Report from the Berlin Flag Congress
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Berlin’s 1935 “Olympic Bridge”, with national flags forming the guard-rail in a 1985 restoration. Berlin was the site of the 22nd ICV.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continuing Dialogue

Dear Fellow NAVA-ites,

This year’s conference in Hartford was a bit of a departure for NAVA. It’s the first time in quite a while that we have planned and organized the conference “in house” instead of delegating the process to a local group. We did this out of necessity, because no local groups expressed interest in hosting the 2007 conference. However, it worked very well, and we may want to consider it as a model for the future. (We’ll have a full-blown wrapup on NAVA 41 in the next issue.)

The advantages are that would give us great flexibility in choosing conference locations—we can basically spread out a map of North America, and say “let’s go here.” It also would allow us to plan several years in advance. We’ll be back to the conventional model in 2008, when we’ll be hosted in Austin by our friends of the Vexillological Association of Texas (VAST). If no bids emerge for 2009, we’ll consider the in-house model for that year. If we take that course, we’ll need to expand the conference committee, chaired by the First Vice President, so that we can spread the effort better.

We are still shaking down the process for producing and mailing NAVA News, but we’re getting there. We’re continuing to improve the functionality of the web site; in the coming year we’ll be focusing on the site’s content. We’ll be reviewing the information there now, and augmenting them with reprints from our publications and new material.

Many thanks to everyone who made comments on the voting issue I discussed in NN 193. We’re printing some of them as letters-to-the editor in this issue, and we’ll be setting up a page on the web site so that everyone can read the others. As I anticipated, opinions were divided fairly consistently: the people who normally attend meetings want to leave things as they are, and the ones who don’t want to expand the franchise to all members, rather than just meeting attendees.

As I read the responses, it struck me that the fundamental issue is bigger than just voting. Michael De Groote said in his letter:

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Editor: Let us know how we can make NAVA News meet your needs

filtered out. So I have set up a new e-mail address: navanews@comcast.net, which is now the best way to reach me from now on.

On to the issues at hand. So, what do you think, readers? What about a Collector’s Corner? I think that is a great idea! Does anyone want to take charge? I’ll even start the first submission: I picked up a bunch of recently outdated 4” x 6” flags that I would like to trade for others. There’s your first listing.

And lastly, should we rename NAVA News, as Dick Gideon suggests? Send me your opinions, and if you want to change the name, what do you want to change it to? Are there any other changes you’d like to see? I (personally) would like to eventually see a larger issue (24 or 32 pages!) with more flags. I’m actually not so much interested in pictures of people or flagpoles, but they do provide frames of reference. I want to see flags!!!! I especially want to see images of flags that I have not seen before, such as member flags, historic flags, or sub-national (city, county and regional) flags.

Thanks,
Daniel Broh-Kahn
Editor

To the Editor:
[As a teacher,] I had my school room filled with every country flag of the world, Canadian provinces, captured Vietcong flags, etc. . . . it would be a good news story of what can be done with flags. At any rate, I enjoyed being in the organization and shared my love for flags with my students who were in my flag club at school. I wonder how many high schools have flag clubs?

Thank You,
Glen Chandler
LaMiranda, Calif.

NAVA News would welcome an article on Mr. Chandler’s flag club and collection.

To the Editor:
Since you asked for suggestions (in No. 194) for NAVA News I thought I’d take you up on it. My suggestion is a blockbuster: Change the name of the magazine. NAVA News is no longer the poorly constructed newsletter of bygone days; it is a full color magazine. Assuming NAVA grows, its quarterly publication should connote more than a mimeographed sheet of announcements. The current title evokes images of a newsletter; something like the local Rotary Club or the AAA might send out to its members. What I see coming in the mail is definitely not a stapled together announcement sheet; it’s a professionally formatted publication, deserving of its ISSN number.

Best,
Richard Gideon
Pittsburgh, Penn.

To the Editor:
I just got my NAVA News and you asked what you would like to see in it. My main interest is collecting 4x6 table top flags, and I have close to 4000 flags in my collection!. Several years ago, Don Healy had the 4x6 corner but somehow that was dropped. I would like to see the 4x6 corner back in future issues. I made a suggestion one time if possible of maybe putting a picture of unidentified flags to see if anyone could identify them. I think you have a lot of good ideas, and I am looking forward to coming issues of NAVA News.

