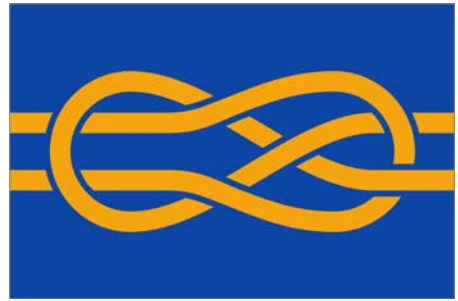


---

# Info-FIAV

No. 49, July 2019  
ISSN 1560-9979



Fédération internationale  
des associations vexillologiques

[www.FIAV.org](http://www.FIAV.org)  
[www.Facebook.com/FIAV.org](https://www.facebook.com/FIAV.org)

---

## BOARD RECOMMENDATION ON MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Board's recommendation on a membership application is ministerial. The Board considers whether an application demonstrates the candidate is an "association or institution anywhere in the world having as a substantial purpose the scientific study of vexillology," see FIAV Constitution article 7(a), and whether the application satisfies the criteria of article 7(c):

The Board and the General Assembly, in making their decisions about an applicant, shall have regard to the following:

- (1) the existence of a written constitution and its provisions;
- (2) the vexillological and non-vexillological activities of the applicant, including meetings, publications, and international relations;
- (3) in the case of an association, the number of its active members (minimum of five);
- (4) registration of its members or representatives in International Congresses of Vexillology; and
- (5) the length of time it has existed.

In London the FIAV Constitution was amended to eliminate article 7(c)(6), requiring the "the presence of an autochthonous and authorized representative of the applicant at the session of the General Assembly at which there is to be a vote on the application." Article 7(b) was amended as follows (emphasis added):

The General Assembly at its next session shall vote on the application. An authorized representative of the applicant **must** appear at the session to present its case. **Unless excused by the General Assembly, the representative must serve an active role in conducting the applicant's affairs. If the applicant is an association, then the representative must also be a member of the association.** A rejected applicant has the right to reapply for membership at any later session of the General Assembly.

Because of the changes in article 7 and because article 16(d) states that the General Assembly interprets the Constitution, the Board makes no recommendations on the three membership applicants and defers to the General Assembly. This is to allow a discussion in the General Assembly of how Constitution article 7 should be interpreted going forward.

---

### IN THIS ISSUE . . . .

Board Recommendation on  
Membership Applications . . . . 1  
The Gavel . . . . . 2-3  
CONAVEX Membership  
Application . . . . . 4-6  
GA Voting Majorities . . . . . 6-7

GA Rules of Order . . . . . 7-9  
Description of  
Vexillon Award . . . . . 10

Origins of Organized  
Vexillology . . . . . 10-13  
FIAV Board . . . . . 14

## THE GAVEL





## CONAVEX MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



*Santiago de Chile, 15 de Enero de 2019*

Para Dr. Charles A. Spain:

Secretary-General Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques.

Permanent Secretariat of the Federation

La Corporación Nacional de Vexilología de Chile (CONAVEX) es una asociación de vexilólogos y vexilógrafos chilenos con el objetivo principal de difundir el campo de aplicación de la Vexilología en todo el país y mantener un contacto continuo con otras asociaciones a través del tiempo.

En consideración de lo anterior, nos gustaría extender un cordial saludo y nuestras más sinceras felicitaciones a los miembros de la Federación Internacional de Asociaciones Vexilológicas, porque confiamos en que a través de un trabajo conjunto entre los dos grupos podremos lograr el gran objetivo de difundir el conocimiento vexilológico a lo largo del mundo.

Como forma de llevar a cabo nuestros objetivos es que desde el año 2016 que con un grupo de vexilólogos chilenos nos hemos puesto en campaña para organizarnos en lo que desde el año 2017 es la Corporación Nacional de Vexilología de Chile. El día 3 de noviembre del año mencionado obtuvimos nuestra personalidad jurídica por lo que junto a los diez socios que actualmente somos hemos realizado una serie de actividades referentes a la difusión de la vexilología a lo largo de Chile y el mundo considerando nuestro trabajo a través de internet.

