Burma’s New Flag in Use—
A Field Report
Page 2
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our Friends in the North

VANCOUVER ISLAND, BRITISH COLUMBIA

Friends:

I write this as the 46th annual meeting of the Royal Heraldry Society of Canada has adjourned. Held in the port town of Nanaimo, it was a great weekend spent with our colleagues in an allied discipline.

The meeting marked the Diamond Jubilee of Elizabeth II’s accession as Queen of Canada. Lest you think the entire weekend was centered on shields, there were several discussions of the new Canadian personal flags for members of the Royal Family other than the Queen; the keynote address was delivered by Kevin MacLeod, the Usher of the Black Rod of the Senate of Canada and Canadian Secretary to the Queen.

MacLeod mentioned that the idea originated at one of his monthly breakfasts with Chief Herald of Canada Claire Boudreau and both worked through a narrow window of opportunity to make the flags a reality. The Duke of Cambridge was the first to use any of the new designs when he visited Canada with his Duchess last summer.

I was welcomed warmly by the meeting delegates—it was especially delightful to meet Joan Merrington, whom many of you know, and discuss both flags and heraldry with her. Joan also staged a wonderful display commemorating her husband’s participation in the 1953 Coronation festivities as a member of a Southern Rhodesian regiment.

Originally, the RHSC meeting in British Columbia, initially scheduled for October of this year, was intended to be a joint meeting with NAVA. As you all know, NAVA is a bi-national association covering both the United States and Canada. However, NAVA has not met in Canada since 2003’s NAVA 37 in Montréal, and I thought it was time to return. Several discussions were held with the RHSC organizers and it looked like a joint meeting would happen until the last minute. Then, because of a change in Canada’s non-profit laws, the RHSC had to move its meetings from October to May. NAVA couldn’t accommodate a sharp change to our meeting schedule so suddenly, and GWAV graciously offered to hold this year’s meeting in Columbus.

If NAVA is going to maintain any serious claim to being a bi-national organization, then we must engage our colleagues in the North, which includes meeting there regularly. Historically, NAVA has met on the weekend before the second Monday in October because that Monday is a holiday in both countries: Columbus Day in the U.S. and Thanksgiving in Canada. Thus, all members would have Monday off from work for a travel day.

What I have consistently heard, from both U.S. and Canadian members, is that this arrangement doesn’t provide the intended benefit. Many in the U.S. no longer have Columbus Day as a holiday. And most Canadians understandably wish to spend their Thanksgiving with their families.

We must seriously revisit our meeting schedule to meet in Canada. The benefits of joint meetings with other, allied organizations provide a richer experience for members of both organizations, encourages interdisciplinary work, and builds lasting ties. And, frankly, it also reduces the administrative burdens for NAVA.

I believe that we should meet in Canada every fourth year, preferably in a year in which an International Congress of Vexillology is not held. Coupled with a system that moves us from East to Trans-Mississippi to West, we can reap the benefits of our varied membership over a large portion of the North American continent.

We also must regularly publish material that covers Canada. A huge contribution will be made with the impending publication of the Raven volume on Canadian city flags, but that is a starting point, not the end. We must endeavor to meaningfully include Canadian content in this publication and nava.org.

continued on next page
Editorial
Musings

Dear NAVA Readers,

The last two issues of NAVA News featured a fine article by Catherine Wright, collections manager at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia, and a report by Bob Williamson, board chairman of the House of Flags Museum in Columbus, North Carolina, about a recent research discovery. This time, we present a report by John Caskey about the Spokane Flag Museum in Washington. It’s very encouraging that such organizations have joined NAVA and are sharing the results of their research, conservation, and promotion efforts with our readership. This clearly benefits both NAVA and the individual institutions, and we hope the trend continues.

This issue also features two fine contributions by NAVA members: Gordon White’s on the new flag of Burma/Myanmar, and Javier Hernandez’s on the flag of Puerto Rico.

In my experience, editors of volunteer publications typically find themselves repeating the same mantra issue after issue: “Please, please send us content—this is your publication”, etc. For whatever reasons, this generalization does not seem to apply to NAVA. I’m continually amazed at how many of our members write and submit such excellent material. Please, keep it coming! If you have an idea for an article or feature, don’t hesitate to let me know.

Most NAVA News readers are undoubtedly aware of the recent closure of the Flag Research Center and the end of publication of The Flag Bulletin after 50 years. These events obviously represent a sea change in the world of vexillological scholarship. In future issues we’ll be discussing the legacy of the FRC and how it might affect the future of NAVA’s own publications.

