

THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS (FIAV)

The International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV) is an umbrella federation of organisations and institutions devoted to the study of history and symbolism of flags of all kind and from any era. Today FIAV counts 39 members from all the 5 continents, the major member groups being European and Northern American. There are 37 FIAV full members, with a right to vote at the general assembly, and 2 associated members, which have vexillology only as a subsidiary field of interest. FIAV represents a total of nearly a thousand individual vexillologists, who are organised in national or regional associations.

FIAV was founded during the 2nd International Congress of Vexillology in Zurich on 3 September 1967 and was later officially confirmed by the general assembly during the 3rd International Congress in Boston in 1969. The 12 founding (charter) members were the «Swiss Society of Vexillology», the two Dutch associations «Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde» and «Stichting voor Banistiek en Heraldiek», the flag section of the British «Heraldry Society», the German «Wappen-Herald», the French «Association Française d'Etudes Internationales de Vexillologie», the Belgian «Office Généalogique et Héraldique», the flag section of the Italian «Accademia di San Marciano» and the US-American «Flag Research Center», «National Flag Foundation», «North American Vexillological Association» and «United States Flag Foundation».

The aim of FIAV is to promote vexillological science on an international standard, to co-ordinate the activities of the various national and regional vexillological associations, to facilitate exchange of information among the members and, on an individual scope, to bring vexillologists closer to each other.

Since 1965 vexillologists have convened every two years to hold an international congress which is organised under the auspices of FIAV by one of its members. These international congresses usually last for five days, during which a rich and varied program is offered, including not only scholarly lectures and seminars, visits to flag

collections of museums and tours to historic and scenic sites or sessions of the FIAV general assembly, but plenty of opportunities for social contacts as well, where old friendships can be renewed and new friendships can be won. Later the much sought-after congress proceedings summarise the events and results of such a congress.

During a congress the general assembly meets. In between two congresses FIAV is administered by its board consisting of the president, a secretary-general and a secretary-general for congresses. These three persons reside in different countries and at least in two different continents. The board is elected by the general assembly every two years during a congress. The general-secretary is responsible for editing an annual information bulletin (INFO-FIAV), which is distributed to the members of FIAV. During a congress the general assembly of FIAV may admit new members, it decides on general guidelines of the Federation and amendments of the constitution and chooses the site and organiser of the next congress.

During the Zurich congress in 1993 FIAV admitted seven new full members from Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Germany and Slovenia. Warsaw was chosen as site of the 1995 congress and its organisation was conferred to the Muzeum Ziemi Pan (Earth Flag Center), to the Polish Vexillological Society and to the Flag Design Center, all being located in Warsaw.

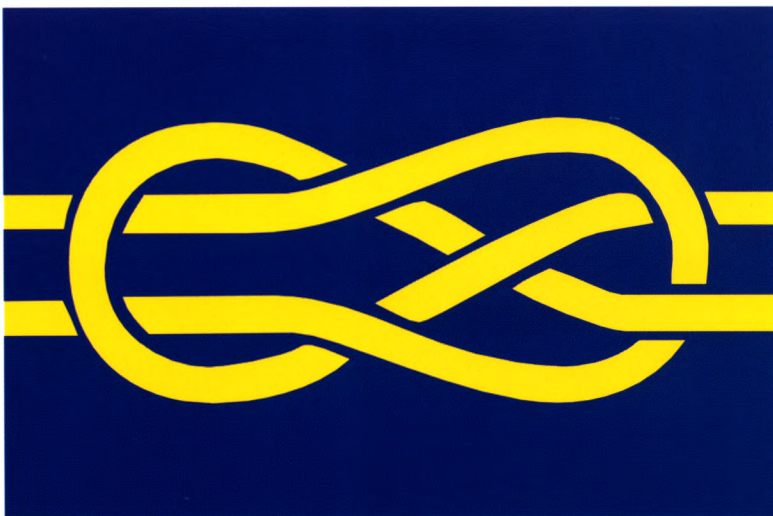
The flag of FIAV

The rectangular flag of FIAV (proportion 2:3) shows on a blue field two yellow halyards, extending horizontally from hoist to fly and forming two interlaced loops.

The halyards allude to vexillology, the study of flags. The blue field and the halyards evoke the maritime origins of the first flags too. The interlaced loops recall the love-knots well-known to heraldists. They symbolise the friendship which unites vexillologists all over the world. The loops formed by the halyards resemble two world hemispheres, and in adding the four ends of the halyards, we have the number six, which stands for the six continents of the world. These elements of the flag thus underline the international character of the Federation. The fact that the halyards extend across the whole flag and disappear beyond either end expresses the considerable and almost infinite extent of vexillological research in time and space.

A number of flags of international organisations display a light shade of blue, whereas the FIAV flag has a dark shade of blue. Several publications show the FIAV flag erroneously with a much too light shade of blue.

The initial design was created by Klaes Sierksma. In 1967 the congress committee of the II. International Congress of Vexillology in Zurich slightly modified the design, which was then definitely executed by Paul Krog.



REPORT ON THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The FIAV General Assembly took place during the XV International Congress of Vexillology at the Landesmuseum in Zurich on 23, 25 and 27 August 1993, with 19 of FIAV's 23 members present.

SUMMARY

- 7 vexillological associations and institutes were accepted as new FIAV full members: AAV, CEBED, CFA, CIDEDEC, HVK, SS and WVRI.
- The FIAV General Assembly voted not to join UNESCO, though later it decided to have the SFV and SEV investigate the UNESCO question again and to report to the Board.
- Warsaw was elected as the site of the XVI. FIAV Congress, to be organised in 1995 by the Earth Flag Center.
- The proposal of the SFV to host the 1997 Congress in Paris was welcome. A moral commitment of FIAV to adjudge the 2001 Congress to the United Kingdom (under condition of the presentation of a report on its preparations in 1995) was voted.
- The Vexillon was awarded to María-José Sastre y Arribas.
- The Board of FIAV will decide alone on adjudgement of the Vexillon.
- William Crampton was elected FIAV president.
- Ralph Bartlett and Dr. Emil Dreyer were confirmed as secretary-general for congresses and secretary-general respectively.

