

The Vexilloid Tabloid

Portland Flag Association

“Free, and Worth Every Penny!”

Issue 7 October 2005

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Flags of the Inca Empire

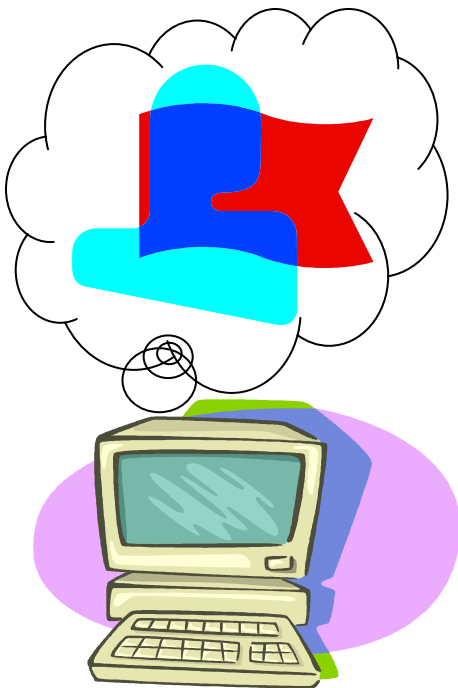
By John Hood

This doesn't pretend to be a comprehensive article on the Incan flags, but I hope it generates enough interest for someone to develop such a paper. Once I commented that a restaurant manager's tie resembled the flag of the Tupac Katari Indians of Bolivia. He didn't have any idea that was the case, but he liked it. Until Harry sent me the Qullasuyu flag, I didn't know the man's tie could have matched any of several flags in the area, but it did get me to research the subject a little.

name of the Incan Empire. It means, “The land of the four quarters (or parts),” and it encompassed the area of northwestern Argentina, western Bolivia, the northern two-thirds of Chile, most of Peru, Ecuador and southwestern Colombia.

The empire existed, waxing and waning, from about 1200AD until 1572, when the last Inca (ruler) was killed by the Spanish.

Cusco (Cuzco, Qosqo) was the center of the Incan universe. It means “The world's navel,” and it is located where the four quarters of the sky meet — the four “suyus” or parts of



I am not the flag: not at all. I am but its shadow.
 -- Franklin K. Lane

“Inca” is actually the title of the ruler of the Tawantinsuyu, the native

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If you wish to compliment the editor, or to contribute in the future, contact John Hood at 503-238-7666 or vivijohn@comcast.net. If you wish to complain, call your mother.

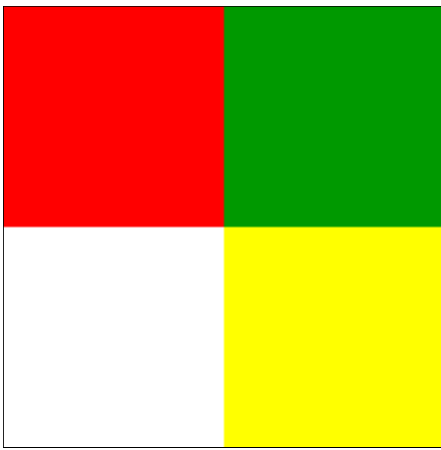
Flags of the Inca Empire

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the empire.

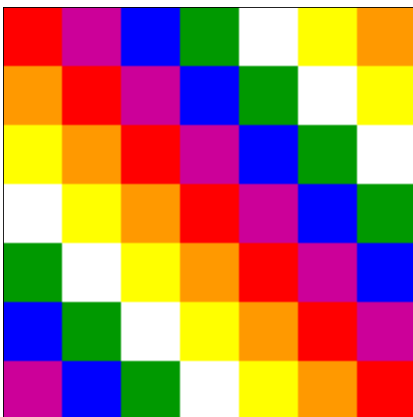
If the founding and early history of the empire is hazy, then the flag situation is down right contradictory.

There is the Taru which represents the equality of the four territories and may be considered the National Flag of the Andean Culture.

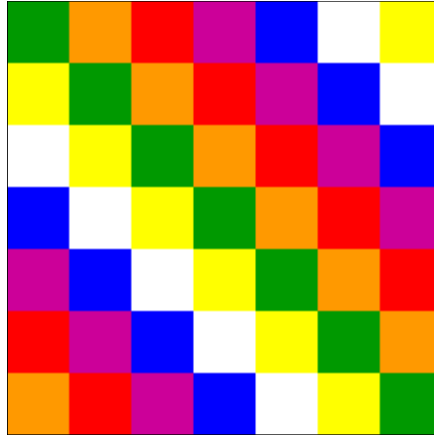


It is always flown in pairs, but I didn't find the reason why. It looks as if the white and yellow quarters should be reversed if they were meant to represent the four territories and the dominate color of each of their flags.

