



The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 81 April 2020

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www.portlandflag.org


The committee was inundated with flags—2,695 in all—extending... from the conceivably acceptable to the unbelievably appalling.

— George Bain, "Canadian Flag"

Everyone versus Each One

By Ted Kaye

A discussion during the latest PFA meeting crystallized a concept I'd been mulling over for some time: flags should represent **everyone** in a place rather than **each one** (group) there.

The 1964 debate over a new flag for Canada struggled over how to represent Canadians of British **and** of French descent (among others). Many proposals attempted to represent both groups with symbols such as the Union Jack and the *fleur-de-lis*.

But the genius the Maple Leaf Flag lies in how it represents

everyone in Canada rather than **each** component group.

When designers represent multiple groups on a flag, it usually results in an overly-complex design.

For example, Montreal's flag had symbols representing the English, Scots, Irish, and French, then a

2018 update added a symbol for the native peoples—something for **each**.



Australia has a similar problem. In an interview I gave on Melbourne radio in 2015, I commented on how the country now flies **three** flags officially: the national flag, the Aboriginal flag, and the Torres Strait Islanders flag (Australian schools, councils, and cultural institutions typically show these flags in front of their buildings).

Australians, with the best of intentions, use three flags to represent their country's inhabitants.

Instead of one flag for **each** group, I asserted that Australia needed one flag representing **everyone**.



If flag designers would emulate Canada and sought a flag to represent **everyone** rather than **each one**, the result would be simpler, less cluttered flags.

If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or editor@portlandflag.org. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

March 2020 Flutterings You Need to Know

In our March meeting, hosted by Patrick Genna at his residence, a COVID-19-reduced group of 6 PFA members enjoyed nearly three hours of flags and conversation.

After welcoming the participants, Patrick asked Ted Kaye to moderate the discussion.

Max Liberman honored the 55th anniversary of the Maple Leaf Flag of Canada, describing it as a flag representing everyone rather than each one (see p. 1). Exploring updates to the arms of Canada (currently the arms of the queen of Canada), he considered replacing the contents of the shield with a simple triple-maple-leaf charge; others suggested replacing the lion and unicorn supporters with a moose and a polar bear and replacing the lion in the crest with a beaver.

Nathaniel Mainwaring gave a short presentation on flags in video



Max Liberman explores changes to the arms of Canada.



Nathaniel Mainwaring describes flags used in video games.

games, featuring “Fallout New Vegas” and showing a “New California Republic” flag with a two-headed bear (representing mutation caused by radiation). He said “Overwatch” has the best flags.

Patrick Genna displayed his personal flag—reflecting his natal St. Louis—designed with the assistance of Max and manufactured with the assistance of Scott. He has posted it in “The International Personal Flag Registry”—a Facebook group with 180 members (see p. 9). He shared a pan-Celtic flag designed in 1950 featuring a double triskele.



Patrick Genna shows his personal flag.



Ted Kaye unfurls the new flag of Columbia, South Carolina.

Ted Kaye circulated flag-image clippings of the past two months, announced the printing of an updated “Good” Flag, “Bad” Flag, and displayed suffrage flags and the newly adopted flag of Columbia, South Carolina (drawing boos).



Scott Mainwaring admires the double-triskele pan-Celtic flag of 1950.



A table flag display flanks the updated *“Good” Flag, “Bad” Flag*.



Scott Mainwaring shows a pin from a fictitious “communist country” created by Brian McKinley’s Young Leaders Program in Salem (see VT #59).



David Koski sketches symbols from the constructed language “aUI”.



Participants exchange flags and ideas.

Scott Mainwaring reported on his joining the group working on a new flag for Salem. He led a discussion about whether there are real economic implications for countries with “bad” flag designs, using Belize as an example, supplemented by Ted’s comments from his field report (see VT #75).

David Koski ruminated on the constructed language “aUI”, the Language of Space (“a philosophical language created in the 1950s to further intrapsychic harmony as well as interpersonal and intercultural understanding”). He wondered how its symbols might be used on flags, and their interaction with the general proscription of writing in flag design.

