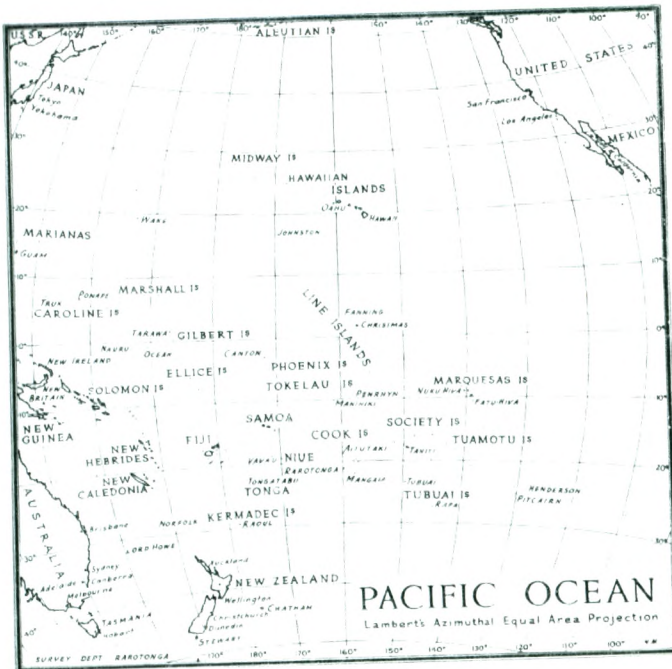
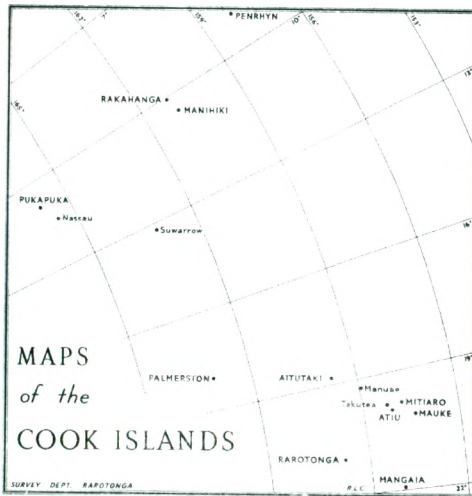


Michel R. Lupant: Flags in the Cook Islands KIA ORANA (May You Live Long)^[1] Dedicated to Jürgen Rimann and Jiří Tenora

Abstract: *During my world trip in 2005 I have visited The Cook Islands. The goal was to discover an unknown flag offered in 1888 by a British Officer to Queen Makea Takau Ariki of Rarotonga. The reception in the islands was great and I have discovered many unknown flags. In this lecture I present the historical flags of Rarotonga, of the Protectorate (1888-1893), of the Federation (1891-1901) and of the New Zealand era. In 1965 the country freely adopted a Constitution which provided for full self-government in free association with New Zealand. The first Ensign was established in 1973 after a competition. In 1979 the Legislative Assembly adopted the present flag because the colours of the flag adopted in 1973 were too close to the Cook Islands Party. I also present distinguished rank flags as the Queen's representative and Prime Minister flags but also the flags used by the House of Ariki, the Customs, the Districts of Rarotonga (Puaikura, Takitumu and Te Au O Tonga) and the Cook Islands Christian Church flags. There is also a presentation of the badges used by the Police, the University of South Pacific, the Cook Islands Olympic Committee and the Boys Brigade.*





History

The country is located in the South Pacific. There are 15 islands with a total land area of 241 square km, the most important island is Rarotonga where the capital Avarua is located. The total population was 21,388 in 2006 but more inhabitants live outside, mainly in New Zealand. Cook Islands Maori are Polynesians. The country did not exist as a political entity until

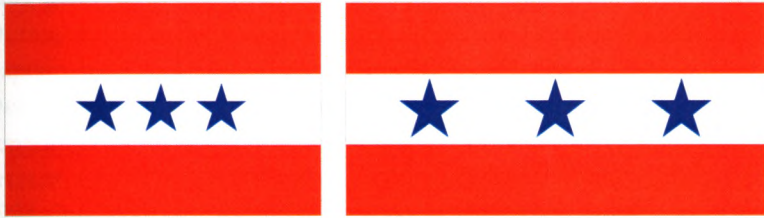
European times. Until the annexation by New Zealand in 1901 each island has to be examined separately due to the distance between them. From 1823 most of the islands came under the temporal control of the London Missionary Society which imposed their own laws. The British Protectorate was proclaimed in 1888 because there was an increasing possibility of an intrusion by the French. Suwarrow was declared a British Protectorate on 22 April 1889. Nassau was annexed for Great Britain by Captain Gibson in 1892. Penrhyn was annexed by Britain in 1888. Manihiki and Rakahanga were declared a British Protectorate by Commander A.C. Clarke on August 1889.

