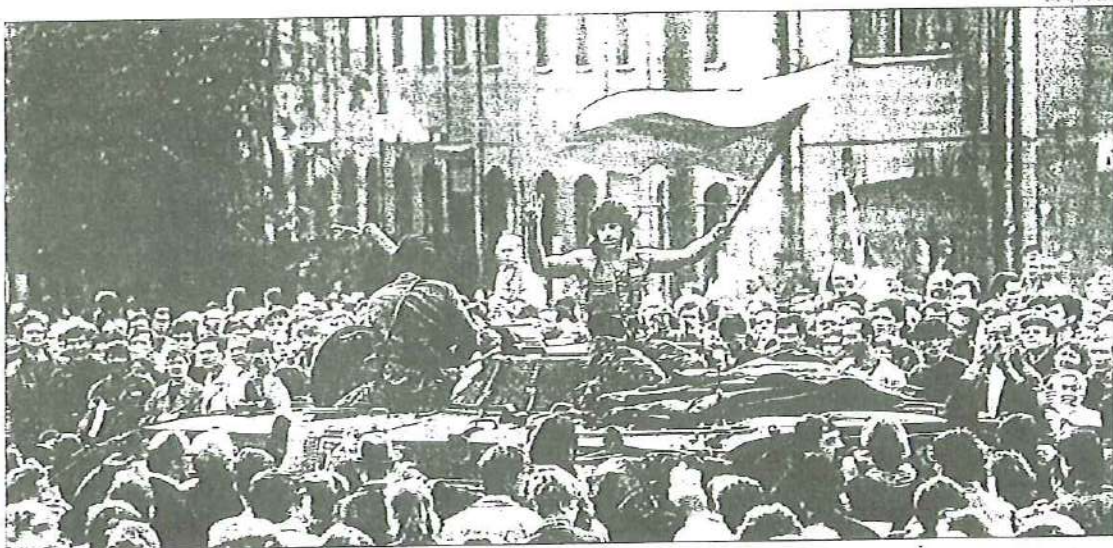




A FEW MORE DAYS THAT SHOOK THE WORLD

Is the Soviet Union really no longer with us? We look at the post-coup scene and wonder what will happen next.



The new Tricolore

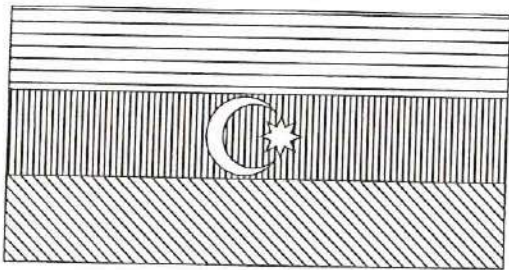
We are all familiar with the title of John Reed's famous account of the halcyon days of 1917 when the Bolshevik Revolution took place in Petrograd: the most seminal event of the twentieth century. Seventy-four years later the process started then went into reverse. We now see that *perestroika* and *glasnost* were the forerunners of this process, and that the attempted coup of 19 August 1991 was the trigger which set off the final phase.

Almost the first reaction of those in power in the republics, most notably Boris Yeltsin of Russia, was to try to disentangle themselves from the Kremlin in case such a thing happened again. This is of course parallel with the events of 1917, when news of the Bolshevik seizure of power led to a strengthening of the declarations of sovereignty that had already been made in various places when it was known that the Tsar had been removed. These new declarations of independence are taking place in the same localities as before: Ukraine, the Baltic States, Transcaucasia, Turkestan. As in 1917 the Baltic states gave a lead, and as in 1917 their progress has been messy, due to the presence of dissident factions and occupying troops. Fortunately though the bloodshed has been much less than in the period 1917-20 and by the end of August all three states were legally independent and recognised by the European Community. Their flags now fly outside the UN headquarters. In Georgia, independence has already been declared, and the republic was moving into the troubles of post-independence. It has not however been recognised by any other state except Romania and its ethnic partner Moldova, which in turn declared itself

independent on 27 August. Other republics to do so were **Ukraine** (24 August), and **Byelorussia** (25 August) **Azerbaijan** (30 August), and **Kirghizstan** and **Uzbekstan** (1 September). **Armenia** made its declaration after a referendum on 23 September. A referendum is also to be held in Ukraine in December.

The declarations were made in ringing tones in public, as in Kiev where the Parliament voted that '...As of 24 August 1991 Ukraine is an independent democratic state. Only the constitution of the Ukraine and its government's resolutions are valid on Ukrainian territory.'¹ In Cishinau (formerly Kishinev, the capital of Moldova), the proclamation read: 'In the name of the whole population of the republic of Moldova, and before the whole world, we proclaim that the republic of Moldova is a sovereign and independent state, free to decide upon its present and future without any foreign interference.'²

Russia has not made any formal declaration of independence, and is one of only three republics not to have made any such declaration. During this autumn talks have taken place at Alma Ata with a view to signing articles of association between the 12 republics, but the only result so far has been the economic accord signed by eight republics on 16 October 1991.



Azerbaijan: new national flag

The harmony of the process is marred by ethnic unrest. In Georgia the **South Ossetins** are anxious not to form part of an independent Georgia, and violence is continuing. In Moldova two counter-declarations took place in **Transnistria** and the **Gagauz** area. Inside Russia **Tatarstan** made its declaration on 30 August 1991. The previous year, on 11 October 1990, Bashkiria had made a declaration of sovereignty, announcing that henceforth it was to be known as **Bashkortostan**.

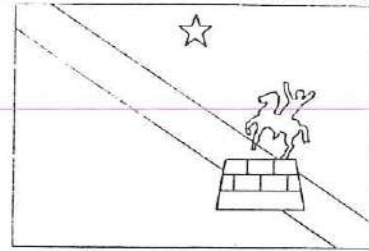


Moldova: new flag with arms

The declarations of independence were accompanied in many cases by the adoption of flags and emblems, if they had not already been brought into use. As reported in our last issue **Armenia** adopted its old tricolour on 24 August 1990, and **Azerbaijan** had adopted a revised form of its pre-Soviet flag on 5 February 1991. **Georgia** had already adopted its flag on 14 November 1990 and its new arms on 11 December 1990. **Moldova** had adopted its

flag, which now has the coat of arms in the centre, on 6 November 1990. The arms are necessary to distinguish the flag from that of Romania and of Chad. It will be seen that the arms are very similar, except for the shield, to those of pre-War Romania.

