



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 105 April 2024

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Utah's Flag is Official

By Ted Kaye

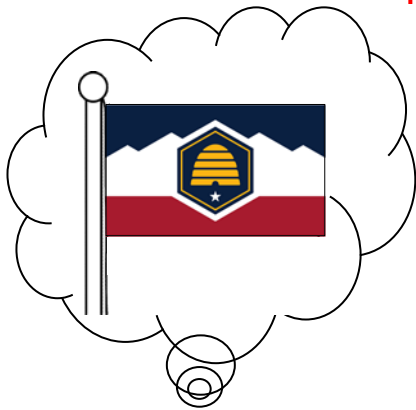
Culminating a six-year effort to update the state's flag, Utah celebrated the new design becoming effective on March 9, the 113th anniversary of the adoption of its predecessor.

In a political compromise, the old flag is still recognized as official and will be flown for ceremonies and special events, and during legislative sessions. I predict it will fade into history as the new flag capture's the public's enthusiasm.

But change is difficult.

Opponents argue that the new flag might “erase history” and “eliminate symbols of shared values in civil society”. The “Are You Listening Yet Political Action Committee” wants Utahns to vote for their own state flag. Two signature-gathering efforts supporting “Restoring the Utah State Flag” have proven unsuccessful and a bill to repeal the new flag failed to pass.

The new flag now waves proudly!



The Beehive Flag is a symbol of our beautiful state with its red rocks, blue skies, snow-capped mountains, and, of course, the beehive, a symbol of our industry and cooperative spirit.

— *Utah Gov. Spencer J. Cox*



Cranes support a 30' x 60' Utah flag in front of the capitol on the state's Flag Day.
(Bethany Baker, *The Salt Lake Tribune*)

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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.

March 2024 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our March meeting, hosted by Patrick Genna at his residence in Northeast Portland and streamed via Zoom, 13 PFA members and friends enjoyed three hours of flags and video conversation.

At Patrick's request, Ted Kaye moderated the meeting, with the PFA flag standing proudly next to the flags of the U.S. and St. Louis, Missouri (Patrick's home town).

Patrick displayed an "Irish Union Jack" from the collection of the late PFA member Leo Gardella—the standard design but in the colors of the Republic of Ireland's flag.

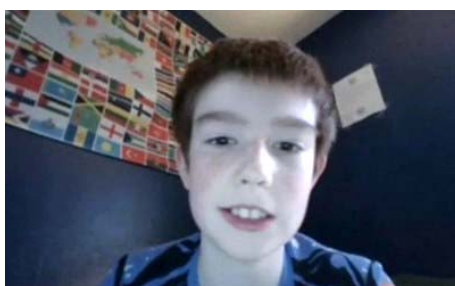
Alden Jencks related the sad story of the neighborhood banners in Portland's Brooklyn District, first hung in 1999 but removed by Portland General Electric in 2023, then shared his challenges to parts of the U.S. Flag Code—a 13-point critique to be expanded in a later issue of the *Vexilloid Tabloid*.



Alden Jencks reads a local newspaper item about the removal of the Brooklyn District banners.



Patrick Genna explains an "Irish Union Jack", one of many variants of the U.K. flag, from the collection of Leo Gardella.



Shane Erickson zooms in to discuss flags of ethnic groups.

Shane Erickson discussed flags of ethnic groups, an under-studied corner of vexillology.

David Koski showed his personal flag, combining elements of the Swedish and Finnish flags (a Koski ancestor arrived in Astoria in 1890) and a rose for Portland.

Ted Kaye shared the last VT quiz, showed a collection of table banners, flags, and flag magnets recently received from NAVA, and was designated the PFA's delegate to the FIAV general assembly, to be held in Beijing, China, in August.



David Koski shows virtual participants his personal flag (see inset) recalling Sweden, Finland, and Portland.



Ted Kaye holds a soccer club flag.

Ken Marshall, an expatriate living in Stockholm and visiting Portland, gave a short presentation on Scandinavian flag use, including wimpels and swallow-tail designs.

Star Pesetsky described her flag collection, a combination of table-top and full-sized flags.

Jessie Spillers recently visited his daughter for a birthday in Copenhagen and observed the festive Danish tradition of decorating the mailbox with national flags instead of balloons.