Ngamaru, Ariki of Atiu presented the island of Takutea to the Crown in 1903.

The country became self-governing in Association with New Zealand in 1965.

Rarotonga

It is the main island of the Cook Islands. The flag of Rarotonga already existed around 1850, this flag is shown in many books with the size 2:3 [2]. Some publications show a 1:2 flag [3]. The three blue stars are for the islands of Mauke, Atiu and Matiaro [4].



Protectorate (1888-1893)

Despite their considerable influence via the missionaries the British did not formally take the control of the Cook Islands until 1888. In that year the islands were declared a British protectorate by a Captain Bourke who arrived to Rarotonga on the warship *HMS Hyacinth*. That extension of British control was due to fears that the French might decide to extend their power from neighbouring Tahiti.

“Queen” *Makea Takau Ariki* was the first and last reigning Queen of the Cooks islands, she was Queen of Avarua 1868-1911. She reigned with *Ariki Makea Nui Tavake Ariki*, 1864-1895. Queen *Makea Takau* signed with Captain Bourke the agreement which proclaimed the Protectorate on 27 October 1888. On that photograph we can see Queen *Makea Takau* and Captain Bourke [5].



Rarotonga, October 1888

To Makea Ariki,

The English Government having been petitioned to grant the protection of the British flag to the Cook Group of islands, I by virtue of orders received have this day hoisted the same over the Avarua District of Rarotonga, and I do hereby declare to the Ariki thereof in the name of Her Majesty Queen Victoria that her territory has become part of the British Dominions, all laws, and customs at present recognized will remain in force and Her administration over the district will not be interferred with. I enjoin her to exercise her authority with moderation and care to rule the people with justice and to remember that she now belongs to that Great Country which has done so much for the advancement of civilization in all parts of the world. I further declare that all persons, of whatever nationality, who choose to reside in the Country must conform to the laws thereof.

*Given under my hand this
Twenty-seventh day of October 1888
Edmund Bourke
Captain
H.M.Ship "Hyacinth" ^[6]*

In 1988 a coin ^[7] was issued to commemorate the centenary of British Sovereignty. It shows the face of Queen *Makea Takau* and the ship *HMS Hyacinth*.



Flag given to the Queen

During my visit I had the goal to discover the “personal” flag given by Captain Bourke in 1888 to Queen Makea Takau as a “gift” from HM Queen Victoria. That flag was unknown and never published. On September 2, 2005, I had the chance to meet her descendant, the present Queen Makea Nui Meremaraea Tinirau Ariki, Queen since 1994, installed at Taputapuatea, March 1995. Her welcome was great and she showed us the huge flag from 1888, more than 2 m high. Jiri Tenora immediately recognized the British Pilot flag. A sailor had painted the face of Queen Victoria along the flagpole. That flag was more than a century old and has suffered from damage, specially from clothes moth.



A replica has been manufactured with the Union Jack upside down and the face of Queen Victoria is slightly different [8].

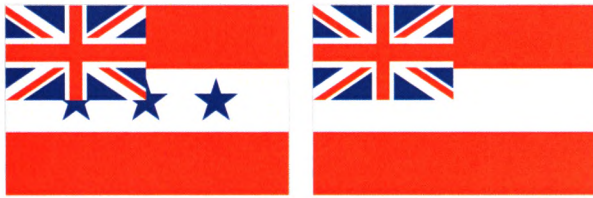


Protectorate Flag

The flag of the protectorate is the flag of Rarotonga with the Union Jack in the canton and a size of 1:2 [9].

