

The Greenland Flag

Christian Fogd Pedersen

Greenland's "landsting" (Parliament) decided February 1985 to introduce a special Flag for Greenland. Greenland has never had a flag of its own, but did always use the Danish national flag in the same way as this is used in Denmark itself; that means: in the colonial time, during the period from 1953 to 1979, when Greenland was an integrated part of Denmark, and further until 1985. After the introduction of Home Rule in 1979, it was a wish from many sides, that Greenland should have a flag of its own, like the Faer Islands, also a part of Denmark with Home Rule. Everyone - could send their proposals for a flag. More than 500 proposals were sent in.

To simplify the problem the "landsting" made hereafter a closed competition for Greenlandic artists, and the Flag Committee of the "landsting" has from the received material chosen 2 flag proposals, 1) a cross banner, white cross on a green flag. This to underline Greenland's connection with the Scandinavian countries. Many people found it natural to continue this tradition. 2) The other proposed flag was not a cross flag, but did have the Danish colours, red and white. In its drawing it is quite different from the Scandinavian flags: horizontally divided white over red with a red and white circle on the dividing line, not quite in the middle of the flag, but a little more towards the flag staff.

As it will be known the flag of proposal 2 has been chosen, but only -- with 3 votes majority. Already before the votation in the "landsting", this has decided not to make a popular votation on the flag matter. - Therefore the matter was hence finished from the part of Greenland. Nevertheless there has arisen a debate on this flag, because many people were dissatisfied with the new flag, "a combination of the Polish and Japanese flag", they said. These people want a Scandinavian cross flag, as a Christian symbol. The flag must now be approved by the Danish "Folketing". But this is looked upon as only a formal matter from the part of Greenland, because the flag was chosen democratically. So in Greenland - one is convinced that the new white-red flag will fly over Greenland for the first time officially on the new Greenland national day June the 21, 1985, the midsummer day.

The new flag will be the national flag of Greenland, but it has been decided, that the Danish flag also can be used - as a state flag. The Greenland flag has been created by the artist Thue Christensen, who was the first minister for school and culture after the introduction of Home Rule.

The symbol of the flag: The rising sun, the tension between warmth and cold and the joy of the warmth and brightness of the sun.

Colours: Blood red/white.

The size of the flag takes its form after the radius of the circle: the side nearest the flag staff: $\frac{2}{3}$ radius.
- away from the - : $1 \frac{1}{2}$ radius.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ radius from the line of the circle to the upper and lower line of the flag.

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