Phil Allen pointed out his collection of flag magnets created by the late Peter Orenski, and showed a catalog and sample fabrics sent him by China Flag Makers (other customers present wondered why they had not received similar largess!).

Ralph Bartlett showed images of the Australian coat of arms embroidered on a chair in the Peace Palace in The Hague (as seen on the tour during ICV25 in 2013) and a world peace flag from the 1890s in yellow, purple, and white (see p. 4).



Ken Marshall discusses Scandinavian flag use as his niece, Star Pesetsky, looks on.



Joyce Gifford waves the NAVA flag.

Joyce Gifford recounted how a fellow teacher had decorated his classroom with a Cascadia flag, and its subsequent rescue after he retired.



Jessie Spillers describes Danish flag use he'd seen on a recent visit.



Ralph Bartlett, joining from Melbourne, describes the Australian coat of arms embroidered on a chair in the Peace Palace in The Hague, Netherlands.



Phil Allen shows NAVA meeting flag refrigerator magnets.

Continued on next page



Ken Dale offers refurbished grave flags from a local cemetery.

Max Liberman gave a short presentation on an area of his research: how design elements of the United Nations flag (as a “flag of international character”) have been incorporated into other flags.

Ken Dale commented on his Scandinavian heritage and his care for flags at Lincoln Memorial Park and Willamette National Cemetery.

Our next meeting, on Thursday, May 9, 2024, will be hosted by Jessie Spillers at his residence in Southwest Portland. Ted took the PFA flag for him. We expect again to welcome our local members as well as far-flung friends.



Max Liberman explains flag designs derived from the United Nations flag.

The 1897 Peace Flag in The Hague, Netherlands

By Ralph Bartlett

An unusual flag appears in a 2016 image of a visiting Australian law scholar standing alongside the “Coat-of-Arms Chair” representing Australia at the Peace Palace in The Hague, The Netherlands.



Mikayla Brier-Mills at the Peace Palace in The Hague in 2016, with a COA chair and the “Peace Flag”.



The *Pro Concordia Labor* (“I work for Peace”) flag, designed in 1897, bears the “Universal Peace Badge”.

The *Pro Concordia Labor* flag was designed in 1897 by Countess Cora di Brazzà and soon adopted by the Universal Peace Union and by the U.S. chapter of the International Council of Women.

Yellow, purple, and white were chosen because no nation’s flag had these colors (not explicitly because they symbolized the women’s suffrage movement). In the center appears the “Universal Peace Badge”.

The flag was revived for an event aptly titled “Pro Concordia Labor” on the eve of the 2013 centenary of the Peace Palace.

For more information, see: proconcordialabor.com/page10/index.html



Representatives of the No Gun Ri Peace Foundation hold the flag in front of the Peace Palace in 2013.

Reflections on the U.S. Flag Code

By Alden Jencks

The U.S. Flag Code did not come down from the thundering heights of Mt. Rushmore to the fruited American plains below. Quite to the contrary, it took shape through the initiative of American citizens themselves out of a highly specific and practical concern. Namely: How ought Americans respectfully and patriotically honor their national flag?

To answer this question, representatives from dozens of national organizations gathered in Washington, D.C., in June of 1923 and later in an important follow-up meeting in May of 1924. The result of these focused and purposeful conclaves was the United States Flag Code—a score of specific, practical, and uniform recommendations concerning civilian use of the flag.

Recommendations! The glory of the Flag Code has always been that it summons Americans to follow it *voluntarily*. The Flag Code stands as a clear and unambiguous directive for those who care.

(It is Public Law 94-344; easily accessible at legion.org/flag/code)

I happen to care. And perhaps a brief story is the best way to express my caring and my sense of the genuine spirit of the Flag Code.

One late September's day I found myself walking down a street in North Portland. In the waning



Patriots Text Book, a summary of the United States Flag Code.
(From the collections of the National Museum of American History)

daylight, I looked up to see a fire station in the distance, with Old Glory flying at half-staff. I reflected for a moment upon the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, in whose memory the flag was so displayed. At that very moment, a fireman emerged from the building and marched to the flag pole. Without noting that anyone was watching, he “raised the flag briskly” (words from the Flag Code) to the full height of the pole. Then he “lowered the flag ceremoniously” (again from the Flag Code) to the ground.

Since (again, according to the Flag Code) flags are always lowered to half-staff, I am confident that this same fireman, that morning, had raised the flag briskly to the top of the pole and then lowered it ceremoniously to half-staff,

where it would remain for the rest of the day.