Sincerely,
Glen Nolan
Harrison, Ohio

MILESTONES

NAVA Members Mark 40 Years

As NAVA turns 40 years old, we honor five members who joined in 1967 and remain active today. Wow!

Dr. Whitney Smith, Winchester, Mass.
Mr. Gerhard P. Grahl, Bronx, N.Y.
Mr. Juris Upmans, Ormond Beach, Fla.
Mr. Harry Manogg, Boston, Mass.
Mr. David Martucci, Washington, Me.

ERRATA

Issue Nos. 190-192 of NAVA News were mistakenly numbered Volume 31 rather than 39.
The Editor regrets the error. Please correct your copies accordingly.
Should NAVA’s Voting Rules Be Changed?

**Yes:**

According to the NAVA web site there are 526 members of this organization. Of that number 47 are Associate, 4 Honorary, and 3 Organizational members. Factoring out the Associate and Honorary members not entitled to the franchise, there are 475 members theoretically entitled to vote for officers and resolutions. Approximately 10 percent of that impressive number set the direction and tone of this organization, the reason being that, roughly speaking, only about 25 to 50 members usually attend the annual NAVA convention, and it is only by attending a convention that one gets to vote.

Although Organizational members may designate a representative to vote for them at the annual meeting, individual members may not nominate a proxy. It is an undeniable fact that the vast majority of NAVA members are shut out of the democratic process, not because they are denied their franchise, but because the bylaws favor those with the resources and time to attend the meetings; or in plainer and sharper language, an elite vanguard runs the show. A search of the NAVA web site sheds no light on the reason for Chapter 4.08 of the bylaws.

At the Reno, Nevada, convention (NAVA 40) last year a proposed change to the bylaws to permit voting by absentee and/or proxy means was soundly defeated by the few members who attended that convention. According to NAVA President Peter Ansoff, “We included a question about this proposal on our recent membership survey, and the results were overwhelmingly (70%) in favor of the change.” In reading the minutes of NAVA 40 one searches in vain for discussion or comments that would explain why this change was so unpopular; unpopular, that is, to the few. Without knowing the reasoning of these few, and without those reasons being published for all to read, one may only speculate as to what was said, if anything, against the proposal. I will not engage in such speculation in this letter as I believe it to be counterproductive. Those members opposed to a change in 4.08 need to provide us with a logical explanation for their position.

As a stockholder in several companies and mutual funds, I am afforded the opportunity to vote on any number of issues germane to those entities. I am given the option of voting in person at annual meetings, by proxy, over the telephone, by mail, and by that new and exciting technology – the Internet.

The Internet provides some remarkable new ways to interact, including real-time “chats” and video web-casting. Perhaps some of these methods are

**No:**

At last year’s annual meeting I was one of the members who spoke out against the amendment allowing proxy and absentee voting. Over the years, I have been active in quite a few local, state, national, and international organizations with memberships from under 50 to 600,000, serving on the boards of most of them at one time or another. At one time, I was a member of the boards of directors of more than 15 organizations at one time. I mention this to emphasize that my comments are based on experience, not just opinion.

The concept of “one man - one vote” is a noble one. It has a great ring to it, like God, Country, and Apple Pie. However, history has shown us that uninformed voters are easily manipulated and/or duped. The foundation for a strong democracy is an informed and involved electorate.

Many people join an organization, any organization, for purposes other than to get involved in the politics and governance of that organization. In many cases these people will never read the Bylaws, and do not care who serves in various offices and positions of the organization. In the case of NAVA some people join for information as published in the NAVA News, for research, and to support the “cause” of vexillology to name a few reasons.

On the other hand, there are members who regularly attend conventions, present papers, volunteer to serve on committees, make it a point to meet and get to know other involved members, and generally become the life-blood of the organization. To these members, NAVA is more than another resource - it’s a passion. The issues of governance and the choice of officers and directors are important to them.

We are all familiar with stories of proxy fights in corporations where a disgruntled or ambitious minority of stock holders, in some cases one person, wages a mail campaign for proxy votes so that they can change the leadership or direction of the company for their own personal benefit. I have seen the same thing tried in membership organizations, and it is neither pretty nor is it productive. In an organization the size of NAVA a person could easily come to a meeting with enough votes in his/her “pocket” to single-handedly hijack the organization. Debate and discussion at the meeting would have no impact on the results because the results would be predetermined. The threat of this type of manipulation of an election is precisely why almost every organization like NAVA requires votes to be made by those actually attending the meeting.

