



# The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 86 February 2021

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[www.portlandflag.org](http://www.portlandflag.org)

## Oregon Flag Registry Shifts to FOTW

The Oregon Flag Registry has transitioned to a global platform.

In 2010 the PFA launched an ambitious project—to document the flags flown in Oregon (see *V/T* #28). The OFR started with city, county, and tribal flags, documenting their full description, meaning, history, designer, adoption date, predecessor flags, and entity contact information (including web links).

We expected it to serve as a provider and promoter of sound flag design, functioning as a “registrar” rather than a “gatekeeper”.

Scott Mainwaring created a website and we populated it with the information already at hand. Over the years we have gradually added to its holdings.

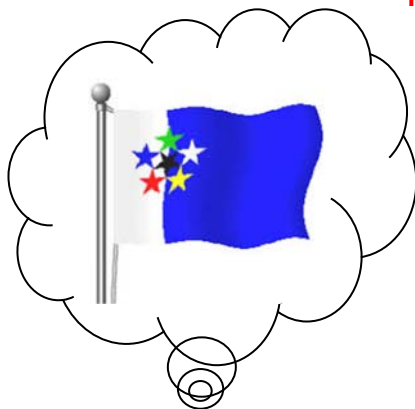
Fast forward ten years, and Flags of the World (fotw.info, the online flag encyclopedia tended by volunteer editors) continues to enhance its coverage of all types of flags. FOTW has grown strong on U.S. municipal flags (having incorporated materials shared by NAVA from *American City Flags* last year). In fact, under topic editor Rick Wyatt, its “Oregon Municipal Flags” page lists all 36 counties and over 100 cities, noting which are known to have flags. ([fotw.info/flags/us-ormun.html](http://fotw.info/flags/us-ormun.html))

In light of this duplication, we decided to transfer all of the information in the Oregon Flag Registry to the corresponding articles in FOTW. That work is complete and we’ll soon sunset the OFR site. We’re grateful to Rob Raeside, FOTW director, for facilitating this transition.

## Oregon Flag Registry

*A resource for flag design in Oregon*


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



***If Americans cast their votes on the best slogan and prettiest banner, they are dumb and don't deserve liberty.***

— HuffingtonPost blog  
by Elucid, 2008

## January 2021 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our January 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.

Ted Kaye moderated the meeting.

We welcomed Alex Zimmerman as a new member as well as distance guests Phil Allen (Berkeley, Calif.) Ralph Bartlett (Melbourne, Vic., Australia), Al Cavalari (New Windsor, N.Y.), and Kyle Smith (Kennewick, Wash.).

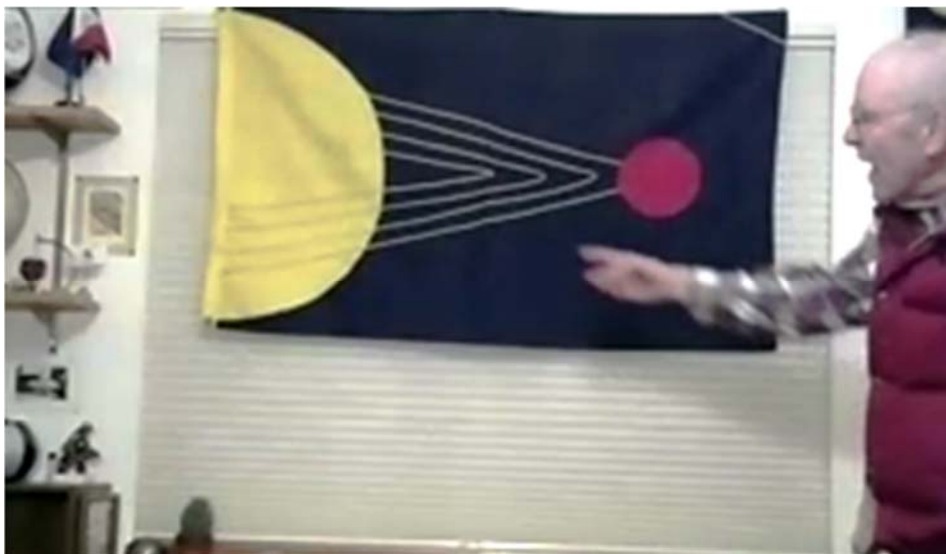
Larry Snyder, apparently standing in Elfreth's Alley in Philadelphia, recounted the story of the 1756 engraving of the harbor there anachronistically depicting a ship flying the Continental Colors, but actually the British East India Company flag (see *Raven* 15).