The moral of my little story? By following the Flag Code, my fireman had respectfully and appropriately expressed his patriotism and the patriotism of his cohort; and he had, in a moving way, honored a late national hero. And beyond that? He had shared all of this with me, the unseen person in the distance; a person who knew the Flag Code and silently participated in the august ritual.

Is the U.S. Flag Code iron-clad law? Most certainly not. Are the recommendations of the Flag Code deeply, deeply meaningful?

Yes, most certainly yes, for those of us who care.

Lewis & Clark College's International Fair



Flags festoon the Agnes Flanagan Chapel at Lewis & Clark College for the international fair.

By Alden Jencks

During the dark days of Portland winters, Lewis & Clark College brightens things up with its International Fair. And the bright, festive colors come from flags, flags, and more flags.

Indeed, Brian White, the director of international students, told me that his office buys the national flag of every foreign student who arrives on campus. The students then, in turn, proudly display their national flags at the International Fair.

This year's was the 59th such fair.



These young ladies welcome visitors to the fair (note how the American Stars and Stripes occupies the honored "own-right" position).



Students staff tables with items representative of their countries.



This year's fair took place March 2.



Flags galore hang in Fowler Hall, the student union building.



Dressed for the occasion... students shouldn't have all the fun!



The flag of Azad Kashmir Territory, Pakistan, is outstretched.



Let the folkdance performances begin!

NFL Heritage Program Promotes Flags

By Phil Allen

When the San Francisco 49ers won the recent Super Bowl, some flag observers focused on wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk, the last player of the 2023 season to display a flag from another country—Cameroon—on his helmet.

The National Football League has sought global reach for some years, scheduling games in Mexico, Europe, and Asia. As a part of its “Heritage Program”, the NFL invited players with overseas origins or strong attachments to affix national-flag decals to their head

gear during weeks 7 and 8 of the past season. They were the same size as and abutted the American flag decal worn since 9/11.

The decals showed the widespread origins of players. Over 330 players (and coaches) sported flags from 70+ nations and territories—especially those with roots in Nigeria, Samoa, Canada, Jamaica, Mexico, and Italy. A few chose U.S. state flags!

For the rest of the season, flaglike light blue “Inspire Change” stickers were seen on many heads, but apparently only Aiyuk’s

Cameroon flag followed its carrier all the way to the season’s “end zone”.



49er Brandon Aiyuk wears a flag celebrating his Cameroonian heritage.

Future Home

By Mihai Turcu

A friend recently created an image predicting what my future home might look like.

The floor plan was drawn by Dimancea Ana Maria during a game where we vote for the best meme. She knows about my flag passion (addiction) because I always talk about it and I have an Instagram page about flags (@about_flags_book).

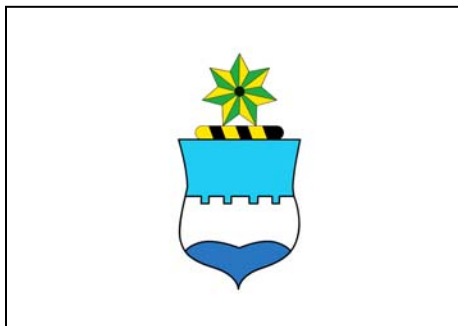
It's obviously ironic but not too different from my actual home!



The floor plan of a budding vexillologist's future home shows his priorities.

Mihai Turcu is a NAVA member in Romania. He attends the Liceul Teoretic Bilingv Miguel de Cervantes (a bilingual school) in Bucharest.

AAT Proposal



John Moody's proposal for an Australian Antarctic Territory (AAT) coat of arms:

A shield surmounted by an Australian Commonwealth star alternately shaded green and gold, Australia's national colors. The black dot in the center draws the viewer's eyes to the star and makes the *point* that the territory is under Australian control.

Below the star is a wreath/torse of yellow and black diagonals representing the periods of light and dark experienced in the territory.

The shield contains unequal horizontal bands of light blue, white, and dark blue representing water, snow, and ice—the most common conditions found in the territory. The light blue also represents the sky; the white the land; the dark blue the sea. The crenelated border between light blue and white represents the rugged coastline as well as referencing icebergs. The dark blue band represents waves washing against the shoreline. The bottom point of the shield points to the South Pole, where the territory originates.