In closing, the idea of absentee and proxy voting
The flag for NAVA 41 was designed by Dean Thomas of Downey, California. The three grape vines are from the state arms of Connecticut, and the blue and white colors recall the Connecticut state flag. The “V” motif symbolizes vexillology. Proportions are 3:5.

We’ve now made arrangements for a special run of those beautiful and well-made flags, for those who will miss getting one at the meeting. It’s only fair to let all NAVA members in on the opportunity, which incidentally is a fund-raiser for NAVA! While the auctioned flags will likely go for over $300 apiece, the cost of flags in the special run will be $129 each, including shipping.

The digitally-printed nylon flags print the image through-and-through to read correctly on the front side and reverse. The flags are finished with lock-stitched hems and a heavy bleached canvas header with brass grommets.

To place your order, mail a check (payable to NAVA for $129, mailed to NAVA c/o 2235 NW Aspen, Portland, OR 97210) or send a PayPal payment (for $129 to treas@nava.org). Include shipping instructions. All paid orders received by December 31st will be fulfilled. Orders received after that date will be returned, so don’t delay!

Thanks for supporting NAVA!

NAVA has awarded its 2007 Grace Rogers Cooper Flag Conservation Grant to help conserve an interesting flag in the collection of the Masonic Library and Museum of Pennsylvania. The flag is made of white silk, 70 by 47 inches, with a painted design of an eagle and shield, surrounded by 17 eight-pointed stars. The eagle has three arrows in its claws, and a scroll across the bottom of the flag contains the legend “Support Our Constitution.”

The flag is lined with white linen fabric, supported by a wooden strainer, and mounted in a frame with what purports to be a Revolutionary War-era musket. The legend at the bottom of the frame reads: Flag and Musket which were carried through the Revolutionary War. The stars and legend “Support Our Constitution” were added on the flag for use during the War of 1812. Bequeathed to Washington Lodge No. 59 by Bro. William J. Fulton.

Despite the legend, it seems more likely that the flag dates from the early Federal period rather than the Revolution. The eagle and shield are not typical Revolutionary-war-era symbols, and the explanation of the stars and the motto gives the sense of being a post-hoc invention. Nevertheless, it is a very handsome flag and an intriguing piece of history.

Philadelphia Textile & Object Conservation prepared a conservation plan that calls for the flag to be removed from its frame, cleaned, and reattached to a new backing and support. The lining will not be removed because of the flag’s fragile condition.

The museum is hoping for a matching funds grant from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission to pay for the plan. One Pennsylvania Masonic lodge is contributing half of the matching funds, and the remainder is being sought from interested organizations and individuals.

NAVA thanks Andrew A. Zellers-Frederick, museum executive director, for providing information on the flag and allowing us to reproduce the photo. See more on the web at www.Pagrandlodge.org.
Organizers Delivered Rewarding Week at Berlin Congress

BY TED KAYE

Flag enthusiasts from the world over recently convened for the 22nd International Congress of Vexillology. The German Society for Flag Studies (Deutschen Gesellschaft für Flaggenkunde—DGF) hosted six days in early August in Berlin, the re-established capital of a country in the midst of rethinking its relationship with flags. They welcomed the largest number of vexillologists ever to attend an international congress since 1987's 12 ICV / NAVA 21 in San Francisco.

Gerd Vehres, a former East German ambassador to Hungary, exercised his fine diplomatic skills as head of the Organizing Committee, which co-sponsored the congress with the Deutsches Historisches Museum (German Historical Museum). The DHM, a grand institution, mounted an exhibit of the flags in its collection: “Farben der Geschichte: Fahnen und Flaggen” (Colors of History—Banners and Flags), and hosted all congress meetings in its auditorium. Gerd’s colleagues in the DGF, led by its president, Dr. Andreas Herzfeld, made the record crowd of vexillologists welcome and comfortable.

Over 130 delegates from 35 countries (including over 25 NAVA members) attended, along with 40 guests. They enjoyed four days of presentations, a museum tour, a field trip to Potsdam, and a sumptuous closing banquet. During the congress, the Fédération international des Associations Vexillologiques (FIAV) held its general assembly, with nearly 40 member institutions represented.


DGF members also shared their tremendous knowledge of German flags, in presentations on the federal states’ flags, the flags of local authorities and municipalities, and flags of specific areas such as East Prussia, the Rhineland-Palatinate, the Saarland, and even car flags of the German border police! The youngest presenter was 18-year-old Alexandru Dan Mandru of Romania, who gave an excellent lecture, “Moral Concepts Surrounding Flags”.

