The Flag of Cameroon


Ted Kaye
Failure is an Option

Friends:

Building on the last two columns, I planned this column to discuss the principle of leadership; more specifically, the type of leadership that NAVA needs as it approaches its 50th anniversary in 2017.

While that remains the topic, I must first note the death in June of our friend and mentor Dr. John Purcell. John was a quiet leader who, for over three decades, rendered exceptional service to NAVA motivated by his unrivaled love for the organization. His tireless work continued to ensure NAVA’s well-being and that work will be sorely missed. Fuller tributes appear in this issue and will appear in Raven.

At my first NAVA meeting in Nashville, John befriended me and entertained me with his dry wit and good humor. John encouraged me to serve as NAVA president and he was always there with thoughtful advice and keen insight during my tenure. He will be missed.

In NAVA News 213, I discussed Whitney Smith’s six fundamental commitments for vexillology and suggested that we renew our focus on those to “provide a fuller philosophy for a responsible approach to our work as vexillologists and an antidote to pettiness and personal gain”. In NAVA News 214, I reviewed our relationship with our Canadian members and the need to fully realize our promise as a bi-national organization.

NAVA is in the midst of two great changes; one to vexillology and the other generational. With the end of the Flag Research Center as an ongoing business, the end of the regular publication of both The Flag Bulletin and Flagscan, and the withdrawal from active participation of some of the leading figures of the last 50 years of vexillology, there is a huge void in our discipline for which few organizations are ready, willing, and able to fill.

Few of us—including me—would honestly say that we have all the answers; for that matter, few of us would say we even know what all the questions are!

I have heard from many of you about the coming opportunities and challenges both NAVA and vexillology face. We all realize the need to meet the test we face. At NAVA 46 in Columbus, there will be opportunities to begin and continue discussions about our collective approach and the kind of leadership needed for that approach.

Let me tip my hand just a bit: I think we need leadership that embraces failure.

During the Great Depression, Franklin Delano Roosevelt told a Baltimore audience that, in meeting one’s challenges, [c]ommon sense dictates an avoidance of . . . extremes. I say to you: ‘Do something’; and when you have done that something, if it works, do it some more; and if it does not work, then do something else.

NAVA’s last great risk was daring to inaugurate an academic journal, Raven. It could have easily failed, either financially or in quality. President Scot Guenter did not let the fear of failure stop his vision back in 1994. And look at what NAVA has to show for that achievement: seventeen volumes of serious scholarship, with three volumes receiving the Vexillon from FIAV for the most important contribution to vexillology during the preceding two years: 3/4 (Flags of the Native Peoples of the United States), 9/10 (American City Flags Part 1: United States—150 Flags from Akron to Yonkers), and 16 (Russian Regional Flags: The Flags of the Subjects of the Russian Federation). No other vexillological organization has as many “Oscars”, and it started with an idea.

But that was 1994. NAVA needs to dare boldly again—and we will.

HUGH BRADY
PRESIDENT

NAVA News
PETER A. ANSOFF, EDITOR
EDWARD B. KAYE, JOHN A. LOWE, DAVID B. MARTUCCI,
HUGH L. BRADY, EX OFFICIO
EDITORIAL BOARD
North American Vexillological Association
FOUNDED 1967
HUGH L. BRADY, PRESIDENT
GUSTAVO TRACCHIA, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT
ANNE M. PLATOFF, SECOND VICE PRESIDENT
MARY ANN DOCKTOR SMITH, SECRETARY
EDWARD B. KAYE, TREASURER
WHITNEY SMITH, PRESIDENT EMERITUS

NAVA News 215, (ISSN 1053-3338), July–September 2012, Vol. 45, No. 3
Published quarterly by North American Vexillological Association,
A benefit of NAVA membership. Articles, letters to the editor, and inquiries about rates and permissions may be sent to the editorial office.
Editorial Office: NAVA News Editor, 1977 N. Olden Ave. Ext. PMB 225,
Trenton, NJ 08618-2193. navanews@nava.org
© 2012 North American Vexillological Association. All rights reserved.
Views expressed are those of individual authors and may not represent the views of NAVA, its officers, or the editor.
Editorial Musings

Dear NN Readers,

NAVA’s mission, as stated in our bylaws, is the same as it always has been: “to promote vexillology as the scientific study of flags”. Publication of cutting-edge research is still the bread-and-butter of how we fulfill that mission. However, the world has changed a little since those words were written in 1967. As our president states in his column in this issue, we need to think boldly about how we can respond to today’s challenges, including the voids left by the demise of Flag Bulletin and Flagscan.

