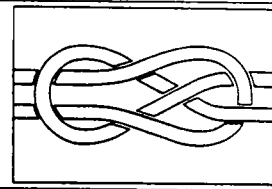


INFO-FIAV

INFO-FIAV No. 7, NOVEMBER 1996



This bulletin has been edited by FIAV (Fédération Internationale des Associations Vexillologiques), the secretary-general, Dr. Emil Dreyer, Flurweg 43, CH-3052 Zollikofen. It is distributed freely to all members of the Federation.

XVI. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY, WARSAW, 1995

The 16th FIAV congress, organised by the Earth Flag Center, The Polish Vexillological Association and the Flag Design Center, took place from 30 June until 5 July at the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw.

106 participants and 15 accompanying persons from 26 countries of all the continents gathered in flags and friendship during a splendid and most interesting week in Warsaw. Most of the participants came from Poland of course (31 persons), followed by the United States with 13 persons, Germany with 10 and France and Switzerland with each 9 persons. 8 persons came from Sweden and 7 from Spain. The other 19 nations were represented each by either one or a maximum of 4 persons.

31 lectures of about 20 to 30 minutes of duration were presented, simultaneous translation was provided. 16 lectures were delivered in English, 8 in Polish, 4 in French, 2 in German and 1 in Spanish. This scientific program was complemented by a computer seminar and several very interesting exhibits and visits. Highlights among them were the Army Museum and the exhibition on the 'white eagle emblem' at the Royal Castle, but also exhibits on Railway banners, on sports flags or another on guild banners showed a fascinating spectrum of Polish vexillology. The Earth Flag Center showed us an artistic approach to vexillology as well.

XVII. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY, CAPE TOWN, 1997

The Southern African Vexillological Association (SAVA) organises on behalf of FIAV the XVII International Congress of Vexillology in Cape Town, Republic of South Africa, from 10 August to 16 August 1997. You are invited to contact:

The Secretary of SAVA
P.O.Box 836
Pinegowrie 2123
South Africa
Fax: 27-11-3181949
e-mail: bruce@dbsa.org

RECEIVED
9 Dec 94
NAVA PRESIDENT

FIAV OFFICERS (1995-1997)

President	Dr. William Crampton 10, Vicarage Road Chester CH2 3HZ UNITED KINGDOM	Tel: 1244 - 351 335 Fax: 1244 - 341 894
Secretary-General	Dr. Emil Dreyer Flurweg 43 3052 Zollikofen SWITZERLAND	Tel: +44 - 31 - 911 60 18 Fax: +44 - 31 - 922 02 25
Secretary-General for Congresses	Mr. Ralph G.C. Bartlett P.O.Box 142 Market Street Post Office Melbourne, Victoria 3000 AUSTRALIA	Tel: 613 - 807 3664 Fax: 613 - 570 1409

REPORT ON THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1995

The FIAV General Assembly took place during the XVI. International Congress of Vexillology at the Palace of Culture in Warsaw, Poland, with sessions on 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 5th of July 1995.

A preliminary remark by the secretary-general:

This report is based on my tape recordings and personal notes. Where recording is clear and/or notes are explicit, text has been transcript either literally word by word, such passages being put between quotation marks, or in sentences as accurately close to the original as possible. Sometimes however, due to low voices in the background or several voices at the same time, due to noise, to change of tape cassette or batteries, to a marked accent in several cases or to other circumstances, recording is not sufficiently clear or complete to permit an exact transcription, other times speakers were just faster than my writing down. In those cases the text is only as accurate as recording, notes, my memory and my interpretation in a logical sense allow. Though I tried best to reproduce the whole issue as accurate and complete as possible, minor errors may have occurred. I ask the reader to accept my apologies. I can assure though, that this report contains almost all of what was said during the 4 sessions (more than 8 hours) of the General Assembly (=GA), and of course it certainly contains all the results of votings and of decisions taken during the GA.

Emil Dreyer

SUMMARY

5 vexillological associations and institutes were accepted as new FIAV full members: The Hungarian Vexillological Association (HUVA), The Ukrainian Heraldry Society (UHT), the Chesapeake Bay Flag Association (CBFA), the Flag Association of New Zealand (FANZ) and the Polish Vexillological Society (PTW). The Earth Flag Center (CFZ) was accepted as an associate member.

