



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 26 May 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

We Have a Flag—Now What?	1
Next Meeting Announcement	2
Flag Related Websites	2
Flags in the News	3
May 2010 Flutterings	4
The Flag Quiz	6&7
Book Review	8

We Have a Flag—Now What?

By John Hood & Max Liberman



The Portland Flag Association Flag

It may have taken years to decide on a flag, but it only took Scott Mainwaring ten minutes to get a website established. He has been working hard to put the basics on the site and it looks great. Check it out at <http://www.portlandflag.org>. Scott says he has much to do but already he has all the past issues of *The Vexilloid Tabloid* up-loaded. It also has the specifications of the new flag. If you have comments, use the blog—if you have problems, contact me or Scott (scottmainwaring@gmail.com).

Of course the masthead had to be updated and, with this issue, I'll be emailing the newsletter in the PDF format. Those of you who do not have email will still receive it the old fashioned way. But after the web site, the biggest thing to be done was have our Chief Herald, Max Liberman, design suitable en-

signs. Here are the ensigns with Max's descriptions:

Since the Portland Flag Association now has its own flag, surely it needs some ensigns as well. Inspired by several of the excellent proposals for the PFA flag, and my own interest in the flags and ensigns of the



United Kingdom, I designed five new flags:

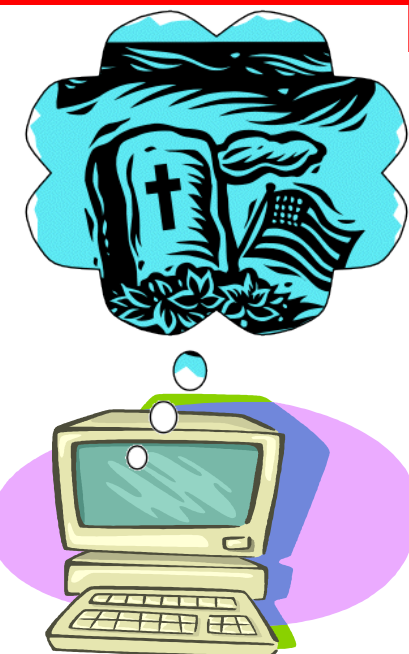
White ensign: Flown by naval vessels and shore establishments. The British white ensign features the red cross of St. George, here replaced by a narrow version of the cross from



the Portland city flag.

Red ensign: Flown by private vessels, and thus also known as the merchant ensign.

(Continued on page 2)



“When fascism comes to America it will be wrapped in the flag and carrying a cross.”
—Sinclair Lewis

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.

We Have a Flag

(Continued from page 1)



Blue ensign: Flown by government (non-military) vessels, and by retired or reserve naval officers in lieu of the red ensign.



Air force ensign: Flown by military aircraft and air force stations, and featuring the PFA air force roundel. The ensign of the Royal Air Force is sky blue, but Portland's climate lends itself better to a grey flag!



Civil air ensign: Flown by civilian aircraft, airports and airfields. Its British counterpart features a blue cross, fimbriated white, on a sky blue field; as with the naval and air force ensigns respectively, the Port-

land flag's cross and a grey field are substituted.

Max is still working on the Imperial Badge, Commissioning Pennant and various military insignia. Last year he started his own country, and wasn't this the region of the upstart State of Jefferson in 1941? Does anyone see where this could be heading?

July Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, July 8, 2010, at Ted Kaye's house, 2235 NW Aspen Ave., telephone (503) 223-4660. See the map below. We look forward to seeing those of you who have been otherwise committed, see some different flags, and have some provocative discussion.

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

Some Flag Related Websites

NAVA <http://www.nava.org>

Portland Flag Association <http://www.portlandflag.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>

