish battalion flags, the Tanzam railway flag, and the flags of Prince George County (Maryland) and Buenos Aires. The text is in Spanish.

The Flag Bulletin (No. 176) features articles on 500 years on Congo flags.

If you seek further information about the publications and societies listed here, please contact this column's editor, Kevin Harrington, at 50 Heathfield Drive, Toronto, ONT M1M 3B1, Canada; fax: 416-267-9618, or e-mail <kevinhar@netcom.ca>.

FORGOTTEN U.S. FLAG DAYS
by Charles Spain

Vexillologists in the United States are probably aware of the list of days in the United States Flag Code on which civilians should fly the U.S. flag. Specifically, these are New Year's Day (Jan. 1), Inauguration Day (Jan. 20), Lincoln's Birthday (Feb. 12), Washington's Birthday (third Monday in Feb.), Easter Sunday (variable), Mother's Day (second Sunday in May), Armed Forces Day (third Sat. in May), Memorial Day (half mast until noon, last Mon. in May), Flag Day (June 14), Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (first Mon. in Sept.), Constitution Day (Sept. 17), Columbus Day (second Mon. in Oct.), Navy Day (Oct. 27), Veterans Day (Nov. 11), Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thurs. in Nov.), Christmas Day (Dec. 25), the birthdays of states (dates of ratification of the federal Constitution or admission to the Union), and on state holidays. Title 33, United States Code, section 174(d). This list is not comprehensive, however, because there are other national days and patriotic observances on which Congress has called for the U.S. flag to be flown:

- Thomas Jefferson's Birthday, Apr. 13
- Loyalty Day and Law Day, U.S.A., May 1
- Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15 (half mast)
- National Maritime Day, May 22
- Father's Day, third Sun. in June
- National Aviation Day, Aug. 19
- Citizenship Day, Sept. 17
- Gold Star Mothers Day, last Sun. in Sept.
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Dec. 7 (half mast)

These days are designated by separate sections of title 36 of the United States Code, each of which provides for the flying of the U.S. flag on government buildings. In addition, the designations for Peace Officers Memorial Day, National Maritime Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Gold Star Mothers Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day go further, inviting interested civilians to follow the government's example.

Congress has never called for the flag to be flown on the following national days and patriotic observances:

- Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, third Mon. in Jan.
- John F. Kennedy's Birthday, May 29
- Bill of Rights Day, Dec. 15
HORIZONTAL TRI-BARS
by Mason Kaye

* Find all horizontal tri-bars possible with these six
  colors: Red, white, blue, green, yellow, and black.
* Draw every one and identify those that are real flags.
* Ignore fimbriations and charges; unequal bars are okay.
* If not a current flag, put dates in parentheses—example:
  (1940-1959).
* If not a country, list the country in parentheses—example:
  Großasleben (Germany).
* Record your sources!

This was the challenge my dad, Ted Kaye, gave me at the beginning of the summer of 1997. I'm 12 and have been drawing flags since I was two. I corrected my dad when he misidentified a flag in Jim Ferrigan's flag store when I was three. I've attended two NAVA conventions; at my first one, Whitney Smith bounced me on his knee. I hope to attend the 1999 International Congress in Victoria, B.C.

To start my flag project, I made a chart of all the possible combinations of the six colors. There turned out to be 150 combinations. Mathematically, there are actually 216 combinations (6 x 6 x 6), but I excluded the ones that had two or three bars of the same color next to each other. Then I drew all 150 flags and colored them in. When I was done, I had ten pages of colorful flags waiting to be identified.

I looked through everything in my dad's famous flag library, possibly the biggest in Portland, Oregon. That included over 50 flag books, 25 years of Flag Bulletins, many other serials like National Geographic, Der Flaggenkurier, VDCN Info-Bulletin, NAVA News, and several flag charts, Microsoft Encarta, and an atlas.

I made a bibliography with codes which helped me keep track of where I found the flags. For example: for Army of Portugal 1939, I didn't have to write Das grosse Flaggenbuch, page 148. All I had to write was "[GFB p. 148]."

