



# The Vexilloid Tabloid

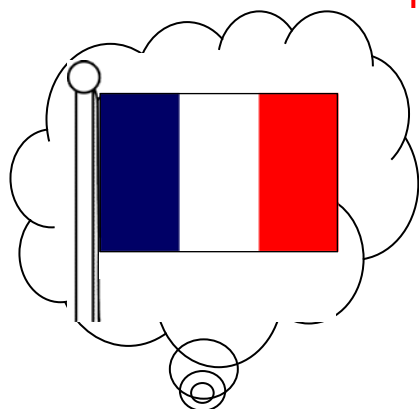
Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 109 December 2024

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***France and the tricolor are one and the same thought, the same prestige—if need be, the same terror to our enemies.***  
**— Alphonse de Lamartine, 1848**

## The French Tricolor at 230

By Yaël Braun-Pivet, president of the National Assembly of France

The French flag, as we know it, is 230 years old. Of course, the tricolor flag was born in 1789, but originally it was more red-white-blue than blue-white-red... Some revolutionaries arranged the colors horizontally and not vertically.

And at sea, these three colors were displayed surrounded by a border, and confined to the upper left quarter of the flag, which remained white. After the fall of the monarchy, sailors demanded a clearly republican national flag.

The deputies gave them satisfaction on 27 Pluviôse year II, that is to say on February 15, 1794, by voting for the text which thus fixed the colors of France: “The national flag will be formed of the three national colors, arranged in three equal bands, placed vertically, so that the blue is attached to the pole of the flag, the white in the middle, and the red floating in the air.” Finally it was clear, as a good law should be! Thus arranged, the three colors became the emblem

of France, from 1794 to 1815 and without interruption since 1830.

The Constitution of the Fifth Republic specifies, in Article 2, that “the national emblem is the tricolor flag, blue, white, red”.

This flag, which brings together all French people, flies today on the Palais-Bourbon, as well as in the hemicycle, accompanied by the European flag. And we find the three colors of the Nation on the sash of the deputies.

Long live the Republic, long live France!

*on the flag's 230th birthday, Feb. 15, 2024*

We meet in odd-numbered months, usually the second Thursday. Please mark your 2025 calendars for PFA meetings at 7 PM at the following dates/locations:

1/9/25 Jessie Spillers  
 3/13/25 TBD  
 5/8/25 Mike Funke  
 7/10/25 Ted Kaye  
 9/13/25 SAT, 1 PM Graham Houser  
 11/13/25 Larry Snyder

Thank you to our generous hosts for their hospitality to the PFA!

[portlandflag.org](http://portlandflag.org) | [facebook.com/portlandflag](https://facebook.com/portlandflag) | [instagram.com/portlandflag](https://instagram.com/portlandflag)

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or [editor@portlandflag.org](mailto:editor@portlandflag.org). If you wish to complain, call your mother.

## November 2024 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our November meeting, hosted by Larry Snyder at his residence at Carman Oaks in Lake Oswego and streamed via Zoom, 5 members enjoyed two hours of flags and video conversation.

A group of four sat in the facility's theater and welcomed another participant via Zoom on the big screen, as PFA flag hung in the background; inclement weather likely affected attendance.

Larry began the meeting with a short talk on the origin story of the St. Andrew's Cross flag of Scotland, followed by an exploration of the changing shade of blue (on that flag and on the Union Flag).



Host Larry Snyder explains the origin of the flag of Scotland.



Alden Jencks "flies" U.S. and Sweden.



Alex Zimmerman unfurls his latest acquisition: Tallinn, Estonia.

Alden Jencks sported a sweatshirt honoring the 350th anniversary (in 1988) of New Sweden (the settlement which became Delaware), bearing the U.S. and Swedish flags.

Alex Zimmerman noted the Swedish monarchs' attendance at that 1988 event (his mother is Swedish) and shared a new purchase, the flag of Estonia's capital, Tallinn, which he'd bought while visiting the factory which made it (and observed seamstresses there sewing state flags).

We also heard his report of the successful transfer of a period flag of the Rhodesian Ministry of Internal Affairs (Intaf) to a center in Cape Town which collects Rhodesian and pre-1994 South African memorabilia (see p. 4).





