Red Star
(Briefly)
Redux

by Dr. Whitney Smith

One of the minor ironies of history is that the downfall of the Soviet empire actually led to an increase in the number of flags flown at the United Nations which exhibited Communist symbolism. Those unfamiliar with flags as a graphic “barometer” of world politics might be surprised by this, yet the explanation is a simple and logical one which in no way contradicts the demise at that time of Marxism-Leninism as a vital ideology.

The story begins at the end of World War II. The victorious Allies had long been planning for a new international organization which could help prevent the wars such as had twice in the 30 previous years devastated the world. They saw the many weaknesses of the League of Nations, an organization so ineffective that it did not even have a flag of its own. One of the ways in which the Allies hoped to overcome past problems was by encouraging universal membership in the new organization.

As both India and the Philippines had participated in the struggle against Japan during World War II, it was logical that their governments should seek membership in the United Nations when its organizing conference took place in 1945. The Soviet Union protested, however, because—as it rightly pointed out—the Philippines was subject to American rule and India was under the British. Stalin

(Continued on page 8)

Reflections on NAVA 32

by incoming NAVA President, Dave Martucci

NAVA’s 32nd annual convention was held in Québec City, Québec, over the weekend of October 9-11, 1998.

Luc Baronian won the Captain William Driver Award of US$250 for the best paper presented at the convention, “American-Influenced Flags in Lower Canada.”

Professor Scot Guenter was awarded the “Whimmy” for his outstanding contribution to vexillology. The award, named after Dr. Whitney Smith, is a statue modeled after the Oscar, holding up a star with V-shaped arms. It is awarded only when there is a worthy recipient. Scot is the third recipient, joining Whitney Smith (awarded 1992) and Grace Cooper (awarded 1994).

There were many displays: Kevin Harrington sold flag books; Peter Orenski sold European and NAVA items; the [U.S.] National Flag Foundation displayed its items; and NEVA (New England Vexillological Association) and FOTW (Flags of the World website) information was distributed by yours truly. (continued on page 2)
Reflections on NAVA 32
(Continued from page 1)

The NAVA annual meeting went smoothly; the members decided to keep honorary membership in the bylaws, but the other bylaws amendments passed.

The new officers were elected by acclamation: Dave Martucci, president; David Breitenbach, first vice president; Carita Culmer, second vice president; Truman Pope, secretary; and Peter Orenski, treasurer.

There were many meals served during the meeting, including a delightful luncheon on Saturday, October 10, where the attendees were addressed by Kevin Harrington and Whitney Smith, followed by each new member introducing himself.

The banquet was fabulous! (As was all the food at the event!). During dinner, we were addressed by Mr. Paré, a local citizen.

The new president held his first board meeting and made appointments to the various committees. A list of the appointments is available upon request to the secretary, Truman Pope.

Special thanks go to David Breitenbach, Jean-Robert Zonda, the governments of Québec and the City of Québec for a wonderfully organized and excellent event. Thanks to all who attended.

Please start making plans to travel to Victoria, British Columbia in the summer of 1999, for the 18th International Congress of Vexillology and NAVA 33, a combined event. You won’t regret the trip!
Letters To The Editor

Remembering the Maine and Her Various Flags:

Dear Editor:

I noticed an interesting photo in a book entitled, Washington D.C.: Past & Present, by Peter R. Penczer (Oneonta Press: 1998), on page 184, which is in the chapter devoted to the Georgetown area. The photo depicts the March 23, 1912 funeral procession for 64 unidentified victims of the U.S.S. Maine explosion. The location is M Street, N.W., near the present site of the Francis Scott Key Bridge; the procession is en route to Arlington National Cemetery. The caskets are draped with the U.S. jack; the U.S. national ensign is horizontally displayed in front of each caisson.

Do you, or anyone else in NAVA, know when the Navy began draping caskets with the jack, instead of the ensign, and if so, how long this practice continued?

Earl P. Williams
2323 40th Place, N.W.
Apt. 201
Washington, D.C. 20007-1616 USA

The Editor Replies:

Dear Mr. Williams:

I do not know the answer to your question; perhaps a member or reader can be of assistance. I do know that by World War II, the U.S. Navy routinely draped caskets with the national ensign. The following background information about the Maine funeral may shed some light on the issue. Also, see the article in this issue about a recently found jack from the U.S.S. Maine.