The Wappen-Herold (WH) was retired from membership.

Cape Town was elected as the site of the XVII. FIAV Congress, to be organised in 1997 by the Southern African Vexillological Association.

The GA unanimously accepted the Flag Institute as organiser of the 2001 FIAV congress.

An interim committee by Charles Spain, Don Healy and Michael Faul to study the standing orders project was formed. Emil Dreyer will assist the committee if necessary. The committee will report about its work at the next FIAV congress.

A membership commission by Bruce Berry, Ales Brozek and Whitney Smith to monitor the vexillological activities of FIAV members was established. This commission will in co-operation with the Board issue recommendations to the General Assembly regarding current members and membership applications.

The Board of FIAV, composed of Dr. William Crampton (president), Ralph Bartlett (secretary general for congresses) and Dr. Emil Dreyer (secretary general), was elected for another period.

The colour codes M for brown and G for grey were added to the international vexillological colour code system.

The Vexillon was awarded to Mr. Frederick Brownell.

Saturday, first of July

⌘ FIAV president William Crampton officially opens the General Assembly (=GA) at 8 p.m.. Written credentials of members are presented to the secretary general and verified by the president:

<u>FIAV member</u>	<u>Representative</u>
1) Associació Catalana de Vexil·logia (ACV)	Carlos Fernández Espeso
2) Centre Belgo-Européen d'Etudes des Drapeaux (CEBED)	Michel Lupant
3) The Canadian Flag Association (CFA)	Kevin Harrington
4) Centro Italiano Studi Vessillologici (CISV).....	Mario Fabretto
5) The Flag Design Center (FDC)	Alfred Znamierowski
6) The Flag Institute (FI)	Michael Faul
7) The Flag Research Center (FRC)	Dr. Whitney Smith
8) Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka (FRCSL)	Ralph Bartlett
9) Flag Society of Australia (FSA)	Ron Strachan
10) Fundación Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Culturales (CIDEC)	Aníbal Gotelli
11) National Flag Foundation (NFF)	Bruce Druckenmiller
12) Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde (NVV)	Thijs van Leeuwen
13) North American Vexillological Association (NAVA)	Don Healy
14) Société Suisse de Vexillologie (SSV)	Dr. Harald Müller
15) Sociedad Española de Vexilología (SEV)	Carlos Fernández Espeso
16) Société Française de Vexillologie (SFV)	Alain Raullet
17) Southern African Vexillological Association (SAVA)	Bruce Berry
18) Tumbling Waters Museum of Flags (TWMF)	Dr. Arthur Etchells
19) United States Flag Foundation (USFF)	Charles Spain
20) Västra Sveriges Heraldiska Sällskap (VSHS)	Leif Pahlsson
21) Vexilologický Klub (VK)	Ales Brozek
22) World Vexillological Research Institute (WVRI)	Roman Klimes

The following members did not send an accredited representative: Asociación Argentina de Vexilología (AAV), Gesellschaft für Österreichische Heereskunde (GOH), Heraldischer Verein zum Kleeblatt (HVK), Nordisk Flagselskab (NF), Heraldica Slovenica (HS) [=former Slovenski Scit (SS)], Partioheraldikot Ry (PR), Societas Vexillologica Belgica (SVB) and Wappen-Herold (WH).

The Board of FIAV is composed by Dr. William Crampton (United Kingdom) as president, Dr. Emil Dreyer (Switzerland) as secretary-general and Mr. Ralph Bartlett (Australia), as secretary-general for congresses.

⌘ The statutory quorum is fulfilled with 22 votes of members present and 3 votes of the Board members, totalling 25 votes (out of a maximum of 33). The two thirds majority is 17 votes.

⌘ Two volunteers are chosen as vote-counters: Roman Klimes and Ron Strachan.

⌘ Pahlsson proposes to accept the minutes of the FIAV General Assembly of Zurich, 1993, as published in INFO-FIAV nr. 5 (May 1994), Bartlett seconds (item 5 of the agenda). Smith draws the attention to the fact, that a minor amendment to the protocol had been wished by the Zurich NAVA delegate Scot Günter in a letter to the secretary-general dated 23 June 1995 and concerning a statement of that delegate, which had been misinterpreted. Dreyer reads the letter in question to the GA (see annex) and Smith reads the corrected version, which is as follows: "*Dr. Scot Guenter urged the GA not to be elitist and to acknowledge the achievements of scholarly colleagues, regardless of whether their work relies on knowledge of heraldry or not. Speaking for himself and for NAVA, he urged FIAV to be open to all intellectual approaches which allow for analysis of the study of vexillological data*".
The GA accepts the amended minutes of the Zurich FIAV meeting by 16 yes, 0 no and 9 abstentions.

