

The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

"Free, and Worth Every Penny!"

Issue 20 January 2009

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My Encounter With a Flag

By John Schilke

When we were discussing art some years ago, my son told me about Nicholas Roerich. I investigated a bit and found myself charmed by his work. After chancing upon and reading an article by Scott Mainwaring in the April 2006 issue of this newsletter on the symbol, which whetted my interest, I decided to pursue it further.

Nikolai Konstantinovich Roerich (1874-1947) was a Russian artist, traveler, writer, and utopian thinker. He contributed copiously to art, diplomacy, archeology, and humanitarian projects. In addition to his travels in Europe and Asia, he made over 7000 opera and ballet set designs and paintings depicting landscapes on lonely themes of spirituality and mysticism. His efforts to encourage international brotherhood through culture and art led to the Roerich Pact treaty, signed by the U.S.A. and 20 other American nations in 1935.

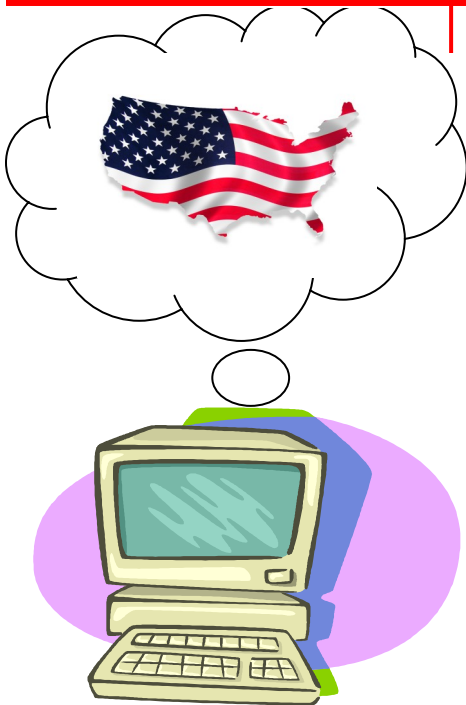
In one of his paintings, *Madonna Oriflamma*, the Great Mother of



Madonna Oriflamma, 1932 , Tempera on canvas, 173.5cm x 99.5cm, Nicholas Roerich (1874-1947)

Peace holds a banner with the symbol he suggested for the preservation of culture, the *Pax Cultura*. The symbol consists of three red spheres in an equilateral triangle surrounded by a red circle, all on a white field. One suggested symbolic meaning is Art, Science, and

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Patriotism comes from the heart. Patriotism is voluntary.... A patriot shows their patriotism through their actions, by their choice.

—Gov. Jesse Ventura

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.

Flags Around Town and Elsewhere

By John Hood

There are a lot of people flying flags around town. If I have my camera, I can get a picture, but usually it's not in the car and by the time I go back, the flag is no longer there. Here are some I've managed to capture lately:



In the window of an apartment at SE 50th Ave. and Hawthorne.



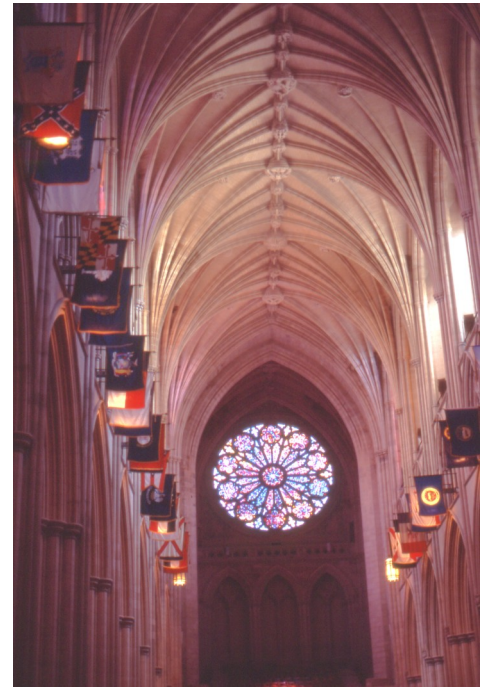
No one was at home to explain the macaroni and cheese at SE 40th Ave. and Yamhill.



In the window of an apartment at NE 24th Ave. and Broadway.



