

The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 11 October 2006

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BANNER BABBLE

By Vivian Jackson

It started out innocently enough, one lone banner with a black cat on it, a rather plain picture as I recall. From



My first banner

there, my current obsessive compulsive banner collection has grown to numbers only imagined in retail outlets. They hang in our basement on skirt hangers carefully categorized for ease in selection and flying on appropriate holidays, or at my whimsy. As I have evolved in my collecting, so has Elmer's Flag & Banner, where I purchase most of my banners. Originally, the banners were sewn or appliquéd pictures, then they went to



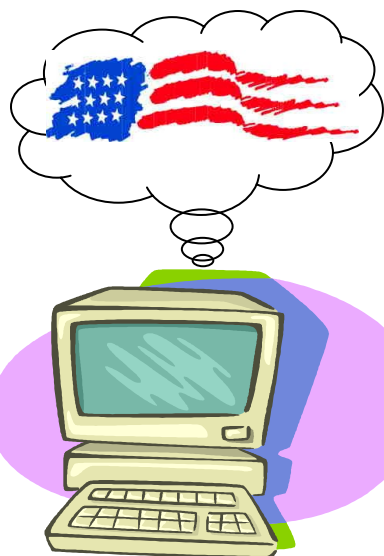
A homemade sewn banner

dye sublimation, and now there are “feather banners,” with a very Asian effect. Some have moving parts with



Novelty banner

(Continued on page 2)



**A moth-eaten rag on a worm-eaten pole
It does not look likely to stir a man's soul,
'Tis the deed that were done 'neath the moth-eaten rag,
When the pole was a staff and the rag was a flag.**

— Sir Edward B. Hamley

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.

BANNER BABBLE

(Continued from page 1)



Dye sublimation technique

three dimensional pieces -- exquisite and unique. Over the years, Elmer's selection, which has always been large, is now so varied and extensive that buying one banner at a time is impossible. If I depart with only two



Three dimensional moving parts



Asian style feather banner

or three new banners per visit, it's a "controlled" shopping day. I also collect mini-banners and fly two at a time, something I put off for years, but realization set in that I could not be without these priceless baby gems any longer. This has yielded some unique offerings that compliment my large banners.

From time to time, people come to the door and ask if we are a bed and breakfast, always showing an interest in our flags and banners. We consider ourselves something of a flag and banner "neighborhood embassy" (location, location, location). Of all my retirement hobbies, this is my favorite. My dear friend, Hal, who patrols the neighborhood on his walks, stops to remind me to change banners if the same ones have been

flying for over a week. He claims these banners make him happy. I know what he means. Beautifully designed and colorful banners whipping in the wind create a sense of peace and serenity in passers-by. I'm glad to be of assistance in a world that seldom extends goodwill these days, even at the neighborhood level. People say that my banners are "eye candy" for the neighborhood and use our home as a directional guide (turn right at the "Flag House"). I guess we could be called worse things. Some say thank goodness for those banners or they would never remember what season it is.



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>

July 2006 Flutterings You Need to Know

There wasn't a big turnout for the July meeting, but there was a wealth of flags shown and a great deal of discussion over what made them good or bad.

John started with several flags he picked up on a recent vacation to British Columbia. Most, such as Courtenay, Quilicum Beach and Warfield, were generally poor flags because they had the village's name prominently spelled out. A couple of exceptions were Port McNeill and Salt Spring Island. The first is meaningful, but we don't know just what it means, and the later uses a modified Canadian pale, even though it is not the customary 1:2 ratio.



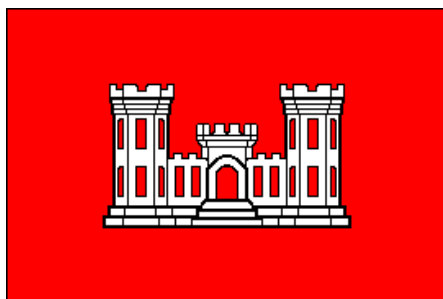
Port McNeill, BC, Canada



Salt Spring Island, BC, Canada

Mike showed a number of pirate flags and related how popular they have become since the release of the movie, "Pirates of the Caribbean." He has promised an article, with pictures, on the history and use of these flags.

Ted had made a presentation to the Tualatin Heritage Center and showed us the flags he used. They ranged from Antarctica to Chicago. One that we had not been shown before was that of the Army Corps of Engineers.



Army Corps of Engineers

This flag was originally meant to be for use on vessels, but is now authorized to be flown on land by facilities that are not located on Army installations.

