



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 89 August 2021

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Have not I myself known five hundred living soldiers sabred into crows' meat for a piece of glazed cotton, which they call their flag; which had you sold it at any market-cross, would not have brought above three groschen?
— Thomas Carlyle, "Sartor Resartus"

Hood River Museum's Flags

By Ted Kaye

The Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum in Hood River has one of the largest collections of still-flying antique aeroplanes and still-driving antique automobiles in the U.S.

It also displays some interesting flags, mostly associated with its WWII-related holdings and honoring veterans. On a recent visit, I helped staff identify a mystery flag in the flag cabinet—a WWII service flag with its central blue star.



A large flag behind the flag cabinet.



U.S. Army Air Corps (WWII-era) flag.



Mystery solved—a service flag.



Military and veterans group flags.



U.S. military branch-of-service flags.

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.

July 2021 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our July meeting, held in person at the home of Ted Kaye AND via Zoom, 19 PFA members and out-of-town (and -country!) guests enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation. Ted moderated the meeting on his deck with the PFA flag standing beside him.

We welcomed as new members Chris Cowell, Kirin Cowell-Shah, and Sage Moriyama, as well as distance guests Ralph Bartlett (Melbourne, Vic., Australia), Bard Cosman (La Jolla, Calif.), and Ed Murphy, (Arnprior, Ont.). Two local members joined via Zoom.

Max Liberman reviewed flags of South Sudan, including an intended presidential flag (which Ralph Bartlett helped identify); then discussed his view that placing “In God We Trust” on flags violates the constitutional ban on establishment of religion, with which Alden Jencks concurred.



Ed Murphy, joining from Arnprior, Ontario, explains his local flags.

Michael Orelove shared the flags of six U.S. state capital cities that show a statehouse—he had received them from a letter-writing campaign to all state governors in 2014, asking for state flags (he received 15).

Ed Murphy showed flags from 50 years of collecting, and described the history of local flags: Arnprior and McNab-Braeside (about 40 miles west of Ottawa).

Scott Mainwaring described a recent visit to Maine, where he observed a resurgence of interest in the 1901 star-and-pine-tree state flag design and the surprising rural reach of Black Lives Matter flags.



Max Liberman asks for help identifying a flag from South Sudan.



Michael Orelove explains the very busy flag of Carson City, apparently complete with a mint mark.



Scott Mainwaring shows Maine (1901).



Graham Houser shares the flag of Bady Bassitt, São Paulo State (Brazil).

Graham Houser shared the latest addition to his insect-themed flag collection (a Brazilian city flag with a butterfly), and reported on his progress on the John Wild collection.

Sage Moriyama brought a Rubik's cube and demonstrated how he could depict flags with it.



Sage Moriyama responds to the challenge to create as many simultaneous flags as possible on a Rubik's Cube.



Ted Kaye (left) shows the flag of Pictou, Nova Scotia, a gift from his mail carrier—an admirer of his daily flag display.

Ted Kaye showed a Catlin Gabel flag postcard recently produced with the help of David Koski, passed around his folder of recent flag-related newspaper clippings, and unfurled some new flags added to his collection.

Ralph Bartlett delivered a short talk on Australia's Aboriginal flag, on the occasion that day of the 50th anniversary of its design.

Joyce and William Gifford displayed their newest patches.



Ralph Bartlett celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Aboriginal flag.



Joyce Gifford describes smallFLAGS' latest patches.



David Koski shows Apple Watches.

David Koski unveiled the newest Apple Watch versions, on the occasion of the 2020/21 Olympics, which reference national flags, sometimes obliquely.

Continued on next page



Chris Cowell points out a favorite English county flag—Cornwall.

Chris Cowell described his enthusiasm for English county flags, with a sticker for Dorset’s on his smart phone.

Nathaniel Mainwaring identified Robert Heft as a young flag designer, based on Heft’s claim to have suggested the 50-star pattern used on the current U.S. flag.

Larry Snyder shared his unusual but effective flag-storage method: obsolete post-office box cabinets.



Larry Snyder describes his unusual method of flag storage.



Alex Zimmerman displays various world flags and makes the case for the Olympic Movement flag as the “most inclusive”.

Alex Zimmerman delivered his case for the “world’s most inclusive flag”: that of the Olympic movement—arguing that it bests the various Earth flags, the United Nations flag, and others.