**Max Liberman discusses the partisan evolution of the flags of Benin and Romania.**

Max Liberman gave a thoughtful presentation on national flags as partisan symbols, both in the U.S. and other countries, described a nascent “Take Back the Flag” movement here, and promoted a 2017 post titled “Raise That Flag” by Brad Frost: [bradfrost.com/blog/post/raise-that-flag/](http://bradfrost.com/blog/post/raise-that-flag/).

Ted Kaye brought the flags of NAVA 58 (in St. Paul, Minnesota, in September), Flagged for Content (Andy Richardson’s engaging vexillological podcast), and Tajikistan (brought as a gift from a friend who had just visited—it has gone into the “un-earned flags” bin until Ted actually travels there).

Our next meeting, on Thursday, January 9, 2025, will be hosted by Jessie Spillers at his residence at the Legends.

Ted retained the PFA flag for him. We expect again to welcome our local members as well as far-flung friends.



**The big screen shows four PFA members in the theater and one “Zooming” in.**



**Ted Kaye shares the flag of Tajikistan, bought there by a friend.**

## Rhodesian Intaf Flag Returns Home

Through the good offices of Alex Zimmerman, a flag of the Rhodesian Ministry of Internal Affairs (Intaf), has found its way home. Alex leads NAVA's Flags for Teachers project, which distributes flags from collections of late NAVA members to teachers.

This particular flag didn't seem to fill a need here, so he offered it to Bruce Berry, secretary/treasurer of the Southern African Vexillological Association. Bruce confirmed by checking the label and other attributes that it is an original from the period.

We shipped the flag to Bruce (via a friend traveling in the U.S.) and it arrived safely. He will donate it to Livingstone House, a center in Cape Town which is building a collection of Rhodesian and pre-1994 South African memorabilia.

His doctoral thesis on Rhodesian identity provides excellent background for the flags:

\* \* \*

The Ministry of Internal Affairs was unique in that it was the only Rhodesian Government ministry to have its own flag. The primary purpose of the Ministry was "The programming and motivation of the Tribal African towards active participation in the development of a new and better way of life which takes into account the socio-political and agro-economic potential of the community as a whole.

However, following the increase in guerrilla activity during the 1970s, the role of the Ministry changed to include para-military activities and armed protection for African villages, thus becoming an arbiter between the tribespeople and the Security Forces.

The Intaf flag was divided into three vertical stripes of red, khaki and red with its badge, the letters IA in black above an oliphant, in the center (the oliphant is a legendary war horn made from an elephant's tusk). Unusually for a Rhodesian flag, the central stripe on the flag was double sided so the emblem was correctly shown no matter from which side of the flag it was viewed.

\* \* \*

Rhodesia was an unrecognized state in Southern Africa from 1965 to 1979. During this 14-year

period, Rhodesia served as the *de facto* successor state to the British colony of Southern Rhodesia. In 1980 it became modern-day Zimbabwe.

Rhodesia's flag, adopted in 1968, consisted of three vertical panels, green, white, and green (the predominant color on the coat of arms). Superimposed centrally on the white panel are the arms of Rhodesia, which were granted by royal warrant of George V in 1924. The flag remained when Rhodesia declared itself a republic in 1970 and flew until the creation of Zimbabwe Rhodesia in 1979.



Rhodesia, 1968–1979.



Authentic period flag of the Rhodesian Ministry of Internal Affairs (Intaf), processed by PFA members on a NAVA project and returned to Africa.



## New “Regal” Flags in Australia

By Ralph G. C. Bartlett

New “regal” flags for Australia’s Governors-General and new monarch have been established.

The revised Governors-General flag, changing from a St. Edward’s crown to a Tudor crown, was apparently adopted on 1 July 2024, but not publicly announced on the website of the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet’s until 31 October 2024.

The Governor-General has continued to use the previous version of this flag, presumably using up existing supplies of the earlier flag.



Australian Governors-General flag, 2024  
(Australiana Flags).



Australian Governors-General Flag,  
1953–2024 (Wikipedia).



St. Edward's and Tudor crowns  
(TrimTag.com)

Reportedly Charles III chose to use the Tudor crown to distinguish his symbolism from that of his mother, Elizabeth II.

