

Pascal Vagnat: History of the Flags of Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz

Abstract: *Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate are two of the three German Länder which use the black-red-gold Federal flag with their respective coats of arms as their own regional flags. What are the reasons for that? What does this mean? Saarland and Rhineland-Palatinate, two young German Länder, belong to Saar-Lor-Lux, a transnational region, where during the three last centuries international borders often changed between France, Germany, Luxembourg and Belgium. The history of the Saar-Lor-Lux region, in particular the history of Saarland, is a complex one. The frequent changes of borders between France and Germany since the French Revolution of 1789 have had many consequences on the various flags used in the Saarland. In a comprehensive lecture shall be studied the importance of flags, emblems and colours in the construction of national and regional identities, the perceptions of the flags by the people as well as the flag conflicts that arose in the region.*

Introduction

Three German Länder use, as their own flag, the German flag with a coat of arms in the middle or in the canton. Why did those Länder choose the German colours as their own colours? We shall study the case of Saarland and Rheinland-Pfalz, and see that the history of those two Länder played a great role in that choice.

The Saarland

Saarland (Saar country) is a small state, located at the French and Luxemburgian border. It is a young state: the Saar territory only exists since 1919 that is since the end of the First World War. Until the French Revolution the present Saarland was made of various very small states: principalities, duchies, with many enclaves. The French Revo-



lution and the First French Empire put an end to all this.

1. Consequences of the French Revolution in Saarland.

Following the French Revolution, social disturbances arose in August 1789 in the principality of Nassau-Saarbrücken. So-called registers of grievances, on the model of the French registers, are sent by peasants and citizens of the cities of Saarbrücken and Sankt-Johann to the reigning Prince, to complain about the strong impositions and especially to protest against the corrupted and despotic regime of von Hammerer, president of the government. These disorders will be growing and protests will reach a climax with the arrival of the French troops during the winter 1792/1793 following the declaration of war of revolutionary France on Prussia. At first, the French troops are initially considered occupants by the population, but the decision of the princely government to abstain from any action against the French causes a local deployment of French revolutionary symbols.

Such deployment was opportunist as the Chronic of Goettlieb for the year 1792 brings it back: *“To be agreeable to the French, citizens and peasants attached a national cockade to their hats”* (translation) [1]. Soon afterwards, the wearing of the cockade became obligatory and the one who does not wear a cockade had to buy one from the French soldiers.

In his newspaper of the year 1796, the citizen Horstmann wrote: *“Until now, it was for the French soldiers a form of income : to arrest people from the countryside without national cockades, to insult them, to threaten them and to force them buying an expensive cockade that they have always ready or that they take, when necessary, from their own hats; that very cockade that we, people of the city, are carrying now, having earned it at our cost, and that, we hope for it, does not harm our «germanity». And it is not rare that the soldiers condemn these poor people to pay moreover a fine in the form of some wine bottles to expiate the crime committed towards the Nation”* (translation) [2].

Even if the revolutionary period allowed the abolition of the fatigue-duties and the



feudality in the Saar region, the emblems of France seemed to be imposed, worn unwillingly, scoffed and even destroyed.

Except the Tricolour, there wasn't any particular local emblem. The new French department of the Saar created in 1798, which is today the current Saarland and the western part of Rheinland-Pfalz, hadn't, like all other French departments, any distinctive mark, except maybe a seal with the name of the department and revolutionary symbols, like the bundle of lictor, the cock or the Phrygian cap, as it can be seen on the seals of the communes of the Saar region at that time. In 1805, these symbols were replaced by the Napoleon imperial eagle.