President Brady gives us an excellent example of the sorts of issues that we need to think about. As he mentions, three volumes of Raven have recently received the Vexillon award from FIAV. All three were what I will call “vexi-encyclopedias”—reference collections with brief information about current flag domains (Native American polities, US cities, and Russian regions). I can see why FIAV honored these publications. They continue a long and honorable tradition of such works by Whitney Smith, William Crampton, and many others, they represent excellent scholarship, and they are valuable as publicity and marketing tools. As actual reference documents, however, this type of publication is arguably obsolete in printed form. Historically, we have published such books anyway, despite the cost, because there was no other way to distribute the information. Now, however, we have the Internet, which can be updated continuously at a relatively low cost and which is, for a large segment of North Americans, the “go-to” source for knowledge in general.

I’m not suggesting for a second that NAVA should stop producing printed publications—quite the contrary. However, we need to take a hard look at what kind of content makes sense, and what will give us the best return for our limited funds. As our president has said, we’ll be discussing these sorts of issues in Columbus, and beyond.

PETER ANSOFF
EDITOR

"To our mentor, our friend, a gentleman and a scholar, John Purcell...you will be missed." Half-staff display of Cleveland, NAVA, and Cincinnati flags by NAVA Member Chris Bedwell at his home in Washington,D.C.

Editor’s note: Among his achievements, John was the chair of the NAVA Flag Design Committee. I’m sure he would have been intrigued by the fact that Chris’s NAVA flag appears to be a slightly non-standard design.

Contact Peter Ansoff: navanews@nava.org

The Flag of Cameroon—Its Creation, Significance, Evolution, and Display

By LOUIS MAXIME MEKA MEKA

The recorded history of Cameroon (“Cameroun” in French) began with a brief exploration by Hannon, a Carthaginian navigator, in the 5th century B.C. In 1472 Portuguese explorers noted an abundance of the mud lobster \( (Lepidophthalmus turneranus) \) in the Wouri River and named the area “Rio dos Camarões” (River of Shrimp). Over the following centuries, European interests traded with the coastal peoples, Christian missionaries pushed inland, while the northern area was part of the Muslim slave trade network.

Soon after the arrival of German traders at the port of Douala, the territory of “Kamerun” became a protectorate of the German Empire in 1884. In 1919, at the end of the First World War, defeated Germany ceded its colonies, including Kamerun, to France and Britain under League of Nations mandates. The French took over the larger “Cameroun”, the British, “Southern Cameroons”.

The French part of Cameroon gained independence and full national sovereignty on 1 January 1960; the southern section of the British part followed 1 October 1960 (the northern section later joined newly-independent Nigeria). This independence was only achieved after armed conflicts on one hand, and heated, drawn-out, and secret negotiations on the other. After a referendum on 1 October 1961, these two parts of Cameroon were combined into the “République fédérale du Cameroun”. The new country’s constitution provided for assorted adequate visual and acoustic symbols of the nation that have changed little since.

Emblems for Cameroon date as far back as 1914 when the Reichstag designed flag proposals for each of Germany’s four colonies in Africa. The Kamerun protectorate’s flag was patterned on the imperial flag of the time: three equal horizontal stripes of black, white, and red. At the center was a shield, divided white—bearing the black Imperial Eagle with outspread wings, over red—bearing a white elephant head. However, with the outbreak of the First World War soon after, Germany never had the opportunity to display this emblem in Kamerun or in its other colonies.

In its progress toward independence, the part of Cameroon under French trusteeship acquired relative autonomy in 1957 through a Framework Law adopted by France that would enable it, among other things, to have a government with limited powers and a legislative assembly (ALCAM). At the assembly’s opening session on 8 October 1957, the first bills considered were essentially “devoted to symbols without which, the identity of the State would have been deemed incomplete”: the flag, the anthem, and the motto. The flag, chosen from among several proposals, had three equal vertical stripes of green, red, and yellow, in an obvious echo of the French flag in basic elements and proportions.

