

# Ceremonial flags of the Croatian units of local government

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**Abstract** With the first administrative reform in 1993 after independence, the units of local government (counties, cities and communities) were given the right to adopt and use coats of arms and flags. In the past 20 years the vast majority of them did so and most obtained approval from the central authorities, as required by law. Besides the coat of arms and the flag, many units also adopted a ceremonial flag, which is not regulated by law and not requiring an approval. Such ceremonial flags are a new development in local identity symbols. Some are simply the same as the official flags, but made of richer materials and manufacture, while most are entirely different. Typical design, but by no means exclusive, is a vertical banner in the form of a gonfalon hoisted from a crossbar, made of a single coloured silk, edged with golden ribbons and fringe. The unit name is inscribed above the coat of arms and usually includes floral ornaments at the bottom or in the tails. These precious flags are made usually as a single example and are used on special occasions. The colour of the gonfalon is usually the same as the official flag. Often the additional ornaments provide further symbolic affiliation with the units that was not included in the coat of arms itself.

## 1. Introduction

The Republic of Croatia decided to leave the Yugoslav federation on 25 June 1991 and independence was declared on 8 October 1991. In the same process, Croatia left the socialist system and, among other things, started reforming its local government. The first overhaul of the administrative subdivision was made in the end of 1992, when the previous large communities were divided into smaller communities (Cro. *općina*), some of which were granted, following certain urban criteria, the city status (Cro. *grad*). In the same time an intermediate administrative subdivision level of counties (Cro. *županija*) was reintroduced, following the traditional system<sup>1</sup> which existed in Croatia prior to 1918. The initial division into 20 counties plus the City of Zagreb<sup>2</sup>, further divided into 70 cities and 419 communities, was subsequently amended on several occasions, forming some new subdivisions and changing the status of others<sup>3</sup>. The current subdivisions count still 20 counties, with 127 cities and 429 communities, totalling to 576 units of local government, i.e. 556 municipalities<sup>4</sup>.

From its inception the first 1992 law on local government<sup>5</sup> prescribed the right for the units to adopt their symbols – a coat of arms and a flag, and soon the procedures and regulations on their adoption and design were developed.<sup>6</sup> The subsequent laws introduced the requirement that these symbols, adopted by the units themselves, are approved by the central authorities, and a special Heraldic Commission<sup>7</sup> was established within the Ministry of Administration<sup>8</sup>. The Commission estab-



lished some ground rules for the design of the coats of arms and the flags, which enabled fairly systematic and mostly well designed heraldic practice to emerge.

The basic principles for the coat of arms established are: it must comply with the heraldic rules; it must be composed of a shield and its contents only; it must not contain the state coat of arms or its parts; and as a rule, when there exists a historical coat of arms, it must be readopted.

The flags were, however, prescribed to be fairly uniform and with little vexillological creativity – prescribing them to be, for the municipalities, of single-coloured fields in one of the five “heraldic colours” (red, blue, green, white, yellow) with the coat of arms in the centre of it or offset to the hoist. Only those municipalities that could prove to have been using a different flag historically were allowed to readopt it. For the counties the two-coloured fields were allowed, without further requirement how the two colours should be patterned, and again, with the coat of arms in the centre or offset to the hoist. This enabled more variation and resulted with comparatively much more interesting and diverse vexillological design for the county flags.

During the last 20 years numerous units of local government adopted their symbols following this law and the regulations, obtaining the approval of the central authorities. Other municipalities have chosen not to follow the strict requirements for one reason or another, and adopted symbols that were outside the system and that were not approved by the central authorities. In some cases, the initially adopted “un-systematic” symbols were eventually replaced with those approvable and were approved; however, this process is still going on.

According to the information received from the Ministry of Administration<sup>9</sup>, all of the

	Nr. of Units of Local Government (2013)	Nr. of Units with the Symbols Approved by Central Authorities (20 April 2010)		Nr. of Units with Symbols in Use (FAME, 2013)		Nr. of Units with a Ceremonial Flag (FAME, 2013)	
Counties	20	20	100%	20	100%	11	55%
Cities	127	94	74%	126	99%	50	39%
Communities	429	292	68%	375	87%	179	42%
Total	576	406	70%	521	90%	240	42%

counties and almost  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the municipalities have adopted symbols that were approved by the central authorities. However, the number of units that have a coat of arms (at least, although in almost all these cases the flag is adopted and approved, as well) as registered on the FAME (The Flags and Arms of the Modern Era) web site<sup>10</sup> raises the percentage to 90%. See Table 1. It should be, however, considered that the register of approved symbols (from the Ministry of Administration) is not publicly available, and therefore not even the names of units with symbols approved are known, and certainly not all of the other details and designs. Therefore, some of the units with approved symbols are not registered as yet on the FAME. In any case, whatever the actual numbers, it may certainly be said that the majority of units have regu-

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lated their symbols in one way or another and that it is just a small fraction yet that is left without any.

## 2. Ceremonial Flags

A new development has taken on with the heraldic and vexillological renaissance in Croatia since the 1990's. Besides the coat of arms and the flag regulated by the law, the units of local government have started to adopt yet another symbol – the ceremonial flag. The ceremonial flag is a symbolic vexillological object produced, as a rule, in a single example, to be used upon especially festive or solemn occasions. Since the law on local government knows not of it, it does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Heraldic Commission, it requires no approval and, apparently, it is ignored by the Commission. This allowed the municipalities to develop an identity symbol of greater variety than the prescribed "dull" single-coloured flags, providing for expression of richness of embroidery traditions as well as a media for inclusion of other symbolic elements which had not found their way into the approved coat of arms.

It may be speculated that the symbol was invented (or promoted) by the symbol designers or flag manufacturers, as a clever means of selling more designs and products. However, they should not be accused of such "cunning" too quickly, as it seems that the ceremonial flags, although maybe of lesser elaboration, are to be found already in the earliest decisions made by the municipalities even before the emergence of the Heraldic Commission and "organized" designers' community which arose to serve the demand. Therefore it indeed seems that the ceremonial flags emerged out of the need felt by the municipalities on their own in the mid-1990's, while the overwhelming system evolved eventually and slowly towards the end of the decade.

It may also be speculated that the ceremonial flags may have been influenced by the Italian traditions (where such ornamented gonfalons have long been in use) in the coastal areas of Croatia. However, the ceremonial flags mentioned in the decisions of the early mid-1990's period may be found just as well in the inland parts of Croatia, where such Italian influence would have been non-existent or negligible.

The root of the origin of the modern ceremonial flags may be possibly searched in the vexillological traditions of the Croatian areas prior to World War I and maybe way back into the feudal era. It has been long tradition of the cities in inland Croatia, in accordance with the feudal system, to maintain small armed units to be provided upon a call from the feudal senior (in cases of the free and royal cities, that would be the sovereign or his deputy in Croatia – the viceroy, titled Ban). These units would have been equipped with appropriate military colour with the municipal symbols on it. In peacetime, the same flag would serve ceremonial purposes in the city and the actual flags would at the same time be the flag of the city as well as the military colour of its unit. Several city and county flags of such origin have been preserved in the Croatian museums. After the revolutions of 1848 such flags would have been used solely as ceremonial flags of the city (or the county) and their military origins would have been soon forgotten. Such flags are, for example, those of the cities of Zagreb<sup>11</sup>, Koprivnica<sup>12</sup> and Samobor<sup>13</sup>, or the counties of Varaždin<sup>14</sup>, Križevci, Virovitica, Zagreb, Severin, Rijeka, Bjelovar<sup>15</sup>. Even when the "actual" city flags were being made in the 20th century, such as the flag of Zagreb of 1902<sup>16</sup>, they would have been made in one single, richly produced example to serve as the city flag to be used on special solemn occasions. The "normal" municipal flags, mass produced in simple designs, to be used by municipal authorities and even the general public, were virtually



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unknown prior to World War II, and they emerge only in the late 1960's and the following decades<sup>17</sup>. Even then, prior to the 1990's, there would have been only a dozen greatest cities that would have adopted and used such a "normal" flag, even though the unique, richly made, ceremonial flags were already a matter of history by that time.

These "normal" flags are not specifically termed in the official documents<sup>18</sup>, although sometimes the term "official flag" (Cro. službena zastava)<sup>19</sup> does appear, and it is therefore used here to denote them, when needed to be distinguished from the ceremonial flag. The ceremonial flags are named in the local regulations as "ceremonial flag" (Cro. svečana zastava)<sup>20</sup> or occasionally "honour flag" (Cro. počasna zastava)<sup>21</sup>.

