

The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

"Free, and Worth Every Penny!"

Issue 8 January 2006

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The World's Largest Kite is a Mega Flag

By Mike Hale

Some of this article appeared as "Flags in the News" in the last issue of the Tabloid. Mike has been kind enough to flesh out the story this month. —The editor.

Imagine the Mega Flag: the world's largest kite, flying over the crowd at an event.

And then imagine the public gasps of amazement as the kite slowly lofts into the air.

that requires a 'string' with a breaking strength of 20 tons or a dump truck to serve as anchor. Imagine a kite that more than a thousand people can walk inside of while it is held on the ground.



From 300 yards away

Reactions to the kite are profound. "It's a bit corny," said one observer. "But I got a little choked up. It's not just well engineered. It's a really beautiful kite. And being close to something that majestic -- and symbolic, you can't help but actually get a bit teary eyed."



Over 1000 people could fit inside

(Continued on page 2)



Mega Flag beginning to rise

The "Mega Flag" is a fully functional, self-flying kite measuring 130 feet wide and 80 feet deep. That's an astounding 10,400 square feet!! The kite is an inflatable "soft" design with no sticks or spars. It was designed and constructed by Guinness Record Holder Peter Lynn of New Zealand.

Imagine a kite the size of an Olympic Swimming Pool. Imagine a kite

We do not consecrate the flag by punishing its desecration, for in doing so we dilute the freedom that this cherished emblem represents. — Justice William J. Brennan, for the Majority US Supreme Court Decision, 3 July 1989

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact John Hood at 503-238-7666 or vivijohn@comcast.net. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

World's Largest Kite

(Continued from page 1)



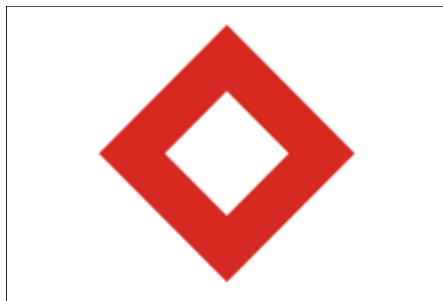
More than Betsy Ross had to do!

Kites and flags have many things in common. Materials, sewing, wind and inspiration. Combined into one product, it is magical. So what do you call the science of the study of Kites? Well if *Vexillum* is the Greek for flag, one would think that kites would have a Chinese or Japanese prefix. Not so. At the present it is referred to as Kiteology. Huh? Kiteology? Flagology? I don't think so. Everyone knows that scientific terms most always come from the nation or cultures from which that branch of study first originated. Therefore, I am coining and propose using the Japanese term for kite *Ikanobori*, since much more has been written in Japan and the Chinese history is mostly mythological. The science would then be **Ikanoboriology**. Just like Vexillology, it will illicit many quizzical looks. It's a flag, it's a kite, it's a Mega Flag Kite, right here in Lincoln City, Oregon. Go to www.gombergkites.com and click on World's Largest Kite to see more photos and text.



New International Flag

The Flag Research Center sent us the following bulletin concerning an alternative to the Red Cross and Red Crescent:



On 7 December 2005, at an international conference, a new symbol was endorsed for use by the Red Cross and Red Crescent societies of the world. It will appear as a flag (as shown above) and as a logo on arm bands, buildings, vehicles, ships, etc. The Geneva Convention of 1949 which gives international legal standing to the existing symbols—the Red Cross and the Red Crescent—will be modified accordingly.

The new symbol, known as the Red Crystal, is not intended to replace any existing symbol but rather to offer an alternative that will have international recognition. For example, it will allow an option for a country that does not wish to choose between the cross and the crescent. Israel, which has never been a Ge-

neva Convention signatory, can utilize the Red Crystal internationally and still continue within Israel to employ its own Red Shield of David symbol.

The three symbols and the flags bearing them are subject to detailed restrictions regarding display in order to avoid abuses by combatants during wartime. For example, no exact shade red is established, nor is the size of the symbol on a flag specified, lest challenges arise about whether or not a given symbol was proper. The Flag Research Center will publish a detailed analysis of the whole issue of Geneva Convention symbols in a future *Flag Bulletin*.