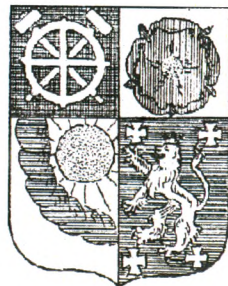


2. Prussian and Bavarian Saar

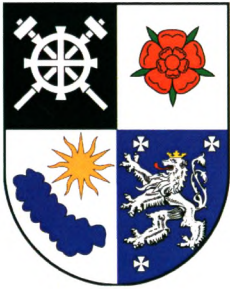
1815: defeat of Napoleon at Waterloo. As a consequence, the map of Germany is completely reorganized by the Congress of Vienna. The major part of the current Saar region is now part of the kingdom of Prussia (Province of Rheinland), the remaining part belongs to Bavaria (Pfalz). Until 1919, the emblems used in the area will be the respective emblems of these two kingdoms: the black and white flags of Prussia, the white and blue flag of Bavaria, as well as their derivatives. The use of flags as true national flags is not easily appreciable for this time, however it can be remarked that royal or ducal visits in the area are the occasion of a large bunting in the streets of Saarbrücken ^β. But these are only buntings for the occasion. In fact, there is no local flag in the area, except the flag of the city of Saarbrücken.

3. Saar-Territory

After the First World War, as a compensation for the destruction of the coal mines in the north of France, Germany must yield to France the whole



and absolute property of the coal mines located in the basin of the Saar. The treaty of Versailles created a so-called “territory of the basin of the Saar” whose government will be entrusted to a commission representing the Society of Nations for a 15 year period. It is the first time in the History that the territory of the basin of the Saar is a political and administrative entity.



On the 28th of July 1920, the commission adopts for the territory a coat of arms and a flag ^[4]. The coat of arms gathers more or less the armorial bearings of four cities of the Saar: Sankt-Ingbert, Sankt-Johann, Saarlouis and Saarbrücken. This appears historically contestable and moreover the original drawing is extremely ugly. The two towns of Sankt-Johann and Saarbrücken amalgamated in 1909 to form one single city, that of

Saarbrücken. Moreover, the coat of arms of Sarrelouis is truncated, it lacks the chief “azure three fleurs de lys or”, granted by the kings of France to their “good cities” and which, in a surprising way, was forgotten by a commission of French obedience.

From the principal colours of this coat of arms a blue, white and black flag was also created.



The flag recalls of course the French colours (red being replaced by black), but, wanted or not, it combines the colours of Prussia (black and white) with those of Bavaria (white and blue). These new emblems, symbols of a separation of the territory from the German Reich, didn't receive marks of favour from the local population. The private individuals do not hoist the flag of the territory: they boycott it. In fact, this emblem will only fly until 1935 on the official buildings of the Commission of the Saar territory in Saarbrücken and on those of the Supreme Court of Justice in Saarlouis ^[5]. The French flag will be used massively on the administrative building of the Mines domaniales on the 14th of July. Like the flag of territory, it also wasn't used by the inhabitants of the Saar territory. The population rejected the

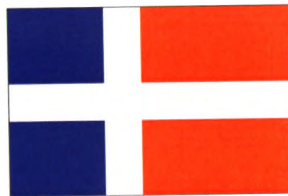
Commission of the territory and used in spite of several prohibitions [6], the flag of German Reich for, as it is recalled by Rolf Wittenbrock, “*revealing their never-failing allegiance to Germany*” (translation) [7]. According to the late Ottfried Neubecker, inhabitants of the Saar territory also used green clothes on their windows, this colour, symbol of hope, being not forbidden. The claim of “germanity” of the Saar population reached a summit in 1925 during the festivals of the Millennium of the Rhineland in the German Reich, in which the Saar population takes an active part in the city of Saarbrücken, where many black, white and red flags, more rarely black, red and gold flags are flying in the streets [8]. When Hitler came to power in 1933, the population only used the black, white and red colours and the swastika-flags, ad nauseam, during the official festivals [9].

4. Saarland back to Germany

In January 1935, not less than 90,76 % of the population of the territory of the Saar decides for the return of Saar to Germany. This took effect on the 1st of March of the same year. The territory is not divided between Prussia and Bavaria, but existed as a new entity called “Saar” with at his head a Commissar of the Reich for the Saar. The only legal emblems will be the flag of the Reich/NSDAP, red with black swastika, and its derivatives instituted in 1935.