Larry Snyder appears from the historic Elfreth's Alley in Philadelphia.



Alex Zimmerman explains a variant of the flag of Norrland, Sweden.



Michael Orelove explains his flag for Mars, on the occasion of the arrival there next month of the *Perseverance* rover and the *Ingenuity* helicopter drone.

Michael Orelove described his flag for Mars, an improvement over the red-green-blue vertical tribar inspired by Kim Stanley Robinson's *Mars* trilogy.

Alex Zimmerman, whose mother lives in Sweden, displayed a large flag of Norrland (the northern area) apparently in variant colors (the yellow and blue transposed). It won a design contest in 1992.

John Niggley showed several flags that he has made and flown, and told how he honored his late father with displays of flags recalling his military service, NASA career, and fondness for emojis.

Alden Jencks, a Germanophile and retired professor, thanked Larry Snyder for the GDR flag and used it to help illustrate his presentation on the meaning of the Black-Red-Gold flag through history, enlivened by stories of his time living in Germany.

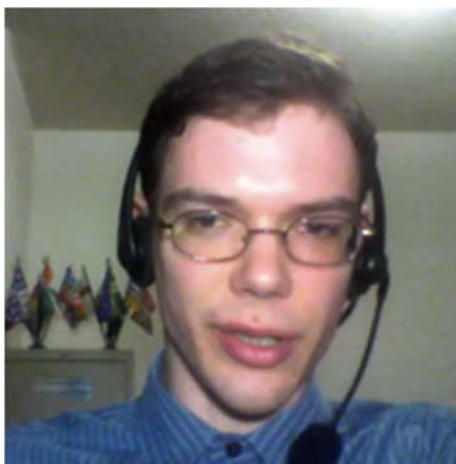


Alden Jencks describes explains the German flag through history.



John Niggley gives a slide show of the flags he flies at his home.

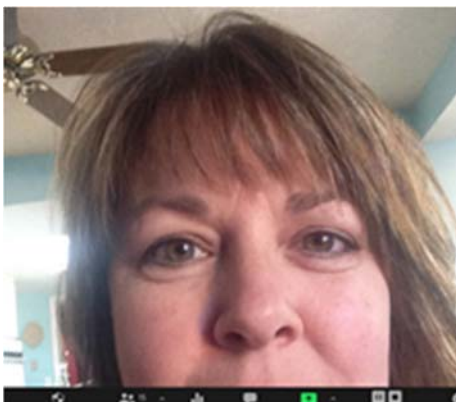




**Max Liberman presents the history of the flags of the nation of Georgia.**

Max Liberman was designated the PFA's delegate to the next FIAV general assembly (whether held in 2021 or 2022). He gave a brief presentation on the history of flags in the nation of Georgia—the red crosses on the current flag derive from a 5th-century church inscription.

Kate Cushman described the kind and helpful advice she had received from Rachel Phelan, textile conservator in Dublin, about caring for her grandfather's burial flag (an Irish tricolor honoring his military service at age 16 in 1921).



**Kate Cushman relates Rachel Phelan's advice about an Irish tricolor.**



**Al Cavalari unveils a mystery flag, which turned out to be a "manufacturer's variant" produced by erroneous artwork. It's meant to be the flag of Washington's Life Guard.**

Al Cavalari presented a mystery flag, revealed as a manufacturer's variant of the Washington's Life Guard flag (due to his sending the printer the wrong art work), then related its history in detail.

Phil Allen uncovered his work from the 1980s, "First Vexillary", where he used flag stickers to organize national and state flags by design concepts and geography, rather than by alphabetical order (see p. 10).

Ralph Bartlett described his woodshop projects at age 12 to create the coats of arms of Australia, and later the U.S. (see p. 5), and showed a 2000 flag poster from the major flag makers in Melbourne, Carroll and Richardson (now doing business as Flagworld).