Following the 1898 explosion of the battleship, some bodies were recovered and buried in Cuba. The wreck of the Maine itself, however, remained in Havana Harbor until 1911, when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers raised it, examined it, towed it to sea, and sank it in 1912. Human remains located deep inside the wreck were not recovered until the 1911-1912 operation. Most of the crew remains were returned home for burial at Arlington in early 1912 (as shown in your picture), in conjunction with a ceremonial burial-at-sea of the hulk in early 1912 off Cuba's coast. The hulk flew a large 46-star ensign, as she sank beneath the sea to the salutes of accompanying U.S. warships.

The Maine funeral was unique for that time, given the large number of unidentified victims being buried simultaneously. Perhaps these caskets were not full sized (and not needing a large flag) because most of the unidentified remains were not recovered until 14 years after a very violent blast. Also, most all of the victims were enlisted seamen, not officers. The ship's forward magazine was located next to the seamen's berth deck; it exploded at 9:40 pm, while most men were in hammocks as the ship lay anchored. Most officers and the captain escaped injury as they were berthed aft. It is conceivable that the notion the jack itself was particularly associated with the enlisted seaman, meant that those in charge of the funeral felt its use was not inappropriate. Even today, when a ship is decommissioned, the ship's jack is customarily given to a young seaman and the ship's ensign to an old officer. This notion follows a ship's basic layout—afterquarters is officers' country (site of the ensign staff), while seamen berth forward (site of the jackstaff). These possibilities might well explain the use of the jack on these caskets in 1912.

I hope a member or reader can be of help in this area. Thank you for your most interesting letter, and for remembering the Maine and her flags.

James T. Liston, NAVA News Editor

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One of the Jacks from U.S.S. Maine Resurfaces

By Edgar M. Malpass

"Remember the Maine!" was the battle cry that carried the United States into a war with Spain exactly 100 years ago this year. The incident that largely helped to trigger hostilities was the explosion and sinking of the battleship U.S.S. Maine in the harbor of Havana, Cuba, on the evening of February 15, 1898. The incident killed 260 American servicemen and wounded others. While it was initially believed that a mine triggered the explosion, a 1976 study suggested that the blast could have been sparked by a fire smoldering in a coal bin located next to the forward magazines. The mystery as to the explosion continues to this day, as evidenced by a February 1898 National Geographic technical study.

When the staff of the Hampton Roads (Virginia) Naval Museum was planning an exhibit to commemorate the centennial of the Spanish-American War (1898-1998), they were approached by a visitor who wanted to donate a flag from the U.S.S. Maine.

Joe Judge, the museum's curator, accepted the donation from Edward Conwell, who had inherited the flag from his grandfather. Conwell's grandfather had been in the Navy and was a friend of one of the Navy divers who had been sent to examine the wreck of the battleship. Conwell explained, "The diver went down to the wreck and found this flag and he tied it around his waist and when he came back to the surface, he asked the officer of the day if he could have it. The officer said "yes" and the diver, who was good friends with my grandfather, gave it to him."

This particular jack measures 72 inches (hoist) by 102 inches (fly), and has 43 white cotton stars on a navy blue, woolen bunting field. The stars are arranged in six, offset horizontal rows, all but one of which contain seven stars. The jack's canvas heading is stencilled: "UNION No. 3. NAVY YARD NEW YORK DEC. 1892". The ship apparently retained this 43-star jack in its flag locker despite subsequent star additions: 1891 (44 stars) and 1896 (45 stars). The Maine had been built in New York in 1890, and thus witnessed two star increases during her eight-year career. Also, today's regulations regarding the size of the jack with respect to the canton of the accompanying national ensign were not then in effect, which perhaps explains the somewhat large size of this jack.

Unfortunately, Conwell did not live to see his grandfather's jack displayed in the exhibit, as he passed away last October. Mrs. Conwell said the 43-star jack had been stored in their attic for 21 years, until Conwell decided to donate it to the museum. She never considered the monetary value of the flag, but wanted to ensure it was placed in a setting in which it belonged.

This 43-star jack is featured as part of the "Cuba Libre!: The Spanish-American War in the Caribbean" exhibit at the naval museum. The museum also contains the jack of the U.S.S. Congress, which was burned and sunk in Hampton Roads during-1862 by the Confederate ironclad, C.S.S. Virginia (more familiarly known as the Merrimac) and a 34-star U.S. ensign from the U.S.S. Oregon. The Hampton Roads Naval Museum is located on the waterfront in downtown, Norfolk, Virginia USA and is free to the public.

