



The Vexilloid Tabloid

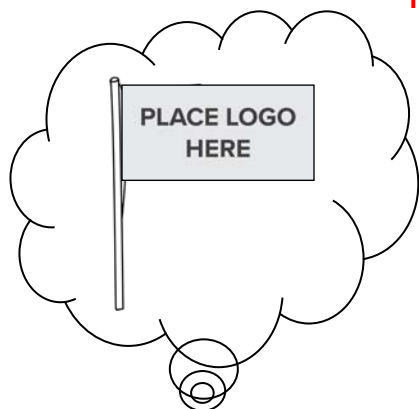
Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 85 December 2020

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**To us, the biggest thing is:
a logo is not a flag.**

**— Emily Kessinger,
co-reviver of the flag of
Des Moines, Iowa**

The Flag IS the Logo

By Ted Kaye

Many a corporation will create a flag by placing its logo on a solid field. That’s OK, as the logo is the primary graphic symbol of the entity. Yet we frown when cities, counties, and provinces place their logos on their flags (the late Peter Orenski called this *logorrhea*). Why? Beyond the design challenge, I believe there’s a more fundamental reason to avoid this practice.

Consider a country. What is its logo? I assert that it’s the flag. As the primary, iconic, graphic symbol of a country, the flag serves the same purpose as does a logo for a corporation.

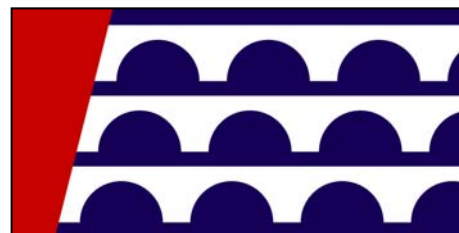
However, many city governments, with their modern branding efforts, will develop a logo and then slap it on a flag (sometimes replacing a better design). This reflects the confusion over what the flag represents—the *city government* or the *entire city* (see VT #67 for a fuller explication—I believe that confusion is also what leads cities to use another government symbol, the seal, on their flags).

But even more important, I assert that a flag IS a logo. Therefore placing a city logo on a flag reflects a fundamental misunderstanding of a flag. (While there may be historical, cultural, or practical reasons to put one *flag* on another, the concept of a flag image centered on a solid field to create another flag seems ludicrous—yet cities and counties will blithely do so with a logo.)

The symbol of a city should be its *flag*, because THAT serves as its logo (it should *not* be a flag with a logo on it). Please join me in spreading this message to cities that need to hear it!



Des Moines, Iowa (2008–2019).



Des Moines, Iowa (1974–2008, 2019–).

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or editor@portlandflag.org. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

November 2020 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our November meeting, held again on Zoom because of the COVID-19 shutdown, 16 PFA members and out-of-town guests enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation.

Jessie Spillers, as the would-be host, moderated the meeting.

During introductions we welcomed Brenden Gifford as a new members as well as distance guests Phil Allen (Berkeley, Calif.) Ralph Bartlett (Melbourne, Vic., Australia), and Kyle Smith (Kennewick, Wash.).

Jessie began with a discussion of the American Thin Blue Line Flag, probing the concept of flags that are differenced and become new flags, and flags whose meaning (or users) change significantly (e.g. the Gadsden Flag).



Jessie Spillers moderates the Zoom session, starting with the ATBL flag.



Larry Snyder shows a pennant with his personal arms.



Joyce Gifford discusses the unusual “negative space” in the flag of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Joyce Gifford discussed how customers are seeking the unusual design of the flag of the ethnic-Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh region (Artsakh).

Larry Snyder, pleased to be rejoining us after several year’s absence, described his 65 years as a heraldist and showed a pennant with his personal arms.

Brenden Gifford, speaking with an “Erin Go Bragh” harp flag in the background, related how his inherited enthusiasm for flags led him at 17 to “liberate” a Taco Bell flag.

