The Use of the Sun Emblem on Argentina's Flag
by Gus Tracchia

Presidential decree number 1541 signed by Argentine President Raúl Ricardo Alfonsín on 16 August 1985, and companion law number 23,208 of the same date provide that Argentine citizens have the right to use (tienen derecho a usar) the official national flag (la Bandera Oficial de la Nación), provided it is used with respect and honor. Article 1 of both instruments makes explicit that citizens—not merely the federal, provincial, and territorial governments—have the right to use the Argentine flag containing the sun emblem in the center stripe. Article 2 of these instruments abolishes portions of earlier decrees (25 April 1884, 19 June 1943, and 24 April 1944) that restricted the use of the sun-bearing flag to the military and government agencies and derogated the legal status of the plain flag.

A brief history of the Argentine flag reveals the significance of the 1985 legal developments.

Argentina's first official flag consisted of three equally wide horizontal stripes: a center of white between two stripes of celeste blue. The Argentine Congress authorized this flag in 1816, calling it la bandera menor (the lesser flag), implying that a 'greater flag' would follow. In 1816, the Congress had declared Argentina's independence from Spain, but had not determined exactly what form of government should be adopted. Congress debated proposals ranging from monarchy to republic. The unsettled state of affairs in 1816 perhaps explains why Congress established only a lesser flag leaving further action for later.

In 1818, Congress adopted a second flag, intended for use primarily by the military. This second flag was based on the two-year-old lesser flag, but added a yellow sun emblem to the central white stripe. Thus after 1818, Argentina possessed two flags of national character: one for the military and one for all others. The term lesser flag was largely abandoned after 1818, in favor of the term "national and merchant flag." Today, however, vexillologists prefer the term "civil flag on land and civil ensign."

During the presidency of Julio A. Roca, it was formally decreed (25 April 1884) that government agencies were permitted to use the sun flag, in addition to the army and navy. The 1884 extension raises the question of which version was flown by government facilities between 1818 and 1884. It is conceivable that Roca's 1884 decree initiated a pronounced change from the plain flag to the sun flag over government establishments. On the other hand, it is possible that government agencies had previously flown the sun flag and the 1884 decree merely recognized an already accomplished fact. The historically close connection between the central government and the military, coupled with the fact many government installations have a military connection, e.g., naval dockyards, police, customs and excise, suggest the government's use of the sun flag was perhaps a process of gradual incorporation that was merely formally recognized by the 1884 decree.

After 1884 and up until the Second World War, Argentina possessed two flags of national character: the flag with the sun used by the armed forces and the central government, and the flag without the sun used by others. The arrangement of having two national flags was not an Argentine peculiarity: many Latin American countries including Bolivia, Ecuador, Mexico (at that time), Peru, and Venezuela followed this pattern. What was important given later events, however, was that both flags were legally recognized as national flags.

During World War II, however, a de facto government decreed (1943) to the effect that there is but one national flag—the one bearing the sun. Turning to civil use, the decree continued, allowing the national colors in the form of a flag to be used by civilians, but lacking the sun emblem. The following year (1944) another decree issued reiterating that private citizens were permitted merely to fly...
a banner of the national colors, not the national flag. At this point, few appreciated what had transpired: the lesser flag had ceased to be legally recognized as the national flag; it was now merely a piece of cloth sporting the national colors. This condition was imposed by a military government in wartime and remained in force until 1985.

The following is an edited translation of the background given for the 1985 law as expressed by its author and sponsor, Senator Faustino M. Mazzuco. As seen, a significant intent behind the law was a recognition of the democratization of Argentine society:

Through previous legislation, the National Flag, as well as the State Flag, have both been recognized as official flags of the Nation.

The first, to be used by civilians and private organizations; the second to be used by the federal government, the provincial governments, the territories, public buildings, fortresses, ships-of-war (buques), airliners (aeronaves), schools, and by general organizations dependent on the State (organismos dependientes del Estado).

Additional legislation deprived use of the National flag to all citizens.

This legislation was inspired by the notion that ordinary citizens should not employ the same emblems used by the state. However, the Argentine Nation grew without distinctions of class, creed, or social status. All citizens, despite their condition, always rendered respect to the flag that distinguished them from other nations. Such rendering of respect has been seen during national holidays, or even when a single citizen wished to express pride of nationality by hoisting the flag of his country.

We are born in hospitals and educated in establishments displaying the flag that we learn from early age to honor. When called, we serve in the armed forces, and later, in civilian life, as public figures or private ones, we represent the State and Nation whether on the bench, in courts, in private institutions—all under the same flag.

It is my belief, Mr. President, that we should cease differentiation in the use of the flag given to us by General Belgrano, so that any Argentine wishing to express his national pride at any moment may do so, without distinguishing between rank or type of activity in which he is engaged. For these reasons, the use of the sun on the Argentine flag should be given to all citizens.