Editor's Note: It is very important to remember, however, that the actual union jack and national ensign worn by the battleship Maine at the time of the February 1898 explosion indeed carried the then-current complement of 45 stars. The 45-star flag came into effect on July 4, 1896. The Maine's 45-star jack was rescued from the wreck's bow very shortly after the explosion. (45-star ensign of the Maine rescued from a locker). Jacks are customarily rolled when lowered and stored at the foot of the jackstaff; Navy divers found it there, "ready for hoisting the next morning." The ship exploded at 9:40 p.m. local time. The 45-star jack was turned over to the American Consul General, who sent it to the Secretary of the Navy. By direction of the Secretary, it was placed on the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. The 45-star jack and ensign were then placed on display at the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland USA. See H.C. Washburn, Illustrated Case Inscriptions From the Official Catalogue of the Trophy Flags of the United States Navy (Baltimore: The Lord Baltimore Press, 1913), 82 (photo) and 83; see also id. at p. 64-65. See also the letters to the editor section of this issue, for more on the Maine.
Greetings fellow NAVA Members!

Thank you for your support and election as your president. I intend to conduct the business of NAVA in as straightforward and minimal fashion as is possible and increase the amount of vexillology NAVA does and writes about. I ask you to keep me informed as much as possible of your thoughts, opinions, comments, etc. I appreciate input and commentary, whether positive or negative, so that we may all work together to make NAVA the best vexillology on Earth.

NAVA E-News

A new, members-only e-mail service has been started by the NAVA president. It is designed as a supplement to NAVA News, not as its replacement. It is provided to make inter-member communication more efficient and more timely. By supplying us with your e-mail address, you are automatically put on the e-mailing list. If you have access to e-mail and wish to receive this message periodically, please e-mail Dave Martucci at <pres@nava.org> requesting to be added to the list.

The first issue of NAVA E-News was sent shortly after the convention in Quebec City. Here is some of its content:

Web Site Update

A number of photos taken in Quebec have been added to the website. They do download a little slowly, but they are fairly decent pics. I also wrote a chronicle of NAVA 32 which appears on the same page between the photos. The address is http://www.nava.org/committe.htm.

Want To Help Advance Vexillology?

Although the committee members for 98-99 have been named, we are always looking for more volunteers to help out NAVA's work. Appointments can be made at any time.

In addition to the news, a new committee has been formed to help us all to understand and acquire the necessary technology to advance vexillology. It grew out of the following idea:

Create an ongoing symposium on the technical aspects of vexillology (Vexitech) that will meet at each convention. The topics to be covered will focus on new technology for print and electronic publishing, data retrieval and storage, printing and sewing flags and more! Perhaps from time to time experts in technology can be solicited to write articles for distribution at these symposia or even speak here.

The Vexitech committee will shortly be receiving a more specific charge from the president for its immediate goals, and if you are interested in participating, please send your intention to pres@nava.org so that you may be appointed and included in the discussion.

Thanks your good works for NAVA and for vexillology!

Pro Vexillis!

Dave Martucci

Whitney Award Presented to Scot Guenter

At the 1998 convention in Quebec City, NAVA proudly bestowed the Whitney Award on Dr. Scot M. Guenter. Scot, a professor of American Studies at San Jose State University in San Jose, California USA, is the third person to receive the Award.

The Award, named for NAVA founder Dr. Whitney Smith, was created in 1992 by then-president Guenter. Selection is by unanimous vote of NAVA's executive board, based on "Outstanding Contributions to Vexillology or to NAVA."

The executive board chose Scot for both his contributions to vexillology and to NAVA. Scot’s 1990 book, The American Flag, 1777-1924: Cultural Shifts from Creation to Codification, is a significant original contribution to vexillology. Scot served on the executive board for five years, three as president (1991-1994) and two as vice president (1989-1991).

Scot achieved many things in his years on the board, but his greatest contribution to NAVA is unquestionably the creation and execution of Raven: A Journal of Vexillology, of which he was the editor-in-chief for the first two volumes. In addition, Scot served as nominating committee chair (1988-1989), program committee chair (1989-1991), and NAVA's delegate to the 1993 FLAV meeting in Zurich, Switzerland. Scot also received the 1985 Captain William Driver Award for his article, "This Flag Has Flown Over the U.S. Capitol." Flag Bulletin 25 (1986): 147-159.

In 1992, the Award was bestowed on Whitney Smith, who is a world-renowned vexillologist, a past NAVA president (1967-1977), at that time FLAV secretary-general (1969-1981 & 1985-1993), and a past FLAV secretary-general for congresses (1981-1983). In 1994, the Award was bestowed on Grace R. Cooper, who is a past NAVA president (1983-1986), past NAVA treasurer (1980-1983), and long-time NAVA News editor (1987-1995).
From Canada

Toronto Star, August 1, 1998. Britain’s Union Jack flies proudly... in North Carolina. In a tiny cemetery on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, USA, lie the remains of four British seamen who drowned when their ship was torpedoed by a German U-boat. After their bodies washed ashore, they were buried with full military honors by the local residents. A Union Jack was borrowed from HMS Bedfordshire for the funeral ceremony. Today, the city of Plymouth, England, donates a new Union Jack annually, as Bedfordshire was homeported in that city. (Submitted by Kevin Harrington).