What's old is new again at SE 55th Ave. and Division.



This is not only elsewhere but elsewhere. This is the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. about 25 years ago. The state flags are in order of admission. Can you spot the old Georgia Flag?



World Trade Center at SW 2nd Ave. and Salmon.



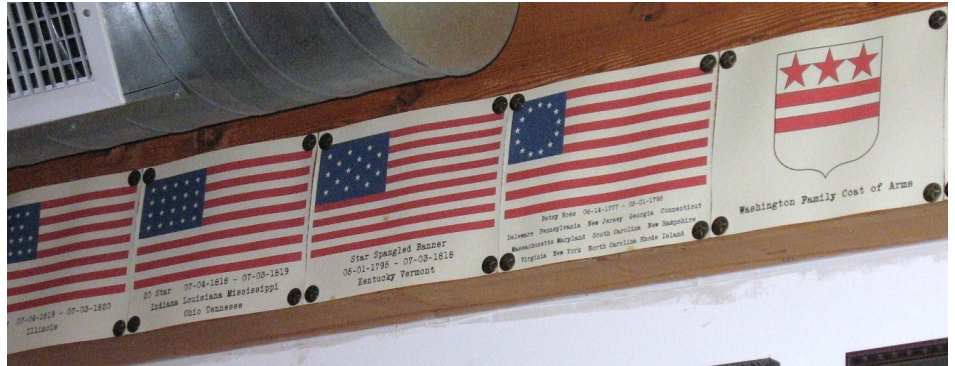
The guy that sells inexpensive flags in vacant lots around town happened to be at Se 102nd Ave. and Stark on this day.



Peter Emerson is the owner of the *Bi-partisan Café* at SE 79th Ave. and Stark. The coffee shop/bakery/gathering place is decorated in all manner of historical pictures and replicas. Here Peter is shown with a friend, holding his family flag. He says his father kept the 48 star flag because he didn't want to spend the money on a new one fifty years ago. High on one wall are replicas of some Revolutionary War Flags and all the incarnations of Old Glory.



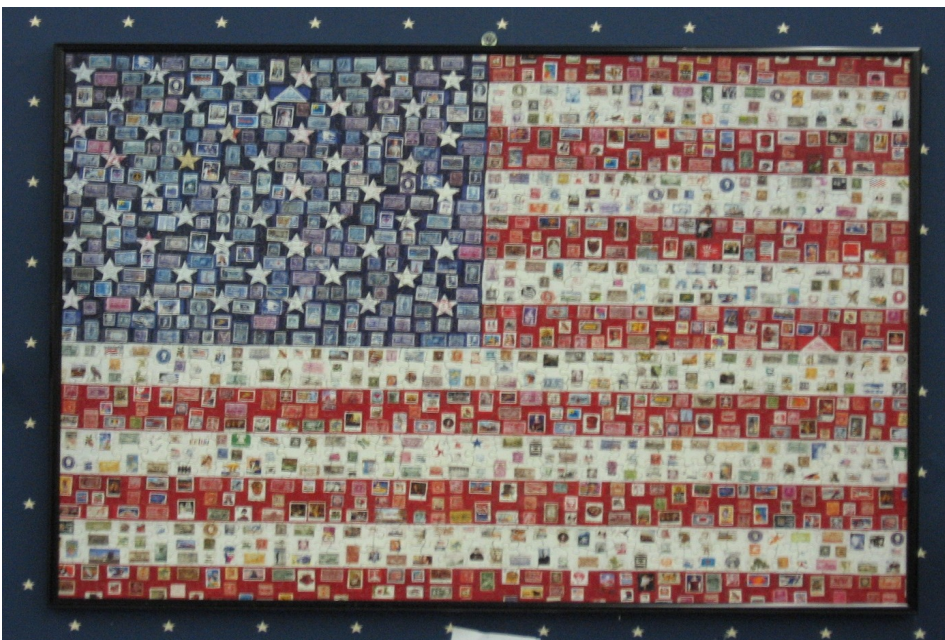
Some Revolutionary War Flags.



The beginning of the series of historic flags.



On and on they go, 27 US Flags and three Confederate States Flags.



