



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

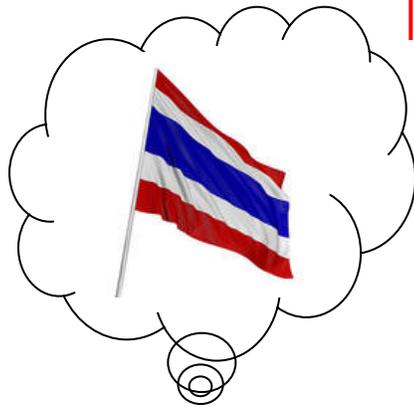
“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 43 December 2013

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www.portlandflag.org



***Symbols are sacred things:
and one of the chief that
every man holds dear is
the national flag.***

**—W. J. Gordon,
*Flags of the World***

TVA-PFA Ties

By Patrick Genna

I have helped the Thai Vexillological Association get started, advising on its formation and symbols. I consulted on its flag design and was its first member.

The TVA’s founder, Pluethipol Prachumphol, and I have an unusual connection: he studied in St. Louis, my home town. That shared history and an interest in flags first drew us together.

The TVA operates the extensive Thai National Flag Museum in Bangkok. Its focus is the national flag of Thailand and its predecessors. It also hosts an interesting website: thaiflag.org (use translate.google.com to convert from Thai to English)—several photo and video galleries illustrate the work of the TVA.

The PFA’s founder, the late Harry Oswald, played a similar role with JAVA, the Japanese Vexillological Association. So it was very appropriate that JAVA’s president, Nozomi Kariyasu, join TVA as its second member and lead a delegation to visit, creating a fun PFA-JAVA-TVA vexi-triangle.



The Thai Vexillological Association flag.



JAVA visits Thai National Flag Museum.

We meet the second Thursday of odd-numbered months. Please mark your 2014 calendars for PFA meetings at 7:00 PM at the following dates/locations:

- 1/9/14 Jessie Spillers
- 3/13/14 Patrick Genna
- 5/8/14 Scott Mainwaring
- 7/10/14 Ted Kaye
- 9/11/14 Larry Snyder
- 11/13/14 Michael Orelove

We’ll make sure to get timely meeting announcements out.

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or kandsons@aol.com. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

Michael Orelove's Oregon Flag

By Michael Orelove

There have been a lot of suggestions about a new Oregon flag. In 2008–09, *The Oregonian* sponsored a contest to redesign the state flag. There were over 2,000 entries. Everyone has their own idea. I have mine.

Following the 5 basic principles of flag design from *Good Flag, Bad Flag*, by Ted Kaye, I made a flag.

- Keep it Simple
- Use Meaningful Symbolism
- Use 2–3 Basic Colors
- No Lettering or Seals
- Be Distinctive or Be Related

The photos show both the obverse and reverse sides of the flag. The beaver is facing the staff (hoist) on both sides.

I used an old Oregon flag to make my flag. I took the flag apart and found out that the material with the beaver was printed through the fabric and showed the beaver on both sides.

I took my idea and material to Spencer Day of Hems in a Hurry, in Gresham, and he made up the flag.

The flag is amazing in how Spencer put together. First he sewed the beaver on the front of the flag. Then he cut away the material on the reverse side that was covering the beaver. Then he sewed around the beaver on the reverse for a finished look.

Truly a major operation to produce the beautiful flag!



The obverse and reverse of Michael Orelove's beaver flag for Oregon.

Rainbow State Flags



Here is an interesting twist on the popular pastime of “redesigning state flags.”

A website entitled “Gay Flags of the World” displays rainbow variants of all U.S. state flags.

The artist, Greg Gomes, has also created similar national flags.

Image courtesy of TME Co.



Source:

http://gayflags.org/flags_gay/gay_flags_state.html

Round-Up



The *Euzkal Bandera* flies in Portland.

David Ferriday recently spotted—of all things—a Basque flag flying near his home near Johnson Creek. Intrigued, and not knowing the flag design, he approached the homeowner to explain it. It seems that relatives of Basque extraction were about to visit.

Sam Oakland recently toured in Moldova for the U.S. State Department speaking on law and the environment as a U.S.D.A. Forest Service ranger.



Ranger Sam Oakland in Moldova, representing the U.S. in uniform.

Good Flag, Bad Flag — now in Italiano

By Ted Kaye

COS'È UNA BANDIERA?