Toronto Star, July 28, 1998. Columnist Ron Lowman questioned the continued use of national flags given today’s political climate of dissolving national borders. He argued that national flags ferment hate and discontent. His solution would be a single world flag. (Submitted by Kevin Harrington).

Toronto Star, Aug. 5, 1998. In a rebuttal to Columnist Ron Lowman’s column (see above), Marc Llanos countered that national flags are symbols of pride and do not necessarily play a role in creating ethnic or racial violence. (Submitted by Kevin Harrington).

From the United States of America

Smithsonian Magazine, October 1998. Many interesting facts and statistics about the Star-Spangled Banner of 1814 are contained in this issue. Originally measuring 30 feet by 42 feet and weighing 50 lbs., it now measures 30 feet by 34 feet and weighs 135 lbs. Over the years of the flag’s private ownership, swatches of its fly end and one star were cut away and given to various persons as souvenirs—a common practice. The increased weight is attributed to the linen backing that was added for strength when the flag was first restored in 1914; the backing was placed with approximately 1.7 million stitches. The entire flag is composed of approximately 1,762,560 stitches. The article states that the upside down, red “V” mark in the fly may perhaps be an unfinished letter “A,” possibly standing for Armistead; Major General George Armistead, USA, commanded Fort McHenry during the 1814 British bombardment and ordered the large flag for the fort. (Submitted by Anna K. Weisz).

The Mail Tribune (Medford, Ore.), June 20, 1998. In a classic battle between desiring advanced technology, yet not wanting it “in my backyard,” a cellular telephone company was denied permission to erect a 130-foot tall antenna. However, a compromise may soon be reached provided the antenna is disguised as a 130-foot flagpole, with the antenna hidden inside. (Submitted by Carita Culmer).

Gannett Newspapers (Sept. 20, 1998). The Georgia division of the Sons of Confederate Veterans has accused the State of New York of neglecting the approximately 150 Confederate battle flags that the state now holds. The State of New York counters that it has set aside US$1.5 million for flag restoration and display. There are about 800 flags on display in the state capitol and 700 other, displayed in government offices throughout New York state. (Submitted by Anna K. Weisz).

Oregonian (Portland, Ore.). May 7, 1998. A man who was fired because he would not display a small U.S. flag at his work station lost a lawsuit against the employer who fired him. He had claimed that Connecticut’s free speech laws gave him the freedom not to display the flag; the court accepted the employer’s contention that these laws do not apply to private enterprise on private property. (Submitted by Donald J. Klett).

Vero Beach Press Journal (Vero Beach, Fla.), May 31, 1998. May Kait Durkee—a sophomore in a San Diego, California, area high school—refuses to recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag. Instead, she wishes to sit quietly in class during the recitation of the pledge because she does not believe in God, feels the government is corrupt, and believes that society is too violent. She has been threatened with suspension, but has received parental permission to forgo saying the pledge. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

Florida Today, May 27, 1998. A political cartoon entitled “Guns & Stripes” shows a rendition of the U.S. flag with 50 white handguns in place of the stars. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.).

Vero Beach Press Journal (Vero Beach, Fla.), May 18, 1998. Supporters of a new blasphemy law in Pakistan burned several U.S. flags at a rally to show support for the new law. The Christian
minority in Pakistan opposes the law, fearing it is perhaps aimed at them. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.)

Vero Beach Press Journal (Vero Beach, Fla.), June 3, 1998. A common novelty flag—a U.S. flag defaced overall with the image of a Harley-Davidson motorcycle—has landed Ronald Cox in trouble. Citing a 1919 antiflag desecration law, the local police asked him to remove the flag. The American Civil Liberties Union learned of the incident and came to Cox's defense. After considering the constitutionality of the 1919 statute, it was decided not to prosecute Cox. (Submitted by Bernard J. Couture, Sr.)

Gannett Newspapers, April 29, 1998. To paraphrase General MacArthur, "Old soldiers never die, they just continue to protect our freedoms." Veterans from American Legion Post 1195 in Hastings-on-the-Hudson, New York USA are asking Americans to fly the U.S. flag upside down to protest Congressional efforts to ban flag burning and desecration. (Submitted by Anna K. Weisz).