The DHM auditorium provided headsets for simultaneous English-German translation, making presentations immediately accessible and understandable—nearly all attendees spoke English or German as a first or second language. Many presentations went beyond the usual PowerPoint, using full-size flags for display (which usually stopped the talk while the photographers got their shots). Flags of FIAV members lined one wall.

The mid-week tour took participants to the nearby historic town of Potsdam, where they visited Prussian King Frederick II’s park and palace, Sanssouci, and the site of the 1945 “Big Three” meeting, Cecilienhof, where the victorious allies redrew the map of Europe at the end of World War II. On the way they visited the Olympic Bridge, built in 1935 and restored in 1980 with metal national flags forming the guard-rail for its entire length on both sides. Non-vexillologists among the attendees had their own sight-seeing program during some of the flag presentations, with an interesting visit to the reopened Bundestag (formerly the Reichstag).

Tables full of flags, books, and other flag-related items drew frequent attention in the auditorium, allowing attendees to take home discounted and hard-to-find materials. Transactions occurred in euros, dollars, and several other currencies, and many took the opportunity to renew memberships in other flag organizations in person. Several flag-book authors were signing their publications. The meeting provided many opportunities for informal interactions and sharing flag knowledge.

FIAV’s leaders announced ten new Fédération Fellows, including NAVA members Roberto Breschi, Kevin Harrington, Andreas Herzfeld, Ralph Kelly, and Gerd Verhres. They also announced the winners of the Vexillon, sponsored by the Flag Society of Australia, for the most important contribution to vexillological scholarship in the past two years: Whitney Smith and the late Howard Michael Madaus, co-authors of The American Flag: Two Centuries of Concord & Conflict. Dr. Smith accepted the award on behalf of his colleague with a moving speech. Dr. Emil Dreyer won the award for the best paper, “Flags of the Pope’s Swiss Guard since 1798”.

NAVA President Peter Ansoff sent best wishes for a successful congress. In his message, Ansoff wrote: “We vexillologists face a special challenge as we seek to develop scholarly knowledge about flags. Like all scholars, we must approach this task in an impartial and non-partisan way. At the same time, we must acknowledge that the objects of our investi-
gations are political symbols, and that, by their very nature, they tend to be sources of disharmony. This is particularly true in the international arena, which is rife with political and ideological discord."

The FIAV general assembly confirmed the site of the next congress: Yokohama, 12-17 July 2009, to be organized by the Japanese Vexillological Association. JAVA President Nozomi Kariyasu received the FIAV flag and gavel to symbolize the responsibility for 23 ICV. FIAV delegates re-elected the current executive board: Michel Lupant (Belgium), president; Kin Spain (USA, former NAVA president), secretary-general; and Graham Bartram (UK), secretary-general for congresses. They reported that there is hope that the proceedings of past congresses will be published, with 19 ICV (York) the next to be completed. FIAV also accepted NAVA’s bid to host the 24th International Congress of Vexillology in 2011 in the Washington, D.C. area. That meeting will coincide with NAVA’s 45th annual meeting.

The mainstays of the Flags of the World website, led by Dr. Rob Raeside, held their biennial organiza-

The reunification of the country, and of Berlin, has opened up museum collections on both sides to far

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A Shutterbug’s Look at Berlin 2007
OPPOSITE TOP: Representatives of German veterans organization show their historic flags. OPPOSITE BOTTOM RIGHT: David Breitenbach and John Purcell examine the congress flag. OPPOSITE BOTTOM LEFT: Ralph Bartlett shows the flag of the Flag Society of Australia. LEFT: The German flag flies over the Bundestag (formerly Reichstag). BELOW RIGHT: The next flag generation. Rob & Mason Kaye, Anton & Veronika Herzfeld. BOTTOM RIGHT: Harry Oswald and Veronika Herzfeld enjoy the final banquet. BELOW LEFT: FIAV’s executive board calls the General Assembly to order: Kin Spain, Michel Lupant, and Graham Bartram. BELOW MIDDLE: Poster for the Deutsches Historisches Museum’s flag exhibition. BOTTOM LEFT: Dr. Whitney Smith accepts the Vexilllon on behalf of the late Howard Madaus.
A Flag for Lafayette, Indiana

By PETER ANSOFF

“It was thrilling for me to hear one of our young Youth Council members explain to a city council member why his suggestion of putting the city seal on the new flag was NOT a good idea. (Hooray!) That should make NAVA proud!”