Our next meeting will be hosted by John Schilke on 14 May in the community room of his residence at Mary’s Wood in Lake Oswego. Patrick will take the PFA flag to him, to display as the next host.



Nathaniel Mainwaring eyes a mis-oriented star on this Chinese flag—made in China.

Cincinnati Neighborhood Flags

By Scott Mainwaring

The innovative 2019 CinciFlags project (cincyflags.com) concluded in December with an official flag for each of the 52 neighborhoods of Cincinnati, Ohio. It is an impressive accomplishment, with generally high-quality and meaningful designs with consistent style.

What contributed to this success?

We notice a number of factors:

- Support from the city government, which funded the project with a \$10,000 Engage Cincy Challenge Grant (with private matching funds for an overall budget of \$20,000).
- Leadership by community activist Henry Frondorf.
- Support from local designers, who organized the process and had creative control over the final designs.
- Community engagement, not just online but with visits and workshops across the city with “stakeholder/citizens”.
- City events, the Neighborhood Summit and the Frondorf-founded Cincinnati Neighborhood Games, in which multiple neighborhoods participate and can find value in having a flag.
- Positive press coverage, perhaps

from a widespread recognition of serious divides in the community (e.g., the riots following the killing of an unarmed black teenager by police in 2001) and thus the importance of improving civic life.

NAVA member and artist Cristina Victor participated in the project. For more on the process, and an illustration of press coverage, see the article on portlandflag.org, with a video from local television station WCPO.

Here are the 52 flags. Information about their symbolism can be found on FOTW.info and the CincyFlags website.





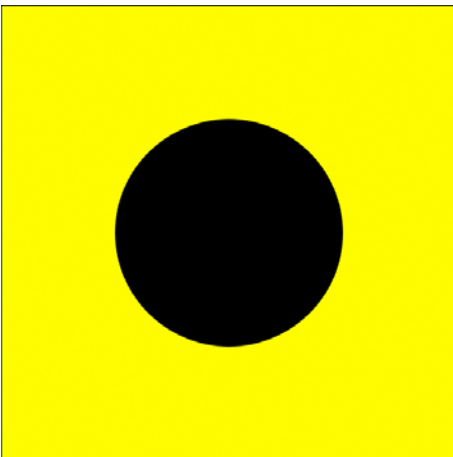
Quarantine Flags

“Quarantine” derives from the 14-century Italian *quaranta giorni*, the 40-day period of isolation imposed to control contagion.

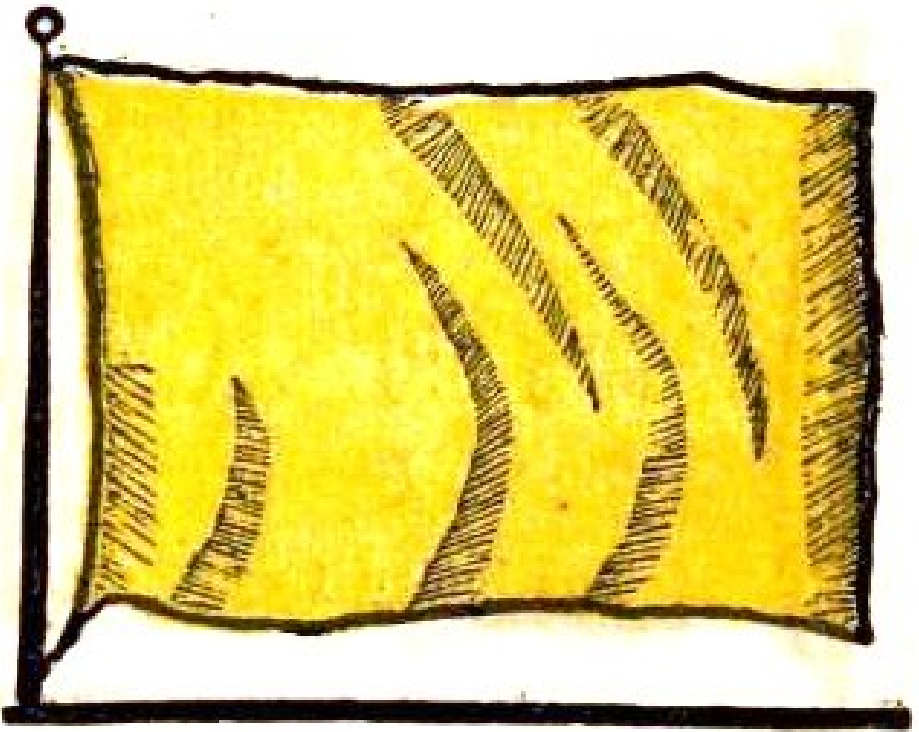
The current COVID-19 pandemic leads vexillologists to consider how flags have denoted quarantine, on land and at sea. We present a non-exhaustive sampler of such flags.