Sunday Star-Leger, July 5, 1998. With as much drama as General MacArthur wading ashore in the Philippines during World War II, New Jersey's governor Christine Todd Whitman and Senator Robert Torricelli came ashore on Ellis Island to proclaim New Jersey's sovereignty over it. At 2:26 p.m., the governor and senator triumphantly hoisted the New Jersey state flag over the island, with perhaps as much emotion as engendered in the 1945 flag raising at Iwo Jima. The U.S. Supreme Court had previously ruled that the state of New Jersey had title to 24.5 of the 27.5 acres that comprise this small, yet historically important, island in New York Harbor. The state of New York had considered the island entirely its own for many years. (Submitted by Anna K. Weisz).

AOL (America On Line) News, April 9, 1998. There is a dispute over the design of a proposed "official tartan" for the state of New Mexico. Two competing factions have proposed variations involving the colors of green, blue, yellow, and red. The state legislature has shelved the idea until the following year. (Submitted by David Pawson).

Nando Times News (www.nando.net), March 6, 1998. According to this news source, the U.S. Army's Institute of Heraldry as already drafted several patterns for 51-star U.S. flags. Each pattern features five rows of seven stars and two rows of eight stars arranged in differing orders; (Submitted by Vexi-Bits editor, John A. Gámez).

GovExec.com (www.govexec.com), July 17, 1998. This year, the U.S. government's Senior Executive Service (SES) adopted an official flag; it features a blue field, with a blue keystone bordered in gold. Inside the keystone are seven gold columns, surrounded by 13 gold stars. The U.S. Army's Institute of Heraldry has determined that this is not an official governmental flag; it as designed its own flag for SES. This is identical to that described above, but it sports thelegend Department of the Army Senior Executive Service around the keystone. An Army executive joked, Apparently there is not enough to do at headquarters." (Submitted by Vexi-Bits Editor, John A. Gámez).

San Antonio Express-News, Aug. 5, 1998. Gordon Hartman raised a large flag outside his office, upsetting many of his neighbors. But could they be protesting Old Glory? No. The flag that allegedly makes living conditions in this upscale, northwest San Antonio development intolerable is a 15 x 20 foot blue-and-gold banner that reads "GORDON HARTMAN HOMES." Residents complained about the noise made by such a large flag and worry that it could decrease resale values of area homes. The owner intends to replace it with a U.S flag of approximately the same size. A city councilman remarked that "An American flag is surely preferable to a sign." (Submitted by Vexi-Bits editor, John A. Gámez).
Red Star (Briefly) Redux
(Continued from page 1)

therefore suggested that the Byelorussian and Ukrainian SSRs, "Union Republics" of the Soviet Union which had suffered heavily from Nazi invasion, be given membership as well.

The Soviet constitution had been modified in 1944 in anticipation of such a possibility. It provided the (theoretical) right of secession from the USSR to individual Union Republics, as well as allowing them to have local militias and foreign ministries. On this basis, the Soviets could claim that the Union Republics had at least as much autonomy as the commonwealths and dominions of the "imperialist powers." The compromise was accepted by the West and Byelorussian and Ukrainian delegates showed up in San Francisco in 1945 for the United Nations organizing conference.

What these delegates had perhaps not anticipated was the negative reaction which would be engendered by their flags. Individual Union Republics had had flags ever since the formation of the USSR in 1922; official policy, however, was to keep these as uniform in appearance as possible. The Ukrainian and Byelorussian flags of 1945 were almost exactly like the USSR flag, with the addition of their state initials in gold lettering beneath the hammer and sickle. To the casual viewer, it seemed as if the Soviet flag were flying in three different places in the row of national flags at U.N. headquarters.

Eventually the problem was solved by the adoption of distinctive flags by the Ukrainian SSR and the Byelorussian SSR (today Belarus) in 1949 and 1951 respectively: stripes of traditional local colors were added to the flags and the initials were removed. The new flags made clear that each state was under Communist rule, yet there was also a nationalistic expression—for example, in the use of light blue in the Ukrainian flag and light green in the Byelorussian flag. The latter also had a striking vertical band at the hoist resembling local embroidery.

Once these two republics had flags of their own, the other 14 Union Republics acquired similar flags over the course of the next few years. (The number of Union Republics dropped from 16 to 15 when the Karelo-Finnish Soviet Socialist Republic was reduced to an Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic.) Since none of the other Union Republics became members of the United Nations, however, their flags were little known outside the Soviet Union.

Over the course of time, various other Communist states joined the United Nations and some existing members altered their governments towards a Marxist-Leninist course. On the other hand, most of these countries made only a very modest graphic statement about Communism on their flags. In Bulgaria and Romania, for example, there were coats of arms on the national flags which included red stars, but they were scarcely visible to the casual viewer. No Communist symbol at all appeared in the flags flown at the United Nations by Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. More prominent Communist symbols appeared in the flags of Mongolia, China, and Vietnam.