5. Autonomous state of Saar

Following the surrender of the 3rd Reich, American troops in March 1945, then the French troops in July 1945, occupied the territory of the Saar. By will of the French government, the Saar will be detached from the German territory and will form a country economically bound to France. On the 26th February 1947, representatives of the various political parties of the Saar met to work out a constitution for the country, which was then adopted on the 15th December 1947. Its article 61 mentioned the new flag of the Saar country: “*the flag of the territory is made of a white cross on blue and red field*” (translation). The colours of the flag are obviously those



of the French flag. Except a proposal of a deputy of the social democrat party to adopt the flag of Saarbrücken as the flag of the Saar territory, the flag with the French colours is accepted without discussions. This is not surprising, since it is known that, following an order of the military Government, half of the Members of the constitutional Commission had to belong to the “Mouvement pour le rattachement de la Sarre”. However the flag of the Saar territory was not resulting from the constitutional Commission but from the administrative Commission established in June 1946 by the French, where nearly 9 members out of 10 belonged to the “Christliche Volkspartei” or “Sozial Demokratische Partei”, whose leaders were all members of the “Mouvement pour le rattachement de la Sarre”. As this movement claimed the annexation of the Saar by France, the emblem of this territory had to be a variant of the French Tricolour.

It should be remarked that a provisional coat of arms for Saarland was displayed in the years 1946-1947, in the room where the Administrative commission met. This was a combination of the



coats of arms of four cities of the territory: Saarbrücken, Saarlouis, Merzig and Sankt-



Ingbert, on the model of the coat of arms of the Saar territory before 1935. The provisional Saar-flag, with the two main colours of this coat of

arms, was the flag of the city of Saarbrücken.

In the official gazette, the flag is shown vertically, the cross being there a Latin cross. It reminds us that the first Minister-President of the Saar country, Johannes Hoffmann, also member of the Mouvement pour le rattachement de la Sarre, was a very catholic man. The important place of the catholic religion in the territory is being confirmed by a part of the constitution of the Saar relating to the religious churches and communities.

In the Saar-Parliament, the Saar-flag is being criticized. Hoppe, a deputy of the pro-German Kommunistische Partei Saar said: *“It is naturally a political question to have the blue-white-red colours in the flag of a purely German territory (...) The Tricolour was a symbol of the human rights and I would like not*

to be mistaken here. The Tricolour was THE symbol of the human rights and I hope, with the great French people, that the Tricolour always corresponds to this symbol in the future. Many people, including me, fought under these colours against a system that brought horror and distress in the world. But we think that it could have at least been given to a country, which is purely German from its habits, his culture and its traditions, a more neutral emblem” (translation) [10].

In spite of a lot of criticism, the article 61 of the constitution was adopted. In the same way, the discussions for the adoption of the law about the flag were useless: for many the flag was imposed, without possible recourse. The flag is finally adopted with lots of mathematical details on the 16th of June 1948.



The new emblems (including the coat of arms), once more imposed, are violently criticized by the population, which cynically calls the flag “*gekrenzte Trikolore*”. The scandalmongers even say that the wife of Johannes Hoffmann, the Minister-President of the time, has drawn herself the coat of arms of the Land. But it is evident that these emblems do not cause any sympathy because there is no reference to the historical past of the Saar. The emblems are

deprived of any tradition, of every memory, of any prestige.

In its policy of separation of the Saar country from Germany, France will successfully affiliate the Saar as an independent state with various sporting federations like the Olympic International Committee for its participation at the Olympic Games of Helsinki in 1952. In the participations in international meetings, the presence of the emblems, the flag, but especially the quite large coat of arms on the jerseys of the sportsmen, will be obligatory. We should wonder to which point the sportsmen of the Saar will have accepted these emblems. The first sporting meeting between “the national team” of the Saar and Germany on the 1st of April 1951, in handball, will involve in fact, the recognition of the autonomy of the Saar, at least on the sporting level. Through the coat of arms, the flag, and the anthem of the Saar, and especially through the international meetings, the sporting teams will have to be, voluntarily or not, conscious of being Saarmen (Saarländer):

“After the victories of the Saar-selection, the statement «W'E won» is an important impulse in the formation of a patriotic conscience «W'E, the Saar-men». The proof of a conditioning is given with the statement «W'E lost»” (translation) [11].

