



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 96 October 2022

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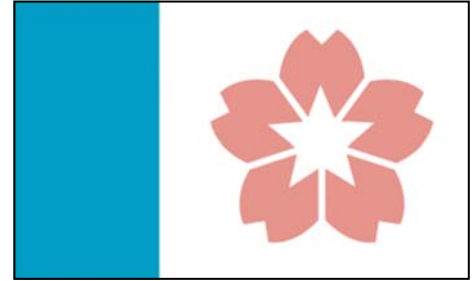
Salem, Oregon's New Flag

By Ted Kaye

After eight years, Brian McKinley's effort to update the flag of Salem finally came to “**fruition**”—with an elegant cherry-blossom design.

In July 2022 the city council adopted Jordan Keagle's design featuring a pink cherry blossom (Salem is known as the “Cherry City”), a white star (Salem is the state capital), and a blue vertical stripe (representing the Willamette River, which runs south to north).

The previous flag had been designed in 1972 (after a public competition) by local graphic designer Arvid Orbeck, a rival of the Portland flag's designer, Doug Lynch. It flew very rarely (apparently just at city hall).

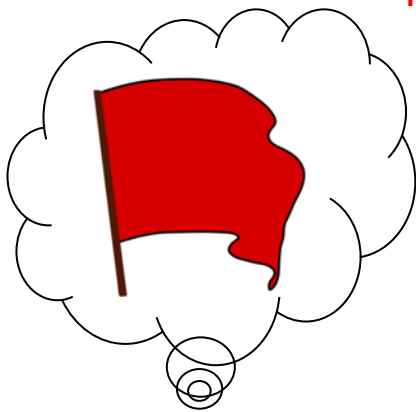


Salem, Oregon.

In his roles as Historic Landmarks Commissioner and Planning Commissioner, Brian began a re-design effort in 2014, contacting me for advice. City employee Kimberli Fitzgerald led an internal project in 2017 (when I met with the team, the only Salem flags I saw were on asset tags on desks). Both helped advance the cause.

Brian then launched the Salem Flag Project in 2020, and pushed through COVID delays to eventual success. The 175 submissions, narrowed down to four, were presented to the public and NAVA members for responses.

The cherry-blossom design topped the rankings and first flew on August 18 at the Salem civic center's 50th anniversary event.



*There was triumph, triumph, triumph
down the scarlet glittering street,
A thousand flags were flaming where
the sky and city meet.*

— Robert W. Service



Salem, Oregon, 1972–2022.

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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.

September 2022 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our September meeting, hosted by Ted Kaye and streamed via Zoom, 17 PFA members and out-of-town (and -country) guests enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation. Ted moderated, in the customary role of the host, with the PFA flag indoors and a Union Jack (with black crepe in mourning for Elizabeth II, who had died that day) hanging outdoors.

Ralph Bartlett, checking in from a commonwealth country (Australia) presented a retrospective on flags associated with the queen.

Chris Maddish (from Pennsylvania) showed the U.K. arms as his screen image to honor the queen.

Ed Murphy, joining from another commonwealth country (Canada), helped explain royal flag protocol.

Ken Dale recalled the introduction of broadcast television in Portland (KPTV) and the first big event he watched on it—the coronation of Elizabeth II in June, 1953.



Ken Dale recalls KPTV in 1953.



The Union Jack hangs in mourning.

Michael Orelove described the upcoming Teddy Bear Parade in Gresham, and his preparing flags for Kiwanis and Key Club members to carry, including that of the Olympics, about which he held a short quiz.



Ralph Bartlett remembers the queen.



Chris Maddish honors the U.K.



Ed Murphy joins from Canada.



Michael Orelove explains the Olympics.

Ted Kaye shared books acquired at ICV29 in Ljubljana, showed flags collected in his recent travels, and posed the VT 95 quiz to attendees (Joyce Gifford IDed the most difficult flag).



Joyce Gifford answers the quiz.



Ted Kaye unfurls Trieste, Italy (see p. 6).

Scott Mainwaring unfurled an all-black U.S. flag, describing his interest in mono-color or grayscale flags (see *VT* 48) and speculating on the meaning users ascribe to the black flag.