In the fall of 1991 the attempted coup against the liberal policies of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev led to a swift and decisive series of blows against Communist power. The party was dissolved and the Soviet Union disbanded, sweeping away all the symbols (including the hammer-sickle-star and the Red Banner) which had predominated in Russia for 70 years and in Eastern Europe for 40 years. The flags of Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia reverted to their traditional non-Communist colors.

The changing of those flags in the array outside United Nations headquarters in New York City gave one of the most visible and dramatic evidences of the end to old policies and presumptions. Together with changes in the flags of Bulgaria, Romania, Benin, Congo, and Mongolia, this represented a dramatic reduction in the extent of Communist symbolism visible at the United Nations. So prominent had the Marxist presence been years before, many conservatives in the United States called for the expulsion of the U.N. from the United States and/or American resignation from membership in that organization.

Although Communist North Korea joined the United Nations in September 1991, it was more than balanced by the admission to membership of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia under old nationalistic flags. Nevertheless in March 1992, familiar old Communist symbols had a strong resurgence. Among the member nations newly admitted at that time were Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan—all former Union Republics. Their flags, hoisted on that occasion, had been adopted under the Communist era and generally resembled the old Ukrainian and Byelorussian flags.

The governments of those newly-independent Central Asian states were not esposing "proletarian internationalism" and the "struggle to defeat the imperialists of the world." Communism had clearly ceased to have legitimacy in the eyes of most people there, but these republics had not yet found alternative national philosophies. None, moreover, had a national flag from a predecessor state which could easily be readopted, as had happened in Georgia, Belarus, and Lithuania.

The act of creating a national flag is always a political statement. In this case it was especially difficult because the colors and symbols which might go into such a flag had to be chosen on the basis of popular themes which were, at that point, not at all clear. Ethnic pride, Islam, natural features of the country, agriculture produce, and other possibilities could be the basis for a flag only if political consensus was reached about their appropriateness—or if an authoritarian government imposed its own flag choice. Very probably this reason (not to mention the other pressing problems the states faced on their first venture onto the international stage as independent nations) prevented quick decisions about new flags.

In any event the result was striking. In February 1992 there were only three flags at the United Nations openly expressing Communism—those of China, North Korea, and Viet-Nam. Suddenly, these were joined by three more flags recognizably Communist in their design symbolism, doubling the total. The anachronism was not to last long; within eight months each of the three republics had adopted distinctive new non-Marxist flags.
Today is November 18th, NAVA's official anniversary. Thirty-one years ago today, Pierre Lux-Wurm hosted the first NAVA convention at Purchase, New York USA, where delegates voted NAVA into existence. I thought it was a fitting day to write my final president's column.

First, my thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make our recent convention (NAVA 32) in Quebec City such a great success: specifically, David Breitenbach, convention committee chair, Jean-Robert Zonda, our local host, and Gus Tracchia, program chair. Everything about the convention was first class, from our receptions at the Hôtel de ville and the Assemblée nationale, retired Québec diplomat Leo Paré's informative banquet speech on the history of the movement for a separate Québec flag, and the presentation of papers by our members, including Luc Baronian's Captain William Driver Award winning paper. It also didn't hurt that we were in such a historic and beautiful city!


I encourage NAVA to stay focused on the purpose for which it was incorporated by the State of Illinois on March 19, 1968: “To promote vexillology as the scientific study of flags.” We are charged with continually teaching ourselves, our fellow members, and the public beyond our membership the science of vexillology. We have come far in thirty-one years, but there is so much to do. There are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of flags in Canada and the United States alone that we have not documented. And even for the flags we know, we often stop at basic documentation and fail to proceed to analysis: Why this design? Who were the designers and what cultural and political forces influenced them? Like any legitimate scientific field, the work is limitless and the intellectual rewards vast. If you think you aren't talented enough to contribute, I assure you you're wrong! If your city flag's history is undocumented or its symbolism unexplored, go to city hall or the public library and get to work!

In closing, let me thank Whitney Smith for encouraging me to be a vexillologist, Scot Guenter for setting the example of what a NAVA president should be, Lee Herold for his friendship and wise counsel, John Adcock, my partner in life, who has spent untold hours helping me on “that hobby of yours,” and, finally, the membership of NAVA for its trust and support. I owe you more than I can repay.
NAVA Annual Meeting Minutes

NAVA 32, October 10, 1998
Loews Le Concorde Hotel • Québec, Québec, Canada

Executive board members present—
Charles A. Spain, Jr. (president), David S. Breitenbach (first vice president), Carita M. Culmer (second vice president), Barbara Herold (secretary), and Peter J. Orenski (treasurer).