Hugh Brady
President

Peter Ansoff
Editor

Continued from previous page

We must recognize that Canada is a bilingual country and we must not only provide some meaningful access to our services in both English and French, but we must also encourage and support Francophone vexillologists in Canada.

At a minimum and as a start, we can provide French-language translation of basic information, including publication mastheads, indicia, and reference material. Translating nava.org into French would be another step. Just as we must include Canadian content, we must include French-language content as well.

Other thoughts are reserving at least one seat on the Board for a Canadian member; while we may not always have a Canadian member willing to serve, we should try to identify and recruit regularly for this seat. None of our awards commemorate a Canadian vexillologist; perhaps we should have one. We should conduct outreach to Canadian federal and provincial officials whose work involves vexillology.

Our Canadian membership is quite low. I believe this is due to benign neglect of our colleagues in the North. It’s time for that to end, and time for a new era of engagement with our friends there.

Hugh Brady
President

Continued from previous page

Our Brazilian correspondent sends this photo of the flag of the Mercado Comum do Sul (Southern Common Market) flying on the city hall of Cordeirópolis, São Paulo State, along with the national, state, and city flags. When flown in Spanish-speaking nations the flag reads “MERCOSUR” for Mercado Común del Sur, the Spanish version of the organization’s name.

Tiago José Berg

Field Report: Brazil

25th International Congress of Vexillology
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
5-9 August 2013
www.nfc2013.com

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Tiago José Berg
Burma’s New Flag in Use—A Field Report

By GORDON WHITE

A new national flag appeared in Burma on 21 October 2010. On the same day, the official name of the country was changed from the “Union of Myanmar” to the “Republic of the Union of Myanmar”.

Government-approved astrologers chose the date for these changes. Since all media is closely monitored by the military junta, the citizens of the country were not made aware of the changes until just before the event. Many of the country’s 50 million citizens still think of their country as Burma. In fact, the United States has never recognized the military government, which changed the name to “Myanmar” in 1989. The governments and people of the United States, Canada, Great Britain, and Australia still use “Burma”. The U.N. and the rest of the world use “Myanmar”.

The date of 21 October 2010 was 17 days before the election. The astrologers also determined the hour for the new flag event and the participants. In the capital of Naypyidaw, the old flag was lowered by government officials who were all born on a Tuesday. By 3:00 PM, the new flag was raised by officials born on Wednesday. The day of the ceremony was a Thursday. The flag-raising was supposed to occur nationwide at 3:00 PM, but in the former capital
Rangoon (Yangon in Burmese), the new flag was raised at 3:33 PM. The military was to oversee the burning of all old flags. Anyone possessing the old-style flag is subject to arrest and imprisonment.

A constitutional convention had recommended a new flag in 2008. The initial proposal had equal horizontal stripes of yellow-green-red. These were historic colors used during the Japanese occupation in WWII. However, except for a slight color variation, it was identical to the flag of Lithuania. A large central white 5-pointed star was added to make the flag distinctive. The star is 2/3 the hoist height, slightly larger than the star on the flag of Vietnam. The tricolor flag of Ghana is quite similar, with a smaller black 5-pointed star. However, the horizontal stripes on the Ghanaian flag are in a different order, with red above the yellow and green at the bottom. Bolivia, Surinam, Guinea, Mali, Senegal, and Cameroon have similar flags.

Burmese textile mills produced an initial order of one million flags. Other than the national flag, the only flags commonly seen in Burma are Buddhist at the many thousand Buddhist temples. These flags are still allowed.

Many Americans still believe that Rangoon is the capital of Burma. However, the military felt that a coastal capital was difficult to protect and in 2005 work was begun on new capital, Naypyidaw, 225 miles to the north and in a more central location. This required over 200 contractors but most of the labor was performed by the military conscripts. Although the completion date for the city is scheduled for 2012, the government moved from Rangoon to Naypyidaw in 2008 under tight security. Most citizens are unaware of the new capital and citizens are not allowed to enter the city unless they are on official business.

NAVA member Gordon White visited Burma/Myanmar in 2011 and took the photos accompanying this article. His sources included personal observations, supplemented by information from the following websites:

- The Flag of Burma, Wikipedia, wikipedia.com/wiki/Flag_of_burma

Flag display in front of a hotel. The Burma/Myanmar flag in the center appears to be a vertical tricolor; however, it is actually a fortuitous shot with the top of the flag curling down so that it is vertically aligned with the pole. The flag on the far left is likely the hotel’s flag, and the one in the right is the national flag of Thailand. Can anyone identify the other two?
Shades of Blue: The Controversial Puerto Rican Flag

By JAVIER HERNANDEZ

A Spanish colony since 1493, Puerto Rico first flew its own flag 23 September 1868 during the independence revolt known as “El Grito de Lares” (Cry of Lares). Designed by revolutionary leader Dr. Ramón E. Betances and sewn by Mrs. Mariana Bracetti, the flag was later outlawed by the Spanish authorities. It is currently the flag of the Municipality of Lares. It is a red-white-blue flag with a white Latin cross and a white star in the upper left canton.