Just a few of the other flags he displayed were:

The State of Jefferson (later design created to represent the 1941 secession movement);



Jefferson, USA

City of Portland (the design promoted by the PFA for adoption in 2002);

Oregon (two-sided, of course...Mike Hale explained the manufacturing challenges);

15-star, 15-stripe U.S. flag which had

flown over Fort Clatsop (a marketing device Ted had suggested to the "Friends of Fort Clatsop" a few years ago);

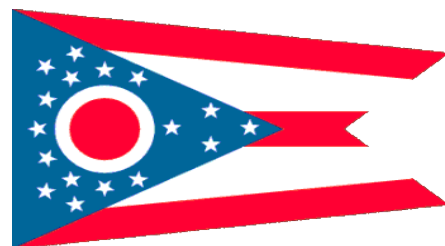
A replica "First U.S. Navy Jack" (the design debunked in *Raven 11* by Peter Ansoff);

Another replica "First U.S. Navy Jack" with the text of Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* inscribed on the red stripes in white, produced by TME Co.;

The flag of AUSBATT—UNTAET (a "mappy" flag of the Australian Battalion of the United Nations Transitional Authority of East Timor—gift of Ron Strachan to Mason Kaye);

A WW2-era nautical signal flag for the letter "G", inscribed on the header "G ALPH SET 6 CENT CALIF WAR IND INC DEC 1943";

Ohio (with its unique swallow-tail design—and IS it the same upside-down???)



Ohio, USA

When asked how he chose these particular flags, Ted laughed and said, "I didn't know what I was going to talk about, so I grabbed a bunch of flags that I had out for various reasons and hadn't put away yet!"

October Meeting

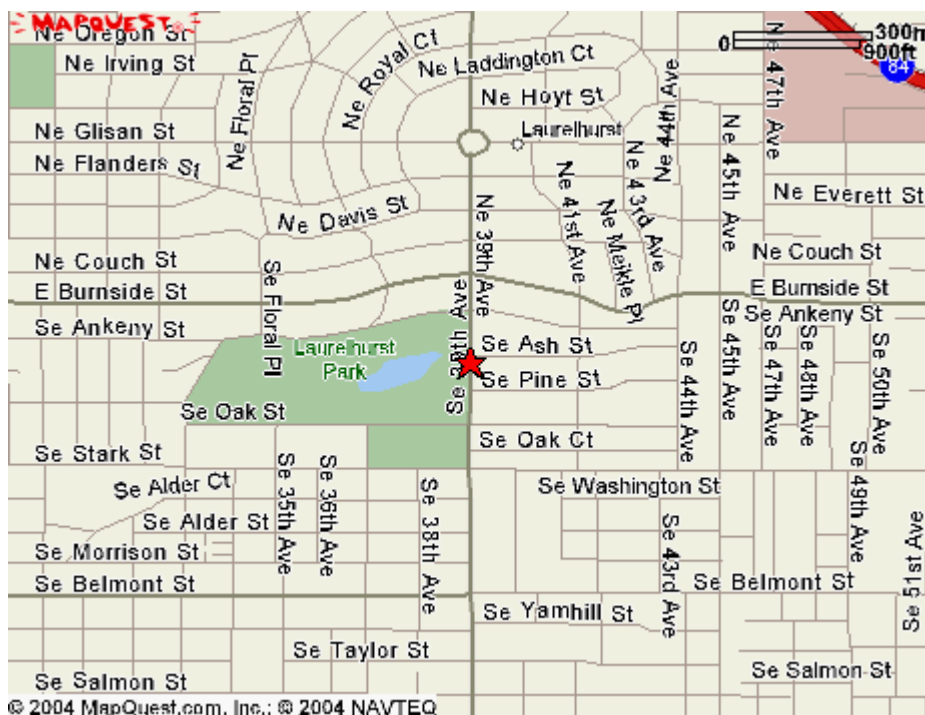
The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 5, 2006, at John Hood's house, 208 SE 39th Ave., telephone (503) 238-7666. See the map below. **Note the change in date and location!**

The date had to be moved up to accommodate those attending the NAVA meeting in Reno, and Scott Mainwaring just became a father again so we let him off the hook this year.

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

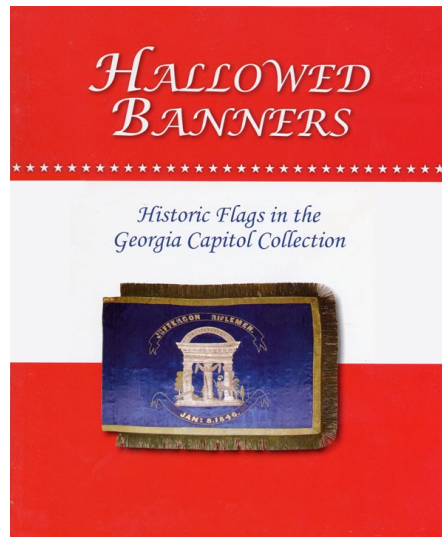
By Ted Kaye

Hallowed Banners: Historic Flags in the Georgia Capitol Collection

Editor: Ed Jackson

LC#: 2005937408

Size: 8" x 10", 136 pages soft cover



What a treat—a full-color book with a fine assortment of historic flags, all well-described and documented!