El día 15 de Octubre de 2017 y el 3 de Noviembre de 2018 realizamos una serie de exposiciones a la comunidad de Santiago en la que exhibimos algunas de las banderas que tenemos en nuestras colecciones particulares en tres parques conocidos de la ciudad, a saber, Parque de las Esculturas, Parque Balmaceda y Parque Ecuador. En dichos parques los visitantes pudieron observar y consultar al respecto del origen y diseño de las banderas expuestas junto con conocer el desarrollo de la vexilología en Chile y el mundo.

En vista de lo anterior, también hemos realizado una difusión de nuestro trabajo a través de la prensa escrita en el país, contando a la fecha con tres menciones de la Corporación en ella, principalmente en tres diarios de circulación nacional y uno de circulación regional. En ellos, hemos dado nuestro parecer a la respecto de una serie de noticias referidas a la bandera de Chile y a las banderas de los pueblos originarios. También hemos sido mencionados en la prensa extranjera, como se puede consultar en la siguiente nota del diario El Nacional de San Rafael, en Argentina: <http://elnacionalonline.com/2018/12/20/chile-primer-congreso-de-vexilologia/>

Considerando este trabajo previo, es que el día 22 de Diciembre de 2018 organizamos el Primer Congreso Nacional de Vexilología de Chile abierto a la comunidad y transmitido íntegramente en vivo a través de internet. En dicha instancia, cuatro de nuestros socios expusieron temas referentes tanto al desarrollo de la vexilología como así también a la vexilografía y temas referentes a la legislación y protocolo de las banderas regionales y locales de Chile y el mundo. Dicho congreso nos impulsa a desarrollar uno de forma anual en el país como forma de mantener una constancia del trabajo en la difusión de la vexilología en nuestro país. Para lograr dicho objetivo ha sido fundamental el apoyo y acompañamiento de las siguientes asociaciones con las que hemos tenido un contacto fraterno y meritorio a lo largo del tiempo, a saber:

Sociedad Española de Vexilología  
North American Vexillological Association  
Centro Studi Vessilologici Italiano Flags of the World  
Czech Vexillological Society  
Centro de Simbología Argentina Heráldico y Cultural Alta Gracia

Considerando los contactos anteriores, es que hemos sido mencionados como Corporación vigente en las publicaciones Vexilloid Tabloid (Issue 71 August 2018) y Vexilla Notizie (Numero 33 - Ottobre 2018) junto con aparecer en la lista de asociaciones de Flags of the World como puede verse en el siguiente vínculo: <https://fotw.info/flags/vex-cnvx.html> desde el 4 de Agosto de 2018.

Es por ello que tomando en cuenta las menciones anteriores, como Corporación en camino a cumplir dos años de vida y constituidos como tal bajo la legislación chilena, manifestamos nuestro deseo en conjunto por ser un grupo integrante de la Federación Internacional de Asociaciones Vexilológicas para dar forma así desde Chile a nuestro objetivo de trabajar unidos en el desarrollo y difusión de la vexilología y vexilografía desde nuestro país y hacia el mundo para generar una red de fraternidad y trabajo que permita una evolución en el quehacer vexilológico marcando nuestro camino a seguir en el futuro, un futuro en el que esperamos contar con su compañía y apoyo como Corporación integrante de la Federación.

*Cordialmente*  
*Steffan Giadach Axt*  
*Presidente de la Corporación Nacional de Vexilología de Chile*

[English translation]

*Santiago de Chile, January 15, 2019*

For Dr. Charles A. Spain:

Secretary-General Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques.

Permanent Secretariat of the Federation

The National Vexilology Corporation of Chile (CONAVEX) is an association of Chilean vexillologists and vexillographers with the main objective of spreading the field of application of vexillology throughout the country and maintain a continuous contact with other associations over time.

In consideration of the above, we would like to extend a cordial greeting and our sincerest congratulations to the members of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques, because we trust that through a joint work between the two groups we will be able to achieve the great objective of spreading the vexillology throughout the world.

As a way to carry out our objectives is since 2016 that with a group of Chilean vexillologists has put ourselves in a campaign to organize ourselves in what since 2017 is the National Vexilology Corporation of Chile. On November 3 of the aforementioned year we obtained our legal status so that together with the ten partners that we currently have, we have carried out a series of activities related to the dissemination of vexillology throughout Chile and the world considering our work through the Internet.