In 1873, still under Spanish rule, Puerto Rico was granted a flag as a “Spanish Autonomous Province”. The flag included a Latin cross, but used the red and yellow colors of the Spanish flag. The Puerto Rican arms were placed in the center of the cross. In 1875, when Spain reverted to a monarchy, the new Spanish government abolished the flag and various republican and autonomous initiatives, rights, and symbols. The only flag permitted to be flown on the island was that of Spain.

In the late 19th century, as pro-autonomy and independence sentiment grew in the Caribbean islands of the Spanish empire, many political activists and revolutionaries in Cuba and Puerto Rico were exiled to the United States, Europe, and Latin America.

On 22 December 1895, in New York City, a new Puerto Rican flag was designed and chosen in exile by the Puerto Rican Section of the Cuban Revolutionary Party. The design, probably created by Antonio Vélez Alvarado, was simply a Cuban flag with the blue and red colors inverted—a sky-blue triangle, a white star, and three red and two white stripes. The goal of the design was not just to give Puerto Rico its own national flag, but also to show the historical and cultural bonds between Puerto Rico and Cuba, especially in their struggle against Spanish rule. That flag first flew in Puerto Rico on 24 March 1897, when Fidel Vélez and a group of revolutionaries attacked the local Spanish civil guard garrison in the southwestern town of Yauco. This last armed attempt against Spanish rule in Puerto Rico became known as the “Intentona de Yauco” (Attempted Coup of Yauco).

Spain soon granted Puerto Rico an “Autonomic Charter” (limited self-government), which created an autonomous insular administration and parliament where Puerto Ricans voted for delegates and established foreign trade, yet were still represented at the Spanish Parliament in Madrid. Autonomous Puerto Rico would not last very long.

On 25 July 1898, during the short Spanish-American War, the United States invaded Puerto Rico (via Guanica) and began an occupation. The new U.S. military government and successive appointed American governors decreed the end of the Puerto Rican parliament, abolished the Puerto Rican peso after converting it to the U.S. dollar, and (as Spain had done) outlawed the Puerto Rican flag. It became a felony to own or display the Puerto Rican flag in public from 1898 until 1952 when...
the commonwealth government was established. The U.S. and Puerto Rican authorities mandated that the only flag flown on the island would be the American flag.

Despite the ban of the Puerto Rican flag in Puerto Rico, various political parties and pro-independence organizations, such as the Liberal Party, the Union Party, the Puerto Rican Nationalist Party, and others, continued to use and fly the Puerto Rican flag in defiance of U.S. colonial authorities and laws. To further suppress independence sentiment and the use of the Puerto Rican flag, the pro-American Insular Legislature enacted the infamous Law 53 (passed in 1948 and repealed in 1957). Known as the Ley de la Mordaza (“Gag Law”), it made it a felony to own or display a Puerto Rican flag, to sing a patriotic song (including the Puerto Rican national anthem), to speak or write of independence, or hold any assembly or meeting regarding the status of Puerto Rico.

During the time of the Gag Law, the average prison time for owning or having a Puerto Rican flag in one’s possession was about 10 years. The Puerto Rican flag with a light blue triangle was used during the Jayuya Revolt of 1950 and the Puerto Rican nationalist attack on the U.S. House of Representatives in 1954.

The original design of the Puerto Rican flag used sky blue for the triangle, yet when the commonwealth adopted the flag officially on 25 July 1952 it used dark blue, similar to that of the American flag. Many pro-independence supporters were angry that the Puerto Rican flag would represent the commonwealth administration, which they regarded as colonial and lacking sovereignty and international legitimacy. This spurred controversy over the shade of blue the commonwealth government should use on the flag. In order to denationalize the flag even further and placate American sensitivities, the government even changed its meanings (i.e., the white star for the “Puerto Rican Nation” came to represent the “commonwealth government”, while the three red stripes for the “blood of the patriots” instead represented the “three branches of the commonwealth government”). Even with these Orwellian alterations, many Puerto Ricans ignore the official 1952 changes and still regard the original meanings as valid, true, and legitimate.