The 1985 law does not abolish the Argentine flag without the sun, which has existed since 1816; rather, the law simply extends the use of the sun flag to all Argentines, provided it is accorded honor and respect. Additionally, by abolishing certain articles of the 1940s decrees, the 1985 law has the effect of again recognizing the plain triband as an official flag of Argentine national character.

The author wishes to thank Mr. Alberto R. Perazzo, President of the Argentine Association of Vexillology, for his assistance with this article.

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Editor's note:
The 1985 law is terse; each of the two articles consists of a single sentence. It does not address maritime flag use. Traditionally, at sea, the sun flag has denoted an Argentine government or naval vessel and also served as a special ensign for yachts owned by members of the nation's senior yacht club; on the other hand, the plain triband has long served as the civil ensign or merchant flag. Whether the 1985 law was intended to alter, or has in fact altered, this longstanding state of affairs is not yet known.
BY THE NUMBERS
Art and Mathematics as Partners in Flag Design

by Richard R. Gideon

During the early days of the American Civil War, William P. Miles, chairman of the Confederacy’s Flag and Seal Committee, wrote:

A flag should be simple, readily made, and, above all, capable of being made up in bunting. It should be different from the flag of any other country, place or people. It should be readily distinguishable at a distance. The colors should be well contrasted and durable, and lastly, and not the least important point, it should be effective and handsome.

This sentiment, expressed simply yet eloquently, establishes the ground rules for effective flag design. Simple, rectangular flags dominate the world scene, and simple geometric designs are the norm, and intricate artwork is the exception.

There are three basic considerations to flag design: (1) the shape of the field, (2) the pattern, and (3) the colors to be used.

Ratio and Proportion

The rectangle is a natural shape for a flag, offering a large area for design, and a liner edge for attachment. While one might suspect there is not much to say about a rectangle, a little study reveals interesting considerations for those who design their own flags. Flag proportions, or aspect ratios, are usually given (in the United States) as a width to length (hoist to fly) ratio. These ratios might be expressed: 1:2, 3:5, 1:1.618, 2:3, 1:1, or otherwise. A 1:2 ratio simply means that a flag with a 3-foot hoist will be 6 feet long. A flag with a ratio of 3:5 will be five units of length for every three units on the hoist. This is a very common ratio in the United States and Germany. A 1:1 ratio produces a square flag (such as the Swiss national flag as used on land); a rectangle with all sides of equal length. The United States flag has an unusual official ratio of 1:1.9, but is most often commercially produced in 2:3 or 3:5 proportions by U.S. manufacturers, and 1:2 by Canadian and other manufacturers.

Most NAVA members probably know that ratios for U.S. flags (other than those used by the military) were not formally addressed until late 1912. Before then, the military developed specific ratios and design specifications, with the U.S. Navy being the first (1818) branch to establish precise mathematical ratios for its national flags. Civilian flags were not addressed by naval regulations, of course. Apart from the number of stripes and stars, the depth of the union, and the basic colors, nineteenth-century American flagmakers had a relatively free hand in fashioning the proportions of their flags.

A flag’s basic field size may be dictated by the pattern. If one decides to use three panels of different color, then the size of the field is the sum of the panels. For example, if a tricolor is constructed of three panels of three feet by two feet length, the flag will have an overall size of three by six feet. Sometimes, the need to reconcile the pattern to the field results in strange ratios. The United States flag’s official ratio of 1:1.9 has much to do with the fact that the hoist—which is the base reference for all other measurements—must contain 13 stripes, and 13 is a prime number because it has only itself and the number 1 as factors. To state it more simply, you don’t often see a ruler marked off in 13ths. The problem becomes significant when specific numbers are considered. If one wished to make a U.S. flag with a 36-inch hoist, each stripe would measure 13/36ths of the hoist, or 2.7692308 inches wide. That is very tough to measure. A reasonable compromise would be to make each stripe 2 3/4 inches wide, which would yield a hoist of 35 3/4 inches—only 1/4 inch off the mark. Another approach would be to make the hoist 39 inches, which would contain thirteen, 3-inch stripes. Because modern manufacturing is able to measure down to the millionths of an inch (or less), it may be possible to make flags with such precise stripe widths for a given hoist size, but it’s unlikely Grandma would sew you a U.S. flag with stripes exactly 2.7692308 inches wide.