The kindergarten teacher was showing her class an encyclopedia page picturing several national flags. She pointed to the American flag and asked, "What flag is this?" A little girl called out, "That's the flag of our country."

"Very good" the teacher said. "And what is the name of our country?"

"Tis of thee," the girl said confidently.

Some Flag Related Websites

North American Vexillological Association <http://www.nava.org>

Flag Institute (United Kingdom) <http://www.flaginstitute.org>

Flags of the World <http://www.fotw.net>

Elmer's Flag & Banner <http://www.elmersflag.com>

Darwin, Northern Territory (Australia) <http://www.nationalflags.com.au>

Flag Society of Australia <http://www.flagsaustralia.com.au>

January 2006 Flutterings You Need to Know

We had a rather sparse turnout for the mid-winter meeting. Could the rain have kept Oregonians at home? However, it did give the rest of us a larger share of the cookies, candy and dipped Oreos that Vivian provided! And there never seems to be a lack of topical conversations, no matter how many people are there.

Ted Kaye talked of a book he had just read about the Confederate Battle Flag (see the review elsewhere in this newsletter). He also passed around a book by Evans Kerrigan, *American Medals and Decorations*, which seems to be a definitive work on military trappings. Since he was there for the Lewis and Clark ceremonies, Ted was able to provide anecdotes that did not make it into the newspaper.

His booklet, *Good Flag, Bad Flag*, is about ready to go to press and will be provided to all NAVA members and for sale to everyone else. There have been some changes compared to how it appears on the NAVA website.

John Hood used Ted's booklet as a training aid for a presentation he made before The Women's Club of Portland on the day after our meeting. The women were so responsive that at the end, eight flags were displayed and were readily identified as being "good" or "bad"!

John also showed some Neighborhood banners to the group. Portland has about 92 legally identified neighborhoods and several years ago they were charged with creating flags

or banners for display at civic functions. Most rose to the challenge; however, they are generally poor examples of flags. Rather, they are logos with the name and founding date prominently displayed, in some cases in colors not previously known to man. Having said that, most are still better than Pocatello's flag.

Did You Know?

The President's flag dates from 1916 when President Wilson decided that there should be just one flag, rather than a separate one for each branch of the service. It was dark blue charged with the Presidential coat-of-arms, the eagle facing the fly (and the arrows), and one star in each corner. In 1945, just before his death, President Franklin Roosevelt decided it was inappropriate to have just four stars (they had no definite meaning, merely balance) and began a project for a new design. On October 25, 1945, President Truman adopted the new flag with 48 stars circling the coat-of-arms and the eagle facing the hoist (and the olive branch). The flag has been modified twice since to add stars for new states.



A Finial for Maryland

Obviously Marshall Goldberg doesn't have enough to do since he retired or the following would not have happened! — The editor

A doggerel to the tune of "Michael Finnigan" with apologies to Ted Kaye, the creator of "*Good Flag, Bad Flag*"

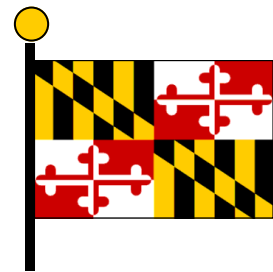
All's Well That Ends Well

(or Good Finial, Bad Finial)

The *Old Line* flag without its finial,
No cross botonny atop its lineal.
A mere oversight? No, a cardinal
sinial

That nobody can denyial.

(Begin againial)



Bad—Cannon Ballinial



In Betweenial—Black-eyed Susinial
(The Maryland State Flower)