Other voting members present—

1. Call to order—Spain called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.
3. Acceptance of minutes—Motion by Harrington, “That the minutes of the October 11, 1997, NAVA 31 (Chicago, Illinois, USA) annual meeting be approved.” Passed.
4. Reports—The following reports were presented:
   a. Officers
      i. Treasurer: Given by Orenski; the annual financial report is not complete (exhibit A). NAVA has sold over 1000 copies of Raven vols. 3-4 (Flags of the Native Peoples of the United States) and sales income has covered all expenses in producing this double issue; NAVA 31 (1997) expenses were approximately US$100 in excess of revenue; NAVA Shopper income is nonexistent due to Dettra’s merger into Annin; NAVA has reserves of approximately US$12,500, but interest rates are down from previous years.
      ii. Secretary: Given by Barbara Herold (exhibit B).
      iii. Second vice president: Given by Culmer. A property inventory will be conducted in 1998-1999.
      iv. First vice president: Given by Breitenbach.
      v. President: Spain reserved his report for later in the meeting.
   b. Appointed officers
      i. Auditor: Lee Herold noted that he was unable to give a report because the annual financial report is not complete.
      iii. Registered agent: No report received.
      iv. Protocol: No report received.
      v. NAVA shopkeeper: No report received. Orenski noted there was no income from the NAVA Shopper this past fiscal year.
   c. Committees
      i. Budget: Given by Spain for Nick Artimovich (exhibit C). The budget is for ten months only as the 1999 annual meeting will be held during the 18th International Congress of Vexillology in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, July 28 to August 2, 1999.
      ii. Convention: Given by Breitenbach.
      iii. Membership: Given by Oswald (exhibit D). NAVA has 371 members: 312 active members, 34 associate-foreign members, 2 associate-youth members, 22 organizational members, and 1 honorary member.
      iv. Publications: Given by Purcell (exhibit E).
      v. Native American tribal flags (special): Given by Orenski. The United States National Endowment for the Arts turned down NAVA’s proposal for a grant to produce two full-sized tribal flags for each of the native tribes in the United States.
      v. Recognition study committee (special): Given by Guenter. The committee (past presidents/consultants Artimovich, Guenter, Purcell, and Smith, and current president Spain) recommended (1) guidelines for the Captain William Driver Award (which the executive board adopted on August 10, 1998) and (2) abolishing honorary membership as it duplicates the Whitney Award (both recognize persons who have given “distinguished service in the field of vexillology or to the association”) and is cumbersome to bestow since honorary membership requires a two-thirds vote by the voting members present at an annual meeting.

5. Old business—None.
6. New business—Spain surrendered the chair to Breitenbach.
   a. Bylaws amendments: Motion by Spain/second by Lee Herold, “That the proposed bylaws amendments (exhibit F) be approved.” Motion by Martucci/second by Smith, “That the previous question be divided.” Passed.

Section 1 (abolishing honorary membership): Discussion by Spain for the motion. Spain restated the recommendation of the recognition study committee, noted that honorary membership has not been awarded since 1982, that the procedure for granting honorary membership (recommendation by the executive board and approval by two-thirds of the members present at an annual meeting) is impractical, and that honorary membership has been the subject of repeated annual meeting discussions (1972, 1992, and 1993). Smith stated that the primary purpose behind honorary membership in the original 1967 bylaws was to encourage individuals to make major financial contributions to NAVA; he added that this never materialized. (Notes: Article III(B)(4) of NAVA’s 1967 bylaws stated, “Honorary members shall have the title conferred upon them for rendering distinguished service in the field of vexillology, upon the recommendation of the Executive Board as confirmed by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at any annual meeting.” In 1992, the bylaws were amended to limit honorary membership to non-NAVA members and to expand the coverage of honorary membership by allowing it to be bestowed to a person “rendering distinguished service in the field of vexillology or to the association.” [emphasis added]). Martucci spoke against the motion, stating he believed that honorary membership should be used to honor NAVA members for service to NAVA. Martucci distinguished honorary membership from the Whitney Award, which he believes should be used to recognize anyone who has made outstanding contributions to vexillology. He agreed there were problems with the current method of granting honorary membership and favored giving that authority solely to the executive board. Martucci proposed a floor amendment to implement his view of honorary membership, which acting chair Breitenbach ruled out of order (NAVA precedent is that since proposed bylaws amendments are mailed to all members in advance of the annual meeting, such proposed amendments are not subject to floor amendment at the annual meeting in order to protect the nonattending members’ rights). Breitenbach surrendered the chair to Culmer.