Chinese Flags in San Francisco

By Alden Jencks

Other than in massed flag displays, the flags of the Republic of China (ROC) and the People's Republic of China (PRC) usually do not appear within scowling distance of each other. But in San Francisco's Chinatown, they do—as I saw during Chinese New Year!

Through the years, Chinese-Americans in San Francisco have preserved their unified Chinatown as a compact and lucrative tourist magnet. The community has not fallen out into two centers, as seems to have happened in other North American cities: a) Older, Cantonese-speaking, pro-ROC residents and b) Younger, Mandarin-speaking residents who favor/tolerate/accommodate the PRC.



Banners fly for New Year's in Portland.

Like all San Franciscans, the Chinese-Americans seem to wear their politics on their sleeves and with their festive flags!

I found the show quite intriguing.



U.S., ROC, and PRC flags displayed during Chinese New Year celebrations in San Francisco in February.

The 5-Pointed Star Migrates to California

By Pete Loeser

[from *Historical Flags of Our Ancestors*]

The 5-pointed star is a very common ideogram throughout the world. It appears on the flags of over 35 countries, and although the 5-pointed star first appeared on the United States flag and in its heraldic symbolism, it is not a uniquely American symbol.

Such stars are also called mullets, spurs, or rowels. They have associations with military power and war. In heraldry, the star is the ensign of knightly rank and every knighthood order incorporates it.

In American history the 5-pointed star appeared on our flags to symbolize the heavens (in a “new constellation”). The founding fathers chose it because believed no earthly king could control them.

Vexillographically, the 5-pointed star would be incorporated into the concept of Manifest Destiny as it appeared in flags in West Florida, Texas, and California before statehood for each. The 5-pointed star symbol migrated across the continent, rather than evolving independently.

In California the distinctive red 5-pointed star first appeared in Monterey on Alvarado’s California Lone Star Flag, and later on Sutter’s “New Switzerland” Flag and soon on the various Bear Flags, including the Todd Bear Flag. It eventually migrated to the current California State Bear Flag.

Strangely enough, although it is traditionally accepted that the red star on California’s state flag signifies freedom and independence, no California state flag resolution or law mentions its meaning.



Rhode Island Hope Reg. Colors, 1775.



First U.S. (Navy) Flag, 1777.



Republic of West Florida Flag, 1810.



Second Texas Republic Flag, 1819.

The red 5-pointed star remained a uniquely Californian feature until the Civil War, but then gained wider usage, as on the present-day flag of Washington, D.C.



California Lone Star Flag, 1836.



Sutter’s “New Switzerland” Flag, 1846.



The Todd Bear Flag, 1846.



California State Flag, 1953.

Roundup



Artwork for a six-city marathon series riffs on the cities' flags/symbols.



A student's response to a question about flags (from a compilation of amusing test answers seen online).



Ted Kaye celebrated Belize's Baron Bliss Day in March (the holiday honors an important and unusual character in the country's history).



A statue of a José Martí Pioneer stands in front of a Cuban flag made from peso bills (as seen in Havana in 2014).



CC Slaughters Nightclub and Lounge, an “energetic gay club with disco balls, a big dance floor & an adjacent lounge serving food & martinis” at 217 NW Davis, flies these “Progress Pride” flags with the hoist inexplicably reversed to the fly.

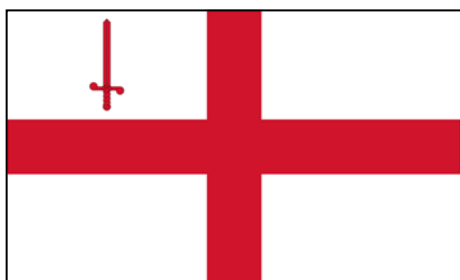


During the January ice storm which saw temperatures descend to 15°F (-9°C), Ted Kaye flew an appropriate symbol—the Antarctica flag designed by Graham Bartram in 1996).

What's that Flag?

By Matt Bray

Identify these flags and the theme that connects them.



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By John Cartledge

The final six flags were proposed for German colonies in 1914 under the first flag, though they likely never flew in those territories.

Congratulations to the solvers: Matt Bray, Tony Burton, Jim Croft, Nikita Dudko, and Mike Thomas.



Colonial German empire (1884–1920).



Samoa.



Togoland.



Kamerun.



