



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 94 June 2022

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Aab—A Personal Nation	1
May 2022 Flutterings	2
Indian Peace Flag	5
Flaggy Stuff from 2002	5
Field Report: Helsingborg, Sweden	6
White Ensigns—Not Only Navy	8
Supporting Ukraine	9
Moon & Blue Moon	10
Roundup	10
The Flag Quiz	11
Portland Flag Miscellany	12
Next Meeting	12

Aab—A Personal Nation

The Freehold of Aab has a new flag!

Aab is an autonomous region which measures 26' by 16' and is located in inner southeast Portland, Oregon (45° 29' 41" North / 122° 39' 13" West).

Alden Jencks, Aab's sole inhabitant, glories in the fact that Aab has an assured position at the top of any list of nation states.

The new Aabian Flag will soon have its diplomatic debut in the solemnities associated with the signing of a historic Treaty of Friendship between the Kingdom of Æfira and the Freehold of Aab.

Alden Jencks and Max Liberman will represent their respective countries in that ceremony.

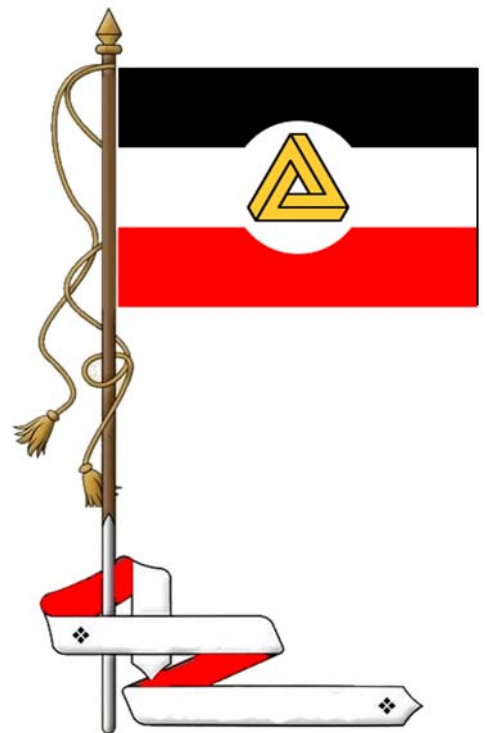


We give our heads and our hearts to God and our country; one country, one language, one flag!

— Colonel George T. Balch

Aab (yes, it's Alden's cramped studio apartment) is also, arguably, the smallest and most densely populated political entity in the world.

But to the new flag! Alden thanks Larry Snyder and Max Liberman for their patient help in the designing process. The flag's clean and austere composition features the Penrose “Impossible Triangle”, which well embodies the Aabian national motto, “What, me worry?”. If one wishes, one may read into that triangle a profile of Mt. Hood or an “A” for Aab or Alden. Other symbolism? There's plenty. Just ask an Aabian.



portlandflag.org | facebook.com/portlandflag | instagram.com/portlandflag

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.

May 2022 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our May meeting, hosted by Joyce and William Gifford at the Oregon City Library and streamed via Zoom, 16 PFA members and out-of-town (and -country!) guests enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation with the PFA flag presiding. William moderated, in the customary role of host.

Michael Orelove brought a Ukrainian flag sent by his niece's fiancé, who worked for the Defense Department, and reported on how his son, traveling in Europe, is distributing money Michael sent for Ukraine relief.



Michael Orelove shows a flag of Ukraine bearing the trident shield from the state arms, as Ken Dale and Joyce Gifford look on—in a screenshot from the Meeting Owl 360° conference room camera supporting the Zoom call.



Joyce and William Gifford graciously host the meeting (with snacks).

Ken Dale described how he will help decorate veterans' graves for Memorial Day, and how he serves in an honor guard so that no veteran is buried without friends.

Alex Zimmerman shared his recent "Vexillological Tourism" in Helsingborg, Sweden (his mother lives nearby) with an extensive field report (see p. 6).

Max Liberman explained his personal coat of arms, and its resulting banner (with canting symbolism)—fully expecting Larry Snyder to urge its formal submission for heraldic adoption.



Alex Zimmerman explains the banner of Helsingborg, Sweden.



Max Liberman describes his personal banner of arms, doubly canting his last name through *Liber* and *Libra*.

David Anchel recounted how in early March, Elmer's Flag & Banner saw store traffic unlike anything since 9/11/2001 and quickly sold out of Ukraine flags, sunflower banners, and any yellow and blue flags—then began sewing new flags; it has already sold over 250 2'x3' and 3'x5' versions (at cost to make them accessible to all).