Kyle Smith, a GUAVA (Albany) member spurred an interesting extension of the discussion of re-use of flag designs and the shifting meanings of colors associated with genders over time.

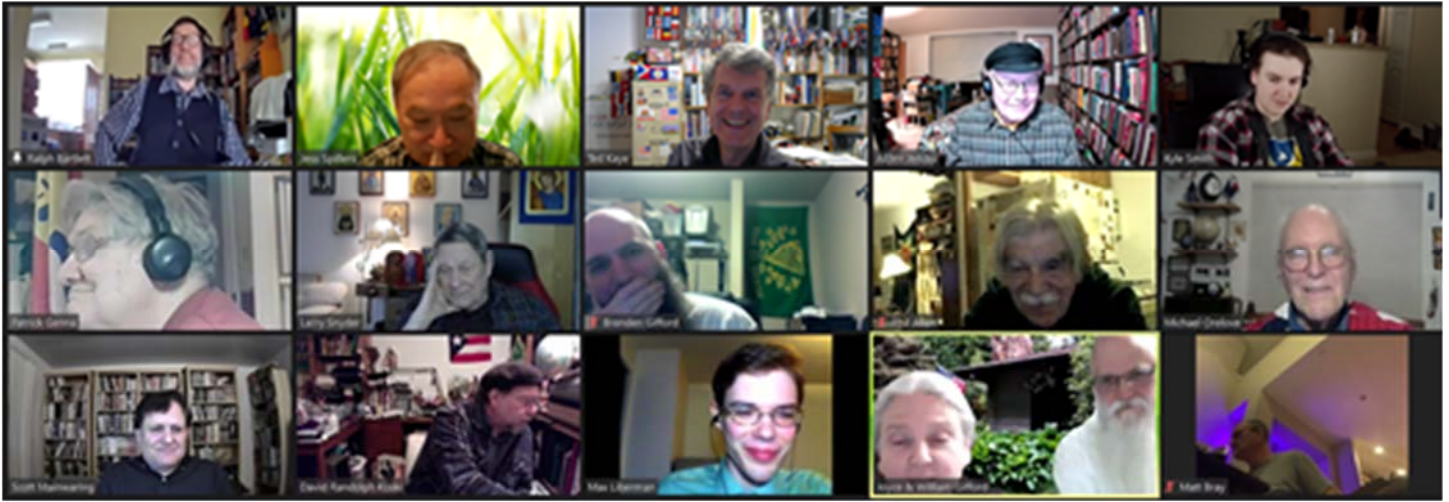
For example, the modern pink-for-girls/blue-for-boys convention apparently is a 20th-century stereotype that had been completely reversed in the previous century and before (perhaps because blue was the color associated with Mary).



Kyle Smith sports a shirt bearing the flag of GUAVA (Albany).



Brenden Gifford, with an Irish flag behind him, unfurls the first flag he’d ever collected, “liberated” from a Taco Bell by standing on the roof of a car.



PFA members and guests enjoy the discussion.

Phil Allen, joining from Berkeley, California, pulled out small flags he'd collected in Europe, some from the *contrade* of Siena, Italy.

William Gifford answered the question posed by Kate Cushman last meeting about folding the flag of the Republic of Ireland, then explored apparel printed in a way to form a complete image (in the same manner as David Koski's "slack flags"—see p. 6).

Alden Jencks described his time in Germany in Zweibrücken ("Two bridges"), whence came troops who formed Rochambeau's



Phil Allen pulls out a *contrade* flag from the Palio in Siena, Italy.

expedition corps, the "Royal Deux-Ponts", in the American Revolutionary War's 1781 Battle of Yorktown, and his viewing of a replica of the corps' flag at Yorktown (see p. 8).



Alden Jencks describes the "Royal Deux-Ponts" corps of 1781.



Ralph Bartlett points out the Nagorno-Karabakh flag on his poster *Flags of Aspirant Peoples*.



William Gifford shares slack-flag-like apparel (right).