On October 15, 2017 and November 3, 2018 we held a series of exhibitions to the community of Santiago in which we exhibited some of the flags we have in our private collections in three known parks of the city, namely, Sculpture Park, Balmaceda Park and Ecuador Park. In these parks, visitors were able to observe and consult about the origin and design of the exhibited flags along with knowing the development of vexillology in Chile and the world.

In view of the above, we have also made a dissemination of our work through the written press in the country, counting to date three mentions of the Corporation in it, mainly in three newspapers of national circulation and one of regional circulation. In them, we have given our opinion to the respect of a series of news articles referring to the Chilean flag and the flags of the indigenous peoples. We have also been mentioned in the foreign press in the newspaper *El Nacional de San Rafael*, in Argentina.

Considering this previous work, is that on December 22, 2018 we organized the First National Congress of Vexilology of Chile open to the community and transmitted entirely live via the internet. In this instance, four of our partners presented topics related to the development of vexillology as well as vexilography and issues related to the legislation and protocol of the regional and local flags of Chile and the world. This congress encourages us to develop one annually in the country as a way to maintain a record of the work in the dissemination of vexillology in our country. In order to achieve this objective, the support and accompaniment of the following associations with which we have had a fraternal and meritorious contact over time has been fundamental, namely:

Sociedad Española de Vexilología

North American Vexillological Association  
 Centro Italiano Studi Vessillologici  
 Flags of the World  
 Česká vexilologická společnost z. s.  
 Centro de Simbología Argentina Heraldic and Cultural Alta Gracia

Considering the previous contacts, we have been mentioned in the publications *Vexilloid Tabloid* (Issue 71 August 2018) and *Vexilla Notizie* (Number 33 - Ottobre 2018) along with appearing in the list of associations of Flags of the World as can be seen in the following link: <https://fotw.info/flags/vex-cnvx.html> from August 4, 2018.

That is why, taking into account the aforementioned mentions, as a Corporation on track to be two years old and constituted as such under Chilean legislation, we express our desire as a whole to be an integral group of the International Federation of Vexological Associations to shape and from Chile to our goal to work together in the development and dissemination of vexillology and vexillography from our country and to the world to generate a network of fraternity and work that allows an evolution in the vexillological work marking our way forward in the future, a future in which we hope to have your company and support as a FIAV Member.

*Cordially*  
*Steffan Giadach Axt*  
*President of the Corporación Nacional de Vexilología de Chile*

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY VOTING MAJORITIES

This chart calculates the number of votes required for majorities in the General Assembly, consisting of specified fractions of those Members and Officers present (Constitution article 15):

Total Members and Officers present	Majority	Two-thirds	Three-fourths
28	15	19	21
29	15	20	22
30	16	20	23
31	16	21	24
32	17	22	24
33	17	22	25
34	18	23	26
35	18	24	27
36	19	24	27
37	19	25	28
38	20	26	29
39	20	26	30
40	21	27	30
41	21	28	31
42	22	28	32
43	22	29	33

44	23	30	33
45	23	30	34
46	24	31	35
47	24	32	36
48	25	32	36
49	25	33	37
50	26	34	38
51	26	34	39
52	27	35	39
53	27	36	40
54	28	36	41
55	28	37	42
56	29	38	42
57	29	38	43
58	30	39	44
59	30	40	45
60	31	40	45
61	31	41	46
62	32	42	47
63	32	42	48
64	33	43	48
65	33	44	49

## **RULES OF ORDER FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Originally published in *Info-FIAV* number 15, at pages 9–11 (November 2000):

### REPORT OF THE 1997-1999 FIAV STANDING ORDERS COMMISSION

The standing orders commission was reestablished at ICV 17 (1997) in Cape Town with a membership consisting of Don Healy (continuing), Roman Klimeš, and Ralph Kelly. The commission was charged with the task of reviewing *Bourinot's Rules of Order* (ISSN 0-7710-8336-X), to establish its suitability as a set of rules of order to govern the conduct of FIAV General Assembly sessions. A decision was made in Cape Town to use these Canadian rules on a trial basis during the General Assembly session in Victoria.