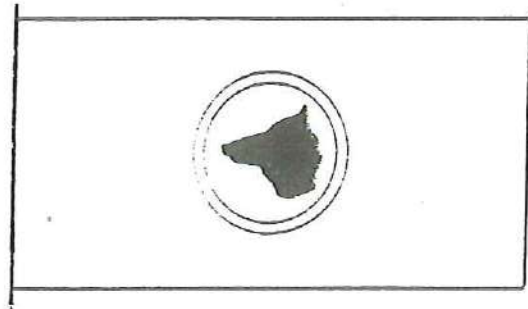
The flag of the **Transdnestr Republic** is reported to



Transdnestr Republic

be red with a blue diagonal strip from upper hoist to lower fly. On this, in the lower fly is the outline of a statue of Marshal Suvorov, in white. In the red field near the top edge is a white star.³ The image of the statue is taken from one situated in Tiraspol, the chief town. According to another report, however the pre-Soviet flag of Moldavia is the one used by the secessionists when they declared their independence at the beginning of September 1991.⁴

The flag of the **Gagauz** has been widely reported. These are a Christianised Turkish people living in the south of Bessarabia. The flag, which dates from 19 August 1990, is light blue with a yellow, white-bordered disc in the centre, on which appears the stylised outline of a wolf's head. It will be recalled that the wolf is a traditional Turkish emblem which it was at one time

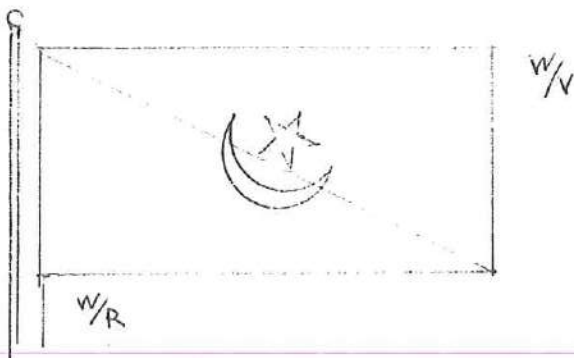


Flag of the Gagauz

proposed to include in the arms of the Turkish Republic.⁵

The flag of **Ukraine** was formally re-adopted on 4 September, but we do not know as yet whether it is in use at the United Nations. On the day the flag was legalised a flag-raising ceremony took place in front of the Parliament building in Kiev. It seems as if old traditions died hard: the Soviet-style flag was pulled down, and the blue-yellow flag was raised. But just as the crowd were starting to cheer they noticed that the Soviet flag was still there: it had been fastened to the hoist rope just behind the national flag! Cheers turned to boos--it was no good pretending that the flags were co-equal. They were not. One was in and the other was out. The offensive display was hauled down again and the unwanted flag removed for once and for all. Then the 'pure' blue and yellow flag was hoisted officially once more, after 72 years of Soviet rule and, of course, the traumas of the Second World War.

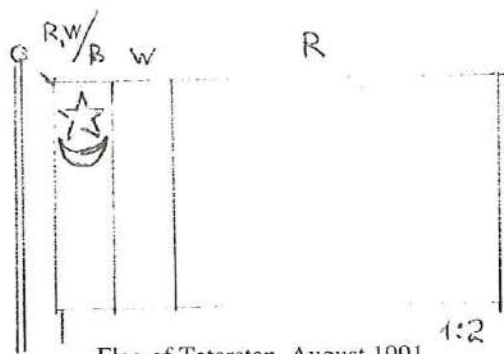
In **Russia** the ancient tricolour was officially restored on 22 August, and Boris Yeltsin was seen waving one on the balcony of the Parliament building. Inside a huge version of the flag covered up the bas-relief version of the Soviet-style flag that adorned the rear wall of the chamber, although no attempt was made to remove the arms from the speaker's podium. The imperial arms have



Flag of Tatarstan, May-August 1991

been displayed outside the Parliament building, but we have no information about what emblem, if any, is now the official state device. Within Russia the flag of **Tatarstan** is reported to be red, with vertical blue and white stripes in the hoist, and at the top of the blue stripe a white crescent and star. This dates from 16-18 August 1991. From about May until August the flag was divided diagonally green and white with a white crescent and star over all.³ The flag of **Bashkortostan** is reported to be a horizontal tricolour of blue, green, white. The flag of the South Ossetins is also a horizontal tricolour, of white, red and blue.

On 19 September 1991 the white, red and white flag of **Byelorussia** was restored as the legal flag of the republic, together with arms of the white knight on red, known as



Flag of Tatarstan, August 1991

the 'Pursuit'. It is not known if this flag, or that of the Ukraine, have been hoisted at the United Nations.⁶

It has also been reported that **Yakutia** has made a declaration of independence, but there is no confirmation of this. Yakutia was briefly independent during the Civil War period. A

question mark also hangs over the Kaliningrad enclave. This area, based on the former German city of Königsberg, was an *oblast*, or province of the RSFSR. With the independence of Lithuania it is now entirely separated from the RSFSR and indeed from the Soviet Union. Prior to the Second World

War Königsberg was the capital of the German province of East Prussia, which was divided at Potsdam between the USSR and Poland, which occupies the southern half. The capital was renamed in 1946 after Mikhail Kalinin, at



Arms of Byelorussia

that time President of the USSR. If Transdniestria succeeds in separating from Moldova it will also be geographically isolated from Russia.

There is no flag news from the five central Asian republics. Alexander Basov reports that there are some new city flags: Riga, Dougavpils and Lvov.



What should be the new arms of Russia?

Mr J F G George, the Kintyre Pursuivant of Arms, wrote in the *Daily Telegraph* on 24 August 1991 that Russia should now adopt a blue flag bearing a gold patriarchal cross in the canton which '.. would be more appropriate for Holy Russia. How much more dignified such a flag would look than the one currently flying at the Kremlin's masthead, with its associations of torture, slave camps and executions: in short the works of hell.' Mr George is well-known for his fervent Christianity, as readers of the *Puffin Book of Flags* will recall, and in this instance overlooks the fact that whilst the Orthodox Church has many adherents in the Russia, the country is far from homogeneously united behind it, and as well as atheists there are many

Moslems, as in the case of Tatarstan. After the Tsar

was forced to abdicate

on 25 March 1917,

the Russian state

adopted the imperial

double-eagle shorn

of its monarchic

attributes: crowns,

sceptres, and inner

shields. This appeared on

coins and bank-notes of the

period. The double-eagle must be associated with the idea of

empire, however, since it was deliberately adopted to

express the idea of Moscow as 'the Third Rome'. The

resurrection of this device today might reinforce the fears of

those who see tendencies to imperialism in Boris Yeltsin.

If we therefore have to abandon both the patriarchal cross and the double-eagle, what is left? This is a puzzle which we put before our readers.