**Ralph Bartlett unfolds a poster from Carroll & Richardson, flag makers in Melbourne.**



**Phil Allen shows his 1980s work, "First Vexillary".**

Joyce Gifford shared the challenge she has faced in deciding which historical flags to remove from sale following the attack on the U.S. Capitol the previous week—the Gadsden Flag, the Betsy Ross variant, the First Navy Jack—to what extent are they "tainted" by their recent use by the mob? She also wondered if the rioters had mistakenly waved the flag of the country of Georgia in place of the flag of the state of Georgia.



**Joyce Gifford plays "name that flag" (hint, the center stripe is yellow).**

*Continued on next page*



**Ken Dale describes refurbishing flags from Lincoln Memorial Park.**

Ken Dale reported that he's ironed 2,000 veterans' flags from Lincoln Memorial Park, and has 2,000 more to go before Memorial Day.

Scott Mainwaring shared a number of Facebook postings about flags, including the tizzy about the specifications proposed for the South Carolina flag. He led a discussion about "hijacked" flags (e.g. the Gadsden Flag by the Tea Party) and wondered whether any flag has been redeemed from that fate—a topic for more research.

Kyle Smith (originally from Albany, Oregon) joined in again from Kennewick.



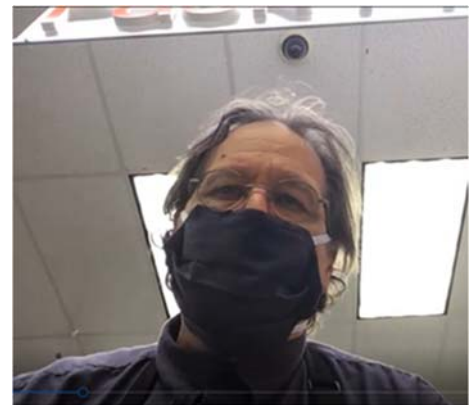
**Kyle Smith checks in from Kennewick, Washington.**



**Ted Kaye shows the new flag of Mississippi, officially adopted three days before.**



**Scott Mainwaring is amused by the tizzy in South Carolina.**



**David Koski checks in from work until the store closes.**

Ted Kaye unfurled the flags of Mississippi, oldest to newest, on the occasion of the official raising of the new flag just this week. He enthused about the readerboard gifted him for Christmas to announce the flags he flies daily over N.W. Belgrave.

David Koski called from the FedEx store as he was closing up.

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

It is unlikely that our next meeting, on March 11, will be hosted in person, so expect that we will meet virtually again!

However, fingers crossed for May or July for meeting again in the same room...





## Flags of 2020

As we enjoy “2020 hindsight”, here are two timely images sent by readers showing flag-related responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

*VT* reader Tony Forte, an anesthesiologist at CHI Franciscan in Lakewood, Washington, ordered a supply of the “COVID Defiance” flags designed by our Slovenian colleagues (see *VT*# 81) and shared them broadly with his medical colleagues.



The COVID Defiance flag, displayed at a medical facility in Washington.

*VT* Reader Mike Thomas, writing from Luxembourg, shared the internet meme “The Official Flag of 2020”, as documented on memezilla.com.



“The Official Flag of 2020”, the protective mask.

## Arms and the Child

Ralph Bartlett’s fascination with flags and arms started early. As a 12-year-old in Melbourne, Victoria, Australia, he tried his hand at fashioning coats of arms from

wood. Below are two examples which he shared during the most recent meeting of the PFA: those of the Commonwealth of Australia and the United States of America.



The coat of arms of Australia, as crafted by Ralph Bartlett at age 12.



The arms of the United States of America, as crafted by Ralph Bartlett at age 12.



## Training for Flag-Raising Ceremonies in China

By Xinfeng Zhao

From 28 September to 1 October 2020 I was invited to the Jiangnan District of Wuhan to conduct a flag-raising ceremony training for 184 flag-raisers and 31 teachers from 31 primary and middle schools in the district.

The previous year, I was responsible for designing the flag-raising ceremonies for the 7th CISM World Military Games in Wuhan. I also trained a flag-raiser team made up of 288 military school students.