The standing orders commission did not have an opportunity to meet prior to this session of the General Assembly due to the unexpected nonattendance of two of its members and, as a statement of fact, the commission members did not undertake correspondence that established a uniform view on these matters. My report, therefore, is, of necessity, an interim one.

Many of the matters contained in *Bourinot's Rules of Order* are addressed in the FIAV Constitution or relate to parliamentary procedures beyond the scope of the needs of the General Assembly. Specifically, the procedures for notices of meetings, attendance quorums, voting majorities, and election of Officers are dealt with adequately in the FIAV Constitution. The order of business is also adequately covered by existing procedures of the FIAV Board.

The areas of useful guidance for the chair of the General Assembly (the FIAV President or another person acting as the President's substitute, with the consent of the General Assembly) relate to the rules concerning debate, motions, amendments, points of order, and questions (*Bourinot's Rules of Order* articles 30 to 50 on pages 42 to 63). These rules appear to conform substantially to the practices that have evolved for conducting General Assembly sessions

The relevant rules, as properly applied to FIAV, can be summarized as follows:

1. A motion must be proposed and seconded at the General Assembly session before it is debated. [Note: The General Assembly should consider dropping the requirement that a motion which has been timely submitted and published in the agenda must still be proposed and seconded at the General Assembly session. Motions already published in the agenda could be considered to have been seconded by a member of the Board.] A motion that is not seconded may not be considered. Once the motion is seconded, the President puts the question of the motion to the General Assembly for debate. If necessary, the President may restate the motion in a formal or more precise style of language. After the President puts the question on the motion for debate, the motion belongs to the General Assembly and may be withdrawn only by the consent of the General Assembly.

2. The delegates of FIAV Members have a right to speak about the motion during debate on the question; however, in order to manage time, the President may limit the number of times each delegate may speak and the length of speeches, as long as any such limitations are uniform. Notwithstanding any such limitations, a delegate may always make a substantive correction of fact or remedy a misquote.

3. A motion to amend a motion currently under consideration (the "main motion") may be proposed and seconded, and the motion to amend is debatable and must be voted on before the delegates vote on the question of the main motion. More than one motion to amend can be proposed, including a motion to amend the motion to amend. Each motion to amend should be voted on in the order in which it was proposed, except for a motion to amend a motion to amend, which should be voted on immediately before the motion to amend to which it relates.

4. An amendment may alter the intent or effect of the main motion, but the President should reject a motion to amend that would nullify the main motion or a motion to amend that is not relevant to the main motion.

5. Once the question on a main motion has been debated and a vote is conducted, that decision (including any amendments to it) becomes the decision of the General Assembly. Further motions on the same subject matter at the same session of the General Assembly are not in order, unless they were timely submitted and published in the agenda. However, a delegate may make a motion to reconsider (if the original motion failed) or rescind (if the original motion passed).

6. In debates, the President selects from those delegates who indicate a wish to speak and normally there is no mandatory sequence of speakers for or against the motion. Speakers should address the President in making their remarks, even if the speaker wishes to ask a question of another delegate. A speaker has the right to be heard without interruption so long as the speaker's remarks are relevant to the question under debate and the remarks do not offend propriety. The President can overrule remarks or questions that are not relevant or that offend propriety.

7. If a delegate believes a breach of the rules of order has occurred, the delegate can interrupt debate on the question of a motion by raising a question of privilege. The President must immediately rule on the question of privilege before allowing further debate.

8. The following procedural motions can be made during the debate of the question of a main motion:

(a) Motion to put the question to a vote—must be seconded and is debatable; this motion is used to end debate on the pending motion (which could be a motion to amend the motion) and force a direct vote on the pending motion. If the motion to put the question carries, then the pending motion must be voted on without any further debate or amendment.



(b) Motion to proceed to the next item of business—must be seconded and is not debatable; this motion is used to set aside the question being considered and proceed to the next item on the agenda. Although, the main motion, including, any motions to amend the main motion, is deemed to have failed, further motions on the same subject as the main motion are permissible because there was no vote on the main motion.