Bard Cosman presented his theory on the design origins of the Black Lives Matter flag, deriving from the “Parental Advisory” notice used in 1998 by “Straight Outta Compton”, in its sans-serif capital letters alternating white-on-black and black-on white, with a white central panel.



David Ferriday riffs on the flag of Christiania (Denmark), turning the disks into “three Christianians”.

David Ferriday described the flag of Christiania (the intentional community in Copenhagen, Denmark) and offered his variant.



Bard Cosman traces the origins of the Black Lives Matter flag.



Kirin Cowell-Shah demonstrates his appreciation for flag graphics.

Kirin Cowell-Shah described his favorite flags and showed his innovative map of Bolivia with its provinces depicted by their flags.

Alden Jencks wore a t-shirt with the flags of Canada and Québec depicted as sails on a boat.

We enjoyed the return to meeting in person, yet appreciated the opportunity to include members and guests from near and far via Zoom. Special thanks go to Scott and Nathaniel Manwaring for lending their laptops to facilitate the tele-conferencing.

Our next meeting, on September 9, will be hosted in person, at the home of Jessie Spillers. Ted will deliver the PFA flag to him, after tending it since March 2020.

We expect to Zoom the meeting as well, so that we can welcome locals and distant guests even as we enjoy our in-person time together.



Alden Jencks rocks the flag-motif of Canada and Québec.



Graham Houser wins the prize for most-flaggy shirt.



A scrolling electronic readerboard message and an array of flags welcome the Portland Flag Association to Ted Kaye's home: PFA, NAVA, Portland, and Oregon.

Honoring Uncles with Veterans' Flags

By Michael Orelove

PFA member Ken Dale volunteers at Lincoln Memorial Park (across from Willamette National Cemetery) reconditioning and putting flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day.

More than 4,000 veterans lie in a rarely-visited section of the Southeast Portland cemetery, established in 1906 and the city's veterans cemetery until Willamette opened in 1951.

After Memorial Day, Ken retrieved some of the flags that were scheduled for retirement. The flags were still in good condition but missing their wooden dowels.

In June, Ken brought the flags to the Flag Day event at Bateman Carroll Funeral Home in Gresham for anyone who wanted them.



Flag fly at Lincoln Memorial's Veterans Patriot Garden, on the graves of soldiers spanning the Spanish-American War to World War II.

Kathleen took two of the flags to honor her two uncles who died in combat, one during World War II and one in the Vietnam War.

I put dowels on the flags and Kathleen placed them in one of her flower pots which is visible outside the kitchen window. She sees the flags every day as she prepares our meals. I see them every day when I do the dishes.



Some of the 4,000 flags being reconditioned by Ken Dale.



Kathleen Forrest honors two uncles who died in combat.

Comments from the Last Issue (June, 2021)

Our Netherlands correspondent, Theun Okkersee, writes:

Larry Snyder unrolled a Dutch wimpel (actually called a 'mastvleugel', which roughly translates as 'mast wing') acquired and flown during his sailing days. There are two versions: the red one Larry showed, reserved for pleasure sailing and a blue one, reserved for commercial vessels under sail. The model is the same—the Dutch tricolour with a long fly of red or blue and a narrow red-white-blue border.

The Dutch word 'wimpel' means pennant. A pennant is flown above a flag and adds an extra meaning to it.

For example when we celebrate kingsday (our national holiday) an orange pennant is flown above the national flag (orange is the colour of the House of Orange.)

In the 16th and 17th century, when we were a republic, red-white-blue pennants were flown above the flags of one of the Netherlands (provinces) or above personal flags. This of course was a time that consensus about how to fly flags was not yet established.

§

Our Australian correspondent, Ralph Bartlett, writes:

Nate Szubin's article, "The Need for a Common State Flag Format", states "All Australian state/territory flags put Crux Australis at the hoist, with a unique emblem in the fly." Only three Territories, Australian Capital Territory, Christmas Island (Indian Ocean, south of Java) and the Northern Territory, include Crux Australis (Southern Cross) in the hoist of their flags. None of the State Flags do. Victoria includes a smaller multi-pointed Stars Crux Australis beneath the British St. Edward's Crown, and the Cocos (Keeling) Islands (Indian Ocean, west of Christmas Island) has an 'Australian' Southern Cross in the fly.