— Jane Boswell, flag design team advisor

The city of Lafayette, Indiana, unfurled a new civic flag this summer. The design was created as a project of the Mayor’s Youth Council. Peter Ansoff conducted an e-mail interview with design team members to learn more about their project. The following is a slightly edited transcription of the interview.

Peter Ansoff: How did you first come up with the idea of creating a new flag for Lafayette?
Nastassja Richardson: Mayor Tony Roswarski requested that our Mayor’s Youth Council create a flag for our city.
Nick Brown: We presented our “Flag for Lafayette” in front of Lafayette’s City Council via a PowerPoint presentation.
Colin Denhart: The presentation was given March 15, 2007, and adopted April 9, 2007.

PA: Who were the design team members?
Jade Anthrop: Our entire Mayor’s Youth Council helped design the new flag.

PA: What sorts of research did you do, and what kinds of sources did you use? What kinds of “ground rules” did you establish for the design team?
Rhett Buwalda: We talked to a historian of Lafayette. Members of the design team with Lafayette Mayor Tony Roswarski and city officials; note the special team t-shirts with the flag. Front: Jane Boswell, project advisor; Cindy Murray, City Clerk; Brittany Oliver; Colin Denhart; Nick Brown; Mayor Roswarski; Nastassja Richardson; Ellen Coates; Rachel Sekine. Back: City Council Members Ron Campbell, Lon Heide, Melissa Williamson, and Steve Meyer.

Bob Kriebel: He introduced the history of our city and talked about symbols that represent Lafayette.
Ellen Coates: Everyone created several of their own original flags on 3” x 5” notecards at home. At the next meeting, we all came together and selected our top designs.
Brittany Oliver: We used guidelines from Good Flag, Bad Flag and the knowledge of a past high school art teacher, Jane Boswell.

PA: What were some of the themes that you considered?
Rachel Sekine: Originally, we considered using a circle to represent a traveling steamboat wheel of early settlers or a mill along the Wabash River.
Molly Scherer: Other symbols we thought about including were crossing lines because our state includes the crossroads of America and the shape of an “L” for the name of our city.
Rory Stodgell: We wanted to be bold in our color choices for the flag. Red, green, blue, yellow, and white were all considerations. Eventually we decided upon red, blue, yellow, and white to tie both the United States and Indiana flag into our own.

PA: Did you study the flags of other cities, countries, etc., to get a feel for what a “good” flag looks like?
Buwalda: We looked at other flags on the Internet and...
in *Good Flag, Bad Flag* to make sure our design was original.

**PA:** How did you actually decide which designs were the best? Did you create any that were combinations of ideas from more than one team member?

**Oliver:** We discarded any flags that resembled other city or country flags and presented our own to each other. Once we had eliminated the preliminary flags, we voted for the final candidates. [Some of the designs that the panel considered are shown on the back cover.]

**PA:** Did you present a single, final design, or did you give the city several to select from?

**Sekine:** We presented one final “Flag for Lafayette” to the Lafayette City Council and included a few runner-ups in our PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate the flag process.

**Scherer:** In our presentation, we included explanations of symbols and colors in our flag and advice from our favorite sidekick, *Good Flag, Bad Flag*.

**PA:** How long did the design process take?

**Richardson:** Our design process took seven months from the initial designs to selecting our final design.

**PA:** When thinking about design ideas, did you consider factors that might affect the cost of the flag?

**Denhart:** We debated how many colors we would use in our design because of costs. We decided upon the four colors that best represented our city.

**PA:** What was the community reaction to the flag project? Did people seem to think that it was a good idea, or just a waste of time?

**Anthrop:** The community had a great reaction to our flag. They were amazed by our efforts and dedication to our “Flag for Lafayette”.

**Stodgell:** Initially, people were questioning the necessity of a city flag. There was even a claim of a former, forgotten flag still existing in our city. However, our research was accurate and our flag was Lafayette’s first.

*Note:* A flag was created for the city in 1969. Then-Mayor Donald Blue felt that the city should have a flag, and selected the final design. Recent research by Lafayette’s city clerk and city attorney shows that the previous flag was a banner designed to commemorate the Bicentennial and was never officially adopted. (Lafayette Journal & Courier, May 15, 1975, and e-mail, Jane Boswell to Peter Ansoff, June 4, 2007.)