(c) Motion to defer the question—must be seconded and is debatable; this motion postpones consideration on the question of the motion (including any motions to amend the motion) to either a specified time (so more urgent business may be conducted) or indefinitely (thus, “killing” the motion). If a motion is deferred indefinitely, then a motion to reconsider the motion to defer must be made, seconded, debated, and carried before the question is reconsidered.

(d) Motion to refer the question to committee (commission)—must be seconded and is debatable; this motion is used when the subject of the motion requires further consideration than can be given at the current General Assembly session.

(e) Motion to adjourn the meeting—must be seconded and is not debatable; if carried, this motion sets aside the question being considered, and when the General Assembly reconvenes, it proceeds to the next item on the agenda. A motion to resume debate on the previous question may be made when the General Assembly reconvenes, and if the motion is seconded and—after debate—is carried, then the General Assembly returns to consider the previous question.

9. The President is responsible for maintaining order during the General Assembly session, both as to proper procedure and decorum. If the President believes that a speaker is out of order, the President should call the speaker to order by simply saying, “Order, please.” The speaker must stop while the President explains the point of order. The President’s ruling on a point of order is not debatable, but may be challenged by a motion to dissent to the ruling of the chair. Such a motion must be seconded, is not debatable, and must be put to a vote immediately. If the motion to dissent to the ruling of the chair passes, the President’s ruling is overturned. If the President is unable to establish order, the President may adjourn the session to a later time or day. The President does not have the authority to discipline or penalize delegates; this may only be done by the General Assembly by a motion, which must be seconded and which is debatable.

10. When all the business of the session has been accomplished and the President is satisfied there is no other business that should be addressed, the President may, on his own authority and without a motion, finally adjourn the session without fixing a time and day for another meeting. If all the business has not been accomplished, the President may suggest that the session be adjourned to a later time or day, but an appropriate motion must be made, seconded, and passed. The President should adjourn the session without a motion if, at the relevant time, a quorum is not present at the session’s outset or the quorum is subsequently lost.

11. The minutes should accurately record the actions taken and decisions made at the session. The minutes should not attempt to be a verbatim account of the session, but can include reference to the major issues discussed during debate. The minutes should be complete, clear, and succinct. The minutes should be affirmed at the next session or approved as corrected by an appropriate motion that has been seconded. There should be no debate on the policy or merits of a question dealt with in the minutes, and remarks on the minutes should strictly relate to the alleged error.

On behalf of the commission, I recommend that the General Assembly authorize the standing orders commission to assess whether the use of *Bourinot’s Rules of Order* at this General Assembly session was effective in facilitating the efficient, orderly, and fair conduct of the session. If the commission is so continued, it could present an expanded report at the next session on the use of *Bourinot’s* and possibly draft a stand-alone set of FIAV rules of order (including, for convenience, relevant provisions of the FIAV Constitution).

Ralph D. Kelly  
July 29, 1999

At the Seventeenth Session of the General Assembly (July 23, 2001, York), the General Assembly adopted the following motion, “That *Bourinot’s Rules of Order* (ISBN 0-7710-8336-X) be adopted for use on a permanent basis.” Published in *Info-FIAV* number 19, at page 12 (August 2001).

## DESCRIPTION OF THE VEXILLON AWARD



[From the *Proceedings of the Thirteenth International Congress of Vexillology* (Melbourne 1989)]

The Vexillon is an award recognizing excellence in the presentation and advancement of vexillology. It was inaugurated at the 13th International Congress of Vexillology, held in Melbourne 1989, as an initiative of the host Flag Society of Australia.

In keeping with these origins the design features faintly Antipodean themes - the Southern Cross, the Kangaroo Spirit leaping forward, rippled lines reminiscent of Aboriginal art.

In that traditional art, undulating lines frequently represent the tracks of spirit beings to and from their camp or meeting ground. It is therefore fitting that this inspiration from one of humanity's oldest continuous cultures should be linked to meetings of ICV. The stylized symbolism of Aboriginal art is also reflected in the stylizing of the other devices, so that together they transcend merely parochial symbolisms.

Thus the constellation also is a crown of stars suggesting a diadem of glory, a prize of renown, rewarding those who, **per ardua ad astra**, have striven to merit the recognition given. The crown also suggests a goal for others to emulate at future ICVs.