As mentioned, the central state authorities are not concerned with the ceremonial flags and therefore there is no formal requirement for their approval. For that reason it is also often the case that units of local government choose not to include any word regarding the ceremonial flag in their own regulations (statutes, decisions on adoption of symbols, regulations on their use, etc.), even if sometimes the graphical part of such regulations does include their drawings next to the prescriptive drawings of the coat of arms and the official flag, nevertheless. In other cases, the ceremonial flag is adopted "silently" without any trace in the documentation, but is then often displayed upon ceremonial occasions (or simply in its default storage place, often in the local assembly hall or mayor's office). In yet other cases, the ceremonial flag is mentioned in the legislation only by noting its existence, without any further description. Sometimes the description may be added but so vaguely that it is not helpful for even the most approximate attempt at drawing its reconstruction. On the other hand, there are examples when municipalities include detailed prescriptions of the design and prescribed use of the ceremonial flag (in which case the central authorities choose to ignore those articles in the decisions, referring in their approval decisions only to the coat of arms and the official flag). Furthermore, there are examples when a ceremonial flag is prescribed, but the flag recorded in use differs from it to some degree (in some details or more significantly).

All of the aforementioned makes the study of the ceremonial flags extremely difficult. It should be highlighted that it must be that a number of existing ceremonial flags were omitted from this research for a simple reason that the author was not aware of them.

Another interesting development may be observed with regard to the ceremonial flags. It seems that there is a tendency to use these designs as a form, or instead of a ceremonial or a greater coat of arms. The municipal arms in Croatia, as a rule (and with only a few exceptions) are devised in a single stage, and there are no distinctions known in some European heraldic systems, among the greater, middle and lesser arms. Although some municipalities have prescribed "ceremonial arms" while other have designs filling that role, it has been noted that the depiction of the ceremonial flag is sometimes used in letterheads and other illustrations on various ceremonial charters and similar documents.



### 3 Ceremonial flag types

As it appears that the ceremonial flag emerged spontaneously with the development of the new municipal symbols in Croatia since the 1990's, it may be observed that they appear in several distinct types of overall design. An attempt to systematize these types is provided here.

#### Type 1

Original ceremonial flag. In a number of cases, especially in the early period of the symbol's adoption process (i.e. the first half of the 1990's), the flag adopted by a municipality is in fact a ceremonial flag, even if that fact is not mentioned anywhere in the decisions. That the adopted flag is a ceremonial one may be seen from the fact that it includes complex ornamentation, tails, tassels, and other elements that are not appropriate for mass production. Even if such flags may have been produced in more than one single unique copy, their number would have been rather limited, and their actual use would be indeed limited to ceremonial or festive occasions – while simpler versions (e.g. without tails, tassels, conforming to rectangular form etc.) would be used in general. Often the complex flag would be produced in several examples in the first batch, while the other acquisitions would have the simplified "normal" flag. However, it should be noted that the decision if a certain flag fits this category is somewhat arbitrary and left to the author.

Such flags are those of Vukovar-Srijem County<sup>22</sup>, the cities of Zlatar<sup>23</sup>, Požega<sup>24</sup>, and Vinkovci<sup>25</sup>, the communities of Kraljevec na Sutli<sup>26</sup>, Popovača<sup>27</sup>, Šolta<sup>28</sup>, Brtonigla<sup>29</sup>, and Blato<sup>30</sup>. Also some of the initially adopted flags that were not approved by the central authorities<sup>31</sup> and were eventually replaced with other designs, such as the cities of Donja Stubica<sup>32</sup>, the communities of Sveti Križ Začretje<sup>33</sup>, Sveti Ilija<sup>34</sup> and probably some more. For a selection of these see Figure 1.



Figure 1. Examples of type 1 – Original ceremonial flag: Vukovar-Srijem County, Zlatar, Požega (obverse and reverse), Vinkovci, Šolta, Brtonigla, Blato, Sveti Ilija (obverse).

#### Type 2

Enriched official flag. A number of municipalities prescribed their ceremonial flags to be of exactly the same design as the official flag, only to be produced of costlier materials (silk or similar). The charges on the flag (typically the coat of arms) may be prescribed to be embroidered (instead of printed) and as a rule the fringe is prescribed for it (usually golden, on three outer edges, but occasional variations appear). It may be very difficult to discern the official flag from its ceremonial counterpart in such cases, especially if dealing with photographic sources.

Such ceremonial flags are prescribed in the counties of Slavonski Brod-Posavina<sup>35</sup> and Osijek-Baranja<sup>36</sup>, the cities of Kutjevo<sup>37</sup>, Slavonski Brod<sup>38</sup>, Osijek<sup>39</sup>, Hvar<sup>40</sup>, Pazin<sup>41</sup>, Buzet<sup>42</sup>, Poreč<sup>43</sup>, and Mursko Središće<sup>44</sup>, and the communities of Majur<sup>45</sup>, Petrijanec<sup>46</sup>, Brod Moravice<sup>47</sup>, Vrpolje<sup>48</sup>, and Tinjan<sup>49</sup>. See examples in Fig. 2. Again, some of the early flags, unapproved and replaced in the mean time, had the ceremonial version prescribed of this type, such as the city of Stari Grad<sup>50</sup>.

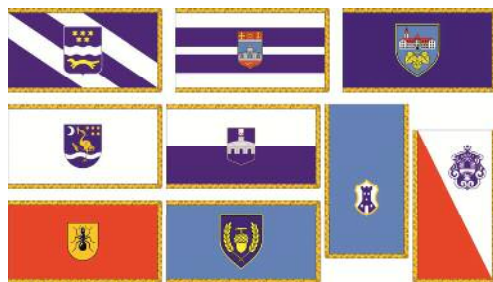


Figure 2. Examples of type 2 - enriched ceremonial flag: Slavonski Brod-Posavina, Osijek-Baranja, Kutjevo, Slavonski Brod, Osijek, Pazin, Buzet, Majur, Vrpolje.

#### Type 3

Historical replica. In a few cases, the units, which have preserved a historical flag that is more or less similar to the currently adopted official flag, have chosen to adopt the historical flag as its ceremonial flag; see Fig. 3. Certainly, as the historical flag would have been preserved in a museum, a replica would be produced, to be used as the ceremonial flag. The county of Varaždin is a notable example of this<sup>51</sup>, but may eventually prove not to be the only one.



Figure 3. The flag of the Varaždin County of 1778, reverse and obverse (reconstruction), photo of the obverse (Inv. nr. GMV KPO 1454, Lončarić, 2008.) and 1996 ceremonial flag, obverse (reverse stripes only, without the icon).



Figure 4. Examples of type 4 – standardized gonfalon: Dubravica, Jesenje, Ozalj, Varaždinske Toplice, Hlebina, Cres, Otočac, Nova Bukovica, Brestovac, Bebrina.



Figure 5. Examples of type 6 – swallow-tailed flag: Koprivnica, Koprivnički Bregi; and type 7 – flags with ceremonial coat of arms: Ravna Gora.

Figure 6. Example of type 8 – other design: Rovinj.



#### Type 4

Standardized gonfalon. The type may have been easily named the “Heraldic Art gonfalon”, after the design company led by the designer Mladen Stojić from Rijeka<sup>52</sup>. The company is responsible for the design of more than 200 adopted designs of symbols of units of local government, way more than any other designer, and it had much influence on the heraldic (and vexillological) style of the modern Croatian municipal symbols<sup>53</sup>. However, it seems that, after this pattern was well established, some other designers decided to follow it and there are at least a few cases where it is confirmed that a type-4 gonfalon is made by another designer<sup>54</sup>. Since this proves to be the most typical design for the Croatian ceremonial flags (184 recorded so far, probably more are yet undiscovered) it shall be considered in more details further. An assortment of examples is shown in Fig. 4.

#### Type 5

Other gonfalon. Whether influenced by the previous type or emerging independently, there are a number of gonfalons or other simpler vertically hanging banners as ceremonial flags. Some are simple vertical versions of the official flag with a few rectangular tails, while others are elaborated complex artistic gonfalons. Besides the three counties (Bjelovar-Bilogora<sup>55</sup>, Zadar<sup>56</sup> and Dubrovnik-Neretva<sup>57</sup>) such gonfalons are used as ceremonial flags by the cities of Dugo Selo<sup>58</sup>, Ogulin<sup>59</sup> and Buje<sup>60</sup>, and communities of Brckovljani<sup>61</sup>, Draganić<sup>62</sup>, Jasenice<sup>63</sup>, Privlaka<sup>64</sup>, Bale<sup>65</sup> and Lupoglav<sup>66</sup>. Cf. Fig. 13 further on.

#### Type 6

Swallow-tailed flag. In several cases the ceremonial flag is adopted with the same design as the official flag (and if the coat of arms in it is centred, then it is offset to the hoist in the ceremonial flag) with the fly end split with a regular triangular indentation. These flags should remind one of the historical swallow-tailed flags frequent among the municipalities and counties in the 18th and 19th centuries (originating as or emulating swallow-tailed cavalry standards). Such flags are prescribed as ceremonial flags by the city of Koprivnica<sup>67</sup> and the community of Koprivnički Bregi<sup>68</sup> (both designed by Draženka Jalšić Ernečić from Koprivnica). See Fig. 5. Also a swallow-tailed vertical flag is recorded in use by the community of Grožnjan<sup>69</sup>, but it is unclear if it is a ceremonial flag proper or simply an artistic or festive representation of the regular flag (rectangular of the same design).