MONDAY, 23 AUGUST

FIAV president Rev. Hugh Boudin officially opened the General Assembly (=GA) at 8 p.m.. Written credentials of members were presented and verified by the Board of FIAV.

FIAV member representatives:

- Associació Catalana de Vexillologia (ACV): Jordi Pérez
- Centro Italiano Studi Vexillologici (CISV): Alfredo Betocchi
- The Flag Design Center (FDC): Alfred Znamierowski
- The Flag Institute (FI): Michael Faul
- The Flag Research Center (FRC): Dr. Whitney Smith
- Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka (FRCSL): Ralph Bartlett (by proxy)
- Flag Society of Australia (FSA): Ron Strachan
- National Flag Foundation (NFF): George F. Cahill
- Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde (NVV): Gerrit J. ten Hove
- North American Vexillological Association (NAVA): Dr. Scot Guenter
- Société Suisse de Vexillologie (SSV): Dr. Emil Dreyer
- Sociedad Española de Vexillología (SEV): Sebastián Herreros
- Societas Vexillologica Belgica (SVB): Rev. Hugh Boudin
- Southern African Vexillological Association (SAVA): Bruce Berry
- Tumbling Waters Museum of Flags (TWMF): Dr. Whitney Smith (by proxy)

- United States Flag Foundation (USFF): William Spangler (by proxy)
- Sveriges Heraldiska Sällskap (VSHS): Sebastián Herreros (by proxy)
- Vexilologický Klub (VK): Aleš Brožek

The Gesellschaft für Österreichische Heereskunde (GOH), the Nordisk Flagselskab (NF) and the Partioheraldikot Ry (PR) had sent no accredited representative. After the regretted death of Dr. Ottfried Neubecker the Wappen-Herold (WH) is no longer functioning. The GA took a minute of silence to honour Dr. Neubecker.

The statutory quorum was fulfilled with 19 members out of 23 present.

Two volunteers were chosen as vote-counters: Ron Strachan and Michael Faul.

The minutes of the FIAV General Assembly of Barcelona, July 1991, were unanimously approved.

The FIAV president announced a change of order of the agenda, since he would step down from his post, hence a new president would have to be elected. To give the GA time for deliberations before the election of a new Board, he announced the names of candidates as listed in the questionnaires received. The candidates for president were (in alphabetical order): W. Crampton, K. Harrington, S. Herreros, W. Jurečič, R. Klimeš, J. Kosič, A. Rabbow, I. Šorli. Other candidates were welcome to offer themselves.

The candidates for FIAV membership were introduced by its representatives:

- Asociación Argentina de Vexillología (AAV): Gustavo Tracchia (by proxy)
- Centre Belgo-Européen d'Etudes des Drapeaux (CEBED): Michel Lupant
- The Canadian Flag Association (CFA): Kevin Harrington
- Fundación Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Culturales (CIDEDEC): Gustavo Tracchia (by proxy)
- Heraldischer Verein «Zum Kleeblatt» (HVK): Dr. Günter Mattern (by proxy)
- Slovenski Ščit – HGV Club (SS): Walt Jurečič
- World Vexillological Research Institute (WVRI): Roman Klimeš

After consideration of all candidates the GA proceeded to vote on admission of the candidates one at a time. CFA and CEBED were voted in unanimously, SS and AAV were voted in by 21 votes in favour and 1 abstention each (note: the 3 members of the Board have one vote each). The WVRI was voted in by 16 yes and 6 no. General controversy ensued on the membership status of HVK and CIDEDEC. Some members feared that these two candidates might threaten the independence of vexillological science, since both are mainly devoted to heraldry, and hence an associate status was proposed. The fact that these candidates come from countries where a FIAV member already exists was criticised. Other members underlined the vexillological merits of these candidates, also pointing out, that a couple of FIAV members are heraldic associations. They argued too, that 4 countries already have at least two members in FIAV, so full membership should not be denied. Generally FSA, FRC, NFF, USFF and TWMF

favoured an associate membership, whereas mainly European FIAV members (SEV, CSIV, SFV, SSV and FI) favoured a full membership. Ultimately, HVK and CIDEAC were accepted by a narrow majority as associate FIAV members only, thus having no vote.

FIAV secretary-general Dr. Emil Dreyer reported on the results of the questionnaire, which had been sent to all FIAV members in spring 1993. Questionnaires were filled out by the following FIAV members: VK, NFF, USFF, FRC, SEV, ACV, SSV, NVV, FI, SFV, CISV, SAVA - that is 52% of the members. FIAV candidates CFA and SS had sent in their questionnaire too.

The table below shows the answers to the questionnaire:

Name	Established	Members (Flag-Club)	Meeting	FIAV
VK	1972	165 (35)	Annual	Yes
NFF	1968	1727 (27)	Quarterly	No
USFF	1950	8 (0)	Annual	No
FRC	1962	1125 (475)	Annual	no answer
SEV	1977	116 (23)	Annual	Yes
ACV	1981	32 (8)	Annual	Yes
SSV	1967	96 (34)	Annual	no answer
NVV	1966	94 (13)	Annual	no answer
SFV	1985	131 (29)	Monthly	Yes
CISV	1972	46 (16)	None	Yes
SAVA	1990	45 (26)	Quarterly	Yes
CFA	1985	206 (90)	Annual	Yes
SS	1991	60 (5)	Monthly	Yes

Asked for the requirements a FIAV member should meet, most associations pointed out that the FIAV member should issue a regular publication at least once a year, should organise general meetings at least annually, should attend international congresses (not by proxy) and should have a minimum membership of 5-10 persons.