The new flag was created by the Australian vexillographer Warren Cardwell and approved for use by the Australian Government Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet following advice from the Official Secretary to the Governor-General and Garter Principal King of Arms, College of Arms of the United Kingdom.

The new Monarch's/King's flag (royal standard) for Australia was adopted on 30 August 2024 in anticipation of the royal visit in October. Its design closely matches Australia's “Coronation Banner” used in the two previous coronations, in 1937 and 1953.

The flag signifies the presence of the king and is flown when his majesty is visiting Australia.

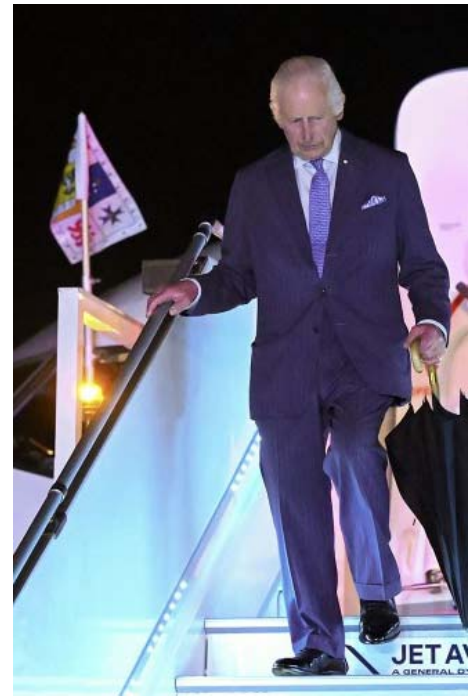
Its design is a poor rendition of the central shield of the Australian coat of arms, showing the six Australian states, but not updated to correct the ca. 1953 re-orientation of the Western Australian “Black Swan” or to include the two main territories, the Australian Capital Territory and Northern Territory (no doubt to maintain conformity with the “out of date” coat-of-arms shield—below).



Australia's shield (Wikipedia).



His majesty the king's flag for  
Australia, 2024 (FOTW).



Charles III and the king's flag for  
Australia, 18 Oct. 2024  
(Victoria Jones/PA).



The king's Australian flag afloat,  
Sydney Harbour, 22 Oct. 2024  
(Roni Bintang—Getty Images).

## Parade Marcher Instructions: Peace Corps

By Alden Jencks

The Portland Peace Corps Association brings together returned volunteers who have served throughout the world in the cause of peace. We do not say “former volunteers”, but rather “returned volunteers”—we have never stopped engaging in projects of public service, even though we are now back home.

Every June we volunteers troop the colors of our adopted countries in Portland’s Grand Floral Parade. We look forward to this yearly event and Portlanders always receive us with enthusiasm.

But supportive as parade-watchers might be, they certainly do not realize all of the preparation and work it takes to put on the show.

I suspect, however, that the flag-loving readers of the *Vexilloid Tabloid* may have a very real sense of this. And I further suspect that readers might enjoy perusing our **Marcher’s Information Sheet**, which I here submit in full. Who knows—it might prove helpful one day when you put on your own big flag event!

### Instructions for Individual Flag-Bearers

You will receive your flag, shrouded in a long nylon sleeve. Familiarize yourself with the way the flag is arranged in the sleeve and do your best to return it configured exactly as you first received it.

#### *Preparing your flag at the beginning of the event*

1. Confirm that you have the correct flag by noting the country–name abbreviation written on the end of the pole.
2. Observe that the two halves of the pole have the two threaded **brass ends** at the mouth of the long sleeve. Remove the two poles from the long sleeve and take off the heavy rubber band. Carefully and consciously, place the sleeve and rubber band in your pocket **where you will find them again (!)** when the event is over.
3. Confirm that you have the right flag and that it is mounted securely and

correctly. You will see the name of the country repeated on the pole. **You** should recognize your flag as a familiar friend because of the on-line research we hope you will have done on your country’s flag (see *General Remarks* below).