#### Type 7

Flag with ceremonial coat of arms. In a few cases the ceremonial flag is in the form of the official flag, but the regular coat of arms is replaced with the “ceremonial coat of arms” often made following the historical pattern. Such a “regular” flag with the usual arms replaced with its ceremonial (i.e. the historical) version is prescribed by the city of Ilok<sup>70</sup>, depicting its 15th century coat of arms, and the community of Ravna Gora<sup>71</sup>, depicting its 18th century coat of arms – each being a more ornamented version of the currently used arms, matching the heraldic style of its era. See Fig. 5.

#### Type 8

Other. Ceremonial flags of pattern not matching any previous type. The only one of this group so far is that of Rovinj<sup>72</sup>, being a vertical version of the official flag, but simpler than the official flag. The official flag namely shows the coat of arms set between two columns or transversal stripes of floral ornaments (four bunches of oak and laurel



leaves and fruits each), while the ceremonial flag is vertical with the arms between a single pair of bunches of the ornaments. See Fig. 6.

### Type 9

Unknown. As mentioned above, in certain cases the ceremonial flag is only mentioned in the legislation, but no drawing or photo was obtained. Such is the case of the cities of Duga Resa<sup>73</sup>, Sinj<sup>74</sup>, and the communities of Severin<sup>75</sup>, Lovran<sup>76</sup>, Matulji<sup>77</sup>, Vrbnik<sup>78</sup>, Udbina<sup>79</sup>, Crnac<sup>80</sup>, Gornja Vrba<sup>81</sup>, Ston<sup>82</sup>, Pribislavec<sup>83</sup>. Four of these have the coats of arms and the flags designed by Heraldic Art<sup>84</sup> and it would probably prove they have the ceremonial flags of type 4, while others are designed by other artists (or the designers are unknown, but probably not the Heraldic Art) and these 7 ceremonial flags may easily be of the other types. In any case, it should not significantly skew the distribution among other types.

### Type 0

No ceremonial flag. It is an artificially constructed type to cover all those units of local government for which no ceremonial flag is prescribed or recorded.

Table 2. Number of recorded ceremonial flags by type. Note that Type 0 does not necessarily mean that it is confirmed that no ceremonial flag is used, rather that none is recorded (yet).

	1 - original	2 - enriched	3 - historical	4 - stand gonfalon	5 - other gonfalon	6 - swallow-tailed	7 - cerem. arms	8 - other	9 - unknown	0 - none
Counties	1	2	1	4	3	-	-	-	-	9
Cities	4	8	-	30	3	1	1	1	2	77
Communities	7	5	-	150	6	1	1	-	9	250
Total	12	15	1	184	12	2	2	1	11	336

The breakout of the ceremonial flags by types is shown in Table 2. Out of a total of 230 ceremonial flags recorded, 184 are of the standardized gonfalon type (type 4) making 77% of all ceremonial flags. Three other types are represented with around 5% each (type 1, type 2, and type 5), while other types are represented with only one or two examples, together making less than 3%. Were it not for their distinctive design characteristics, all these other types (type 3, type 6, they 7) may have been lumped together into "other" type 8. Also, it should be noted that for about yet 5% of the ceremonial flags, it is known that they exist (being mentioned in the regulations), but the design details still remain unknown (type 9).

Also, it may be noticed that a gonfalon (vertical banner hoisted from a crossbar) is definitely the preferred form of the ceremonial flag: besides the 184 type 4 and 12 type 5 gonfalons, also 10 out of 12 type 1 flags are in gonfalon form as well as the 1 type 8, making the gonfalons in 208 of 230 recorded ceremonial flags (90%).



Table 3. Number of recorded ceremonial flags by type according to the counties of the Republic of Croatia. (The City of Zagreb has been counted with Zagreb County.)

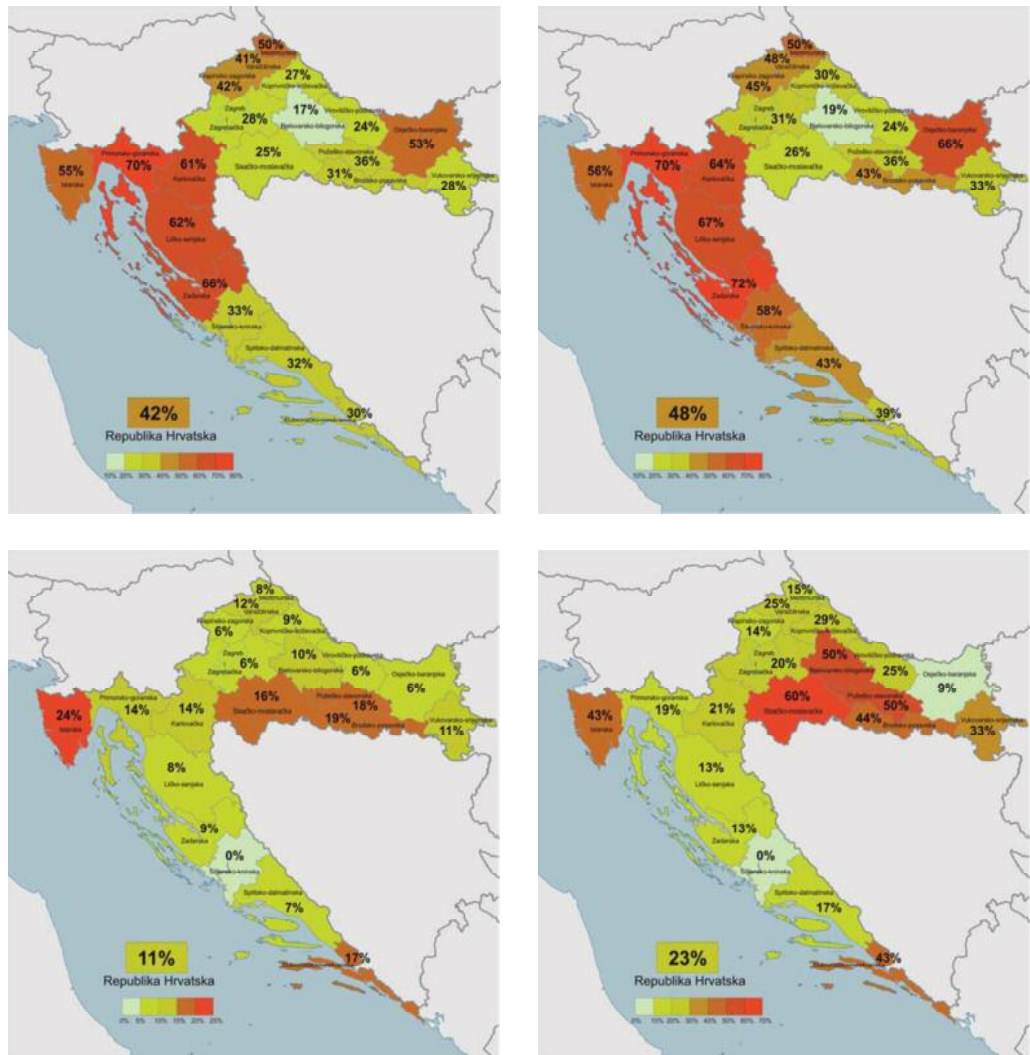
	1 - original	2 - enriched	3 - historical	4 - stand.gonfalon	5 - other gonfalon	6 - swallow-tailed	7 - cerem. arms	8 - other	9 - unknown	0 - none
Zagreb	-	-	-	8	2	-	-	-	-	26
Krapina-Zagorje	2	-	-	12	-	-	-	-	-	19
Sisak-Moslavina	2	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	15
Karlovac	-	-	-	11	2	-	-	-	1	9
Varaždin	1	1	1	9	-	-	-	-	-	17
Koprivnica-Križevci	-	-	-	5	-	2	-	-	-	19
Bjelovar-Bilogora	-	-	-	2	-	1	-	-	1	20
Coast-Gorski Kotar	-	1	-	21	-	-	1	-	3	11
Lika-Senj	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	1	5
Virovitica-Podravina	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	13
Požega-Slavonia	1	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	7
Sl. Brod-Posavina	-	3	-	5	-	-	-	-	1	20
Zadar	-	-	-	20	3	-	-	-	-	12
Osijek-Baranja	-	2	-	21	-	-	-	-	-	21
Šibenik-Knin	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	14
Vukovar-Srijem	2	-	-	6	-	-	1	-	-	23
Split-Dalmatia	1	1	-	15	-	-	-	-	1	38
Istria	2	4	-	13	3	-	-	1	-	19
Dubrovnik-Neretva	1	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	1	16
Međimurje	-	1	-	11	-	-	-	-	1	13
Total	12	15	1	184	12	2	2	1	11	336

The breakout of these flags by counties (Table 3) may provide the detecting of possible regional preference or the “autochthonous” emergence of ceremonial flags. Figure 7 shows maps with the percentages of ceremonial flags varying in the Croatian counties.