Ralph Bartlett, joining from Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, exhibited a handkerchief honoring the planned (but cancelled) 1949 royal tour of Australia by George VI, framed for him by his father, showing an Australian Red Ensign (see p. 10).

Continued on next page



Michael Orelove displays the flag of Alaska.

Michael Orelove, an Alaska resident 1973–2006, showed three flags for Alaska: a 49-star U.S. flag from 1959, an Alaska state flag (with the Big Dipper and the North Star), and his own Alaska variant with a doubled star (representing Mizar and Alcor, the double stars in the Big Dipper's handle—he is an amateur astronomer).

Ted Kaye promoted NAVA's new initiative—Interest Area meetings (asking PFA members and friends to join in and consider presenting), lauded the 71% favorable vote for the new Mississippi flag, and shared replica flags from the era of Spanish maritime exploration (1492–1785) acquired when he worked at the Oregon Historical Society after a 1990s exhibit closed.

David Koski ruminated on flags or flag elements whose tainted use has made them “verboten” (e.g., the swastika or the Confederate Battle Flag), wondering if they could ever be reclaimed, then discussed the design concept of “tiling” of elements, noting how they can inform flag designs.



Ted Kaye shows a replica 1732 flag of Spain's Maritime Departments.



David Koski reflects on *verboten* flags.

Matt Bray, joined by his son, Hayden, described his daughter's enthusiasm for the 7-stripe rainbow flag of Cuzco, Peru, saying she would like to move there.

Max Liberman reflected on the proposal for a post-war German flag, with a white diagonal for East Germany (in response to the discussion of Nagorno-Karabakh).

Patrick Genna, whose audio did not cooperate, participated in the meeting by writing and holding up signs.



Matt Bray is joined by his son Hayden, a budding vexillographer.



Max Liberman offers an insight.



Patrick Genna listens in.

Continued on next page



Scott Mainwaring contemplates the colors in political flags.

Scott Mainwaring discussed the recent display of 228,000+ small white flags in Washington, D.C., memorializing the U.S. deaths to date due to COVID-19, then led a discussion of the unprecedented level of use of flags by a U.S. presidential campaign, that of Donald Trump. The use of color in U.S. politics and flags is interesting—especially red and blue and their surprising reversals.

Ted Kaye retained the Portland Flag Association flag, ready for action.

With luck, our next meeting will be hosted in person on 14 January. Otherwise, we will meet virtually again!



While political parties in the United States are generally associated with blue (Democrats) and red (Republicans), a large number of flags used by the Trump campaign used blue instead of red as the field color.



More than 228,000 white flags flutter in memory of the lives lost to COVID-19 in Washington, D.C., artist Suzanne Brennan Firstenberg's installation "In America How Could This Happen...". Photo by Evy Mages

Slack Flags

By David Koski

Ever since I was young, I've loved the way flags look in their many manifestations. While I think their best expression is when flying in a brisk breeze, and their designs are most apparent as flat rectangles, I've noticed that we often see them furled around a vertical pole, hanging slack (limp) for lack of a breeze or because they are displayed indoors.

I distinctly remember seeing the U.S. flag and the flag of the state of Oregon hanging inert on a vertical pole in the school auditorium when I was in the seventh grade, and thinking it kind of sad that the greatest part of each flag was obscured by the effects of gravity.

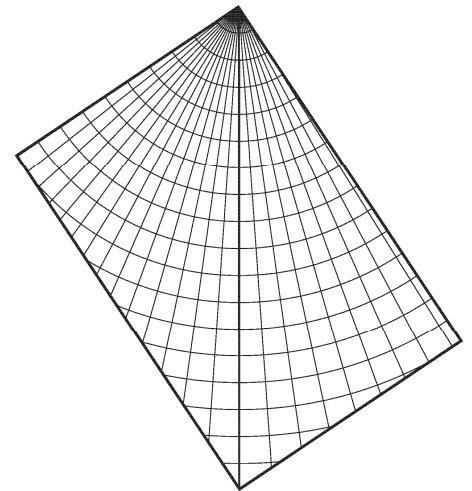
Some flags are easy to identify whether they are hanging slack or flying. Others can be difficult to identify when furled. Over the years I have naturally accepted and enjoyed the shape-changing aspect of fabric flags—from sleepy to lively, as it is their nature—but as a designer I began to wonder if there were a way in which a flag could be designed so as to maximize its susceptibility to identification when not flying.