The ratio 1:1.618 (rounded to three decimal places) is rather interesting. It is sometimes called the “magic ratio” or “golden ratio”; and examples of its use may be traced back to ancient Greek architecture. The number 0.618 is irrational, and its exact value may be calculated thusly: the square root of 5 minus 1, divided by 2. If this rather imposing equation is reciprocated (i.e., divided into 1), the value becomes 1.618 (again, rounded to three decimal places). In other words, the fraction .618 is the same either way. This ratio approximates the dimensions of a sheet of legal-size stationery (8.5” x 14”). Applied to a flag, it would mean that the fly is 1.618 times the hoist, or turned around, it would mean that the hoist is 0.618 times the fly. The symmetry of this ratio is pleasing to the eye—or at least the ancient Greeks and some modern designers believe so. A flag with a hoist of 36 inches would thus have a fly of 58 1/4 inches. This is close to 60 inches; and seeing as how 3 x 5 foot flags are commonplace, perhaps the Greeks had the right idea. The following drawing illustrates the point: the ratio of a to b is the same as b’s length is the sum total of a + b.

The flag depicted below is an example of what is called double symmetry and is based on the magic ratio. The
hoist-to-fly measurements are 44.5 inches by 72 inches. The star in the blue panel is arranged so that each indentation is 27.5 inches away from the farthest sides of the blue panel (44.5 x .618). The red fly panel has a width of 44.5 inches, and a length (along the fly) of 27.5 inches, making those ratios 1:0.618. The blue panel is a perfect square (44.5 x 44.5 inches). As this is one of the designs that I use in conjunction with my business, I have omitted the script that otherwise appears on the red fly end.

Since all of its dimensions are a direct result of formulas, the flag becomes a tangible example of an intangible idea; a rectangular shape born of the desire to replicate the magic ratio on cloth.

Another flag shape of which I am particularly fond is the square—a rectangle of uniform sides. The square has certain aerodynamic qualities that allow it to fly well, particularly if it is big. During the American Civil War, Union forces used 6 x 6 foot, silk U.S. flags as regimental battle flags; these were often arrayed with painted artwork and battle honors. I’ve used a 6 x 6 foot flag as my business trademark for years. It splits the square into blue 2/3d and red 1/3d ratios. Another advantage of the square is that symmetrical geometric designs may be evenly placed on it without fear of aspect compression (distortion).

Of course, a flag designer does not necessarily have to conform to precise mathematical principles in designing a flag. One can make a flag with any ratio desired, or none at all. In flag design, hoist-to-fly aspect ratio is art, and art is an ethereal type of thing, often found largely in the eye of the creator. All the same, mathematics is sometimes as much a source of inspiration to the flagmaker as are politics, patriotism, or idealism. But at least it’s a place to start.

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NAVA Member Richard R. Gideon owns RICHARD R. GIDEON FLAGS and teaches Electronics Technology—including Mathematics—at a Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, technical college.

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ERATTA TO OFFICER AND COMMITTEE CHAIR LIST

By NAVA President, Charles Spain

When I compiled the list of past officers and committee chairs for the September/October 1997 issue of NAVA News, I knew someone would eventually uncover old files that would fill-in the blanks, or perhaps correct an error. Little did I realize that less than a month after that issue was printed, Elmer Bauer, president of Dettra Flag Company, would find two boxes of old NAVA correspondence and other interesting material! Since “all I know is what I read in the papers,” here are the corrections. New or corrected information is underlined:

Parliamentarians:

Emmet V. Mittlebeeler 1967-1968
Emmet V. Mittlebeeler 1980

Nominating Committee:

William C. Spangler 1974-1977
William Dwiggins 1977-1978
George F. Cahill 1978-1979
William C. Spangler 1979-1980
Whitney Smith, Ph.D. 1980-1982
Jeanette Doetsch 1982-1983

Auditing Committee:

Kenneth R. Huff 1981-1983

Budget Committee:

Nicholas A. Artimovich II 1982-1983

Membership Committee:

Whitney Smith, Ph.D. 1981-1983

Public Relations Committee:

Doreen Braverman 1982-1983
Radio KTKR-AM (San Antonio, Texas) Mar. 28, 1998. Tony Uminski, the radio voice of the International Hockey League’s San Antonio Dragons, made an interesting observation during a road game against the Quebec Raftales of Quebec City, Quebec. Before the start of the game, fans stood respectfully for the playing of the U.S. national anthem, but many sat during the playing of the Canadian anthem. Dragons star player, Daniel Shank, a Montreal native, explained this is a form of peaceful protest. (Submitted by Vexi-Bits editor, John H. Gámez).

AOL News (America Online) Mar. 13, 1998. Member of Parliament Suzanne Tremblay of Bloc Quebecois publicly complained she saw “too many” Canadian flags displayed at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan. Later, when she addressed Parliament, members of other parties who sang O Canada and waved small Canadian flags drowned her out as she tried to speak. The use of flags in that manner is arguably prohibited by the rules of the House, and the Bloc Quebecois moved the Speaker to re-affirm the ban. Not all members agreed; Member Ken Epp noted, “If we’re restricted from using the flag in our very own House of Commons, we are in very deep trouble.” (Submitted by Dave Pawson).