The related law was adopted on 5 November 1957. The explanatory statement of the law and the discussions of this session in the Official Gazette explained: the flag of the Republic of Cameroon “translates and expresses, by its three colors, the physical aspect of our country in the indissoluble union of its three elements”:

- The “green color represents the luxuriant vegetation of the South and also symbolizes hope, the hope of a rich and prosperous Cameroon for all its children” thanks to the work of all its countrymen;
- The “yellow gold color represents the soil of the Far-North and also symbolizes wealth and, for all its people, it has always appeared to represent the sun, symbol of long life;
- The “red color represents the bridge between the green color of the South and the yellow color of the North; it is the emblematic color of authority, authority without which anarchy will
Prime Minister André-Marie Mbida, in his speech at the ceremony in Yaoundé on 10 November 1957 which debuted the first Cameroonian flag, repeated this explanation of its meaning.

After independence in 1960 and the unification of the two federated states of Cameroon, a law was adopted to add two stars in gold, to symbolize the two entities, in the upper part of the green stripe. Without formal specifications, the star placement varied—sometimes one over the other and sometimes side-by-side. (It should be noted however that Southern (former British) Cameroons had used a badge, but it was not officially approved.)

In 1972, following a referendum, the country was renamed “République unie du Cameroun” and a new constitution adopted. It defined a flag with a single star in the center of the red stripe. This was confirmed in a comprehensive law adopted in 1975. The following year a presidential decree defined rules applicable to public ceremonies, precedence, and civil and military honors.

The following features are mentioned and described in this decree:

• The Cameroonian flag: green, red, and yellow in three vertical stripes of equal dimension, bearing one gold star in the center of the red stripe and measuring 3 by 2 meters. It shall fly on all public buildings under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Cameroon;

• The pennant in Cameroonian colors, fringed with gold measuring 36 cm. by 26 cm., shall fly exclusively in the capital on the motor car of the President of the Republic;

• A removable and luminous cockade in Cameroonian colors, 8 cm. in diameter, shall be placed in the middle of the upper side of the windscreen of vehicles of such officials as the President of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister and Members of Government, the President of the Supreme Court, Members of Parliament, Governors and Senior Divisional Officers, among others;

• A special pennant shall be used by Generals of the Armed Forces, the characteristics of which are specified separately;

• The Cameroonian flag shall be painted on the front and rear fenders of Government vehicles.

• Drivers of Members of Government shall wear a rosette in Cameroonian colors on the front of their caps.

• Messengers of Ministers and of Government services shall be required to wear the Cameroonian colors on the shoulder-straps of their uniforms.
• Lastly, the gold silk fringe of the flag of the Republic shall be 45 cm. by 90 cm.

Concerning the honors paid to the Cameroonian pennant, it should be emphasized that the actual “Flag of the Republic” is in principle kept at the Presidential Palace, while representations of this emblem fly on all public buildings under the jurisdiction of the Government.

During official ceremonies, this Flag of the Republic leaves the Presidential Palace and is taken back by a detachment of the guard of honor of the unit responsible for the military protection of the Head of State which, during this occasion, pays him honors accompanied by the singing the national anthem (the refrain or the full anthem).

The flag is displayed on or in front of public buildings every day from sunrise to sunset. The flag is raised at sunrise and lowered at sunset with the salute of the bugle; the public in the immediate vicinity faces the flag and slowly takes off headwear.

The other considerations related to the flag follow standard protocol:
• The place of honor of the flag is at the left, if an even number of emblems, or at the center if an odd number;
• It is forbidden for the flag to touch the ground;
• It is forbidden to destroy the flag in public or to cover it with different objects;
• The flag has primacy over the other emblems of the State, etc.

Despite these standard considerations, there are however cases of disrespect and imprecision regarding the official description, design, reproduction, and display of the flag, among other emblems.