To explore this idea, I decided to examine the worst-case scenario: an idealized flag made of virtually structureless fabric hanging slack on a pole, with no header or grommets, with the upper hoist corner of the flag at the top, and



the lower fly corner at the bottom. The diagonal of the design would then fall exactly along the line of the pole, with all other parts of the design falling, folding or wrapping according to the dictates of gravity. Of course, real flags have various structure, bulk, and texture, as well as the extras needed for hanging, and the occasional fringe—but I decided to ignore those.

It became apparent that under these conditions, the diagonal from the upper hoist corner to the lower fly corner becomes a kind of “prime meridian” in the design, and any line radiating from the top corner would also fall along the line of the pole when the flag was slack. Also, any design elements equidistant from the top corner would hang at the same level when slack. This schematic diagram with the diagonal of the flag oriented vertically suggests longitude and

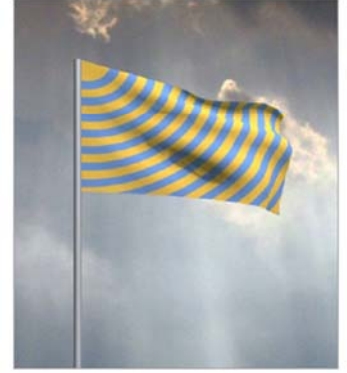


Flag schematic with lines of longitude and latitude.

latitude on a map (see schematic above).

Having decided that this was a good approach for making flag designs that could be readily distinguished when hanging slack, I proceeded to design a few examples to see how it worked. The design elements along any “latitude” should align roughly horizontally, and if similar, should always show up to distinguish a particular flag from others when hanging vertically, despite the folding and furling (see next page).

After this experiment, I suppose this approach could be useful for the intended purpose, and adds another (if peculiar) category to flag design “ordinaries” such as the cross or saltire. A motivated designer following this scheme could certainly move well beyond the provided examples to make a flag with actual content that looks good whether flying or not.



A Proposed Flag for Oceania

By Israel Alberto Núñez Manzano

Oceania is a geographic area that includes Australasia, Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia. It has a land area of 8.5 million square kilometers (3.3 million sq. mi.) and a population of over 41 million. Comprising Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific islands, it overlaps all four hemispheres. It has no flag.

My proposed design for an Oceania flag is a 1:2 rectangle, divided into four sections in honor of its four regions (Australasia/Melanesia/Micronesia/Polynesia). They form a cross that represents the division of the Northern and Southern Hemispheres by the Ecuador, and the Eastern and Western Hemispheres by the International Date Line.

The sections on the left (both upper and lower) are three times



A flag for Oceania.

wider than those on the right, hinting at the greater territory and population of Near Oceania (east) with respect to Far Oceania (west).

Oceania comprises 34 entities: 27 states (sovereign or not), 2 Australian territories, 2 external territories administered by Australia, 2 Indonesian provinces, and an unorganized and unincorporated territory of United States.

The four colors are very dark blue (B ++); sky blue (B - -); white (W);

and dark yellow (Y +). At least one of the colors appears on the flag of each territory in Oceania.

The constellation *Crux Australis* (Southern Cross), located in the center of the upper left section, appears on most of the flags of Oceania as a symbol of that region. The stars' points total 34.

The "O" for Oceania is a perfect circle geographically located that shows equality among all (like King Arthur's round table); inside it a stylized yellow arrow alludes to the migrations from the west in search of gold and wealth. The yellow of the upper right section represents the sunrise and a new dawn.