AOL News, Mar. 12, 1998. Human rights groups are poised to monitor the trial of Ng Kung-siu and Lee Kin-yun. Both were arrested for defacing the flags of the People’s Republic of China and the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong during an anti-Communist protest in Hong Kong. Flag desecration became illegal when Hong Kong came under Chinese rule in 1997. (Submitted by Dave Pawson).

Personal flag sightings at the Port of Houston, Texas. Mar.-Apr., 1998. Ships enrolled on Hong Kong’s shipping register have been observed flying a double ensign consisting of the flag of the People’s Republic of China flown directly above the flag of the Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong on the ensign staff. This practice is a carry over from the British practice of 1991-1997, when ships enrolled on the Hong Kong register were instructed to fly the plain British Red Ensign directly atop the Blue Ensign defaced with the Hong Kong armorial bearings. The Hong Kong shipping register traditionally enjoyed administrative autonomy from the main British register, and it was hoped by British officials that the anomalous double ensign arrangement (which is followed by no other register) would make this status readily apparent, reinforcing local control over a commercially attractive register. The practice appears to be continuing. (Submitted by James Liston).

Indian River County (Florida) Press Journal. Mar. 4, 1998. A bill before Congress could alter Puerto Rico’s Commonwealth relationship with the U.S. If passed by Congress and if statehood is subsequently approved by a majority of Puerto Rican voters, the measure would eventually result in the addition of the 51st star to the U.S. flag. The 50th star was added July 4, 1960 to symbolize the admission of Hawaii in August 1959. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.). Editor’s Note: Dr. Whitney Smith of the Flag Research Center has produced artwork for a 51-star U.S. flag; it features horizontally staggered rows of stars: 9, 8, 9, 8, 9, 8.

Northern Territory Suburban (Darwin, Northern Territory, Australia) Mar. 5, 1998. A religious magazine published by the Benny Hinn Ministries placed an Austrian flag atop a column entitled “Australia.” The vexi-faux pas was submitted to the Darwin newspaper and reprinted on the op-ed page. (Submitted by Ron Strachan). The envelope in which Mr. Strachan send his submission was adorned with a sticker featuring the Australian national flag and the slogan, “Help Save our National Flag.” (Submitted by Vexi-Bits editor, John H. Gámez).

The National Law Journal. (U.S.) Oct. 20, 1997. Huey Hoover of Hammond, Louisiana, is angered because Louisiana state and parish courts are displaying what appears to him to be the flag of the Republic of Somalia. [Editor’s note: Louisiana state statute recognizes the flag of the “Republic of West Florida of 1810” as a special regional flag for use in those parishes that once formed the independent Republic of West Florida; this flag is medium Blue and displays a single, white five-pointed star]. Mr. Hoover apparently feels that the state is displaying the Civil-War era, Bonnie Blue Flag, but he complains the shade of blue is not sufficiently dark. Mr. Hoover accordingly believes the flag resembles Somalia’s national flag. Because U.S. soldiers were killed in Somalia during the early 1990s, Hoover believes that displaying Somalia’s flag is tantamount to displaying the North Vietnamese flag in the U.S. during the during the Vietnam conflict. (Submitted by Larry Wentworth and I. Fred Koenigsberg).

Florida Today. Feb. 19, 1998. Sports fans in Teheran, Iran, may have cheered visiting U.S. athletes and their flag, but Iranian legislators jeered. Iranian legislator Mohammed-Reza Faker complained, “They plan to hoist the American flag and play their national anthem, to rub our noses in that which we used to trample underfoot only last year.” Other legislators chanted, “Death to America!” (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

AOL News. Feb. 16, 1998. If the U.S. wrestling team saw the U.S. flag that was painted on an Iranian government building, they might have thought that it was meant as a tribute to peace and normalization between the two nations. Upon closer inspection, however, they would have noticed fifty skulls in place of white stars and red streaks of falling bombs forming the stripes. The accompanying slogan warns: “We will never make up with the United States, even for a moment.” (Submitted by Dave Pawson).
Boston Herald. Aug. 17, 1997. A letter carrier was suspended for one week without pay because he refused to remove a small U.S. flag from his work station. The carrier, who is a Vietnam War veteran and American Legion Post Commander, apparently has a history of contention with his supervisor over proper display of the flag at U.S Postal Service facilities. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

U.S. Postal Bulletin 21967. Mar. 12, 1998. Effective immediately, the Administrative Support Manual is amended to require the display of POW-MIA flags at U.S. postal facilities, pursuant to Public Law 105-85, section 1082, which President Clinton signed into law on November 18, 1997. The flag is black, bearing the POW/MIA seal in white, with the inscription, “You Are Not Forgotten.” The Postal Service and other governmental agencies must fly the POW-MIA flag, beneath the U.S. flag, on the following designated days: Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May), Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September) and Veterans Day. The circular recognizes three sizes of flag (2’ x 3’, 3’ x 5’ and 4’ x 6’) and requires that these nylon flags be constructed with the seals reading correctly on both sides of the flag. (Submitted by James Liston).