NOTES

1. *Independent*, 25 August 1991
2. *Guardian*, 28 August 1991
3. *Vexilologie*, No. 80
4. *Guardian*, 5 September 1991
5. Eg the winning design in a competition held in 1927. A version of this was shown in C W Scott-Giles: *The Romance of Heraldry* 1929. The white wolf, it seems, was a totem animal of the Turks when they were a nomadic folk in central Asia.
6. We are grateful to Alexander Basov for all this information.

NEW COLOUR PLATE

A colour plate depicting the flags of the new breakaway republics is available from the Institute. It includes all the flags mentioned in this article, and costs £2.50 post free (but add 25% for air mail outside Europe). Write to the Director with your order.

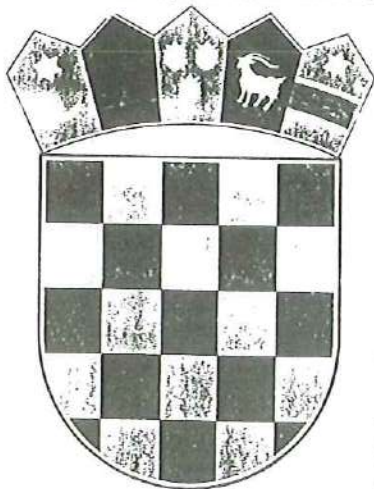
CROATIA AND SLOVENIA

New Flags and Arms

Croatia

Croatia declared its independence of Yugoslavia on 25 June 1991 but in response to overtures from the European Community agreed to delay its implementation for three months. This moratorium expired on 8 October 1991, when the declaration was made final. A new currency and passport were issued, which were recognised by three of Croatia's neighbours.

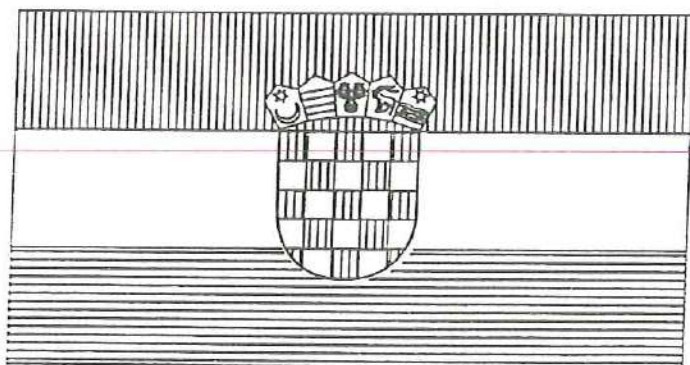
The arms and flag were adopted on 22 December 1990, on the lines described in our last number. The shield is the traditional one, except that the checks now start with a red square. Above the main shield is an arc of



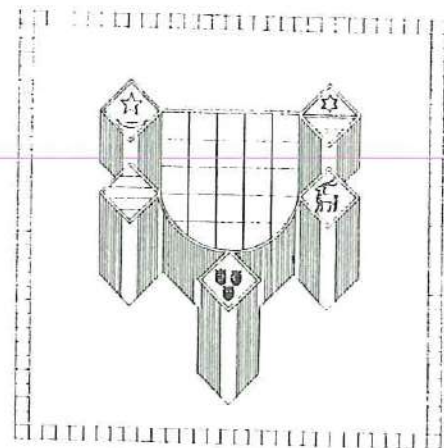
Arms of Croatia

five smaller shields, rather like the ones used for the Communist arms of Czechoslovakia. These represent, from dexter to sinister: Croatia Ancient, or Illyria (light blue with a white crescent and yellow star); Dubrovnik (blue with two red bars); Dalmatia (light blue with a three crowned lion's faces; Istria (blue with a yellow goat with red horns and hooves); and Slavonia (light blue with a red, white-edged, bar containing a running marten in brown or black, and above this a gold star. It seems as if three of the shields have been given light blue fields in order to add some distinction. Traditionally the shields of Dalmatia and Istria are ordinary blue. In another departure from heraldry the red, white-edged, bar in the arms of Slavonia has been straightened from its original wavy form. We still have no explanation of the blue shield with red bars said to represent Dubrovnik.

There is also a report of a Presidential flag for Croatia, which bears the design referred to in our last number, and which at one time hung behind the President's chair in the Parliament. The flag is blue with a border of red and white checks (red in the corners) and the five subsidiary arms in the form of lozenges with red and white vertical



Flag of Croatia



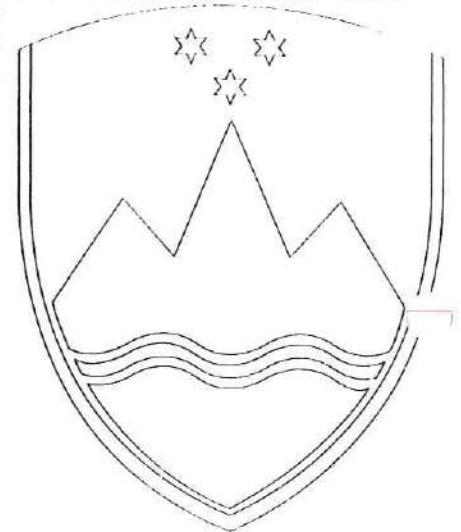
President of Croatia

lines hanging from them.

Slovenia

The new form of the national flag was adopted on the day of the declaration of independence, 25 June 1991, by Constitutional Amendment C (100). As in the case of Croatia, the actual implementation was delayed until 8 October 1991, and Slovenia's passports have been recognised by Italy, Austria and Hungary

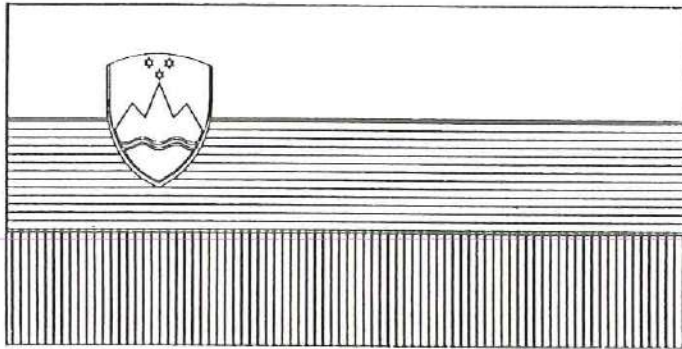
The black panther mentioned in our last number has not survived the design process, and the emblem on the flag is indeed the outline of Mount Triglav, based on two wavy bars representing the sea-coast and the rivers. Above the peaks are three gold stars, said to stand for the city and Duchy of Celje, on a blue ground. According to Iztok Sorli the stars can also stand for three important dates in Slovene history: 1918, 1945 and 1991. The whole emblem



Arms of Slovenia

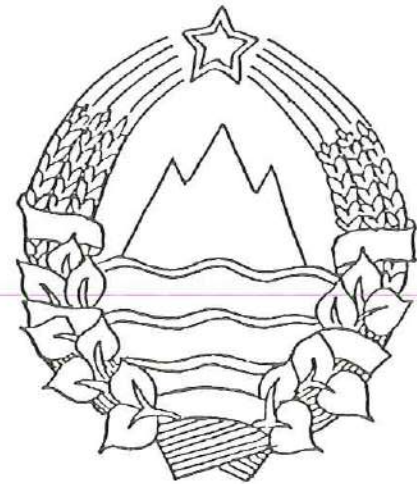
symbolises 'the land between the mountains and the sea.' The blue field also extends around the lower part of the shield. On the flag the shield is placed near the hoist, with a red fimbriation around the sides.

