



**Proceedings**

# **25th ICV**

**Rotterdam**

**The Netherlands**

**2013**

Rotterdam  
The Netherlands  
4-10 August 2013

# Proceedings of the 25th International Congress of Vexillology

program and venue committee  
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Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde  
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Stichting Vlaggenparade Rotterdam

ISBN 978-90-9030162-4



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\*) Was not held



# Introduction

## Marcel van Westerhoven

Chairman of the Program Committee

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After the first International Congress of Vexillology in Muiderberg in 1965 and the sixth on the IJsselmeer in 1975 ten years later, the ICV finally returned to Dutch soil in 2013, this time in Rotterdam. The combined efforts of the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde (NVvV), Stichting Vlaggenmuseum Nederland (SVN) and Stichting Vlaggenparade Rotterdam (SVPR) made this possible. Vexillologists from all over the world came to Rotterdam for a week of meeting, catching up and exchange.

The great attraction of participating in an ICV for most vexillologists is meeting colleagues and exchanging knowledge. The last was embodied by the paper program, filling three quarters of the time of the congress.

A few figures first. One-hundred-and-forty participants were attending: 110 vexillologists and 30 partners and companions. Among the vexillologists Europeans obviously formed the majority with about 70, mainly from the Netherlands, Germany and France. Also British, Belgians, Czechs and Spanish were present prominently. North America furnished 15 participants, mainly from the USA. Australia had a strong delegation of 8, also because of ICV 26 in Sydney in 2015. Striking was the presence of Asians: 7 vexillologists from China, India and Georgia. For the rest there were some South Americans and one South African.

In total 35 vexillologists contributed to ICV 25 by reading a paper, organised in 9 thematic sessions, in chronological order:

1. Nautical and astronomical flags
2. Semiotics of and symbolism in flags
3. Historical flags in Asia
4. Island flags and flags on islands
5. Historical flags in Europe
6. Classification
7. Contemporary national flags
8. Design & Colours
9. Subnational flags

Looking at all the papers, two things stood out: the speakers from Asia, 3 from China and 2 from India, who provided inside insights into their ancient flag cultures. Hopefully, this trend will continue, because there is much to discover about Asian subjects and they themselves seem to be the most appropriate to unearth this knowledge for the rest of us. The second thing was the performance of young speakers: Amy Langston, Zev Landes, Edward Crump, Tiago José Berg, Andréa Nunes



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en Art Proaño, winner of the award for best paper. This bodes well for vexillology, as the youth has the future.

As a record and publication of the congress, here you can find the proceedings of all the papers that were read during ICV 25. We chose to give the papers a uniform lay-out style which we think is pleasing to the eye and ensures readability. The papers have not been arranged in the usual way by putting them in alphabetical order, but in chronological order of the time scheme of the paper program during ICV 25. By doing this, papers with the same theme are grouped together. Also, the paging is different from what you are used to: it consist of a paper number and the page number of the paper. Next to the papers, you will find some extra materials: program booklet, list of participants, poster, voting card, certificate, articles of the congress as they appeared in Vlag! magazine, menu card of the closing dinner and a number of photographs shot during the congress.

We wish you an enjoyable read.



Marcel van Westerhoven

Chairman of the Program Committee  
Secretary of the Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde

Haarlem, December 2016  
The Netherlands