Map a) shows the number of recorded (i.e. known) ceremonial flags against the number of units of local government in each county (absolute percentages). As may be noted the majority of ceremonial flags are to be found in the north-western part of the country, and one may suspect the Italian gonfalon influence to be strongest there; however, that would not explain why the “hot” zones would also appear in the north and northeast, while other counties also show relatively high percentages to dismiss the “Italian theory”. This becomes more obvious as the “hot” zones widen on map b) where the number of known ceremonial flags against the number of units with known official flag (i.e. the relative percentages) are shown. Namely, a number of units have not adopted any symbols, or they have adopted or are using a coat of arms only, and they make the absolute percentages lower and more difficult comparison among the counties. It may be noticed that the least ceremonial flags appear in central Croatia, but overall percentages are still rather high. If one would take into account that there may be a number of ceremonial flags of type 4 in some of those counties, where Heraldic Art has designed the coat of arms and the flag of certain units, but the info on existing ceremonial flag is missing (plus possible other ceremonial flags not recorded), these numbers would rise still higher, probably making most



Figure 7. Percentages of ceremonial flags by counties: a) number of ceremonial flags by the number of units of local government; b) number of ceremonial flags by the number of units of local government with known flags; c) number of ceremonial flags of type other than type 4 by the number of units of local government with known flags; d) number of ceremonial flags of type other than type 4 by the number of ceremonial within the county.



counties to reach at least 40%. It should also be taken into account that in some of the counties with lesser percentages, the flags have been mostly designed by other designers, who apparently chose not to propose ceremonial flags<sup>85</sup>.

Map c) shows the percentage of ceremonial flags other than type 4<sup>86</sup> (i.e. the “non-standard” ceremonial flags) in regard to the total number of units of local government in each county and map d) the same “non-standard” flags relative to the number of all known ceremonial flags. Since type 4 flags are all influenced by a single designer, these maps show that the idea of ceremonial flags is not originating from that workshop only, but emerges autochthonously to almost the same degree throughout the country. Map c) shows that Istria appears to have the largest number of such “independently” devised ceremonial flags, for which the mentioned possible influence of Italian gonfalons may indeed be the case. However, when one considers the relative numbers in map d) the “independent” emergence of ceremonial flag is obviously more spread and not at all largest in Istria. A stripe of “hot” zones in the southern part of continental Croatia is obvious there, which is not easily explained. A possible root of such development may be searched in the traditions left by the former Military Border (dissolved in the 19th century), however, a further in-depth research would have to be performed to confirm it.

In any case, all these numbers clearly show that the ceremonial flag is a phenomenon equally occurring in the entire country. It seems that the “normal”, everyday, official flag is just not enough for the people, and a special flag is required to denote solemn ceremonial occasions.

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It seems to be even more curious, the phenomenon of ceremonial flag is specific for Croatia and it is not regularly found in any other country in the region, even though Croatia and these countries shared common history in recent or more ancient times and share a number of other cultural phenomena. The ceremonial municipal flags are rarely found in Slovenia, almost never in Bosnia and Herzegovina (even within the Croat majority municipalities) nor in the other former Yugoslav states. They are not commonly known either in Austria or Hungary or other former Austrian-Hungarian states. It may be only compared somewhat with the Slovakian vexillological custom of local mayor's flags; however a further comparison of the phenomena would be necessary to find if there is some connection. The only other country that has traditions of using separate ceremonial flags in forms of gonfalons is, as mentioned, Italy, but there seems, as it was shown, to be no direct link that could prove that the Italian practice gave origin to the phenomenon in Croatia.

Finally, it may be curious to observe that the heraldically most default pattern for derivation of a flag from a coat of arms, the armorial banner, is not found among any of these ceremonial flags (or other types of municipal flags, either<sup>87</sup>).

#### **4. Colours of the ceremonial flags**

The colour of the field of the ceremonial flag, as a rule, follows the colour of the field of the official flag. The most notable exceptions are the counties, which use bi-coloured official flags, while their ceremonial flags are, in the 4 examples of the type 4 (standardized gonfalon) using a single-coloured gonfalon field – in one of the two colours of the official flag. On the other hand, in the 3 examples of the type 5 (other gonfalon) the ceremonial flag repeats the colour pattern of the official flag. The other 4 ceremonial flags (2 of type 2, and one each of type 1 and type 3) copy the colour pattern of the official flag, of course, while the remaining 9 counties do not use a ceremonial flag.

In the case of the municipalities, whose flags are, as a rule, of single colour, they mainly follow the general rule. However, as the production materials of the official and ceremonial flags are different (the latter is often made of high-glossy silk), occasionally there is a noticeable difference in the colour shades. This is most noticeable with the (most frequent anyway) blue flags, where the difference may range from dark blue in the one to the light blue in the other, and also with the red flags (where ceremonial flags often appear of darker "solemn" shade). In other colours the differences are less observable.

On the other hand, there are a number of municipal flags on which the flag field of the official flag is of entirely different colour than the ceremonial flag. Sometimes it seems that the reason for it may be kind of a compromise among the most popular flag colours among the delegates when deciding upon it – so to make them all satisfied one colour was given for the official and the other for the ceremonial flag<sup>88</sup>. Such examples include the municipalities of Luka (Y-B), Krnjak (R-Y), Špišić Bukovica (W-B), Brestovac (B-W), Kali (B-R), Gorjani (B-Y), Levanjska varoš (V-Y), Gradište (Y-B), Stari Jankovci (B-W), Lovreč (W-Y), Okrug (B-Y), Podstrana (B-R), Pučišća (W-Y), Belica (V-W), and Donji Kraljevec (W-V), and the cities of Novalja (W-B) and Stari Grad (W-R)<sup>89</sup> – all of the type 4 gonfalon.

#### **5. Design of gonfalons**

The design of the other flag types is rather straightforward and simply described above, except of the gonfalons of the type 4 (that are most numerous) and type 5. The type 4 was named standardized gonfalon and represents the most typical design



of the Croatian municipal ceremonial flag. Therefore a closer look may be taken to the general and particular characteristics of this type. Finally, the type-5 gonfalons shall be considered briefly.

### 5.1. General layout of standardized gonfalons

The standardized gonfalon is thus a vertically hanging banner hoisted from a crossbar, made of, as a rule, a single coloured field edged around the outer edges with a golden ribbon and with golden fringe or tassels added at the bottom. When the ceremonial flag is described in the municipal documents, the exact size of the flag is sometimes mentioned (e.g. 80×150 cm<sup>90</sup>, seems to be typical), while the material is even more often named as the “highly glossy atlas silk”. These descriptions include sometimes the ephemeral equipment – the crossbar (wood or brass pole [crossbar] with ornamental balls at each end, equipped with the hanging gear – the cordon [ornamented rope], tassels, and ring), the spear (typically 3 m high, wood or brass, usually without any specified finial, the default teardrop shaped finial is often used), and the base (of gilded wrought iron). See Figure 8.

As mentioned, the flag field is as a rule of a single colour, matching the official flag colour. However, in rare cases where the official flag is a bicolour, the ceremonial flag may also be made of two fields (Motovun<sup>91</sup>, see Fig. 8; also cf. mentioned bicolour county flags). The flag field is edged with a golden-yellow ribbon (only one case of red ribbon instead is recorded – Bebrina<sup>92</sup>) following the field outlines all around. The golden ribbon also, in most cases, divides the flag field from the segmented sleeves at the top, and in rare cases the main field from the tails in the bottom. However, there are cases of the ceremonial flags without this ribbon outline, as well (e.g. Varaždinske Toplice<sup>93</sup>). Along the entire bottom edge, whatever the shape, most of these flags have golden fringe, but there are some two dozen flags that have tassels instead – all these are at the bottom end of flags with three triangularly ending tails (but there are flags with such bottom edge design with the usual fringe – Kijevo, Fig. 8, and there is one case where both fringe and tassels are present – Donja Voća).

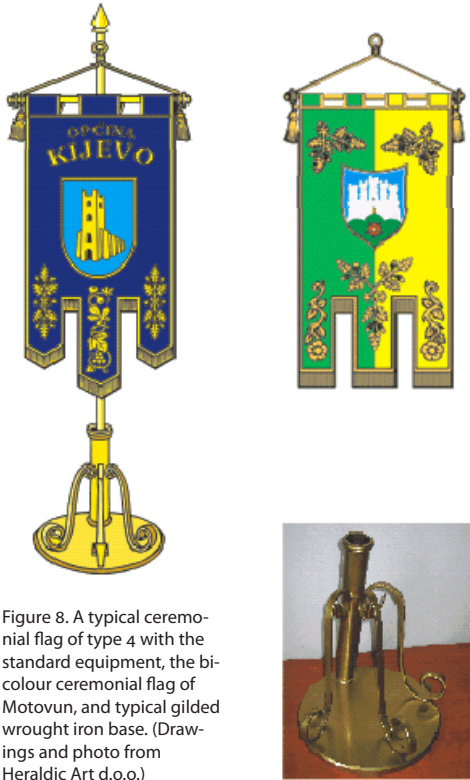


Figure 8. A typical ceremonial flag of type 4 with the standard equipment, the bicolour ceremonial flag of Motovun, and typical gilded wrought iron base. (Drawings and photo from Heraldic Art d.o.o.)