Today, in Puerto Rico, one can guess people’s political and ideological affiliation by the shade of blue on the Puerto Rican flag they use. Statehooders, Pro-Americans, politicians affiliated with U.S. political parties, and various conservative faction-commonwealth supporters prefer to use the dark blue shade to highlight their preference for association with the United States, as a state or as a commonwealth territory. Nationalists, Independentistas, Sovereignists, Free Associationists, and various sovereignty faction-commonwealth supporters prefer the historical and original 1895 sky-blue shade to highlight their preference for a free and sovereign national or associated republic.

The shade of blue in the Puerto Rican Flag is still a matter of political controversy and will continue for the foreseeable future or until the political status issue is finally resolved. Whoever said “shades don’t matter” has never visited Puerto Rico!

Javier Hernandez is a NAVA member and president of Metro Flags. This article is based on his personal observations, supplemented with images and background material from the Flags of the World (www.fotw.net).
The Flag of Kamchatka Krai

By TIAGO JOSÉ BERG

Following the excellent research conducted by Anne M. Platoff, published as a special volume of Raven (Russian Regional Flags, 2009), I present in this article the flag of Russia’s newest regional subject, which was created after that publication.

The Kamchatka Krai is a federal subject of Russia, formed 1 July 2007 through the merger of Kamchatka Oblast and Koryak Autonomous Okrug after a referendum held 23 October 2005. On 17 February 2010, after a session of the Legislative Assembly of Kamchatka Krai, the laws about the new coat of arms, flag, and anthem of the region were approved. The official hoisting of the new flag (designed by Ivan Tzarkov) took place on 1 July 2010—the third anniversary of the Krai’s formation.

The new flag of Kamchatka Krai (Figure 1)—according to Law No. 396, published 5 March 2010—is formed by a field with two horizontal stripes: the upper, in white, twice the width of the lower, in blue. At the upper hoist is an emblem derived from the Krai’s new coat of arms (Figure 2): three different-sized volcanoes in black, with silver-topped summits and dark-red flames escaping from each summit, surrounded by silver smoke. In the upper part of the field, behind the volcanoes, is a dark-red rising sun on the silver (white) field. As described in the flag and arms law, there is a “national ornament” around the sun, consisting of dark-red and sky-blue triangles, edged with a silver border. Scarlet triangles are inside the ornament, tops outward, and azure triangles are outside the ornament, tops inward. The shield is in the modern French style.

The symbolism is the same as the previous flag of Kamchatka Oblast in many aspects. White represents the peaceful nature, purity, honor, and nobility. The blue stripe (in a wavy form on the arms) represents not only the Pacific Ocean but also the greatness that Russia has achieved throughout the oceans. The black volcanoes in eruption express the historical arms of the region and its physical geography—the Kamchatka Peninsula is located on the “ring of fire”, a nearly continuous series of oceanic trenches and active volcanoes around the basin of the Pacific Ocean. Moreover, it has 160 volcanoes, 29 of which are still active. In geology, black is a predominant color of basaltic rocks.

The figure of the rising sun and ocean also indicate the geographic location of the region (in East Russia). Furthermore, the
national (indigenous) ornament colors reveal a strong connection with the Russian nation (they match the national flag) and the folk art of the region.\(^6\)

Kamchatka Oblast’s flag (Figure 3), adopted in 2004, used horizontal stripes in the same proportions as the krai’s new flag. In the upper hoist was an emblem derived from the coat of arms of the oblast, which had three black erupting volcanoes (more stylized in form) over wavy lines alternating white over blue. The emblem was separated from the white field of the flag by a narrow blue outline. The proportions of the old and new flag are the same—2:3.

1\(^{\text{http://www.vexillographia.ru/russia/subjects/kamchatka.htm, accessed 31 May 2011.}}\)
4\(^{\text{Platoff, Anne M., Russian Regional Flags. Raven 16 (2009, p. 133).}}\)
5\(^{\text{Idem.}}\)

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The Pre-1898 Flag of Brooklyn, New York

By DAVID B. MARTUCCI

NAVA’s *American City Flags* (Raven 9-10, 2003-04) included historic flags for many cities. Another is that of the City of Brooklyn before it was amalgamated into New York City.

According to Richard Knipel, a native of Brooklyn writing on FOTW.net, an old hand-painted flag is displayed inside Brooklyn’s current Borough Hall (the former City Hall). Brooklyn existed as an independent municipal entity from 1834 to 1898, growing gradually and eventually absorbing all of Kings County before itself being subsumed into New York City.

This flag, with a woman bearing a fasces, clearly inspired the current borough flag, which confines the woman’s figure into a rather unnecessary seal, while changing her robes from light blue to gold and her hair from red to a golden blonde.

