

During the putting in of the congress ship at Amsterdam harbour the congressists formally were saluted by a municipal fire-brigade ship pumping like a fountain.

At all municipal buildings the national or Amsterdam flags (with ornage streamers to indicate Prince Maurits's birthday) were hoisted in honour of the congressists (normally on this date the flag protocol in The Netherlands allows a limited flagging only); several citizens and industries followed the municipal pattern, e.g. the harbour authorities with a huge mast and all the colours hoisted of shipping companies from all over the world having a ship in harbour at that moment. The harbour director himself had hoisted his personal flag. (r-w-n-w-n-w-r, 1:1:3:1:1, with the full coat of arms of Amsterdam near to the hoist on the middle stripe) and personally supervised the congress ships mooring.

Après l'amarrage le directeur nommé au nom du bourgmestre d'Amsterdam a invité les congressistes pour un tour en petit bateau des canaux de la cité. Pendant l'excursion les congressistes ont payé visite à l'un des fameux diamantaires hollandais, Mrs. Van Moppes & Fils. Aux visiteurs on a distribué des fiches à remplir avec leurs nom et adresses. Au fin du diner du capitaine, le 19 Avril, le président honoraire de la FIAV, M. Louis MÜhlmann, a annoncé le nom du congressiste qui a gagné un bijou aux diamants (d'un valeur de fl. 1200 environ), mis à la disposition des organisateurs du congrès par les diamantaires nommés. Avec les acclamations des congressistes M. Andrzej Bobkowski de Warszawa a été enrichi du don exceptionnel. Durant le tour des canaux les membres du Bureau-Général de la Fédération Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques se sont débarqué au Musée Naval Historique pour l'Assemblée-Générale bi-annuelle.

Introductory to the General Meeting of the FIAV by Mr. Klass Sierkema, secretary-general for the congresses FIAV.

At the occasion of this 6th congress - the 2nd one in the Netherlands we think it is necessary to have a short look on the results of these almost ten years of international co-operation and to have another look to the next future.

It will be needless to say how happy my wife and I have observed the development of our 1965 initiative to start and offer facilities for flagstudents from all over the world to meet one another personally. A simple two-days meeting in a little village on the coast of our old Zuyderzee after consciously organised international congresses in Zurich, Boston, Torino and London now has developed into a real world congress with members up to a number of over 100. Moreover however our satisfaction points at the worldwide friendships of a private character which have been originated since our first meeting. A large number of the today members has met one another not only at the occasions of the former 5 congresses, but also have sought for and found out possibilities for visites one to another. The post authorities of several countries without any doubt have been prospered by thousands of letters and packages on flag information. There has been not the ghost of a chance to differences of opinion on politics, faiths, races and nationalities for influencing harmfully

our contacts and friendships. On the contrary we think no where else can be observed such harmony among members like this one among flag friends...and their wives and other relations.

I repeat: my wife and I are very happy and we hope so this international well understanding will last for years and years. We return thanks to all of you for the encountered friendships and understandings.

At the occasion of our first international meeting there only have been the Flag Research Centre of Mr. Whitney Smith with its first issues of a simple quarterly The Flag Bulletin, and at the other side of the ocean the Foundation for Banneristics and Heraldry. Since successively after the foundation of a Netherlands Society for Banneristics a couple of organisations in other countries have been founded and in the Fédération Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques another couple of related organisations have found means of co-operation.

At this very moment we are 15 foundations, institutions, and societies under one umbrella of the FIAV.

The Flag Bulletin having been recognised at our 2nd congress as a quarterly for the publication of scientific articles on flags and related subjects has expanded to a two month periodical, with specialised annexes for documentation of sources and questionnaires.

The Foundation for Banneristics and Heraldry is running the 10th volume of the monthly Vexilla Nostra on behalf of the members and supporters of the Dutch society. There is room for publications in every language. A Swiss society for vexillology is publishing a very well got-up yearbook, in a French and German edition, under the name of Vexilla Helvetica. After some difficulties the French society seems to be able to publish more incidentally a French periodical Vexillologica.

After a few editions of a Heraldry Society Flag Section's Bulletin a new English Flag Institute produces a journal Flagmaster.

April 1974 brought a periodical Vexilla Italica of our 2nd Italian organisation.

Still has to be mentioned the periodical Vexilologie of the Prague Club of Flag students, and the NAVAnews of our American friends.

Not to be forgotten are these specialized heraldry and genealogy periodicals of the Nordic, German, Italian, South African and other organisations with more incidental articles on flaglore.