4. Join the two ends of your pole by screwing together the brass threads. Be very careful not so abuse the threads. Make it a two-person operation, if that helps.
5. Seek out an over-the-head strap to support your flag and you are ready to march.
6. During the parade, **continually check** that your flag is fully deployed to the breeze. It is very easy to forget and march for several minutes with a tangled flag.
7. Grouped flags are most impressive when all poles are held at a uniform angle. For a marching group, 15 degrees from the vertical, directly in front of each flag-bearer, is a good rule of thumb. Participants should agree with their leader as to what the display angle should be and everyone should strive to remain uniform and consistent. During the parade, **continually monitor** the angle of your pole.
8. Keep each rank of marchers in a **straight line** and at the **agreed distance** between ranks. By tradition, the marcher on the extreme left of each line supervises this exercise in practical geometry.



Portland Peace Corps Association members start the 2023 Grand Floral Parade.





Portland Peace Corps Association members march up N.E. Lloyd Boulevard in the 2024 Grand Floral Parade.  
Fun Fact: China was indeed a Peace Corps country (1983–2020), with 1,400 volunteers serving as English teachers.

### *Securing your flag at the completion of the event*

9. Spin the flag tightly around the pole. A friend is a big help with this operation.
10. Break down the pole into its two pieces by unscrewing the brass threads. The same friend can assist you with this operation.
11. Place the flag-furled stick beside the “naked” stick, **brass ends together**, and secure them side by side with the rubber band (which you have carefully saved!).
12. Insert the two sticks into the sleeves with the **two brass ends** at the opening.

### *General Remarks*

Please, everyone, before the event, take a couple of minutes to go online to confirm your country's flag and perhaps read a little bit about its history. Every year, flags are modified and even replaced. If we slip up and troop an old or rejected flag, our efforts to up-lift and thrill can end up bewildering and offending people.

Be responsible for reporting to organizers if there is anything amiss with the flag you are to carry.

And also, assuming your flag is up-to-date and correct: knowing a bit about color symbolism and markings of your flag will prepare you to respond knowledgeably to questions and remarks along the parade route. Foreign nationals and immigrants just beam when they realize that you know the history and lore of their flag.

Although you will carry another nation's flag, it is excellent parade preparation and an excellent exercise in civics to familiarize yourself with the United States Flag Code. ([legion.org/flag/code](http://legion.org/flag/code)). The Code is a clear and straightforward set of voluntary guidelines concerning appropriate, respectful and patriotic ways to display Old Glory. The Code also recommends basic rules about displaying other flags, both foreign and domestic.



Returned Peace Corps volunteers march in the 2024 Grand Floral Parade.



## Regional Flags from Sweden

By Alex Zimmerman

After our summer vacation, my family is now over-informed about most things vexi. While they may not completely understand my enthusiasm and excitement, we all have a good time bringing flags into many conversations while experiencing other places. While touring the Royal Palace during a visit to Stockholm, Sweden, I was delighted to visit the throne room and its great display of the regional banners of Sweden!

Perhaps the similarity to our patio at home created a moment, a memory, and a connection we will all remember. On our return, while I was unable to display all the banners in the limited space of our very unroyal patio, I chose the ones I liked for the image, animals, stars, tools, fish, and the big red fellow everyone asks about.



Swedish regional flags in the Royal Palace throne room, Stockholm.



Swedish regional flags (plus USA) displayed on the patio of the Zimmerman palace.

With placards to describe the flags that the family recognized, the vexi-connection has been extra fun!

The Stars and Stripes is displayed on the north end, “above” the Swedish flag, with the regional flags displayed lower, at angles.

To the surprise (and perhaps despair) of my children, while stopping in a local kiosk for refreshments in a town in the

south of Sweden far from the Royal Palace, I expressed my interest in a flag pin—and the store owner began pulling out boxes of pins.

In them I found an almost complete set of the Swedish regional pins to bring home as another souvenir tying my travel to my home and my vexi-interests. A great way to complete another flag-filled vacation!



Swedish regional flag-pins, a near-complete set.



## Dollhouse Rugs Suggest Turkmenistan's Flag

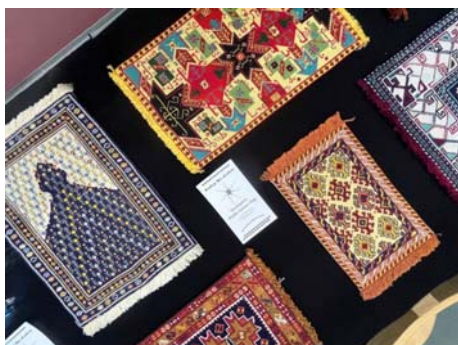
By Phil Allen

When the new flag of a post-SSR Turkmenistan was raised in 1992, some of its symbolism was whimsically assigned by various high sources, but known by all citizens were the five *guls* or carpet patterns of its main tribes. Arranged vertically near the hoist, these designs are sufficiently difficult to identify such that this flag has been called the most complex of all national banners.