A plain yellow flag (for Q) was used for centuries to signal quarantine, but in modern use it indicates the opposite, as a signal of a ship that declares itself free of quarantinable disease, and requests boarding and inspection by Port State Control to allow the grant of “free pratique”.

Baby boomers will remember the exciting scene in the 1960 Disney film *Swiss Family Robinson* when the father raises the “Quarantine” flag to drive off the pirates. However, according to the Internet Movie Database, the movie incorrectly used the “India” signal flag, a black disk on a yellow field.



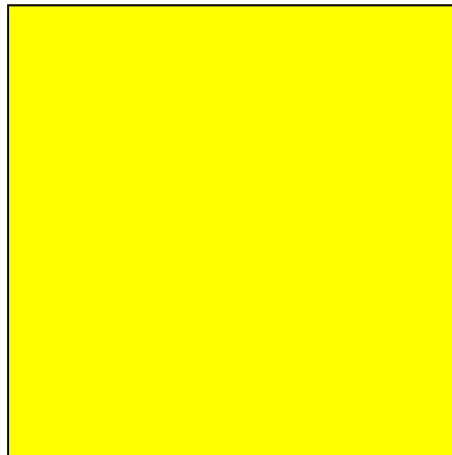
The signal flag “India” (I) incorrectly used for “quarantine” in the 1960 film *Swiss Family Robinson*. (IMDb.com)



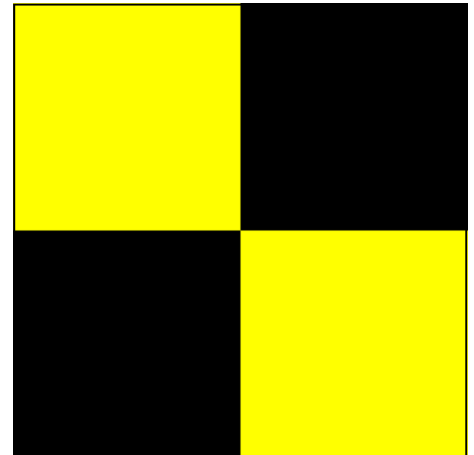
Quarantine.

The traditional solid-yellow flag denoting quarantine. Less commonly, plain green and black flags were used.

(*The Maritime Flags and Standards of All Nations Together With a Geographical Sketch*, 1856)

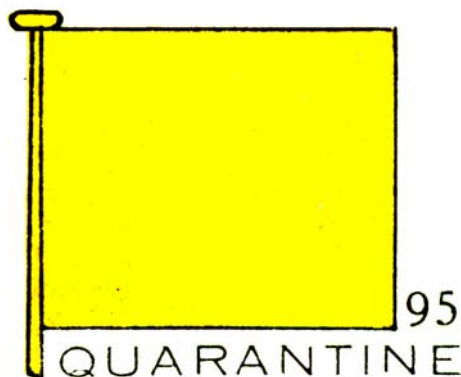


The nautical signal flag “Quebec” (Q) was historically used to denote quarantine but in modern indicates the opposite—that a ship is free of disease. (Wikipedia)



The signal flag “Lima”, also called the “Yellow Jack” when flown in harbor, now means “ship is under quarantine”. (Wikipedia)

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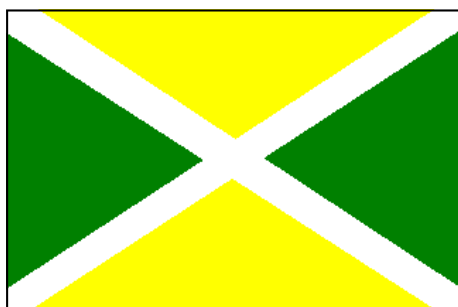
The traditional quarantine flag.
(*National Geographic Magazine*,
“Our Flag Number”, October 1917)

“The yellow flag betokens infections illness, and is displayed when there is cholera, yellow fever, or such like dangerous malady on board ship, and is also hoisted on quarantine stations.”