⌘ FIAV president Crampton reports on the activities of the Board during the past two years (item 6 of the agenda). Several meetings have taken place, including 3 meetings immediately prior to this assembly, and an important amount of material has been sent out to members.

Znamierowski asks, if the Board has reminded the SSV of the necessity to publish the congress report of Zurich. The answer is no. The same answer is given regarding ACV and the Barcelona congress report.

Bartlett explains some of the reasons, why vexillological congress reports tend to be published but several years after the congress.

Secretary-general Dreyer reports on his correspondence during the last 2 years. Almost all of it has been published in INFO-FIAV no. 6, including the results of the questionnaires sent out in 1994. All the members who had been contacted by the secretary-general in order to show evidence of their activities (item 7 of the agenda) answered more or less explicitly (see annexes in INFO-FIAV no. 6). The Board thinks to have largely fulfilled its duty to inform FIAV members by sending out comprehensive INFO bulletins.

Etchells congratulates the secretary-general for his work.

Re Standing orders project: in a letter to the president the NAVA delegate Don Healy had presented a set of proposals to amend those parts of the standing orders project, which conflicted with the existing FIAV constitution. In consultation with Healy the Board of FIAV has come to the conclusion that in case of any contradiction between the standing orders and the FIAV constitution, the words of the constitution must take precedence, so that always the constitution is the law of our proceedings.

Smith points out, that the length and complexity of the project might present a further difficulty and that everybody must be aware that if the proposed project is accepted, then some of its statements in fact are invalid because they challenge the constitution.

Crampton repeats that where the standing orders and the existing constitution clash, the existing constitution will take precedence, so in no way the constitution can be altered by the standing orders. Crampton admits that "the standing orders might not have been well framed if you take into account some peculiarities of the constitution, but that is something which could be corrected later on. In any case the existing constitution takes precedence".

Druckenmiller fears, that no one will be sufficiently familiar with both the constitution and the standing orders to notice conflicts between both. He continues asking how we will overcome such a difficulty by leaving the standing orders unchanged.

Crampton proposes to add some comment to the standing orders indicating that the constitution will take precedence and Druckenmiller answers, that this would require everyone knowing when they're in conflict. Crampton underlines the fact that all members have got 4 months in advance both the standing orders and the constitution text and so should have had sufficient time to study them.

Druckenmiller complains, that he did not get the INFO, whereas Healy confirms to have had two months time to study it. Druckenmiller asks why the INFO isn't directly sent to the delegates. "Because we don't know until the very last minute who these delegates will be" Crampton answers.

Bartlett states that it is the responsibility of each of the FIAV members to have their delegates properly informed.

Dreyer states that the Board expects all the FIAV members to furnish their delegates with all necessary information and instructions.

Healy retires his proposed amendments to the standing orders project. Crampton again repeats, that in any case the constitution will take precedence over the standing orders.

Smith asks if the Chair is going to propose to have the entire standing orders dealt with simultaneously with one vote at the end or if we're going to take issue by issue. After answering that this will be dealt later on, Crampton explains to the GA the idea of the standing orders, which is:

"To provide the Assembly of FIAV with a structure, which apparently it has not had in the past. It seems to me that many decisions of the past have been made on an ad hoc basis, obviously depending on decisions made by the Chair of the time, perhaps by reference to presidents but perhaps not. It also seems to me that a large international federation such as we are now becoming could not continue to exist in a formless way. The amount of business when we do meet is very long and complex and one way of speeding it up is to have a structure within which business is dealt with. The Board discussed what should be in the standing orders and we came to the conclusion that the standing orders should be like those of other associations, that it wouldn't be anything particularly unusual about the way in which we conduct our business. So I was asked to look after a chairman's guide and to come up with a list of things which ought to form the background or structure of the meetings and this is what you have before you. What we are proposing, so far as the adoption of these is concerned, is that for this particular Assembly - and this Assembly only - we adopt the orders on an interim basis and that for the duration of this Assembly we have two or three people appointed, whose job it will be to make notes about how the standing orders work or don't work or where they contradict the constitution. At the last meeting of the Assembly, which will take place in a few days time, we will ask those people to give us their opinion as to whether the standing orders should be made a permanent part of the constitution or if they should be amended in any way. So we are simply asking you tonight to accept them on an interim basis to see how they work and you will have an opportunity at the end of the GA to decide: that you don't want to have anything more to do with them, that you want them to be postponed or that you want them to be amended. That's the proposition of the Board."