Al Cavalari (from New York) shared images from his new collecting initiative: flags flown in movies/TV shows, with examples from *Allied*, *Braveheart*, *Hunt for Red October*, and—appropriately—*The Crown* (see p. 5). FOTW has a great collection of such flags.

Bard Cosman, just home from a surgery in La Jolla, described visiting Brevard County, Florida, after NAVA 56 in St. Augustine in June, and explained the unusual symbology depicted on its flag.



Scott Mainwaring explains the all-black U.S. flag.



Al Cavalari screens “flaggy” movies.

Alex Zimmerman returned from another visit to Helsingborg, Sweden (see *VT* 94), with a further report on flag display in the harbor there (see p. 8).

Kirin Cowell-Shah recently observed in person the irony of the state of Rhode Island, whose flag’s official proportions are 58:66, flying 3:5 and 4:6 flags from government buildings.



Alex Zimmerman plugs Sweden.



Bard Cosman explicates a “flag about flags”: Brevard County, Florida.



Kirin Cowell-Shah jabs Rhode Island.

Continued on next page

John Niggley gave a field report from his recent visit to D.C., where he had once worked for National Capital Flag for 7 years.

Max Liberman delivered his report from ICV 29; as the delegate from the PFA he participated in the admission of three new FIAV members and voted to hold the 2026 meeting in Paris.

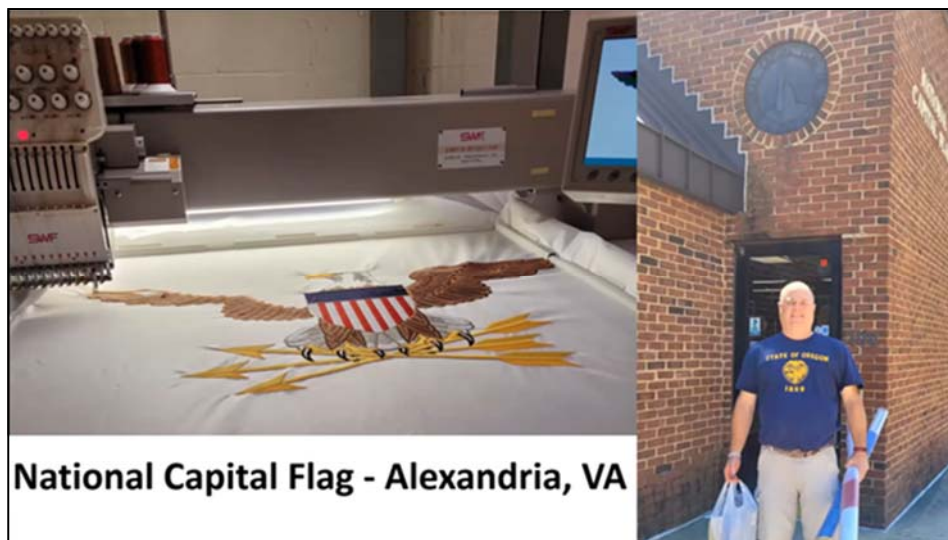


Max Liberman, the PFA's delegate, reports on the FIAV general assembly.



Larry Snyder explains his personal banner, based on his arms.

Larry Snyder unfurled the flag of Aab (whose resident, Alden Jencks, was streaming in while traveling in New England) then shared his personal banner and standard.



National Capital Flag - Alexandria, VA

John Niggley visits his old workplace in the D.C. area.

Graham Houser showed a recent collection of toothpick flags sent by Michael Orelove, held up the flag of the Karen people, and delivered a presentation on the 2012 flag of Barotseland (in Zambia)—a musical instrument-bearing flag which he'll discuss in an upcoming NAVA IAM.

Our next meeting, on November 10, 2022, will be at the home of Jessie Spillers (Legends) and streamed via Zoom.



Graham Houser shows a collection of toothpick flags sent by Michael Orelove in recent "Michael Mails".



Ted Kaye moderates the meeting, balancing in-person and streamed participants.