He introduced Lisa and John Ingle, recent customers who brought an unofficial 42-star U.S. flag, likely made in 1890 in anticipation of Washington statehood, with family provenance back to that era (while 4 states had joined the Union between July 1889 and June 1890, for a total of 42 stars, Idaho slipped in on July 3, 1890, and made the total 43).



David Anchel and John Ingle unfurl a rare, unofficial 42-star U.S. flag, likely created in 1890 anticipating statehood for Washington.



Dave Anchel explains the symbolism on his favorite flag, that of the South African Bantustan of Bophuthatswana.



Lisa and John Ingle describe the family provenance of the 42-star flag as Zoom participants look on.



Brenden Gifford recalls receiving a national-flag staff with an Italian flag.

Brenden Gifford shared flag-related mementos from his childhood.

Graham Houser presented the tallies he's taken of flags seen when walking in his neighborhood—last December and this month: 12 different flags, up to 6 repeated.

Alden Jencks shared his plans to march in June with fellow Peace Corps alumni in Portland's Grand Floral Parade, bearing the flags of the countries where they had served—he spent two years in Côte D'Ivoire (Ivory Coast).



Graham Houser honors Mother's Day with the suffrage flag and Norway's, the "mother of flags".



Alden Jencks recounts his Peace Corps services in Côte D'Ivoire.

Continued on next page

Scott Mainwaring wore a throw-back Maine flag t-shirt while presenting a short talk on black and white U.S. flags.

In response, William Gifford showed an image of a home flying the Gadsden, Seabees, and all-black-U.S. flags.

Ralph Bartlett exulted (from Melbourne) at the delivery of the proceedings of the ICV 26 Sydney (2015)—flagsaustralia.com.au/proceedings.html—and discussed Australians' expected participation in ICV 29.

Ted Kaye posed the last *VT*'s quiz (solved by Max), shared an item from David Ferriday, and unfolded a Ukrainian-flag-themed tea towel from France and the flag of Khalistan (in honor of his daughter -in-law elect)—a response to the Sweden and Ukraine flag colors.

John Niggley joined late but enjoyed the presentations.



Scott Mainwaring sports Maine's 1901 flag (a play on his surname?).



Scott Mainwaring unfurls the silver-black-white variant U.S. flag.



Ralph Bartlett takes a lunch break.

Our next meeting, on July 14, 2022, will be held via Zoom and moderated by Scott Mainwaring (Max, Ted, and Ralph will be at ICV 29 in Ljubljana, where the local time will be 4:00 AM).

We expect to welcome our local members and far-flung friends to the meeting.



Ted Kaye unfurls the flag of Khalistan—another blue & yellow national flag.

Indian Peace Flag

Keith Glueck, a local model-builder, constructed a 1/48-scale replica of Lewis & Clark's keelboat to aid artist Steve Ludeman in his depictions of the expedition's 1803–04 river travels and initial encounters with tribal nations.

To fly from the mast, Glueck painstakingly recreated a miniature version of the Indian Peace flag known to be used by the Corps of Discovery. It is about 1.5" x 2.5".

The flag features the then-current 15 stripes and a blue canton with an eagle with 15 stars in the background. The model was displayed at the annual meeting of the Oregon Chapter of the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center and Museum in March.



The Lewis & Clark keelboat model.



A miniature "presentation" flag.

Flaggy Stuff from 2002

By Michael Orelove

I started creating personal 20-year Time Capsules in 1980. In 2000 I opened the first Time Capsule and now open one each year.

My family often joins me for the event. When we opened the 2002 Time Capsule I found a few flaggy items:

- A small paper Alaska flag that I made in 2002 when I lived and worked in Juneau.
- A birthday card sent to me that was purchased from the American Cancer Society. The primitive American flag on the card was painted by Joshua, age 5.
- A postcard of an Asafo flag. These elaborate designs are military flags of the Fante people, an ethnic group that resides mainly in Ghana's central coastal region.



Flaggy items showcase the 2002 Time Capsule: a U.S. flag on a greeting card, an Asafo flag (from Ghana) on a post card, and an American flag pin.



Michael Orelove shows his hand-made Alaska flag from 2002.

The flags are influenced by a combination of Akan proverbs, visual imagery, and European heraldic tradition. The postcard was from the National Museum of African Art.

- A circular pin of an American flag.
- The January 23–29 *Capital City Weekly* from Juneau with a flag article headlined "Original AK flag surprises visitors". The article is about relatives of Benny Benson, the designer of Alaska's State flag, visiting Juneau for the opening of an Alaska Flag exhibit at the State Museum. Benson submitted his design for the flag in a territorial contest in 1926. He was 13 or 14 years old.