### 5.2. Top and bottom edge variations

The top end of the flag forms the sleeve, as a rule segmented into 3 or 5 parts. Among the known ceremonial flags of the type 4 there are 64 examples of 3-parts sleeve and 82 examples of 5-parts sleeve, and they appear just as regularly widespread among the cities and communities that it seems there is no particular system which would hold some symbolism in the way the sleeve is separated. It seems that, as a rule of thumb, the flags with three triangularly ending tails also have 3-parts sleeve, while the flags with rectangular tails or triangular end have 5-parts sleeve. There are also 6 examples of flags with the sleeve divided into 4 parts (Varaždinske Toplice, Opatija<sup>94</sup>, Bibinje<sup>95</sup>, Knin<sup>96</sup>, Labin<sup>97</sup>, Motovun), but these are also mostly flags that include some other unusual features making them distinctive and unique. However, there are still some 30 ceremonial flags of type 4 for which the sleeve details have not yet been confirmed<sup>98</sup>.

The bottom or the fly end of the ceremonial flag is what really characterizes it as a gonfalon. There are 10 patterns of the fly end appearing for the type 4 ceremonial flags, although some of them appear only once, twice, or three times so far<sup>99</sup> (cf. Fig. 9):



Figure 9. Patterns of the fly end of ceremonial flags of type 4: (1) V indentation, (2) W indentation, (3) 3 equal rectangular tails, (4) 4 equal rectangular tails, (5) 3 rectangular tails, the central longer, (6)

triangular end, (7) 3 triangular ending tails with V indentations in-between, (8) 3 triangular ending tails, (9) triangular end with two indentations, (10) 3 triangular ending tails to triangularly ending flag.

1. V indentation; 1 example,
2. W indentation; 1 example,
3. 3 equal rectangular tails; 16 examples,
4. 4 equal rectangular tails; 2 examples,
5. 3 rectangular tails, the central longer; 3 examples,
6. triangular end; 85 examples,
7. 3 triangular ending tails with V indentations in-between; 1 example,
8. 3 triangular ending tails; 48 examples,
9. triangular end with two indentations, 1 example,
10. 3 triangular ending tails to triangularly ending flag; 14 examples.

If we consider that the patterns (3), (5), (7), (9), and (10) may be considered slight variations of the pattern (8), it may be said that there are two main types of these gonfalons – the triangularly ending flag<sup>100</sup> - pattern (6) and flag with three tails – pattern (8) and its variations. The pattern (1) and (2) are found in a single example and are thus exceptions.

### 5.3. Elements in the field

The elements on the flag field are the inscription, the coat of arms and the ornaments, usually so ordered top to bottom. These are typically painted on the flag field in golden-yellow, occasionally in various shades of it. However, there are examples in which the inscriptions or the ornaments (or both) are painted in green, all in cases where the flag field is yellow or light blue, probably to make the details contrasting better. When the floral ornaments are shown green, the fruits or flowers are then often shown in a distinct “proper” colour (white – Primorski Dolac<sup>101</sup>, brown – Zadvarje<sup>102</sup>, yellow – two dozen examples, e.g. Ozalj<sup>103</sup>, yellow and blue, Vodnjan<sup>104</sup>). In a few cases the golden-yellow ornaments are highlighted with the addition of some white details (Peteranec<sup>105</sup>, Postira<sup>106</sup>, Nedelišće<sup>107</sup>). Other exceptions include black ornaments (Šibenik-Knin County<sup>108</sup>) or white ornaments (Lepoglava<sup>109</sup>, Lopar<sup>110</sup>, Sveta Marija<sup>111</sup>) in which cases the inscription is still golden-yellow.

The name of the unit is inscribed, as a rule, above the coat of arms, either in straight lines or arches, in two or three lines. Two arched lines appear most often (92 examples), while an arched top line (reading mostly “Grad” or “Općina”, meaning “The City of”, and “The Community of”, respectively) above the straight bottom line appears half as frequently (41 examples). In a dozen cases there are two straight lines under the top arch (12 examples) or two straight lines (also 12 examples). There are still examples where the inscription is in three arched lines (5), and single examples where the inscription is: in one arched line; an arched line above and two straight under the coat of arms; an arched line and two arched lines under the coat of arms; two arched lines under the coat of arms; the inscription in a ribbon above or below the coat of arms; then also one example of single straight line; a straight line above an arched one; a straight line above an inscribed ribbon above or below the coat of arms; and finally three straight lines<sup>112</sup>. The stated variety confirms that there is no actual system which may be attributed to the way the inscription is made and it is, obviously, a matter of artistic license of the designer.

In cases where the unit has two official languages<sup>113</sup>, both names are inscribed, the Croatian above and the minority language below (Vodnjan, Fažana<sup>114</sup>). In rare cases where three languages are official in a municipality, two are then inscribed under the coat of arms (e.g. Erdut<sup>115</sup>). In a few cases, some motto (Pučišća) or a year (Donja Stubica) is inscribed under the coat of arms. On the flag of Otočac<sup>116</sup>, the geographic



region where the city is located is named in the inscription "Otočac u Gackoj", even though it does not appear in the official name of the city. In several cases the name is repeated in Glagolitic script<sup>117</sup> under the coat of arms in place of the usual ornament (e.g. Tkon<sup>118</sup>, Omišalj<sup>119</sup>).

The inscriptions are using font similar to Souvenir font<sup>120</sup> of old style serif typeface, with certain levels of variation (due to hand painting) and occasional appearance of other styles. The gonfalons designed by other authors (i.e. not by Heraldic Art) display greater variety of font styles.

The coat of arms is set in the centre of the gonfalon, as a rule outlined with golden-yellow. It is of the same shape as the official coat of arms, except in a single example where the shield in the ceremonial flag is quartered with fields representing the four parishes of the community (the first quarter also being the arms of the community itself, Pakoštane).

The ornaments under the coat of arms are usually floral, forming two branches wreathed around the coat of arms (these may be found in any pattern of the fly end) or three columns in the tails (obviously, only in three tailed gonfalons). Sometimes both wreath and tail ornaments are present. The designs are typically standardized and repetitive in a large number of flags; however, in some cases they are unique to a particular flag. The typical ornaments represent the typical flora of the region.

Thus there appear in several variations oak branches with acorns, wheat ears and garbs, wine branches with bunches of grapes, linden, olive, fig, birch, ivy, pine, and chestnut branches with their fruits, also sage and rosemary with the flowers as elements of the wreath on the left and right of the coat of arms. The wreath is frequently finalized with a branch of vine tree with a bunch of grapes in the central part under the coat of arms. Most often two different species are combined into the wreath, but there are just as many examples where both left and right branch are of the same species. See Figure 10.

The ornaments in the tails show more variations and are more ornamental (i.e. stylized), but also there are several typical designs: oak and vine being the most frequent, but also linden, laurel, birch, walnut, sage, and fig may be found. Cf. Fig. 11. Highly stylized floral ornaments (for which the species may not be discerned) appear in several such flags as well, but also other ornaments, which are based on non-floral heritage, such as ornaments from stone monuments, religious artefacts, folk attires, folk lacework, rope knots, etc.

Among those that appear sporadically or only once connected to a particular unit one may mention the Baška<sup>121</sup> ornament from stone carvings, the Šibenik<sup>122</sup> ornaments from St. Simeon's chest, the Šibenik-Knin County folk headgear spiral ornament, Postira fish (sardines), jars pouring water (Nedelišće), Lepoglava lacework (and Sv. Marija lacework of different design), the octopus (Lopar), deer antlers (Magadenovac<sup>123</sup>), gates and seven-pointed stars (Oroslavje<sup>124</sup>). In a few cases, the coat of arms has supporters (lions rampant – Tounj<sup>125</sup>) or some other designs (garbs – Brodski Stupnik<sup>126</sup>) on each side. Cf. Fig. 12.

Since the ornaments are hand painted, they are nevertheless unique to each flag, even when they follow the same scheme. The use of different shades and colouring



Figure 10. Typical ornaments composing the wreath under the coat of arms in the type 4 ceremonial flags: birch, chestnut, fig, fir, garb, honeyberry, ivy, linden, oak (two types), olive, pine, sage, vine (3 types), vine grapes as the bottom central element, wheat ears.



Figure 11. Typical ornaments in the tails of the type 4 ceremonial flags: birch, fig and vine, laurel, linden (2 types), oak (four types), olive, sage, triple wattle, vine (2 types), wheat ears and triple wattle.





Figure 12. Particular bottom ornaments in certain ceremonial flags.