Dear friends, you'll allow me to ask the question: ARE WE ON THE RIGHT WAY HERE?

Will it be necessary for flag students to subscribe for all these publications now already amounting to over \$200, - a year? Will there be during the next years the threat of more "national" organisations of flag students having an intention for more other periodicals on flags, each in its own language for almost 75 % duplicating the other ones? I here and now at this 6th international meeting will repeat seriously the proposal of the late Mr. Fachinger at the Zurich congress:

Let us study as soon as possible the possibilities and profits and disadvantages of a more institutionalized system of periodical flag publications.

We all know and it cannot be forgotten that at any rates one and perhaps two of our friends, namely Mrs. Whitney Smith and William Crampton, have found means of subsistence (or at least a part of it)

with the publishing of their periodicals, I personally am not discontented with this situation, however. For here are opportunities to be seized.

At the other hand we have the publications of a couple of national organisations which by cause of the very limited circulation among their members and a few foreigners never will rise to well got-up monthlies or quarterlies. It will be an idle hope that they'll last for years and years: without any doubt soonest they'll have lack of copy and money...

And let us not forget these friends mentioned in several countries having no publication of their own and living on the favour of heraldic and other publications. Or even lacking these favours! These things have to be studied carefully. It is not my intention to injure these directors, secretaries and editors their utmost to maintain their national publications. Without any doubt they have the best function to keep up activities of their members and supporter. But we think a combination of the function of flag periodicals will be possible on a more institutionalized level.

And this, my dear friends, also is one of the duties of the international federations: to make a profit of international co-operation!

Here is a draft of my own how the next future we could manage things

- I. Every two years we have our international meetings with a lot of very fine lectures. It will be a duty for the organizers of such congresses just from the beginning of their activities to look after means for the producing of a BIENNIAL RECUEIL. These Recueils will have to be published within a time of one year after the congresses. And all lecturers (with their lists of sources, literature and illustrations) will be published in the original languages of the authors.
- II. Every year the Swiss organisation, with its necessary editions in French and German, will continue to publish its YEARBOOK. It could be recognized by the FIAV as such and continue to specialize on standards and military flags.
- III. The English FLAGMASTER can be recognized as the FIAV QUARTERLY, with a specializing on actual international, national and public flags, including political parties flags.
- IV. The FLAG BULLETIN will be a pure scientific FIAV BIMONTHLY for the publication of more elaborate articles and studies in English. It has to be advised that for the real quoting of sources the original languages only will be used or at least added to an English summarizing.
- V. And a MONTHLY, edited in a mixing up of all languages in use with flag students, could be the FIAV INFORMATION SOURCE for actual data on new flags, new books, enquiries, exhibitions, meetings, lectures local (national) informations etc.

Especially this last item needs some more explanation. In short, we consider it a substitute of the Vexilla Nostra, Vexilla Italica, Vexillologica, Vexillologie and NAVAnews and all other information from Recueils, Yearbooks, Flagmasters, and Flag Bulletins, not to be forgotten all information in heraldic publications.

This "FIAV Information Source" has to be the inexpensive, actual and short "Pundgrube" for every serious flag student which informs him on what is going on in our discipline and which is inviting him to look after further and more detailed information in the other publications

as mentioned. Roughly calculated the subscription rates for these yearbook, quarterly, bimonthly and monthly will amount to a \$ 75,- a year only, on the condition that all national organisations in the FIAV for their members will replace their "national" publications for this international series of publications. Me thinks this will be satisfactory enough and even most attractive.

But let me be silent now and stop this introductory. We have thrown down the gauntlet to you. During the next days perhaps these proposals can be discussed in a working committee: let us hear about its results in our last session. If we succeed in some agreement as the result of this 6th congress, I'd be very happy, it would be an important step forward to a real international federation of flag friends!

Dès 12.30 h. à bord du Bateau de Congrès un buffet froid très riche est offert aux congressistes, pendant que des invités pour assister à l'ouverture officielle du congrès sont arrivés. Parmi eux: les Ambassadeurs des Etats-Unis et de Norvège, les délégués des Forces Militaires Néerlandaises, de la Municipalité d'Amsterdam, des divers Ministères Néerlandais, des musées, des villes et villages à visiter durent le congrès, etc., etc. Le Ministre de la Défense nationale a bien voulu rendre ses honneurs au congrès en déléguant de la part des Forces Maritimes Royales le Marinierskorps.

