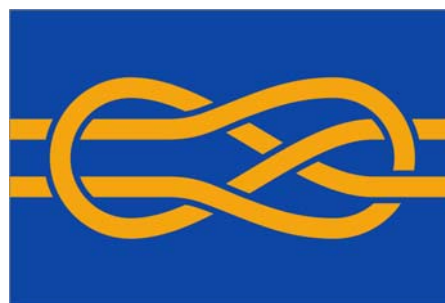

Info-FIAV

No. 42, January 2017
ISSN 1560-9979

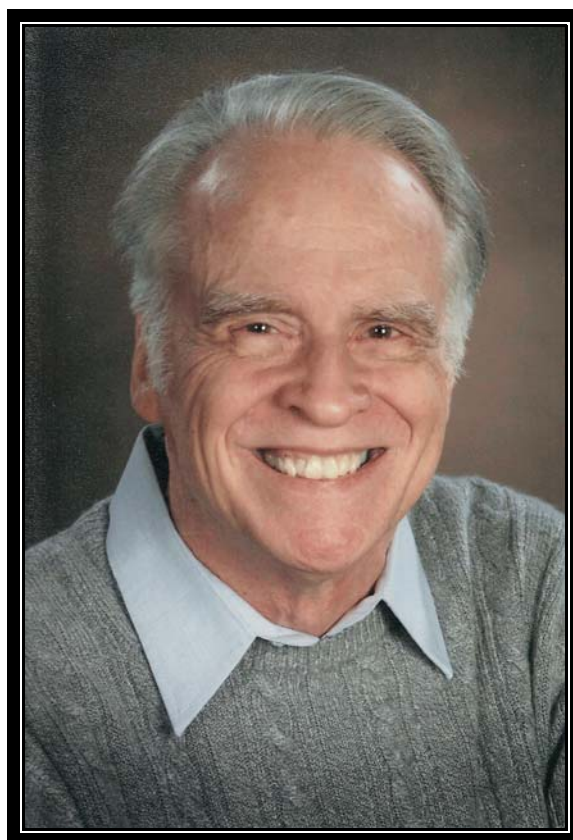


Fédération internationale
des associations vexillologiques

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WHITNEY SMITH

PHD LF FF WSF FFI FVAST
FEBRUARY 26, 1940 – NOVEMBER 17, 2016

Photo courtesy of Sybil Smith

IN THIS ISSUE

Whitney Smith+ 1-3
In Memoriam 3
Correspondence from Whitney
Smith to Charles Spain Re ICV
Origins 4

Info-FIAV 30th Anniversary . . . 4
Current Members by Date of
Establishment 5
Upcoming Dates 5

FIAV Board 6
FIAV People Index 7-13
SSV Golden Anniversary . . 5, 13

Dr. Whitney Smith, a founder, Secretary-General Emeritus, Laureate, and Fellow of FIAV, the founder of The Flag Research Center and the North American Vexillological Association-Association nord-américaine de vexillologie (NAVA), editor-in-chief of *The Flag Bulletin*, the creator of the word “vexillology,” and beloved mentor and friend to so many vexillologists all over the world, died on November 17, 2016 in Peabody, Massachusetts USA, aged 76. Dr. Smith is survived by his sons Adrian and Austin of Seattle, Washington, grandson Aaron Blu of Vancouver, Washington, and sisters Sybil Smith and Lynne Hartwell of Billerica and Gloucester, Massachusetts. FIAV has lost the last of its three founders, NAVA has lost its founder, and vexillology has lost its chief herald. All who knew him will mourn the death of a friend.

A memorial service for family and invited friends was held on December 3, 2016 at the Winchester Unitarian Society in Winchester, Massachusetts. Vexillologists who attended were FIAV Secretary-General Charles Spain, FIAV Secretary-General Emeritus Ralph Bartlett, Flag Heritage Foundation President Kirby Baker, and James Croft.

The Smith family has conveyed Dr. Smith’s request that Secretary-General Spain conduct public memorial services, which will be held in conjunction with ICV 27 in London and NAVA 51 in Boston. Selected remarks and remembrances will published in *Info-FIAV* after ICV 27.

The following obituaries and memorial have appeared:

“In Memoriam: Whitney Smith,” *The Flag Bulletin* 234, Nov. 17, 2017, <https://perma.cc/9CRH-WVZ8>.

“Whitney Smith, Vexillologist, Died on November 17th, The World’s Greatest Expert on Flags Was 76,” *The Economist* Dec. 13, 2016, <https://perma.cc/697Y-ZHLJ>.

