László Balogh:
The Flag Museum of Budapest and the Hungarian Flag Society

Please allow me, to introduce myself: I am László Balogh, Director of the Flag Museum in Budapest and Chairman of the Hungarian Flag Society. Since 1983 I am occupied with flags. In letters I turned to the presidents and representatives of states and their subdivisions, asking them to provide us with original flags of their territories.

In the long run the collection grew to more than 6,000 flags. In 1995 I had the chance to open in Budapest, the capital of my native country, the Flag Museum.

I most cordially invite you, when you come to my country, not to forget to visit the Flag Museum and to see me.

The address of the museum is *József Körút 68 / Nap utca* in H-1085 Budapest. You find this place directly at the Grand Circle "*Nagykörút*". The museum has two halls. One of them is housing the permanent exhibition of flags from all over the world. The second hall is reserved to temporary and special exhibitions.

In the museum the Hungarian Flag Society meets regularly and every year it organizes a "Day of Vexillology" country-wide. In these events participate the members of our society, the specialists of the National Museum and of the Museum of Military History as well of the Chair of Historical Complementary Sciences of the Budapest University.

Teachers of geography of schools from throughout the country really do like our museum and often visit it with their pupils. Every month lectures are held here about the national symbols of states, familiarising the participants also with the symbolism of even small countries and their culture.

The Hungarian Flag Society was founded in 1994 and became member of FIAV during the XVI. ICV in Warsaw. At that time Tamás Rumi was chairman, unfortunately he retired completely from vexillology, and was followed in 1997 by Zoltán Horváth, while I took the post of the chairman in 2001.

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