Vero Beach (Florida) Press Journal. Aug. 31, 1997. A 300-foot (27.43 meter) flagpole was raised in preparation for Malaysia’s fortieth anniversary of its independence. It is said to be the world’s tallest. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

Florida Today. Sept. 15, 1997. Pensacola, Florida, attorney Kevin Beck wants to remove the Christian cross from Pensacola’s city seal because he believes it violates the principle of separation of church from state. The city seal, which also includes other symbols, replaced a logo that bore the five national flags that have flown over Pensacola. (U.S.A., Britain, Spain, Confederacy, and France). (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

Vero Beach (Florida) Press Journal. Sept. 26, 1997. The U.S. Southern Command, which is the U.S. military headquarters for Latin American operations, lowered the U.S. flag for the last time in Panama on Sept. 25, 1997, as part of the U.S. military’s withdrawal from the Panama Canal Zone. Southern Command reopened the following Monday morning in Miami, Florida. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

Makati Today (Luzon, Philippines) Feb. 12, 1996. A Philippine navy gunboat captured a vessel manned by suspected Chinese pirates. The alleged corsairs tried to mislead the gunboat by hoisting the Philippine flag; the Filipino sailors saw through the ruse when the flag was hoisted upside down. (Submitted by Dr. Gordon O. White).

San Antonio (Texas) Express-News. Feb. 24, 1998. “For the First Time on Utah Soil: The Winter Olympic Flag” proclaimed headlines as the flag of the Winter Olympiad arrived in Salt Lake City by special charter flight. An outdoor replica will be flown at the City and County building, while the ceremonial version will be stored in a vault until the Winter Olympics in 2002. (Submitted by Vexi-Bits editor, John H. Gámez).


San Antonio Express-News. Feb. 22, 1998. About 3,000 people gathered outside the White House to protest the possible U.S. bombing of Iraq in connection with weapon inspection issues. A U.S. flag was set afire, but was saved by members of the U.S. Park Service. (Submitted by Vexi-Bits editor, John H. Gámez).


USA Today. Feb. 11, 1998. Television viewers were disturbed during the telecasting of the Winter Olympics in Nagano Japan, when they noticed Buddhist temples appeared to be adorned with swastikas. The temples frequently served as backdrops for reporters. However, the symbol is actually an ancient spiritual mark called a “manji” or mark of 10,000. In Asia, the number 10,000 is considered a metaphor for good luck. (Submitted by Vexi-Bits editor, John H. Gámez).

INTRODUCING THE NEW FLAG OF The British Antarctic Territory

By James T. Liston

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II formally approved a land flag for the British Antarctic Territory (BAT), which was drafted by the College of Arms. This new elaborate flag features a Union Flag in the canton, with a plain white field, symbolizing the snowy landscape of Antarctica. The full achievement of the arms of the BAT appears in full colors, centrally positioned, in the central fly. The height of the armorial achievement occupies approximately two-thirds of the flag's hoist, greater than most ensigns. This flag is not intended to be an ensign; like that of the British Indian Ocean Territory, it is intended for use ashore. It will be flown regularly over British Antarctic Survey facilities at Cambridge and at the six BAS stations in the Antarctic, when possible.
Ships of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS), however, will continue to wear the British Blue Ensign charged in the fly solely with the escutcheon from the achievement when about BAS work, as they have since authorized by warrant in 1969. Any vessel that is able to visit this remote region could hoist the plain British Red Ensign as a courtesy flag, if one is desired. The region lacks permanent inhabitants and a shipping register, effectively preventing the need for a civil ensign.

Any vessel that is able to visit this remote region could hoist the plain British Red Ensign as a courtesy flag, if one is desired. The region lacks permanent inhabitants and a shipping register, effectively preventing the need for a civil ensign.

**VEXILLIANA**

*NAVA News* looks at the world's vexillological journals and newsletters

by Kevin Harrington

Belgium / Spain

*Gaceta de Banderas* features large, clear, black-and-white drawings of flags and arms. The new flags of

Kazakhstan and Serbia, and the civic flag of Maseru, Lesotho, appear in issue no. 42. The flags of Casamance (a secessionist region of Senegal), the flag of Krasnodar, a swastika flag of Gorno-Altai (1922), and various Yugoslav flags appear in issue no. 43. The text is alternately in French, English, or Spanish.