Using Flags to Teach the Visually Impaired

By Alex Zimmerman

Students at the Washington State School for the Blind might have trouble seeing flags, but that can't stop them for exploring, identifying, and identifying them using other senses. A prominent educational facility in Vancouver, Washington (across the Columbia River from Portland), the school currently serves about 40 students in grades 6 to 12.

During the last day of school in June, 2021, history teacher Steve Lowery and I arranged a fun way to use flags to recap some of the lessons from the year.

The students had studied Fort Vancouver and even given a presentation about what they had learned with the National Park Service to a worldwide online audience of visually impaired students.

The fun-with-flags lesson presented the Betsy Ross, Bennington, Star-Spangled Banner, and the current U.S. flag in sewn and embroidered versions to improve the tactile experience for the students. Also a thin blue and red line flag were displayed for the visual contrast of black and white.

Students were able to identify the numbers of stars on the Star-Spangled Banner and contemplate and discuss its 15 stripes.

The students also examined the British Red Ensign, the Grand

Union, and the Hudson's Bay Company flag (which still flies over Fort Vancouver today).

In an effort to go back in history a bit further, we used the St. George's Cross, St. Andrew's Cross, the King's Colors, St. Patrick's Cross, and Union Jack to make the connections between England the colonies and eventually their school's home town with Fort Vancouver.

In a last-day lesson, the squirrely students found focus in the review of previous studies through the study of flags.

There's always room for some new fans of Vexillology!



Students identify the Grand Union flag by touch.



Alex Zimmerman explains historic U.S. and British flags to visually-impaired students in Vancouver, Washington.

Flags and Arms of Portland, Victoria, Australia

By Ralph G. C. Bartlett

During the last week of April 2021, after spending a year based at home in the eastern suburbs of metropolitan Melbourne, I toured along the ‘Great Ocean Road’ of Victoria’s south-west coast to Portland. This part of the coastline and local bay had been named “Portland” in 1800 by a British navigator, in honour of the then-Duke of Portland. There the Henty Brothers, pastoralists from northern Tasmania, together with their families and workers founded the first permanent non-Aboriginal settlement in what is now Victoria, on 19 November 1834. The settlement was a private and unofficial enterprise which remained “undiscovered” until 29 August 1836, when an overland expedition from Sydney, led by New South Wales Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell, charting the course of inland south-east Australian rivers, came across the Portland settlement. This was similar in ways to the Lewis & Clark expedition following the rivers across today’s north-west U.S. from 31 August 1803 to 23 September 1806.



The state of Victoria, Australia, with Portland in the far southwest.



Shire of Portland, Victoria, 1955
Photo: Gregor McGregor – May 2021

Portland lies approximately 225 miles (360 kilometres) south-west of Melbourne, and was first officially surveyed in 1839, bringing it into the Port Phillip District (later the Colony of Victoria). Local government was established on 17 December 1855 as the Municipality of Portland, followed by the Shire of Portland on 8 December 1863 for the remainder of the surrounding District outside of the Portland Municipality. The Municipality, being the Portland settlement, was upgraded to “Borough” status also on 8 December 1863, and then to that of a “Town” on 19 November 1949, exactly 115 years after permanent settlement.

Both the shire and town of Portland adopted their own emblems, seals to be exact, in time for the centenary commemorations of “Municipality” establishment, 17 December 1955. The seals have similar elements: sailing ship—the “Lady Nelson”, which in 1800



Town of Portland, Victoria, 1955
Photo: History House, Portland – May 2021

first sailed along the coastline and Portland Bay; hanging sheep—representing the agricultural industry established by the Henty Brothers in 1834; and royal Arms—for loyalty to the Crown.

The seals differ in that the shire uses the imperial crown and shield only, while the town uses the full imperial coat of arms. The shire shows a horse and plough, representing the Henty Brothers’ initial method of planting food seed (the Hentys turned the first soil with a plough in the current-day Victoria), while the town shows local lighthouses at Whalers Point near Portland Harbour and at Cape Nelson south of Portland, and a whale, representing first the industry and later the sanctuary established to protect the migratory whales that pass along the Portland coastline.

During the 1960s, 70s, and early 80s, visitors to Portland could purchase souvenirs featuring the



Tea towel with Portland images.



Portland, Victoria, patch.

Portland town seal, such as a tea towel and a fabric patch (above).