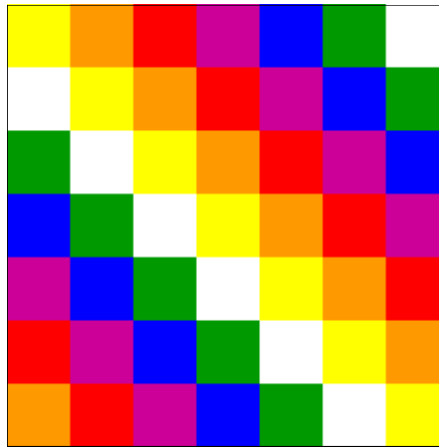
As is shown on the map of the *siyas*, the north west, Chinchaysuyu, has the red diagonal.



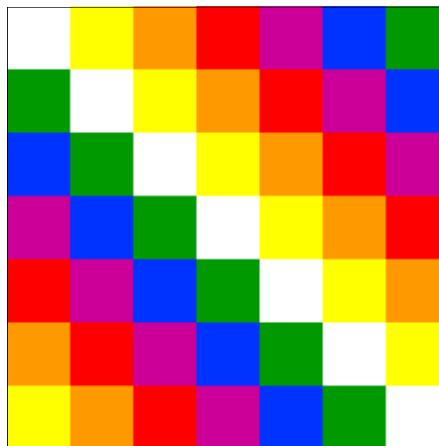
The northeast, Antisuyu, has the green diagonal.



The southwest, Kuntisuyu, has the yellow diagonal.



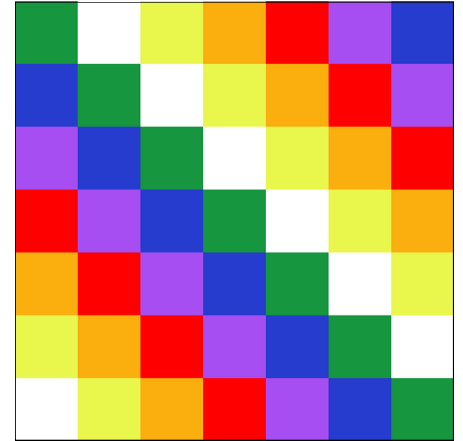
And the southeast, Qullasuyu, the one that Harry sent, has the white diagonal.



These images are all from FOTW .

I think the Antisuyu flag has an error

since the colors don't follow the usual pattern: red = earth, orange = society, yellow = energy, white = time, green = economy, blue = space, purple = policy. Harry told me the colors remain in order, therefore, the flag should look like this.



There are also the seven color rainbow flags. The flag with a white stripe in the middle and only one blue would appear to be the source from which these territorial flags were developed.



It is sometimes known as the Tawantinsuyu National Flag and is based on the coat-of-arms of the Inca and has been around for more than 500 years.

The other major rainbow flag is of Cusco, or of the Peruvian Indians and was adopted in 1978. It drops the white stripe and adds one of light

(Continued on page 5)

October 2005 Flutterings You Need to Know

Ted Kaye reported on August's 21st ICV in Buenos Aires, and showed flags he'd collected while in Uruguay, Paraguay, and Argentina (see separate article). A highlight was the group of flags from the seven Argentine provinces he has traveled to (Harry Oswald actually made the trip to the flag store for him). Among them was the unusual vertical flag of the Andean province of Mendoza, from where NAVA member Gustavo Tracchia hails.

Ted described flag use in Uruguay, using the national flag and two historic flags that are widely flown on national days, and displayed a 1m. x 2m. Paraguayan flag—the only national flag whose obverse and reverse differ. Mike Hale was especially interested in the different fabrics used in the flags Ted shared, identifying different weaves and synthetic materials by their feel and appearance. Argentine flags tend to be made of very light fabric, allowing them to fly in the slightest of breezes.