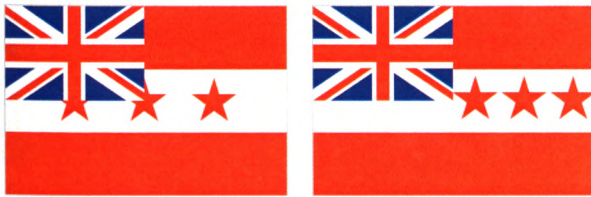


Another version, in a size 2:3, with the British flag superimposed on the stars, appears in the archives of Karl Fachinger [10] together with a flag without the stars [11].



The position of the stars on these flags with the Union Jack in the canton are not sure. There are different versions.

It seems that the flag was changed before the 1888 date of the annexation by Great Britain. J. Cottet has received a letter from the Alexander Turnbull Library (Wellington, New Zealand) in 1952 which sends a description of the Rarotonga flag from the collection of W.G. Ball collected in 1940: “Three equal stripes, red, white and red, the white stripe with three red five pointed stars and the British Union Jack in the upper canton near the pole” [12].



The flag is confirmed by the description of the personal standard used by Queen *Makea Ariki* during her official visit to Auckland (New Zealand) in 1885 [13].

It is the only reference I have discovered about the use of red stars instead of blue stars, perhaps it is a mistake in the description.



Federation (1891-1901)

The British Protectorate declared for Rarotonga in 1888 was extended to include all the islands in the southern Cook group and became known as the Federation of the Cook Islands from 5 June 1891 [14]. In 1892 [15] the Federation has issued its



first postage stamps, the first for the Cook Islands. The main design is a ring of six small stars and the central one larger for the islands which had federated.

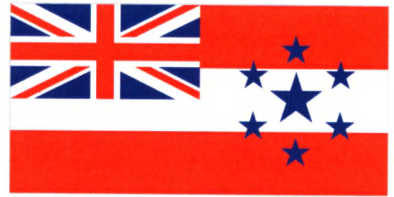
The Federation's flag has no stars but has added a palm tree in the centre of the Union Jack ^[16].



During this period an elected federal parliament was founded to make laws for the whole group, although each island had the right of self-government ^[17].

Federal parliament

A flag for the Federal Parliament of the Cook Islands was suggested but was never agreed upon. It bears a circle of 6 small blue stars and a bigger in the middle representing the Southern Group. The Northern Islands were not a part of the Federation and were not a part of the Cook Islands until the annexation by New Zealand in 1901 ^[18].



Annexation by New Zealand

In the late 1890s the question of whether the islands should be associated with Britain or New Zealand was batted back and forth. Finally Rarotonga and the other main southern islands were annexed to New Zealand on 11 June 1901, the boundaries being extended to include the northern islands.

The flag of New Zealand is in use since 1901. A special flag for the Cook Islands was proposed in 1922. It was the New Zealand Ensign with the palm tree on a circle in the centre of the Union Jack. It was not agreed upon ^[19]. I have discovered a reconstruction of a Blue Ensign with the palm tree in the Union Jack but without the New Zealand red and white stars in the



Museum of Cook on September 1, 2005. Nobody was able to explain to me the origin of that flag, perhaps it was the proposal of 1922 with a mistake.



Free association with New Zealand

Following consideration of a number of options including total independence, the Cook Islands (in an act of self determination under UN auspices) freely adopted a Constitution which provided for full self-government in free association with New Zealand in 1965. Under this arrangement Cook Islanders retained New Zealand citizenship and Her Majesty the Queen in right of New Zealand remained Head of State of the Cook Islands. The Cook Islands Constitution was adopted on 4 August 1965.

Under the free association relationship, the Cook Islands Government has full legislative and executive powers. The Act provided that nothing in the Act of Constitution shall affect the responsibilities of Her Majesty the Queen in right of New Zealand of the external affairs and defence of the Cook Islands, these responsibilities to be discharged after consultation between the Prime Minister of New Zealand and Premier of Cook Islands. These responsibilities confer on New Zealand no rights of control and are only exercised at the express request of the Cook Islands Government. The relationship is a dynamic one. The Cook Islands' international personality has evolved substantially since self-government and requests for assistance with foreign affairs matters have become extremely rare – in practice, the Cook Islands conduct their own foreign affairs. The country has become member of FAO, UNESCO and other organizations. In 1988 New Zealand made a declaration to the United Nations that New Zealand's future treaty actions would no longer apply to the Cook Islands, unless by express provision and with the consent of the Cook Islands Government. In 1993 the Cook Islands opened their first diplomatic office, the High Commission in Wellington [20].