The new arms clearly owe a lot to those of the previous regime: it is almost as if the image of Mount Triglav founded on wavy lines had been copied wholesale. Triglav means 'Three Peaks', and is the highest peak of the Julian Alps (2 864m). Celje is Slovenia's third city, lying about 75km east of Ljubljana. As in the case of Croatia, the 1:2 proportions have been retained.



Flag of Slovenia

Acknowledgements: Jos Poels, Iztok Sorli, John McMeekin, Paul Wason, Creighton S Kern, A Wocial, *Crux Australis* No. 31, *Flaggenforum*, No. 4



Arms of Slovenia--1946-1991

UPDATE ON THE GERMAN LÄNDER

Data from the official documents

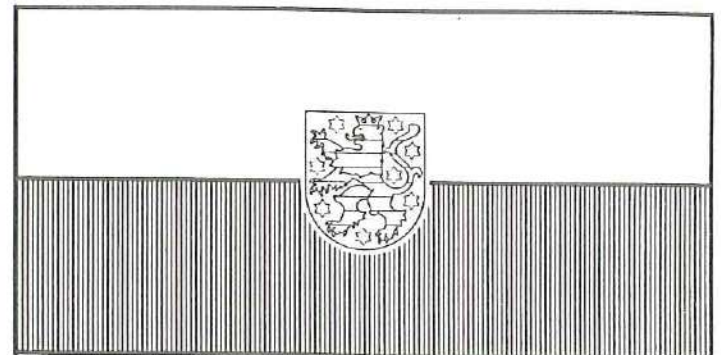
Brandenburg

Land Brandenburg published its law on the arms and flags in the *Gesetz und Verordnungsblatt* No. 22 of 20 August 1991. The laws are dated 30 May 1991.

The arms were designated in a law of 30 January 1991 (GVB No. 4 of 10 April 1991) and as shown in our previous number are the plain eagle of Brandenburg in red on a white field, with gold beak, claws and *Kleestengel*. The law allows for a *Dienstflagge* for use by the President of the *Landtag* and members of the government, and consists of the flag of red over white with the shield over all in the centre. The flag can also exist as a *Wimpel* and a *Banner* (pennant and hanging flag).

Arms and flags for the administrative districts are also permitted and must be registered with the Ministry of the Interior

the many others of red and white. The section quoted actually reads *mindestens* ('at least', ie the proportions must be at least 1:2)), but what does this mean?



Landesdienstflagge

Muster 4



Ilängeflagge

Banner of Brandenburg

Thuringia: *Landesdienstflagge*

Thuringia

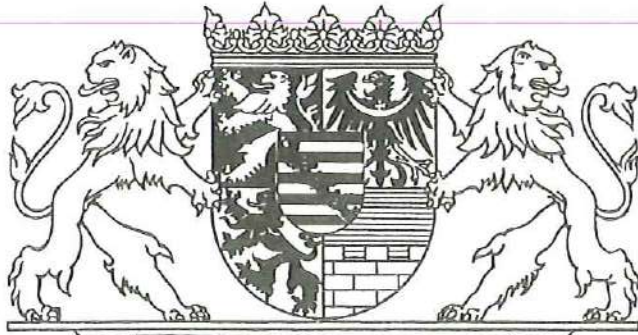
Legislation dated 11 April 1991 lays down the form of the arms and flags of Thuringia. The arms are as illustrated in our last number and appear in the centre of a flag of white over red (in 1:2) to form the *Landesdienstflagge*. The proportions of 1:2 are specified by §3 (1) of the *Verordnung*, and although no reason is given for this unusual departure from German vexillological norms, it may be in order to distinguish the flag from

Saxony

A draft constitution for Saxony was published on 7 June 1991 in which Article 2 deals with the capital, colours and arms, and the flags of the Sorbs and of Silesia.¹ The proposals are: Dresden as capital; colours of white and green; arms of black and gold with a green *Rautenkranz*, and that the arms and flags of the Sorbs and of Lower Silesia shall be permitted. The arms and flag of the Sorbs are to be as already established,² and of Lower Silesia of white over yellow, with or without the traditional shield of yellow with a black eagle (armed red, with a white crescent and cross shape on its breast). There has been some controversy over the form of the 'Greater Arms' proposed for Saxony by the CDU government, the idea being to have a quartered shield depicting the arms of Meissen, the Vogtland, Upper Lusatia and Lower Silesia, with the shield of Saxony as an inescutcheon, the whole crested with a coronet and supported by two lions. This was based on an idea mooted by Volker Schimpff, a CDU

member of the *Landtag*, earlier in the year, with a view to strengthening the sense of identity of the citizens, as he put it.⁴

The opposition, however, feels that the simple arms of Saxony is enough, and that displaying the arms of Silesia might give the wrong impression.⁵ The proposal has been carried in a Parliamentary committee, and it remains to be seen if it will enter into the Constitution.



Proposed Greater Arms of Saxony (V Schimpff)

Mecklenburg-Pomerania

Material on the arms and flags was published in the *Gesetz- und Verordnungsblatt für Mecklenburg Vorpommern* on 7 February 1991 relaying the terms of Law on the State Symbols of 29 January 1991, providing for two types of arms and three flags. The lesser arms are as previously illustrated, although the red griffin has a somewhat less ornate form than previously, and the bull's head is somewhat less distorted. The greater arms are quarterly: Mecklenburg-Schwerin (bull's head), Pomerania (red griffin), Brandenburg (red eagle of Brandenburg, but with silver beak and claws), and Mecklenburg-Strelitz (another bull's head). Both shields have black edges. The eagle of Brandenburg is included to represent those parts of the *Land* which once formed part of Brandenburg, notably the Uckermark (capital Prentzlau).⁵

Saxony-Anhalt

Note that in the official drawing of the arms, the black



Mecklenburg-Pomerania: Greater Arms

and yellow stripes on the part representing Saxony start with a yellow stripe. There are ten stripes. In the arms of Saxony proper they start with a black stripe at the top.