The Flags of the World, F. Edward Hulme, 1897



TURKEY: A yellow flag with the national flag in the canton represents “Port Health Control”. (FOTW)



RUSSIA (pre-1865): The field divided by a white Andrew's cross amid yellow and green triangles. (FOTW)



JAPAN (1913): A white flag with a yellow border and a stylized kanji 検 (Ken) for *keneki* (quarantine) in black. (FOTW)



JAPAN (1921–1948). (FOTW)



JAPAN (1948–1954): The white flag with large yellow “Q” was used but the white flag was hard to distinguish at sea. (FOTW)



JAPAN (from 1954): The current flag of quarantine is a yellow over blue bicolor flag with a blue “Q” at the upper hoist. (FOTW)



JAPAN (1955–1970):
Animal Quarantine ship ensign
adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture
& Forestry. (FOTW)



JAPAN (from 1970):
Animal Quarantine ship ensign
adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture
& Forestry. (FOTW)



An OSHA-compliant “quarantine infective outbreak sign”, using the recognizable yellow and black, as marketed today by safetysign.com.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and Flags

By Aleksander Hribovšek

The fight against coronavirus (COVID-19) now has its own flag.

Heraldica Slovenica, the Heraldry Society of Slovenia, has embraced the initiative seen in Belgium and proposed a special flag in support of all medical staff in their efforts.

We welcome the Belgian initiative to express support for medical workers by flying a white flag over the royal palace and other buildings. However, a white flag generally stands for surrender, a decision to quit, or a plea to negotiate. We believe that medical workers put their enormous effort in the opposite direction—they are not surrendering, they are not quitting, and they do not want to negotiate with the disease.

Heraldica Slovenica took the initiative and added a symbolic representation of hope that unites all people: the victory of health care over the pandemic. The existing white field was overlaid by the symbol of healthcare workers and medicine (the Rod of Asclepius) rising over a defeated and overturned crown, representing the coronavirus (Lat. *corona*).

By flying this flag, we express our immense gratitude and support to doctors, nurses, and other workers in health care and other services who are protecting our society!

For more information, visit heraldica-slovenica.si



The flag for the fight against coronavirus (proposed by Heraldica Slovenica).



Christ the Redeemer statue in Brazil is illuminated with flags of affected countries.



An interesting flag-based COVID-19 image has been circulating widely on the internet, starting at the latest on February 29 and appearing in altered versions in the following weeks.

It has undergone political mutation—note how the figure in Arab headdress alternately uses the Saudi Arabian, Israeli, and Palestinian flags.



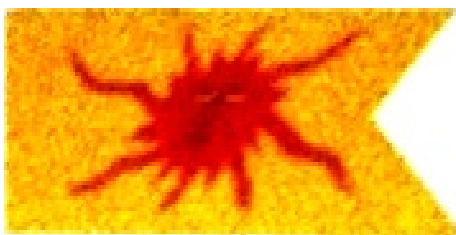
Roundup



A neighbor in the Willamette Heights area, a UK citizen, enjoys flying unusual flags (see VT#72).



Regarding “What’s in a Word”, a listing of vexi-words in the last VT...Phil Allen reminds us of **vexor**, used by the late Whitney Smith and Peter Orenski for a form of flag deity or master (and Whitney’s e-mail address). Gus Tracchia writes “You need to add to the glossary: **vexillophagus**, one that eats flags, like my 11-month-old niece.”



Regarding the inquiry from the UK asking help in identifying this flag, seen in an image of a jet plane in the 1980s:

Many readers responded, but none with any confident or definitive answer. It remains a mystery.