However, in 1949, the Saar country is not affiliated to the International Federation of Football Association. It is a failure for France. As a consequence, the Saar teams took part in the German championship. The High-Commissioner Gilbert Granval notes that *“the sport in the Saar country (...) is ineluctably turned towards the German sport”* (translation) [12]. In 1952 the F.C. Saarbrücken is vice-champion of Germany. Never has the German identity of the Saar country been so marked in the final game against Stuttgart. In the stadium of Ludwigshafen where the match is played, only flags of the city and of Germany are flying: *“Little flags with the German colours that were distributed to the spectators of the final match have an impressive effect on the opening of the event and particularly when the team of Saarbrücken was welcomed”* (translation) [13].

The Saar, following its acceptance within the Olympic International Committee, is present as a nation at the Games of Helsinki in 1952. At the time of the presentation ceremony of the national teams in the Olympic village, only the flag of the Saar is missing. The newspapers of the Saar country told about this: *“In the Saar country, this news has the same effect, regarding the political sensibility: some see here the confirmation that there is no room for a nation called ‘Saar’ in Helsinki, the others the failure of a Saar consciousness”* (translation) [14]. There won't be any other flag incident during the opening ceremony.

Problems occurred each time the Saar country took part, as a nation affiliated to a sport federation, to international meetings on the territory of Germany. For the German government, any presence of the flag of the Saar on the German territory was a sign of recognition of the separation of the Saar from the German territory and also a demonstration against the stability of the German State. Thus the Saar flag had to be prohibited.

In August 1953, for the 3rd International Week of university sport in Dortmund, the Saar country is invited as a "participating nation". To avoid an unfurling of the blue-white-red Saar flag, the "Deutsche Saarbund", a movement, which militates in favour of the return of the Saar country to Germany, manufactured a special flag with the German colours for this event: it was the federal flag with an emblem in the centre, showing the coat of arms of the counts of Nassau-Saarbrücken and the coat of arms of the bishopric of Trier. The "Allgemeiner Deutscher Hochschulsportverband", which organizes the Week, manages to order from the Bonner Fahnenfabrik, with many difficulties, four blue-white-red Saar-flags. However this factory, hostile to an independent Saar, will not deliver these flags and will send instead four copies of the flag created by the "Deutsche Saarbund". When the delegation of the Saar country arrives, the absence of the blue-white-red Saar flag is remarked. The delegation had taken precautions to bring flags and required that the flags be replaced immediately, what the police force of Dortmund prohibited, according to a ministerial decree on the flag of the Saar country of July 6, 1953. In front of a scandal, the president of the "Allgemeiner Deutscher Hochschulsportverband" sent a telegram, without success, to the Federal Chancellor asking for an unfurling of the Saar-flag during the meetings. The exceptional authorization to hoist the flag will be communicated to the police force of Dortmund not less than thirty minutes before the opening ceremony, under pressure of the President of the A.D.H on the Minister-President of Nordrhein-Westfalen. For the very first and the very last time, the blue-white-red Saar flag flies on the territory of the German Federal Republic. The government of the Saar country won: Germany must respect on its territory the emblems of the Saar and at the same time, during this Week, recognize the Saar country as an autonomous state. In fact, the decision to authorize the flag of the Saar was a pure decision of international politics as the Secretary of State Thedieck reported it: *"For the first time at the time of the 3rd International Week of the University Sport organized in Dortmund, the unfurling of the flag of the Saar*



country was exceptionally authorized by Minister-President Arnold. This was done on the recommendation of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in regard to the French Foreign Minister, being the same day in Bonn on the invitation of the Federal Government. The Minister had previously already been offended by the candidature of the Saar-man Walz for the second renewal of the German Bundestag. This is why Bidault was to be spared another insult during his stay in Bonn by temporarily lifting the prohibition of the flag of the Saar" (translation) [15].

During the 7th Tournament of the FIFA in April 1954 near Rhöndorf am Rhein, residence of the federal Chancellor, the same problem occurred. The president of the Deutsche Sportbund, Willi Daume, and the representative of the Deutsche Fussballbund, Karl Zimmermann, call for help of chancellor Adenauer. The answer of the Federal Ministry for German questions is without ambiguity: "It was highly suggested to abstain from a flying of flags, to which Mr. Daume and Mr. Zimmermann did not want to yield, which led the Secretary of State Bleeck to say that these men wanted also to fly the blue-white-red Saar dishcloth on the house of the federal Chancellor" (translation) [16].