Zhang Huijun, deputy director of the Jiangnan District Education Bureau, is also in charge of the Wuhan Military Games award ceremony project. She believes that the experience of the military standard flag-raiser training could be used for primary and middle school's flag-raising ceremonies.

This activity had a positive impact and was praised by the principal, teachers, students, and parents.

*VT reader Xinfeng Zhao chairs the Vexillological Research Center of China ([www.vrcc.org.cn](http://www.vrcc.org.cn)) and has attended several ICVs and NAVA meetings.*

*He is a primary organizer of the 30th International Congress of Vexillology, to be held in Beijing, China, in 2023.*



Zhao Xinfeng coaches middle-school flag-raisers how to hold the flag.



Demonstrating students the proper way to walk with the furled flag.



Zhao Xinfeng stands with soldiers trained for the 7th Wuhan World Military Games.

For another flag-raising, see: <https://youtu.be/yOcVkJTHq-aM?t=227>

## Royal Response to Hawaiian Flag Documentary

VT reader and native Hawaiian Patrick Ka'ano'i recently sent a copy of his 2003 documentary on the Hawaiian flag to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Patrick wrote *The Need for Hawai'i* and is co-author of *The Hawaiian Name Book*. He is also an initiator of *La Hae Hawai'i*, or Hawaiian Flag Day in Hawaii (31 July), the author of the Hawaiian Flag Chant (<https://www.to-hawaii.com/hawaiian-flag.php>), and co-writer the Hawaii Revised Statutes regarding the protocol of the Hawaiian Flag.

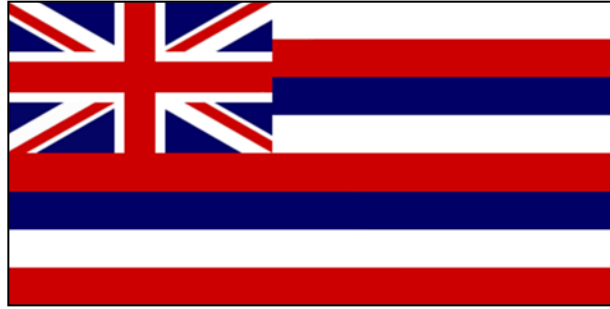
He has written extensively on the history of the Hawaiian flag, and produced the documentary video *Ka Hae Hawai'i—The Hawaiian Flag* which runs at the Pu'ukohola Heiau (sacred site) on the Big Island of Hawaii.

The full documentary may be seen at [youtu.be/WJ895fnjFoc](https://youtu.be/WJ895fnjFoc).

Hawaii has a long history with the United Kingdom and its flag features the Union Jack in the canton, so it was appropriate to share the information with the current sovereign.

After Patrick sent a copy to the queen, he received a very nice letter in response.

Patrick is also a composer and musician, and created and performed all the music in the documentary. He joined NAVA in 1987.



BUCKINGHAM PALACE

26th October, 2020

Dear Mr Ka'ano'i,

I have been asked to write and thank you for your letter to The Queen and I am sorry that it has not been possible to reply to you before now.

It was thoughtful of you to wish to make Her Majesty aware of the documentary you have made on the history of the Hawaiian Flag.

Your kind message of support for The Queen and her family was most appreciated, and I would like to send you my good wishes during this current situation.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Jennie Vine, MVO  
Deputy Correspondence Coordinator

Mr Patrick Ka'ano'i.

The letter to Patrick Ka'ano'i from the deputy correspondence coordinator to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

## State Flag Pledges

By Michael Orelove

I recently received material from the State of Texas which included the official salute to the Texas State Flag. This made me wonder what other states have pledges or salutes to their flag, which let me to conduct some on-line research.

I found at least 17 states with pledges or salutes. Their adoption dates range from 1910 to 2007, and most clearly seem inspired by the U.S. flag's Pledge of Allegiance (originated in 1892, updated in 1923 and 1954).

**Alabama** (2001) *Flag of Alabama I salute thee. To thee I pledge my allegiance, my service, and my life.*

**Arkansas** (1953) *I salute the Arkansas Flag with its diamond and stars. We pledge our loyalty to thee.*

**Georgia** (1935) *I pledge allegiance to the Georgia flag and to the principles for which it stands: Wisdom, Justice, and Moderation.*

[**Hawaii** has a flag chant, written by Patrick Ka'ano'i.]