Lo scopo di una bandiera è di rappresentare un luogo, una organizzazione o una persona, normalmente su un tessuto rettangolare, che si veda da lontano, spesso garrente e riprodotta in quantità e in diverse misure. Got that?

Since its print publication in 2006, fellow vexillologists have translated *Good Flag, Bad Flag* into five languages: Spanish (by Gustavo Tracchia, Argentina), French (by Sophie Rault, Brittany), German (by Dieter Linder, Germany), Portuguese (by Tiago José Berg, Brazil), and now Italian (by Flavio Marchetto, Italy).

NAVA's flag-design guidebook originated in 1999, inspired by a panel discussion I heard at the 18th International Congress of Vexillology in Vancouver, BC. (Several PFA members attended that event

because of its proximity to Portland.) *GFBF* debuted in draft in 2001 at the 19th ICV in York, England.

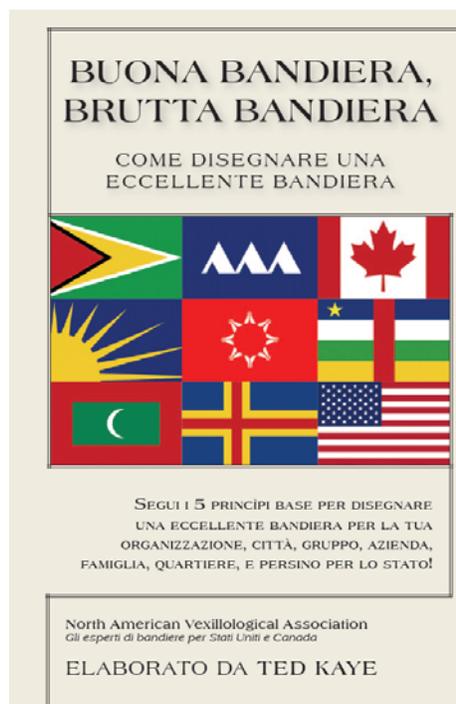
Flavio attended the 25th ICV in Rotterdam last August. There FIAV admitted his flag-studies organization, *Bandiere Storiche*

(bandierestoriche.it), to membership alongside the PFA and two other flag-studies groups. He graciously offered to translate *GFBF* into his native language, and then did so expeditiously.

Melissa Meiner, a graphic designer in the Portland area, did the outstanding layout work for the original print version, as well as for all translated versions. Her excellent design eye vastly improved the initial Word document I'd developed to share in York!

All versions should be available on the NAVA website. Occasionally someone or some organization working on a flag design contacts me; sometimes I learn of an effort and send a packet of *GFBFs*.

GFBF has supported a large number of flag-design efforts; these translations broaden its reach! I thank all who helped me on it.



November 2013 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our November meeting, hosted by John Schilke, 14 PFA members enjoyed a lively evening of flags and related topics.

Dave Anchel described a suite of ~20 flags recently commissioned at Elmer's by a local design/PR firm. With quite good designs, most evoked a keyboard icon.

Scott Mainwaring has created a Pinterest.com board called "Interesting Flag", accumulating images that intrigue him.

Max Liberman explained his progress in creating a methodology and mechanism to rate the design qualities of national flags (similar to NAVA's past surveys of city and state flag designs).

Ted Kaye shared recent flag-related clippings from the *Wall Street Journal* and *The Oregonian*, then led the crew in guessing the answers to Max's latest quiz.



David Ferriday's new friend sports a visor celebrating Azerbaijan's flag.

Sam Oakland told the story of the International Portland Review, a literary endeavor he founded in 1980. His daughter Sasha inspired the book's cover, using signal flags. He expanded on his love of signal flags, showing some sets he'd collected.

David Koski recounted an early flag-design experience, creating a



A Portland design/PR firm had Elmer's Flag & Banner produce a suite of custom flags—Dave Anchel shows his favorite (with a spine).

"456"-themed flag for the boat his father bought with winnings from that game at the local Elks Club. It depicted three dice, showing those numbers on the front faces.

Patrick Genna described his work with the Thai Vex. Assoc. (see p. 1) and gave away recent flags he'd found, including a *Dannebrog*.



Sam Oakland shares one of his many newly-acquired flags with the assembly: the Latvian Sailing Association burgee.



Liam and Kate Cushman brought a vintage Oregon flag, a souvenir from NAVA 47.