Neither is the heraldic animal portrayed just a kangaroo. It may also be seen as a zephyr, an image reinforced in the flowing lines suggest[ing] flags carried in its breeze.

The colours of blue and gold recall that this award is presented and intended for further association with FIAV sponsored fixtures.

The name, **Vexillon**, denotes an artefact that is not quite a vexilloid, but obviously related to vexillology. It reinforces the notion that this is an award having to do with the advance of flagcraft.

## THE ORIGINS OF ORGANIZED VEXILLOLOGY

Whitney Smith

[Adapted from an article that originally appeared in *NAVA News* (January-February 1996)]

To understand why and how organized vexillology was founded, it helps to go back to the late 1950s. It was an exciting era for flag changes around the world: for example, the Sudan and Ghana had come to independence, Egypt and Syria had joined to form the United Arab Republic, and the Hungarians had unsuccessfully tried to throw off Communist rule. These and other events involved new flags, but there was no regular source of information on the subject. Often it was several years before encyclopedia—or even flag manufacturers—caught up with changes.

Many people were interested in flags, but they had little contact with one another. For some it was basically a job—to make and sell flags, to illustrate them for reference publications, or to deal with flags as museum artifacts. There were also flag hobbyists, but the lack of communication meant that each felt himself the only one in the world interested in the subject. In Europe flags were generally considered a minor subdivision of heraldry, scarcely worthy of separate notice. In the United States *the flag* (i.e. the stars and Stripes) was a patriotic symbol which only occasionally got serious attention as part of the political history of the nation.

In Britain a small “Flag Circle” had existed briefly before the Second World War, but by the end of the 1940s it was dead. No regular meetings were ever held and the Flag Circle had no publications, bylaws, or outreach programs. So far as is known, no other association or conference relating to flags had ever been held in world history, aside from the various flag-waiving groups in the United States like the U.S. Flag Association.

My personal interest in flags, going back at least to the age of six, was given a boost in 1950 when I wrote to Greenland. I couldn't understand how a country so large—in the Mercator projection, it ranks with Africa in size—could have no flag. I was thrilled to receive a response from the governor of Greenland himself, explaining that the flag of Denmark was the only one flown on the island. I then began writing around the world for documentation on flags of all kinds and, in the process, came into contact with other individuals interested in the subject.

My enthusiasm was further stimulated in 1957 when I graduated from high school. Courtesy of an aunt who taught school in Mt. Kisco, New York, I spent two weeks in New York City. To see the flags of the 60 members of the United Nations, flying outside its East River headquarters, was to feel oneself to be at the “flag capital” of the world. I was also privileged to have lunch with William Diggins, Sales Manager for Annin & Company, Rev. Darlington, President of the United States Flag Foundation, and Nathaniel Abelson, Map Librarian of the United Nations. These three men were involved on a daily basis—each from a different perspective—with flags. I told them about the word I had coined for the study of flags, vexillology, based on the Latin word *vexillum*, meaning flag.

Although I had been sending information for several years to *Compton's Pictured Encyclopedia* on flag changes and although in 1958 UNICEF (the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund) accepted articles of mine for publication in a series of books, I felt frustrated that there were so few flag-related activities. While an undergraduate at Harvard College, I began to think about publishing a series of pamphlets which would present articles on different flag topics. These could be distributed to vexillologists around the world who might in turn write articles for future pamphlets.

The usefulness of this became particularly evident in 1959, the *annus mirabilis* of new flags. There were 22 new national flags that year around the world. Many were from emerging African countries undergoing transition from colonial status to independence, but other nations acquired new flags as well. South Africa, East Germany, Cyprus, Suriname, the Netherlands Antilles—even the United States—hoisted new flags that year. Unfortunately, very few people had details on these changes. My own work at the time—articles published on “Mongolian Symbolology” in *The Coat of Arms* magazine and one on Arab flags in a journal edited in Lebanon—did little to improve the situation.