The FIAV secretary-general reported on his inquiries at the United Nations office in Geneva regarding a possible adhesion of FIAV to UNESCO as a non-governmental organisation (NGO). During the XIV. Congress in Barcelona 1991, the GA had commissioned the SEV to look into the question and to report to the Board. Since no report was made, the secretary-general wrote to the UN headquarters in Geneva. There he was informed, that to become a NGO within UNESCO, you first had to apply for recognition by another UN department (ECOSOC), which meant a multitude of forms to complete.

On recommendation of the Board the GA voted by 18 no, 8 yes and 1 abstention not to pursue the UNESCO matter.

WEDNESDAY, 25 AUGUST

Between the issue of FIAV-INFO No. 4 in May 1993 and the beginning of the XV. Congress in August 4 sites had been presented as candidates for the 1995 FIAV Congress: Warsaw, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Moscow. The candidates explained their offer to the GA: 1)

Warsaw: W. Serwatowski, director of the Earth Flag Center in Warsaw, with a thorough, well documented and very detailed presentation of his home-town and its infrastructure possibilities, convinced the GA that the Earth Flag Center should host a congress. He can rely on his professional staff and the sympathy of government officials. In 1995, Poland will celebrate the 700th anniversary of its white eagle. 2) Pittsburgh: G. Cahill, director of the National Flag Foundation, withdrew his offer to host a congress in 1995 after knowing that there were other candidates. 3) Cincinnati: Dr. S. Guenter, president of NAVA, presented the advantages of Cincinnati as a site for the 1995 Congress, which would be organised by the Great Waters Association of

Vexillology in conjunction with NAVA, concurrently with the annual NAVA meeting. 4) Moscow: Prof. I. Blishchenko, director of the Institute of International Law in Moscow had sent a fax to apply for hosting the XVI. FIAV Congress. Correspondence by both the secretary-general for congresses and the secretary-general was not answered, nor did any FIAV member know of that institution. Upon recommendation of the Board, Moscow's application was disallowed.

Warsaw was accepted as the site of the next FIAV Congress in 1995 by 25 yes and 2 abstentions.

The SFV announced its proposal to host the 1997 FIAV Congress in Paris. The GA approved by 24 yes and 3 abstentions a motion to take the offer into consideration, though the motion is not binding and further offers are welcome. The definitive decision on the site of the 1997 Congress will be taken in Warsaw.

The Flag Institute informed the GA of its plans to celebrate the Bicentennial of the present British flag in 2001 and proposed to host a FIAV Congress on the occasion. The FI plans to contact Royal Mail authorities to commemorate the event with a special stamp issue and this needs to be done a minimum of 5 years in advance. The FI asked the GA to definitively adjudge the 2001 FIAV venue to Britain because of the long time needed for preparation. The FDC wanted to know, if a decision by the GA would be binding. The Board answered positively, being criticised then by the NFF, since the earlier motion on Paris had not been binding. The FRC pointed out, that the moral authority of the British flag

should be sufficient for a definitive vote on the 2001 Congress in Britain. Finally, the FIAV secretary-general for congresses suggested to vote moral support for 2001 in Britain, and to ask the FI for a report on the preparations, to be delivered at the GA in Warsaw in 1995. If the FI should fail to present its report, no definitive decision would be taken in Warsaw. The FI accepted this proposal, the NFF disagreed with the word «morally». On his request Michael Faul was exempted from counting votes on this occasion.

The GA voted by 1 no and 26 yes to morally adjudge its XIX. Congress to the FI under condition of receiving in Warsaw a report as to the progress of congress preparations, otherwise FIAV would not be bound to have a Congress in Great Britain in 2001.

FIAV president Hugh Boudin announced that the Board had taken a decision on the winner of the Vexillon, and that the GA could approve or disapprove its choice, but no other name from those listed in the questionnaire would be given. The Board proposed to award the Vexillon to María-José Sastre y Arribas for her research on Spanish medieval vexillology and for her publications («Diccionario de Vexilología», «Normas de Descripción y Codificación Vexilológica», «El Escudo de Madrid»). The GA accepted the Board's nomination by 23 yes and 4 abstentions. The Vexillon is a gift of the Flag Society of Australia to FIAV to present to a vexillologist, who has achieved an outstanding work in the promotion and excellency of vexillology. NAVA proposed to entrust to the Board the choice concerning the Vexillon award without voting by the GA. The FSA seconded this motion. The GA voted by 24 yes, 1 no and 2 abstentions to have the Board decide alone on the award of the Vexillon.

Next point on the agenda was the election of a new FIAV president. There was general hesitation about the qualification and convenience of accepting the Slovenian candidates. The FDC nominated Dr. Whitney Smith for president, NAVA nominated Ron Strachan. Kevin Harrington withdrew his candidacy. The candidates were asked by the FIAV president, if they accepted nomination: Ron Strachan, Sebastián Herreros, William Crampton and Roman Klimeš accepted. Dr. Whitney Smith declared, that it would be inappropriate for him because of the polarity between himself and William Crampton. The NFF reminded the assembly to consider carefully for whom and on what they were going to vote, since a FIAV president should serve FIAV and not vice-versa. The FDC nominated Michel Lupant, but he declined. The candidates then had each a few appropriate words in front of the GA, which afterwards proceeded to a secret vote on the candidates. 23 delegates were present, totalling 26 votes (23 FIAV members and the Board). A simple majority was needed for the election: First ballot : Crampton 9, Herreros 9, Strachan 5, Klimeš 1, abstentions 2. Klimeš retired after the first ballot. Second ballot : Crampton 11, Herreros 11, Strachan 3, abstentions 1. Third ballot : Crampton 13, Herreros 10, Strachan 2, abstentions 1. Fourth ballot: Crampton 14, Herreros 9, Strachan 2, abstentions 1.

William Crampton, director of the Flag Institute, was elected as the new FIAV president. He started his office at the end of the XV. Congress.