“Whitney Smith: Vexillologist Who Dedicated His Life to Researching Flags and Coined the Name for Their Study,” *The Times* (London) Dec. 13, 2016, <https://perma.cc/67QT-QSZ6>, <https://perma.cc/68BR-MPM6>.

Al Gentile, “Former Lexingtonian, Creator of Vexillology Passes Away,” *Lexington Minuteman* (Massachusetts) Nov. 29, 2016, <https://perma.cc/6LHP-GK82>.

Al Gentile, “Former Winchester Resident, Creator of Vexillology Passes Away,” *The Winchester Star* (Massachusetts) Nov. 29, 2016, <https://perma.cc/G5Q5-DCMK>.

William Grimes, “Whitney Smith, Whose Passion for Flags Became a Career, Dies at 76,” *The New York Times* Nov. 22, 2016, <https://perma.cc/GKX6-KDPU>.

Bryan Marquard, “Whitney Smith, 76; Coined Term for Scholarly Study of Flags,” *The Boston Globe* Nov. 29, 2016, <https://perma.cc/P58D-2A9Y>.

The Senate of the State of Texas, Proclamation No. 976: In Memory of Whitney Smith Jr., <https://perma.cc/JZ2E-6U7T>.

The FIAV Board extends its deep sympathy to Dr. Smith's family and to NAVA.



Winchester Unitarian Society, Winchester, Massachusetts
Photo courtesy of Charles Spain

Comment by Secretary-General Charles Spain on the day of Dr. Smith's memorial service in Winchester, Massachusetts, December 3, 2016

Much has been said in the last two weeks about my good friend and mentor, Whitney Smith.

Many, many people in the flag world knew him, and tens of millions of people know the word he coined, vexillology. Such is the power of pop culture with the likes of Dr. Sheldon Cooper on television's *The Big Bang Theory*.

I can only speak for myself, but this transition has been very sad. I'm happy for Whitney, because he had a life that was a bit larger than most. But I am sad.

Not many people know it, but Whitney was a big fan of Buddy Holly, a son of Lubbock, Texas. This was but one of a number of small things that connected Whitney, the proud Bostonian, to far-off Texas, including his 1966 meeting with President Lyndon B. Johnson at The White House. The relationship steadily grew, and in 2008 the governor commissioned Whitney as an Honorary Texan. Whitney's life work, The Flag Research Center Collection, is now at The University of Texas at Austin, available to the world's scholars.

For me, a sentimental way to sum up how I feel today is to say it's raining in my heart. I suspect it's raining in the hearts of many vexillologists.

But this feeling will pass. What will not pass is Whitney's legacy. Truly the eyes of Texas—and many non-Texans—are upon him.

Felice Bryant and Boudleaux Bryant, "Raining in My Heart (Buddy Holly)," released Jan. 5, 1959 (Coral Records), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ILeZof1wGps>.

IN MEMORIAM

FIAV notes with sorrow the deaths of the following vexillologists:

William C. Spangler (NAVA), Cumberland, Tennessee, USA (NAVA)	April 11, 2004
Harold A. Diceman, Fallbrook, Ontario, Canada (NAVA)	September 5, 2009
Jirí Louda, Olomou, Moravia, Czech Republic	September 1, 2015
Emmet V. Mittlebeeler, Washington, District of Columbia, USA (NAVA)	October 28, 2015
Truman G. Pope, Oxford, Ohio, USA (NAVA and GWAV)	May 24, 2016
Pascal Vagnat, Strasbourg, France	May 30, 2016
Peter J. Orenski, New Milford, Connecticut, USA (NAVA)	August 13, 2016
Whitney Smith, Peabody, Massachusetts, USA (FRC, NAVA)	November 17, 2016
K.V. Singh, New Delhi, Delhi, India	November 18, 2016

CORRESPONDENCE FROM WHITNEY SMITH TO CHARLES SPAIN REGARDING THE ORIGINS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES OF VEXILLOLOGY

[April 16, 2007]

Dear Kin,

Following our conversation I did research in my old correspondence to trace quotes relevant to the history of our ICVs.

In his 21 December 1961 letter Klaes Sierksma wrote me:

We [i.e. he and Karl Fachinger] correspond on flags already 7 years and we never met till now!

Sierksma was referring here to a train trip he was to make to Germany to see Fachinger's collection. He sees this as extraordinary and never mentions the concept of getting vexillologists to hold a conference.