We expect again to welcome our local members as well as far-flung friends to the meeting.

Ted retained the PFA flag for delivery to Jessie. (During this meeting, Al Cavallari asked for an explanation of the finial.

It evokes the star (hypocycloid) from the center of the Portland city flag, painted in metallic gold.)



Flags over I-5

By Michael Orelove

During a recently drive down Interstate 5 to southern Oregon, Kathleen and I saw many American flags flying on overpasses—from Cottage Grove to Woodburn.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) website says that the flags are now being removed, “due to safety concerns”—driver distraction. However, after removal the flags reappear and seem to move from one overpass to another.

ODOT offers no information on who put the flags up or what they represent. We thought the flags might be some form of protest or support. One of the flags was the Thin Green Line Flag which represents federal agents such as Border Patrol, park rangers, game wardens, and conservation personnel.



The U.S. flag on I-5 near Eugene.

Flaggy Movies

By Al Cavalari

Watching Netflix has become one of my main hobbies and I've begun collecting images from “flaggy movies”. Some movies / TV series, such as *Braveheart* or *The Crown*, have LOADS of flags. Some may have very few but interesting flags. I leave it to others to decide whether any particular flag in a movie is fictitious, actual, or some combination. But it is fun to be on the lookout for them.

It is easy to save screenshots and begin your own collection. *The Crown* is the flaggiest I've found so far. The flags are plentiful and beautifully portrayed. When I watch *Gettysburg* again some day, it will likely be right up there.

At the PFA meeting we wondered if the flag in CIA HQ in *The Hunt for Red October* was factual. Using the image found on the CIA web site, it seems the movie makers only changed the background color. Did they do so to avoid some problem? Or, could the red flag of Vice Admiral USN James Greer (James Earl Jones) be the variant for his office as Deputy Director of the CIA? I tried to find out, but the CIA ain't talking!



Braveheart: Irish infantry.



The Crown: Street procession.



Allied: Downed German bomber.



Allied: Nazi flag.



Coming to America: Zamunda.



The Hunt for Red October: CIA HQ.



Actual CIA flag.

Field Report: Trieste, Italy

By Ted Kaye

Trieste, in the far northeast of Italy, once served as the main port of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and reflects a rich history at the confluence of Italian, Austrian-German, and Slavic rule. Flags help cement its relatively recent Italian ownership, while Trieste's flag and arms also appear throughout the city.



Trieste's flag has a red field bearing a white ranseur point (often misnamed a halberd "*alabarda*").



Ted & Debbie Kaye visit the flag store Lab 1957 and pose with the staff.



A light standard with Trieste's arms, granted in 1464 by the Hapsburg Emperor Frederick III. The symbolism dates to the 1200s.



A light standard with Trieste's arms.



A light standard with Trieste's arms.



Trieste's flag flies with those of the E.U. and Italy.



A bus stop panel with Trieste's arms.



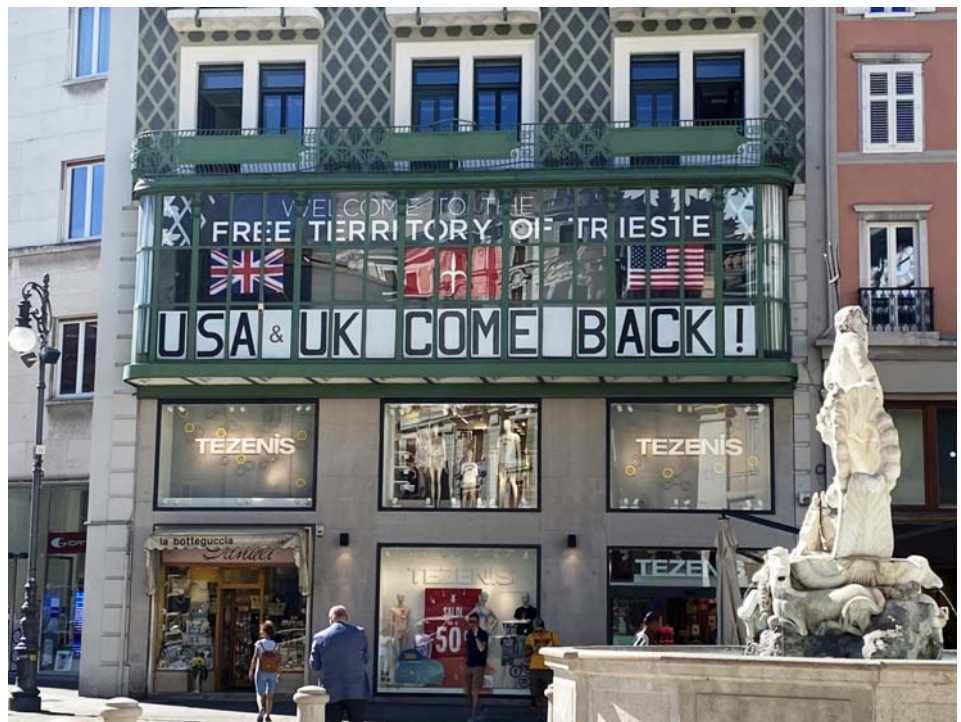
Scaffold screening makes an Italian flag.