Charles Spain has already volunteered as monitor. Smith argues that "we do not need any nominations if we do not accept the standing orders". Crampton says, that "if we accept the standing orders, we'll have to accept the monitors as well".

Espeo remarks a typographical error in the standing orders, since Spanish, which is an official language of FIAV, has not been mentioned as such (p.20 of INFO nr.6). Dreyer apologises for this error, the standing orders will be amended.

Crampton proposes Healy as monitor and Healy accepts. No other delegate volunteers as monitor, "so 2 monitors will do", says Crampton. The president proposes that the standing orders be accepted on an interim basis for this Assembly only.

Spain makes a comment: "I've looked at these several times and I don't question the intentions at all and I think there's certainly a considerable merit to it, but I also believe that we're seriously caught because of many conflicts existing, and some waiting, with constitution. And I believe that if we adopt this as written - even for this meeting - we could get into a large number of debates about whether it complies with the constitution and I personally would rather see this referred to an interim committee between FIAV meetings with people that will take this proposal, also look at other international bodies to see what parliamentary procedures that they use, and to study this and to take out the things that the committee thinks will present a problem, report to the Board and come back in 2 years with essentially a clean copy and go from there. Because once we get on and start riding this horse it's going to be hard to change much."

Asked by the president, if he is going to put his statement forward as a proposal, Spain answers positively.

Smith seconds and explains his reasons for seconding Spain's proposal, basically because he thinks the standing orders to be too complex, because FIAV has worked democratically for 30 years without these and because they give too much power to the Chair, among other reasons.

Healy expresses his concerns about the complex preferential vote, which the standing orders would introduce.

The GA proceeds to vote on the proposal of Spain to refer the standing orders project for study to an interim commission, which will report on their analysis at a next GA. Result of the voting:

yes: 18 ; no: 0 ; abstentions: 7

Znamierowski asks to have the text of the standing orders project translated to all the official FIAV languages, since several members do not sufficiently understand English.

After short debate Faul volunteers to form part of the interim committee, which now will be composed by Charles Spain, Don Healy and Michael Faul. Emil Dreyer is appointed to assist these three members in their work.

The president asks the GA to alter the agenda by removing item 2 of Old Business to the first item of New Business, prior to the constitutional amendments and to make the item not just 1997 but 1999 as well. So, when coming to New Business the first item would be "selection of the 1997/99 FIAV venue".

Ⓜ **Announcements** (item 8 of Standing Business): The president asks the secretary-general for congresses, if any proposals for the 1997 congress have been received. Bartlett answers, that he still has the proposal of the French Vexillological Association made in 1993 in Zurich and a recent proposal by the Southern African Vexillological Association.

No nominations of candidates for election have been received by the secretary-general. The Board is submitting itself for reelection. The Board has received one suggestion for nomination of the Vexillon award and it welcomes further nominations. The Board though invites the GA to do so in a confidential way directly to the secretary-general in order to avoid any possible embarrassment. It was decided in Zurich that the Board itself would have the power to designate the Vexillon award winner.

The Board has decided to postpone item 5 of New Business to tomorrow. The Board reminds all candidates for membership, that they will have to be present at the session with an accredited representative to present their application. This also applies for item 7 of New Business. The president also proposes to debate all the proposals for amendment and restructuration of the constitution at the next session tomorrow. He continues with "as you know from experience, the meetings of the Assembly tend to drag on and on, so tonight we don't hope to do more than get to the end of Old Business".

Ⓜ **Old Business:** The delegate of the SFV, having no instructions about the matter, retires the offer of the SFV to host the 1997 congress in Paris.

The delegate of the Flag Institute refers about the preparations for the 2001 congress, which will probably be near London at the end of June or beginning of July. His written two-page report is distributed amongst the delegates (see annex).