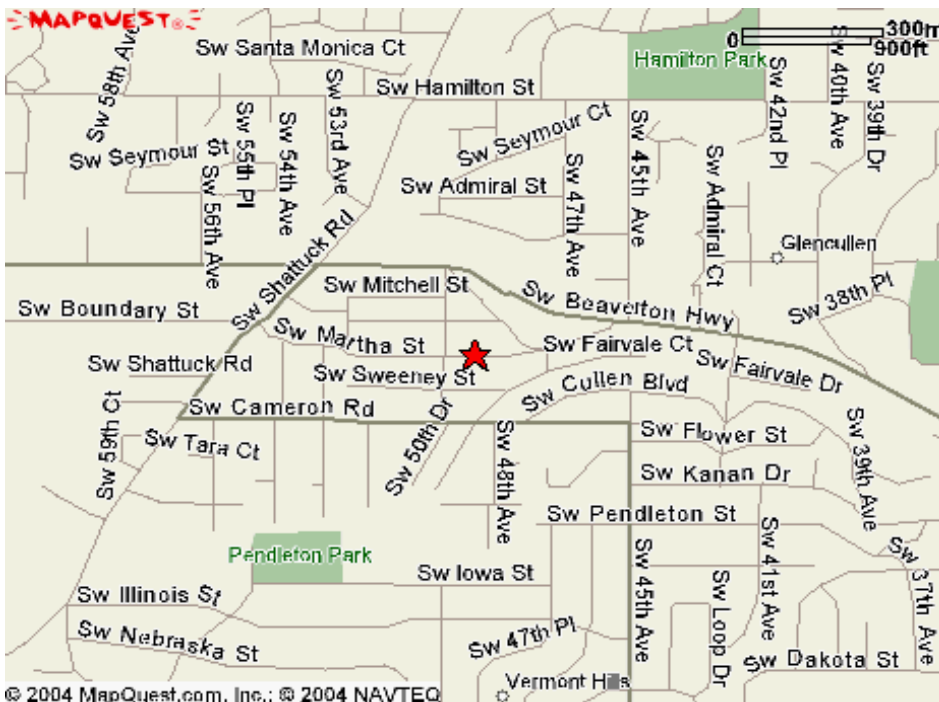
In the Hollywood sub-station post office at NE 42nd Ave. and Hancock. It is covered with stamps.



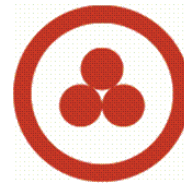
At a car dealership at SE 148th Ave. and Stark. I pointed out that it was upside down (imagine that) but a month later it still had not been corrected.

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

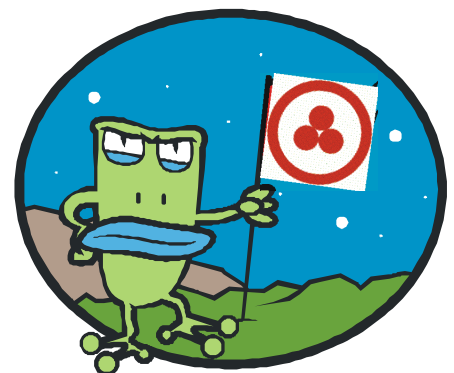
Southern African Vexillological
Assoc. <http://www.sa-va.org.za>



Religion, enclosed in the “totality of culture.” Another explanation is that the circle represents “the eternity of time,” the dots being Past, Present, and Future. In any event, I found the Roerich Museum in New York City. It presents much about Roerich and supplies books and prints, and even an indoor banner -- but had none in stock. After e-mails and two telephone calls over a period of months, I learned that anticipated banners were still unavailable. I decided finally to buy the pattern. After some discussion, Mike Hale agreed to use the pattern to make one for me.



As a flag, the symbol has flown over the Museum in New York and Rosicrucian Park in San Jose. I may now be alone in the Northwest, or even the United States, who has flown his own!



January 2009 Flutterings You Need to Know

We had a particularly good turnout for this meeting with two new people attending through contacts via the flag contest. Werner Bittner and Robert Stephens brought sketches of their entries to the contest and told us of their interests in flags. Robert is interested in French battle flags and the symbols used on flags. Werner is a boating enthusiast and has a collection of boat house flags he promised to share with us next time.