FRIDAY, 27 AUGUST

Sebastián Herreros proposed to nominate a «computer standards» commission, which would work on co-ordination of vexillological programs with the idea of having a single universal standard for vexillological documentation. He had been doing successful research in this field for a couple of years. The following persons showed interest in forming such a commission: J. Tenora, G. Staack, W. Crampton, Dr. W. Smith, A. Znamierowski, E. Linder, A. Brožek, J. Poels, C. Fernández Espeso, D. Deseniss and S. Herreros. This commission, whose president will be Sebastián Herreros, will work on the project for the next two years and report to the FIAV GA in Warsaw. FIAV may then discuss on the matter. The Board took the proposal into consideration.

Elections of secretaries-general: Ron Strachan and Dr. Emil Dreyer were nominated for election as FIAV secretary-general. Ralph Bartlett was nominated as secretary-general for congresses. Since the Board of FIAV has to be composed by 3 persons from different countries and both Ron Strachan and Ralph Bartlett were Australian, Ron Strachan withdrew his candidacy. The NFF moved to vote each secretary-general unanimously by acclamation, since there was but one candidate for each office. NAVA seconded and both secretaries-general were re-elected by acclamation. Following the election the WVRI stated, that it opposed the election of Dr. E. Dreyer.

The FIAV secretary-general was thus confirmed by 26 yes and 1 no, the secretary-general for congresses by 27 yes.

Several FIAV members expressed their disagreement with the decision of Monday, 23 August, not to accept the HVK and CIDEC as full members. The SEV moved to vote again on the status of these two FIAV members, the VK, FDC and AAV seconded. Arguments in favour and against a change of their status were discussed: Dr. Whitney Smith argued that only pure vexillological societies should have the right to full membership status (i.e. having a vote), whereas the parting FIAV president Rev. Hugh Boudin noted that the purely heraldic VSHS and WH were full FIAV members. Dr. W. Smith proposed to change the status of those FIAV members which were not mainly vexillological associations, instead of voting against the associate status of HVK and CIDEC. The FIAV secretary-general criticised the arbitrary way in which members were classified, enhancing the necessity of having but one membership category to avoid injustice and continuous dispute. The question of a change of the FIAV constitution arose (put forward by the FDC and SFV), but such a change had to be announced 3 months in advance. The SFV proposed to accept heraldic associations only as long as there were no vexillological societies in that country. Dr. Günter Mattern was astonished at the exclusion from full membership of the outstanding, scientific and traditional HVK, which has published scholarly on flags and public heraldry for more than a hundred years. He underlined the necessity to respect both vexillology and heraldry as complementary sciences and earned enthusiastic applause from the audience. Roman Klimeš expressed his conviction that there cannot be a separation between vexillology and heraldry. Dr. Scot

Guenter urged the GA not to be elitist and to acknowledge the achievements of scholarly colleagues, despite their not sharing pure vexillological research. He pleaded for abolition of different membership categories.

Finally, the status of HVK and of CIDEDEC were changed from associate to full membership by subsequent votings: Kleeblatt : 23 yes, 2 no, 1 abstention. CIDEDEC : 16 yes, 5 no, 6 abstentions.

Sebastián Herreros informed the GA, that it was not necessary to apply for ECOSOC to become a NGO at UNESCO. The information given by the FIAV secretary-general was erroneous, since it came from the UN headquarters in Geneva and not from UNESCO headquarters in Paris. The SEV moved in conjunction with ACV to have the UNESCO question examined again in Warsaw, whilst the SFV would investigate at UNESCO

headquarters in Paris and prepare the necessary forms in conjunction with SEV and the FIAV secretary-general. The papers would then be sent to the Board of FIAV for control and signature. The SEV motion was seconded by the SFV and voted by 18 yes, 7 no and 4 abstentions.

On proposal by George Cahill, the outgoing FIAV president Rev. Hugh Boudin was acclaimed by the GA for his exemplary service to FIAV for more than a decade.

FIAV president Rev. Hugh Boudin closed the FIAV sessions of the XV. International Congress of Vexillology in Zurich on Friday afternoon, 27 August, at 5 p.m.

Zollikofen, May 1994

Dr. Emil Dreyer, FIAV secretary-general

CURRENT MEMBERS OF FIAV (1999)

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Zászlókutató Intézet (ZI)

Dosza György ut. 17
2000 Szentendre
HUNGARY

FAIV CONGRESSES

The following list gives dates, places and organisers of all the International Congresses of Vexillology from 1965 to 1999:

1st ICV, Muiderberg, The Netherlands

4–5 September 1965,
Klaes and Berber Sierksma, Stichting voor Banistiek en Heraldiek

2nd ICV, Zurich, Switzerland

1–3 September 1967
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Fahnen- und Flaggenkunde, Société Suisse de Vexillologie, Società Svizzera di Vessillologia

3rd ICV, Boston, United States of America

5–7 September 1969
Flag Research Center / Heraldry Society of Canada, Société Héraldique du Canada / North American Vexillological Association / United States Flag Foundation / Boston University

4th ICV, Turin, Italy

24–27 June 1971
Sezione Vessillologica, Accademia di San Marignano

5th ICV, London, Great Britain

13–18 September 1973
The Flag Institute

6th ICV, IJssel Meer (Zuider Zee), The Netherlands

16–20 April 1975
Stichting voor Banistiek en Heraldiek

7th ICV, Washington, United States of America

10–14 June 1977
Flag Research Center / North American Vexillological Association

8th ICV, Vienna, Austria

26–29 June 1979
Gesellschaft für Österreichische Heereskunde

9th ICV, Ottawa, Canada

24–27 August 1981
Heraldry Society of Canada, Société Héraldique du Canada / North American Vexillological Association

10th ICV, Oxford, Great Britain

25–30 September 1983
The Heraldry Society / The Flag Institute

11th ICV, Madrid, Spain

26–31 May 1985
Sociedad Española de Vexilología

12th ICV, San Francisco, United States of America

12–16 August 1987
Flag Research Center / North American Vexillological Association