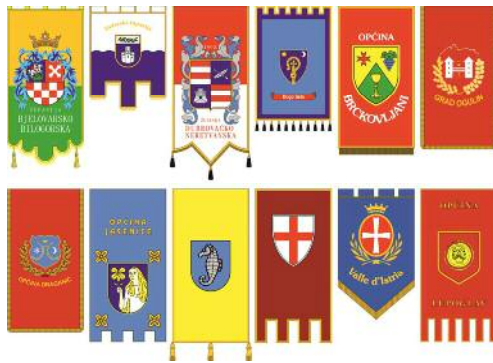


Figure 13. Type 5 gonfalons: Bjelovar-Bilogora, Zadar, Dubrovnik-Neretva, Dugo Selo, Brckovljani, Ogulin, Draganić, Jasenice, Privlaka, Buje, Bale, Lupoglav.

patterns provide them with further variation, making each ceremonial flag unique and different.

For several flags it is unknown what the ornaments are or how exactly they look – either they are described in the decisions, but a drawing or a photo was not found, or the photos of the flag have the lower part, where the ornaments are, obscured (often the protocol situation photos have people standing in front of the flag, covering the ornaments from the camera).

#### 5.4. Layout of unstandardized gonfalons

The type 5 gonfalons are basically of two kinds, tentatively those that are closer in design to type 4, but of different artistic styles, and then those that are closer to type 2 – of the design almost like the official flag, but in the vertical version, sometimes with inscriptions or ornaments (or both) added to it.

The three county flags, as shown in Fig. 13, repeat the county bicolour division with the coat of arms and with the county name inscribed, in two cases in “ceremonial arms” form with quasi-Baroque mantle ornaments added, also the year of establishment of the county is inscribed. The bottom ends of these gonfalons are different from the type 4 versions. They are each designed by an individual designer.

In other cases, a more individual approach is taken, in some cases they would easily fit both type 4 and type 2, being rectangular – Brckovljani, Ogulin, Draganić as most fitting. In the case of Privlaka, Buje and Lupoglav, again were it not for vertical format and bottom fly indentations and tassels, they would fit well into type 2, enriched version of the official flag. Jasenice is different in style from type 4, but follows the same general pattern, while Bale is included here only because several versions of the ceremonial flag are noted in use – all similar to type 4, but none exactly fitting its model.

In any case, all these type 5 may be considered “exceptions” from the type 4, but clearly belong to the same corpus of the contemporary Croatian ceremonial flags.

## 6. Conclusions

The ceremonial flags are a new phenomenon in the development of Croatian vexillology since the 1990’s. Although their origin may be seen in the unique municipal flags originating from feudal municipal military units colours since the 18th and 19th centuries, they have emerged spontaneously after the units of local government obtained the right to adopt a coat of arms and a flag following the 1993 legislation. The “normal” official flags were, apparently, found not distinctive and ornamental enough to be used upon special occasions, and municipalities started adopting ceremonial flags, allowing larger variety of self-identification.

Since the ceremonial flags are not part of the state approval process, they are even less documented in public sources than the regular coats of arms and flags. However, almost one half of the units of local self government have been known so far to have adopted or to use a ceremonial flag of one kind or another. It has been observed, also, that sometimes the depictions of these flag are used in the role of a greater coat of arms, showing an interesting blend between heraldry and vexillology.

A classification of these ceremonial flags designs has been proposed in the paper, dividing them into 9 distinct types (plus type 0 designating no affiliated cere-



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monial flag). Type 1 are the flags originally designed to be ceremonial (with “normal” being derived from it, often even informally). Type 2 are the flags of the same design as the official flag, but made of richer material and techniques and often fringed. Type 3 are the flags copying a historical flag. Type 4 are the standardized gonfalons – a typical example of the Croatian municipal ceremonial flag. Type 5 are atypical gonfalons, following patterns different from type 4. Type 6 is a small group of swallow-tailed variations of the official flag and type 7 a small group of flags varying the coat of arms from the official flag with its ceremonial (historical) version. For other designs, not covered in any of the above is made type 8 followed with a fallback type 9 for the ceremonial flag for which it is known to exist (or to have been prescribed even if maybe not manufactured) but of which nothing more is known.

The colours of the ceremonial flags are, as a rule, matching the colours of the matching official flag, with some variations in shades mainly due to the different materials used. However, there are some two dozen gonfalons that are unexpectedly made in different colour than the matching official flag. Reasons for that variation are largely remaining unknown.

The largest group of gonfalons, the type 4, are the most complex in design and follow the same overall pattern: a single coloured vertically hanging banner with fringe or tassels at the bottom, with the coat of arms in the centre, the name of the unit inscribed above and ornamentation below or in the tails. These are true representatives of the contemporary Croatian vexillology, a new element of the local and national identity and a new component of the national heritage to be preserved for the generations to come and to share with the world vexillological community. The ceremonial flag is a phenomenon occurring, apparently, exclusively in modern Croatia. It seems that the “normal”, everyday, official flag is just not enough for the people, and a special flag is deemed necessary to denote solemn, ceremonial occasions.



## Notes

- 1 The territorial-administrative organization named županija (Lat. comitatus, Germ. Komitat or Gespanschaft, Hung. vármegye) appears in documents as early as the 10th century and has probably much older roots. In the Medieval period some of them become hereditary fiefs of magnate nobility. With the liberation of Slavonia from the Ottomans in the 18th century, the county system was organized there as well, and the local government of counties was reorganized. After 1848 they become units of local administration and with minor changes, they were functioning until the territorial reorganizations of Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes in 1920's. From the 18th century the existing counties were granted arms and were recorded as using flags. On the symbols see Heimer, 2004. For wider overview of the county system in Croatia see article Vrbošić, 1992 and book Mirošević, 1996 (in Croatian). Cf. also short overview at [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counties\\_of\\_Croatia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Counties_of_Croatia)
- 2 The City of Zagreb, as the capital, has a special status equal to a county. It is sometimes counted as the 21st county, however, since its symbols follow the regulations for cities, rather than those for counties, it is counted among cities in this paper.
- 3 A selection of relevant legislation may be seen in the Bibliography. For the statistical review of administrative and territorial units of the Republic of Croatia through the years, cf. Ostroški, ed., 2012. p. 55.
- 4 The unit of local government (Cro. jedinica lokalne samouprave) is a term used for all subdivisions – counties as 1st level, and cities and communities as the 2nd level. In this paper the 2nd level subdivisions – cities and communities – shall be together termed as municipalities.
- 5 Zakon o lokalnoj samoupravi i upravi, 1992.
- 6 Cf. report on how the procedures were developed by Kolanović, 2008. See also Heimer, 2008. pp. 167-171.
- 7 The actual name of the Commission translates to the "Commission for Providing Opinion in the Process of Approval of a Coat of Arms and a Flag to a Unit of Local Government", and has changed somewhat over the years. The informal name Heraldic Commission is used here for brevity.
- 8 The formal position of the Commission changed over the years depending on the current administrative system – Ministry of Administration, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Local Government, State Office for Local Government, etc. The regulations on the adoption of the coats of arms and the flags are listed separately in the Bibliography, q.v.
- 9 Data according to correspondence with the Ministry of Administration, 20 April 2010, courtesy Mrs. Jasna Rašeta, Political System Division in the Ministry. Cf. Heimer, 2010. Note that Kolanović, 2008, provides data by 28 September 2007, when 375 units got their symbols approved (20 counties, 93 cities and 262 communities).
- 10 Heimer, 1996. The Flags and Arms of the Modern Era, the author researches and publishes his work on the municipal symbols and other coats of arms and flags in the region for the last 17 years. Although it was not designed to be a public register, the site is effectively the only publicly available register of the Croatian municipal symbols.
- 11 The 18th century Zagreb city flag. Heimer, 2009. pp. 38-39.
- 12 The 1718 Koprivnica city flag. Ernečić, 2003. p. 13.
- 13 The 1756 Samobor city flag. Brekalo, 2002.
- 14 The 1778 county flag of Varaždin. Lončarić, 2008. Also Hajduk-Vučić, 1995. Note, for example, that the new 1797 county flag was made explicitly for the need of new units recruited in the insurrection against Napoleon, and afterwards served as a county flag for ceremonial purposes until the 20th century.
- 15 The 18th century county flags of Križevci, Virovitica, Zagreb, Severin, and Rijeka. Borošak Marijanović, 1996. pp. 113-115
- 16 The 1902 adopted and in 1916 manufactured flag of Zagreb. Heimer, 2009. pp. 80-89.