The town hall in neighboring Muggia flies the E.U., Italy, and commune flags.



The massive city hall flies Italy's flag.



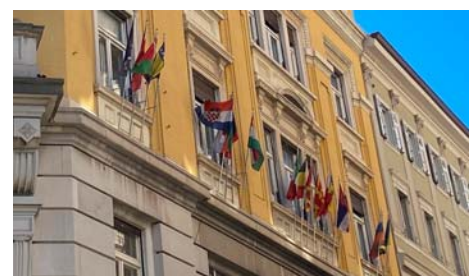
Some residents support the return of the Free Territory of Trieste (1947–1954).



A language school's flag.



Scaffold screening makes Italian flags.



E.U. member state flags line a building.

Field Report: Summer in Helsingborg

By Alex Zimmerman

During this summer, a short and very important season in Scandinavia, I had the pleasure of revisiting Helsingborg, Sweden, and admiring the full use of many flagpoles in public locations. I lost count when I passed 60 flags. Of particular interest to me were how and which flags were displayed.

Helsingborg has been permanently populated since 1085 or so. Its strategic location across from Denmark has been a source of conflict and defensive positions for centuries. The shoreline and eventual harbors have seen the tides of history continually change, reflected in the landmarks and even the flags displayed in the public places.

The most prominent structure in the city, the Kärnan tower, was an improvement to the defenses dating to the 1100s. Ordered built by the Danish King Menved around 1310, the structure has hosted the deaths of kings and transitions of power ever since. The current structure, including the prominent flagpole, was most likely from 1893 renovations that prevented the tower's demise. The most prominent location for any flag to this day is atop Kärnan.

Its grand steps and terrace constructed for the 1903 Industry and Craft Exhibition solidified the monument as a destination in and as a symbol of the city.

Countless tourist photos feature the national flag or a vimpel flying from the Kärnan flagpole. I was pleased to encounter a pennant for the tower displayed at the entrance; unfortunately it was not available in the gift shop. My next visit may include research on the manufacturer.

From the spectacular viewpoint atop the tower, one can see the city, including the harbor and main street, Stortorget (which is also the public square), adjacent to the city hall (Rådhuset).

The display in front of the city hall often includes the flags of Skåne (the southern region of Sweden) and Luggude (the district in northwestern Skåne that includes Helsingborg).

At the North Harbor entrance, the flag of the Kalmar Union flies along with the flags of the European Union, Skåne, Luggude, and Helsingborg. The sequence of the flags is interesting to me in terms of preference and protocol.



Alex Zimmerman views Helsingborg from Kärnan, a medieval tower.

The first flag as one enters the harbor at any entrance is the Swedish flag, larger and higher.

On the one side of the entrance are the flags of the Nordic countries with the Swedish flag in the center. Norway is in the first position as one enters the harbor. On the other side the order seems to be by size but includes the historical flag of the Kalmar Union which would have flown here from 1397–1523. Its use today is a vexillological delight.