- An article about me opening the 1982 Time Capsule in 2002.

I'm now preparing for 2042 !

Field Report: Helsingborg, Sweden

By Alex Zimmerman

When we travel internationally, flags seem to be more noticeable—or perhaps we are just paying more attention. For example, flags are used in passport control at the airports to indicate the proper line through customs; at foreign exchange windows they indicate the exchange rate for currency bought or sold.

On a recent trip to Helsingborg, Sweden, I had the pleasure of visiting a flag manufacturer in a true bit of “vexillological tourism”. Kronan Flagmakers has been in business since 1932 and the staffers there literally roll out the red carpet for visitors. Lined with velvet ropes, the entry to the retail shop is a welcome fit for royalty—as Kronan manufactures flags for the Swedish royal family and military. I had purchased flags from Kronan over the years and have always been pleased with the quality, so I was excited to visit the headquarters and pick up something special for display on my return home.

The marketing and sales director, Per-Martin Åsberg, was gracious with his time and arranged to meet me outside of business hours. He gave me a tour of the facility and showed me flags that are not generally available: production overruns, discontinued product versions, and custom orders that exist outside catalogs and retail stores. Seeing such vexillological

treasure is great and bringing home a pennant from the city of Helsingborg was a thrill and a welcome addition to my collection.

The Helsingborg flag and pennant have a depiction of a red two-story roofed castle that does not look like the city hall (the *Rådhus*) where the flag is often displayed—it’s actually a stylized castle from the city’s arms. In traveling around the city, I noticed flags representing Helsingborg near the harbor including a pennant made up of individual signal flags which spelled out “HELSINGBORG”. It turns out that Kronan manufactures all of these.

This use of signal flags was new to me and a fun way to represent the city and its historic harbor as one of the oldest permanent settlements in Sweden, dating back to 1085. It was there in Helsingborg that King Charles X Gustav landed in 1658 after the treaty of Roskilde to take possession of the Scanian lands from Denmark. I can only imagine the critical role that flags have played over the centuries in this part of the world.

The 2.5-mile-wide Øresund strait between Helsingør, Denmark, and Helsingborg, Sweden, is a natural location for defense and control of access to the Baltic Sea. Tolls collected in this location remained in effect until 1857 and once contributed up to two-thirds of Denmark’s state income.

As in many countries, flags are used for much more than civic display. In Helsingborg the theatre and concert house fly flags, as do restaurants and gas stations. The production of corporate flags for business locations has increased over the years and combined with flag pole installation and maintenance is a larger portion of the flag business here, surpassing the sale of national flags.

In fact, it’s hard to find the Swedish national flag on public display. In Sweden, national flags are only flown on special days, not daily like in many other countries. Perhaps the lack of a national flag on daily display encourages other flags to fill the void.

In the search for flags while traveling I have found experiences and information that make the adventure more rewarding.



A red carpet welcomes visitors to Kronan Flagmakers.



Helsingborg's jetty flies international flags.



Flags advertise a gas station, as well as a McDonald's behind it.



Banners of the city's arms depict the medieval castle behind a crenelated wall with St. Michael's Tower in front of the Kärnan keep.



Helsingborg is on the Øresund strait.



Banners spell out the city's name.



Per-Martin Åsberg welcomes me.

White Ensigns Aren't Only for the Navy

By Max Liberman

The British white ensign (Figure 1) has been the flag of the Royal Navy since 1864. Not surprisingly, many former British colonies have adopted similar naval ensigns—sometimes with the red St. George's cross (India, Figure 2) and sometimes without (Australia, Figure 3). In Canada, a white ensign represents the joint armed services (Figure 4).

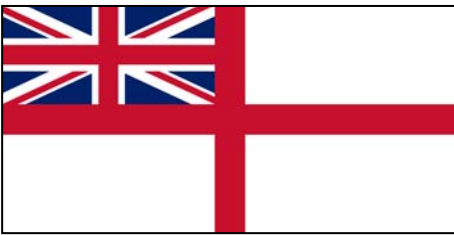


Fig. 1: United Kingdom, Naval Ensign.



Fig. 2: India, Naval Ensign.

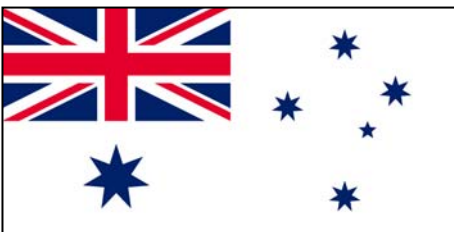


Fig. 3: Australia, Naval Ensign.