I identified 83 flags out of 150 combinations. On my chart I listed up to three flags for each combination of colors. For example: Red-white-red is the flag of Austria, as well as Latvia, Templin (Germany), Trieste (Italy), Hoorn (Netherlands), 4th Corps (British Army, WWII), Lebanon, and French Polynesia. I've listed three of those. I tried to find one country and two unusual places for each combination. I'm up to 185 flags, total. The countries that seem to have produced the most horizontal tri-bars are Germany, the Netherlands, and the former Yugoslavia.

I found that red is used most frequently; then white, yellow, blue, green, and black. Some color combinations are used more than others. Red and white appear together many times, as do red and yellow, and white and green. Black and green, and blue and green don't appear next to each other very often.

The sets of red-white-blue and red-blue-yellow are the most popular; all six combinations in which these colors can be combined are indeed actual flags. The combination of red-blue-black is the least popular; it isn't used at all. In tri-bars using two colors, nearly all color pairs are used; only blue and green isn't used at least once.

Out of the 150 possible combinations, only 48 are heraldically correct, i.e., follow the rule of tincture. As it applies to my project, the rule of tincture is basically stated: there are four colors: red, blue, green, and black; and two metals: gold (yellow), and silver (white). The metals cannot touch each other (because it's hard to see light against light on a flag from far away) and the colors cannot touch each other (because it's hard to see dark against dark).

While overall I found flags for 55 percent of all possible combinations, I found flags for 85 percent of the heraldically correct ones. It appears that most of the "good" combinations have been taken. I found flags for only 41 percent of the nonheraldically correct ones.

These are the combinations I'm still missing (using the abbreviations of FIAV's Flag Information Code): RBN, Rvb, RvY, RVN, RNw, RNB, RNY, WRv, WRN, Wvb, WBN, WvN, WYR, WYB, WYV, WNR, WNB, WNV, WBY, BKn, BRv, BvW, BVB, BVY, BVN, BYW, BNR, BNV, BNY, VRB, Vrn, VwY, VBR, VBw, VBV, VBY, VBN, VvY, VYN, VNR, VwN, VNB, VNY, YrV, YRN, YwY, YwN, YBV, YBN, YvW, YvN, YwN, YNB, YNV, NRb, NwB, NwY, NBR, NBw, NBV, NBY, NBN, NVR, NVV, NVN, Nyr, and NvB.

In the Flag Information Code, B= blue, R= red, W= white, N= black, V= green, and Y= yellow.

If you find a tri-bar flag I have missed, please send me a letter mentioning it and your source. If you want to see my chart, please send me a self-addressed stamped envelope and I'll be happy to send a copy of it to you.

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VEXI-BITS
Edited by John H. Gámez

The Philadelphia Enquirer, Dec. 22, 1997. The State of New Jersey and New Jersey Civil War Heritage Association have proposed the funding of special cases for the display and storage of New Jersey's Civil War flags. The proposed new display would show eight flags and store up to sixty more. (Submitted by Elmer Bauer).

Florida Today (Melbourne, Fla.), Jan. 22, 1998. Marchers in Hong Kong let their feelings be known about the new government in the former British colony. Protestors carried the flag of Taiwan and carried defaced flags of China and Hong Kong. Defacing the national flag of the People's Republic is a crime in China. It is uncertain whether carrying a Taiwanese flag is now illegal in Hong Kong. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

Boston Sunday Herald, Nov. 23, 1997. Palestinian students burned U.S. and Israeli flags in the West Bank city of Nablus. The protest was organized by the radical Islamic group, Hamas. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

The Herald (Miami, Fla.), Nov. 30, 1997. During the California Gold Rush, a group of prospectors claimed to have seceded from the United States and created the "Great Republic of Rough and Ready." Apparently, the republic's only official act was to proclaim its flag. The accompanying news photo show a flag that appears to have been a solid color, emblazoned with the republic's name. This little-noticed entity went about business quietly until the Fourth of July. Because they were no longer a part of the U.S., they felt they could not join the celebrations. Disappointed, they voted to rejoin the Union. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

The New York Times, Nov. 26, 1997. Despite a local government ban on the flying of Canada's national flag over Quebec City's city hall, three native Quebeckers continue to raise the Maple Leaf over the building. Raymond Carrier (67), Jos Bilocoq (66) and Pierre Roy (60)—veterans of Canada's armed services—have established an unofficial agreement allowing them to raise the Maple Leaf over city hall each weekday morning and fly it for three hours. Mr. Bilocoq explained, "Every time I don't see my flag there I am humiliated. I'm Canadian; I'm French Canadian. I love my flag." Tensions in Quebec run so high that the Canadian national anthem is sung a half hour before the start of a Montreal Expos home game if it is played on the local holiday of St. Jean Baptiste Day. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr., Peter Orenski, Charles Spain, and several others).