In my 29 August 1963 letter to Karl Fachinger I said:

Is there any possibility that you might be visiting the United States? Mr. Grahl and I should like very much to meet you and we could gather in New York or Washington if you could not come to Boston (where our Library and most of our files are kept). Incidentally, I am hoping to be able to visit Europe in 1964-65 (Oct.-May) and if so I will certainly plan to see you. I even have hopes that we might hold a "Vexillological Congress" to bring together you, [Klaes] Sierksma, [I.O.] Evans, [Roger] Harmignies, [P.] Bissuel, [Georges] Pasch, [Ottfried] Neubecker, [Arnold] Rabbow, [Preben] Kannik, [?] Couret, myself and others interested in the subject.

This, to my knowledge, was the very first time anyone ever raised the idea of an International Congress of Vexillology.

On 1 October 1963 I sent this message to Klaes Sierksma:

My PhD. exams are next spring and then, if I can secure the money, my family and I will go to Belgium (Oct.-May 1964-65) and Rwanda (May-Oct.1965) for me to work on my dissertation. There will also be time for visits to you and other vexillologists in Europe

On 10 October 1963 Klaes Sierksma responded:

Wouldn't there be a possibility to have organized a congress of banistic-interested people in Europe during the time of your being over here? I think it will be possible and interesting to meet one another e.g. at Brussels or The Hague. Me thinks we can reckon with an assistance of 50 or 60 men. Mr Karl Fachinger wrote to me about your planning such a congress. If I can help you -- I have some experience with congresses of 50 - 3000 men!

In my 27 October 1963 letter to Klaes Sierksma I said:

I certainly hope there will be an opportunity for an International Congress of Vexillology and your offer of help is welcome. I do not know if there would be more than 20 people in all (not counting wives), but it would be very valuable for us to meet at least once.

That is all the surviving correspondence on the 1st ICV I have, although there is extensive documentation concerning the development of FIAV and, of course, on each subsequent ICV.

Best regards,

Whitney

INFO-FIAV'S THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY

FIAV's newsletter, *Info-FIAV*, first appeared in May 1987. It is authorized by FIAV Constitution article 23(b), and it took over official publication of FIAV news from *The Flag Bulletin*. *Info-FIAV* is published by the Permanent Secretariat of FIAV and has been edited by the following Secretaries-General:

Whitney Smith+	May 1987 to July 1991	Issues 1-3
Emil Dreyer	July 1991 to August 1997	Issues 4-10
Charles A. Spain	August 1997 to present	Issues 11 to present

All previous issues of *Info-FIAV* are available at FIAV's website, www.FIAV.org.

CURRENT MEMBERS BY DATE OF ESTABLISHMENT

HVK	December 4, 1888	CIDEC	March 7, 1990
FRC	February 1, 1962	CEBED	April 1, 1990
NVvV	March 19, 1966	UHT	July 9, 1990
SSV	January 21, 1967	GSI	October 25, 1990
NAVA	June 3, 1967	SAVA	November 26, 1990
		HS	? 1991
FI	April 23, 1971	VAST	February 16, 1991
FHF	July 30, 1971	NEVA	April 21, 1991
CISV	? 1972	GWAV	May 11, 1991
CVS	January 29, 1972	PTW	October 10, 1992
PH	November 22, 1972	WVRI	November 30, 1992
NF	January 27, 1973	FOTW	September ? 1993
FRCSL	July 1, 1975	NZFA	January 16, 1994
RCVH	September 11, 1975	SVI	March ? 1994
SVB	August 30, 1977	MZT	January 6, 1994
SEV	October 31, 1977	DGF	February 4, 1995
CFZ	October 24, 1978	PFA	March ? 1995
BDA	October 31, 1978	KVV	June 23, 1996
		SVN	June 6, 1997
ACV	September 26, 1981	SVPR	June 6, 1997
CBFA	November 6, 1982	IHW	September 1, 1997
FSA	August 20, 1983	SGHAPG	October 22, 1997
CFA	February 6, 1985		
SFV	March 16, 1985	JAVA	January 1, 2000
AAV	February 16, 1988	IVA	November 14, 2002
		MHZ	August 15, 2003
		BHVS	December 14, 2004
		HGZD	May 4, 2006
		SCHG	February 29, 2008
		BS	April 15, 2008