Therefore a committee was established by the Prime Minister in 2007 to standardize the official symbols of the State in order to “improve their rendering, facilitate their understanding and use, as well as ensure their promotion”. This framework was set up to brainstorm and make proposals in order to provide standards and design a guide for the best practices applicable to the state emblems. Thus, concerning the flag especially, the main issues are to:

1. Define properly the exact colors considering the various shades of colors offered by producers so that the national flag is the same everywhere;

2. Define a quotient applicable where the flag is reduced or enlarged (from the largest to the smallest dimension);

3. Fix the standard diameter of the star; its orientation (up or down) as well as the exact number of its sides, all of which are not now specified;

If \( L = \frac{3l}{2} \) and \( D \) (diameter) = \( \frac{l}{3} \) then \( D \) (diameter) = \( \frac{2L}{3} \)
4. Choose the fabrics for standardized use, with exception of silk used for ceremonial flags, taking into account their duration, the fading of the colors, and of their resistance to the wind which is often violent in this tropical area;

5. Specify all authorized shapes and forms: types of material, black and white, as well as the conditions of display (inauguration ribbons, scarves of elected personalities, cockades, aircraft, and others).

The flag appears as a roundel on military aircraft.

In the long run, the nation of Cameroon intends to have an appropriate graphic charter that will facilitate the depiction and utilization of its emblems by nationals and foreigners who, by better understanding the significance and conditions of use, will better promote and bolster their pride and admiration for Cameroon.

**CORRECTION**

**Minuteman "Bullseye" Flag**

In NAVA News 189 (January–March 2006), we presented a detailed article about World War II Production Award Flags.

Then-editor David Martucci has since determined that the image of the Minuteman "Bull’s-Eye" flag, shown on page 7 of that issue, was not historically correct.

Below is the actual appearance of the flag. As noted in the original article, this flag was awarded for 100% participation of employees contributing a minimum percentage of their salaries to the War Bond Drive.

**CORRECTION**

Minuteman "Bullseye" Flag

In NAVA News 189 (January–March 2006), we presented a detailed article about World War II Production Award Flags.

Then-editor David Martucci has since determined that the image of the Minuteman "Bull’s-Eye" flag, shown on page 7 of that issue, was not historically correct.

Below is the actual appearance of the flag. As noted in the original article, this flag was awarded for 100% participation of employees contributing a minimum percentage of their salaries to the War Bond Drive.

*The “Bullseye” Flag, 1942.*

**SOURCES:** *Salt Lake Telegram, 16 June 1942, p. 12; Spokane Daily Chronicle, 10 October 1942, p. 1.*

**UPDATE**

NAVA member Phillip Tibbetts has identified one of the unknown flags shown in Gordon White’s recent article on Burma’s new flag (see NAVA News 214, page 3). He notes that the flag flying between the Burmese and Thai flags appears to be that of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The blue flag to the left of the Burmese flag is still unidentified.
John M. Purcell—
A Tribute

By DAVID BREITENBACH

Earlier today I returned home from funeral services for our colleague and my good friend, Dr. John Purcell. My journey across Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio was a taxing four days, but a trip I would not have missed and would make again in an instant. Although we all knew John’s passion for flags, few know he had an equal passion in many other areas.

At the burial service in Cincinnati, I met other friends who told me proudly that they met John and his siblings as teens growing up there. I thought it a great testament to John’s character and that of his sister, Pat, his brother, Bob, and their parents that people proudly announced they had known the family for 50 or more years. One friend recalled that as children, John would create fictitious countries with their own flags and languages for everyone to speak.

I was the relative newcomer to the group, knowing John a mere 21 years. He and I first met when we became charter members in what is now GWAV. In 1995, John persuaded the group to publish a regular journal, Flagwaver, and encouraged me to join him as co-editor.

Our interests and abilities complemented each other well and I always jokingly told others that John was the brains behind the operation while I was there to put on the lipstick and make everything look pretty. However, John was always quick to correct me, insisting that our work was a partnership and we should share the accolades, or barbs, equally. Despite the numerous awards bestowed on him, Flagwaver was permitted to praise him only once—when NAVA awarded him honorary membership in 2010 and I managed to add my personal congratulations to a story after his final review and before printing.