Florida Today, Nov. 16, 1997. Seven years ago the Canadian national flag was banned from Quebec City, Quebec, by separatist mayor Jean-Paul L'Allier. A newly elected city council, however, is expected to restore the flying of Maple Leaf. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

Mail Tribune (Medford, Oregon), no date. Over history, a few flags have become synonymous with racism. Is it time to include one of those colorful holiday flags in this group? A Medford businessman displayed one such flag — emblazoned with a watermelon— on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The local press then questioned him about his intentions. He issued a public apology in which he reputedly explained, "Some of my best friends are colored people." (Submitted by James M. White).

Florida Today, April 13, 1996. African-American lawmakers in Florida have requested the Third National Confederate Flag be removed from the state capitol grounds; it is included in a display of five national flags that have flown over Florida. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

The Elkhart Truth (Elkhart, Mich.), Oct. 23, 1997. The State of Michigan considered a proposal to display the flags of each of the state's 83 counties. The project was abandoned, however, when many of the designs were found to be outdated, or inappropriate. (Submitted by Mike Tancey).

The Christian Science Monitor (Boston, Mass.), Nov. 6, 1997. The Cuban state press has conducted a campaign to discourage Cubans from wearing clothing featuring a U.S.-flag motif. The press admonishes citizens not to wear clothes that "represent the enemy." Cuba's Communist party calls the practice "mental colonization" and calls for a "conscious strategy of cultural resistance." (Submitted by David Ott).


The New York Times, Feb. 5, 1998. An international official chose a new flag for Bosnia-Hertzegovina after Serbian, Muslim, and Croat leaders failed to agree on a design—the latest move to impose joint symbols on the fractured state. The blue-white-and gold flag, which is devoid of national or religious symbols, was first unveiled in Sarajevo. Days later, the flag (pictured in the last issue of NAVA News) was carried in the opening ceremonies for the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, by the nation's team. (Submitted by James Liston, Charles Spain, and several others).

Houston Chronicle, Oct. 19, 1997. Attempts to design a city flag for the largely ethnic German community of New Braunfels, Texas, came to a screeching halt when some residents found a proposed design unrepresentative of the entire community. The proposed blue-white-and-tan flag would bear the seal of the Adelsverein—the German colonization society that originally brought Germans to the Texas Hill Country. Hispanic citizens of the quiet Texas city raised their voices in anger. Christina Aguilar Friar complained, "This [flag] was not reflective of the whole...
community." She continued, "I know they feel their German heritage is slipping away. The fact is that more people speak Spanish here now than speak German." (Submitted by Charles Spain).

_Catholic New York_, Nov. 20, 1997. A letter to the editor commended the newspaper for publishing color photos of the U.S., Irish, and Vatican flags being paraded together. Photos of the flags of the Latin American countries along with the U.S. and Vatican flags are said to show a common heritage that transcends borders and languages. (Submitted by Ana K. Weisz).

_The Philadelphia Inquirer_, Nov. 12, 1997. Veterans from Bucks County, Pennsylvania retired six tattered American flags during a ceremony on Veterans Day. Around 80 people witnessed the ceremony, which included a high school marching band, a kilted bagpiper, and a rifle squad firing a salute. Speeches were made by the county commissioner and the area's Congressional representative. (Submitted by Elmer Bauer).

_Press Journal_ (Vero Beach, Fla.), Nov. 12, 1997. Members of the Puerto Rican separatist group, the Albizuista Army of National Liberation, took credit for burning five U.S. flags at a San Juan cemetery. The flags had been in preparation for Veterans Day ceremonies. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr).

_The Herald_, Nov. 9, 1997. The University of Mississippi has banned fans from bringing sticks to sporting events. Citing safety concerns, the ban apparently also seeks to discourage the waving of Confederate Battle flags at games. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr).