13th ICV, Melbourne, Australia

24–29 September 1989
Flag Society of Australia

14th ICV, Barcelona, Spain

30 June – 5 July 1991
Associació Catalana de Vexil·lologia

15th ICV, Zurich, Switzerland

23–27 August 1993
Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Fahnen- und Flaggenkunde, Société Suisse de Vexillologie, Società Svizzera di Vessillologia

16th ICV, Warsaw, Poland

30 June – 5 July 1995
Earth Flag Centre, Centrum Flaga Ziemi / Polskie Towarzystwo Weksylologiczne / The Flag Design Center

17th ICV, Cape Town, Republic of South Africa

10–15 August 1997
Southern African Vexillological Association

18th ICV, Victoria, Canada

28 July – 2 August, 1999
Canadian Flag Association, L'Association Canadienne de Vexillologie / North American Vexillological Association

Notes:

Colour illustrations of the congress flags and further details of the congresses are to be found in:
Ralph G. C. Bartlett & Charles E. Bartlett: «Vexillology, a 25th Anniversary History and Bibliography of Flag Literature», published by Norma M. Bartlett, Victoria, Australia, 1989, ISBN 0-7316-7200-3.
Croft, James: «The Flags of the International Congresses of Vexillology», in: «NAVA News», Sept./Oct. 1996, pp 3–7, published by the North American Vexillological Association, ISSN 1053-3338.

THE SWISS SOCIETY OF VEXILLOLOGY

The Swiss Society of Vexillology (SSV) is a private, independent and non-profit organisation open to both private persons and public institutions (like museums or libraries), devoted to the study of flags, their history and symbolism. This auxiliary science of history, referred to as vexillology, fascinates people as a conjunction of history, politics and culture. Obviously the SSV's main focus is on Switzerland, but international vexillology is not left aside either.

The knowledge of flags as symbols of national and local identity and as a mirror of history promotes the understanding of the various cultures, where they originate. The SSV considers its task to spread this knowledge, also among the younger generation.

The SSV was founded in 1967 by the late Louis Mühlemann (1922-1988), an internationally renowned vexillologist and heraldist, together with several enthusiastic members of the Zurich Heraldry Guild. Today the SSV counts more than 50 members in Switzerland and 10 foreign members. On top, there are some 30 subscribers and exchange partners to its publication.

Since 1969 the year book VEXILLA HELVETICA has been printed in loose sheets of heavy acid-free paper and has been distributed within a high quality binder. The year book is bilingual in German and French language. The articles are illustrated by several colour pictures and black and white drawings. In recognition of the high scientific standard of its articles VEXILLA HELVETICA is most appreciated world-wide, and many libraries, archives and military museums have subscribed to it.

SSV members are invited to attend two annual conventions, the general assembly in December and a summer excursion, where scholarly lectures are held and visits to museums are organised. Such meetings bring friends and colleagues together and give the opportunity to regularly exchange ideas with fellow vexillologists.

The membership amounts to CHF 60.- per annum, including the subscription to the year book and the participation to events. For further information, please contact Dr. Emil Dreyer, Flurweg 43, CH-3052 Zollikofen.

In 1967 the SSV had organised the second International Congress of Vexillology. In 1993 the SSV was again given the honour to host the 15th International Congress, which took place from 23 to 27 August at the Swiss National Museum in Zurich.

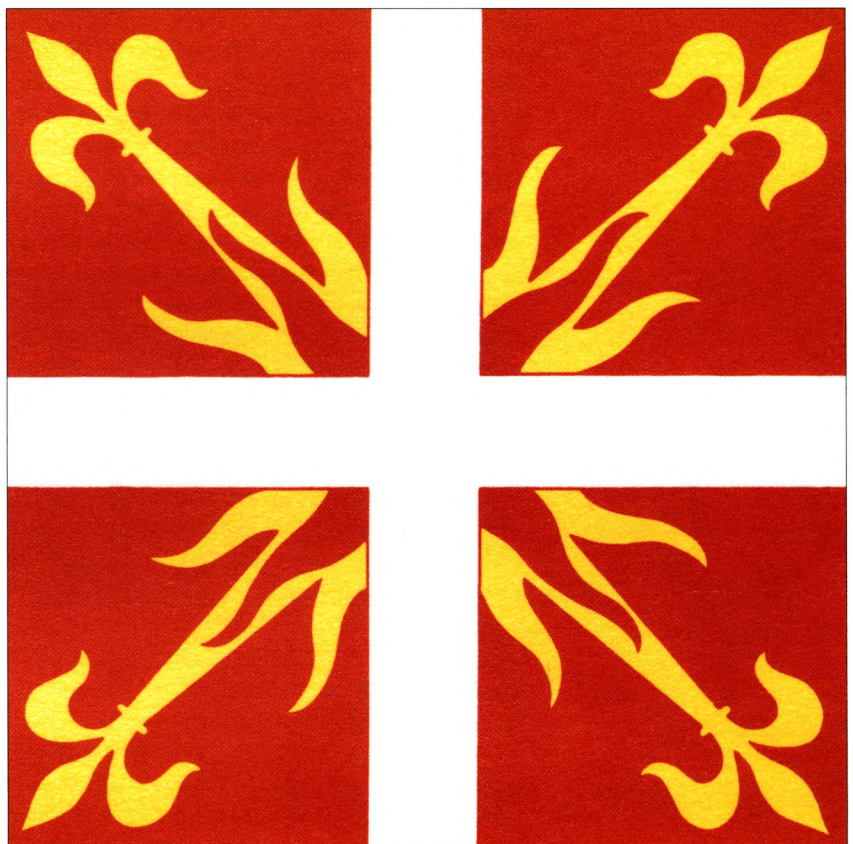
The Flag of the Swiss Society of Vexillology

The square flag of the SSV is red with a white cross throughout; from each angle of the cross extends a yellow sceptre terminating in a fleur-de-lys. The sceptres, which are flanked by a yellow flame to either side, bear a red flame at their base. The flag proposed by Louis Mühlemann and designed by Paul Krog was adopted by the SSV in 1967.