**Kentucky** (2000) *I pledge allegiance to the Kentucky flag, and to the Sovereign State for which it stands, one Commonwealth, blessed with diversity, natural wealth, beauty, and grace from on High.*

**Louisiana** (1981) *I pledge allegiance to the flag of the state of Louisiana and to the motto for which it stands: A state, under God, united in purpose and ideals, confident that justice shall prevail for all of those abiding here.*

**Michigan** (1972) *I pledge allegiance to the flag of Michigan, and to the state for which it stands, 2 beautiful peninsulas united by a bridge of steel, where equal opportunity and justice to all is our ideal.*

**Mississippi** (1972) *I salute the flag of Mississippi and the sovereign state for which it stands with pride in her history and achievements and with confidence in her future under the guidance of Almighty God.*

**New Mexico** (1963) *I salute the flag of the state of New Mexico, the Zia symbol of perfect friendship among united cultures.*

**North Carolina** (2007) *I salute the flag of North Carolina and pledge to the Old North State love, loyalty, and faith.*

**Ohio** (2002) *I salute the flag of the state of Ohio and pledge to the Buckeye State respect and loyalty.*

**Oklahoma** (1982) *I salute the flag of the State of Oklahoma. Its symbols of peace unite all people.*

**Rhode Island** (1910) *I pledge allegiance to our State Flag, and to the Republic of which Rhode Island forms a part; one Union inseparable, with honor and reverence for both State and Nation.*

**South Carolina** (1966) *I salute the flag of South Carolina and pledge to the Palmetto State love, loyalty. and faith.*

**South Dakota** (1987) *I pledge loyalty and support to the flag and State of South Dakota, land of sunshine, land of infinite variety.*

**Tennessee** has two official salutes (both adopted in 2006).

First official salute:

*Three white stars on a field of blue  
God keep them strong and ever true.  
It is with pride and love that we  
Salute the Flag of Tennessee.*

Second official salute:

*Flag of Tennessee, I salute thee.  
To thee I pledge my allegiance with  
My affection, my service and my life.*

**Texas** (1933) *Honor the Texas flag; I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas, one state under God, one and indivisible.*

**Virginia** (1954) *I salute the flag of Virginia, with reverence and patriotic devotion to the 'Mother of States and statesmen', which it represents—the 'Old Dominion', where liberty and independence were born.*

Many pledges mention pledges of allegiance, affection, service, etc. Alabama and Tennessee also "pledge my life".

I'm happy to live in Oregon!



[Editor's note: Cities can have pledges, too. When Brandon, South Dakota, adopted a city flag in 2017, it also adopted a pledge, written by three fourth graders:

*I pledge dedication to the flag and community of Brandon, South Dakota, with love and respect to our citizens, with kindness and dignity to all.]*



## The Flag at Rajneeshpuram, Oregon 1981–85

By Kevin Harrington

Rajneeshpuram was a religious community in Wasco County, Oregon, 1981–1988. Rajneeshees followed the spiritual teacher Bhagwan Shri Rajneesh. Its citizens and leaders launched the 1984 Rajneeshee bioterror attacks and plotted to assassinate the U.S. Attorney for Oregon.

The 2019 Netflix documentary series *Wild Wild Country* about the Rajneeshee movement shows a flag, apparently based on photos, moving and still.

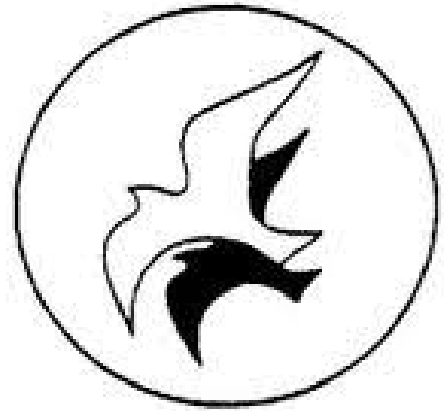
It differs from that shown on FOTW, although FOTW's is identified as the flag of the Rajneesh movement, showing an image modified in 2019.