This nicely-produced book presents

images and descriptions of over 80 flags held in the collections of the Georgia state capitol. As would be expected, more than three-fourths are Civil-War-era flags, while the rest range from the Spanish-American War up to today's Iraq conflict. Each has a depiction of 6 to 12 sq. in. in area, along with up to a page of narrative placing the flag in historical context and describing its provenance. Description Tables in the back of the book give information (as appropriate) on the field, canton, cross, stars, star separation, edge, border, designation (inscription), heading/attachment, obverse/reverse, battle honors, and other information. A section of historical photos shows "Georgians and Their Flags".

The book begins with a concise essay on modern flag conservation by textile conservator Fonda Ghiardi Thomsen, who worked extensively with the collection. Sponsored by the secretary of state's office, the two-year book project was led by Ed Jackson of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, author of *Flags That Have Flown Over Georgia* and lead staffer in the adoption of the latest Georgia state flag. The project team included Thomsen, Jackson, the director of the Georgia Capitol Museum, the flags' curator, historians knowledgeable about Georgia military history, and several others.

Perhaps the most delightful aspect of the book is how it presents high-

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Book Review

(Continued from page 4)

lights of a collection that was not purposefully assembled—it does not attempt to be comprehensive or representative of its subject, rather it showcases the best of an interesting assortment of flags proudly owned and cared for by the state of Georgia. The book is available at \$20 + \$3 shipping. Contact Ed Jackson at jackson@cviog.uga.edu to get ordering details

Did You Know?

Historians may not agree on who designed the first U.S. flag, but the designer of the current version is not in dispute. In 1958, as talking of granting statehood to Alaska and Hawaii was under way, an Ohio high school student named Robert Heft created a fifty star flag as part of a class project. Heft's design received a B minus, but his local congressman later had it officially adopted.



There were several flags in the news recently. The resolution by Montenegro to separate from Serbia provided plenty of flag waving. The most common was the Montenegrin flag that was adopted in 2004, but there was a flag with a hand signifying the number one, and none of us had seen it before.



Montenegro is separate from Serbia!



What is this political flag?

To honor the visit of the replica of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, a Native American honor guard led the blessing carrying eagle staffs, which probably would be considered Vexilloids.



Wayne Chulika, a member of the Tlingit tribe and Alvey Seeyouma, a Hopi

Flags in the News

This may not be a news item, but recently in British Columbia, I saw a very official looking flag flying from a little house on a pier on Salt Spring Island. Fortunately a man was just coming out of the building and I was able to learn that this is the flag of the Canadian Coast Guard. No one at our meeting could identify it and



Canadian Coast Guard

everyone was flummoxed that it didn't use the Canadian pale design.

Then there was Berkeley Breathed's penguin, "Opus," waving a modification of Graham Bartram's flag of Antarctica in the Sunday comics.



What Was that Flag? Answers to last quiz

These are real organizations or micro-countries, but in who's reality is a matter of opinion:



Atlantium

“What began as a political statement by three Sydney teenagers ... has since evolved into the world's foremost non-territorial global sovereignty movement” Taken from their web site,

<http://www.atlantium.org>.



Ibrosia

“Nova Britannia, as a concept, was created in 1998 in the minds of a few teenagers in Scotland. Originally it was a test of where rights lie and the quest for a political utopia — it became much more.” From their web site, <http://a.laspost.com/Ibrosia/ibrosian/index.htm>.



Kingdom of Landreth

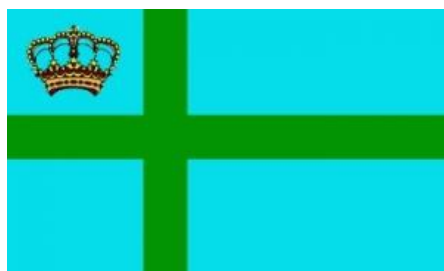
It is a non-territorial state such as the Sovereign Military Order of Malta

(SMOM), or Atlantium. Web site, <http://aes.iupui.edu/wise/countries/Kingdom-of-Landreth.html>.



Regency of Lomar

“Regency of Lomar Foundation, first founded in 1998, is a small non-governmental organization (NGO) providing humanitarian aid and medical assistance to refugees and other unrepresented people.” From their website, <http://www.rolhq.org>.



Westarctica

“In 2001, an enterprising young man named Travis, claimed a large chunk of western Antarctica In June 2004, Travis announced that the territory would become a sovereign Grand Duchy with the name Westarctica and he would assume the position of Grand Duke.” From their web site,

<http://www.westarctica.com>.

What's that Flag?

We all know of the US Overseas Dependencies such as Guam, Puerto Rico and The Virgin Islands, but what about these lesser known locations?