The white cross on red recalls the traditional Swiss confederate pennant used in the Middle Ages. The flames extending from the centre of the flag are based on the well-known model of the regimental colours carried by Swiss troops in the service of France. These colours appeared at the end of the 17th century and had a decisive influence on both the colours of Swiss troops

in foreign service and on the flags used in Switzerland itself first by town and then by cantonal troops. The society flag embodies the best traditions of former Swiss military flags.

The sceptre ending in a fleur-de-lys has been borrowed from the arms of the Zurich Heraldry Guild (argent, a sceptre fleurdelisé from the base azure) to symbolise the important role of its members in the foundation of the Swiss Society of Vexillology. The sceptre also emphasises the close ties linking heraldry and vexillology.



CHRONICLE OF THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY IN ZURICH

From 23 to 27 August 1993

In the week from 23 to 27 August 1993 the 15th International Congress of Vexillology attracted 156 persons from 25 countries of all continents to the Swiss National Museum in Zurich. For the second time after the II congress in 1967 the organisation of this central vexillological event had been entrusted to the Swiss Society of Vexillology (SSV). No vexillological congress before had seen so many participants from so many nations.

On one hand this was certainly due to the tourist sights of Switzerland. However, even more attractive was the interesting congress program offering numerous scientific lectures and fascinating visits and tours. A particular highlight was the special exhibition entitled «Flags and their symbols», which the Swiss National Museum had set up on occasion of the congress. The exhibition's scientific director was Peter Marcel Mäder, who together with Günter Mattern had also compiled the catalogue.

On top of this exhibition the congress attendants were given the opportunity to study also the flag and trophy collections of the Historic Museums of Lucerne, Solothurn and Berne, as well as the oldest flags in Switzerland, kept at the Federal Charter Archive in Schwyz. Switzerland keeps the world's largest collection of 15th century flags, a total of 200 documented flags. No doubt that this immeasurable cultural treasure did also attract many congress attendants.

The condition for the success of this congress had been the thorough, however often hectic work of the congress committee for almost 2 years. The committee consisted of the SSV board members Peter M. Mäder, Emil Dreyer, Rainer Bolliger, Günter Mattern and Casimir de Rham.

First estimates were basing on 80 attendants, but the more the congress date approached the more applications arrived. Flexibility, continuous efforts and improvisation of the committee members helped to solve all the problems (like organising additional low-budget accommodation for last minute attendants) so that finally the venue could be realized for twice the number of attendants than originally planned. Fortunately no serious troubles have occurred and the time schedule, somewhat tight as it is inevitable on such an event, could be kept quite well.

The SSV is very much indebted to the Swiss National Museum for placing at our free disposal the lecture hall with the necessary infrastructure and personnel. A warm thank goes to René Bieri and Emmy Bolliger for their valuable assistance.

During the two and a half lecture days 41 scientific presentations were given, in most cases with pictures. The original language of the lectures was simultaneously translated into English, French and German. This, as well, a novelty compared to previous FIAV congresses.

Two days, alternating with the lecture days, were devoted to trips and visits to flag collections.

The coloured metal pin, which had been specially manufactured for the congress, could only be delivered on the third day of the congress. Nevertheless it proved appealing to the participants.

And now to the venue in detail:

During the whole Sunday, 22 August, attendants came pouring in into the Swiss National Museum where the reception office had been set up and where the congress papers were being handed out. Some 20 attendants were directed to their low-budget accommodation in students' homes and another few to a private accommodation facility at the homes of SSV members. First flag talks and joyful encounters between old friends characterised the informal beginning of the congress on this hot summer day.

The official opening of the congress took place in the back yard of the Swiss National Museum on a sunny Monday morning, 23 August 1993. Addresses were delivered by Dr. Andreas Furger, director of the Swiss National Museum, by Peter Mäder, president of the SSV, by Günter Mattern, congress president, and by Hugh Boudin, president of FIAV. The audience was attending the little ceremony in a circular metal construction with 25 huge flag poles, flying the flags of the Swiss cantons. This construction belonged to the frame of the famous tent by Mario Botta, the architect who had designed it for the official 7th centenary celebration of the Swiss Confederation in 1991. Next, Emil Dreyer revealed the names of the 25 persons who had been selected by the congress committee to hoist their national flag in front of the National Museum. Peter Mäder was given the honour to hoist the flag of the host city, Zurich. All flags had been provided for free by the flag manufacturer Heimgartner AG in Wil, a member of the SSV.

After the addresses and the short flag hoisting ceremony Peter Mäder presented the first lecture of the congress on the special flag exhibition of the Swiss National Museum. After the lecture he guided the attendants through the exhibition. At lunch time the Swiss National Museum offered a snack. The whole afternoon was spent with scientific presentations in the lecture hall of the National Museum, which had become somewhat crowded due to the huge number of listeners. In the evening between 8 and 10 p.m., the same place saw the first session of the FIAV general assembly.

On Tuesday, with foggy and rainy weather, the congress drove in a convoy of 3 busses to Einsiedeln, where attendants were given a short time to visit the monastery. Travelling further we arrived at the Archive of Federal Charters in Schwyz where we were awaited by Dr. Joseph Wiget, keeper of the Archive. After a short introduction he guided us through the unique collection of ancient banners. The visit concluded with an appetiser and a show of alpenhorn music and flag tossing.

From Schwyz the congress went for lunch to the cosy restaurant Tellsplatte in Sisikon, at the Lake of Lucerne.

Next, along the mist covered lake we reached Lucerne. Here a short walk through the old town, always following the congress flag, led us first to the



Left: Peter Mäder and Emil Dreyer wave flags in front of the Archive of Federal Charters to the amusement of Jiří Tenora and Bruce Druckenmiller, while Christian Fogd Pedersen stretches out his hand for rain drops.