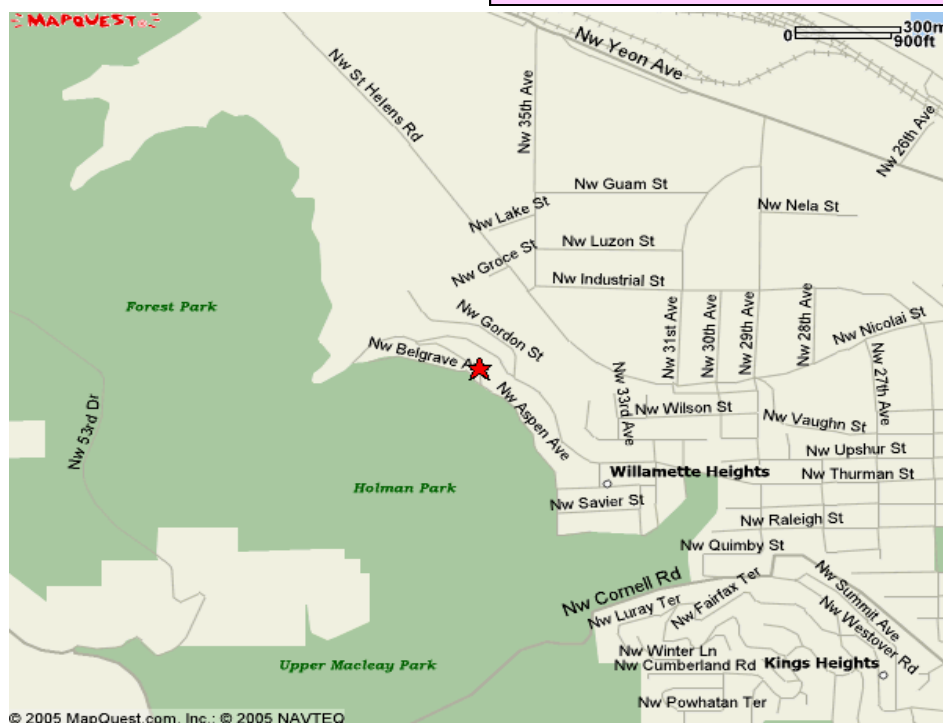
Darwin, Northern Territory (Australia) <http://www.nationalflags.com.au>

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

Flag Research Center <http://www.flagresearchcenter.com>

Southern African Vexillological Assoc. <http://www.savaflags.org.za>

Vexillological Association of The State of Texas <http://www.texflags.org>



Flags in the News and Elsewhere

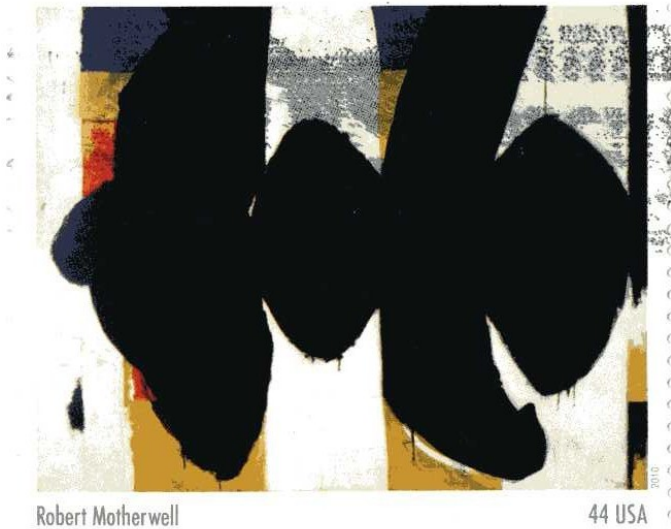


America's Traveling Tribute: The Wall was met on the Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport by more than 75 flag holders. The replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was going to be displayed at the Loyalty Day & Sea Fair Festival.



Sherlock Holmes supposedly fell to his death at the Reichenbach Falls in Switzerland during a fight with his archenemy, Professor Moriarty, in Arthur Conan Doyle's story, *The Final Problem*. Each year the Portland Sherlock Holmes Society (The Noble and Most Singular Order of the Blue Carbuncle) commemorates this event at Multnomah Falls. On May 1st, people dressed in Victorian mourning attire were lead by a bagpiper up to the falls in memory of that fateful fight. Michael Orelove and Kathleen Forrest joined the procession and brought the British Flag to pose by the falls. A toast was made to Sherlock to the chorus of "Hear, Hear!" from the assembled group.

Michael is also coordinating the painting of a map of the United States at the Troutdale Elementary School. Pam, Jonathon, (Michael's son) and Hannah Turlove came from Olympia, Washington to see the map and posed with the Washington flag.