The motto on both flags is “Een Draght Mackt Maght” (*In Unity There is Strength*, in early modern Dutch spelling). Below is my depiction of that original flag, created before 1898.

Dave Martucci, past president of NAVA, performed all the layout work on *American City Flags.*
CONTEST CORNER

Tough Trivia Ten

By GREG NEDVED

Answers to Last Issue’s Questions:

1. Which future president ordered an American flag to be made by “the finest flag maker in Paris”? Minister to France (and later 5th President) James Monroe in 1794 (the flag was to hang together with the French flag in France’s National Convention.

2. Which country gave Bill Clinton its national flag with a hole in the middle? Romania, which removed the Communist coat of arms from the flag’s center after its December 1989 revolution.

3. What is Juan Escutia’s contribution to flag lore? As a military cadet, he reportedly leapt to his death wrapped in the Mexican flag to save it from the invading Americans at the Battle of Chapultepec in 1847.

4. What “Irish flag” disappeared from the West Point chapel? The only surviving “Erin Go Bragh” flag, the flag used by St. Patrick’s Battalion, U.S. deserters who fought for the Mexicans in the Mexican-American War.

5. How many Canadian provincial/territorial capitals do not have flags? Zero (this includes the territorial provinces). (Editor’s note: see NAVA’s soon-to-be-released Canadian City Flags.)


7. Which country does not use blue on its Scandinavian Cross national flag? Denmark, which is red and white.

8. What country has the only national flag with different emblems on its obverse and reverse sides? Paraguay (the Treasury’s seal is on the reverse).

9. What did an hourglass on a pirate flag represent? Time was running out for an enemy to surrender.

10. South Korea and what other Asian country has a yin-yang symbol on its national flag? Mongolia.

You can reach the Vexi-Quizmaster at gnedved@verizon.net

The Captain William Driver Award

1. The Captain William Driver Award was created in 1979 for the best presentation at the NAVA annual meeting. It is named in honor of Captain William Driver, who christened the United States flag “Old Glory”. The award is generously cosponsored by the commercial members of NAVA.

2. The award consists of a certificate and US$250.

3. The NAVA executive board shall determine the recipient of the award based on the criteria given below. At its discretion, the executive board may determine that no presentation delivered at the convention has met the criteria for the award and decline to give an award that year.

4. The criteria for the award follow, in descending order of relative importance:
   a. The presentation should be an original contribution of research or theoretical analysis on a flag or flags resulting in an advancement of knowledge in the field of vexillology.
   b. It should be characterized by thoroughness and accuracy.
   c. It should be well organized and, as appropriate, illustrated.
   d. It should be delivered well, i.e., interesting for the audience as well as informative, such that it is easily comprehensible.

5. No presentation may be considered for the award unless a completed written text is submitted in advance of its delivery.

6. No single individual may be given the award more frequently than once every three years.

7. Because of the conflict of interest, current members of the executive board are ineligible for the award.

8. If at all possible, the executive board shall not give the award jointly to co-recipients. In extraordinary circumstances, the executive board may recognize another presentation with the designation “Honorable Mention”.

9. As a condition of being considered for the award, presenters agree that NAVA has the right of first refusal to publish their presentation in either NAVA News or Raven: A Journal of Vexillology within two years of the presentation date. This right of first refusal extends to both the actual recipient of the award and the remaining non-recipients. A presenter who desires to have his or her presentation published elsewhere may decline to have the presentation considered for the award, provided that the presenter makes this fact known before the presentation is delivered.

10. These guidelines should be distributed to presenters in advance of the annual meeting.
NEW FLAGS

Altadena, California

The Los Angeles suburb of Altadena, first established as a township in 1887, was without a flag until 28 March 2012 when NAVA member Beatrice Jones presented the very first one to Dr. Sandra E. Thomas, executive chair of the town council since July 2011.

While the idea of a flag had surfaced many times, the council finally took action this year, responding to citizen requests for a township symbol. Thomas, having worked with Jones and her Senoj American African Flags firm on a flag project for the NAACP, sought her out for the Altadena flag project.

A two-month on-line flag contest (run without vexillographic assistance) had drawn 13 entries, and a flag committee of local citizens and council members selected the winning entry without knowing Thomas had designed it. Jones, guided by NAVA’s Good Flag, Bad Flag, initially balked at the opportunity to produce the flags. The design, like many city and state flags, uses a seal and lettering and requires nine distinct colors. However, Jones decided to respect the result of the official flag contest and delivered the first 155 flags on schedule, each with a certificate of authenticity.