There was a spirited discussion on the flag contest. Mike Hale and Ted Kaye were both among the judges and were disappointed with the arbitrary rules. However, the top ten were identified but the voting was still going on at the time of the meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, the poles closed and the beaver with the star got the most votes. Ted pointed out that the beaver should be facing the hoist, but this was an example of the rules where no changes could be made, even to make heraldic corrections.



The designer, Randall Gray of West Linn, says this about his flag: Blue and gold for the state colors with green to represent trees and wilderness Oregon is blessed with. White contrasts between the dark blue and green. The beaver from the current flag links us to the past. The star represents Oregon's place in the union.

Michael Orlove wore an Army uniform (with his medals) and brought the flag from his Army Company. Michael was in the 17th Ordnance Company and the flag was a military guidon swallowtail flag with the number 17 and the flaming bomb symbol of the Ordnance Branch. He also



Michael Orlove with his 17th Ordnance Company Flag

brought a Texas State Flag with the replica of Willie Nelson's autograph and a plastic string of 15 country flags, suitable for decorating the meeting.



Mike Hale examining the Texas Flag with Willie Nelson's autograph

Mike Hale said that there is a proposal afoot for a commemorative

United States Flag with gold stars to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the current flag. He also told us of the announcement from the Flag Research Center about a new book published by the National Geographic Society, *The National Geographic Visual Atlas of the World*. It is an excellent reference book dealing with not just the flags of the world, but many regional, religious and community flags.

John Schilke passed around a book about Nicholas Roerich and his work, and displayed the *Pax Cultura* flag (see article on page one) he had Mike Hale make.

Max Liberman has been playing around with the UK flag, trying to incorporate the Cross of St. David for Wales and change the Cross of St. Patrick for the Irish Harp. He says the harp better represents Ireland than the red saltire does. I'm sure we will hear from Michael Faul on this.

Ted Kaye said that there had been a contest conducted by NAVA for a flag representing the proposed Franco-British Union of 1940. The results will be published in the next NAVA News. He also showed two stick flags. One was comprised of many flags of the European Union and the other was of the 16 German *landers*.

John Niggley showed a Swedish wimple that he got from his brother-in-law. Wimples are very popular in Scandinavia since they

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January 2009 Flutterings

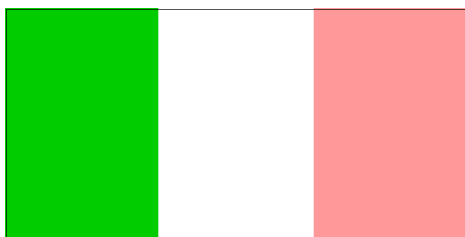
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The gang behind Niggley's wimple and Stephens waving Kaye's stick flags.

can be flown around the clock without illumination. They are seen up and down the coast of Norway and are becoming more popular in England. Many people think that an empty flag pole is a tragedy, so wimples are the answer.

Scott Mainwaring said that his web site for designing your personal flag is up and working. Go to <http://www.makeflag.com> and see what you can do. While recently in Newfoundland, he got the "Newfie" flag which is fairly popular there. He also had an Iroquois



Newfoundland "Newfie" Flag

Confederacy Flag which he says the Sea Shepherd Conservation Society uses when it is out trying to stop whaling. Canada revoked the registry of the ship *Farley Mowat* so the

Iroquois Confederacy presented their flag to be flown.



Iroquois Confederacy

James Barker was back with us and is still working on flags dealing with his Scandinavian heritage. He had a sketch of a flag for Odense, Denmark employing the rune of "O" for Oden. James also showed us a Nazi pennant that his grandfather acquired in WWII. We couldn't decide what it could have been for, since it was too small for a guidon, too large for a patch and was two sided.

John Hood brought the group up to date on what was in the recent vexillological publications and also showed a flag of Andalusia, Spain, that he picked up last fall in

Malaga. He also showed a flag that



Andalucía, Spain (civil)

Harry Oswald had given him and that probably few people had seen—that of Venice, Italy.



