



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 100 June 2023

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The VT at 100 (issues)

By Ted Kaye

What a run—100 issues! More than 30 years ago Portland vexos banded together to plan NAVA 28, the 1994 annual meeting of NAVA. That group evolved into the Portland Flag Association, which began meeting periodically.

By 1999 our 13 members needed more formal communications, and John Hood stepped in with a newsletter he bemusedly named the *Vexilloid Tabloid*. Five years later he published the second issue, creating the design theme and layout we know (and love) today.

After John's death in 2011, the editorship passed to me with issue #30. Since then, the size has expanded to 12 pages, but I have kept the overall scheme (name, design, tone, contents, article style) just as John established it.

While the VT's primary purpose is communicating to the 80+ members of the PFA, it also goes out to 300+ other vexos around the world (and untold others view it directly on the PFA website).



Vexilloid Tabloid #1—May 1999.

In my vision, the VT will remain a light-hearted bi-monthly reporter of PFA meetings, a way to share presentations from those meetings, a platform for any vexo to publish short flag articles, a source for other publications (such as NAVA's *Vexillum*), a poser of engaging quizzes, and a tracker of the usage of Portland's flag.

VT content relies on the steady contributions of PFA members and others, for which I am very grateful. Please keep them coming!



#All that is needed [to be editor] is ... an interest in what's going on in vexillology on the upper left coast ...

—John Hood

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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.

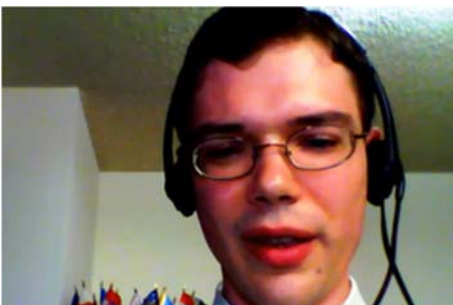
May 2023 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our May meeting, streamed via Zoom, five PFA members enjoyed two-plus hours of flags and video conversation. Our low numbers likely reflected the misguided decision to hold the meeting on Mother's Day and a last-minute change from our in-person meeting to Zoom-only. And this test of a weekend mid-day slot may have given us good input for future scheduling.

Alden Jencks continued his exploration of vexillological bibliography (focusing on E. M. C. Barraclough's final edition of *Flags of the World*), referenced the 1936 visit of the German cruiser *Emden* to Portland, and related the longtime tradition of Alsations to plant flowers in the pattern of the French flag (originally as a form of protest against German occupiers).



Alden Jencks.



Max Liberman.



David Koski.

David Koski's family had celebrated his 70th birthday with a string of small national flags ("bunting" in today's flag-retail parlance); he exhibited them to us one-by-one as a quiz—unusual flags included Sikkim (current to 1975) and Kurdistan.

Max Liberman recalled his 2017 presentation on royal standards, and exulted in Canada's new (post-ERII) royal standard without defacement for the current monarch—which matched the model he'd proposed (see p. 10).

Ted Kaye, recently returned from international travels, delivered a formal field report on Moroccan flags (see p. 4), describing several categories of flag use and providing a number of examples; he then displayed several flags he'd acquired (including the Berber flag, flying outside his home).



Ted Kaye.



Alex Zimmerman.

Alex Zimmerman displayed a "mystery flag" received in one of the collections he's processing for distribution to schools and teachers: a U.S. flag with 15 stars in a circle and 15 stripes—8 white and 7 red; we speculated on its meaning and origin and directed him to Jim Ferrigan.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, July 13, 2023, will be hosted by Ted Kaye at his home.

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



Natal-State Flags

In April 2012, Michael Orelove brought his collection of U.S. state flags to the PFA meeting, hosted by David Ferriday in his studio. Michael used them as teaching tools in his many flag talks to students and service groups.

Here, in a trip down memory lane, are the meeting's attendees holding the flags of the states in which they were born.

No state flags repeated, other than two Californias and two Oregons (there ARE two sides to Oregon's flag!). With this feature, Michael continues contributing to the *VT*...



Ted Kaye, California.



John Schilke, Connecticut.



Fred Paltridge, Oregon.



Scott Mainwaring, Massachusetts.



Patrick Genna, Missouri.



Michael Orelove, Illinois.



David Anchel, New York.



David Ferriday, New Jersey.



Max Liberman, Oregon.



Mike Hale, California.