The United States Postal Service has issued a series of stamps commemorating abstract expressionists. Michael Orelove sent the editor a letter with this stamp attached. It is a painting by Robert Motherwell (1915-1956). He is best known for the "Elegy to the Spanish Republic" series. *Elegy to the Spanish Republic No. 34* (1953-1954) features black bars and ovals and vertical white stripes that partly obscure colors that refer to the flag of the Spanish Republic.



(Continued on page 8)

May 2010 Flutterings You Need to Know

David Ferriday provided his studio for the meeting this month and it was great to have a huge conference table to gather around and spread out our “stuff”. Being a graphic designer, David notices objects and shapes that pique his interest. He pulled together a miscellaneous assortment of things with flag themes to show us. In addition to the basket, coffee mug, dram glass, building blocks and a wooden boat shown here, David also found a Confederate Ensign and a Hawaiian flag. Perhaps the strangest was an envelope from a crematorium with a flag stamp on it and another flag sticker. Were they saying that it is patriotic to be cremated?



Patrick Genna reads the papers a lot and was able to provide most of the tidbits for the “Flags in the News” segment. He also provided the “puzzler”:

From “I Got a Scheme”, the words of Saul Bellow—The New Yorker.

“July 4, 1923...The streets had just been paved and along the Sanitary District canals, the newly planted trees were coming into meager leaf. Orange striped awnings shaded the windows. Old Montreal lay one sleepless night behind us.

_____ with its stars and stripes utterly new.”

What flag did Bellow see and where?

John Hood ran the flag quiz from the last newsletter and, not surprising, many of the state flags could not be identified with their names surgically removed. Utah’s beehive and Louisiana’s pelican were recognized, as were the grapes of Connecticut and the pine tree of Maine, but most were just anonymous seals. He also announced that he won that month’s “Name That Flag” contest run by Cindy Williams. If you haven’t tried your skill, go to <http://www.futcher.com/nameflag>. For winning, John received a flag of his choice (within

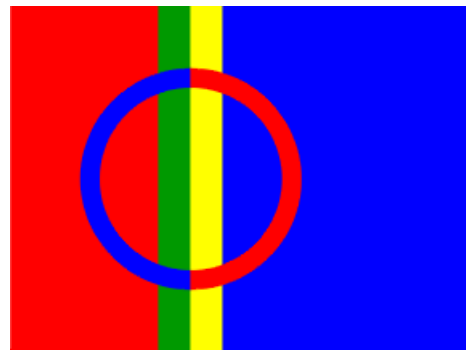
Michael Orelove brought six historic American flags to the meeting. Each flag had a different number of stars in the canton: 13, 15, 35, 48, 49 and 50. If you look closely, you can see a seventh flag—Michael himself, wearing an American flag shirt.



For those who do not know us, this is about half of our group. From left to right: Patrick Genna, Scott Mainwaring, Michael Orelove, John Hood, Ted Kaye, Max Liberman and Fred Paltridge.



reason) and he chose the Sami Flag to add to his 400+ collection of 3’ x 5’ flags, since he was not able to buy one when he was in Lapland a



Sami People

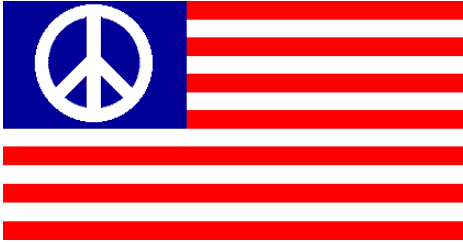
few years ago. While picking up some jigsaw puzzles at Goodwill,

(Continued on page 5)

May 2010 Flutterings

(Continued from page 4)

he came across a peace flag out of the 60's.



Scott Mainwaring showed us some books he recently acquired and a flag from Bangladesh. Since he

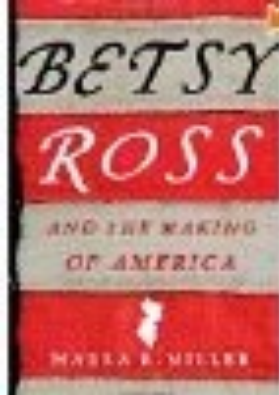


travels on business extensively and has contacts around the world, it is not surprising that Scott should come up with odd flags every so often. The books are another matter. One of the books he brought, *El libro del conocimiento de todos los reinos*, was reviewed recently by Ted Kaye for Amazon.com (see page 8). The other two have not been reviewed yet.