Good—Cross Botonninial

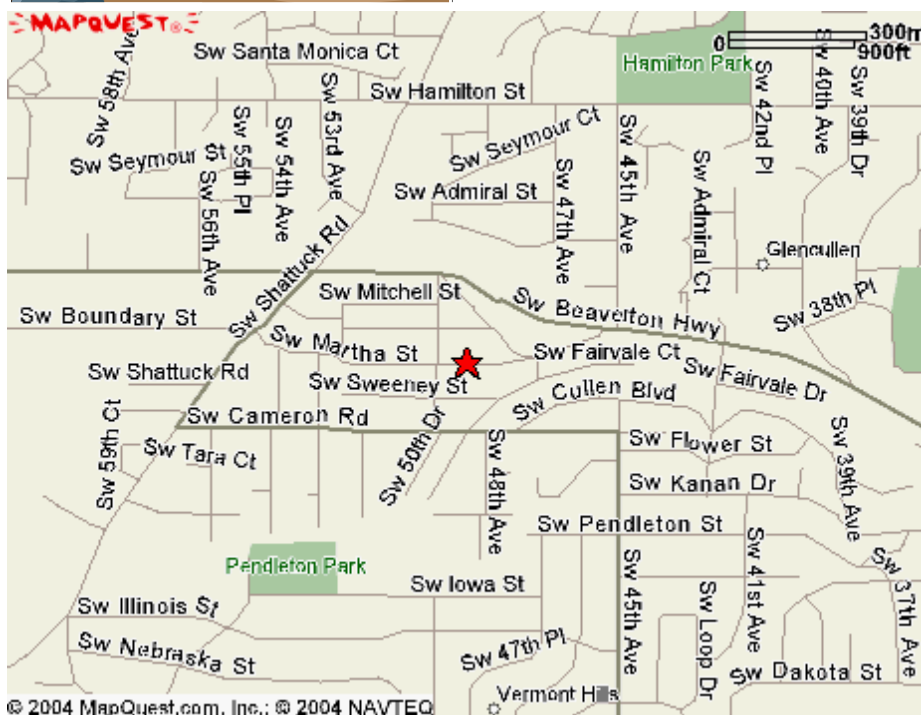
April Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 13, 2006, at Mike Hale's house, 4904 SW Martha St., telephone (503) 245-5283. See the map below.

We look forward to seeing those of you that have been otherwise committed, and hear some new war stories, see some different flags, and hear some provocative discussion.

Any and all flags, books or articles are welcome for "show and tell."

If you can't get to the meeting, perhaps you can give the editor something to share with our readers. As you can see, we have many interests.



Book Review

By Ted Kaye

Book Review: *The Confederate Battle Flag: America's Most Embattled Emblem*

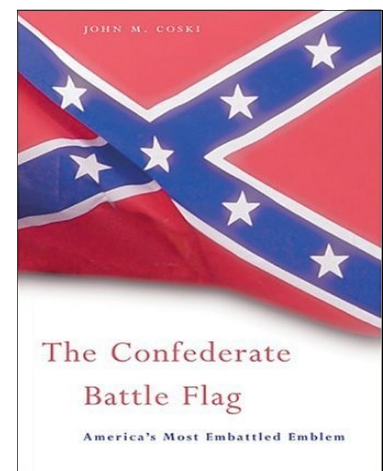
Author: John M. Coski (2005)

John Coski's significant achievement: he has managed to bring a historian's neutral perspective to an otherwise highly-charged controversy. He begins with the flag's initial design and its use in battle. He then lays the groundwork for the flag's initial post-war significance as a memorial marker and a historical honor among Confederate heritage groups. With superbly-documented detail, Coski traces the flag's use by the Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s, by Southerners in the US Armed forces during the Second World War, by "Dixiecrats" in the 1948 presidential campaign, by southern college students starting in the late 1940s, by those caught up in the "flag craze" of 1951, by pro-segregationist/anti-civil

rights activists in the 1950s, and through the frictions of the past 50 years.

Coski shows how the flag "became an aggressively racist symbol only after World War II and the Civil Rights movement", and explores with great sensitivity how the flag has two conflicting but potentially overlapping meanings for its users: one, as a symbol of the Confederacy—a historical icon, and second, as a symbol for a major (alleged) principle underlying the Confederacy, the racism that justified slavery. Whether advanced simply as "a symbol of our heritage" by proud Southerners, or as an assertion of a "redneck" political/cultural position, the confusion over these meanings fans the flames of the "flag wars" that still rage in our American public discourse.

The author serves as historian and library director at the Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia. His evenhanded approach demonstrates a triumph of professionalism over regionalism, and results in a solid and informative treatment of an important contemporary issue in flag usage.