- 17 E.g. the flag of Zagreb was adopted in 1964 (Heimer, 2009, pp. 95-107.), Rijeka in 1967 (Grubiša, 2012), Split in 1969 (Heimer, 1996), Pula in 1970's (idib.), Krapina in 1975 (ibid.), Požega in 1977 (Šperanda, 2003). Many more communities adopted coats of arms (or emblems fulfilling the same function), but did not have a flag determined. However, a systematic research of the socialist period Croatian municipal heraldry and vexillology has not been published yet and a number of flags may yet be undiscovered.
- 18 The state legislation and regulations know only of a „flag“ of units of local government, and such an unspecified term is mostly used by local regulations.
- 19 E.g. County of Karlovac (Odluka o uporabi grba, službene zastave i svečane zastave Županije, 21.11.2001, Glasnik Karlovačke županije, br. 34/2001, 22.11.2001.)
- 20 E.g. City of Kastav (Odluka o svečanoj zastavi Grada Kastva, 25.09.2003, Službene novine Primorskogoranske županije, br. 26/03, 24.10.2003.)
- 21 E.g. Community of Severin (cf. footnote 75).
- 22 Šalić, 1997. Odluka o grbu i zastavi Županije Vukovarsko-srijemske, 06.08.1993, Službeni vjesnik Županije Vukovarsko-srijemske, br. 4/1993, 11.10.1993.
- 23 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Zlatara, 31.03.1995, Službeni glasnik Županije Krapinsko-zagorske, br. 3/1995, 05.04.1995.
- 24 Odluka o grbu, zastavi i danu Grada Požege, 09.09.1993, Službene novine Grada Požege, br. 2/1993 (amended in 15/2007, 18/2009, and 2010)
- 25 Šalić, 1997.
- 26 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Kraljevec na Sutli, 03.06.1995, Službeni glasnik Krapinsko-zagorske županije, br. 8/1995, 20.07.1995.
- 27 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Popovača, Službene novine Općine Popovača, br. 5/1994 i 2/1995.
- 28 Heimer 1996; Službeni glasnik općine Šolta.
- 29 Statut Općine Brtonigla (pročišćeni tekst), 02.04.2007, Službene novine Općine Brtonigla, br. 9/2007, 02.04.2007.; Statut Općine Brtonigla, 07.09.2009, Službene novine Općine Brtonigla, br. 25/2009, 08.09.2009.
- 30 Odluka o izgledu, načinu i zaštiti uporabe grba i zastave Općine Blato, 28.03.1994, Službeni glasnik Općine Blato.
- 31 Usually due to their matching coat of arms that was not conforming to the Heraldry Commission rules.
- 32 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Donja Stubica, 28.12.1994, Službeni glasnik Županije Krapinsko-zagorske, br. 29/1994, 29.12.1994. (amended in 5/1995, and 1A/2001).
- 33 Odluka o opisu i uporabi grba i zastave Općine Sveti Križ Začretje, 23.08.1994, Službeni glasnik Županije Krapinsko-zagorske, br. 31/1994, 31.12.1994. (amended in 4/1995, 13/1999, and 6/2000).
- 34 Heimer, 1996.
- 35 Odluka o uporabi grba, zastave i imena županije, 09.12.1994, Službeni vjesnik Županije Brodsko-posavske, br. 13/1994. (amended in 17/2009).
- 36 Odluka o uporabi grba, zastave i imena Županije Osječko-Baranjske, 15.04.1994, Županijski glasnik Županije Osječko-Baranjske, br. 2/1994, 29.04.1994. (amended in 5/1995, 9/2001, 4/2002, 5/2005, 13/2007, and 9/2009)
- 37 Statut Grada Kutjeva, 13.07.2009, Službeni glasnik Grada Kutjeva, br. 4/2009, 15.07.2009.
- 38 Odluka o opisu i načinu uporabe grba i zastave Slavonskoga Broda, Službeni vjesnik općine Slavonski Brod, br. 5/1992. (amended in 1/1994, and 9/1995).
- 39 Odluka o upotrebi grba, pečata i zastave Grada Osijeka, 02.07.1985, br. 01/8-488/1-1985. Odluka o uporabi grba, zastave, imena i svečane pjesme Grada Osijeka, 14.02.1995, Službeni glasnik Grada Osijeka, br. 1/1995. (amended in 9/2009).
- 40 Odluka o grbu Grada Hvara, 16.12.1993, Službeni glasnik Općine Hvar, br. 3/1993,



- 28.12.1993.
- 41 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Pazina, 30.03.1994, Službene novine Grada Pazina i Općina Cerovje, Gračičće, Lupoglav, Motovun, Sv. Petar u Šumi i Tinjan, br. 4/1994, 08.04.1994. (amended in 6/1995, 8/1995, 4/2003, 27/2009, and 1/2010). Rimanić, 2006.
- 42 Odluka o grbu Grada Buzeta, 10.06.1993, Službene novine Grada Buzeta, br. 2/1993, 15.06.1993. (amended in 7/1995). Odluka o zastavi Grada Buzeta, 10.06.1993, Službene novine Grada Buzeta, br. 2/1993, 15.06.1993. (amended in 7/1995).
- 43 Odluka o grbu i zastavi općine i grada Poreča, 28. ožujka 1991, Službeni glasnik Grada Poreča, br. 3/1991.
- 44 Odluka o grbu Općine Murško Središće, 30.01.1996. Klasa: 021-05/96-1/83, Urbroj: 2109/11-96-01. Odluka o zastavi Općine Murško Središće, 30.01.1996. Klasa: 021-05/96-1/84, Urbroj: 2109/11-96-01. Odluka o prihvaćanju postojećeg grba i zastave bivše Općine Murško Središće, 28.08.1997, Službeni glasnik Međimurske županije, br. 5/1997, 22.09.1997.
- 45 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Majur, 30.11.1998, Službeni vjesnik gradova Čazma, Hrvatska Kostajnica, Novska i Petrinja, te općina Donji Kukuruzari, Dvor, Gvozdo, Hrvatska Dubica, Ivanška, Jasenovac, Lekenik, Lipovljani, Majur, Martinska Ves, Sunja, Štefanje i Topusko, br. 18/1998, 15.12.1998.
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- 49 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Tinjan, 28.07.1995, Službene novine Grada Pazina i Općina Cerovje, Gračičće, Lupoglav, Motovun, Sv. Petar u Šumi i Tinjan, br. 10/1995, 19.09.1995.
- 50 Odluka o grbu općine Stari Grad, 19.05.1993. Službeni glasnik Općine Hvar, br. 2/1993, 16.08.1993. (amended in Službeni glasnik Grada Starog Grada, 4/1997, 1/2001, 7/2002, 8/2002, 8/2004, and 1/2008)
- 51 Odluka o proglašenju Majke Božje s Isusom zaštitnicom Županije Varaždinske, 18.07.1996, Službeni vjesnik Županije Varaždinske, br. 13/1996, 19.07.1996. On historical flags see Lončarić, 1993.
- 52 Heraldic Art d.o.o., Labinska 18, Rijeka, established in 1995. <http://www.heraldic-art.hr>
- 53 The official documents, those produced by the municipalities as well as those by the central authorities, as a rule do not name the designers. The author's research in secondary sources provided identification for 288 designs (of 521 coats of arms registered on the FAME). At least 210 of them are identified as produced by the Heraldic Art. The second most prolific designer is Antonio Grgić of Pikant Marketing from Koprivnica with 11 designs, then come Draženka Jalšić Ernečić from Koprivnica and Branislav Schejbal from Daruvar with 5 designs each, Danijel Hampamer from Čakovec with 4, eight designers or teams with two designs each and 38 providing a single design. Heimer, 2012.
- 54 E.g. the Community of Jesenje, designed by Antioni Grgić, (Statutarna odluka o grbu i zastavi Opine Jesenje, 10.09.2010, Službeni glasnik Krapinsko-zagorske županije, br. 20/2010, 17.09.2010.)
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- 57 Odluka o grbu, zastavi i Danu Županije Dubrovačko-Neretvanske, 05.03.1996, Službeni glasnik Županije Dubrovačko - Neretvanske, br. 1/1996, 08.03.1996. (amended in 3/1997,



- 8/1998, and 8/1998).
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- 61 Statutarna odluka o opisu i uporabi grba i zastave Općine Brckovljani, 21.05.2010, Službeni glasnik Općine Brckovljani, br. 07/2010, 25.08.2010.
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- 63 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Jasenice, 09.06.2000, Službeni glasnik Zadarske županije, br. 6/2000, 25.10.2000.
- 64 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Privlaka, 10.04.2000, Službeni glasnik Zadarske županije, br. 5/2000, 24.07.2000.
- 65 Statut Općine Bale, 10.10.2001, Službeni glasnik Općine Bale, br. 2/2001, (amended in 5/2009).
- 66 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Lupoglav, 28.06.2000, Službene novine Grada Pazina i Općina Cerovje, Gračišće, Lupoglav, Motovun, Sv. Petar u Šumi i Tinjan, br. 8/2000, 25.07.2000.
- 67 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Koprivnice, 28.03.1996, Glasnik Grada Koprivnice, br. 6/1996, 01.04.1996. (amended in 9/2002, 1/2008).
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- 69 Heimer, 1996.
- 70 Šalić, 1997.; Statut Grada Iloka, 26.04.1994, Službeni vjesnik Županije Vukovarsko-srijemske, br. 5/1994 (amended in 5/1999, 11/2001, and 10/2009).
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- 73 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Duge Rese, Službeni glasnik Grada Duge Rese, br. 4/1998 (amended in 7/2009).
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- 80 Statut Općine Crnac, 14.07.2009, Službeni glasnik Općine Crnac, br. 6/2009.
- 81 Odluka o grbu i zastavi općine Gornja Vrba, 20.01.2009, Službeni vjesnik Brodsko-Posavske županije, br. 1/2009, 03.03.2009.
- 82 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Ston, 03.11.1994, Službeni glasnik Županije Dubrovačko - Neretvanske, br. 3/1994, 02.12.1994.
- 83 Odluka o grbu Općine Pribislavec, 09.04.2004, Službeni glasnik Međimurske županije, br.