**Turkmenistan.**

We now move across the globe, where Toby St. John shares her cotton, wool, and silk dollhouse rugs, which are on display and for sale at the Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles in Berkeley, California. ([lacismuseum.org](http://lacismuseum.org))



A selection of St. John's rugs.  
(Photo credit: Nathan Dalton)

A multi-field artist, she's been creating these miniatures for 35 years. Working from the inside outward, each rug takes from 5 to 8 months to needlepoint.

St. John has preferred Middle Eastern and Central Asian carpet designs all along. If she has actually replicated one or more of the Turkmenistan *guls*, she doesn't know.

"This will be the first time we've actually had a community member's work displayed like that," said Christine Krause, the museum's manager. "I think what she's doing is very interesting."

St. John's rugs can be seen at the Lacis Museum through the end of the year. The rugs are also for sale, with prices ranging from \$200 to \$300 depending on the size.



A Toby St. John miniature rug.



Textile artist Toby St. John displays her miniature needlepoint rugs at Lacis Museum of Lace and Textiles, Berkeley, California.  
(Photo credit: Nathan Dalton)

Those interested in buying her miniature rugs should inquire at the museum or ask St. John herself. She can be found at the museum, stitching away, every other Monday afternoon.



Another Toby St. John miniature rug.

## Roundup



Our vexi-colleague Michel Lupant, former president of FIAV, was awarded the title of Baron by the Principality of Sealand in July 2024.



The arms of the Principality of Sealand, a micronation founded in 1967.



Alden Jencks spotted these flags in the second story of Portland's famous Voodoo Doughnuts, perhaps "keeping Portland weird" with flags...



Phil Allen recently wrote to H. E. Harris of Westerville, Ohio, publisher of the popular "200 Flags of the World" stamp set.

He asked, "Do you update your Flags of the World set? These days, many American city flags and several state flags have changed theirs to new and readily identifiable designs. While they do not foster stamp collections, national flags do.

The response: "Thank you for your recent email. We have not updated the Flags of the World. This is an item that will be discontinued once supplies have been depleted."

—Customer Service Support



The former flag of San Juan County, Washington (from ca. 2001), with its signature orca, abides framed and displayed in a Washington state ferry.



Gary Flanders snapped this image of the Union Flag over Windsor Castle in October.



Dave Martucci sent this image of a Hallowe'en costume the wearer called "The New Maine Flag" (although in the following week's election the flag-change referendum failed).



Alden Jencks saw Portland's Royal Rosarians ready to greet a delegation from Costa Rica at Portland International Airport in September. Oregon and Costa Rica are united in friendship through the Partners of the Americas program.



## What's that Flag?

By John Cartledge

Identify these flags and the **wonder**-ful theme that connects them. No fair using Google image search!



## What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Matt Bray

These flags all have moons on them (in honor of the recent eclipses).

Congratulations to the solvers: Nikita Dudko, Tony Burton (who notes they all bear religious symbols), John Cartledge, Larry Wentworth, and Mike Thomas.



Nepal.



Buryatia.



Comoros.



Mongolia.



Laos.



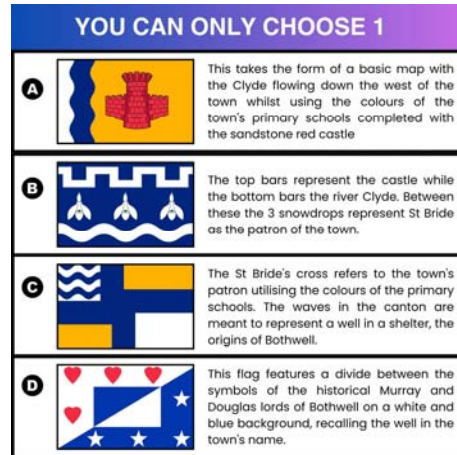
Karakalpakstan.



Mauritania.



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