Helsingborg has many wonderful flag displays, with many foreign countries represented. Businesses and hotels also fly their flags daily.

In a future visit (my mother lives in Sweden) I would like to meet those that decide what flags, where, and in what order they will be flown.



National flags in the Helsingborg harbor, with Sweden's flag most prominent.



Kärnan, the landmark tower, flies a Swedish vimpel.



A Kärnan pennant, displayed at the entrance to the tower.



The city hall (Rådhuset) flies the flags of Skåne, Helsingborg, and Luggude, alongside a Swedish vimpel.



Flags of Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, and Norway alongside the harbor.



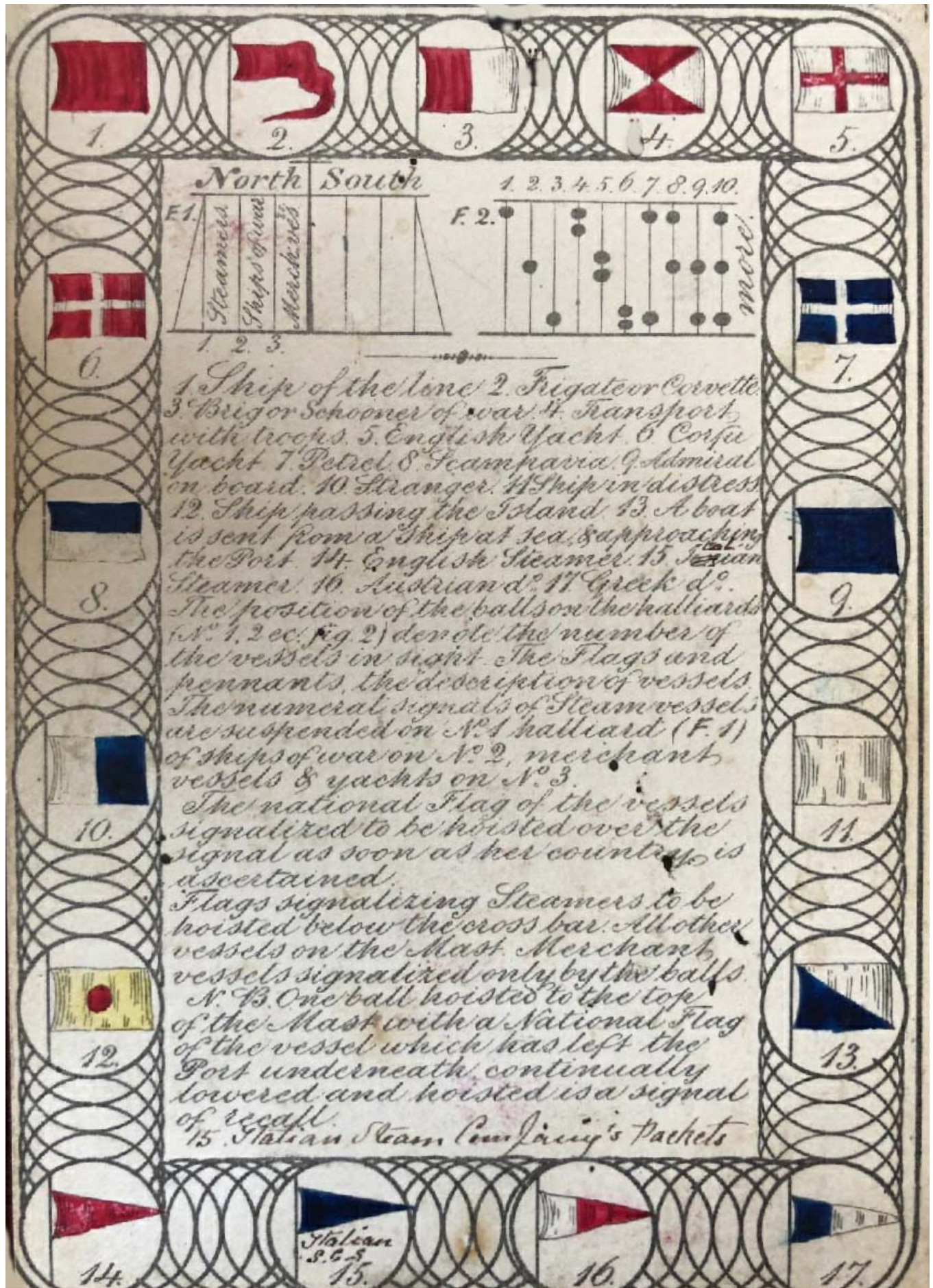
Flags of Helsingborg, Luggude, Skåne, Kalmar Union, and E.U., with those of Nordic countries in the background (Sweden in center).