I captured the image from my TV screen. This flag has a white-edged blue disk in the center of a field of red. On the disk are two white birds, resembling doves, one flying above the other, facing the hoist. There was no particular attention given to the flag in the series, no mention of its role; it evidently played no part in rituals. It did not grace the presence of leading individuals nor adorn high buildings.

In a black-and-white illustration of the device, the lower 'dove' seems to be a shadow of the first one. Some images, on buttons, t-shirts, show a multi-rayed sun in the background. There is a Reddit image online similar to the FOTW



Rajneeshpuram flag as seen on Netflix series *Wild, Wild Country*.



Grayscale image of the flag's central device.



A button showing the Rajneeshpuram seal, with doves and multi-rayed sun.



The device on a contemporaneous T-shirt.

illustration, with a difference in the location of the circle on the bicolored flag.

### Will the real Rajneeshpuram flag please rise, wave, and flutter?

[Editor's note: A neighbor, an attorney who defended the doctors of Rajneeshpuram and saved their medical licenses, gave me a flag left behind by one in 1985 (right). I shared it as a vexi-bit during NAVA 54, and hope to research it further before passing it to the Oregon Historical Society (where I once worked)—Ted Kaye]



FOTW's depiction of the flag of the Rajneeshpuram movement.



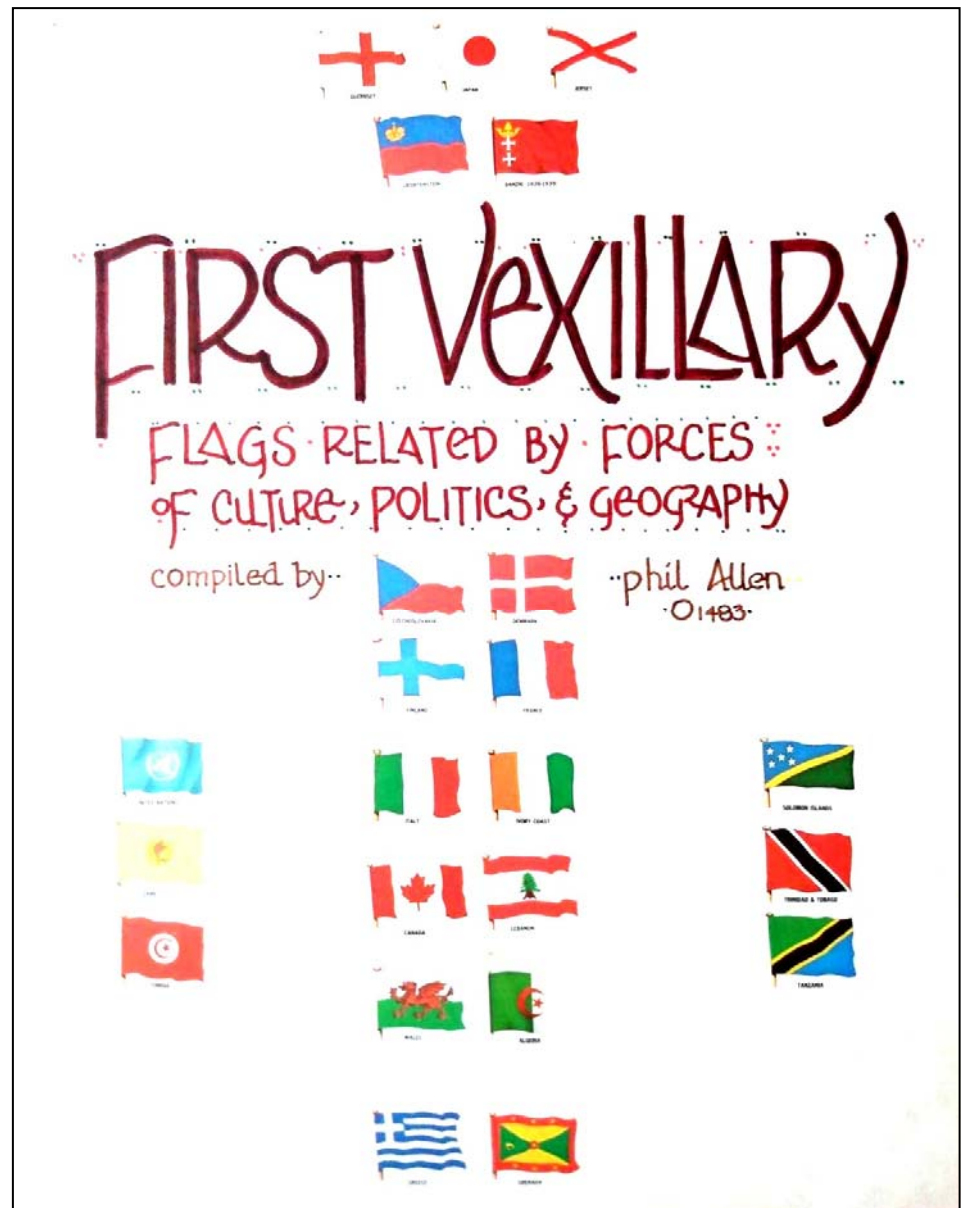
Actual Rajneeshpuram flag with unassailable provenance.