We always met one Saturday each May and November, holed up in his or my den, and worked diligently to assemble each issue. At first, John cut out and glued each story and illustration into the layout. I eventually taught him to do this task more easily with software and later, how to insert and edit images via computer. While he was quick to heed my advice in these areas, there was a limit. For many years after the computer world embraced (or at least grudgingly accepted) Microsoft’s word-processing software, I tried to convince him to switch from a competing product to no avail. I prevailed approximately three years ago only when John bought a new computer that did not offer his old-standby software.

We began to email ideas for articles and other GWAV-related items shortly after our partnership began. Gradually, those emails began to include information about vexillology in general and details of our respective lives. It was through these emails that our friendship deepened and we learned that we shared several other interests such as old movies and their stars, linguistics, classical music, and travel. Though I was several hundred miles away, through his notes he included me as a part of the regular holiday gatherings with his family, special events such as weddings and births, his transition to retirement, and subsequent winter sojourns to Florida. I also heard about his favorite occasions when he was able to combine several passions—city flag
research, travel, and the pie served at a particular restaurant a few hours’ drive from Cleveland. Civic flags were a long-time interest, leading to his co-authorship of the *Raven* volume *American City Flags*, for which the team received the Vexillon Award in 2005 and John was named a Fellow of FIAV.

In meeting so many people John knew in Cincinnati, and at the following memorial service in Cleveland, I realized that some knew John the devoted family member and avid parlor-game player or John the vexillologist or John the sci-fi enthusiast, John the church president and choir member, or Dr. Purcell the educator and linguist, but few people knew more than one or two sides of him in depth. It made me feel privileged that he was comfortable enough to share many of the diverse facets of his life with me. During flag conferences, we spent much of our free time together wandering the streets of Berlin, Stockholm, Nashville, Denver, and elsewhere, seeing the sights, getting lost, eating mediocre meals, and searching for great pie, but we always laughed about our adventures in the end.

John was a charter member of NAVA, but did not attend his first meeting until NAVA 3/ICV 3 in 1969. Since then, he missed only two meetings, NAVA 11/ICV 7 in 1977 and NAVA 45/ICV 24. Ironically, both meetings occurred in Washington, DC. He served as NAVA’s corresponding secretary 1974–1976, recording secretary 1979–1980 and president 1981–1983, and hosted NAVA 9 in 1975 in Cleveland. He also served as secretary, vice president, and president of GWAV.

The last two of John’s 79 years were especially difficult as his health began to fail in 2010, just before NAVA 44 in Los Angeles. Despite the multiple medical procedures, extended hospitalizations, and nursing home stays, his spirits always remained high and his mind as keen as ever. When he was unable to access his email account during the last year, we reverted to snail-mail.

I know we will all miss John’s big smile and warm welcome in Columbus and subsequent NAVA meetings, but I also know that those of us who considered him a friend will always carry a bit of that warmth with us, and together our smiles will almost equal John’s when we greet future vexillologists.

These scant few words hardly seem adequate to express our loss, yet volumes more added to the messages written by other NAVA and FIAV members would still not be enough. John’s family members asked me to express their deepest gratitude to each of you for the messages I received and forwarded. Each note brought smiles to their faces because of the friendship and high esteem they showed for John.

Adios, amigo.
CONTEST CORNER

Tough Trivia Ten

By GREG NEDVED

How many of these do you know...without looking them up:

1. Which nation’s flag was used for target practice in June 2012 war games?
2. What two Latin American nations feature the “Sun of May” on their flag?
3. Who created the 1818 Grand Star Flag that was never adopted by the United States?
4. What ideology did the flag at the lower right represent?
5. What is the only U.S. state flag with a swallowtail?
6. What is Robert Barrett’s contribution to flag lore?
7. What does the “49” on the Absaroka flag represent?
8. Which Chicago Cub rescued an American flag from protestors?
9. What is the largest flag ever flown (on a flag pole)?
10. What is the proper way to dispose of the Canadian national flag?