National flags line the harbor of Helsingborg.

What is a Petrel?

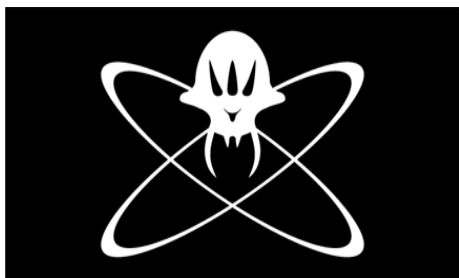
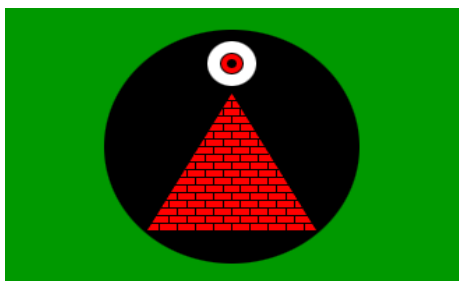
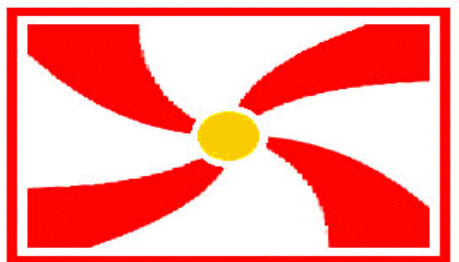
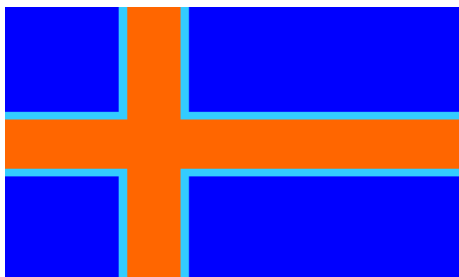
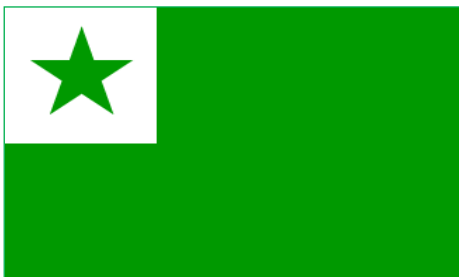
Reader Stratis Andreadis bought this card from an antique dealer in Greece, created by an English officer stationed in Corfu. It's a cheat sheet to identify flags hoisted on the signal mast of Corfu's fort. He wonders what type of ship flag #7, *Petrel*, refers to.



What's that Flag?

By Ted Kaye

Identify these fictitious flags and the movies in which they appear. Answers in the next issue...



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By David Ferriday

These are past, present, or future flags of U.S. states whose names begin with "M". Montana is missing.

Congrats to solvers Matt Bray, Mike Thomas, and Larry Wentworth.



Maine (up to 1909)



Maryland



Massachusetts (reverse pre 1971)



Michigan



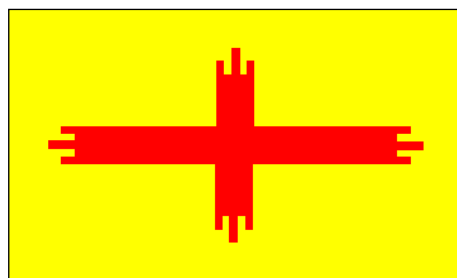
Minnesota (proposed 1988)