The stars and the circle are white, as that color represents the union of all the colors, alluding to the integration of all the ethnic groups of the continent. White also represents peace and purity.

"Royal Deux-Ponts" Regimental Flag

During a visit to the Yorktown Battlefield in Virginia in 2000, Alden Jencks (right) scored a photo of a replica flag of the Count de Rochambeau's "Royal Deux-Ponts" (Zweibrücken) regiment.

Under Rochambeau's command at Yorktown in 1781, this German-speaking regiment took Redoubt 9, which helped lead to the surrender of the British forces under the command of Lord Cornwallis.



Snail Congress Flags

by Mike Thomas (in Luxembourg)

I recently found this postcard in Beaune, Burgundy, France.

Here's a quick translation:

"10-yearly Congress of the International Snail Party"

- ♦ **Kenya** – Masai
- ♦ **Albania** – Mafia
- ♦ **Australia** – Kangaroo
- ♦ **Greece** – Tzatziki (sauce)
- ♦ **Grenada** – Pin (from a grenade, French for Grenada)
- ♦ **Panama** – Hat
- ♦ **Seychelles** – Tourist
- ♦ **USA** – Yankee
- ♦ **South Africa** – Zulu
- ♦ **Brazil** – Samba
- ♦ **San Marino** – Romagnolo (from the Romagna region of Italy)
- ♦ **Andorra** – Tax-free
- ♦ **UK** – Phlegmatic
- ♦ **Czech** – Bohemian
- ♦ **Swiss** – Neutral
- ♦ **Norway** – Viking
- ♦ **Macedonia** – Salad (as in fruit salad)
- ♦ **Cuba** – Cigar
- ♦ **Burgundy** – Native (since the post card is from Burgundy)
- ♦ **Liechtenstein** – Banker
- ♦ **Central African Republic** – Elephant (I don't personally associate elephants with the CAR, but one figures on its coat of arms)



The back of the postcard reads:

Every 10 years, since the appearance of the famous Manifesto of the Snail Party in February 1848 (Snails of the world, unite!), snails from the five continents meet in Beaune to debate the advances in gastronomic and culinary law in their various countries.

After intense and always passionate debates, tradition requires that they meet in their dishes, prepared with a good parsley butter, for the greatest pleasure of your taste-buds.

It's often by mistake that the name Burgundy Snails is used for these snails, who have mostly arrived in our beautiful country for the congress only a few days earlier.



escargot masai



escargot mafieux



escargot kangourou



escargot tzatziki



escargot à goupille



escargot à chapeau



escargot touriste



escargot yankee



escargot zoulou



escargot samba



escargot romagnol



escargot détaxé



escargot à flegme



escargot bohème



escargot neutre



escargot viking



escargot à salade



escargot à cigare



limacon natif



escargot banquier



escargot éléphant

Congrès décennal de l'Internationale du Parti des Colimaçons

1949 Royal Tour Handkerchief

By Ralph Bartlett

Flags adorn the “cancelled” “1949 Royal Tour to Australia Souvenir Handkerchief”.

The tour was to have been by the UK’s then George VI & Queen Elizabeth (later the Queen Mother), but was cancelled due to the king’s deteriorating health. The king would live another four years, before dying on 6 Feb. 1952 from lung cancer. Had the tour taken place, he would have been the first reigning British monarch to visit Australia. This honour went to his daughter, Elizabeth II, in Feb.–Mar. 1954.

And if the 1949 tour had occurred, it would have been the couple’s second visit to Australia, as they first visited Australia between late March and late May 1927, as Prince Albert, Duke of York and Princess Elizabeth, Duchess of York, to officially open the first “Provisional” Parliament House in Canberra, on 9 May 1927.

My late father framed this handkerchief for me as an early recognition of my interest in flags.

The Australian Red Ensign is depicted, which was the version then preferred by the public.



Souvenir handkerchief meant to commemorate the 1949 Royal Tour to Australia.