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The March issue of *Banderas* (no. 66) features a short investigation into the flags and arms described in Washington Irving's writings, artillery banners, a combat flag in the defeat of Drake (1565), civic flags of Colombia, Portugal's naval ensigns, the flag of Marabella, Aragonese civic flags, flags of the 5th regiment (1936-1937), and a colour plate of Asturias, Bilbao, Valencia, and Huelva.

**Canada**

The Spring issue (no. 49) of *Flagscan* introduces new supplements to the journal: *FlagsAm, Ensign & Jack*, *Flagnaut*, *Ifulegi*, *Dragonflags*, *Pavillonnerie*, and *FlagCity*, each of which appear quarterly and feature stories and news on U.S. flags, British flags, maritime flags, African flags, Oriental flags, French-language vexillology, and civic flags, respectively.

*Flagscan* and its supplements are now in colour. No. 49 salutes the province of Quebec on the 50th anniversary of its flag; introduces the new flags of Bosnia, Bulgaria, and Afghanistan; reviews 13 flag publications; discusses Canadian Prime Minister Mackenzie King's failure to adopt a national flag in 1946; examines the meaning of the colour white on flags; and recalls the flags of Bahawalpur, the Palestine Mandate, and Carlist Spain.

**Italy**

Again we see greater use of colour in a well-respected flag journal, *Vexilla Italica*, the Italian-language publication of the Italian Centre for Vexillological Studies (CISV). Issue no. 1 of 1998 (January-June) features a correction of tinctures on the arms of Savoy by Aldo Ziggio; the aircraft markings of the Italian Air Force between 1905 and 1936; news on flag statutes in the regions of Piedmont and Liguria; short reviews; coats of arms and gonfalons of three new provinces—Biella, Lecco, and Vibo Valentia—and
jurisdictional problems with the flag and arms of Ragusa (Sicily). Roberto Breschi examines the vexatious issue of the existence from 1949-1951 of a light-blue Libyan flag with a palm tree and star.

Germany

Issue no. 39 of Flaggen, Wappen und Siegel, published by Roman Klimes of Bonn, Germany, provides a black-and-white drawing, a description (in German), and the date of introduction for twenty coats of arms and/or flags ranging from Bahrain to Fiji, and Germany to Zambia.

Gunnar Staack edits Flag Data Bank with Erich Dieter Linder. This is a news bulletin for computer applications in vexillology. Issue no. 7 is entirely in English; in it, Mario Fabretto addresses the problem of quality in vexillological reporting while Mark Sensen provides tips on finding flag information on the World Wide Web. Gunnar introduces another approach to a flag recognition program and provides a fascinating look at the production of the German civic flag chart. He also guides us while surfing through Africa.

DFG Nachrichten no. 7 contains the minutes of the German Flag Association's October 1997 meeting, and briefly reviews selected flag publications. The question and answer (Fragen und Antworten) page is well stocked, as are reader's comments. Issue no. 8 mentions the 150th anniversary of Germany's national colours.

Netherlands

A. Jansen edits Vlaggen. Issue no. 98 (Oct.-Dec. 1997) reports on the history of the civic flag of The Hague, which has been a horizontal bicolour of yellow over grass green since 1949. Between 1920 and 1949, this flag was dark green over yellow; before 1920, black over yellow. The flag of Eierland on the Dutch island of Texel bears the Latin phrase, Heri Hodie, which translates to "Yesterday and Today" and is unusual. Jansen also reproduces illustrated historic flag incidents—a one-panel comic strip along the lines of Ripley's Believe it or Not.

Switzerland

Flaggenmitteilung, edited by Gunter Mattern, features photocopied newspaper articles, mostly from German-language sources, on flag news and lists of publications received. In issue no. 215, Francesco Raunisi writes (in English) a seven-page article on Symbols of the Northern Republic (Italy). Issue no. 214 contains an article in German about Turkey's new flag laws. In issue no. 217, 1996 statutes on German flags are reprinted. Issue no. 221 provides a glimpse of early flags of Annam and Laos.

The Swiss Vexillological Society's journal, Vexilla Helvetica, presents in French and German the work of Sabine Sille Mainfisch on Fribourg with many colour plates.

If you seek more information about the organizations or publications 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>.

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FLAG INFORMATION CODE
As adopted by FIAV

I. It is clearly understood that use of the Code in no way is intended to substitute for a complete textual exposition of the information to which the symbols of the Code refer.