Find “The International Personal Flag Registry” (flag at right) at facebook.com/groups/2178328895820873/



Flag of The International Personal Flag Registry

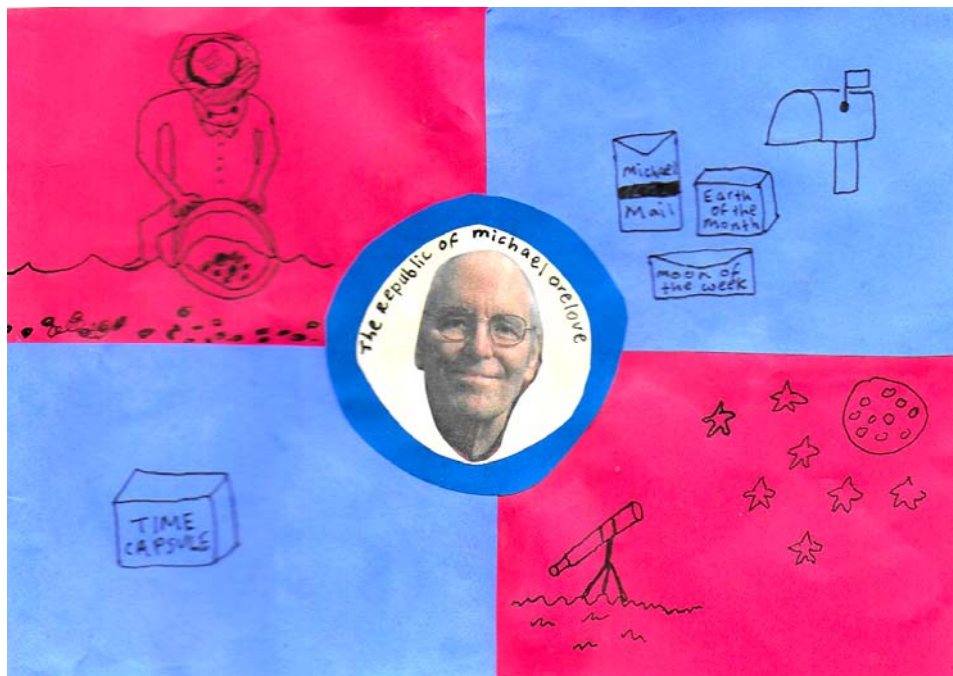


Various Scandinavian flags were offered for sale at the recent ScanFair, spotted by John Niggley.



The “thin blue line” variant of the U.S. flag flies at a house on the main street of Silverton, Oregon. Scott Mainwaring’s next NAVA presentation will focus on this controversial symbol.

The Republic of Michael Orelove



Personal flag for Michael Orelove, by Hannah Turlove.

By Michael Orelove

I just received a handmade flag from my granddaughter, Hannah Turlove, a college sophomore.

The flag is for the “Republic of Michael Orelove”. On the flag she put my picture in the center and in each of the four quarters she put symbols of various activities in my life.

One quarter has the image of a **Gold Panner**. When I lived in Juneau I used to pan for gold and teach other people how to pan. They all found gold (actually, they found all the gold I salted in the pan).

One quarter has a **Mail Box**. I like to send out mail to people and organizations and I like to receive mail back.

One quarter has a **Telescope**.

I am an amateur astronomer and have a few telescopes which I bring out to view the night sky. I also have a solar telescope to safely view the sun.

One quarter has a **Time Capsule**.

I have 20-year Time Capsules. Every year I fill up a box with stuff and wait 20 years before I open it. This year, 2020, I will be opening the Time Capsule from the year 2000.

The quarters alternate red and blue.

I plan to have a real flag made from her handmade flag so I can fly it on my flagpole. Of course I will first have to buy a flagpole.

Thank you, Hannah!



Turla + Orelove = Turlove.

Michael **Orelove**, his son Jonathon **Turlove**, and his son’s father-in-law Ernie **Turla** hold the Philippines flag at a luau fundraiser for a medical mission to the Philippines.