_The Philadelphia Inquirer_. Sept. 12, 1997. A famous flag painting needs restoration. The Birth of Our Nation's Flag, painted by Charles H. Weisgerber in 1893, has been in storage for the past thirty years. Restoration estimates indicate approximately US $25,000 is needed to restore the 9' x 12' painting, which depicts the traditional scene of Betsy Ross showing the first U.S. flag to General George Washington and others. (Submitted by Gordon O. White).

_The New York Times_, Oct. 9, 1997. The historic photograph of the U.S. Marines raising the U.S. flag on Iwo Jima is perhaps rivaled only by a photograph taken by Soviet combat photographer, Yevgeny Khaldei. He shot the photo of the Soviet soldier planting the Soviet flag atop the roof of the destroyed Reichstag building in Berlin in 1945. Khaldei had to fly back to Moscow to obtain a flag, however, because none were then available in Berlin. In Moscow, his uncle made one from a tablecloth. The staged photo was then retouched to heighten the scene's drama. The photograph was apparently inspired by the flag raising on Iwo Jima. (Submitted by Sister M. Shaun Franey).

_San Antonio Express-News_, Dec. 30, 1997. The 1997 Alamo Bowl marked the 266th straight game attended by Perdue University fan, Wedell Wolka. To each game -- no matter how far -- he always brings a cowbell and a flag. This Perdue University flag is golden yellow, emblazoned with a large, black Roman capital letter "P." (Contributed by John H. Gámez).

_SKY News_ (London), Dec. 12, 1997. The Royal Yacht Britannia was decommissioned. After the Royal Family disembarked, all flags were hauled down. (Contributed by Saša Simpraga).

_The Old Glory Distributing Co._, Merchandise Catalog, Vol. 19 (1997). Billed as the "Largest Rock & Roll Catalog in the Universe", this counter-culture catalog features a number of flag-related items. Included is a flag T-shirt marketed by shock rocker, Marilyn Manson. The front sports a version of the U.S. flag with Manson's logo replacing the stars; the back sports the legend, AMERICAN BY BIRTH - ANTICHRIST BY CHOICE. Other flag items feature fanciful yersions of the U.S. flag featuring marijuana leaves. Items featuring the late Bob Marley include variants of the Ethiopian flag and the Lion of Judah. For example, the Ethiopian flag is found on the official Bob Marley hockey jersey. Of special interest is the enclosed ordering envelope, featuring the U.S. flag. (Submitted by John H. Gámez).

_The Daily Telegraph_ (London), Nov. 13, 1997. Britain's Ministry of Defence was required by Prime Minister Tony Blair to apologize to the Royal British Legion (a leading veterans group) after a Union Flag was spotted flying upside down, and with a hole in it, at the Remembrance Sunday (Veterans Day) ceremonies. The offending flag was spotted flying from the flagmast atop the roof of the Ministry of Defence itself. It was replaced shortly after it was noticed. The ceremonies were conducted at the Cenotaph, in Whitehall, which is not unlike the U.S. Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. An embarrassed Ministry could not explain exactly how the flag came to be upside down, but explained that flags in daily outdoor use do suffer wear, sometime including holes. The head of the veterans group accepted the apology, noting that mistakes can happen. (Submitted by James Liston).

**PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

**BY CHARLES SPAIN**

There are many things I want to briefly mention. First, let me express my gratitude to the nominating committee and the membership for placing your trust in me to serve as your president for another year. I was very proud to represent NAVA at the 1997 Congress of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations in Cape Town, South Africa last summer, and that meeting convinced me of what a wonderful organization we have built in the thirty years of NAVA's
existence. The current executive board and I plan to build on that success in 1998.

With this issue, NAVA News has a new editor, James Liston. The first time James and I meet here in Houston, we had no idea we were both flag nuts. I found out about James' interest in flags by speaking with someone half a continent away—Peter Edwards (both James and Peter are also yacht nuts). It is a small world! I know James will do an excellent job as your new editor.

Both NAVA and I owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to our outgoing NAVA News editor, Jim Croft. Jim has done such a wonderful job with our newsletter, sometimes under less than ideal conditions. He has never once complained about the huge amount of work that goes into editing NAVA News, and I have never doubted the issues would get out. After six years on the executive board, I am convinced that the two most important people in NAVA are the NAVA News editor and the treasurer. Thanks again Jim for all that you have done for us!