First national ensign

The Ensign was established by an Act of Parliament on 11 January 1973 ^[21] at the time of Mr. Albert Henry's government. Mr. Albert Henry (Sir Albert Henry from 1974) was a trade unionist who has founded the Cook Islands Party (CIP). It seems that the flag was chosen by the Cabinet after a competition organised by a Flag Design Committee. There were 120 entries, and the winning design was that of



Len Staples of *Titikaveka* but the original proportions were 2:3 and it was different from the one adopted. The flag was light blue with the Union Jack in the canton and a circle of 15 gold stars in the fly. It symbolized the sky above the Pacific's

islands ^[22].

The government introduced changes in the winning design, green instead of light blue and omission of the Union Jack. Green and gold were the colours of the CIP of which Sir Albert Henry was the leader. The new flag was hoisted for the first time on 24 January 1974 ^[23].



The Cook Islands National Ensign shall be described as follows: "The Cook Islands National Flag shall be a green Ensign, having on the fly thereof a circle of 15 gold stars". And it shall mean:

- Green: is the colour most expressive of our nation; it is a dynamic representation of the vitality of our land and our people. It is the colour of life and everlasting growth - Evergreen.
- Gold: represents for us our people - their friendliness, their hope, faith, dedication, love and happiness.
- Star: the star is our symbol of heaven and our faith in God. It represents the power that has guided our people throughout history. It shall aspire us to higher achievements.
- A circle of fifteen gold stars symbolises togetherness, strength, unity of purpose and expresses the moulding of our 15 islands into one united land and people. Thus, the colours and pattern chosen

- Green, Gold - and the stars, represent the elements of the earth, the heavens and life - which encompass all our past, present and future; and inspire us as one united free and dedicated people.

Second national ensign

Sir Albert Henry, leader of the Cook Islands Party who ruled since 4 August, 1965 had won the elections of March 1978 but had to leave his office on 25 July 1978 when the Court ruled that fraud had been involved in the vote.

A new government was appointed and Mr. Thomas "Tom" Davis became Premier on 25 July 1978 (Prime Minister and "Sir" Davis from 1981).



The colours of the flag adopted in 1973 were too close to Cook Islands Party and the government decided to change the flag and asked Len Staples to resubmit his original design. The Union Jack was

altered from $\frac{1}{3}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ as in all similar flags, the light blue became dark blue and the stars white instead of gold. Blue and white were the colours of the Democratic Party, Mr Davis' Party!

The new flag was adopted by the Legislative Assembly on 22 June 1979. The new design had been approved by a royal warrant signed by Queen Elizabeth and dated 23 May 1979.

The Cooks Islands Ensign shall be a Royal blue ensign [24]. The Union Jack shall occupy the upper staff quarter, having on the fly 15 stars in a symmetrical ring, all of equal size and equal spacing, and the colour of the stars shall be white. The flag proportion of length to breath shall be two to one.

And it shall mean:

- *Blue: is the colour most expressive of our Nation, it is representative of the vast area of the Pacific Ocean in which the islands of the Cook Islands are scattered. Blue also depicts the peaceful nature of the inhabitants of our islands.*

- *Union Jack: indicates our historical association with and membership of the British Commonwealth.*
- *The 15 stars represent the islands of the group: Aitutaki, Atiu, Mangaia, Manibiki, Manu'ae, Mauke, Mitiaro, Nassau, Penrhyn (Tongareva), Palmerston, Pukapuka, Rakahanga, Rarotonga, Suvarrow, and Takutea.*

There was an identity crisis in the Cook Islands in 1994. The country held a referendum on Friday 25 March 1994. The people had to choose to retain or to change the name of the country to a Maori name as *Avaiki*; to guard the Blue Ensign or to return to the Green adopted in 1973; to guard the national anthem, from the hymn *Te Atua Mou'e* (God is Truth) written by former Democratic Prime Minister, Sir Thomas Davis, or to adopt a new song. The people has voted for the status quo in each case [25].