Flags in the News

Ron Strachan, our friend and foreign correspondent, sent this article to alert us of the disregard a central entity can have for the pride and history of a smaller group:

NORTHERN TERRITORY NEWS EDITORIAL, October 24, 2005

Give our flag back

The Australian War Memorial is unlikely to hand back the flag that flew over Government House when the Japanese first bombed Darwin in February 1942.

This is a shame. The flag means much to Territorians and should be housed in the Legislative Assembly.

This is what 12-year-old Zak Menzies asked when he wrote to the museum in Canberra.

The boy took time out from play to gather a 3500-signature petition in support of his plea.

This was hugely encouraging.

At a time when all responsible people fret about the fecklessness of today's youth, here was a young man willing to give up his spare time for the community's good.

Zak's efforts were widely praised by Territorians.

But that hasn't stopped the hard-faced guardians of the Australian War Memorial from, in effect, telling the Territory Government that he is wasting his time.

Not to be put off, Zak will go to Canberra with Lord Mayor Peter Adamson and knock on the museum

director's door.

We wish them the best of luck.

Who owns what in museums is a hot issue around the world. The great European museums are under constant pressure to give back the treasure of other nations taken during colonial times.

But Zak is not asking for the Elgin Marbles to be sent back to Greece from the British Museum.

He is asking for an Australian flag damaged in an attack on Darwin by a foreign power to be brought home.

Surely that's not too much to ask.

Ted Kaye suffered the rain, just as Lewis and Clark did 200 years ago, to file this report of the bicentennial celebration at Fort Stevens State Park:

Lewis & Clark and Tribal Flags

Veteran's Day 2005 saw 50 flags flying in the wind and rain at Fort Stevens at the mouth of the Columbia, representing the wide range of tribes encountered by the explorers Lewis & Clark. For the opening ceremonies of *Destination: The Pa-*

cific, the national bicentennial event for Oregon and Washington, Portland Flag Association member Ted Kaye provided a collection of flags borrowed from NAVA member Dennis Moore and produced by TME Co. They represented tribes



More of the opening ceremony from the Otoe-Missouria (the first tribe to meet Lewis and Clark) to the Clatsop-Nehalem (hosts to the Corps of Discovery for the winter of 1805-06). The Oregon National Guard had mounted the flags on poles, and tribal representatives (all veterans) paraded them in. Long after the band music and the governors' speeches are forgotten, the 2,000 attendees will remember the third of an inch of rain and the colorful panoply of tribal flags.



Charles Tailfeather represented the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs



Opening ceremonies

What Was that Flag? Answers to last quiz



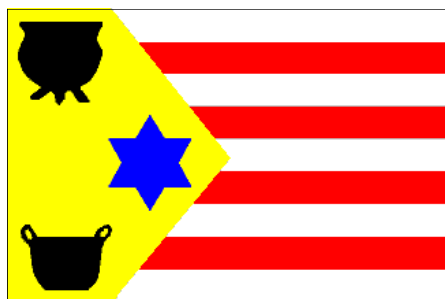
Ried, FR, Netherlands

Ried's residents are nicknamed "Riedster katten", Ried's cats.



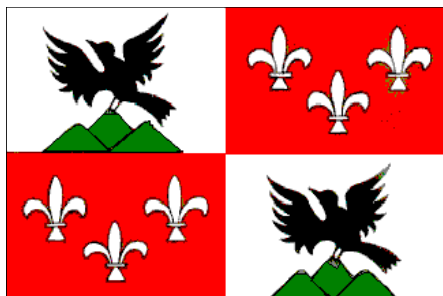
Hérimoncourt, Doubs, France

You didn't expect me to leave the name on the flag, did you? Inhabitants are called "chauves-souris" (bats). The coat of arms is a red dragon on a gold field. Some think the dragon is the ancestor of the bat.



Sint Annaparochie, FR, Netherlands

This comes from the nursery rhyme, "A pot and a pan is the arms of St. Anne."



Grobbendonk, Antwerp, Belgium

The ravens are from the Schetz family, lords of the area from 1545 to 1726.



Marrum-Westernijkerk, FR, Netherlands

A twin village where the Marrumers have the nickname of "cats" (fierce women) and the Nijkerksters that of "rooks", an indication of a nearby garbage dump.



What's that Flag?

You Anglophiles shouldn't have any problem with these flags that have much in common.