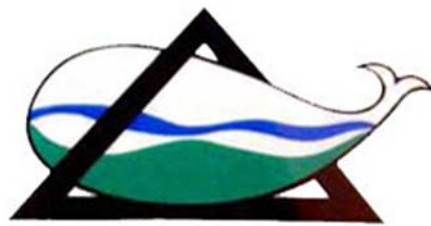
In August 1979, the Portland town council held a competition to design a logo for the upcoming 150th celebrations in December 1984. It attracted entries from across the entire Portland district,

town, and shire. The winner was Mrs. Lyne Facey, a Heywood High School graphic arts teacher.

Initially Facey created her design as an example to encourage her year 10 students to make and enter their own designs. When this failed, her colleague, history teacher and later Portland town mayor, Lyn Murrell, encouraged her to enter her design, and it won.

According to Portland 150's *Official Souvenir Program*, the design represents Portland (the whale), passing through its phases of whaling, rural activities, and industrial and port development (the triangle).

The wavy horizontal line through the whale indicates the tranquillity of the transition. When reproduced in colour, the bottom of the whale is green (the land), and the wave is blue (the sea), and the triangle is black (solidity).



Portland 150 logo (1984). Photo: ABC Local Radio on-line report.



Portland 150 hand-waver flag. Source: History House, Portland—May 2021



Flags of towns named Portland (or at least their states) in the 1984 parade.

On 150th Day, 19 November 1984, a celebratory parade down the main street of Portland included the Portland & Victoria 150th flags (left & right front), followed by flags representing other towns and cities named Portland around the world.

It appears from the photo above that the U.S.'s Portlands in Maine, Oregon, and Tennessee are represented by their respective state flags, as Portland city flags were too difficult to get in 1984.

The Portland 150th flag is currently missing, but from the partial image of it in the parade photo, it appears to have the 150 "whale" logo in full colour in the centre of a white field, bordered in light blue along the three non-hoist sides, possibly all four. There also appears to be black text underneath the logo, ".....PLACE". Based on information from the former executive officer of Portland's 150th Anniversary Celebrations, and using the hand-waver Portland 150th flag (left) as a guide, we can guess there was text above the logo, possibly "PORTLAND", with the lower line of text reading "VICTORIA'S BIRTHPLACE".

Continued on next page



Portland Flag parade, 1984,
detail showing the Portland 150 flag.



Portland 150 flag, 1984
(reconstruction by the author).

It may have looked like the reconstruction above. (This drawing is only a guess, at best. Should the actual flag or a clear photo of it is found, I will share it.)

The following year, on 28 October 1985, Prince Charles and Princess Diana visited Portland to proclaim it the “City of Portland”. To signify this new status, a new official coat of arms was formally introduced, designed and granted by the College of Arms in London just over a year earlier, on 26 September 1984.



The arms of the City of Portland,
Victoria, granted in 1984 by the
College of Arms in London.

According to heraldry-wiki.com:

The ship symbolises that the city is a port, refers to the tradition of the Henty Brothers, and also links with Portland in England, which uses a ship on its seal. The sun is a symbol of plenty and energy, as well as alluding to the Australian summer weather. The rams' heads allude to the fat lamb and mutton produced locally, while the whale recalls Portland's long history as a whaling port.

The red, white and blue colours of the shield reflect the colours of the [Australian] national flag.

Gannets, rather than the cliché kangaroos, were selected as supporters, as they nest in thousands on St. Lawrence Rocks in Portland Bay.

While this became official emblem of the city of Portland, I get the feeling from my limited contacts with the locals that it was not widely used or embraced by the Portland community. A perfect example of this is that each mayor has continued to use the “Town” of Portland seal as the central design feature of the mayoral ribbon & medallion (right),

regardless of the changes to the status or structure of the municipality. I do not know of a “City” of Portland flag.

Portland's status as a separate “city” municipality ended on the 23 September 1994, the then State Government of Victoria forced a complete restructuring (rationalisation) of all municipalities. The City of Portland merged with the neighbouring Shire of Heywood (formerly Portland) and the Shire of Glenelg into one new Glenelg Shire.

The new shire has used two generic logos to symbolise the merger of the three former municipalities, but to this day retained the same mayoral ribbon and medallion design (the only change being the municipality's name around the central Portland Town shield, and the inclusion of a green map of Victoria, highlighting in red Glenelg Shire's location in far south-west Victoria).