The designer was not identified until the “Official Flag Day Dedication” ceremonies on Saturday 21 April 2012 when Thomas and L.A. County Supervisor Michael Antonovich hoisted the flag over the Altadena Community Center, the seat of township government.

Thomas says, “The work on this flag project took many hours and I didn’t give up until I got it done.” Jones says, “This has been a highlight of my career—to know that such a symbol, a flag, now represents some 42,000 Altadena residents.”

SOURCE: Senoj American Flags

West Lafayette, Indiana

West Lafayette, Indiana, home to Purdue University and located across the river from its sister city, Lafayette, now has its own flag, courtesy of the Mayor’s Youth Council.

“For the last two years our group has been working to create a flag”, council member Shiv Panigrahi said, explaining that the group considered about 25 possible designs before settling on the red, blue, gold, and white flag.

Panigrahi, along with fellow council members Sameer Mishra, Neha Ramani, and Marcus Siegmund, made a brief presentation to the council in April and explained its symbolism.

The three blue stripes represent the communities of Kingston, Chauncey, and Oakwood, which merged in 1888 to become West Lafayette, according to Ramani.

The red represents West Lafayette High School and the blue represents Harrison High School. The blue also represents the state of Indiana and its flag, as well as diversity, symbolically representing the water of the oceans that touch all continents.

The white wreath symbolizes knowledge, education, and open-mindedness. The gold star echoes the gold stars of the state flag.

Mayor John Dennis asked the council for a resolution to adopt the flag, which was offered and passed unanimously. “Congratulations, guys, you just made history”, Dennis told the group.

SOURCE: jconline.com
Spokane Flag Museum

By JOHN CASKEY

The five large historic community cemeteries in Spokane, Washington, are administered by the non-profit Fairmount Memorial Association, which traces its beginnings in Eastern Washington to 1888.

Fairmount entered the flag world over 40 years ago when it established its Veteran Flag Memorial Program for families of veterans and America’s battlefield dead who otherwise would not have a final local resting place of their loved ones to commemorate. On Memorial Day in 2012 Fairmount displayed over 3,000 large U.S. flags in individual flag memorials throughout its community cemeteries. It may be the only cemetery organization in the United States with an American Flag Memorial in which ashes from flag retirement ceremonies conducted by Boy Scouts, the American Legion, and many civic groups are sent for permanent and respectful interment in a special vault, in Greenwood Memorial Terrace Cemetery overlooking the city of Spokane.

Fairmount’s historic preservation officer (the author) is a vexillologist and NAVA member who taught international & maritime law for 19 years. A significant portion of that subject is, of course, the importance of flags. In 2009, the Spokane Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution donated its 25-item collection of replica Revolutionary War Flags to Fairmount, which coincided with a donation by the Inland Northwest American Red Cross of its collection of 50 historic U.S. and Red Cross flags, with the condition that they “be preserved as historical artifacts and periodically displayed to the public”.

With these donations, Fairmount dedicated its 122-year-old Rock Chapel to house a new Spokane Flag Museum, and since then has bought 75 more replica historic flags to add to the collection.

Fairmount’s flag museum is now the center of educational outreach to elementary schools, civic groups, Boy and Girl Scout units, and interested citizens at large, as well as the focus for multiple historic commemorations and gatherings in Spokane during the fair-weather months.

Fairmount’s new book, 100 Historic American Flags (2011), is a stand-alone primer for the general public on American Flag history, protocol, and etiquette. It is also a museum guide to Fairmount’s permanent collection of flags. Although the museum houses some historic flags mounted high on the walls or in display cases, most of its flags are nylon replicas intended to be touched, extended from their staffs, and admired by youngsters. The museum also hosts periodic special exhibits, such as “Naval Flags of the United States”. This past February, Fairmount announced plans to renovate a much larger historic building, its 1915 Carriage House, to house the museum’s collection.

John Caskey joined NAVA in 2011
A New Way to Half-Staff

Jack Anderson, of Oceanside California, recently posted an interesting note on the American Flags Forum (www.usa-flagsite.org):

“I have always wished I had a way to fly my flag at half mast on appropriate days. However since my 3-foot flag is mounted on a 6-foot pole on the front of the house, there was no effective way to do so. I have figured out a way to do it, by using an extendable 6-foot drapery rod. The flag is mounted on the larger diameter portion of the rod, and the finial is mounted on the inner, smaller diameter, portion. When in its retracted position, the installation looks like the typical 6-foot mounting on the side of a building. To convert to half mast, the inner portion is simply extended, making the flag look as if it is at half mast”.