By Phil Allen

I particularly sought to group flags geographically, as a way of displaying design relationships, whether intentional or incidental. The stickers were fixed over outline maps made with colored dots. Beyond a U.S. state flags opener, areas treated to an arrangement included Islamic states, “The Fountain of India” and “Island Realms”. In all, I created 16 pages with the stickers, title included. I resorted to sketching with colored markers for later pages on fictitious and business flags, although doing up one’s own flag stickers sounds like a project for the future!



Cover and example pages from  
Phil Allen's "First Vexillary"

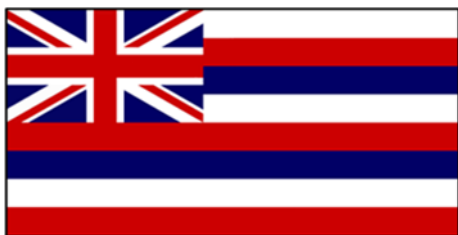




## What's that Flag?

By Ted Kaye

Name these flags and identify the geographic theme connecting them. Answers in the next issue...



## What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By David Ferriday

These flags all have three repeating elements—stars, disks, lines.

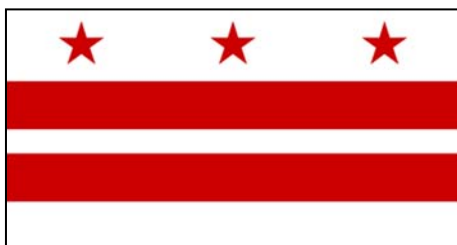
Congrats to solvers Tony Burton, John Cartledge, Bruce Stewart, and Mike Thomas, all of whom we invite to submit more quizzes!



Amsterdam, Netherlands



Burundi



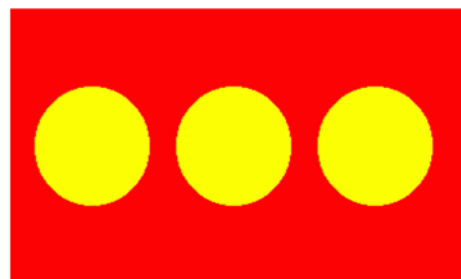
Washington, D.C., U.S.A.



Jammu & Kashmir, India



Iraq (1963–1991); Syria (1963–1972)



Christiania, Denmark



Tennessee, U.S.A.



## Portland Flag Miscellany



“Just a Colorado girl cheering for the team that taught me to love the world’s most beautiful game” #TimbersArmy (Rebecca Mendoza Nunziato—becca\_nunzi on Instagram)—posted this image in May 2018 from Dick’s Sporting Goods Park, Commerce City, Colorado, home of the Colorado Rapids MLS team.)



Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler took the unprecedented step of hiring former Portland mayor Sam Adams as a key staffer. “Director of strategic innovations” is a promotion from the mayoral assistant Adams played in the TV show *Portlandia*...

Wheeler made the announcement in front of U.S. and Portland flags on January 28, 2021.

## March Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 11, 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!



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](http://www.portlandflag.org).