II. The purposes of the Code are:

A. To allow basic information about flags to be recorded and transmitted concisely, accurately, and in a manner which insofar as possible eliminates misunderstandings and which is both comprehensive to persons knowing different languages and easy to learn;

B. To standardize knowledge of flags in order to facilitate comparative studies of flag characteristics;

C. To provide a convenient system for researchers, publishers, and others to record data for personal use and for exchanges and publication of information;

D. To eliminate insofar as possible the confusion existing in terminology employed by governments and others when reference is made to different flags and flag uses.
III. Flag Colors

A. The following letters are adopted for use to indicate the colors of a flag in illustrations:

- R (red)
- O (orange)
- Y (yellow)
- V (green)
- B (blue)
- P (purple)
- N (black)
- W (white)
- M (brown)
- G (grey)
- Au (gold)
- Ag (silver)

B. Colors other than those listed shall be written out in full.

C. The following symbols are adopted for use in illustrations to indicate approximate color shades of a flag:

- (light)
- (very light)
+ (dark)
++ (very dark)

D. The letters used without any symbol indicate a medium, normal, or unknown shade of the color.

IV. Flag Proportions
The following system of identification is adopted for use as part of illustrations of flags of all kinds to indicate relative proportions. The first figure corresponds to the width of the flag, which is defined as the side normally attached to the pole or staff. Thus a flag with a width of 3 units and a length of 5 units shall be written

3x5 (hand-written form)
3:5 (printed version)

V. National Flag Typology

A. The following symbol is adopted for use in illustrations of flags whose primary purpose is to identify nationality rather than some other characteristic (such as the rank of an individual or the existence of a government or military institution or unit or some other concept):

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B. The grid indicates the six basic uses of flags of nationality, i.e. use by private citizens, by public institutions, and by military institutions on land and the corresponding usages at sea. Private, public, and military use are indicated from left to right by the three vertical columns; use on land and at sea are indicated by the top and bottom horizontal columns, respectively.

C. The grid is to be written or printed in the line of identifying text near an illustration of a flag, together with the symbol indicating proportions. The use of the flag design illustrated for one or more of the six uses shall be indicated by placing a point (•) in the appropriate area or areas of the grid in printed versions and an × in the appropriate area or areas in a hand-written version.

D. The following symbol is adopted for use, as appropriate, in illustrations of flags which identify civil and/or military aircraft and air installations, a point (•) or × in the appropriate vertical column above the top horizontal line indicating the usage:

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VI. Changes and additions to the Code may be adopted only by a General Assembly of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations. When possible, all such modifications shall be discussed fully in advance by all participants at the International Congress of Vexillology during which the General Assembly is held. Member associations and individual vexillologists are encouraged to consider desirable modifications based on actual experience in using the Code.

Adopted Aug. 27, 1981 by the General Assembly at the session held during the Ninth International Congress of Vexillology at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. Amended July 5, 1995 by the General Assembly at the session held during the Sixteenth International Congress of Vexillology at Warsaw, Poland.
NAVA 32: QUÉBEC CITY
October 9-11, 1998
Be there, or be 1:1

NAVA 32 (the Association's annual convention) will be held in beautiful Québec City, Québec from October 9-11, 1998. The convention will be held in Loews Le Concorde Hotel; this is a fine facility, which includes a revolving restaurant, located within walking distance from historic and charming Old Québec. For those of you who have never attended a NAVA convention, this is an excellent opportunity to meet leading vexillologists in person and exchange information and insights about all aspects of flags. A special focus will be given to Québec's fleur-de-lis flag, which is fifty years old this year. Make your plans now to present a paper at the Convention; papers must be submitted in advance of the event. Information about the Flag Design Competition for the convention is included in an insert to this issue. For more details about NAVA 32, please contact the Convention host, David Breitenbach at (313) 331-6843. Registration forms will be included in the next issue of NAVA News.

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Notice
If you have not yet submitted your 1998 dues to the Treasurer, please do so today. You will not receive further issues of NAVA News unless you are current on your dues. Please send your check to Treasurer, Peter J. Orenski, 101 Bel Air Drive, New Milford CT 06776-2441 USA, immediately. This is your last notice. Please be prompt in paying your dues; it saves NAVA money and allows your editor to print more information about flags.

NAVA News Contacts:
Please submit articles and materials to the following individuals:

NAVA News Editor
James T. Liston
1201 Enterprise Ave. 709
League City, TX 77573 USA
(281) 334-2952 home
(713) 981-3857 office
(713) 981-3805 fax

Vexi-Bits Editor
John H. Gámez
276 Claremont
San Antonio, TX 78209-4928
USA

North American Vexillological Association
1977 North Olden Avenue Extension, Suite 225
Trenton, New Jersey 08618-2193 U.S.A.