**PA:** How did you present the flag to the city, and what kind of comments did you get?

**Brown:** At our community’s “Citizens Band Concert” on Flag Day, we presented our city flag to Mayor Roswarski. Everyone was impressed and enjoyed our flag. We got many compliments and our very first purchases. We sold sewn flags, screen printed flags, desk flags, and lapel pins in order to raise enough money to donate a flag to every city building in Lafayette.

**Commentary:** NAVA was not involved in this project but our Good Flag, Bad Flag principles played a significant role in it. This is as it should be. NAVA’s role is not to create civic flags or to advocate the creation of such flags. We do offer our experience and corporate knowledge, both of design principles and process, to those who want to create flags.

A civic flag is far more likely to be accepted when seen as a creation of the community that it represents and Lafayette certainly achieved that. As for NAVA’s role, Ms. Boswell is right: It does make us proud!

Lafayette city flags can be purchased from the City Clerk’s Office, 20 N. 6th Street, Lafayette, IN 47901. 3’ x 5’ outdoor nylon flags are $100, 3’ x 5’ printed polyester flags are $25, and 4” x 6” TTFs with stand are $10. Lapel pins at $5, 4” x 6” stickers at $3 and T-Shirts ($15 for SM/MED/LG/XL, $17 for XXL or XXXL).
BOOK REVIEW

Mastai’s Successor
By TED KAYE

At last a book has arrived that can be described as the successor to “Mastai”! I’m referring, of course, to the great 1973 volume The Stars and Stripes: The American Flag as Art and History from the Birth of the Republic to the Present, by Boleslaw and Marie-Louise D’Otrange Mastai. Now, a generation later, comes another fine, full-color book depicting the history of the U.S. flag with real examples of actual historic flags.

Like Mastai, Concord & Conflict is at its base a collection catalog, telling the story of the flag through the holdings of the Zaricor collection, supplemented by quilts from the Louise Veninga collection and memorabilia assembled by San Francisco graphic designer Kit Hinrichs. Some of the flags depicted were acquired from the Mastai collection by Ben Zaricor, a Santa Cruz businessman and one of the most prominent U.S. flag collectors today. The core of the book was the landmark 2003 Presidio exhibition.

This book delivers the sound scholarship of two leading vexillologists rather than the personal opinions of the Mastais (who propagated, among other myths, the “war stripe”—traceable primarily to Boleslaw’s eager imagination). The late Howard Madaus curated the Presidio exhibition, drawing on his expertise as a leading historians of the U.S. flag. A former chief curator of the National Civil War Museum, he published extensively, including several important books and articles in NAVA News and Raven. Dr. Whitney Smith, director of the Flag Research Center, collaborated extensively on the text, modern vexillology’s organizer.

Inevitably, there are a few errors. Former NAVA president David B. Martucci notes that the portrait of Francis Hopkinson is actually that of Francis Hopkinson, Jr., son of the delegate to Congress who claimed to have designed the flag, an error which originated in What So

Proudly We Hail and was identified in the 1980s in NAVA News. Concord & Conflict literally teems with flag images — well over a hundred flags (plus related items) — many averaging 4” x 6” and larger. A full page is devoted to most, with approximately 250 words of text about each flag. Among the gems: an early 16-star “Grand Luminary” from 1796-1803; General George Armstrong Custer’s third personal cavalry headquarters guidon (made by his wife in 1864) substantiated by a contemporary photograph; and the car flags from President Kennedy’s limousine (acquired by his secretary, Evelyn Lincoln, on 25 November 1963). High production values characterize the book.

The chapters run chronologically, from “A New Constellation: 13 Stars and 13 Stripes for a New Nation” to “A Symbol of World Power: The Stars and Stripes at Home and Abroad”. The book ends with a thoughtful commentary by Ben Zaricor: “Whose Flag Is It, Anyway?”. The collector’s passion spills through: since 1970 he and his family have collected more than 2,500 flags, quilts, and other flag-related items. Zaricor’s strong feeling for the flag’s symbolism is demonstrated by his unusual but stirring practice of hoisting nearly every historic flag he acquires, no matter how old, for one brief session in the breeze on his home’s flag pole.