UPCOMING DATES

February 8, 2017	Deadline to submit membership applications to the FIAV Board through the Secretary-General for placement on the agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly (send to sec.gen@FIAV.org)
March 31, 2017	Submission of abstract of presentation for ICV 27 (www.ICV27.co.uk)
April 8, 2017	Deadline to submit items (other than membership applications) to the Secretary-General for placement on the agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly (send to sec.gen@FIAV.org)
April 30, 2017	Acceptance of presentation for ICV 27 (www.ICV27.co.uk)
May 8, 2017	Agenda for the Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly distributed
June 15, 2017	Deadline for Members to submit suggestions for Laureate and Fellow recipients to the Secretary-General for consideration by the FIAV Board (send to sec.gen@FIAV.org)
June 30, 2017	Submission of final version of presentation ICV 27 (www.ICV27.co.uk)
August 7–11, 2017	Twenty-Seventh International Congress of Vexillology, London, England, United Kingdom
August 8, 2017	Twenty-Fifth Session of the General Assembly convenes

FIAV BOARD



Photo courtesy of Manuela Schmöger

The Board at the Twenty-Fourth Session of the FIAV General Assembly: Charles Spain, Secretary-General; Michel Lupant, President; and Graham Bartram, Secretary-General for Congresses.

Behind the Board are the FIAV flag and the Officer flags.

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“C'est avec ces hochets qu'on mène les hommes.”

President Emeritus: Hugh Boudin
Secretaries-General Emeritus: Emil Dreyer, Ralph G.C. Bartlett, and Bruce B. Berry

Info-FIAV

Info-FIAV (ISSN 1560-9979) is published by the Permanent Secretariat of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques (FIAV) and edited by FIAV Secretary-General Charles A. Spain, 504 Branard St., HOUSTON TX 77006-5018, USA, 1 713 248 0416, sec.gen@FIAV.org. *Info-FIAV* is distributed free of charge to each FIAV Member using the Member's e-mail address on file with the Secretary-General. Neither FIAV nor Charles Spain individually claims a copyright in the material appearing in *Info-FIAV*, although material appearing in *Info-FIAV* may be the intellectual property of another person. Subject to such intellectual-property rights, *Info-FIAV* may be freely reproduced. It is the responsibility of each FIAV Member to copy and internally distribute *Info-FIAV* as necessary. Individual subscriptions to *Info-FIAV* are not available.

FIIV People Index

José Alegría Díaz	GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 22, GA 23
Teodoro Amerlinck y Zíron	Fellow
Robin Ashburner	Fellow GA 17
Roger Baert	GA 7, GA 8, GA 10, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 22, GA 23
Lászlo Balogh	GA 20
E.M.C. Barraclough	Laureate Provisional council Councillor GA 1, GA 2, GA 4
Ralph Bartlett	Secretary-General Emeritus Secretary-General for Congresses Fellow GA 9, GA 10, GA 11, GA 12, GA 13, GA 14, GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23
Graham Bartram	Secretary-General for Congresses GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Randolph Beard	GA 8, GA 9, GA 12
Andrzej Bebłowski	GA 14
Bruce Berry	Secretary-General Emeritus Secretary-General for Congresses Fellow GA 13, GA 14, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Pierre Berry	GA 12
Alfredo Betocchi	GA 13
Jean-Paul Billault	GA 22
Newton Blakeslee	GA 2, GA 3
Hugh Brady	Fellow GA 22, GA 23
Charles Brannon	GA 5
Hugh Boudin	President Emeritus President Fellow GA 6, GA 7, GA 8, GA 9, GA 11, GA 12, GA 13
Doreen Braverman	GA 10
David Breitenbach	GA 20, GA 22, GA 23
Roberto Breschi	Fellow GA 17, GA 18, GA 20, GA 23
Frederick Brownell	Laureate Fellow Vexillon GA 16
Aleš Brožek	Fellow Vexillon GA 13, GA 14, GA 17, GA 18, GA 22
José Luis Brugués	GA 15