6. Saar country back to Germany

On the 23rd October 1954, the chancellor Konrad Adenauer and the French Prime Minister Pierre Mendès-France sign the "Treaties of Paris" and the Franco-German convention on the Saar. A referendum for a "European statute of the Saar" is foreseen to solve the problem of the Saar. For the parties of "the national opposition" in the Saar, the only goal is not a European statute of the Saar, but a return to Germany. Before the referendum, many black-red-gold flags will appear to claim the "Germanity" of the Saar country during an intense pro-German propaganda. On the 23rd October 1955, the European statute is rejected by 67,7 % of the voting population. This meant a return of the Saar country to Germany.

In December 1955, three pro-German parties gain the majority of the seats of the Saar-parliament. These three parties form a governmental coalition and on the 3rd of



February two projects of law are presented: one for the new flag of the Land, the other for the new coat of arms. The new proposed flag is, without surprise, the black-red-gold German flag. The coat of arms is a fierce claim of the “Germanity” of the Saar. (See picture)

When in 1948 all the Saar-emblems were very French, the Saar-emblems of 1956 are very German: it is the German dazzling of the Saarland. The archives of the Land made however a remark on the 21st of March 1956: the German federal flag cannot for legal reasons be adopted as flag of the Land. It is recommended to put the coat of arms of Saarland on the federal flag, like the Länder of Rheinland-Pfalz and Niedersachsen did. The proposed coat of arms was also rejected because it was unheraldic and would have generated negative reactions in the population, because there weren't any historical emblems. The archives of the Land made several proposals of coats of arms. It was chosen a combination of the coats of arms of the counts of Nassau-Saarbrücken, of the archbishops of Kurtrier, of the duchy of Lorraine and of the duchy of Pfalz-Zweibrücken.

The choice of the German flag as flag of the Land by the deputies of Saarland rests on several bases: on one hand there is no historical flag of the Saarland apart from the flags of 1920 and of 1947, and on the other hand it is a logical following of the referendum of October 1955 when the people voted unambiguously for the German Saar.



When in 1947, the deputy Hoppe saw in the French Tricolour “an emblem for the Human rights”, the deputy Reckenwald answers in 1956 that the German colours of the flag of Saarland are: “The colours of the German democracy and of the fatherland.

These colours bind us, contrary to the former colours of the Saarland, to a real living history and they are so deeply anchored in the historical conscience of our population that they do not require publicity” (translation) [17].

According to the deputy Willi: “Despite all the respect for blue-white-red colours of the former flag of the Saarland, under which Liberty, the Human Rights were won, they however miss the spiritual and

psychological foundation that burst upon all those who were born and who live here“ (translation) [18].

It should be remarked that the deputies of Saarland have in fact not adopted a true flag of Saarland, which would have shown for example the colours blue and white (coming from the coat of arms of Nassau-Saarbrücken), but have adopted the German colours under the immediate influence of the emotion, of the “return to the fatherland”.

Rhineland-Palatinate

1. The coat of arms and the flag of the Land

The coat of arms and the flag of the Land of Rheinland-Pfalz were adopted on the 10th of May 1948, in a law resulting from the article 74 of the constitution of the Land.

It combines the lion of the electorate of Palatinate (Kurpfalz) with the cross of the Archbishopric and electorate of Trier (Kurfürstentum und



Erzbistum Trier) and the wheel of the electorate of Mainz (Kurstaat Mainz). The flag of the Land, like the one of Saarland, is also the black-red-gold German federal flag, here with the coat of arms in the canton. What were the reasons for the



adoption of this flag?