Much more than another pretty “picture book” on the U.S. flag, this volume is both a reference to the flag’s evolution and a well-researched text on its history and meaning. Its authors well deserve the honor recently awarded them by the International Federation of Vexillological Associations in Berlin: the Vexillon, which recognized the book as the most important contribution to world vexillological scholarship in the past two years.
The Flag of COPEL, a Spanish Protest Movement

By JOSEPH TORMO-COLOMINA & JOHNNY SEMPERE
The Spanish Vexillological Association

The famous COPEL (Coordinadora de Presos Españoles en Lucha) or Spanish Activist Inmate Committee was a protest movement born at the outset of the advent of democracy in Spain, back in 1975-1976 (lasting until around 1980).

COPEL tried, through campaigns of mobilizations, mutinies, riots, and uprisings in Spanish prisons, to obtain the same amnesty that was offered to political prisoners so that it would be applicable for common and ordinary inmates as well. This objective was not eventually attained, mainly because COPEL failed to obtain the solidarity of any political party within the Spanish Parliament, and not even the support from some of the extra-parliamentary left-wing parties, contrary to what, in principle, COPEL might have expected.

The flag that COPEL displayed at penitentiaries and prisons during the periods of greater agitation and intense activity was typically placard-like, in the fashion of the flags carried in demonstrations containing vindictive mottos or slogans and demanding rights. It consisted of a white cloth painted with the map of Spain behind bars in a brownish orange shade of background, in the middle of a white circle with a wide sky-blue edge hemmed in black inside, flanked by the word AMNISTIA (amnesty) written vertically in black capital letters on both sides of the banner.

The word LIBERTAD (liberty), also in black capital letters, appeared in the interior of the circumference as well, just above a drawing of the map of Spain which lay on chain links. One of the links—the one at the center of the chain—shown as being broken or smashed into pieces, symbolizing a hymn or allegory to the yearned liberty, which, at any rate, was explicitly expressed twice in writing on the cloth. Also, and almost undistinguishable, there were eleven light brown dots placed below the “LIBERTAD” caption. Two long convergent light brown chains in the shape of the letter “L” frame the whole of the central motif. At the bottom center, the chain is interrupted by the CO.P.E.L. acronym in black, but the upper part remains open and without chains.

Given the relative complexity of this curious flag we are including a graphic representation of it in order to illustrate this note. We will no doubt be satisfied if this concise description serves as a written memory of a rather unusual association and its flag during a period in Spain of political transition into democracy. The symbol, albeit short-lived, stood as an inspiration to common prisoners in their frustrated hope for freedom.
**Discussion: Change The Voting Rules for NAVA?**

*continued from page 2*

too advanced or costly for NAVA to implement at the moment, but at a minimum giving a proxy would be a step in the right direction. A proxy would permit those members disenfranchised by lack of time or fortune to be involved in the important decisions of this organization and to finally have a voice.

(Attending a NAVA meeting may cost US $1,000 or more, given the cost of air fare, hotel accommodations, meals, car rentals, and the registration fee.)

I call upon all those members currently disenfranchised by archaic bylaws, more fitting to the 1950s than the 21st Century, to let the organization know how you feel. As an active NAVA member, you have the right to call the question. If at all possible, try to attend NAVA 41 in Hartford so that the issue may be debated and properly reported. Ironically, it is only by showing numbers at this meeting that a change in the bylaws may be effected.

**RICHARD R. GIDEON**  
Pittsburgh, Penn.

If NAVA wants to have a broader membership base, it needs to allow the broader membership base have a say in its governance. It is all a matter of what sort of organization you want. Do we just want to talk to each other as a social club of experts? Do we have a larger purpose as an association bent on increasing awareness of and adoption of good flag design? Either sort of organization is fine, but we can't complain about membership numbers and influence and money if we go the club route.

**MICHAEL DE GROOTE**  
West Valley City, Utah

*continued from page 2*

at NAVA annual meetings was a bad idea last year, it is still a bad idea this year, and it will continue to be a bad idea in the years to come.

**PETE VAN DE PUTTE**  
San Antonio, Texas

I did not oppose [changing the bylaws] because I suspect the Board of a cabal. While at first glance having the entire membership voting on everything may seem to be a good idea, in fact there are some reasons why it isn’t. First, it becomes an unwieldy and expensive process, because to be sure that votes are authentic, they must be on paper with some sort of signature process (outer envelope, etc.) Decisions on issues will necessarily be delayed.