House of *Ariki*

The House of *Ariki*, which is comprised of all the paramount chiefs of the Cook Islands, was established in 1966 and serves as an advisory body. Advice is given on legislation concerning customs and traditions, though the House of *Ariki* has no powers of legislation itself. The House of *Ariki* has the following functions:

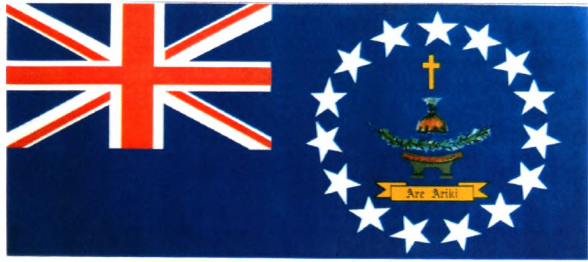
- a) It shall consider such matters relative to the welfare of the people of the Cook Islands as may be submitted to it by Parliament for its consideration, and it shall express its opinion and make recommendations thereon to Parliament; and
- b) It shall have other such functions as may be prescribed by law.

The members of the House of *Ariki* elect their President. The position is currently (2005) held by *Tamatoa Purna Paniora Ariki*, OBE from the island of Aitutaki.

The House of *Ariki* falls under the umbrella of Parliament and is administered by the Clerk of the House of *Ariki* [26].

In Avarua I met Mr *Metuakore Teremoana Kora* (*Mokare Mataiapo*), Secretary to the House of *Ariki*. He showed me the first proposal he had submitted for the House of *Ariki* flag and the version which was

adopted; there are small differences. In the proposal the cross is outside the emblem. The chair is an Ariki chair with a fern and an

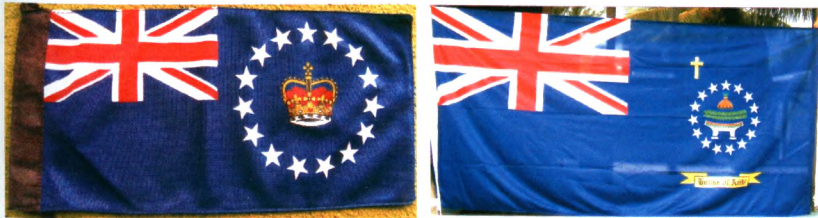


Ariki headdress which symbolizes the traditional rank system.

In 2005 there were 24 Paramount Chiefs who are members of the House of *Ariki*: Rarotonga 6, Aitutaki 4, Mangaia 1, Atiu 3, Mauke 3, Matiaro 3, Manihiki 1, Rakahange 1, Pukopuka 1, and Penrhyn 1, but there are many struggles between clans.

Queen's representative

The Queen's representative in the Cook Islands is "the Queen's Representative" neither a Governor nor a Governor General. This arrangement was embodied in the Constitution Amendment (nr. 10) 1981-82 which provided that "there shall be representative of Her Majesty the Queen in the Cook Islands, to be known as the Queen's Representative" [27].



The Head of State of The Cook Islands is HM Queen Elisabeth II. Her Representative is Sir Frederik Goodwin KBE since 2001. I have paid a visit to his secretary in his residence. I have seen two versions of his car flag, the difference regards the Royal Crown. The figure above left shows the old pattern (16,28 cm, braid of 2,5 cm) and the figure above right shows the present design (18,25 : 31 cm, braid 2,4 cm).

The Representative's car uses a "Crown" instead of license plate. The following day I have seen the Queen's Representative's car parked next



the Temple of Holy Spirit Revival Church displaying the car flag. In front of the Residence there are two flags poles, one for the national flag and the second for the personal flag.



PA ARIKI flag

The personal standard of Queen *Pa Tepaeru Teariki Upokotini Marie Ariki, Pa Ariki* O.B.E. (succeeded 1990, invested 27 June 1991 and confirmed in title 2004), district of Takitumu is blue, white, red and yellow [28].