La musique militaire a entouré pendant une heure la cérémonie protocolaire de l'ouverture du congrès. Malheureusement au dernier moment l'échevin pour les ports d'Amsterdam a été empêché par une maladie acute à se laisser excuser. Le président honoraire de la FIAV, M. Louis Mühlmann, à sa place a installé le président du congrès M.G. de Graaf. Les allocutions finies des jeunes filles de Haarlem, au nom des cultivateurs hollandais de tulipes et de narcisses, offraient à la compagnie des fleurs pour les boutons.

Mr. Tomiura delivered in Japanese a message of the vexillological association at Tokyo. His interpreter Mr. Leinens read an English translation as follows:

April 10th, 1975

President  
The Sixth World Congress FIAV

On behalf of the National Flag Association, a corporate juridical person, I would like to offer my hearty congratulations on the opening of the Sixth World Congress of Vexillology. I wish that through this Congress, the glorious flag of each country of the world will be better known and understood by the people of the world and that this Congress may, with cooperation of every country, be held over and over again for many years to come in the future.

Director General of the Secretariat of the Congress and all the related staffs have been doing the hard work, by dint of which the holding of this grand Congress will be made possible. Our deepest respect goes to them.

I pray for many successes in the study of vexillology, and for the good health of each of the participants of this Congress. I thank you at the same time, for your courtesy of inviting Kouji Tomura, director of the National Flag Association, a corporate juridical person, to this Congress of the high distinction.

Hiroshi Honda, President

The secretary-general of congresses FIAV communicated the texts of two telegrams having been wired this morning in the name of the congressists as follows:

A Sa Majesté la Reine Juliana  
au Palais ROYAL

Plus de cent adeptes de la science des drapeaux et pavillons, appartenant à dix-huit nations et réunis en congrès à bord du navire Princesse Christina sur le lac d'IJssel, rendent honneur à Votre Majesté et La prient de bien vouloir agréer l'assurance de leurs sentiments respectueux et dévoués.

Au nom des congressistes,  
KL. SIERKEMA

Monsieur Pieter van Vollenhoven  
à Het Loo  
APPELDOORN

Plus de cent adeptes de la science des drapeaux et pavillons, appartenant à dix-huit nations et réunis en congrès à bord du navire Princesse Christina sur le lac d'IJssel, prient leur haut Patron de bien vouloir agréer l'assurance de leurs sentiments très respectueux et leurs félicitations à l'occasion de l'anniversaire de Son Altesse le Prince Maurice. Ils seraient honorés si l'on voulait bien accepter, en temps venu, pour décorer la chambre du Prince, un drapeau aux couleurs du Royaume.

Au nom des congressistes,  
KL. SIERKEMA

He was pleased to be able and have the honour to read already at this moment Her Majesty's gracious answer and best wishes for the congress. Her Royal Highness Princess Margriet and her husband Mr. Pieter van Vollenhoven will receive Mr. and Mrs. Sierkema in audience for the presentation of the flag promised for the prince's nursery. Mr. Sierkema read some other telegrams of greeting and best wishes received from the Netherlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde, Mr. Jan Th.M. Toorians Alfares of the Stichting voor Banistiek en Heraldiek (from his sick-bed), Mrs. Ph.M. Bosscher ltn.t.s. II, and the Board and Directors of the Academia di San Marignano.

He communicated the invitation of the directors of the Dutch Governmental World Radio for a message around the world during this night via the ship's radio and one or two interviews with congressists on Sunday afternoon.

Le départ des musiciens militaires et des invités a marqué le commencement définitif du congrès. Le capitaine a dirigé son bateau vers la Zuydersee.

Im Namen der Paderation Brabanter Fahnenchwinger hat sich einer der Ältesten Gilden, "het Groot Gaesbeecker Gilde van Sinto-Aechten", mit seinem König, seiner Königin, seinem Vorstand und seinen Fahnenchwingern Trommlern und Pausenbläsern, in Hafen Muidens an Bord den Kongressisten präsentiert. Traditionsgemäss und nach alten Vokarsrecht wurden der Bürgermeister, der katholischer Pastor und der reformierter Prediger dazu eingeladen anwesend zu sein, damit die Gildebrüder den Eid von Treue an die Kirche und an die Regierung (Schwinget Eure Fahnen zu Ehren Gottes, Königin und Vaterland) erneuern konnten in einer Gemeinde wo sie vorher noch nie gewesen waren. Zur Erinnerung an diesen Kongressbesuch hängigte der Kongresspräsident Herr De Graaf den Gildebrüdern ein silbernes Schild (nach altem Muster) mit Inschriftion aus.