Issues that arise on the floor at a meeting cannot be decided at that meeting, but must be delayed for the mail vote. While candidates put forward by the Nominating Committee could be voted on in advance, it would complicate the matter of what to do about nominations from the floor. Two nominees for each office could be put forward in advance, if two can be found, but what happens if two are not found? In a group our size, that is a real possibility, and still doesn’t solve the problem of nominations from the floor. Further, I suspect many of our members only have a casual interest in the governing process of the organization, and may well not take the time to be informed about the issues.

A discussion of issues would have to be provided for the membership in some format, either on the website or in *NAVA News*, or both. Members who do not use the website would have to wait for the next *NAVA News*. If one is present at the annual meeting, s/he can hear all sides of a matter, get to know the officers on a personal basis, and participate in the governance process actively and immediately. If the entire membership must vote on matters, the annual business meeting becomes little more than a discussion group or a forum for announcements.

I do not desire to disenfranchise any fellow members, but to keep our organization running efficiently. Occasionally, I could not attend the NAVA meetings, and accepted as a matter of course the results of the business at those meetings. Possibly a way may be found to involve more of the members in the voting process, perhaps in specified areas, but my feeling is that the present system has worked well for us for 40 years, and I doubt that changing the Bylaws now will improve governance in NAVA.

**JOHN PURCELL**  
Cleveland, Ohio

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**For More Information**

You can read the text of the bylaws and the minutes of NAVA 40 in the Members Section of the NAVA website, www.nava.org. The member login is in the upper right-hand corner of the page. If you have technical difficulties, contact the webmaster by e-mail at webmaster@nava.org.
CHUMLEY THE VEXI-GORILLA

As Germany re-thinks its relationship with flags, world’s vexillologists enjoy rewarding week in reunited Berlin

NAVA Classifieds

Information sought on flagpoles 1885-1933, especially if related to yacht club buildings. Contact sworth@consultant.com.

Flag Materials Analysis: Fonda Thomsen, LLC. PO Box 607, Ft. Davis, TX 79734 (423)426-2363, fondag@sbcglobal.net.

For sale: select number of Native American flags. Contact Dick Clark (703) 524-2147, csaflags@juno.com.

Designer of flags and symbols seeks employment as creator of flags and symbolic designs. Juan Jose Morales, Tampa FL, (813) 975-8747, hijodelcid@webtv.net.

Mark your calendars!

NAVA 42: NAVA’s 42nd Annual Meeting will be held in Austin, Texas, on 10-12 October 2008. Organized by the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas. Contact: Hugh Brady, hugh@hughbrady.com.

ICV 24/NAVA 45: NAVA and the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association have been selected as hosts of the 24th International Congress of Vexillology. ICV 24 will convene in the Washington, D.C., area and will be held in conjunction with NAVA 45. Contact: Peter Ansoff, ansoff@alumni.vanderbilt.edu.

Chumley the Vexi-Gorilla™ is the creation of Michael Faul, editor of Flagmaster, the distinguished journal of the Flag Institute in the United Kingdom. To a field not often blessed with humor’s grace, Mr. Faul brings a delightfully light touch, deep vexillological roots, and sparkling whimsy.

President: Continuing Dialogue

"It is all a matter of what sort of organization we want. Do we just want to talk to each other as a social club of experts? Do we have a larger purpose as an association bent on increasing awareness of and adoption of good flag design? Either sort of organization is fine, but we can’t complain about membership numbers and influence and money if we go the club route."

Exactly so. If we want NAVA to be a “flag club,” we can leave things as they are. That’s the way NAVA was founded in 1967; it made sense back then. If we want NAVA to be a dynamic, inclusive international organization on the cutting edge of vexillological scholarship, then we must acknowledge that it isn’t 1967, and NAVA is no longer a small elite group that can afford the time and cost of jetting around the continent to attend meetings. In 1967, face-to-face meetings were the most practical way to accomplish NAVA’s mission. In the 2007 world of web sites, electronic publishing and e-mail, that just isn’t true.

It’s been pointed out, correctly, that expanding the franchise would be more complicated and costly than the current system, because we need to arrange a mail-in and/or electronic voting process. This is true, but it’s not an overwhelming problem. Most membership organizations do it, even though they have far larger memberships than ours.

After a business meeting discussion in Hartford, I hope to continue this dialogue over the coming year.

Flaggily,
Peter Ansoff
President
Flags for Lafayette, Indiana

Pictured are designs considered for Lafayette, Indiana’s new flag. The top three flags were “runners-up” while the next 13 flags were “semi-finalists”. The story begins on page 8.