#### ORIGINS OF THE FLAG RESEARCH CENTER

Finally, a major turning point was reached in 1961 which forever changed the study of flags. That summer, just before entering graduate school, I spent a month as an intern at the United Nations in New York. Fortuitously, Nathaniel Abelson invited me to join him in an assignment he had just received—to write a booklet on the flags of the UN members which would be sold by the organization at its gift shop. That month I also had a chance to visit several times with Gerhard Grahl, a school teacher five years my senior who lived in The Bronx.

Gary employed flags in his classroom as a teaching device to give students an appreciation for foreign cultures and history. In addition to his genuine enthusiasm for flags, he had a very practical sense of how to go about getting things done. Although in later years his interest in vexillology decreased, I am still extremely grateful to Gary for the concrete solutions and the work which he contributed towards making *The Flag Bulletin*, The Flag Research Center, and the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA) successful.

In our discussions, I told Gary about my proposed series of pamphlets. Why not, he suggested, make it a magazine issued on a regular basis so that it wouldn't be necessary to go looking for purchasers of each new “pamphlet.” He volunteered to run off the issues in his classroom on a spirit duplicator, which would keep costs to an absolute minimum. Readers would look forward to each issue and we could combine news of flag changes with book reviews, longer articles on flag history, flag-related events, and similar material. He insisted that we use a name everyone could understand, rather than *The Quarterly Journal of Vexillology*, which I favored. In this way *The Flag Bulletin* was born in October 1961.

We sent out the first issue to about 50 people around the world with whom we had been in correspondence, plus others I thought might be interested in our efforts. The response was very positive—so much so that Gary and I decided to establish The Flag Research Center as of the first of February 1962. In addition to publishing *The Flag Bulletin*, the objectives of the Center were to collect as much information as possible on flags of all kinds, including books and other publications, and to make this available to all interested persons. In 1964 *The Flag Bulletin* published a list of names and addresses of such people and the following year G.K. Hall published my bibliography of almost 4000 flag-related publications, a resource never before (or since) matched.

These clearly filled important needs because the response to each was immediate and positive. The casual contacts I had developed during the previous decade increased substantially, including book exchanges, notices of new flags, queries about sources of information, swapping of actual flags, etc. Nevertheless it also quickly became clear that we had by no means found the limits to the interest which existed among vexillologists. Another important step in vexillology was taken in 1965. In anticipation of studies in Belgium (which were never realized) for my doctoral dissertation, I had been in correspondence with Klaes Sierksma of the Netherlands about a meeting of vexillologists in his country. In September 1965 we were jointly able to realize the First International Congress of Vexillology. In the little town of Muiderberg 19 participants from Europe, plus myself and a man from South Africa, spent two days discussing flags and enjoying tours, films, lectures, and exhibits. After getting to know each other, on the second day we discussed the future development of our nascent "science of vexillology."

Everyone agreed that *The Flag Bulletin* was an important voice for vexillology, but that the proceedings of the congress should be published separately as a permanent contribution to knowledge, particularly for those unable to attend. Congresses should continue to be held on a regular basis for our mutual enrichment, moving from country to country both to encourage wide participation and to give us access to the vexillological treasures of diverse cultures. We also needed some kind of international association to coordinate our activities, especially the International Congresses. Responsibility for creating the association was placed in the hands of myself, Sierksma, and Louis Mühlemann, who was to organize the Second International Congress of Vexillology in Zurich in 1967.

#### THE ORIGINS OF FIAV

During the course of correspondence between the three of us the present International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV) was developed. We quickly recognized that the original concept of an "International League of Vexillologists" would present many difficulties due to the small number of individuals around the world interested in flags, the tremendous distances involved, and the fact that very few of us had any possibility of getting financial support for vexillology from our occupations. If the only gathering of vexillologists took place at the biennial congresses, decisions would be heavily weighted in favor of the natives of the host country. Moreover, those who for any reason could not attend might well find the possibility of meeting other vexillologists only once a decade or less often.

For these reasons it was decided that FIAV would be a federation linking associations and institutions, rather than individuals. The creation of associations would allow vexillologists in each country or region to organize themselves as they saw fit—with their own meetings, publications, and activities suited to local circumstances. This also eliminated the necessity of a budget for FIAV and the complications which might arise from trying to determine a fair assessment of money, proper control over its spending, and the uneven benefits that might result. For example, a small national association with fewer than a dozen members could pay only a small fraction of what the National Geographic Society with hundreds of thousands of members could afford if both were participants in FIAV, yet it would be unfair for each to have exactly the same vote in deciding FIAV affairs.