NOTES

1. Published in the *Freie Presse*, 7 June 1991
2. See "Symbols of the Sorbs" in *The Flag Bulletin*, VII.4
3. *Freie Presse* 21/22 September 1991. We are grateful to Erwin Günther for this information.
4. As featured in the magazine *Horizont*, Nor. 24 of 1991. We are grateful to Ulrich Zeiler for this information.
5. The new state of Saxony contains some territory formerly ceded to Prussia, including parts of Upper Lusatia. Other parts of Lusatia and almost the whole of Silesia are now in Poland. The eastern boundary of Germany was fixed at the Oder-Neisse line by the Allies, and the River Neisse flows through the eastern part of Lusatia. Görlitz, the unofficial capital of the Silesians 'in exile' lies on its western bank. Silesia as such was always a Prussian, never a Saxon province. Lower Lusatia was ceded to Prussia in 1815 and is now part of Brandenburg.
6. We are grateful to our members Terrac Verlag for this information.

NB: a new edition of the brochure *Deutsche Wappen und Flaggen* from the *Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung* in Bonn contains illustrations of the arms and flags of the new

NEW STATES AND NEW FLAGS: YOUR CHECK LIST

Use this list to keep track of when independence is declared and new flags adopted
(We have filled in events so far)

State	Independence	New Flag	State	Independence	New Flag
Armenia	23 Sept. 1991	24 August 1990	Tadzhikistan		
Azerbaijan	30 August 1990	5 February 1991	Turkmenistan	27 October 1991	
Byelorussia	25 August 1991	19 Sept. 1991	Ukraine	24 August 1991	4 Sept. 1991
Georgia	9 April 1991	14 Nov. 1990	Uzbekistan	1 Sept. 1991	
Abkhazia			Russia		22 Aug. 1991
South Ossetia			Bashkortostan		
Kazakhstan			Chechen-Ingushia		
			Tatarstan	30 August 1990	
Kirghizstan	1 Sept. 1991		Bosnia-Herzegovina	15 Oct. 1991	
Moldova	27 August 1991	6 Nov. 1990	Croatia	25 June 1991	22 Dec. 1990
Gagauz			Slovenia	25 June 1991	25 June 1991
Transdnestria			Macedonia		

HOUSE FLAGS OF THE CENTRAL ELECTRICITY GENERATING BOARD AND ITS SUCCESSOR ORGANISATIONS

by
T.J. Fallows

The Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) was established by the Electricity Act of 1957 as part of the UK publicly-owned electricity supply industry. Since 1 January 1958 it had been responsible for developing and maintaining the system of electricity supply in England and Wales.

In the Electricity Act of 1989 privatisation ended the monopoly in generation by creating four 'successor companies' out of the CEGB. The new companies were quick to realise the potential of house flags and they featured heavily when their respective 'corporate images' were announced. Perhaps the reason was that the CEGB house flag had flown for over thirty years previous to this, both on land and at sea, which in turn had influenced the design consultants.

The CEGB livery colours were derived from the crest wreath, part of the arms which were granted in 1958. The elements of these were:



The shield: *paly gules and or two bars dancetty the upper per pale sable and argent the lower per pale argent and sable.* The two bars *dancetty* were an allusion to coal and water power as sources of electrical energy, while the background was divided into stripes and red and gold, as these colours were appropriate to heat.

The crest: *On a wreath or, gules and sable a male griffin segreant armed langued and rayed or, behind the head a sun in splendour or.* The male griffin is always depicted as bursting with rays, suggesting energy; the sun was represented behind the griffin's head, shining and surrounded by rays, as a further emblem of heat, light, energy and power.

The supporters: *On the dexter side a lion guardant or winged gules, on the sinister side a dragon gules winged or.* The winged lion and the red dragon alluded to England and Wales respectively, the countries over which responsibility extended.

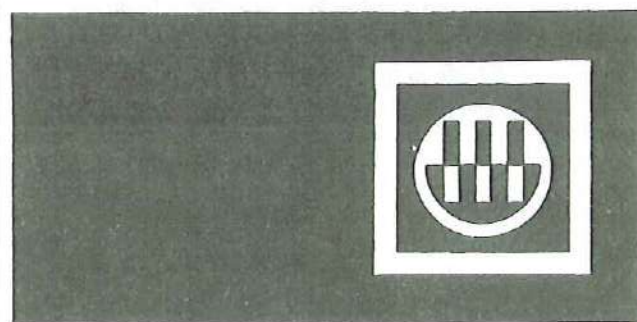
The house flag consisted of three vertical stripes of red, black and gold and on the central stripe a red male griffin with the sun in splendour behind its head. The flag for use on land was almost square and on this the griffin was laid over all, whereas on the sea flag the griffin was contained within the black stripe.



CEGB: 1 January 1958-31 March 1990
House flag for use at sea

When the government partitioned the CEGB the appointed image makers packaged the identities in such a way as to 'create awareness' of the new company names, which, surveys showed, were lamentably far from being household names. This situation had, for the most part, been reversed by the time the shares were offered to the public on 6 March 1991. The following paragraphs describe the symbolism of the designs finally chosen.

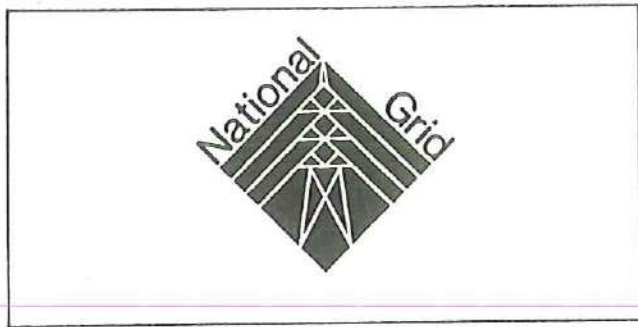
The **Nuclear Electric** house flag represents the double containment surrounding a reactor core, which is intended to demonstrate the strong emphasis being placed on safety and robustness. Design consultants Lloyd Northover chose cool 'muted' colours with a solid, strong field to convey an impression of reliability and safety.



Nuclear Electric house flag

The house flag consists of a dark blue field with a white square in the fly. On the square are three fuel elements within a disc counterchanged horizontally dark blue and white and placed on a pale blue circle, which in turn is set on a dark blue square.

The **National Grid** house flag features a square set on one corner, signifying the grid itself, represented by a stylised form of pylon. Design consultants Pentagram Design chose two colours: a bright positive green signifying both the environment and the 'vibrancy' of the undertaking, and an unobtrusive blue used to counterpoint



National Grid Company house flag
the green and to represent confidence.