2. From the 3rd Reich to the creation of the Land

During the Nazi period, Länder and the provinces which formed the Land of Rheinland-Pfalz, were not authorized to have armorial bearings, the emblem of the Reich, the Nazi eagle acting as a common symbol. With the occupation of the area by the French troops in 1945, the lion is again the emblem of Palatinate (Pfalz) and he appeared with the coat of arms of the Old Prussian Rhineland province on the stamps of the French occupation zone. The area in the west bank of the



Rhine River, under French military occupation, is at first cut out in two administrative entities, the “Oberpräsidium” of Rheinland-Hessen-Nassau and the “Oberpräsidium” of Hessen-Pfalz. The first territory hadn't a coat of arms, but the authorities of the second adopted one, which was authorized on the 19th of June 1946. This was a combination of the coat of arms of the territories of Pfalz, of the electorate of Mainz, of Hessen and a heraldic “world”, symbol of the power of the “Kurfürsten” of Pfalz. This coat of arms didn't last very long. The Commander-in-chief of the French occupation zone in Germany decided by ordinance number 57 of the 30th of August 1946 to create a Land of Rheinland-Pfalz replacing both “Oberpräsidien”. No flags are known for these two “Oberpräsidien”.

3. A flag with mysterious origins

The adoption of the German colours by the authorities of Rheinland-Pfalz seems to remain a mystery. One assumption is that the colours are coming from the coat of arms of the Land as that is often the case for other Länder. This is not plausible, because the principal colours of the coat of arms are white, black, and red (colours of the fields of the shield) and the combination of the colours would have been black-white-red or red-white-black with respect of the heraldical rules. With the colours of the figures only, the colours would have been red, yellow and white, the combination being yellow-red-white or white-red-yellow. Another assumption is that the colours recall that Rheinland-Pfalz is a German Land and that the origin of these colours comes from the “Hambacher Fest” which took place in Pfalz in the year 1832. These two assumptions were unfortunately only formulated many years after the adoption of the flag of the Land. Let us try to understand what led the Land to adopt these colours.

On the 30th August 1946, a Joint Committee made up of members of the “Oberpräsidium” Rheinland-Hessen-Nassau and the “Oberpräsidium” Hessen-Pfalz was created by ordinance. This Committee had to work on a constitution for the Land. It was directed by the lawyer Adolf Süsterhenn who already had worked out, on a purely private basis, a preliminary draft of constitution which was submitted on October 25 to the commission. In this preliminary draft,



article 7 of chapter I provided that: *“the colours of the Land are green-white-green”* (translation). These colours were coming from the coat of arms of the former Prussian province of Rheinland, because Adolf Süsterhenn had envisaged a constitution for a Land whose territory did not include the Pfalz yet.



The first project of constitution for Rheinland-Pfalz established by the Committee did not contain anything about the emblems of the Land. However in the meetings of 9th and 10th January 1947, this was remarked: *“Generally, the fact that the project of constitution hadn't any provisions concerning the colours of the Land was considered as a deficiency. In reserve of the still various standpoints of the fractions, the committee approves the proposal to choose black, red and gold as colours of the Land”* (translation) ^[19].

The reasons of this choice are not explained. In April, the article which mentioned the black, red and gold colours of the Land is replaced by a neutral sentence saying that the colours and the coat of arms of the law will be adopted by a law. This sentence is adopted on 25th April without comments in the debates of the “Beratende Landesversammlung” on the project of constitution. The flag of the Land is mentioned only one single time by the deputy Hertel of the Socialdemocrat Party:

“The deputies Altmeier and Dr. Hoffmann in the debates of yesterday have so precisely and so clearly shown the provisional character of this state and how it was created that we do not have here anything to add. Thus, we do not need either to worry about several things which appear in the section «Foundation of the State», in particular the coat of arms and the colours of the Land” (translation) ^[20].

This is revealing. Indeed, the day before, the deputy Altmeier had clearly expressed his point of view on the Land Rheinland-Pfalz. He said that *“the Land Rheinland-Pfalz is neither historical nor grown organically”* (translation) ^[21] and that it was only a pure creation of the allies.

The artificial character of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz was then shown by the deputy Hoffmann of the Social Democratic Party: *“We suppose, that the occupation zones have not yet become a historical reality in the way of a logical federal division of Germany. That the Land Rheinland-Pfalz, for which we try to write a constitution, itself cannot be a strong component of the new German federal state, does not need complementary explanations”* (translation) ^[22].

Now we understand better that the Land Rheinland-Pfalz was in fact considered a provisional Land. The flag of the Land, also provisional in

the minds of the deputies, had simply to be the German flag. It is almost certain that if this provisional character had not existed, the question of the flag and the coat of arms undoubtedly would have been more studied by the deputies. The deputy Hertel had recommended the German flag as the provisional flag of the Land, certainly to reconsider later the exact colours which would have been definitively approved.