My thanks to Mary Ann Docktor-Smith and Randy Smith for the great job they did hosting the NAVA 31 convention in Chicago last October. Also, thanks to Advertising Flag Company of Chicago (Randy Smith) and Dixie Flag Manufacturing Company of San Antonio (Pete Van de Putte) for their valuable contributions to the convention. I had a wonderful time and was so impressed with the city that I plan to return later this Spring for a purely "fun" vacation.

In Chicago, the membership approved a restructuring of the executive board that merged the offices of corresponding secretary and recording secretary into the office of secretary, renamed the vice president the first vice-president, and created a second vice-president. We also restructured the standing committees by eliminating the audit committee and creating the appointed office of auditor, merging the program committee into the convention committee, and merging the publicity committee into the membership committee. I hope that this will result in a more efficient use of the valuable time our volunteers donate to NAVA.

By now, you should have received volumes 3-4 of Raven: A Journal of Vexillology, the double issue devoted to former NAVA president Don Healy's comprehensive article, Flags of the Native Peoples of the United States. I believe this work speaks for itself, so I will merely say we should all be very proud. Special thanks to Kevin Harrington, Ted Kaye, Peter Orenski, Anne Platoff, John Purcell, and Jon Radel for making this happen. NAVA still has several hundred copies for sale, so please help us sell Raven in local museum book/gift shops, stores that specialize in Native American items, and flag shops. Contact treasurer Peter Orenski ((860) 354-0686/e-mail treas@nava.org) for more information and about the special discount for NAVA members. Finally, make your plans now to attend NAVA 32 in Québec City, October 9-11, 1998. This promises to be one of the most beautiful places we have ever visited for a convention, and we will be there as Québec observes the fiftieth anniversary of its flag (1948-1998). Block the dates out on your calendar and start preparing a paper to present there!

As always, feel free to contact me at (713) 529-2545 or e-mail pres@nava.org, or any of the other officers to let us know how NAVA can serve you better. Best wishes for 1998, and keep studying those flags!

Vexil-Lite

For those of you who find yourself explaining to others, "Just what is a vexillologist, anyway?", the following item may be of interest.

I recently found a T-shirt that lists the "Top Ten Characteristics of A Vexillologist." Although the listed 'characteristics' (see below) do not begin to cover our more serious grounding in the social sciences and probably do not meet everyone's tastes, it is nonetheless one of the very few items I have ever seen that identifies our discipline by name. The border features full-color national flags. It is available from the American Spirit Flag Shop, located in Tarpon Springs, Florida USA (1-800-330-3524).

![Vexillologist Top 10 Characteristics](image)

**NOTICE**

If you have not yet paid your 1998 NAVA dues, please send your check to treasurer Peter J. Orenski, 101 Bel Air Drive, New Milford, CT 06776-2441 USA, immediately. NAVA depends entirely on its members for support, and your prompt payment enables publications like this one to continue. Your prompt payment of dues saves NAVA money, and makes the Treasurer's job easier. Thank you.
NAVA 32: Québec City
October 8-10, 1998

Begin making preparations to attend NAVA 32 at Loews Le Concorde Hotel in beautiful Québec City, October 8-10, 1998. Le Concorde is located just three blocks from historic Old Québec, a UNESCO World Heritage Site that overlooks the famous Plains of Abraham—site of the decisive battle of the French and Indian War.

The hotel is also home to Québec's only revolving restaurant, which affords spectacular views of the Saint Lawrence River, Parliament Hill and The Citadel, North America's oldest active military base. Information about Meeting registration and hotel reservations will be sent in May or you may visit the hotel's website at www.loewshotels.com/Leconcordehome.html.

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In this issue:
- Name, Colours, & Symbols of Québec—K Harrington
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- President's Column—C. Spain

1997 TAX NOTICE

NAVA is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Membership dues and other donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed under United States law and Article XXI of the 1980 United States-Canada tax treaty. To determine the amount of your charitable contribution, you must deduct from your total contribution the value of any benefits you have received. For 1997, US $15 of NAVA membership dues was allocated for Raven: A Journal of Vexillology. Please consult your tax attorney or tax advisor for the rules applicable to your jurisdiction and situation.

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