Mayoral ribbon and medallion with
the coat of arms of Portland.

What's that Flag?

By John Cartledge

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



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

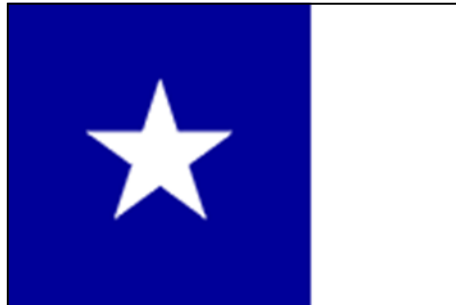
By Mike Thomas

These are components of the CANTONS of national flags.

Congrats to solvers Tony Burton and John Cartledge.



Congo Dem. Rep.-Kinshasa



Chile



Central African Republic



Liberia



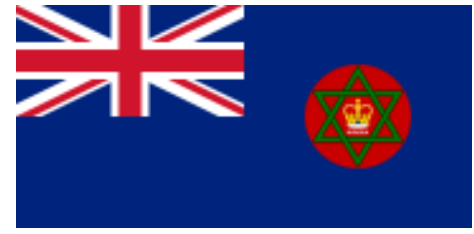
Panama



Togo



Western Samoa



Portland Flag Miscellany



“Portland Flag”, a canvas art print by Benton Park Prints, \$27–\$288.
<https://www.icanvas.com/canvas-print/portland-typography-flag-bpp282#1PC3-12x8>



Portland flag mask, by redbubble, \$10.
 (Kids' size shown at right)
<https://www.redbubble.com/i/mask/portland-flag-by-tony4urban/13784446.9G0D8>



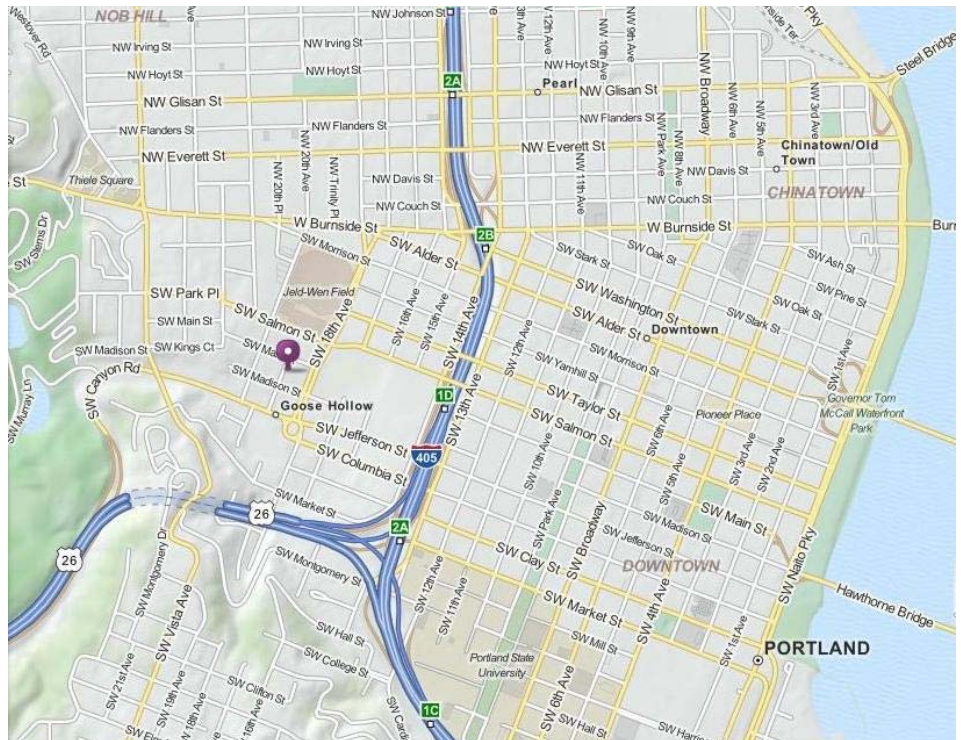
September Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021, at the home of Jessie Spillers (Legends), 1132 S.W. 19th Ave., Portland, OR 97205. MAX runs close by.

See the map at right.

Those who cannot attend in person should 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 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.