Discussion by Breitenbach against the motion, noting that NAVA might use honorary membership in the future to encourage individuals to join NAVA and that nothing would be lost in maintaining it. Orenski spoke against the motion, noting it should be maintained for possible fund raising purposes. Failed.

Culmer surrendered the chair to Spain.

Section 2 (abolishing minimum quorum at annual meetings and
lowering quorum at special meetings to five percent): **Passed.**

Section 3 (limiting consultants to past presidents who are current members): **Passed.**

Section 4 (technical correction to bylaws section 6.07): **Passed.**

b. Recognition of local convention host: **Motion** by Kenny/second by Martucci, “That NAVA show its appreciation for Jean-Robert Zonda’s work on the 1998 convention.” **Passed.** **Motion** by Oswald/second by Orenski, “That NAVA present to Jean-Robert Zonda a wooden plaque of appreciation containing the NAVA seal.” **Motion** by Kenny/second by Martucci, “That the previous question be referred to the executive board.” **Passed.**

c. 1998-1999 nominating committee: Spain presented the executive board’s proposed slate for the 1998-1999 executive board be elected by acclamation.” **Passed.**

d. Tax information returns: **Motion** by Lee Herold/second by Orenski, “That (1) NAVA file an annual tax information return with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service regardless of whether the filing is mandatory and (2) that a copy or copies of the return be available for inspection at the next annual meeting.” **Passed.**

e. Use of Trenton, New Jersey USA address: **Motion** by Lee Herold/second by Breitenbach, “That to the extent possible NAVA use its Trenton, New Jersey USA address in NAVA publications and official correspondence.” **Passed.**

f. Posting of minutes on www.nava.org: **Motion** by Lee Herold/second by Guenter, “That minutes of NAVA annual meetings and executive board meetings, including actions by the executive board taken without a meeting by unanimous written consent, be posted as soon as possible on www.nava.org and remain there for a minimum of two years, provided that the names of individuals selected to receive awards may be omitted from any posting on www.nava.org until after the award has been conferred.” **Passed.**

7. Elections—

a. 1998-1999 nominating committee: Spain presented the executive board’s proposed slate: Gustav Tracchia of Kew Gardens, New York, USA—chair; Peter B. Edwards of Toronto, Ontario, Canada—member; and Scot M. Guenter, Ph.D. of San Jose, California, USA—member. There were no nominations from the floor. **Motion** by Kenny/second by Braverman, “That the executive board’s proposed slate for the 1998-1999 nominating committee be elected by acclamation.” **Passed.**

b. 1998-1999 executive board: Harrington presented the nominating committee’s proposed slate: David B. Martucci of Washington, Maine, USA—president; David S. Breitenbach of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan, USA—first vice president; Carita M. Culmer of Phoenix, Arizona, USA—second vice president; Truman G. Pope of Muncie, Indiana, USA—secretary; and Peter J. Orenski, Ph.D. of New Milford, Connecticut, USA—treasurer. There were no nominations from the floor. **Motion** by Smith/second by Tracchia, “That the nominating committee’s proposed slate for the 1998-1999 executive board be elected by acclamation.” **Passed.**

8. President’s report—Given by Spain. Spain noted that in his six years on the executive board, membership has steadily increased since the approval of the current dues structure in 1990; NAVA has wisely managed its money since that time, resulting in reserves of approximately US$12,500. He encouraged NAVA to use these reserves to forestall a future dues increase. Spain praised the creation and continuation of Raven as NAVA’s most significant achievement in the past twenty years and also praised the continuing improvement of NAVA News. Spain noted the increasing professionalism of the executive board in running the organization as a business, rather than a club, by conducting NAVA’s affairs in compliance with the bylaws, the Illinois General Not For Profit Corporation Act of 1986, GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles), and the United States Internal Revenue Code. He also noted the positive move towards the board establishing general policies and managing NAVA’s business affairs, while holding the committees independently responsible for providing actual member services, i.e., the convention and publications. Spain encouraged the membership to hold the board members to their fiduciary responsibilities and to demand appropriate accountings from the board. He also encouraged the general membership to thank all the volunteers who donate their time and money to make NAVA successful, and reminded the membership that NAVA’s binational reach, the diversity of its members, and the economics of running a small organization make it impossible for the board and other volunteers to please everyone. He closed by thanking Whitney Smith, Scot Guenter, Lee Herold, John Adcock, and the membership.

9. Adjourn—**Motion** by Kenny/second by Tracchia, “That the meeting be adjourned.” **Passed.** Spain adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Herold
Secretary
November 10, 1998

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