As NAVA 39 had been held in Nashville a few days before the PFA meeting, Ted shared digital images of the meeting and its attendees through the computer/TV setup Scott had prepared. He also described his flight itinerary that took him to Arkansas and Oklahoma on the way to Tennessee, thus earning three more state flags for his collection (only two states to go, he reports!). To the eventual delight of Scott's young son Henry, Ted presented Scott with a kitschy American flag tie that lit up and played the *Star Spangled Banner*.

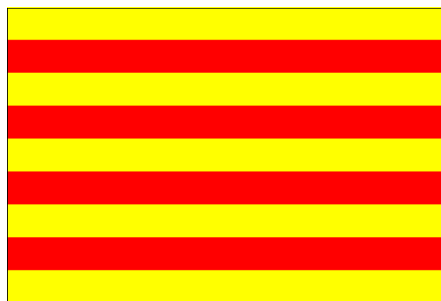
Mike Hale had a picture of what was purported to be the largest kite in the world, and what would the design be? Why, of the Stars and Stripes, of course!



It is 80' x 130', 10,000 square feet and weighs 500 pounds. It flies on a 20 ton line and is anchored to very heavy vehicles! Remember, for just less than \$10,000, you can have the kite flown at your glorious affair.

John Hood had a couple of new (to him) flags.

Who can forget George Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*?

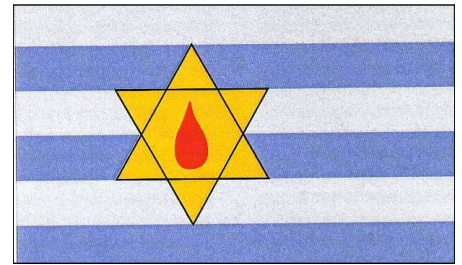


Catalonia



Western Sahara

Harry Oswald picked up several flags in or around Buenos Aires and sent them along for his "Show and Tell *in absentia*." Of course there was the Argentine flag and the ICV21 Congress flag which Ted also had, but there were also a couple of very unusual flags. The Holocaust Flag, designed by Michael Faul of The Flag Institute in England, is a very powerful symbol of a tragedy not to be forgotten.



The full explanation of the symbolism can be found in The Flag Institute's recent issue of *Flagmaster*, number 116. Another unique flag Harry sent is of the southeast area of the Inca Empire, Qullasuyu. Elsewhere in this newsletter is an article on the background of Inca flags in general.

There was more talk about a revised Oregon flag and Doug Lynch showed a couple of his designs that are also discussed in this publication.

Did You Know?

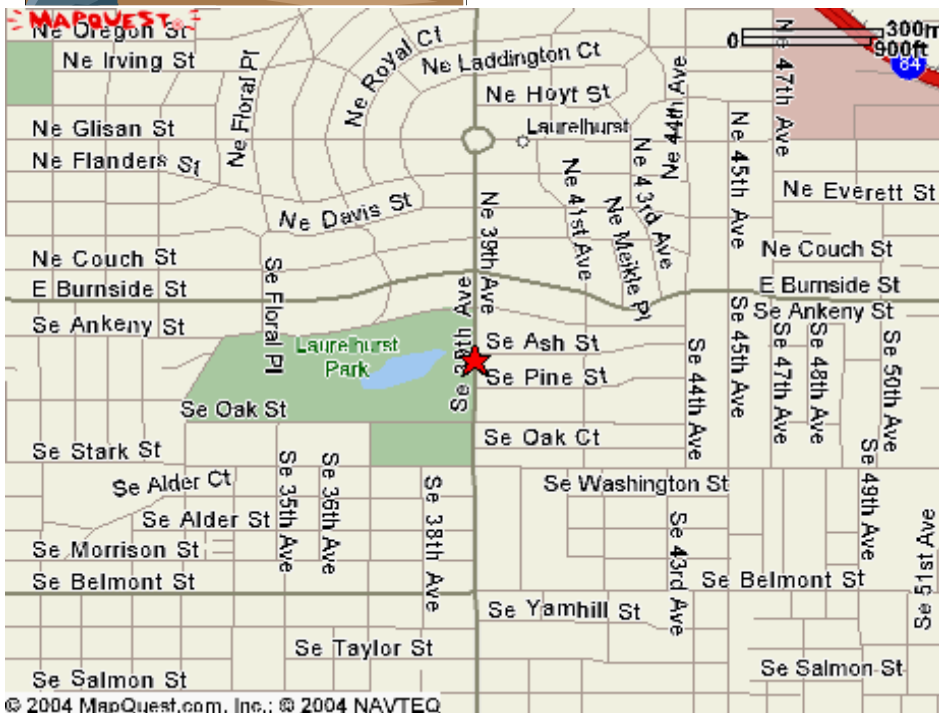
The highest flag on earth was planted on Mt. Everest on May 28, 1953, by Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tensing. It was really four flags tied together; United Nations, Britain, Nepal and India.

January Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, January 12, 2006, at John Hood's house, 208 SE 39th Ave., telephone (503) 238-7666. See the map below.

We look forward to seeing those of you that have been otherwise committed, and hear some new war stories, see some different flags, and hear some provocative discussion.

I'll try to gather some neighborhood association banners to show what really BAD flags look like! Any and all flags, books or articles are welcome for "show and tell."

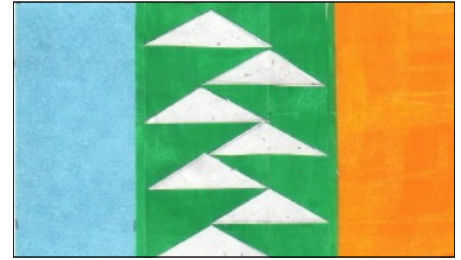


More Oregon Flag Suggestions

Doug Lynch enjoys sitting on his porch (this was before the rains came) and watching his flag flutter in the breeze. He says the way the stripes and the canton fold back onto themselves provide an infinite range of patterns that soothe the mind and warm the heart.

Having been a graphic artist all his life, patterns should be no big deal to Doug, just a fact of life, but when it comes to the flag, they are a very big deal! Which is one of the reasons he wanted the Portland City Flag adjusted to meet his original design concept. It is also the reason he was first to make suggestions for a new Oregon State Flag. The editor is remiss in not showing those designs before, but here they are now.

In all cases the colors are natural to the state, and don't play favorites between the two major universities which probably would stalemate any flag redesign.



This symbolizes the Pacific Ocean, the agriculture and forests of Western Oregon, the snow-capped Cascades and the high desert of Eastern Oregon.



Slightly modified by eliminating the Pacific and emphasizing the farm land of the West, this flag is simplicity and identity in one.



Here the forests, one of our greatest resources, is highlighted and the diagonal provides a pleasing departure from the normal tricolor.

In every case, the straight lines are identifiable when the flag is not fluttering, and with a little wind, they provide the curves and shifting patterns that Doug delights in.

Flags in the News

In a recent issue of The Oregonian there was an article about a performance piece being done in town. It showed one of the actors struggling with the flag of the fictitious country, but the picture didn't do the flag justice. Following is an excerpt from the article with this editor's rendering of the flag of Mostlandia:

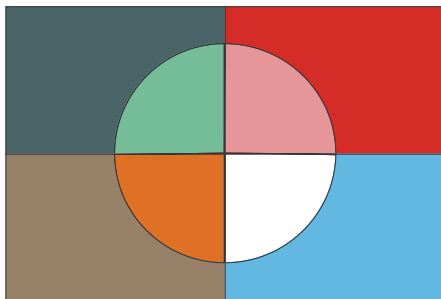
Mostlandia calls

Its flag is a shabby quilt of green, pink, brown and blue woven into a circle. Its visa application and approval process takes only a few minutes. Its population is even smaller than Liechtenstein's -- 55 and counting. And its national anthem starts with a whistle and ends with the bang of a gong.

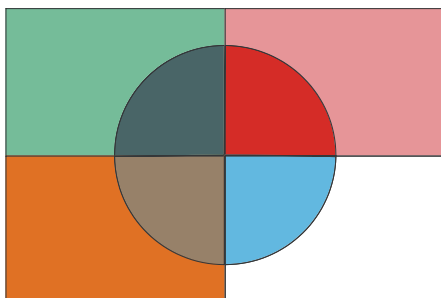
Welcome to Mostlandia, a country that exists, in the words of one of its four founders, "between our collective minds."

For the festival's 10-day run, the artists have turned an empty Pearl District storefront ... into the Mostlandian Embassy... If you're open to ... becoming a Mostlandian citizen, it can be done -- and quickly.

"Mostly, you just fill out a form," Katy Asher, one of the actors says. "But we do ask you to pay a \$10 bureaucratic fee."