Mr. Anderson has subsequently used a more conventional black ribbon to symbolize mourning. However, his original procedure seems much more innovative. If you can’t lower the flag . . . raise the pole!

Special thanks to Mr. Anderson for allowing NAVA News to reprint his photos.

NAVA Publishes ICV 24 Proceedings

Under editor Scot M. Guenter, Ph.D., and managing editor Edward B. Kaye, all the papers presented in last year’s 24th International Congress of Vexillology have now been edited and compiled. The proceedings comprise 40 papers (including the introductory essay and three papers in translation), over 1,300 images, and more than 1,000 pages.

They represent many years of scholarly inquiry and documentation, and the world of vexillology owes a debt to all the authors who researched, wrote, and presented their papers at the ICV and worked with the editors to polish them for publication. ICV 24 program chair Gus Trachia stewarded the paper-submission process with the Scientific Committee supporting the screening of the papers.

The proceedings appear both in a CD version, which also features bonus features such as a photo gallery, other Congress materials, and an MP3 of the FIAV anthem Marcia Vexillum, and as a print-on-demand book.

The CD accompanies this issue of NAVA News, going to all NAVA members thanks to the generosity of ICV 24 sponsors. The hard-copy version is available in two volumes from www.lulu.com (search on “ICV24”), the total cost is $220 plus shipping.

Additional copies of the CD are available from the NAVA Shopkeeper for $5 plus postage. Visit www.lulu.com to buy the hard-copy version.
NAVA Membership Anniversaries

40-Year Members—since 1972
Mr. Roger Philémon Baert, Bruxelles, Belgium
Mr. Michael F. H. Halleran, Victoria, British Columbia
Bishop D. Ralph Spence, Hamilton, Ontario

30-Year Members—since 1982
Mr. Mark A. Liss, Missouri City, Texas
Dr. James C. Acheson, Port Huron, Michigan

20-Year Members—since 1992
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Dr. David C. Craig, Henderson, Texas
Ms. Mary Ann Docktor-Smith, Chicago, Illinois
Mr. Earl Fain IV, Charleston, South Carolina
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Ms. Joann Ziegeweid, Minnesota City, Minnesota

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10-Year Members—since 2002
Dr. Anthony J. Forte, Tacoma, Washington
Prof. John B. Hattendorf, Newport, Rhode Island
Mr. Louis Maxime Meka Meka, Yaounde, Cameroon
Mr. John H. Siner, San Francisco, California
Mr. E. Glenn Gilbert, Blaine, Minnesota
Dr. Carl B. Hellquist, Adams, Massachusetts
Mr. Andrew A. Kling, Sheperdstown, West Virginia
Col. John V. Lanterman, Bethesda, Maryland
Mr. Morgan J. Milner, Elmwood Park, Illinois
Mr. John, Moody, Kaiapoi, Canterbury, New Zealand
Mr. Michael Orelame, Gresham, Oregon
Mr. Martin G. Phillips, New York, New York
Mme. Sophie Rault, Rostrenen, Brittany, France
Dr. John F. Schilke, Lake Oswego, Oregon
Mr. David E. Wagner, Williamsville, New York
Master Adrian E. Wagner, Williamsville, New York
Mr. James A. Williams, Lansing, Michigan
Ms. Cindy Williams, Greensboro, North Carolina

NAVA’s Grant Programs

The Devereaux D. Cannon, Jr. Grant for Research in Vexillology supports original research in various aspects of flag design and usage. NAVA gives this grant, now $500, on an occasional basis to individuals pursuing research which advances vexillological knowledge in North America. The deadline to apply this year is 30 June.

NAVA actively promotes conservation, preservation, and restoration of historic flags by raising and granting funds for museums and other repositories, and by lending its name in support of these efforts, through the Grace Rogers Cooper Flag Conservation Grant of $250–$500.

See “Grants” at www.nava.org for more details.

Dues Reminder!

NAVA memberships run on a calendar-year basis, no matter when in a year a member joined.

All dues are payable 1 January for the full year; memberships lapse on 31 March if dues are not paid.

Please check your mailing label—it shows the year through which your dues are paid.

You can pay your NAVA membership dues via www.PayPal.com to treas@nava.org (more and more members are choosing this option), or by check to the NAVA P.O. box, or go to www.nava.org & click the “Renew” link in the upper right of the home page.

Dues for 2012 remain the same: Regular (active): $40, Student (associate): $20, Commercial (organizational): $60, Subscription: $40. You can pay for multiple years at once and simplify your bookkeeping—many members do!

NAVA News wants your articles and other vexi-news from around North America

Nearly all of the content of NAVA News comprises contributions from NAVA members and others in the vexi-community.