Liam Cushman reported on how much he enjoyed attending his first NAVA meeting—NAVA 47 in Salt Lake City—with a posterboard display of photos. He plans to attend more NAVA meetings.

Kate Cushman showed her most interesting acquisition from NAVA 47, a small Pioneer “friendship flag” from the USSR (from Annie Platoff).



Ken Dale delivered a stirring rendition of Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address in honor of its 150th anniversary. A veteran of the Cold War (1966-72), he shared a new patch honoring its veterans.



Veterans of the other “forgotten war”, the Cold War, now have a patch.

Michael Orelove showed off a set of small India-made signal flags he’d recently found on line for \$28, and explained his astronomically-correct Alaska flag.

David Ferriday shared an analysis of colors used in national flags, inspired by the description of a paper given at ICV 25 in Rotterdam. Also, using a form of hidden writing he’d developed, he has created some artworks with flag-related messages.

Jessie Spillers speculated on how a potential union of the U.S. and Canada might be reflected in a flag, and showed one possibility (called a “friendship flag”).

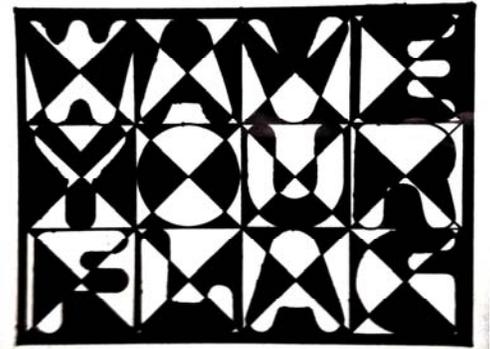
Hosts signed up for all 2014 meetings; thanks to all six who volunteered hospitality!



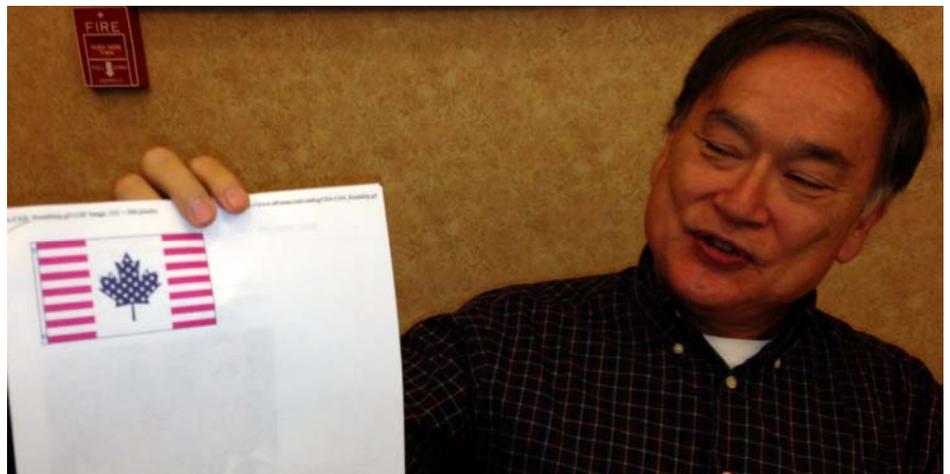
Patrick Genna shows his *Dannebrog* to Scott Mainwaring.



Michael Orelove displays his own astronomically-correct flag of Alaska, showing the constellation *Ursa Major* with the double star—Mizar-Alcor.



Decipher the hidden message from David Ferriday!



What flag would best symbolize a union between Canada and the USA? Jessie Spillers shows a possibility.

Flags in the News

The advent of color in our local and national newspapers has led to a profusion of flag images. Hardly a week goes by without *The Oregonian* or the *Wall Street Journal*

illustrating a domestic or international story with a colorful photograph of flags.

Below is a recent sampling.

Instantly recognizable and eye-catching, every one of these images tells a story with an immediacy demonstrating the emotive power of flags.



TROUBLE IN TUNISIA: A crowd gathered at a hospital after opposition politician Mohammed Brahmi was killed by gunmen Thursday outside his home in a suburb of the capital, sparking demonstrations. A8

Wall Street Journal 7/26/13



MILLION MASK MARCH: Supporters of the hacker group Anonymous protested in Washington, D.C., Tuesday.

