

1520 p.m.

Ir. A.J. Beenhakker, 's-Gravenhage: MUNICIPALITY FLAGS
OF ZEEUWS-VLAANDEREN
(Neth.)

A short history and introduction

Quite different from the rest of Zealand, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen in the Middle Ages has been a part of the Countship of Flandres. Hulst and Aardenburg and afterwards Sluis were important cities in this region.

About 1580 the Netherlands devided. Zuid-Vlaanderen was captured by the Republic, and became a kind of colony, the Generality's Land.

Therefore Zuid-Vlaanderen cities were only important as a kind of frontier cities; the land was the scene of war and inundations and the cities, though on the Scheldt-river side, had no importance for shipping. In consequence there never have been historical flags.

During the last years a few of the 30 municipalities, most of which next will be incorporated in other municipalities instated new flags. Some of them use a Sierksma design, some of them our design. For the other municipalities, having no official flag up till now, we made new designs (5 of them being presented now to the municipality board).

In designing we had the principles: to use the colours of the coats of arms, to make a great variety, to introduce historical or topographical characteristics, to provide for designs giving more than stripes only.

Description of the flags

Aardenburg (in use): A red castle on yellow. / Similar to the coat of arms.

Axel (a design): A red reversed chevron in the middle of the length with a blue key on each side. / Based on an old banner, the keys symbolize the city and the district of Axel, united 1665.

Biervliet (in use): Quartered yellow, white, red, black. / The colours of the coat of arms arranged along the cross out of herring curing, this procoodee having been invented here in former days.

Breakens (in use): Two stripes red, green. / The origin of the colours is unknown and supposed to be those of Bruxelles.

Clinge (a design): A black sword (scimitar) in the upper hoist of stripes yellow, red. / The design is based on the canting coat of arms.

Grasuw on Langendan (a design): A yellow stripe from the lower hoist to the upper fly with a yellow St. Jacques' shell in the upper hoist on blue. / The "dam" is symbolized by the stripe, the shell indicating fishery.

Grosde (in use): Five stripes blue, white et seq., with the coat of arms' shield on the third stripe. / Based on the municipality arms.

Hoek (a design): Three stripes orange, white, blue with a red castle on a yellow hoist triangle. / The origin of the village is a fortress founded by Prince Maurits of Orange and the triangle symbolizes the name of Hoek.

Honterisse (a design): A green orange-tree in the hoist on a white triangle from the hoist to the fly on blue. / The orange tree out of the coat of arms indicating the possessions of the House of Orange in this region has been placed on an "edge" (a white "Nisse") in the blue Honte (or Western Scheldt).

Hoofdplaat (a design): Two stripes of equal length white, blue, separated by a small red stripe. / A red dike with "teeth" demonstrates the alternative attacks between the water (blue) and the land (white) of this very dangerously situated village on the river board.

Hulst (in use): A black crowned lion with red tongue and nails in the centre on yellow. / This flag is historically founded and similar to the coat of arms.

St. Jansteen (a design): The black and red castle out of the coat of arms in the centre along the top on two stripes white, black. / A flag of two stripes white and black being traditional the emblem could make it more attractive.

Koewacht (in use): Three stripes green, yellow, green. / Following the colours of the coat of arms.

Nieuwvliet (a design): Diagonally from the upper hoist to the bottom fly divided in white with a blue crescent to the top and blue with a white key. / The flag showing the dividing according to the coat of arms of the Fran-

chise of Bruges has a key indicating the people's name for the village "St. Pieters".

Oostburg (in use): Three stripes black, white, green. / According to the colours of the coat of arms.

Overslag (in use): Three stripes blue, yellow, blue. / According to the colours of the coat of arms.

Philippine (a design): Two stripes yellow and green with a blue key on a white circle in the centre. / The key and circle are for the situation of the village (founded 1506) in the Axel district on the division of old land with many trees (green) and new land with cornfields (yellow).

Retranchement (a design): A white bordered blue stripe from the upper hoist to the lower fly on orange. / Situated in the Franchise of Bruges the flag has the blue stripe on white, the rest being orange symbolizing the Fortress Retranchement founded by Prince Maurice of Orange.

Sas van Jent (in use): Two stripes of equal length, white with a black lion in the hoist, and red with three white stripes. / The first stripe showing the reversal of the Ghent coat of arms the flag in the second stripe indicates the three canal branches coming together in the sluice ("Sas") of the municipality.

Schoondijke (in use): Diagonally from the upper fly to the lower hoist divided in blue with the coat of arms' shield and white. / According to the colours of the coat of arms.

Sluis (in use): Two stripes red, white with the coat of arms' shield in the centre. / According to the colours of the coat of arms.

Ternouzen (in use): A flag of equal length and breadth similar to the coat of arms.

Vogelwaarde (in use): Quarterly yellow and green with a white and black peewit in the centre of the first quarter. / The four quarters are indicating the 4 villages of the municipality and the alternation of pasture and arable land. The canting symbol also can be found in the coat of arms.

Waterlandkerkje (in use): Three stripes blue, white, green. / The colours are according to those of the coat of arms.

Westdorpe (in use): Three stripes red, white, red from the lower hoist to the upper fly on green. / The flag-design shows the topographical situation of the village: a dike with two rows of houses in a green polder, in a SW-NE direction.

IJzandijke (in use): Eleven stripes white, blue, et seq. / This flag with the coat of arms' colours has been in use for several years.

Zaanslag (in use): Three small black stripes on white, a red broad seam at the top, a blue broad seam at the bottom. / There are three unidentified black emblems in the coat of arms; the municipality is a Dutch border region.

Zuiddorpe (in use): Three blue buckwheatflowers, positioned 2 and 1 in the centre, on yellow. / The flag is similar to the coat of arms.

Zuidzande (in use): A blue stripe from the upper hoist to the lower fly and a blue Z on each side on white. / Similar to the coat of arms, the municipality being situated in the Franchise of Bruges.

Note: The difficulty of showing all the flags described gave a unique possibility to show in practice the flag description rules, printed in the addition to this book.

16.00 p.m.

Dhr. D. van Leeuwen, Delft: ABOUT RUSSIAN STATE FLAGS

The propose of this lecture on Russian Stateflags is in the first place to call attention to this widely unknown subject and to get more information from the audience. And with the aid of Mr. W. Smith and Mr. Kl. Sierkema, the following data can be stated:

The flag of the RSFSR for the first time has been described in the Constitution of the RSFSR of 1918 (art. 90). It decided that the flag of the RSFSR should be red with the golden letters

РСФСР