The house flag is white with the diamond shape and name in blue and the pylon in light green.

The PowerGen house flag has a single central line drawing of a human figure, *Ergon*, representing man harnessing energy as symbolised by a yellow energy burst. The name 'Ergon' is derived from the Greek *erg*, meaning work, a word also used as a measurement of energy.

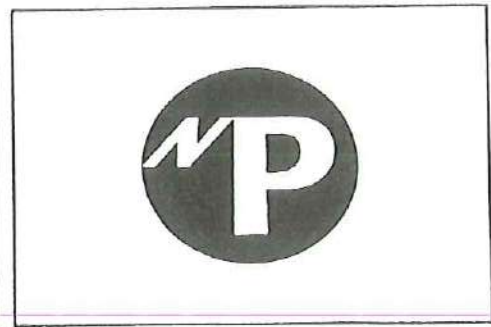
The consultants, Michael Peters, chose green and yellow as the corporate colours: green for its 'confident' qualities and as reflecting a caring attitude towards the environment and as an additional visual reference to the PowerGen product.

The house flag consists of slate green field with a line drawing of Ergon depicting the head, shoulders and arms in white. The hands are grasping an energy burst with yellow rays directed towards the face; the name of the company appears in the lower half, also in white.



PowerGen house flag

The **National Power** house flag features an oval with the initials of the company, the N being drawn as a flash to suggest electricity. The overall design is intended to be a 'bold mark' demonstrating National Power as a serious national company. The design consultant, Wolf Olins, decided to use the colours red, white and blue to reflect the national colours. However, the final design was chosen not for any symbolic qualities but rather because the oval possesses a better 'recall response' than other



National Power house flag
shapes and designs!

The house flag consists of a white field with a dark blue oval in the centre. Upon the oval is a white flash drawn in the form of a small capital N, together with a larger capital P in red.

Clearly, the lowering of the CEGB colours and the hoisting of the four new house flags marks the end of an era; of design consultants moving closer into the field of vexillology; and of a shift from 'traditional' to 'graphic' flag design, at least where corporate identities are concerned.

It is interesting to note that the four house flags appear to be more suited to the confines of stationery rather than to be being unfurled in the breeze. Three of them incorporate lettering and the fourth, although possessing no letters, has the symbol in the fly. Furthermore three of the flags have colours touching each other, all of which suggest that the full design implications were not considered before adoption. One issue where all the design consultants were in agreement was in recognising the corporate symbol as the single most important tool for generating awareness; the house flag becoming the visual shorthand representing the standards and values of a company. It is therefore with little surprise that the 'in vogue' qualities of the PowerGen design have achieved a greater impact than the designs of the other three successor companies. But perhaps this is because the PowerGen design lacks a single geometric device!

Tony Fallows, the author of this article, has kindly arranged for a copy of the House Flag of the CEGB to be donated to the Flag Institute. This is the old version for use on land, and may be inspected at Chester. Other outfits in possession of obsolete flags are requested to follow this generous example!



New United Nations Members

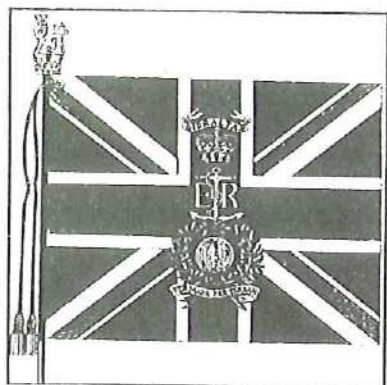
Following the Soviet coup international recognition was extended to **Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania**, and their applications for membership of the United Nations were expedited. We are dating their independence from 27 August 1991, the day they were recognised by the European Community. Other applications for membership lie before the General Assembly this session, from the Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea (**North and South Korea**), the Commonwealth of the **Marshall Islands**, and the Federation of **Micronesia**. The independence of the last two is recognised as being effective from 21 October and 3 November 1986, when they signed Compacts of Association with the USA. Flag Specification Sheets are available for all these states.

FLAGS OF THE ROYAL MARINES

By Commander Malcolm Farrow

As an integral part of the Royal Navy the Royal Marines frequently serve under the White Ensign. However, the particular and historic identity of the Corps, as well as its special functions, are reflected in a whole range of flags used exclusively by the Marines. A number of these flags have recently been changed and so this an appropriate time to review them all.

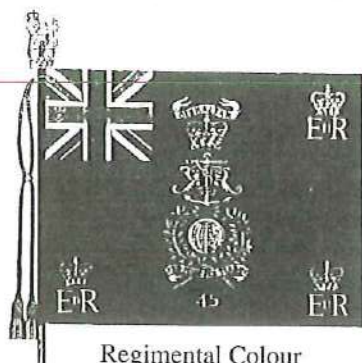
Colours. The most important flags of any military unit are its Colours. Each Commando of the Royal Marines has a stand of two Colours: the Queen's and the Regimental. These are carried on ceremonial parades. The Queen's Colour alone is carried by a guard of honour for a member of the Royal Family or for a foreign Head of State, whilst the Regimental Colour is paraded for other distinguished persons.



The Queen's Colour

Queen's Colour of the Royal Marines

The Queen's Colour bears the battle honour *Gibraltar* above the crown and the reigning sovereign's cypher entwined with a fowl anchor. Below this is the globe and laurel wreath with the Corps motto *Per Mare Per Terram* ('By Sea and By Land'). The basic flag is a Union Flag of the type used for military Colours.¹ The cords and tassels are of gold interwoven with silks of the Commando's colours as used in the lanyard worn with formal dress.

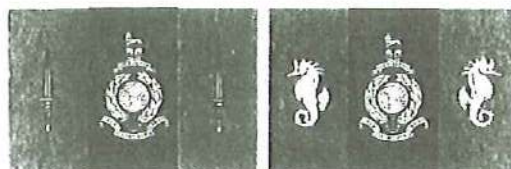


Regimental Colour

The Regimental Colour's centre embellishments are similar to those on the Queen's Colour, except that the cypher is that of George IV and has unit numeral below the motto. These embellishments are placed on a blue flag with the Union Flag at the pike head and the modern royal cypher in the other corners. The cords are similar to those on a Queen's Colour.

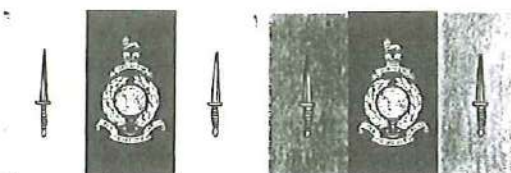
Flags. It has long been the practice of Royal Marines units and establishments to adopt a flag of their own in addition to and quite separate from the Colours, which in any case are only held by the three Commandos. This follows the general pattern of the Army, with which the Corps maintains a close connection. These 'unit' flags, although official, are not formally granted by the Sovereign nor do they require Ministry of Defence approval. In the past they were authorised by individual commanding officers. It must be said, however, that RM unit flags developed in a somewhat *ad hoc* manner, often at the whim of these commanding officers and sometimes without regard to historical accuracy or the principles of good flag design. Despite some general similarity they followed no particular pattern; they were changed without warning and no central register was held describing them.