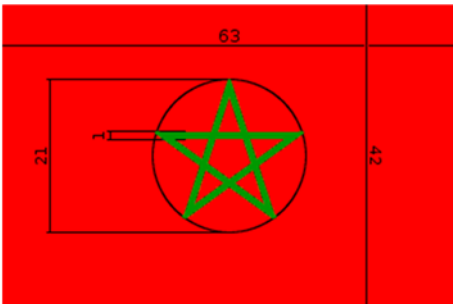
Flags in Morocco: A Field Report

By Ted Kaye

My recent tour of Morocco yielded many flag images and insights. I saw national flags countrywide, but no subnational or municipal flags.

The Moroccan flag, adopted in 1915 and fully representing the kingdom since independence in 1956, places a green pentagram on a red field. The pentagram, the “Seal of Solomon”, also represents the five pillars of Islam. It is ideally depicted with its lines interlaced, but often they are solid, making a hollow “star”. The pentagram fills an imaginary circle half the hoist height, though in practice it is often slightly smaller.

I observed several different uses of the flag: celebratory, official, mercantile, welcome, and indoor; elements of the flag were used widely. I also saw the Berber flag and eventually bought flags myself.



Morocco flag specifications (FOTW).



At the Kasbah des Oudaias in Rabat.

Celebratory Uses

I arrived on the first day of Eid, the end of Ramadan. The king was visiting Casablanca from Rabat (the capital) and flags lined the highway and streets—most likely temporary. At Parliament and at the mausoleum of Mohammed V, flags also flew extensively.

Temporary flags also flew along the streets of other cities, such as Salé and Kalaat M’Gouna, Morocco’s “city of roses”.



As a temporary installation in Rabat.



At Parliament in Rabat.



At the Mausoleum of Mohammed V in Rabat.



At the Hassan Mosque in Rabat.



On the highway in Salé.



Along the main street of Kalaat M’Gouna, Morocco’s “city of roses”.



Along the highway in Kalaat M’Gouna.

Official Uses

Nearly all the flags I observed flew over “official” sites, usually government-related. I saw only one flag on a private residence— an apartment balcony. Such sites included government offices, schools, post offices, police stations, and royal palaces (there are 13 in across the country).



In front of a government office in Chefchaouen, the “blue city”.



Under a royal finial in Rabat (see crown in inset).



Over the royal palace in Meknes.



Over the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Logistics and Water in Erfoud (the sign is in Arabic, Berber, and French).



Above a school in Fes.



With the royal arms and two images of the king in Errachidia.



At a police station in Fes.



Alongside the flag of the Red Crescent (equivalent to the Red Cross) in Marrakech.



Over a government office in Marrakech (sign in Arabic only).



Over post offices in Fes and Errachidia.



Royal guard at the Yacoub al-Mansour esplanade in Rabat (note lance pennon in inset).

Mercantile Uses

Businesses sometimes flew flags—perhaps to draw the attention of prospective customers. I saw them in *souks* (markets), at the Roman ruins of Volubilis, on market carts and stalls, restaurants, hotels, banks, gas stations, and tourist sites. A few times I saw banners with multiple stars.



On a tagine stand in the Jemaa El-Fnaa Square in Marrakech.



In an olive stall in Marrakech.



On a juice stand—note the hoist at the right, as Arabic reads right-to-left.



With multiple stars in Melaab.



Over a restaurant in Chefchaouen.



Made from rose blossoms.

“Welcome” Uses

Typical of tourism-related flag use the world over, the flag often flew on restaurants and hotels alongside several other national flags—to welcome tourists. A few times it appeared with solid-colored flags. Foreign-exchange shops used national flags to denote currencies traded. And one small mural depicted the Moroccan flag among other national flags (in circles).



At the Motel Rif in Ouezzane.



At a rose co-op near Kalaat M'Gouna.



At a hotel in Imouzzer Kandar.



At a foreign exchange shop in Fes.



In the medina of Chefchaouen.

Indoor Uses

A guide told me that private homes typically display the flag indoors, often with a picture of the king—the only usual outdoor use would be for a celebration, such as a wedding. Though I spent little time in homes, I did see the flag inside a nomad tent and as table décor in restaurants and hotels.



In a nomad tent—with two stars.



In a hotel and a restaurant.

Flag Elements

The flag, or graphic elements from it, gets repurposed in many ways. I saw the pentagram/star on lamp-post bases, architectural decoration, handicrafts, mosaics (rarely), and outdoor metalwork. Flag elements also appear on clothing and soccer scarves—Morocco’s participation in the 2022 World Cup drove up flag enthusiasm—and on the costume of a stilt walker in Marrakech, on camel-signs in the desert, on sentry boxes and planters, in mural art, and in a union logo. They form part of the royal arms and the police arms.



On lamp-post bases.



