Joining FIAV

The PFA may soon join FIAV, the International Federation of Vexillological Associations, if Scott Mainwaring and Max Liberman touch all the bases. Inspired by their first-time attendance at the flag congress in Washington, DC, last year, they are laying the groundwork for our group to join the 50 or so other flag-studies associations around the world.

FIAV is the acronym for the French version of the organization’s name, the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques.

In order to qualify for membership in FIAV, an applicant group needs to show that its object is the pursuit of vexillology, it is committed to the purposes of FIAV, and it is legally constituted in its country, and apply at least six months before the next FIAV General Assembly (the next one is in Rotterdam in August 2013).

The FIAV Board and the General Assembly consider:

1. the existence of a written constitution and its provisions;
2. vexillological and non-vexillological activities, including meetings, publications, and international relations;
3. the number of dues-paying members (a minimum of five);
4. registration of its members in International Congresses of Vexillology;
5. the length of time it has existed; and
6. the presence of a representative at the General Assembly for the vote.

The FIAV Board makes a recommendation; the General Assembly votes on the application.

This should be easy. We probably need to create some organizing document, and charge some nominal dues (how about $1 for life?). Otherwise we just need to write the application letter.

Please contact Scott or Max with ideas or offers to help. At least three of us already plan to be in Rotterdam for the vote!

If you wish to compliment the interim editor, or to contribute in the future, contact Ted Kaye at 503-223-4660 or kandsons@aol.com. If you wish to complain, call your mother.
Russian Political Party Flags 1989–Present

Patrick Genna has collected images of Russian political parties, and presents them here. We salute his extensive research, shared at the January meeting.

United Russia

Yabloko (“Apple”—Russian United Democratic Party)

Glory of Russia (neo-Nazi-nationalist anti-immigration)

Liberal Democratic Party

New Left Party

Communist Party of the Russian Federation

Russian Democratic People Party

Our Home is Russia Party

Perhaps another form of Glory of Russia

Russian All Peoples Union

Russian Popular Front
People’s Democratic Union

United Citizens Front

Russian Communist Workers Party (Stalinists)

Slavic Union (racist/ethnic Russians only)

Russian Nationalists (monarchists)

NASHI (“Ours”—young anti-fascist movement)

Russian Social Democratic Party

Dmitry Medvedev and Vladimir Putin

National Unity of Russia
In our January meeting, hosted generously by Michael Orelove in Gresham, we had a great turnout and enjoyed three hours of flag discussion!

Our host, an impassioned amateur astronomer, showed his design for a flag for the planet Mars, the subject of an article he wrote several years ago for *NAVA News* and the first item that appeared when his now-girlfriend Googled him after meeting him for the first time. He has a special place in his heart for the (now-dwarf) planet Pluto, and has amassed a significant collection of planet and Disney mementos. He also brought us up to date on his U.N. member flag project and U.S. state flag-folding project—more to report later.

David Ferriday has designed a flag (below) for a conservative states'-rights group. In it the stars represent states, as they are most important to the group. The stars are depicted in black on white, as “everything is black-and-white to them”, and 52 in number “just in case”. As the group is less than enthusiastic about environmental issues, blue is minimized in the design, but red on the stripes is retained for tradition, but not enough of it to look “Communist”.

He also showed a Danish pennant bought by his son in Denmark, a beautiful 9-meter (40-foot) tapered affair in red with a central white stripe and a crossbar near the hoist, with a stiff header attached by the corners to a metal ring. Although he thought it was a ship’s pennant, it may be a “vimpel”, as seen extensively in Scandinavia as a substitute/placeholder for the national flag so that flag poles don’t go unflagged—for example on vacation homes (see next page).

Patrick Genna shared his research on current political party flags in Russia (see page 2) and a web-based article on the *Vexillum* (the Roman flag which gave its name to Vexillology).

Max Liberman showed several flag publications he’d recently acquired, many at the 24th International Congress of Vexillology.
Scott Mainwaring likes to shop on-line in the middle of the night; a favorite site sells low-priced Chinese items. He gave out small Iranian flags he’d bought there (below), and showed an unusual product: a “Do it yourself” flag-making kit, with sheets of colored construction paper, a small sheet of national flag designs, and instructions (see page 6).

Adding his usual insightful comments, Fred Paltridge drew together his knowledge of flags and history and recalled how as a boy he’d collected stamps, whose albums came with stickers of the flags of all the United Nations.

Ken Dale gave a stirring recitation of the Gettysburg Address; John Schilke recounted how in his youth he once portrayed Lincoln giving the same speech.

We thank Michael Orelove for his hospitality, including the pizza, drinks, and extensive show-and-tell. He joins five other PFA members in volunteering their homes as our meeting spaces during the year, and we are grateful.

(Continued from page 4)

Ted Kaye exhibited an “ Occupy” U.S. flag variant, with the 50 stars in the canton rearranged to say “ 99%”; the “ %” made up of smaller stars. Designed and manufactured by Peter Orenski’s TME Co., Occupy movements across the country have received them in return for a photograph of them in use for publication on TME’s website. Ted delivered one to the Occupy Portland protesters in early December at Salmon Street Springs (above).
Scott Mainwaring, shopping online for inexpensive Chinese merchandise (an apparently frequent late-night pastime), recently acquired an interesting product: a “Do it yourself” flag-making kit.

It consists of seven sheets of 18 x 25 cm. construction paper (orange, pink, blue, purple, red, green, and gray), a small sheet of national flag designs, and instructions on how to cut out the paper Chinese “Do It Yourself” Flag-Making Kit

Just cut out the pieces and glue them!

and glue it to construct a flag.

Of course, the example is the Chinese national flag, but ironic because no yellow or gold paper is supplied. White is not supplied, either, although it is needed for most of the flags illustrated.

The national flags depicted are remarkably accurate (except perhaps in proportions—such as in the U.K., Canadian, and Swiss flags). The 36 countries also offer an intriguing mix of nations, not necessarily aligned with Chinese foreign policy (North Korea and Iran are missing, although Vietnam is included).
What’s that Flag?

By Max Liberman

These flags have a common theme. What is that theme, and what does each flag represent?

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All of these flags, of course, are in their natural colors of black and white!

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March Meeting

The next meeting of the Portland Flag Association will be at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 8, 2012, at David Ferriday’s studio, 1801 N.W. Upshur St., #330.

See the map at right.

We look forward to seeing those of you who have missed recent meetings, and hear some new war stories, see some different flags, and engage in provocative discussion.

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

Portland Flag Sightings

PFA member Dennis Stevens lives in on N. Columbia Way.

On December 12 he e-mailed: “The doorbell rang this afternoon and it was a couple of children. One asked me what the green and yellow flag was and I told him the City of Portland. He turned to the other and said, ‘see...I told you!’ and they ran off. Fun. :-)”

Could the ultimate test of a city flag’s acceptance by the citizenry be its use in tattoos?

This beautiful example is by artist Ximena Quiroz, of Skeleton Key Tattoo (1729 S.E. Hawthorne Blvd.). See more at: www.skeletonkeytattooportland.com/xq.html