A Non-Flat Flag

by Michael Orelove

Johnny Lynch, one of Kathleen Forrest’s grandsons, was late entering the *Flags for Kathleen* project (see *VT* #83)—as a news videographer he was in Portland covering the protests/riots. He was among the press people who were gassed by the federal police.

Since he was in the area he stopped by to present Kathleen with the red, white, and blue flag. He said he did the flag as a weaving and wanted to end up with stripes so it would look “flaggish”. He used the blue felt to make a three-dimensional flower in the center.

Note to Ted Kaye: The next time you update *Good Flag, Bad Flag* you may want to consider adding the suggestion to “Make the flag flat”.

Thank you, Johnny.



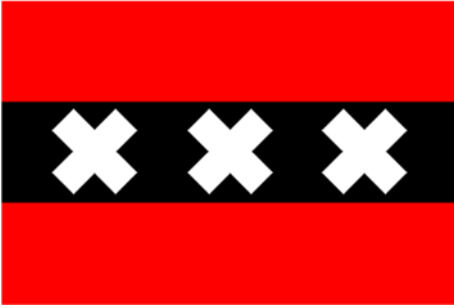
A non-flat flag for Kathleen.

What's that Flag?

By David Ferriday

Name these flags and identify the design theme connecting them.

Answers in the next issue...



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Tony Burton

These flags all have irregular design components—with unequal or uncommon proportions.

Congrats to solvers Bruce Stewart and Mike Thomas.
RIP Bill Neckrock.



Lesotho



São Tomé and Príncipe



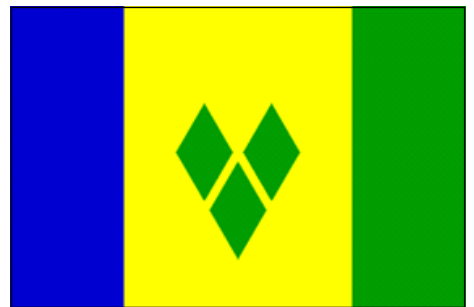
Marshall Islands



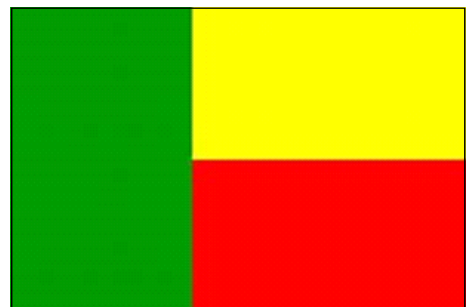
Brunei



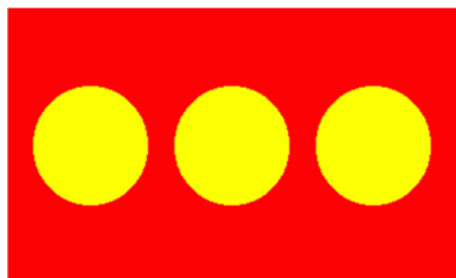
Tajikistan



St. Vincent & the Grenadines



Benin



Portland Flag Miscellany



Election Day on N.W. Belgrave, flags from left to right: the 1920 Alice Paul banner, City of Portland, State of Oregon, United States of America.



KBNZ Central Oregon Daily News sent anchor Allen Schaufler to report on the nightly protests and riots in downtown Portland.

He took this image of a protester waving the Portland flag on 24 July.

January Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 14, 2021.

If by some miracle we can meet in person, we will announce the location and provide a map. Otherwise, watch for a Zoom invitation.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings and engaging in provocative flag-related discussion.

Newcomers and friends from around the world are welcome!



Michael Orelove and Kate Cushman, properly masked, help the Portland Flag Association celebrate VexiDay—World Vexillology Day—in early October with a flag display at Salmon Street Springs on the Portland waterfront. Kate brought Irish flags and Michael unfurled “a true American flag”.

The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at www.portlandflag.org.