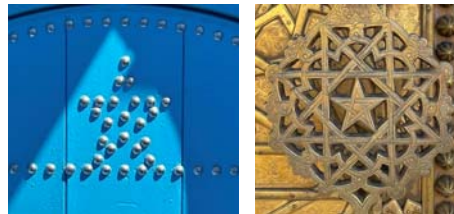
In outdoor metalwork.



In architectural decoration.



On clothing.



Adorning doors.



On soccer scarves.



On handicrafts.



In mosaics and metalwork.



On a stilt walker’s cape.



On a roadside faux camel.



On a sentry box at a bank.



On a planter and a sentry box.



In mural art.



In a trade-union logo.



In the royal/national arms.



In the national police arms.



In the police arms and vehicle livery.

The Berber Flag

Aside from the national flag, the only other flag I saw broadly used represented the Berbers, the original people of the region (30% of Morocco's population, mainly in the mountain and desert areas). Called the Amazigh, their language is newly-recognized since the Arab Spring reforms post-2011. Their flag is a horizontal tribar of blue/green/yellow (representing the Mediterranean, the land or the Atlas Mountains, and the Sahara Desert). It bears a red symbol, ✥ (*Z*, *ⴰⴳⴷⴰ*), the 32nd letter in the Berber alphabet, anthropomorphic and denoting "freedom". I saw the flag indoors occasionally and only once outdoors. However, the ✥ symbol alone appears often, in décor and on the landscape.



The Berber flag, designed in 1978 by the Berber Academy (FOTW).



The flag depicted on a hotel wall.



A helpful explanation of the Berber and Moroccan flags in Ait Zineb.



The ✘ symbol above a nomad camp near Oued Ifrane.



Attached to a shop ceiling in the iconic Ait Benhaddou.



Painted on a rock in the Medelt.



On a hillside near Ferkla Es-Soufla.



Decorating a door (horse shoes!).



A shrine in a restaurant/rest stop at a pass in the Atlas Mountains.

Flag Sales

I found very few places to buy flags, and usually just small ones in tourist-oriented stands and an airport shop. Finally, on my last day, I encountered the flag man in Marrakech, manning a street cart festooned with national flags of all sizes, plus caps, stickers, keychains, and capes. He enthusiastically dressed me in flag gear and posed for a photo.

I came home with my travel-trophy flags: full-sized Morocco and Berber flags and a variety of small/stick flags.



Stick flags for sale in Marrakech.



Table flags in the Casablanca airport.



Ted Kaye and the flag man of Marrakech.

The King of Canada's New Standard

By Max Liberman

During the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, a Canadian royal standard was adopted for use when the monarch was personally present in Canada. This was a banner of the national arms, defaced with the queen's personal badge of a crowned "E" encircled by roses.



The royal standard of Canada, 1962–2023.

This flag played an important role in symbolically emphasizing Canada's independence. The Canadian and British crowns are legally separate, although they sit on the same person's head. When Elizabeth was on Canadian soil, she was there as Queen of Canada, not as the visiting Queen of the United Kingdom; and it was only fitting that the Queen of Canada had a distinctly Canadian standard.



Elizabeth II's car flying the royal standard in Victoria, B.C., 1994.

The banner was not, however, fully in keeping with heraldic custom.

In 2017, I expressed the view that the "E" badge was inappropriate, since the coat of arms without any mark of difference already belongs to the monarch as the embodiment of the nation (*Vexilloid Tabloid* #65, August 2017). Traditionally, the arms of dominion alone are correct and sufficient to identify the monarch of a sovereign country.

I therefore suggested that the royal flag in each Commonwealth realm should be an undefaced banner of that realm's own arms.

(This is already the case in Britain, where the sovereign's banner—with no monarch's initial or other personal emblem—has remained unchanged since 1837.)



The royal standard of the United Kingdom.

The Canadian Heraldic Authority now agrees. At the time of King Charles III's coronation in May, it was announced that the badge would henceforth be removed from the royal standard:

"As this is the sovereign's coat of arms for Canada in a flag form, no further identifying mark is required. . . . The Sovereign's Flag for Canada is a permanent emblem that will be the same for all our future kings and queens."

(see <https://www.gg.ca/en/heraldry/royal-and-viceregal-emblems/sovereigns-flag-canada>)



The royal standard of Canada, 2023– .

I'm under no illusion that my 2017 article influenced anyone at the Canadian Heraldic Authority! However, it's gratifying to see that the CHA's heraldists and vexillologists reached the same conclusion, and that Canada can now use this revised royal banner fully in accord with armorial tradition.