Because of this the Commandant-General recently decided that they should be rationalised, and the new designs have now been ratified and published.



Headquarters 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines

Commando Logistic Regiment Royal Marines



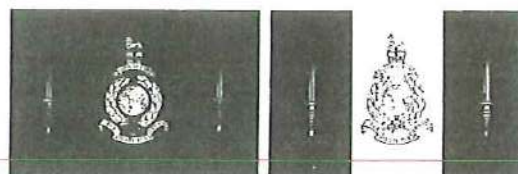
40 Commando Royal Marines

Commando Training Centre Royal Marines



42 Commando Royal Marines

Royal Marines Poole



45 Commando Royal Marines

Comacchio Group Royal Marines

Colours: 3 Commando: green, royal blue, green; Logistic Regiment, ditto; 40 Commando: pale blue, royal blue, pale blue; Training Centre: green, red, green; 42 Commando: yellow with red, white bordered cross; Poole: royal blue, red, royal blue; 45 Commando: red, royal blue, red; Comacchio Group: red, yellow red. All devices in yellow.

Design Principles. The principles underlying the 8 new flags are:

a) central stripe: the Corps insignia on a central 'pale'. The colours of the pale is dark blue for an operational unit or 'Royal Regiment', also reflecting the naval connection, whilst for a training unit the colour is red.

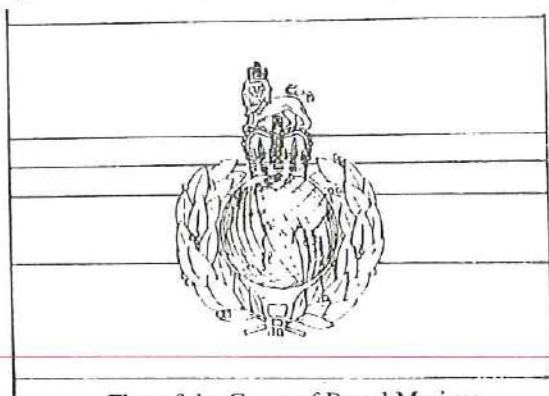
b) outer stripes: the colour of the outer pales reflects the unit colour. In the case of Commando Brigade HQ and the three Commandos this also the colour of the uniform lanyard worn round the shoulder. In other cases it is a suitable colour to denote the unit's function (blue for amphibious and sea service, green for Commando training and support).

c) Commachio Group: this operational unit based at Arbroath uses the colours of the lanyard of 43 Commando, now disbanded, which were red and old gold.

d) Devices: Operational units and the Commando training establishment bear a fighting knife on the outer pales. The RM establishment at Poole has dolphins for the maritime connection, and the sea horses of the Logistics Regiment allude to its support role.

e) 42 Commando: this is the notable exception! The flag of 42 Commando is based on the Lieutenant-Colonel's Colour of the Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment of Foot of 1664 (also called the 'Admiral's Regiment' because the Duke, the brother of King Charles II, was also Lord High Admiral, an honour now held by the Sovereign in person). In the Army of that time the Lieutenant Colonel's flag was distinguished by a cross, whilst the Colonel's was a plain colour.² Yellow was the colour of the uniforms. The modern flag was adopted by the 1st RM Battalion in the Second World War, from which unit 42 Commando was formed in 1943, but over the years the design was altered by the addition of a fighting knife and the number 42, defacements which have now been removed.³

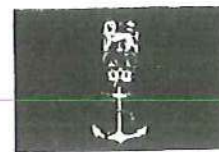
The Corps Flag. This horizontally striped flag stands for the whole Corps and is used on occasions when the Royal Marines as a whole are represented (eg at the RM Museum at Portsmouth) It reflects the traditional design of the stable belt worn by all Marines with their everyday uniforms. The colours are those of the Corps, which are navy blue, yellow, green, red, navy blue arranged 4:1:1: 2:4. The blue sections symbolise the navy



Flag of the Corps of Royal Marines

connection, the yellow that of the 1664 coats, the green the Light Infantry and the red the old infantry tunic worn prior to 1876. The colours are also used in some vehicle markings and as identification signs on other occasions. The Corps tie, for example (worn with civilian dress), is in diagonal stripes of these colours.

Senior Officers' Flags. Like the Royal Navy, senior officers of the Royal Marines have distinguishing flags appropriate to their rank or appointment. These have been illustrated in BR20 (1955 and 1990). But beware! Both of those editions contain errors which might be corrected at the next change. See if you can spot them.



Commandant-General



General or Lieutenant-General



Major-General



Brigadier

Colours are navy blue with devices in white, except for Command-General's, which are in full colour.

Finally, a word on the regimental badge and the famous Green Beret might be appropriate.

Badge. The regimental badge has the lion and crown, one of the earliest badges worn by the Corps, above a globe surrounded by a laurel wreath. The globe was granted to the Corps by George IV in 1827 in place of the usual battle honours. The tradition is that the laurel wreath was granted for the marines' part in the capture of Belle Isle (1761).



Cap Badge: since the amalgamation of the Royal Marines Light Infantry and the Royal Marine Artillery in 1923 the badge for officers and warrant officers has been in two parts. The gilt lion and crown (irreverently referred to as the 'dog and basket') is separate from the lower part of the badge, which for officers and warrant officers first class is gilt for the laurel and silver for the globe, and for warrant officers second class gilt for the globe and silver for the laurel. For other ranks the lion and crown are placed directly on



the globe, and the badge is all gilt. Bronze badges are worn with combat dress.

The Green Beret: this was introduced late in 1942 when as many as 79 army regiments and Corps were represented in the Commandos' ranks. The beret has been worn since that day by British commandoes: it symbolises a spirit of self-discipline, with a determination to win, and is feared by its enemies for the fighting prowess of its wearers.



NOTES

1. This the form of Union Jack known as the Great Union, devised by the War Office in 1898 for military colours, in which the saltires are of equal width.
2. See: General Sir H E Blumberg KCB: "The Divisional Colours of the Royal Marines: The Duke of York and Albany's Maritime Regiment". The Colours were originally illustrated in Major Edye's *History of the Royal Marine Forces*, and referred to in Major T J Edwards: *Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Commonwealth Forces*, Gale and Polden, Aldershot, 1953. The Colonel's Colour was plain yellow, the Lieutenant-Colonels yellow with a red white edged cross throughout and the Major's or Company Colour white with a red white-edged cross with yellow flames emerging from its four angles.
3. By the time they reached the Falklands in 1982 42 Commando were using the Company Flag described in the previous note, as illustrated in the *Sunday Express Magazine*, 7 November 1982, showing it hoisted by M Company at Grytviken in South Georgia. The flag has the letter M in the centre of the cross.