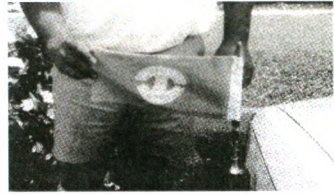
Premier / Prime Minister Flags

From 4 August 1965 until 1981 the title of the Head of Government was "Premier". From 1981 it changed to "Prime Minister". Premier Albert R. Henry leader of the Cook Islands Party (CIP) has used a car flag from 1966 until December 1973 that was green with



a gold sprouting coconut and the flag of the tutelary state, New Zealand, as a canton [29].

A blue flag with a special emblem was used by the Prime Minister Sir Thomas Davis in 1985 as a car flag [30]. Mr Thomas "Tom" Davis was Premier from 25 July 1978 until 1981, became Sir Thomas Davis in 1981 and Prime Minister until 13 April 1983 and was elected for a second term on 16 November 1983 until 29 July 1987.



According to a letter received in 1993 [31] the Prime minister flew the national Ensign as his car flag without any adornment.



Ambassador

The Head (Ambassador) of the Cook Islands Mission to the European Community in Brussels uses a car flag. Its size is 16,5 : 33 cm [32].



Districts of Rarotonga

The main island is divided into 3 districts or *vakas*: *Puaikura* (on the western side), *Takitumu* (on the eastern and southeastern side) and *Te Au O Tonga* (on the northern side).

The flag of *Puaikura Vaka* has 9 stripes, dark blue and red for the 9 villages and 3 yellow stars for the three Paramount Chiefs. In the canton, the *Rae Maru* mountain (350m) in green. The yellow colour is for the sun.



The flag of *Takitumu Vaka* is light blue, a white star and

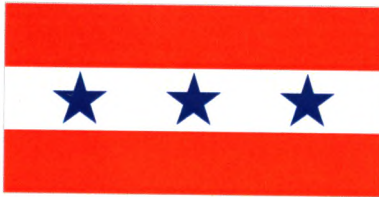


stripe for *Matavera* village, a red star and stripe for *Ngatangia* village and a dark blue star and stripe for *Tikikaveka* village.



The car flag (15:29 cm and a black braid of 3 cm) I have seen is probably used by the Paramount Chief of the District.

The flag of *Te An O Tonga Vaka* I have discovered at Queen *Makea Ariki's* residence is the same flag used by Rarotonga in the XIX c.



and published in many flag books. It is a red/white/red flag with three blue stars. It was a great surprise to discover that this flag is still in use. Queen *Makea Nui Meremaraea Tinirau Ariki* appears on the photograph ¹³³¹.



Customs

The Customs Department's flag has in bold white lettering the initials



H.M.C. in the circle of stars representing "Her Majesty's Customs" and legislation for this is provided under the New Zealand Customs Regulations 1959 s.9 which

University of the South Pacific (USP)

The USP, based in Suva, Fiji, has a Cook Islands Centre . The logo appears in front of the main building or on T-shirt ^[42].



The Cook Islands Olympic Committee

The office of the local Olympic Committee is located Ara Tapu street in Avarua ^[43]. The emblem is a sprouting coconut with the Olympic rings.



The Boys' brigade

The Boys' brigade, *o te kuri Airini* ^[44] is an association of young boys. They used a seal, a badge and a patch.



Unknown flag

Kia Tupu Mei Te Uto Rai means "To grow like the coconut" ^[45]. It is probably a Youth Movement.

Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC)

The major local religious denomination is the Cook Islands Christian Church (CICC). It was founded by the first London Missionary Society who came to the islands in the early 1820s, it is a blend of Church of England, Baptist, Methodist and whatever else was going on at that time. Today it attracts about 70% of the faithful. The CICC still has an overwhelming influence on local living habits and is an integral part of village life and local politics ^[37].



The CICC flag is hoisted in front of churches on Sundays and Christian feasts. It is a blue, white and yellow flag with a cross and a white tern (kakaia) with a green olive branch in her beak ^[38].

The Temple of Holy Spirit Revival Church in Matavera ^[39], Rarotonga shows an emblem with the white tern symbol of the CICC and the Mission Church in Ngatangi'ia, a welcome shield displayed in front of the church ^[40].



I have discovered an unknown flag which due to the presence of a white tern could be a flag still in use or used by the CICC ^[41].