They are all wearing a barong, an embroidered formal shirt and considered the national dress of the Philippines. It is lightweight and worn untucked over an undershirt.

When flying the Philippine flag the blue field should be on top in time of peace and the red field on top in time of war.

Michael’s son, Jonathon **Orelove**, married Ernie’s daughter, Pam **Turla**. When Jonathon and Pam had their daughter, Hannah, they changed their last names to **Turlove**.



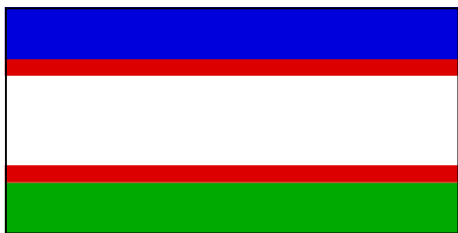
Michael and granddaughter Hannah.

What's that Flag?

By Scott Mainwaring

Name these flags and identify the theme connecting them.

Answers in the next issue...

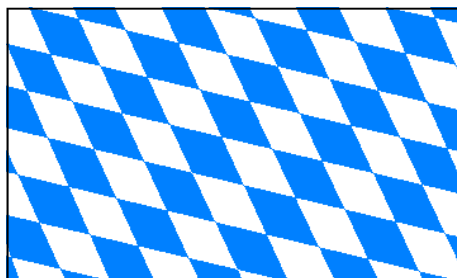


What Was that Flag? Answers to the last quiz

By Bard & Benjamin Cosman

In this vexti-version of the "Country Game", the last letter of each name overlaps with the first of the next. These flags thus spell out "BAHAMAS".

Congratulations to solvers John Cartledge, Bill Neckrock, and Mike Thomas.



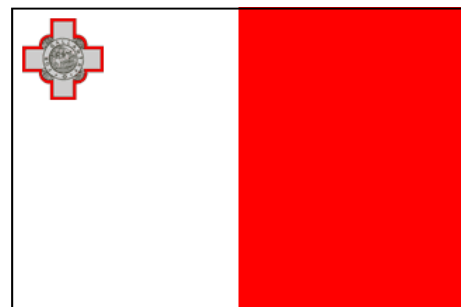
Bavaria



Anaheim (California)



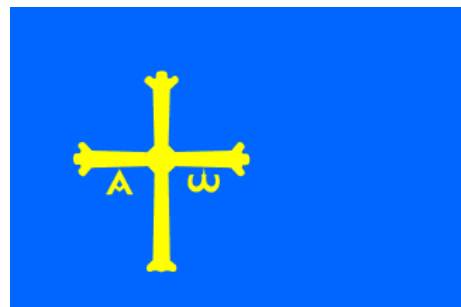
Antioch (California)



Malta



Horta (Azores, Portugal)



Asturias



Portland Flag Miscellany



The flag of the North Portland neighborhood of St. Johns flies below the U.S. flag.

Portland neighborhood flags were developed around 1990 in a city-wide project that produced over 80 flags. Only a few are currently used to any extent.



The League of Women Voters of Portland celebrated 100 years of U.S. women's suffrage—and the centennial of the League's founding—in a gala event in February 2020.

Here Debbie Kaye, president, introduces the flags on display: U.S., Oregon, Portland, and the Alice Paul banner (in the U.S. suffrage colors of yellow-white-purple and 36 stars representing the states which ratified the 19th Amendment).

May Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association (COVID-19 allowing), will be at 7 PM, Thursday, 14 May 2020, at Mary's Woods, the retirement village of John Schilke, **17400 Holy Names Drive, Lake Oswego.**

See the map at right.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings and engaging in provocative flag-related discussion.

If you can't get to the meeting, perhaps you can give the editor something to share with readers.



Enter the DUROCHER parking lot. The number (17440) is over the entrance area of the apartment building. Park in an empty (free) space with a BLUE FLAG in the parking area. If nobody's at the door, call John's cell phone: 503-459-1213.

The *Vexilloid Tabloid*, founded in 1999 by the late John Hood, is published bi-monthly by and for the Portland Flag Association—Portland, Oregon, U.S.A. Find back issues at www.portlandflag.org.