Fig. 4: Canada, Joint Services Ensign.

But the occasional white ensign for civilian use can be found too.

The flag of the British Antarctic Territory (Figure 5) is a white ensign without a cross—clearly symbolic of the Antarctic ice.

In the Bahamas, non-military government ships fly a white ensign with a blue cross (Figure 6). It's been suggested to me that this is the cross of St. Michael; more likely, I suspect, the color simply comes from the blue ensign which serves the same purpose in the United Kingdom.



Fig. 5: British Antarctic Territory.



Fig. 6: Bahamas, Government Ensign.

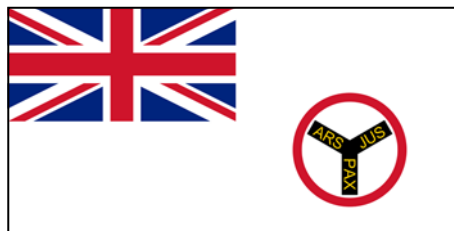


Fig. 7: Royal Niger Company, 1879–1900

The Royal Niger Company, which colonized Nigeria in the late 19th century, had a British white ensign defaced with its badge (Figure 7).

And the Royal Irish Yacht Club flies a white ensign (Figure 8) with the unusual combination of the Irish tricolor and a crown!

There are even a few “white ensigns” which are flags of office rather than ensigns.

The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago uses a flag with the national arms in the fly (Figure 9).

The Commissioners of Northern Lights, responsible for lighthouses in Scotland, still fly a white ensign with—uniquely among British flag—the pre-1801 Union Jack in the canton (Figure 10).

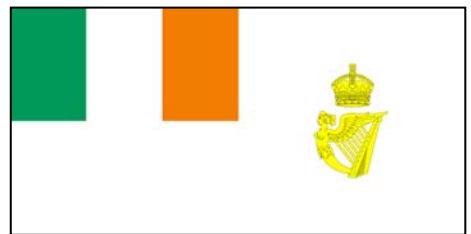


Fig. 8: Royal Irish Yacht Club



Fig. 9: Trinidad and Tobago, Prime Minister.

Continued on next page

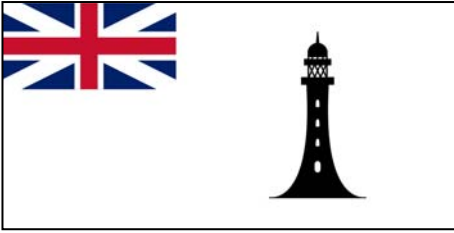


Fig. 10: Commissioners of Northern Lights.

Most striking of all—though it can barely be regarded as a white ensign—the Commissioner of the British Indian Ocean Territory has a flag with blue and white waves derived from the territorial arms (Figure 11).



Fig. 11: British Indian Ocean Territory, Commissioner.



The Russian Jack (1700–1920 and since 1992) on a French news feed.
youtube.com/watch?v=VnxvRNbKMvA

[spotted by Alden Jencks]

Supporting Ukraine

By Michael Orelove

My son, Jonathon Turlove, has been traveling in Europe, where the Russian invasion of Ukraine has created a huge refugee crisis.

Knowing that the best way to support such refugees is with cash, I sent money along, instructing him to give it out as he saw the need.

In one such encounter in Warsaw, Poland, he gave cash to two young Ukrainian refugees, whom he found draped in their national flag.

He sent along another image of himself standing in a doorway of a building in Warsaw which was flying both the Polish and Ukrainian flags (and on the wall were the state arms—a white crowned eagle with a golden beak and talons, on a red background).

I found it compelling that the two countries' flags constitute bicolors, with one “metal” (yellow/white) and one color (blue/red). These neighbors share a border, a history, and a simple, memorable flag design.



Ukrainian refugees in Warsaw with national flags around their shoulders.



Jonathon Turlove finds the flags of Ukraine and Poland in Warsaw.

Moon and Blue Moon

By David Ferriday

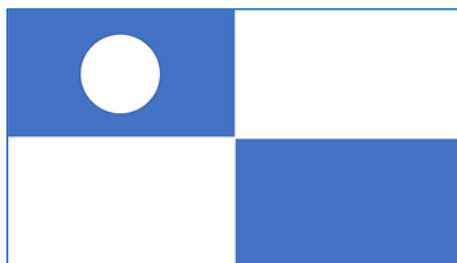
Which of these two related designs do you find more appealing?

They are identical, except that the colors are reversed.