Right: At the restaurant Tellsplatte in Sisikon, waiting for the meal to be served, are (from left to right) Zvi Ruder, Bruce Berry, Ralph Bartlett, Frederick Brownell, and Ethel and Mike Clingman.



Left: Ron Strachan at the table with Wolfgang Jilek and his wife Louise and daughter Martica.



Right: Seated from right to left we see Jaroslav Martykán, Gerrit ten Hoeve, Petr Exner, Roman Klimeš, Ildikó Horvát and Tamás Rumi.

Franciscan's Church, where flag paintings on the walls and ceiling attracted our attention, then we continued to the Historic Museum. The attendants were welcomed by Dr. Josef Brülisauer, director, who guided us through the collection of flags. After the visit we were offered a snack.

The whole Wednesday was devoted to 18 lectures. Meanwhile the accompanying persons, as well as congress attendants looking for a short change, had opportunity to visit either the furniture museum Bärau or the chocolate factory Lindt & Sprüngli. After lectures were terminated, attendants were invited to visit the flag restoration department of the Swiss National Museum. Later, at 8 p.m., delegates gathered for the second session of the FIAV general assembly at the lecture hall of the National Museum.

On a sunny morning next Thursday the congress left by bus for a visit to Solothurn's Old Arsenal Museum. Here we were received by director Dr. Marco Leutenegger. The museum tour was organised in small groups and in different languages. It became obvious that the museum had opened its repository and had prepared a special exhibition of flags which are normally not

shown to the public. After the visit the congress attendants were offered an appetizer and then they drove for lunch to Utzenstorf. At the typical Berne country restaurant Bären we were offered a splendid meal. The tables had been decorated with canton table flags by the flag manufacturer Keller AG in Bätterkinden.

After a short drive we arrived at Berne, leaving the buses for a pleasant walk through the old town, past the cathedral and across the bridge to the Historic Museum. The flag of the SSV ahead showed the attendants the way. At the museum we were received by director Dr. Georg Germann and the flag conservator, Prof. Dr. Franz Bächtiger, who guided us through the flag collection of their realm. The particularly rich Burgundy booty kept by the Historic Museum of Berne deserves a special mention. Once the visit finished, the Swiss Society of Vexillology offered a wine in the famous «Trajan» hall, which had been decorated with municipal flags from the canton of Bern, donated by the local flag manufacturer Hutmacher-Schalch AG, a member of the SSV.

In the evening upon return to Zurich the congress attendants gathered in the backyard of the Swiss National Museum to listen to an open air concert of the Zurich city music band and to enjoy a snack offered by the authorities of the city and the canton of Zurich. This was the pleasant conclusion of a rich excursion day with plenty of vexillological impressions.

Another table of the restaurant with, at left, Michael Faul with his wife Ethel, and at right, Whitney Smith with Vicky Peterson.



Friday morning the lectures started again early as usual. Around noon three busses of the Zurich public transportation company drove the congress attendants to the pier on the Lake of Zurich where a boat was waiting. By then heavy cold rain was pouring down pressing the flags of the fully dressed ship to their masts. At noon the boat left for a tour on the lake, while a warm meal was served and a folk music band played. Any sightseeing being impossible due to the heavy rain, con-

Left: Emil Dreyer explains the congress flag to Teodoro Amerlinck, while other attendants examine the attractive flag. Alfons Kunerle strolls past the group and in the background we see Jan Mertens chatting with Hugh Boudin.

Right: The congress attendants follow the congress flag through the city of Lucerne.



gress attendants were nonetheless happy to once more enjoy an opportunity to chat on their favourite subject.

After leaving the boat again in Zurich we walked, umbrellas up, along the lake to a nearby bridge on which dozens of flags had been hoisted. A panel told the reason for the flag hoisting, the «International Flag Congress, 23-27 August 1993». We continued through downtown Zurich, led by the flag of the SSV, through the «Bahnhofstrasse» to the National Museum.

Here, the last couple of lectures were presented and a seminar on computer aided vexillology took place. Afterwards the FIAV delegates gathered for the last session of the general assembly.

During the 15th ICV the FIAV delegates have admitted 7 new full members from Europe and South America, have accepted Warsaw's application to host the next vexillological congress and have elected William G. Crampton the new FIAV president. After a decade of excellent service the former president, Hugh Boudin, had declined to stand for re-election.

The closing gala banquet took place on the evening of 27 August at the casino Zürichhorn, located a little outside the centre of Zurich, however easily reachable by public transport. The banquet hall was decorated with wall flags and on the tables were displayed flowers and table flags. Congress president Günter Mattern welcomed the attendants. After the main course, the former president of FIAV, Hugh Boudin, expressed his gratefulness to the congress organisers and the participants. Peter Mäder then took the microphone and thanked all those who had contributed to the success of the congress, in particular René Bieri, Rainer and Emmy Bolliger, Günter Mattern and Emil Dreyer. Finally, he gave a flag book to Nicole Frei, teenage daughter of an SSV member, for her help in preparing all the menu charts for the congress.

Emil Dreyer then handed over the ceremonial insignia of FIAV, the engraved hammer and the FIAV flag, to Władysław Serwatowski, who would carry them to Warsaw. Mr. Serwatowski thanked FIAV for entrusting Poland with such an important vexillological event and together with Andrzej Beblowski he showed the audience a huge congress flag proposal for Warsaw. Then Ralph Bartlett awarded the **Vexillon** on behalf of FIAV to the surprised María-José Sastre y Arribas, who thus was honoured for her important contributions to vexillology during the past few years. Her bibliography includes «El escudo de Madrid», «Diccionario de vexilología» and «Normas de descripción y codificación vexilológica», and a series of lectures at previous FIAV

congresses. Once the long applause had faded, it was the turn of Frederick Brownell to step forward. He presented Whitney Smith with a life membership of the Southern African Vexillological Association in recognition of his assistance in its founding. George Cahill presented a special award to Lotte Günthart for her rose paintings. This act was followed by addresses of Walt Jurečič, Kevin Harrington and Pierre Charrié.