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Notes:

1. It is the local greeting which also appears on the license car plates
2. *Album des Pavillons, Guidons et Flammes de toutes les puissances maritimes*. M.A. Le Gras, Capitaine de Frégate, 1858 : «Pavillon de Rarotoa : les bâtiments armés dans l'île de Rarotoa (ou Rarotonga, groupe des îles de Cook) portent ce pavillon à l'arrière». Pages 40/41.
Steenbergen: *Vlaggen van alle Natien, Pavillons de toutes les Nations*, Flags of all Nations , Plate 38 n°252a.
Admiralty book of Flags of all Nations 1889 plate 80a.
Flags of Maritime Nations. Bureau of Equipment, Department of the Navy, Washington 1899, plate 51.
Drawings of the Flags in use at the present time by various Nations. Admiralty London September 1907 plate 12. Flags of Maritime Nations, United States Navy Department, Washington 1914, page 23. Drawings of the Flags in use at the present time by various Nations. Admiralty London 1916 plate 18. Flag Bulletin Vol III-2. Winter 1963-1964, page 24. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
3. "Flags of Paradise" N°151. Ralph G.C.Bartlett, Vexventures 1996. Set of stamps issued in The Cook Islands. Drawing by Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
4. Letter from the Department of Islands Territories to Mr. K. Fachinger, July 21, 1965. Archives Lucien Philippe. Flag Bulletin Vol III-2. Winter 1963-1964 page 26.
5. Copy of a photograph shown at Queen *Makea Nui Meremaraea Tinirau Ariki's* residence, Rarotonga. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant, 2 September 2005.
6. Copy of the declaration of Captain E.Bourke discovered in the residence of Queen *Makea Nui Meremaraea, Tinirau Ariki*, Rarotonga, 2 September 2005.
7. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant at Queen *Makea Nui Meremaraea Tinirau Ariki's* residence, Rarotonga, 2 September 2005.

8. Photographs taken by Michel Lupant at Queen *Makea Nui Meremaree Tinirau Ariki's* residence, 2 September, 2005.
9. Letter from the Department of Islands Territories to Mr. K. Fachinger, July 21, 1965. Archives Lucien Philippe. Flag Bulletin Vol III-2. Winter 1963-1964. Ralph G.C.Bartlett: "Flags of Paradise" N°111, Vexventures 1996. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
10. "Nationalflagge 1888", no reference. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
11. Reference *British Colonial Flags*, OKW 11167. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
12. *Rétrospective des pavillons océaniques dans « Bulletin de la Société des Études Océaniques »* N°115 – Tome X (N°2) page 562. Reconstruction Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
13. *Rétrospective des pavillons océaniques dans « Bulletin de la Société des Études Océaniques »* N°115 – Tome X (N°2) page 562.
14. <http://www.worldstatesmen.org/>
15. First stamp from 1892 for the Cook Islands. Catalogue Yvert & Tellier, Tome 3, 1975 p. 411.
16. Admiralty book of Flags of all Nations 1889. Errata N°9, 5th June 1896, plate 80a. Letter from the Department of Islands Territories to Mr. K. Fachinger, 21 July, 1965. Archives Lucien Philippe. Flag Bulletin Vol III-2. Winter 1963-1964. Set of stamps, Cook Post Office 1983. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
17. Pacific Islands Yearbook edited by Norman & Ngaire Douglas, 17th edition. Published by Fiji Times Ltd, Suva 1994, pages 998/109.
18. Letter from the Department of Islands Territories to Mr. K. Fachinger, 21 July, 1965. Archives Lucien Philippe. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
19. Letter to Mr. K. Fachinger from the Department of Islands Territories, 21 July, 1965. Archives Lucien Philippe. Drawings Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
20. South Pacific Division. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Wellington 2000.
21. Letter to Michel Lupant from Gordon H. Sawtell, Senior Executive Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Rarotonga 17 August 1993. An Act (1973, N°19, 11 January 1973) to provide for the establishment and use of a Cook Islands flag to be known as the Cook Islands Ensign. Flagmaster 13/Spring 1974. Journal of the British Flag Institute. The Flag Bulletin XII:3, Fall 1973, pages 97/98.
22. The Flag Bulletin XVIII:4, July-August 1979. Reconstruction Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
23. The Flag Bulletin XVIII:4, July-August 1979 pages 112/116. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant in the Cook Museum, Rarotonga, 1 September 2005. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
24. An Act to amend the Cook Islands Ensign Act of 1973 (22 June 1979). Cook Islands Ensign Amendment 1978-1979 N°26. Article 90-Third Schedule: The Cook Islands Ensign. Extract from the Constitution. Sticker of the flag and letter addressed to Michel Lupant by Selina Matenga from the New Zealand High Commission, Rarotonga, 18 August 1989. Letter to Michel Lupant from Mrs. Kupo Brown, Public Relations Officer, Rarotonga 13 January 1981.
25. New Zealand Herald, Auckland, Wednesday February 9, 1994. New Zealand Herald, Auckland, Monday March 28, 1994. Otago Daily Times, Monday March 28, 1994. World News page 7. "Cooks gearing up for election". Pacific Islands Monthly, March 1994, page 6.
26. Visit of Michel Lupant to the House of *Ariki*, Rarotonga, 2 September 2005.