Mississippi



Missouri



Portland Flag Miscellany

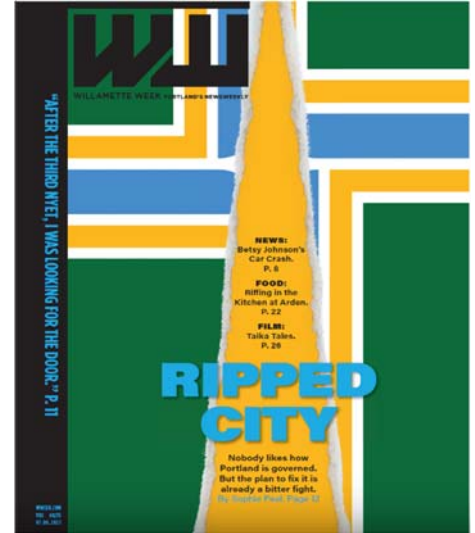


The office of Portland City Commissioner Mingus Mapps (elected in 2020) uses constituent-communication post cards depicting the city's flag. While the aspect ratio is foreshortened and the colors are a bit off, the sentiment is laudable.

Ironically, although the 2002 revision of Doug Lynch's original 1969 design for the flag took the city seal off, this rendition puts it back on (albeit with better contrast)!



Portland Flag leggings available at [zazzle.com](https://www.zazzle.com) (\$81.90).



The July 6, 2022 cover of local newspaper *Willamette Week* used a torn Portland city flag to represent the controversy over the proposed city charter reforms, echoing a catchphrase from the Portland Trailblazers basketball team: "Rip City".

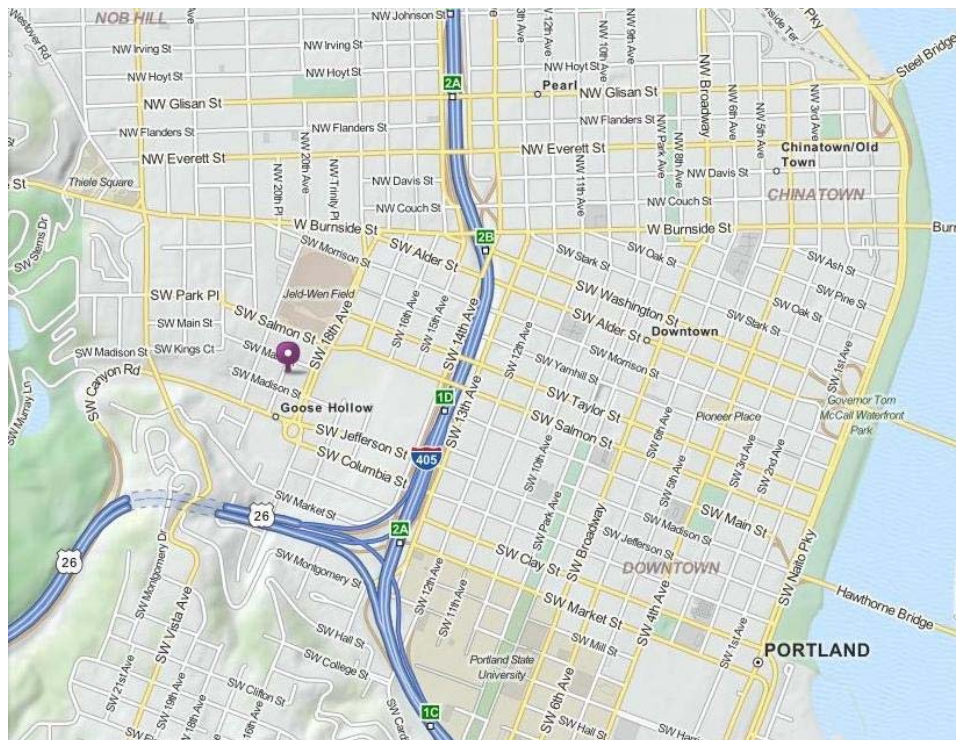
November Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, November 10, 2022, at the home of Jessie Spillers (Legends), 1132 S.W. 19th Ave., Portland. MAX runs close by.

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 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.