After dessert the evening slowly ended with music and dance. The vexillologists returned to their homes, richer with new knowledge and with the happy experience of a wonderful week of flags together with friends and with a «see you in Warsaw».

OTHER EVENTS

«Fahnenfragment», an artist and his flag

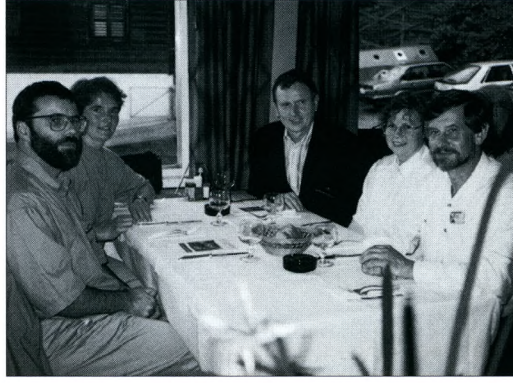
Swiss artist RONROY (pseudonym for Ronny Rothenfluh) was given the opportunity to expose a group of his paintings, called «Fahnenfragment» (=fragment of a flag) in room 46 of the Swiss National Museum. The main theme of the paintings is a torn flag of white colour, a used diaper, set against a background of blue, red, black or gold, thus giving the painting different meanings.

The Exhibition at the Tin Figures Museum Zurich

On occasion of the 15th ICV this museum organised a special exhibition of tin, lead and paper figures devoted to flags. The exhibition illustrated on one hand the evolution of military flags from the Roman vexillum to German colours at the eve of WW I, and on the other hand it focussed on Swiss historic banners and colours of Swiss regiments in foreign service. Ancient tin figures from the 19th century with contemporary flags were shown too.



Flag manufacturers meet in the Swiss National Museum: Standing from left to right are Gustav Söderlund, Tony Hampson-Tindale, Ari Järvinen, Edward Brandon, Mike Clingman, William Spangler, Anna-Maria Enríquez and Josep Olivella. Ron Strachan is kneeling at the right while Sebastien Beaujeaud is kneeling at the left.



Left: At the restaurant Tellsplatte in Sisikon are from right to left: Tomás Rodríguez with his wife Amparo and sons Sergio and José, Carlos Fernández Espeso and Gustavo Tracchia.

Right: Karl-Heinz Hesmer, Monika and Alfons Kunerle, and Ilona and Ulrich Zeiler (from right to left) wait for the menu to be served.



Left: Happy people: from left to right are William Crampton, Hans-Dieter Schneider, Alain Raullet, Jos Poels, Iztok Sorli and Gunnar Staack.

Right: Here we see, from left to right: Michel Lupant, Sebastián Herreros, Alfredo Betocchi, Jordi Pérez, Sebastien Beaujeaud and Michel Sicard.



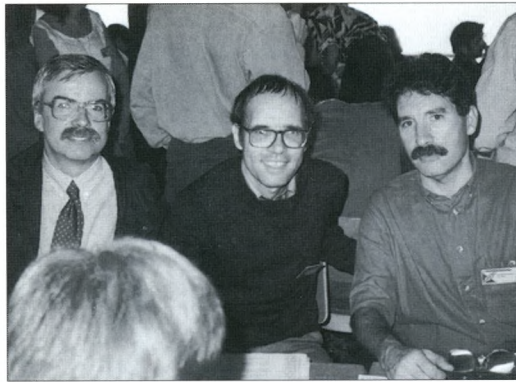
Marco Leutenegger, to the left, welcomes the congress at the Old Arsenal Museum in Solothurn. At the foreground are listening, from left to right Kurt Fluri, Peter Mäder, Emil Dreyer and Günter Mattern. In the background we see, from right to left Kevin Harrington, Harald Müller, Hans-Dieter Schneider and Josep Olivella.



Left: Leaving the Museum Old Arsenal we recognise in the first row Harry Oswald and Grace Cooper. On the second row are, at left, Bruce and Barbara Druckenmiller, while, at right, Andrzej Bonasewicz speaks to Julita Znamierowski. On the third row there are from left to right: Gunnar Staack, Hugh Boudin, William Crampton, Walt Jurečič, Zvi Ruder and his wife, and Anny Mühlemann.

Right: At the Historical Museum in Berne: Günter Mattern rallies the congress attendants around the SSV flag. In the background we appreciate, standing in the first row from left to right, Leif Törnquist, Aleš Brožek, Petr Exner, Dieter Beutel, Roman Klimeš and Ralph Bartlett.

Left: Jaroslav Martykán, Aleš Brožek and Sebastián Herreros (from left to right) onboard the ship.



Right: Heavy rain impairing any sightseeing during the tour of the lake, Dieter Linder discusses with Gunnar Staack, while Jiří Tenora shakes hands.

Left: William Crampton, Władysław Serwatowski, Andrzej Beblowski and Alfred Znamierowski debating on the planned Warsaw congress.



Right: In the crowded lecture hall: Ron Strachan and Hans-Dieter Schneider in the first row, Diedrich Deseniss, Ingrid de Groof and Anna Boudin in the second row, and Fiona McKenzie and Gunnar Staack in the third row. In the background you may recognise Harald Müller, Christian Fogd Pedersen and María-José Sastre y Arribas.

Left: Ralph Bartlett hands over the Vexillon to José-María Sastre y Arribas



Right: At the table of honour are seated, from left to right, Władysław Serwatowski, Sylvie-Anne and Gunter Mattern, Anny Mühlemann, William Crampton, Norma Bartlett and Ralph Bartlett. Standing are Tamás Rumi and Ildikó Horvát.



From left to right are seated: Claire and Jean Le Roy, Pierre Charrié, Michel and Odile Monnot, and Marie-Thérèse Dechaux.



«See you in Warsaw». Aleš Brožek, Petr Exner, Gerhard Hernach, George Vilinbakhov, Elisabeth Valek, and Alfred Znamierowski, from right to left.