Mostlandia Flag (Obverse)



Mostlandia Flag (Reverse)

"The Flag House" and your editor were featured recently in local publications. First, the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association newsletter had a cover article by a friend of mine of Manx extraction. Lyle Howard and his sister, Shirley, always make sure I have the Isle of Man flag out for Tynwald Day, the 5th of July. He did a good job of researching the background of vexillology and Shirley wants me to do a "show and tell" for the DAR.

Apparently that piece prompted a reporter from The Portland Tribune to call. It was another good article, but of all the pictures the photographer took, I'm not sure why he went for the one of the Recycle Flag!



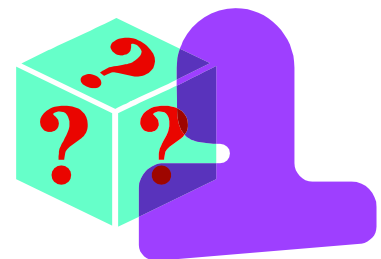
Flags of the Inca Empire

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blue and is seen a great deal in Peru.



As I said earlier, this is only a cursory look at a subject that has great possibilities of development. There are web sites dedicated to Tawantisuyu history and current affairs, but there are also many contradictory reports that would provide a person some fun resolving — any takers?



Some Flag Related Websites

North American Vexillological Association <http://www.nava.org>

Flag Institute (United Kingdom) <http://www.flaginstitute.org>

Flags of the World <http://www.fotw.net>

Elmer's Flag & Banner <http://www.elmersflag.com>

Darwin, Northern Territory (Australia) <http://www.nationalflags.com.au>

Flag Society of Australia <http://www.flagsaustralia.com.au>

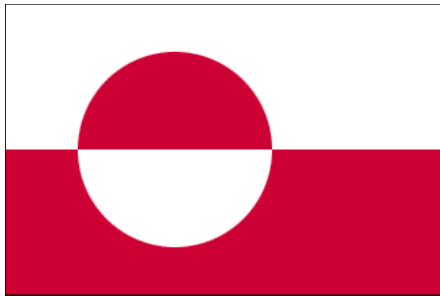
What Was that Flag? Answers to April's quiz

What's that Flag?



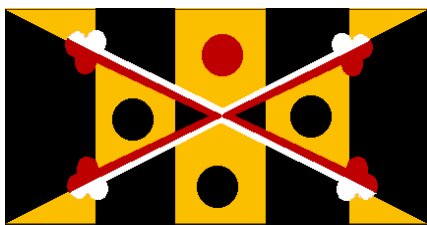
Canadian Flag Association

CFA was established in 1985, but its flag was not adopted until 1999, coincidental with ICV 18 that was held in Victoria, BC.



Greenland

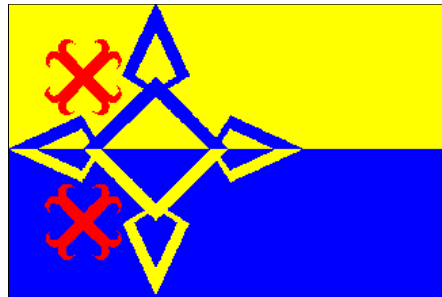
According to Thue Christiansen, the flag's designer, the large white part symbolizes the ice cap and the red part of the circle represents the fiords. The large red part is the ocean and the white part of the circle is the ice pack and the ice bergs. The colors are from the Danish flag.



New Maryland, NB, Canada

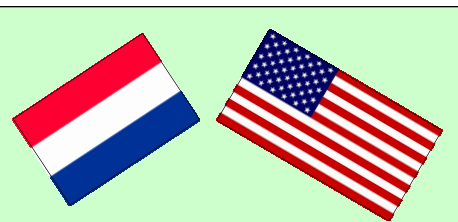
This flag has a little of everything —

a tribute to everyone. The village was founded by Maryland Loyalists after the Revolution thus the influence of the Maryland flag. The black and gold from Lord Baltimore; the red and white cross botonny from the Crosslands; saltire cross from the early Scottish settlers; the four roundels from the Street-Wetmore duel.



Steenwijk, OV, Netherlands

No information except it was a municipality that was merged, along with two others, into the new municipality.



A visitor from Holland was chatting with his American friend and was jokingly explaining about the red, white and blue in the Netherlands flag. "Our flag symbolizes our taxes," he said. "We get red when we talk about them, white when we get our tax bill, and blue after we pay them."

"That's the same with us," the American said, "only we see stars, too."

In celebration of Halloween, these flags have cats and bats and pots and ravens. And they are very obscure. Happy haunting!