I'm curious to know which is perceived as more in balance.

In the last PFA meeting, members preferred the second to the first by a vote of 8 to 5.

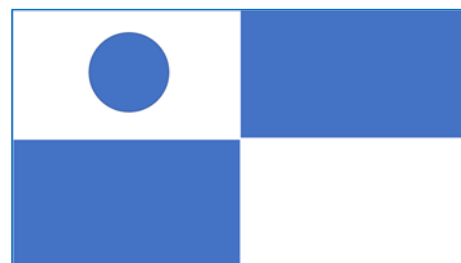
I theorize that is because the second looks more “traditional”—the blue circle is seen as adding to the composition, rather than



White circle in blue quadrant.
The circle is a “reductive” element.

subtracting. However, I find the close vote interesting.

Personally, I like “white moon” more—it seems better balanced, whereas “blue moon” appears more heavy, with more than half of the area in the darker tone.



Blue circle in white quadrant.
The circle is an “additive” element.

I will propose more designs for PFA consideration in the future.

David Ferriday is an architect and artist whose design reflections have delighted PFA members for many years.

Roundup



ICV 29 in Ljubljana, Slovenia

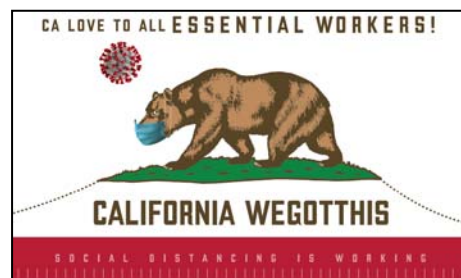
11–15 July 2022.

icv29ljubljana.com/en

Max Liberman is the PFA delegate.



Ukraine's flag as landscape.
[spotted by Larry Snyder]



VT subscriber and PFA fan Jason Tester has designed a hybrid California-COVID flag in San Francisco.



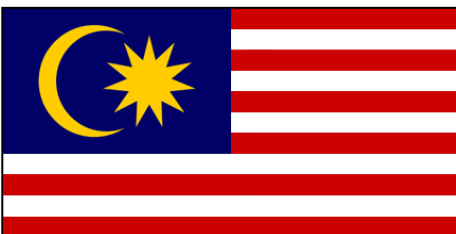
An e-mail from the Oregon Health Authority uses a flag-themed graphic to publicize international travel restrictions.

It's a subtle remix of the traditional Bear Flag: the star becomes the COVID virus, the grizzly sports a mask, language speaks to community solidarity, the mound of dirt is now a statistical ‘curve’ to ‘flatten’, and the ruler along the bottom reminds the viewer to social distance using the flag itself as a measure.

What's that Flag?

By Tony Burton

Identify these flags, and the theme connecting them. Answers in the next issue...



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Scott Mainwaring

These are flags of countries whose names start with vowels: A, E, I, O, U, and sometimes Y, and for Welsh, W!

Congrats to solvers Mike Thomas and Tony Burton.



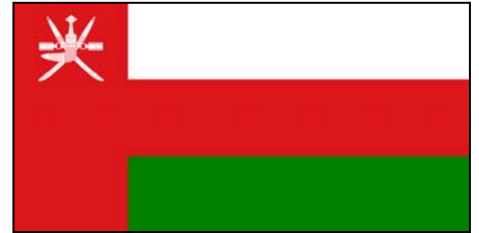
Azerbaijan



Eswatini



Iran



Oman



Uzbekistan



Yemen



Wales



Portland Flag Miscellany



HD wallpaper Portland flag in 3D art, from Peakpx:

peakpx.com/en/hd-wallpaper-desktop-kqodi



A “PDX” T-shirt with a map of Portland on both sides, in the colors of the Portland flag, from MapOnShirt.com:

maponshirt.com/ready-to-go-designs/portland-oregon-pdx-map-shirt-from-flag-colors



A posting on Reddit (8 years ago):

Communist Portland, Oregon

“I originally made this flag for my country in NationStates, where the flag is the flag of Portland, OR. The original flag fitted my country's color, and I like communist history, so I made this.”

reddit.com/r/vexillology/comments/1stp7z/communist_portland_oregon/



Portland flag pillow sham from Spoonflower:

spoonflower.com/en/home-decor/bedding/standard-pillow-sham/4667726-portland-flag-large-by-flagfabric

July Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be held at 7 PM, Thursday, July 14, 2022, via Zoom. Scott Mainwaring will moderate the proceedings.

Some of our number will be attending the 29th International Congress of Vexillology in Ljubljana.

We look forward to seeing those who can attend, 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.