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

An 18th-Century Image of the Gadsden Flag

By PETER ANSOFF

In April of 1789, George Washington traveled from his home at Mount Vernon to New York City, where he was inaugurated as the first president of the United States. To celebrate his entry into Philadelphia on 20 April, the bridge over the Schuylkill River was decorated with triumphal arches and flags. An engraving of the event published in the May 1789 issue of Columbian Magazine shows a flag flying from a staff on the east side of the bridge that resembles the so-called “Gadsden Flag”. This is one of the very few known 18th-century images of this flag, and it differs in some respects from modern depictions and replicas. The motto is above the snake on a scroll, and the snake itself is more tightly coiled. By 1789, the rattle-snake was already somewhat anachronistic as an American symbol, and contemporary readers would have understood it as a reference to the Revolutionary War that had ended six years earlier.

*An East View of Gray’s Ferry, near Philadelphia—with the triumphal arches, &c., erected for the reception of General Washington, April 20th 1789*, Engraved by J. Trenchard after Charles Wilson Peale.

NAVA News · No. 215 · July–September 2012 · 9

NEW FLAG

First Nations Tax Commission

By JAMES CROFT

Canada’s First Nations Tax Commission is committed to the development of a nationwide system of First Nations (indigenous peoples) real property taxation. It consists of ten commissioners, including a chief commissioner and a deputy chief commissioner. The commission is composed of men and women from across Canada, including members of First Nations.

The flag of the First Nations Tax Commission is a banner of its arms, that is, the elements of the shield of the coat of arms are spread across the field of the flag. The coat of arms, flag, badge, and commissioner’s gavel and staff were granted on 15 October 2008 by the Canadian Heraldic Authority (CHA) in Ottawa.

The proportions of the flag are 1:2. According to the CHA, “The central emblem is that designed for the First Nations Tax Commission (FNTC)’s predecessor body, the Indian Taxation Advisory Board, by Tom Maracle of the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory. The patterned outer circle represents the jurisdiction of First Nations’ governments. The tree, strong and enduring, is symbolic of life, a habitat of animals and birds, a provider of shelter, heat, medicine, clean air, and soil stability. Its branches and leaves represent First Nations communities and individuals within these communities. As it is a maple, it also represents Canada. The yellow is associated with chalcedony, the east, and illumination. Red is the color of the north and of spiritual purity. Green is the color associated with the earth. The arrowhead shape of the shield reminds us of the First Nations way of life, especially related to trade and sustenance, going back countless centuries.”

Beside the shield, the coat of arms consists of a crest, supporters, and the motto. In the crest, “the winter lodge appears on the coat of arms of the Kamloops Indian Band of the Shuswap Nation, and marks the fact that the FNTC has its head office on the site of this band, a leading First Nations community in the field of real estate development. More generally, as a form of shelter, the winter lodge speaks to the commission’s role in allowing housing to benefit the community. The coyote fur, in the place of the traditional heraldic wreath, is based on the scouting hat and refers to the commission’s work in looking ahead and providing for the future.”

The supporters are a coyote and an otter. The coyote “was sent down by the Creator to teach humans how to develop a society. The otter has intimate knowledge of the worlds of both land and water. Just as the otter is able to move comfortably between two worlds, so too should all people be able to live in the present while at the same time honoring their past and traditions. The eagle feather is an important symbol of authority in First Nations culture. The mount of grass emphasizes the importance of land, and the representation of water refers to the role of water in trade and communications.”

“The Chinook [Jargon] motto meaning ‘We build a new path’ refers to the commission’s role in assisting First Nations governments to develop by means of establishing appropriate systems of property taxation. Chinook [Jargon], a 19th-century trade language used extensively in western Canada and the United States, was spoken by many different First Nations as well as Europeans, Chinese, and Hawaiians. It was therefore multicultural and represents communications among First Nations and between First Nations and other cultures.”

James Croft is the director of the Institute of Civic Heraldry

SOURCE: Canadian Heraldic Authority
The Trials of a “Flag Man”

By DALE GRIMES

Editor’s note: NAVA member Dale Grimes owns a large and fascinating collection of American flags, mostly from the World War II era. He has exhibited his flags and given presentations about them for many organizations in the Baltimore/Washington DC area. Here he recounts some pitfalls of his avocation.