Venice, Italy

John was on a cruise from Barcelona to Southern Spain, Morocco, Canary Islands, Lisbon and Gibraltar. Unfortunately, Andalucía was the only flag he acquired, but he did see a few. A few days into the cruise he decided to keep track of the ship's registry flags he saw. All were the standard national flag except for Malta that has a unique ensign. Others seen were: Pa-

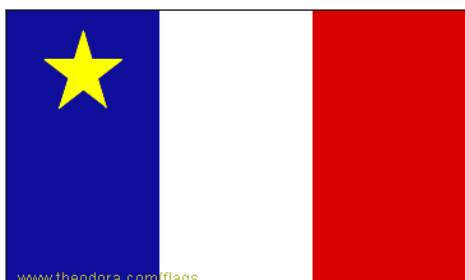


Malta Merchant Ensign

nama, Turkey, Cypress, Bahamas, Portugal, China, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Denmark, Morocco, Spain, Netherlands, UK, Egypt, Liberia and Greece.

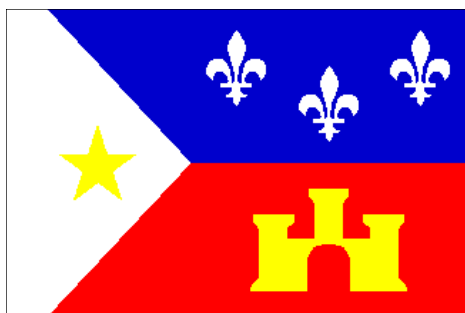
What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

Regional flags seem to be becoming more popular. If you don't like your state flag, perhaps one for your historic region would be more to your liking.



Acadia Region, Canada

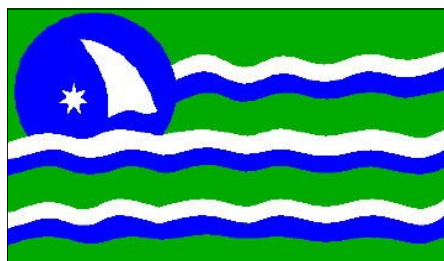
Anyone who had to memorize the prelude to *Evangeline* in school should remember the Acadians of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In fact, there is a statue of Longfellow in Grand-Pré, Nova Scotia. The *Tricolore* is, of course, for France and the star is for the Virgin Mary, which takes us south to:



Acadiana Region, USA

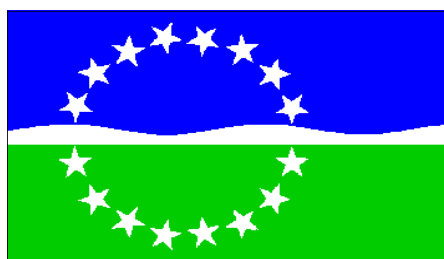
Cajun Country, Louisiana, to where the Acadians migrated. People have become so immersed in the legend that there is a grave of Evangeline (a fictional character) in Saint Martinville. The *fleurs-de-lis* on blue symbolizes their French heritage; the castle represents the Spanish rule over Louisiana at the time and the star is for the Virgin Mary.

Cascadia encompasses parts of one



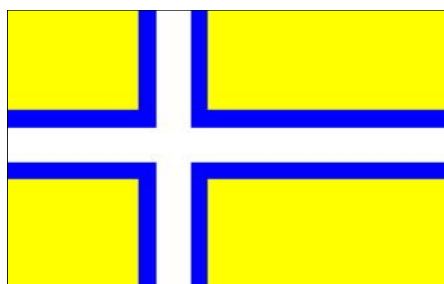
Cascadia Region, USA

province and four states. Generally it covers the Columbia River drainage basin. The colors represent the green forests, the snow-capped mountains and the blue waters. The shape could be a sail, an Orca's fin or the shape of the region. The star is Venus, the evening star to the west.



Hampton Roads, USA

"Where Virginia meets the sea." The region includes sixteen municipalities represented by the circle of stars. The blue is for the maritime character of the region and the green symbolizes the agriculture of the area.



Västergötland, Sweden

West Sweden, a historical province, now primarily a commercial entity of six counties (län).

What's that Flag?

In the Fall issue of *Flagscan*, Kevin Harrington of the Canadian Flag Association had a quiz about red and white flags. I am following his lead and showing a few blue and white flags. Where are they from?