- 3/2004, 29.04.2004. Odluka o zastavi Općine Pribislavec, 09.04.2004, Službeni glasnik Međimurske županije, br. 3/2004, 29.04.2004.
- 84 Duga Resa, Lovran, Matulji and Crnac.
- 85 Cf. note 53 above – the most prolific other designers are from Koprivnica (Koprivnica-Križevci County) and Daruvar (Bjelovar-Bilogora County), apparently avoiding ceremonial flags, that should indicate possible explanation of lower numbers in the region. Due to the still relatively large number of unknown designers of adopted designs, a wider study of their individual influence was not done so far. The individual designers are named, where known, in Heimer, 1996.
- 86 And not of type o, obviously.
- 87 A single example of a kind of armorial banner was prescribed for „souvenir flag” (in table flag format) of Vrhovine, but as the design was not approved, such flags were apparently never produced. It was superseded by a new, approved, design, including type 4 gonfalon in 2010. Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Vrhovine, 19.03.2002, Županijski glasnik Ličko-senjske županije, br. 5/2003, 28.03.2002.
- 88 It may not be the case in all examples, but often it has been suggested that the official flag has the colour of the main political party in the assembly at the time of adoption, while the colour in the ceremonial flag is then “concession” to the second largest group. The political trade-off is occasionally cleverly hidden by providing other explicitly stated symbolism in the descriptions of the flag in the decision. However, such political connection is not always easy to prove and may even be a matter of local “urban legend”.
- 89 The colours of official and ceremonial flags are denoted in parentheses for each example, using the standard FIAV colour codes, following Section 3(a) of the “Flag Information Code” as adopted in 1981, amended 1995 and 2001. See Info-FIAV, nr. 28, October 2009, pp. 44-45. The codes are R (red), O (orange), Y (yellow), V (green), B (blue), P (purple), N (black), W (white), G (grey), M (brown), Au (gold), Ag (silver).
- 90 E.g. Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Novigrad, 06.06.2011, Službeni glasnik Zadarske županije, br. 10/2011, 15.07.2011.
- 91 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Motovun, 08.12.1994, Službene novine Grada Pazina i Općina Cerovje, Gračišće, Lupoglav, Motovun, Sv. Petar u Šumi i Tinjan, br. 14/1994, 28.12.1994.
- 92 Its symbols are atypical in several other things: the coat of arms is also edged in red instead of the usual yellow, and the ceremonial flag has single piece sleeve, instead of the usual segmented. Odluka o grbu i zastavi općine Bebrina, 26.05.2000, Službeni vjesnik Brodsko-Posavske županije, br. 6/2000, 11.07.2000.
- 93 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Varaždinske Toplice, 30.07.1999, Službeni vjesnik Varaždinske županije, br. 19/1999, 19.11.1999. (amended in 7/2003, and 19/2009).
- 94 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Opatije, 03.08.1995, Službene novine Županije primorsko-goranske, br. 16/1995, 04.08.1995. (amended in 19/1995, 24/1995, and 7/2000)
- 95 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Bibinje, 09.11.2001, Službeni glasnik Zadarske županije, br. 8/2001, 14.11.2001.
- 96 Statutarna odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Knina, 13.04.2001, Službeni vjesnik Šibensko-kninske županije, br. 3/01, 18.04.2001. (amended in 12/2006).
- 97 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Labina, Službene novine Grada Labina, br. 3/1993.
- 98 Often the photos, found on line (and which are usually showing the flag only “accidentally”, being photos of some ceremonial event), which are sometimes the only way to confirm the existence and actual details of a ceremonial flag, omit the top part of the flag.
- 99 There are 11 more flags for which the exact pattern is unknown, as it does not show on available photos (including 3 that are known only as table flag versions of rectangular format). Cf. the previous note.
- 100 Formally, such flag shape may be called a pentagonal flag, but it seems that this term is





avoided as being too confusing.

- 101 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Primorski Dolac, 19.03.2012, Službeni glasnik Općine Primorski Dolac, br. 12/2012, 07.03.2012.
- 102 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Zadvarje, 02.07.2011, Službeni glasnik Općine Zadvarje, br. ?/2011.
- 103 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Ozlja, 30.07.2002, Službeni glasnik Grada Ozlja, br. 5/2002.
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- 106 Statut Općine Postira, 31.03.1995, Službeni glasnik Općine Postira, br. 1/1995, 06.1995. (amended in 3/2001, and 3/2009).
- 107 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Nedelišće, 25.09.2002, Službeni glasnik Međimurske županije, br. 6/2002, 03.10.2002.
- 108 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Šibensko-kninske županije, 22.12.1997, Službeni vjesnik Šibensko-kninske županije, br. 17/1997, 29.12.1997. (amended in 7/1999).
- 109 Odluka o opisu i uporabi grba i zastave Grada Lepoglave, 15.11.2005, Službeni vjesnik Varaždinske županije, br. 29/2005, 16.11.2005.
- 110 Heimer, 1996.
- 111 Statutarna odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Sveta Marija, 23.06.2006, Službeni glasnik Međimurske županije, br. 7/06, 30.06.2006.
- 112 Plus 9 more examples where the inscription shapes are not known. Cf. note 98.
- 113 The state legislation recognizes the right for national minorities who live in administrative subdivisions in conglomerations over certain percentage, to have their minority language in official use in the unit of local government. The bilingual (or multilingual) units may be on sub-municipal level, municipal or county level. For more details on this, with the list of relevant legislation, see (in Croatian) Štefan, 2011.
- 114 Statutarna odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Fažana, 23.02.2004., Službene novine Istarske županije, br. 3/2004, 05.03.2004.
- 115 Odluka o grbu i zastavi općine Erdut, 22.11.2001, Službeni glasnik općine Erdut, br. 14/2001. Odluka o uporabi grba, zastave i imena općine Erdut, 21.05.2002., Službeni glasnik općine Erdut, br. 17/2002.
- 116 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Otočca, 25.10.1995, Službeni vjesnik Grada Otočca, br. ?/1995 (amended in 5/2001).
- 117 The Glagolitic script is the oldest known Slavic alphabet originating in the 9th century, attributed to Saints Cyril and Methodius who created it to facilitate the introduction of Christianity among Slavic people. Initially used in Slavic areas from Bohemia in the north to Bulgaria to the south, it was eventually replaced by the related Cyrillic script. The Glagolitic script remained in use mostly in Croatia where it was allowed for Catholic liturgic use well into the 20th century (and still is used in certain, so called, Slavic masses). A particular rectangular variation of Glagolitic script was devised in Croatia, today mostly used for ceremonial inscriptions. The Glagolitic alphabet was added to the Unicode Standard in March 2005 in block U+2C00–U+2C5F.
- 118 Odluka o grbu i zastavi općine Tkon, 12.12.1997, Službeni glasnik Zadarske županije, br. 5/1997, 12.1997.
- 119 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Omišalj, 04.05.1995, Službene novine Županije primorsko-goranske, br. 9/1995, 08.05.1995.
- 120 The Souvenir typeface was devised in 1914 by Morris Fuller Benton for American Type Founders. It has a much softer look than other old style faces, with a generally light look, rounded serifs, and very little contrast between thick and thin strokes. It had enormous pop-



ularity in the 1970's. Cf. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Souvenir\\_\(typeface\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Souvenir_(typeface))

- 121 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Općine Baška, 25.09.1995, Službene novine Županije primorsko-goranske, br. 20/1995, 09.10.1995. (amended in 7/1997).
- 122 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Šibenika, 24.07.1998, Službeni vjesnik Šibensko-kninske županije, br. 14/1998, 10.11.1998.
- 123 Statut Općine Magadenovac, 26.06.2009, Službeni glasnik Općine Magadenovac, br. ?/2009.
- 124 Odluka o grbu i zastavi Grada Oroslavja, 27.03.1997, Službeni glasnik Županije Krapinsko-zagorske, br. 2/1997, 14.04.1997. (amended in 12/1998). Odluka o izgledu svečanog grba i zastave [Grada Oroslavja], 05.05.1999, Službeni glasnik Krapinsko-zagorske županije, br. 9/1999, 28.06.1999.
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- 126 Odluka o grbu i zastavi općine Brodski Stupnik, 23.04.1998, Službeni vjesnik Brodsko-posavske županije, br. 5/1998, 24.06.1998.

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