Andries Burgers	Fellow Vexillon
Anthony Burton	Fellow GA 18, GA 19
George Cahill	GA 1, GA 6, GA 7, GA 8, GA 9, GA 10, GA 12, GA 13
Muriel Cahill	GA 6, GA 7
Hervé Calvarin	Fellow GA 23
Bill Christiansen	GA 10
Michael Clingman	GA 20
Tom Conlon	GA 23
Grace Cooper	GA 11, GA 12, GA 14
William Crampton	Laureate President Emeritus Secretary-General Emeritus President Secretary-General for Congresses Fellow Vexillon Councillor GA 2, GA 3, GA 6, GA 8, GA 9, GA 10, GA 11, GA 12, GA 14
James Croft	GA 15
Sten Dahlström	GA 15, GA 17
Arne Danielsson	Provisional council
C.H. de Koning	GA 6
Patrice de la Condamine	Best Paper
Casimir de Rham	GA 10
Daniel de Waal	GA 12
Harold Diceman	Councillor GA 2
Jonathan Dixon	GA 21, GA 24
Emil Dreyer	Secretary-General Emeritus Secretary-General Fellow Best Paper GA 12, GA 13, GA 14, GA 15, GA 17, GA 18, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23
Bruce Druckenmiller	GA 14
Armand du Payrat	Vexillon
Adolfo Durán	GA 9
Peter Edwards	GA 15, GA 16, GA 20, GA 22
Jan Oskar Engene	Fellow GA 21, GA 22
Arthur Etchells	GA 14
Petr Exner	Fellow Vexillon GA 20, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Mario Fabretto	GA 14, GA 15
Michael Faul	Fellow GA 12, GA 13, GA 14, GA 15

Carlos Fernández Espeso	GA 11, GA 14
John Ford	GA 20
Anna Maria Galán I Pla	GA 10, GA 12, GA 19
Mario Gibellini	Councillor
Silvio Giberti	GA 12
Aníbal Gotelli	Fellow GA 14, GA 19
Atle Grahl-Madsen	Councillor GA 4
Andriy Grechylo	Fellow GA 14, GA 18
Francisco Gregoric	GA 22
Pascal Gross	GA 19
Scot Guenter	Laureate Fellow GA 13, GA 16, GA 17, GA 19, GA 20, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Carl Gurtman	GA 22
John Hall	Fellow GA 10, GA 11, GA 12
Zachary Harden	Fellow
Roger Harmignies	Provisional council Councillor GA 3, GA 9
Kevin Harrington	Fellow GA 13, GA 14, GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 23
Donald Healy	Vexillon GA 14, GA 15
Željko Heimer	Fellow GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
David Heisser	GA 9
Sebastià Herreros I Agüí	Fellow Councillor GA 6, GA 10, GA 12, GA 13, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Andreas Herzfeld	Fellow Vexillon GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 24
Hans Horsting	Fellow
Hans Horstman	Provisional council
Aleksander Hribovšek	GA 23, GA 24
Josef Hubka	GA 24
Kenneth Huff	GA 2
Nicolas Hugot	GA 24
Jovan Jonovski	GA 22
Walt Jurečič	GA 13
Franz Kaindl	Councillor GA 3, GA 4, GA 5, GA 6, GA 7, GA 8, GA 9

Nozomi Kariyasu	Fellow GA 17, GA 18, GA 21, GA 24
Edward Kaye	Fellow GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Mason Kaye	GA 18, GA 19
Ralph Kelly	Fellow Best Paper GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 24
Barrie Kent	Fellow
Peter Kinderman	GA 16
Johannes Klein	Councillor
Roman Klimeš	Fellow GA 13, GA 14, GA 15, GA 19, GA 20, GA 22, GA 23
Yoshinori Koshikawa	GA 20
Michael Krag-Juel-Vind-Frijs	Fellow GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20
Akira Kumagai	Best Paper
Shivar Kumar	GA 24
Roger Lachenal	GA 1
Jošef Lajeve	GA 22
Lisbeth Langkilde	GA 11
Max Liberman	GA 23, GA 24
Victor Lomantsov	GA 18, GA 21
Rudi Longueville	GA 18, GA 20, GA 22, GA 23
John Lowe	Fellow GA 15, GA 24
Michel Lupant	President GA 13, GA 14, GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Howard Madaus	Vexillon
Peter Mäder	Councillor GA 1, GA 2, GA 3
Christopher Maddish	GA 22, GA 23
Alexandru Dan Mândru	GA 20
Flavio Marchetto	GA 23
Jaroslav Martykán	GA 15, GA 20, GA 23
Günter Mattern	GA 9, GA 13, GA 16, GA 20
James Marill	GA 8
David Martucci	GA 16, GA 17
Hugh McClellan	GA 5
Vezio Melegari	GA 3, GA 6
Tamta Melelashvili	GA 22
Joan Merrington	GA 21
Jan Mertens	GA 21