Why I Wave the Confederate Flag, Written by a Black Man

Anthony Hervey, Trafford Publishing, Victoria, Canada (2005)
270 pages, \$28.50 at Amazon.com.



Betsy Ross and the Making of America Marla R. Miller, Henry Holt & Co., NY, (2010) 480 pages, ISBN 978-0-8050-8297-5, \$19.80 at Amazon.com.

If anyone has read either of these books and feels moved to write a review, please don't hesitate to send it to the editor.

Not only did Scott have all this to share with us but, at the suggestion of Ted Kaye, during the course of the meeting he was able to establish a website for the group. Go, Scott!

Besides suggesting that a website be established, Ted Kaye told us about NAVA 44 to be held this fall in Los Angeles. He also showed us the flag of the Contrada della Tartuca, the Turtle Contrada, of Siena, Italy. This is another case of not being able to get the flag while he was there, but of getting the flag from the place he had actually been.



Contrada della Tartuca

Max Liberman presented us with his designs of the ensigns for the PFA. See the story on page one. He recently returned from a trip to Egypt and commented on the wide array of flags he saw everywhere.



What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

Were you able to tell which flag was which without grabbing your

books? The pelican from Louisiana and the beehive of Utah are

giveaways, but they can hardly be seen high on a flag pole. Perhaps one day we will get some politicians who can think outside of the box.



1 - Connecticut



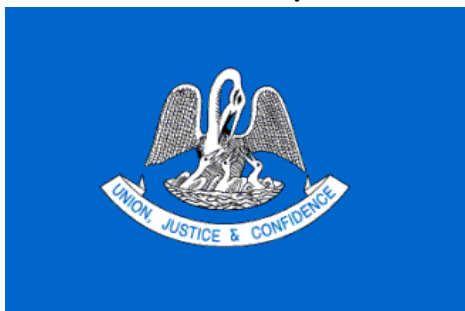
2 - Idaho



3 - Kansas



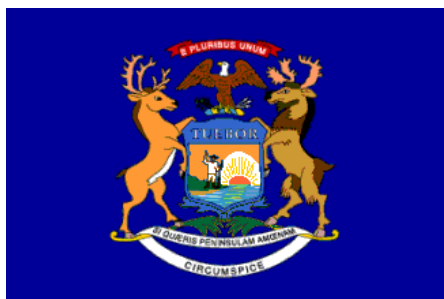
4 - Kentucky



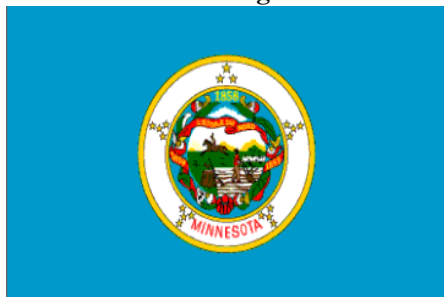
5 - Louisiana



6 - Maine



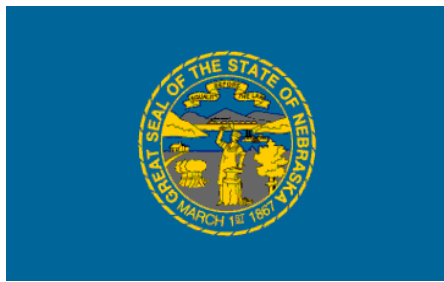
7 - Michigan



8 - Minnesota



9 - Montana



10 - Nebraska



11 - New Hampshire



12 - New York



13 - North Dakota



14 - Oregon



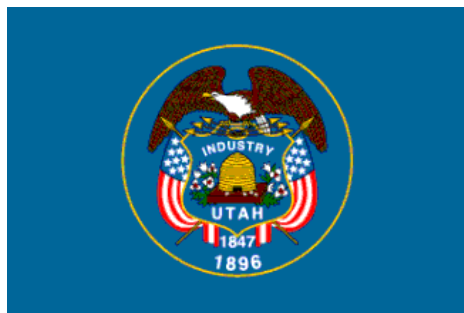
15 - Pennsylvania

What's that Flag?