Wall Street Journal 11/6/13



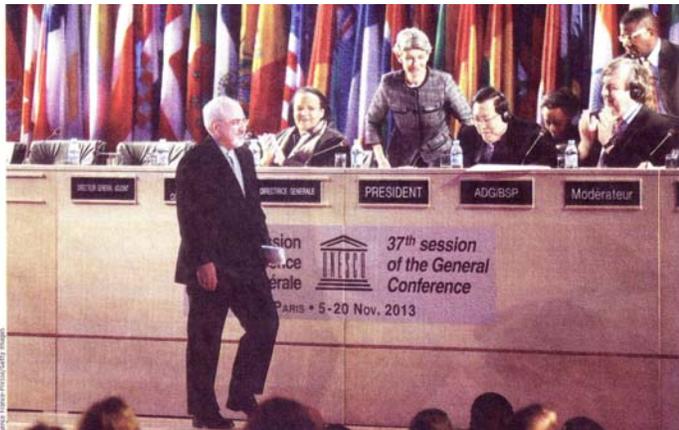
Secretary of State John Kerry met with Egyptian Defense Minister Gen. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi in Cairo on Sunday.

Wall Street Journal 11/4/13



Inés del Río, sixth from left, on Tuesday left prison 26 years into her sentence, surrounded by her friends near La Coruña in northern Spain.

Wall Street Journal 10/23/13



Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, in Paris on Wednesday, says his country is ready to reach a nuclear agreement at Geneva talks this week.

Wall Street Journal 11/7/13



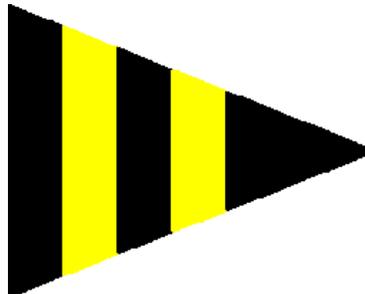
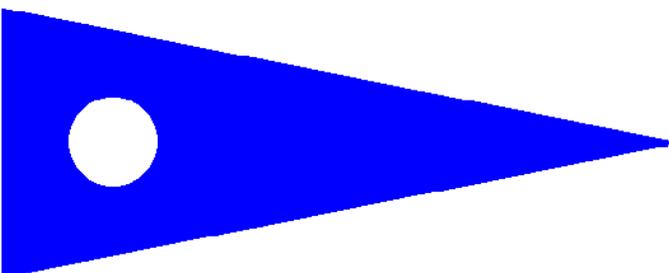
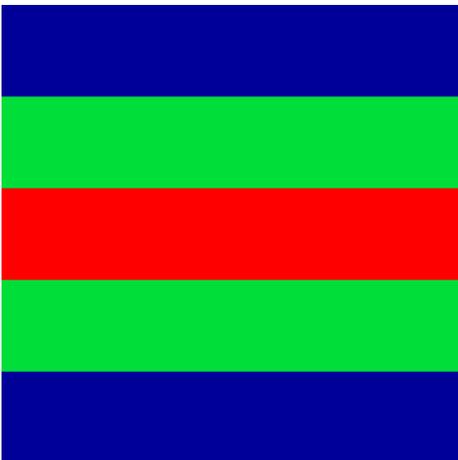
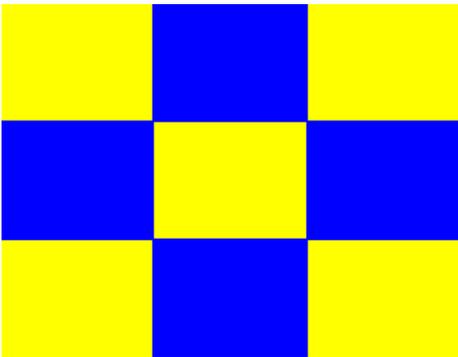
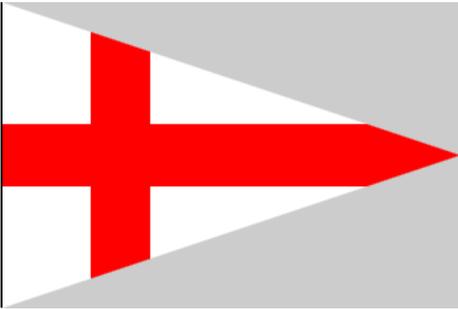
Caroline Kennedy, the new U.S. ambassador to Japan, was greeted with enthusiasm as she spoke after her arrival at Narita airport on Friday.

Wall Street Journal 11/16-17/13

What's that Flag?