Paul Mills	GA 4
John Moody	GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 20, GA 24
Clay Moss	GA 17
Ludvík Mucha	Fellow
Louis Mühlemann	Honorary President Governing board Provisional council President Councillor Fellow GA 2, GA 4, GA 6
Harald Müller	GA 14
Jan Henrik Munksgaard	Fellow
Raffaele Natta-Soleri	Provisional council Councillor
Gerald Naughton	Fellow
Ottfried Neubecker	Laureate President Emeritus Secretary-General Emeritus Councillor President Secretary-General Fellow GA 2, GA 3, GA 4, GA 5, GA 6, GA 7, GA 8
Bruce Nicholls	Fellow Vexillon
Theun Okkerse	Fellow
Peter Orenski	GA 12, GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 21
Harry Oswald	Fellow
Leif Påhlsson	Councillor GA 9, GA 14
Geoffrey Parsons	GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Georges Pasch	Provisional council Councillor GA 2, GA 3, GA 4
Christian Fogd Pedersen	Fellow Councillor GA 5, GA 6, GA 9
Alberto Perazzo	Fellow GA 19
Jordi Pérez	GA 13
Lucien Philippe	Fellow Councillor
David Phillips	GA 9
Anne Platoff	Fellow Vexillon Best Paper GA 24
Jos Poels	Fellow
Roumiana Popova	GA 23
Josep Porter	GA 9

Art Proaño Gaibor-de Vries	Best Paper
Heiko Probst	GA 23
John Purcell	Fellow Vexillon GA 7, GA 9, GA 11, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19
Mariska Pool	GA 18
Rob Raeside	Fellow GA 17, GA 18, GA 20, GA 22, GA 23
Sanjeeva Rao	GA 20, GA 21
Alain Raullet	Fellow GA 14, GA 15, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Philippe Rault	GA 15, GA 16, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20
Tomás Rodríguez Peñas	Fellow GA 7, GA 8, GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 24
Johannes Rombach	Councillor GA 4
Tamás Rumi	GA 14
Walter Rydberg	Councillor
María José Sastre y Arribas	Vexillon
Gunnar Scheffer	GA 2
Joost Schokkenbroek	Fellow GA 21, GA 23
Władysław Serwatowski	GA 14, GA 18
Eldar Shengelaia	GA 23
Michel Sicard	GA 13, GA 20
Klaes Sierksma	Secretary-General Emeritus Governing board Provisional council Secretary-General for Congresses Fellow GA 2, GA 3, GA 4, GA 5, GA 6, GA 7
Berber Sierksma-Zeeff	GA 2
Whitney Smith	Laureate Secretary-General Emeritus Governing board Provisional council Secretary-General Secretary-General for Congresses Fellow Vexillon GA 1, GA 2, GA 3, GA 4, GA 5, GA 6, GA 7, GA 8, GA 9, GA 10, GA 11, GA 12, GA 13, GA 14, GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20
Gustav Söderlund	Fellow GA 16
Henrik Söderman	GA 23
V.A. Sokolov	GA 7
Charles Spain	Secretary-General GA 14, GA 15, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
William Spangler	Councillor GA 13

Ralph Spence	Councillor GA 6
Lars Stolt	GA 15
Ronald Strachan	Fellow GA 11, GA 12, GA 13, GA 14
Adrian Strickland	GA 15, GA 16
Theo Stylianides	GA 15
Ian Sumner	Fellow GA 18
Miru Takano	Fellow
Bo Tennberg	Councillor
Gerrit ten Hoeve	GA 13
Jiří Tenora	GA 15, GA 16, GA 19
Lawrence Tower	GA 3
Gustav Tracchia	Fellow GA 13, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 20, GA 21, GA 23
Tero Vaarna	GA 9
W.A. van Ham	GA 3, GA 4
Daniel van Leeuwen	GA 17
Thijs van Leeuwen	GA 14
Marcel van Westerhoven	Fellow GA 20, GA 21, GA 22, GA 23, GA 24
Gerd Vehres	Fellow GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 19, GA 21
Paul Warming	GA 4, GA 5, GA 6
René Wattiez	GA 2, GA 4, GA 6, GA 8, GA 9
Otto Wiering	GA 2
Stanislav Zamyatin	GA 24
Aldo Ziggioto	Fellow GA 2, GA 4
Alfred Znamierowski	Fellow Vexillon GA 7, GA 8, GA 13, GA 14, GA 16, GA 17, GA 18, GA 20



Happy golden anniversary, SSV!



Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Fahnen- und Flaggenkunde /
Société Suisse de Vexillologie / Società Svizzera di Vessillologia

Established: January 21, 1967