Znamierowski moves that the GA may confirm the Flag Institute as host of the 2001 FIAV congress, Pahlsson seconds. The GA unanimously votes to accept the Flag Institute as organiser of the 2001 FIAV congress.

The SFV delegate has no instructions about the UNESCO issue, nor does the SEV delegate have such. The secretary-general had written to UNESCO asking for further details (see INFO-FIAV No. 6), but UNESCO replied that they were revising their statutory dispositions at the time and that FIAV may apply

again at the end of 1995. So Dreyer will care again about UNESCO at the end of the year, this business being postponed.

Since the president of the computer standards commission (Sebastián Herreros) is not present and since he hasn't sent any news to the Board, Crampton reads to the GA an informal report of the Commission of Flag Computerisation (see annex). Crampton suggests to accept his report and to remit it to the computer seminar meeting. The GA accepts.

▫ Bruce Berry presents the SAVA application to host the 1997 FIAV venue. He distributes promotional material and shows the GA a beautiful promotional video film on Cape Town. SAVA did not apply for a congress at Zurich because of the political situation then, but since the establishment of a government of national unity at the general election of 1994, the political situation has settled down, thus giving SAVA a more comfortable position to put in a bid to host the 1997 congress. 1997 also is the 70th anniversary of the first South African legislation on flags.

The GA votes by **22 yes, 0 no and 1 abstention** to accept Cape Town as site of the 1997 FIAV congress.

Well past 10 p.m. the discussion about the 1999 FIAV venue is postponed for tomorrow.

▫

Sunday, second of July

▫ The second session of the FIAV GA starts at 8 p.m. with NAVA delegate Don Healy presenting Chicago as site for the 1999 FIAV congress:

Chicago is a world-class city at a beautiful lakefront location with large groups of various ethnic communities, with thousands of hotel rooms, quick urban transportation facilities and direct flights from most major foreign cities. Flags and banners are virtually everywhere in Chicago. NAVA would like to propose having its annual meeting in conjunction with FIAV and proposes August 27 through September 1 1997 as meeting dates. Several special outings include a visit to the Chicago Historical Society, the Art Institute of Chicago, a tour to the Advertising Flag Company and boat rides on Lake Michigan. The initial search would indicate a nightly room rate in the range of \$80 to \$95 and potential for some excellent meeting room facilities. (Excerpt from the NAVA paper read by Healy)

Healy distributes some advertising leaflets and lots of Chicago table flags, then answers some questions of delegates.

▫ Now it's the turn of the FSA delegate Ralph Bartlett to present Sydney as a candidate for the 1999 FIAV venue:

Sydney is the gateway to the South Pacific and Australia and offers historical and natural attractions, and at the end of this century will offer several international and domestic events, such as the Olympic Games in the year 2000 and other cultural celebrations in 1999. The FSA will negotiate with authorities for their involvement in the congress. The Society has the experience from the successful Melbourne congress to assure an efficient 18th congress while Sydney has its splendid geography and temperate climate. By 1999 Australia will have taken further steps in the debate on transition to a republic and will be looking to adopt new symbols. The congress would take place in September, accommodation at University or hotels, flag displays and an excursion to Canberra are planned. (Excerpt from a paper read by Bartlett)

Bartlett distributes a few advertising leaflets and answers some questions of delegates.

Faul fears that because of the Australian flag controversy FIAV may be dragged into domestic problems, Pahlsson agrees with Faul. Various delegates argue to postpone the decision about 1999, others want to continue, finally Znamierowski motions to leave both candidates continue their preparations and to make the decision in 1997. Berry seconds.

While voting is going on, the Nordisk Flagselskab delegate writes his credentials and presents it to the president, so that from now on the GA counts 23 FIAV members and 3 Board members, i.e. 26 votes: **22 vote yes** to postpone the decision about 1999, 2 abstentions, 2 no.

▫ Coming to New Business, the president decides to discuss point 6 of this item (establishment of a membership commission) first, since he has had already some talks on this matter with several delegates. Her refers that Ales Brozek, Whitney Smith and Bruce Berry have agreed to serve in a membership commission, which will monitor the vexillological activities of members and membership candidates. This commission will in co-operation with the Board issue recommendations to the GA regarding current members and membership applications. After this introduction by the president, debate is opened.