New Guinea.



South West Africa.



East Africa.

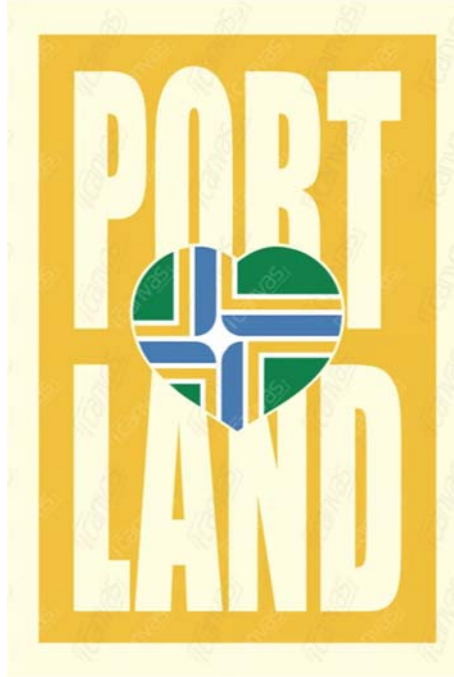


Portland Flag Miscellany



“Portland City Oregon State Shabby Chic Flag”, available from MAUMshop in three sizes—8” to 16” high (\$46 to \$199).

maumshop.work/products/portland-city-oregon-state-shabby-chic-flag-art-black-7634



Portland Typography Flag by Benton Park Prints canvas art print comes in many sizes from ICanvas (\$30 to \$90).

icanvas.com/canvas-print/portland-typography-flag-bpp282



Flagshipper.com offers this Portland Flag patch 3-pack for \$4.17.

flagshipper.com/portland-patch.html

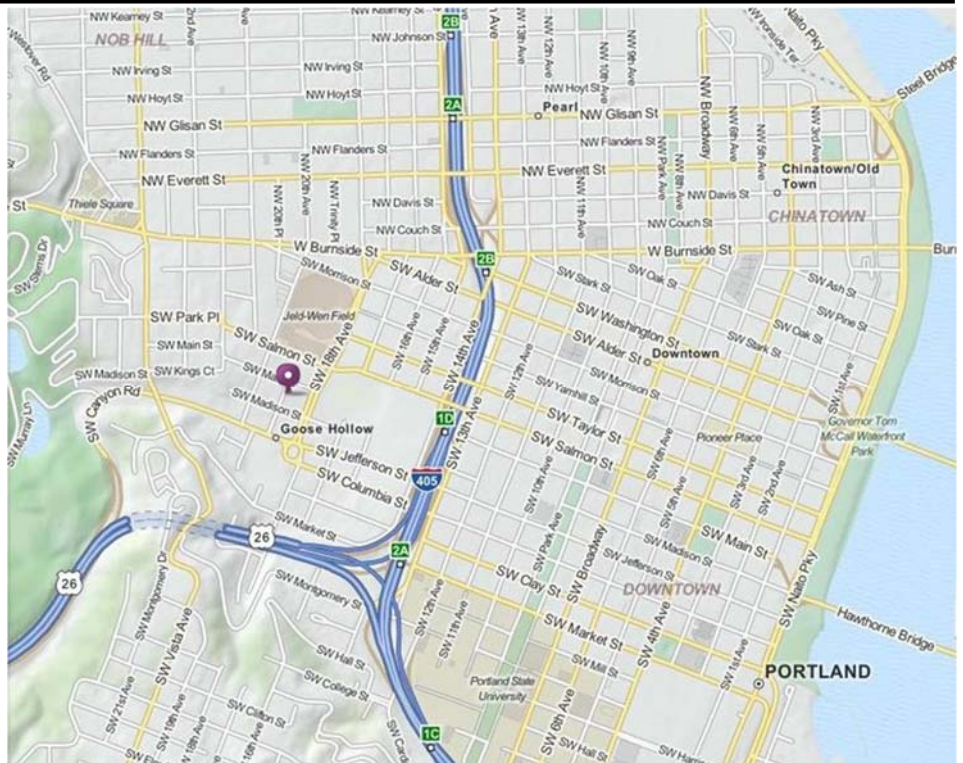
May Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 PM, Thursday, May 9, 2024, in the community room at the residence of Jessie Spillers (Legends), 1132 S.W. 19th Ave., Portland.

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.