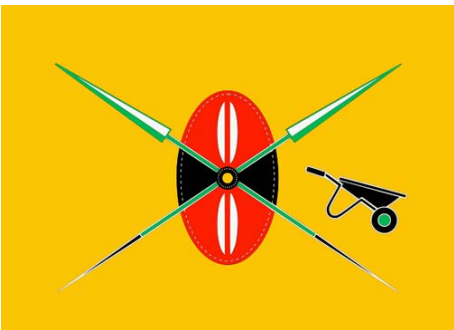


Max Liberman's August 2017 proposal for the Canadian royal standard, published in *VT* #65.

What's that Flag?

By Max Liberman

Identify these flags and the theme that connects them.



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Carlos Morales-Ramírez

These are Canadian flags with a beaver (the national animal).

Note that the beaver is also the state animal of Oregon, the "Beaver State".



Surrey, British Columbia.



Oshawa, Ontario.



Russell, Ontario.



Wendake, Québec.



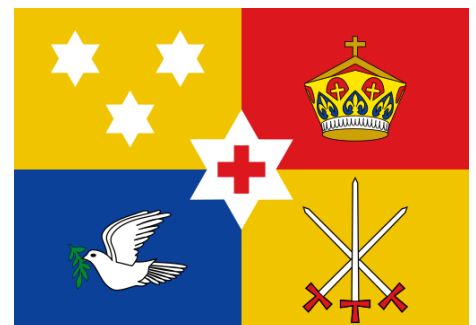
Ramara, Ontario.



Brantford, Ontario.



Beresford, New Brunswick .



Portland Flag Miscellany



Portland Heart flag patch—artists, Hannah Cherry & Kerry Zavalney, 2019.

Used by fans of Portland's MLS team, the Timbers.

Documented on: <https://patchpatrol.com/patches/portland-flag-heart/>



Sticker for sale at the Timbers Army store before the MLS Portland Timbers' match against the Minnesota Loons on May 20.

The Portland flag creates the backdrop for images of Mt. Hood, Providence Park (the Timbers' home stadium) signed "PTFC" (Portland Timbers Football Club), trees, and the Willamette River spanned by a bridge.



"Portland Oregon Official Flag Premium Classic Snapback Hat 6089M", \$25.

<https://www.officialflaghat.com/products/portland-oregon-official-flag-premium-classic-snapback-hat-6089m>

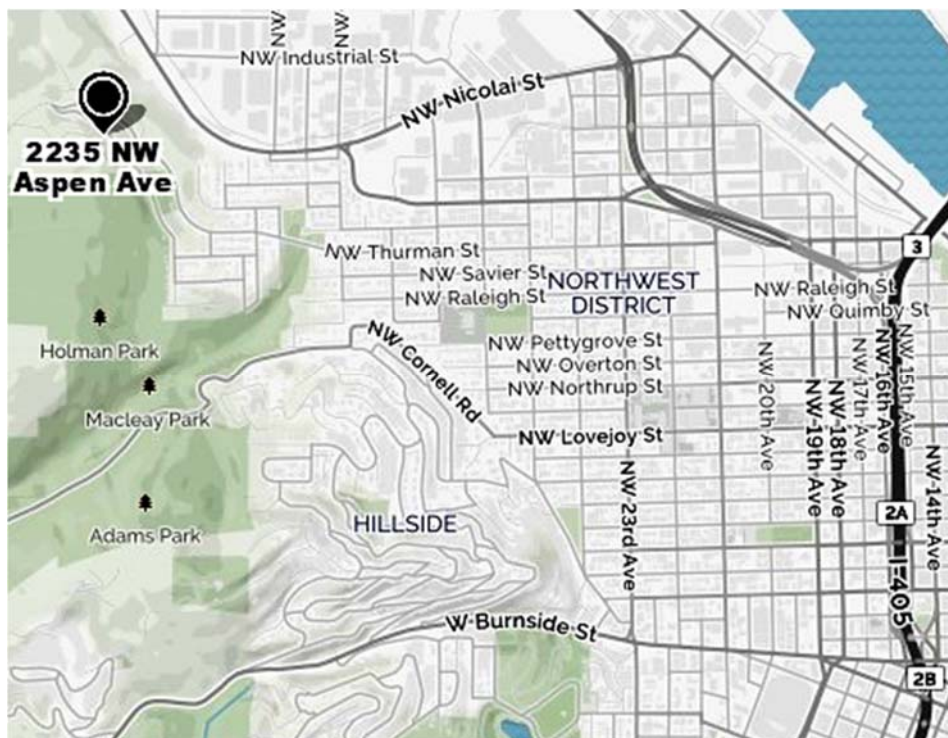
July Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, 13 July 2023, at the home of **Ted Kaye: 2235 NW Aspen Ave., Portland.** See 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 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 portlandflag.org.