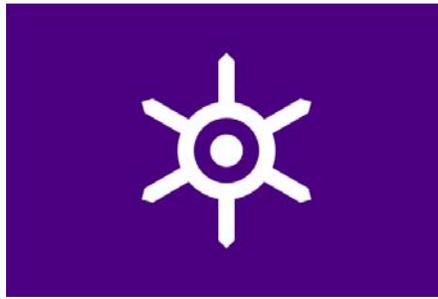
Can you name these six flags and identify the unifying theme?
Warning—this may be the hardest quiz yet!

Answers in the next issue...



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Max Liberman



Tokyo Metropolis, Japan



Ministry of Defence, Netherlands



Vinyols i els Arcs, Catalonia, Spain



Ciales, Puerto Rico



Bomi County, Liberia



Spanish royal standard before 1931



Adjuntas, Puerto Rico

The theme linking these flags:
all use the unusual flag color
purple.

Portland Flag Miscellany



Elmer's Flag and Banner now offers 4"x6" City of Portland stick flags.

The retail price to PFA members is \$3.95. Mention your membership.

A big than-you to Dave Anchel for spearheading this great addition to our vexi-inventory.

Contact Elmer's for your flag: elmersflag.com, 503-282-1214, 1332 N.E. Broadway, Portland, OR 97232.



Tifo on display! The north end of Jeld-Wen Field was awash with color as the Timbers Army recreated a massive Cascadia Flag for a 25 August 2012 game. Tifo, the Italian word for the phenomenon of supporting a sport team, is any choreography displayed by fans in

the stands of a stadium in connection with a sporting event, mostly as part of a soccer match. It has its roots in Italy and Southern Europe, and has a strong presence in Eastern Europe.



Cascadia.

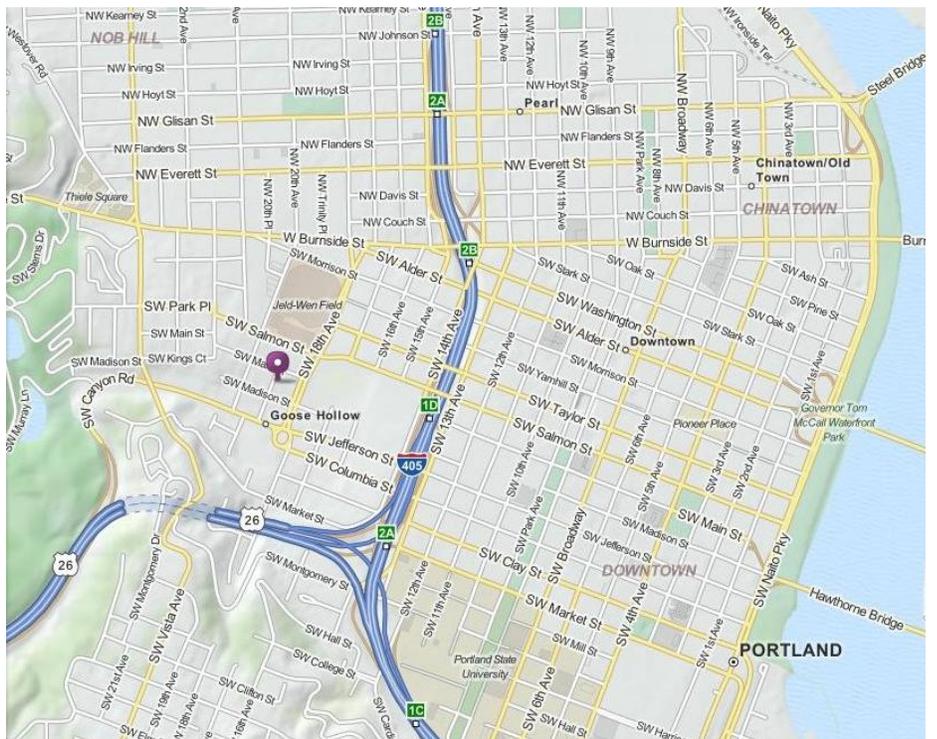
January Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 9, 2014, the home of Jessie Spillers, Legends, 1132 S.W. 19th Ave., Portland, OR 97204. You can take MAX.

See the map at right.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings, and hear some new stories, see some different flags, and engage in provocative discussion.

If you can't get to the meeting, perhaps you can give the editor something to share with readers.



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.