The law on the coat of arms and the flag of the Land was adopted on the 7th of April 1948. The flag of the Land has the coat of arms in its canton. No explanation concerning the choice of the German flag as flag of the Land is given in the proposal of law. The coat of arms appears in the canton of the flag because, like the flag of Saarland, the German flag could not be adopted as it was by Rheinland-Pfalz. The discussions in the parliament concerning the laws don't tell us anything about the flag. It was a simple approval of the text. It was all settled for a long time. The provisional statute of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz became a final statute, as well as the colours of the Land which were and still are black, red and gold.

However the reasons concerning the choice of the German flag are still not very clear. The provisional form of the Land Rheinland-Pfalz in 1947 is an interesting track to understand the choice of a temporary flag for the Land. A flag that is the flag of the fatherland, but this is an interpretation of the words that men said in a time far more troubled than ours.



Notes:

1. Gottlieb'sche Chronik, *Mitteilungen des Historischen Vereins für die Saargegend*, Heft 7, 1900, pp.7-8.
2. Horstmann, Ph. B., *Allgemeine Literaturzeitung*, 1796, p. 31 quoted in : Eder, Franz : *Das Saargebiet und die französische Revolution (1789-1801)*, *Mitteilungen des historischen Vereins für die Saargegend*, Heft 18, 1930, p.47.
3. For instance, many flags of the Empire and Prussia are shown on the place of the Castle of Saarbrücken for the visit of the Grand-Duke of Bade in 1890. Similarly, all the buildings of the city are covered with flags with the imperial colours for the arrival of the imperial couple in 1904 in Saarbrücken. Cf. photo nr.32 in : Schleiden, Karl August, *Saarbrücken so wie es war*, Düsseldorf, Droste Verlag, 1973; photo „Kaiserpaar auf dem Weg vom Bahnhof durch die Reichstraße zur Begrüßungszeremonie am Sankt Johanner Rathaus“ at the Historisches Museum Saar in Saarbrücken.

4. *Verordnung betreffend das Wappen des Saargebiets*, Nr. 113, 28. Juli 1920, Amtsblatt der Regierungskommission des Saargebiets, Stück 8, 7. August 1920.
5. Cf. Kiffer, Pierre-Emile : « Les armoiries et le drapeau de la Sarre », *Journal de la Sarre*, n°26, Novembre 1934 (supplément).
6. Cf. *Polizei-Verordnung betreffend das Aufziehen und Tragen von Fahnen, Flaggen, Wimpeln und Abzeichen in den Farben von Staatsflaggen*, Nr. 298, Amtsblatt der Regierungskommission des Saargebietes Nr.20, 7. Juli 1924 and *Verordnung betr. das öffentliche Flaggen*, Nr. 604, Verordnungen, Erlasse, Verfügungen und Bekanntmachungen der Regierungskommission des Saargebietes, Nr. 47, 1. Dezember 1933.
7. Wittenbrock, Rolf : « Identitätsbildung in einer Grenzregion : das Saarland bis 1935 », Van Dülmen, Richard - Klimmt, Reinhard (Hrsg.), *Saarländische Geschichte, eine Anthologie*, Sankt Ingbert, 1995, pp.287-288.
8. Cf. Schleiden, Karl August, *Saarbrücken so wie es war*, Düsseldorf, Droste Verlag, 1973, p.29 and p.31 (photo)
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About the author



Pascal Vagnat (born in 1972) is a French civil servant in Chaumont (Champagne-Ardenne, France). Since long he is interested in languages, history and European affairs. He studied at the Universities of Orléans, Metz (France) and Saarbrücken (Germany). In Saarbrücken he obtained the best mark for his *Diplom für Grenzüberschreitende Deutsch-Französische Studien* and his work "Les identités régionales, nationales et supranationales dans la Grande région Saar-Lor-Lux Region à travers les emblèmes". At the university of Metz, he obtained a *Diplôme d'études approfondies* in German studies for his work on flags and emblems in the same region.

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