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Commissioner of the
BRITISH ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

In this issue:
- The Use of the Sun on Argentina's Flag, by G. Tracchia
- By The Numbers, by R. Gideon
- Vexilliana, by K. Harrington
- Eratta to Officer and Committee Chair List, by C. Spain
- Vexi-Bits, by J. Gámez
- British Antarctic Territory, by J. Liston
- FIAV Flag Information Code
NAVA 32: QUEBEC CITY
Oct. 9-11, 1998

Convention Flag Competition

The convention committee is seeking designs for a convention flag. Designs must be 2:3 or 1:2 in ratio and must be postmarked no later than August 1, 1998. Entries should be in full color or described in detail on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. The entrant's name and address, and an explanation of the symbolism depicted should appear on the back of the illustration.

A history of Quebec's flags and symbols appeared in the Jan.-Feb. 1998 NAVA News. Quebec City is one of the oldest settlements in North America and was established in 1608 by explorer Samuel de Champlain. Its name comes from an Algonquin word meaning "where the river narrows." The decisive battle for control of North America was fought between Britain and France here in 1759. Today, Quebec City is capital of Quebec and its third largest city. It is a major port on the St. Lawrence Seaway and producer of hydroelectric power, paper, and petroleum products.

PLEASE MAIL FLAG DESIGNS TO: David Breitenbach, 900 Nottinghain Rd., Grosse Pointe, MI 48230-1761 USA.

The flag competition deadline is August 1.

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Call for Papers & Exhibits

If you wish to make a presentation or have an exhibit at NAVA 32, please submit the following information to Gus Tracchia before Aug. 31, 1998:

* Your name, address, daytime phone/fax numbers, and e-mail address.
* The title of your presentation or exhibit.
* An abstract or summary of its contents.
* For exhibits, please specify the amount of display space you require.
* For presentations, please provide a printed copy of the text of your lecture.
* For presentations, please specify whether you need special equipment.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR INFORMATION TO: Gus Tracchia, 82-67 Austin St., Apt. No. 205, Kew Gardens, NY 11415-1412 USA.

The exhibit/presentation information deadline is August 31.
NAVA NEWS ADVERTISING AGREEMENT

1. NAVA News is a newsletter published by and for the membership of the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA), a nonprofit, tax-exempt Illinois corporation. NAVA is apolitical and devoted to the serious, multidisciplinary study of flags and their history and symbolism. Only flag-related matters or items will be accepted for publication. No ads promoting a political or religious view will be accepted.

2. Payment for all ads must be made in advance in United States dollars. The treasurer will deposit all payments before forwarding the ad to the NAVA News editor for review, so deposit of the payment does not indicate the ad has been accepted for publication. The editor has the discretion to determine the acceptability of any ad. The treasurer will issue a refund for any ad that is not accepted.

3. All ads will be printed in black and white only and in such location as determined by the editor. All ads must be submitted camera ready or they will appear in a format and font as determined by the editor. Submission of an ad by a particular cutoff date does not guarantee its inclusion in that issue, but no ad will be considered for the next issue that has not been received by the cutoff date. When necessary, NAVA News editorial policy favors providing vexillological information to NAVA’s membership over publishing ads.

4. Any taxes or other governmental fees or charges that may be imposed on any advertising is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser’s sole and exclusive remedy for any failure (act or omission) related to any ad shall be a refund of the payment for such ad. NAVA does not guarantee the publication date for any particular issue of NAVA News.

5. The advertiser agrees to and shall defend, indemnify, and hold NAVA and all of its representatives harmless from and against any demands, claims, and liability arising from the content of all ads submitted by the advertiser for publication.

6. Any modification of these terms must be in writing and signed by NAVA’s president. This agreement is governed by the laws of the State of Illinois, and any lawsuit arising out of this agreement may only be filed in the Illinois state courts. The advertiser’s submission of an ad for publication constitutes acceptance of the terms of this agreement.

ADVERTISING RATES

Free classified ad for NAVA members: NAVA members may run a free classified ad (maximum thirty words) in one issue each calendar year. After the initial thirty words, the rate is US$2 for each additional group of ten words or less. For example, a sixty-three word ad would cost US$8 (thirty words free and four groups of ten words or less at US$2 each).

Classified ads (nonmembers and additional ads for members): US$2 for each group of ten words or less. For example, a sixty-three word ad would cost US$14 (seven groups of ten words or less at US$2 each).

In calculating the number of words in a classified ad, an actual address counts as five words and a telephone number counts as one word. For example, the sentence “For more information, call (713) 555-1234.” counts as five words. The sentence “For more information, write: Ms. Peggy Kahn, 504 Belair Dr., Vancouver, British Columbia V8V 3W4, Canada.” counts as nine words.


Full page insert: US$225, plus the advertiser must pay for the cost of additional postage, if any, for mailing that issue (NAVA will notify you about the additional postage charge). Since an insert has two sides, two or more individuals may agree to share the cost for a front-and-back insert.

Approved by the executive board: October 12, 1997