On the weekend before the Fourth of July this year, I set up a flag exhibit for our historical society at the entrance to the local fair. This is the fifth or sixth year we have done this. On Thursday the day before the fair opened I was putting up a 10’ x 19’ 15-star/15-stripe U.S. flag under the archway when a passerby said the flag was facing the wrong way. I pointed out to him that when one faced the flag display from inside the fair the flag was facing the correct way. I reversed it, but before I could get the flag completely hung someone else pointed out the flag was facing the wrong way as people came into the fair.

“No problem”, I thought. I’ll just get another 10’ x 19’ U.S. flag to hang together with the 15 star/15 stripe flag facing the other way. I have another one at home (actually, I have four more). So I drove home and got a 10’ x 19’ 50-star flag, still in its original bag.

I hung the additional flag up with the first one, and promptly realized that I had another problem. Because of the doubled the weight on my steel support cable, the flags now touched the ground! What to do? Now was getting dark. Two of the fair organizers came by and complimented me on the nice flag display, but pointed out the flags were touching the ground. I said “I know, that bothers me, too. I’m going to put a tarp under them.” They said, “fine, when?” I said, “tomorrow.” They said “when tomorrow?” I said, “after work.” They said, “what time?” I said, “3:30”, but I was thinking, “AHHHHHH!!!”. They said, “that won’t do—the fair opens at noon and people will complain.”

I decided to re-string the steel support cable, which would lift the flags six inches off the ground. The organizers offered to send some people to help me, but nobody showed up. It was now after 9 PM, and dark. I finished the display by myself and went home.

Friday was the first day of the fair. It closed at 10 PM. At 11 PM a “derecho” storm roared into the area and its 60-mph (100-km) winds and knocked everything down.

I arrived at 7:30 AM Saturday to untangle the mess and set the display back up. The 15-star/15-stripe flag had lost its bottom red stripe, making it a 15-star/14-stripe flag.

Luckily, there were no further incidents and I took everything down at the end of the fair Sunday night. The historical society is discussing ideas for next year.

The flag of the 1939–40 New York World’s Fair is well known and distinctive. Designed in the New York City colors, it had three vertical stripes of orange-blue-orange with the well-recognized symbol of the fair, the Trylon and Perisphere, in white in the center. Above the emblem in white is the year 1939. Below, in two lines, also in white, is NEW YORK WORLD’S FAIR.

The Trylon (a 3-sided pyramid) and the Perisphere (a globe) were designs patented in 1937 (number 107,424 and others) by the New York World’s Fair Corporation and erected as actual buildings that housed exhibits at the fair.

Little known is that in 1937 the corporation also patented a design for a fair flag. Patent number 105,485 was granted on 3 August 1937 to Robert Foster of New York, New York, assignor to New York World’s Fair 1939, Inc.

Like the flag eventually used at the fair, it consisted of three vertical stripes of orange-blue-orange. However the center stripe had a very different design on it. This consisted of a somewhat abstract graphic in orange, white, and blue of the upper portion of the Statue of Liberty holding her torch and the year 1939. Patent 105,484 issued the same day, also to Foster, was for the emblem that appeared on the flag. This design was used in a limited way when the early planning for the fair first got underway in 1937.

New York City’s colors derive from the old flag of the Netherlands, honoring its founding as New Amsterdam. Although the Dutch colors are now red-white-blue, New York retained the orange when it adopted the flag in 1915.

Dave Martucci, past president of NAVA, performed all the layout work on American City Flags.
NOTICE OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF NAVA AND PROPOSED SLATES OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICERS FOR 2012-13

In accordance with Resolution of the Executive Board pursuant to §4.01 of the Bylaws establishing the place, day, and hour of the annual meeting of the voting members of the Association,

NOTICE IS HEREBY DELIVERED to all voting and nonvoting members of the Association in accordance with §4.04 of the Bylaws of the North American Vexillological Association that the annual meeting of the voting members of the Association shall be on Sunday, 7 October 2012 at 9:00 AM, at the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel, 50 North Third Street, Columbus, Ohio.