27. Letter to Michel Lupant from Catherine Graham for Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Wellington, New Zealand, 4 April 2000.
28. Collection Michel Lupant, gift of Metuakore Teremoana Kora, House of Ariki, on September 2, 2005. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
29. Letter from the Premier's Department of the Cook Islands Government to the Flag Research Center dated 24 July 1975. The *Flag Bulletin* XVIII:4, July-August 1979 page 116. The illustration published in the *Flagmaster* 13/Spring 1974, page 2 is incorrect. Reconstruction Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
30. Photograph taken in Rarotonga in 1985 by Andrew Brown Mosman and published in *Crux Australis*, the Journal of the Flag Society of Australia volume IV N° 2/18, page 44, April 1988. Original flag, collection Michel Lupant, gift of Metuakore Teremoana Kora, House of Ariki, on September 2, 2005. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
31. Letter to Michel Lupant from Gordon H. Sawtell, Senior Executive Officer, Office of the Prime Minister 17 August 1993.
32. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant at the Cook Islands Mission in Brussels on 6 March 2003.
33. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant, Rarotonga 2 September 2005. Drawing Hervé Calvarin, Le Perreux.
34. Letter from Gordon H. Sawtell, Senior Executive Officer, Office of the Prime Minister 17 August 1993. Michel Lupant in *Gaceta de Banderas* N°9, diciembre 1993. Email from Pokoina Matara, Customs, 24 May 2007.
35. Letter from Gordon H. Sawtell, Senior Executive Officer, Office of the Prime Minister 17 August 1993.
36. Photographs taken by Michel Lupant, Police Headquarters, Avarua, Rarotonga, 1 September 2005.
37. Errol Hunt and Nancy Keller : "Rarotonga & the Cook Islands". Lonely Planet Publications, Melbourne 2003.
38. Photographs taken by Michel Lupant at *Metuakore Teremoana Kora's* house on 2 September 2005 and in front of the CICC church of *Ziona Tapu* in Avarua on 4 September 2005.
39. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant in front of the Temple of Holy Spirit Revival Church, Rarotonga, September 4, 2005.
40. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant, Ngatangi'ia CICC, Muri, Rarotonga, 4 September 2005.
41. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant , The Cook Islands Museum, Avarua, 1 September 2005.
42. Photographs taken by Michel Lupant, University of South Pacific, Cook Islands Centre, Avarua, 1 September 2005.
43. Photograph taken by Michel Lupant, Avarua, 4 September 2005.
44. Photographs taken by Michel Lupant at *Metuakore Teremoana Kora's* house on 2 September 2005.
45. 45 Photograph taken by Michel Lupant , The Cook Islands Museum, Avarua, 1 September 2005.

About the author



Michel Lupant from Belgium was born in August 1944. He is married and has three daughters and a son. Michel Lupant is teacher of geography since 1964 and served as such for four years in Africa (Guinea and Congo). Since his return to Belgium he works at the same college at Genval. Michel Lupant likes to travel in the world, not only to see the countries and their landscapes, but also to collect material about flags and to establish contacts to local collectors of flags and to the authorities. Lupant is founder of the Belgian European Flag Studies Centre (CEBED), was in 1997 elected President of FIAV during the ICV in Capetown und is member or associate member of almost all vexillological associations of he world.

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M. Lupant at his lecture

Photo: Grahl