Thus it was decided that the core purpose of the new international organization would be to provide a forum every two years for member associations and institutions to meet and discuss mutual problems. When appropriate, this would result in internationally-binding decisions. In addition, sponsorship of the International Congresses of Vexillology was to be an important ongoing responsibility for FIAV. While there have been objections to this system over the years, some people insisting that FIAV should have more power, my own feeling is that it has worked extremely well. We get the greatest possible benefit for vexillology at both the national and international level without the many complications that might have arisen under another system—particularly if FIAV had a regular budget and assessment of dues from its members.

While there was general agreement that national associations would provide the regular opportunities for individual vexillologists to meet, exchange information, publish, and develop their interests, in fact national associations did not exist in 1965. Thus the decision to constitute FIAV as a federation of vexillological associations was a prime factor leading to the creation of those associations. Things would have worked out very differently if the original concept of an International League of Vexillologists had been followed.

Sierksma was the head of the Foundation for Vexillology and Heraldry, while Gary and I ran The Flag Research Center. Lawrence Tower was president of the United States Flag Foundation, although this was not really a vexillological association since its only interest was in promoting the Stars and Stripes. Others belonged to heraldic associations where vexillological interests were definitely in the minority.

It is also important to keep in mind that in 1965 The Flag Research Center constituted a *de facto* association. The 200 people around the world who subscribed to its then quarterly *Flag Bulletin* frequently thought of themselves as members of a society with common objectives, communications, and leadership. Even though The Flag Research Center has always specifically disavowed the concept of membership, there are still people today who renew their subscriptions to *The Flag Bulletin* by sending what they refer to as "membership dues."

The Flag Research Center might have taken an aggressive approach to this issue, proclaiming itself the International Association of Vexillologists. This was not done for a number of reasons, but first and foremost Gary and I felt that it would be presumptuous of us to announce ourselves the leaders of such a society. Moreover, it would have been difficult for us to meet the real needs and interests of a membership-based organization of world scope.

In 1965 we were both employed full time, he as a school teacher and I as an instructor at Boston University; each of us had two small children. Neither of us had the time or financial resources to operate a worldwide membership organization properly. It would have been a reasonable expectation at the very least to hold one annual meeting, perhaps even several meetings a year, in different parts of the world. Members would rightly have expected to take an active role in running the organization and setting its policies, including *The Flag Bulletin*, The Flag Research Center library, research projects, etc.

Europeans of an older generation in particular might not have been comfortable with two Americans, aged 25 and 30, presuming to set the tone and pace for such an association and for the International Congresses of Vexillology. Therefore I believe that the decision Gary and I made to limit The Flag Research Center to an institution, rather than an association, and to encourage the development of FIAV and its separate national associations as independent groups was the correct choice for everyone concerned.

There was another factor involved, although at the time it was not of great significance. The Flag Research Center had (and has) legal status as an unincorporated business. Its assets, rather modest in 1965, were the personal possessions of Gary and myself. After I left Boston University as an assistant professor of political science in 1969, the growth of the Center led to commercial developments which would have been difficult to justify as part of a membership association with noncommercial gains.

The Netherlands Association of Vexillology (NVvV) was the first national association of vexillology, founded in 1966 by the Dutch. The French Association of International Vexillological Studies (no longer in existence) was the second organization formed, later that same year. NAVA, the third vexillological association to be created, has always had the largest membership. These three joined the institutes headed by Sierksma and by Gary and myself—plus the United States Flag Foundation and five heraldic societies—when the provisional creation of FIAV was announced in September 1967 at the Second International Congress of Vexillology. Twelve associations and institutions recognized themselves as the charter Members of FIAV on September 7, 1969 at Boston University at the Third International Congress of Vexillology held in Boston, Massachusetts, USA. FIAV currently (1996) has 21 vexillological associations and eight institutions, three heraldic associations, one army historical association, and two flag-waiving organizations as members in 26 countries.