There cannot be simpler flags than these. They are all real and have not been altered. Some are current, some are historical, some are really esoteric. Bring your answers to July's meeting.



16 - South Dakota



17 - Utah



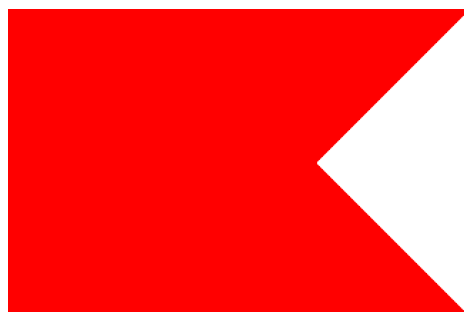
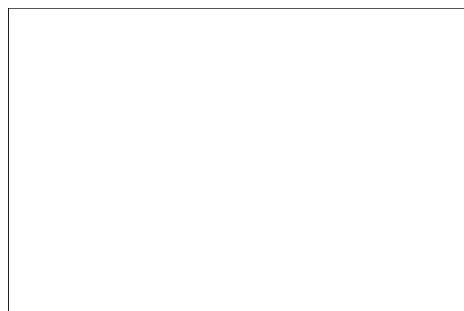
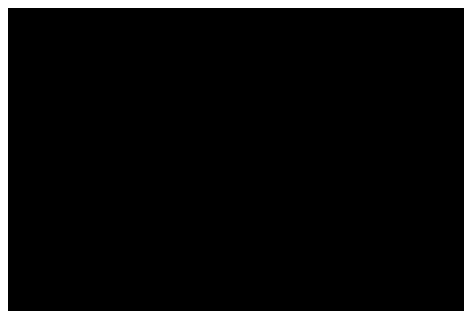
18 - Vermont



19 - Virginia



20 - Wisconsin



Flags in the News

(Continued from page 3)



National symbol: A Cuban flag marks an operating tent at a makeshift medical center in Croix des Bouquets, Haiti. The U.S. flag isn't flying in Haiti, ranking some veterans and service members.



Randy Sanders owns **Wayne's Chicago Red Hots** in Northeast Portland and has all things Chicago in his shop, including the flag.



After over 40 years, the Dixie Mattress Company has gone out of business. The Confederate battle flags were said to be a sign of the owner's roots and not meant to be racist.

Book Review

By Ted Kaye

El libro del conocimiento de todos los reinos / The Book of Knowledge of All Kingdoms

Nancy F. Marino (Editor, Translator, Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Tempe, AZ, (March 2000), 138 pages, \$24.00 at Amazon.com. ISBN: 086698240X

I am reviewing this book from the point of view of a vexillologist (flag scholar).

This new edition brings back what is widely believed to be the first flag book ever produced: it dates from the late 1300s. The book purports to be the narrative of a Spanish traveler (originally thought to be a Franciscan friar) who visited all parts of the known world. It was first widely known through the National Geographic's classic "Flag Number" of October 1917.

This masterful and scholarly re-translation and re-editing by Nancy F. Merino, published by the Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies in 1999, relies on new manuscripts that have come to light since it was first discovered and published in 1877. The English translation dates from 1912.

Cost constraints clearly contributed to the book's greatest deficiency, from the perspective of flag scholars: the illustrations of the 155 flags (or shields) are not in color. Worse, the black & white images do not conform to heraldic

"hatchings" (where blue is depicted by horizontal lines, red by vertical lines, yellow by dots, etc.), meaning that they are not even coded so that one can determine the colors, except by referring back to the text. It is unfortunate that the October 1917 National Geographic still has the best color images.

The text is presented in both the original Spanish and a translation into modern English, well-presented on opposite pages. One complaint, however: the excellent footnotes (in English) are all numbered in the Spanish text, without corresponding numbers in the English text. Without knowledge of Spanish, the reader will find following the footnotes very difficult.

All this said, the book presents a fascinating (if partially fantastic) insight into the medieval Europe worldview. Many vexillologists will want this volume in their flag libraries, especially to supplement the National Geographic's "Flag Number".

The binding and paper are library-quality. How wonderful to have this classic in print again!