NOTICE IS FURTHER DELIVERED by the Executive Board that the following proposed slate of nominating committee members for 2012-13 is presented:

Scot M. Guenter, Edward B. Kaye, Pete Van de Putte

NOTICE IS FURTHER DELIVERED by the Nominating Committee that the following proposed slate of officers for 2012-13 is presented:

President: Hugh L. Brady
First Vice President: Gustavo Tracchia
Second Vice President: Christopher Bedwell
Secretary: John M. Hartvigsen
Treasurer: Mary Ann Docktor-Smith

Mary Ann Docktor-Smith
Secretary, North American Vexillological Association

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 &quot;In the Mail&quot; Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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>
<tr>
<td>219</td>
<td>31 July</td>
<td>20 September 2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

NAVA Database

To access information about fellow NAVA members, or to update your NAVA member profile—address, phone, e-mail, flag interests, personal flag, and e-mail preferences—visit the Members Only section of the NAVA website. Click on “Edit My Profile” and update any information listed there.

NAVA members need a password.

Good Flag, Bad Flag now in Portuguese

Thanks to Tiago José Berg, a new NAVA member living in Cordeirópolis, São Paulo, NAVA’s guide to flag design is available in Portuguese.

As Bandeiras Bonitas, Bandeiras Feias, it is available on the NAVA website—see under “Flag Design”.

Thanks go to Tiago for his initiative and outstanding effort in extending the reach of our flag-design guidance.

GBBF is already in English, Spanish, French, and German.

To receive or renew your password:

1) Go to http://members.nava.org or Go to NAVA.org and click on “Member Login”.
2) Enter your member number in the “Member ID” box (it’s on your mailing label).
3) Click on “Forgot Password?” and an e-mail with your new password will be sent to the email address on record.

E-mail Shane Sievers, NAVA webmaster, at webmaster@nava.org with any questions.
FLAG HUMOR

Fall comes earlier in Canada.

Artist: Juan Carlos Partidas

MEMBER FLAGS

Hugh L. Brady—Austin, Texas

The flag is a banner of his arms, blazoned Party per bend sinister Gules and Or in the sinister base a dexter hand couped at the wrist the index finger pointing at the sun in splendor in dexter chief the whole within a bordure all counterchanged.

Lawrence D. Soucier—Austin, Texas

The flag is banner of his family arms, blazoned Gules an escallop Argent ears pierced chained and ringed Or on a chief wavy of the same two fleurs-de-lis Azure the center petal of each charged with a star Or.

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.
### Placing the Flag

Michael Orlove, a NAVA member living in Gresham, Oregon (near Portland), “sows” flags each year in his “flower bed.”

In recognition of the 2012 Olympics in London, Michael planted the Union Jack. He made a wooden frame painted white to represent the white stripes and planted red and blue petunias for the other colors.

In 2011, Michael planted the reverse of the Oregon flag with blue lobelia and a beaver made of wood. In 2010, he planted the U.S. flag with red and white impatiens and blue lobelia (see NAVA News 207).

---

### 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

**RENAISSANCE COLUMBUS DOWNTOWN 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.

**REGISTRATION**

A registration form is available on the NAVA website: [www.nava.org](http://www.nava.org). **Late registration is $225.**

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS**

- Hear more Vexi-Bits than ever, enjoy a banquet, several interesting presentations, and the camaraderie of fellow NAVA members. On Saturday, NAVA 46 will tour the Ohio Historical Society’s collection of Civil War battle flags and the Ohio State House which was restored to its original 1816 appearance in 1996.
- Hear engaging, cutting-edge presentations of the latest flag scholarship.
- Meet and exchange ideas with the premier vexillologists in North America.
- Help govern NAVA by participating in the annual business meeting.
- Hear a keynote address or special presentation from a local expert.
- Visit sites of interest and local flag displays in the host city.
- Buy and sell flags, books, and related materials at significant savings.
- Compete to earn the Capt. William Driver Award for best paper.
- Share meals, a receptions, and a banquet with NAVA members and friends.
- Welcome first-time attendees with special events.
- View NAVA members’ exhibits of flags and flag items.
- Display a personal or organizational flag.
- Enjoy the company of like-minded flag enthusiasts.