We’re always looking for short articles, news about members’ vexillological activities, photos, pictures, and descriptions of new and interesting flags, etc. To submit an item for publication, please contact the editor, Peter Ansoff, at navanews@nava.org.

The publication schedule is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue No.</th>
<th>Deadline for Submissions</th>
<th>Approximate “In the Mail” Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>215</td>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>20 September 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>216</td>
<td>31 October</td>
<td>20 December 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>217</td>
<td>31 January</td>
<td>20 March 2013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>218</td>
<td>30 April</td>
<td>20 June 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don’t wait—get started now on that article you’ve been meaning to write!
FLAG HUMOR

“The Early Bird Catches the Worm”
Civil War-era envelope.

MEMBER FLAGS

Amy Langston—Cary, North Carolina
Amy writes: I have an appreciation for aesthetically pleasing flags. That’s why I designed a flag that I believed was within the realm of what was aesthetically pleasing. In my personal flag are elements of flags I have a particular interest in: stars and tricolors/tribands. The colors not are only my favorites, but represent qualities I favor: red for courage and strength, gold for perseverance and the “Golden Rule”. The hue of gold in this flag is called “sunglow”, which also reflects my lifelong fascination with the sun. Lastly, I think a star vaguely resembles the letter “A”, which is also reflected in my written signature.

Matthew Norquist—Gresham, Oregon
The blue hoist features the Oregon beaver (he is a native Oregonian and life-long resident). The gold fly shows his personal symbol which features two diagonal lines for his two sons; and an annulet to denote he is a fifth son. The blue and gold reflect his Swedish heritage, the Oregon flag, and the colors of his high school alma mater.

Members are encouraged to send in their personal flag designs for inclusion in the NAVA Member Flag Registry. Send your photos, drawings, and descriptions to navanews@nava.org, or mail to: Member Flag Registry, 1977 N Olden Ave Ext PMB 225, Trenton NJ 08618-2193 USA, or post them directly to the Member Database.
PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABEL!
If the “Paid Through” date is 2011 or earlier, it’s time to renew for 2012.
Pay your NAVA membership dues via
www.PayPal.com to treas@nava.org or
by check to the NAVA P.O. Box.
Thank you!

NAVA 46  Columbus, Ohio  5 –7 October 2012

Join your fellow members in Columbus, Ohio, 5–7 October 2012 for the 46th annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association. We plan an exciting flag-filled program, hosted by the Great Waters Association of Vexillology (GWAV).

The NAVA 46 Organizing Committee
David Breitenbach, chair

REGISTRATION
A registration form is enclosed with this NAVA News, and is available on the NAVA website: www.nava.org.
Regular registration is $200.

Watch these Deadlines:
Papers/Displays, concept—30 June 2012
Regular registration—31 August 2012
Papers/Displays, final—31 August 2012
Hotel reservation—14 September 2012

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
Hear more Vexi-Bits than ever, enjoy a banquet, several interesting presentations, and the camaraderie of fellow NAVA members.
NAVA 46 will tour the Ohio State House which was restored to its original 1816 appearance in 1996, and the Ohio History Center’s collection of Civil War battle flags.

COLUMBUS RENAISSANCE HOTEL
NAVA 46’s venue is in downtown Columbus at 50 North Third Street. The hotel is two blocks from the Ohio State House and a short walk from the Short North Arts District and the Arena District. The Port Columbus Airport is 20 minutes away with shuttle service available. A block of rooms has been reserved through 14 Sept. 2012 for the nights of 5–7 October. The room rate is $130/night plus tax, with parking for $25/day and free wireless Internet. Make reservations online at: https://resweb.passkey.com/go/navaannualmtg1012 or by phone at 800-266-9432.

SUBMITTING PAPERS & DISPLAYS
If you wish to present a paper or set up a display at NAVA 46, please mail the following information to 1st VP Gus Tracchia by 30 June 2012: 1) Your name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address if available; 2) Title of your paper, presentation, symposium, workshop, or display; 3) Abstract of your paper, presentation, symposium, workshop, or display; 4) Type and size of display area and/or equipment needed, including tables, electrical requirements, audio/visual equipment, etc.; 5) Notice if you decline to have your paper considered for the Captain William Driver Award (see p. 8). Send a complete copy of the paper (in publishable form in both hard-copy and electronic file in MS-Word with high-resolution image files) by 31 August 2012 or it will be deleted from the program. SEND TO: Gus Tracchia, 82-67 Austin St. #205, Kew Gardens, NY 11415 (718) 847-2616 e-mail: vp1st@nava.org