SEIGNEUR OF SARK New Personal Banner

Earlier this year we heard from our members in Guernsey that the Seigneur of Sark had issued a leaflet entitled "Brief Notes on the Seigneurie" which referred to the ancient flag of the island. In the "Notes" the item on the Flag stated:

This is the personal standard of the Seigneur. It is formed of the two Normandy leopards in gold on a red background in the top staff quarter of the cross of St George. The Standard is flown from the Seigneurie when the Seigneur is in residence. It should not be confused with the Sark flag which is red with two Normandy leopards in the centre.

We also had letters from Sark residents who had seen the leaflet, asking us to do something about it, as the general opinion was that the traditional flag was for the island and the islanders, not for the Seigneur.

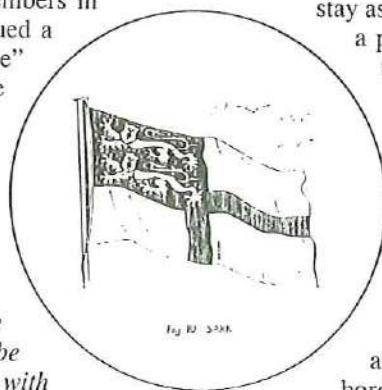
Our opinion was that this was correct, and we wrote to Mr Michael Beaumont, pointing out that if there was indeed a flag for the Seigneur it would be a banner of the arms, which are the same as those of Normandy, and that by long tradition, sanctioned by his grandmother, the redoubtable Dame Sybil Hathaway, the St George + lions flag was that of the island. This had been confirmed to the the Flag Institute by a letter from Dame Sybil dated 27 July 1970.

Mr Beaumont was kind enough to accede to this point, and considered suggestions from the Institute that he should have a personal banner, and that at the same time the opportunity might be taken to improve the design of the island flag by placing the panel with the lions in the centre of the cross. After consulting local opinion, however, he told us that he thought the island flag should

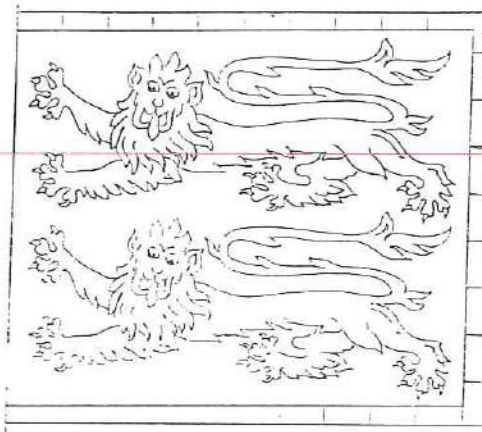
stay as it was, but he agreed with the idea of having a personal banner which would be flown from the Seigneurie when he was in residence, and from any boat he might be embarked in. That is how things stand, and those who have written to us from the Channel Islands agree, as they too want to keep the traditional flag.

Below we illustrate the new Personal Banner, which is the banner of the arms of Normandy with a decorative border of red and yellow (starting with red). Without the border this flag is also used as the provincial flag of Normandy and is often used as a courtesy flag by yachtsmen visiting the coasts of the ancient Duchy. There is no longer a Duke of Normandy, although the title is sometimes ascribed to the Queen it

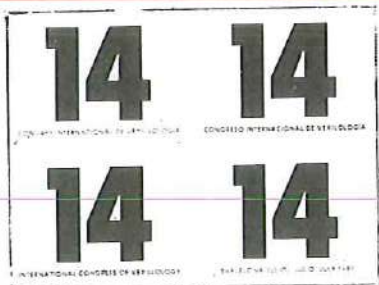
must be accepted to have lapsed with the Treaty of Amiens, by which the British monarch abandoned any claim to the throne of France or any of its appurtenances.



Traditional flag of Sark
(This illustration first appeared in *Flagmaster* No. 1, Spring 1971)



THE FLAG INSTITUTE



XIV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY

ICV-XIV took place in Barcelona, capital of Catalonia, from 30 June to 5 July 1991. There was a good attendance from all parts of the world, with a high proportion of the vexillological societies of the world being represented, if only by proxy. Barcelona is to be host next year to the Olympic Games, and much of the city and its public buildings was being torn up and renovated for the benefit of this slightly larger international gathering which will be following in our footsteps.

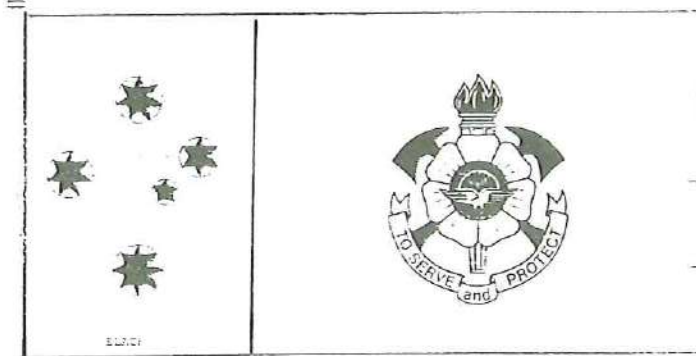
Our hosts were the *Associació Catalana de Vexil·lologia* as represented by those well-known flag-friends, Anna-Maria Galan and her husband Sebastià Herreros-Agüí, aided and abetted by Jordi Pérez Ibáñez, Adolfo Durán and many others. The flag of the Congress was based on that of Barcelona, which is quartered with the cross of St George and the red and yellow bars of Catalonia.

Here the quarters are white and yellow, with red 14s, the numeral of the Congress. Flags were omnipresent at the Congress, with a marvellous display on the platform and all around the hall. The flags of the member organisations and the countries they represented were well-displayed. Our meeting place, the Sant Jaume auditorium of the *Caixa de Catalunya* (the regional savings bank) was a mass of flags, and was very well-equipped for all kinds of audio-visual presentations. Nearby were the headquarters of both the city and the region, which displayed the flags of the City, of the Province, of the Region and of the Nation. Receptions were held in both these buildings, in one of which the Catholic monarchs are reputed to have met Christopher Columbus. He is supposed to have sailed from Barcelona, and on the quay is a lofty statue of him pointing the way to the Americas, or at any rate to the Balearic Is.

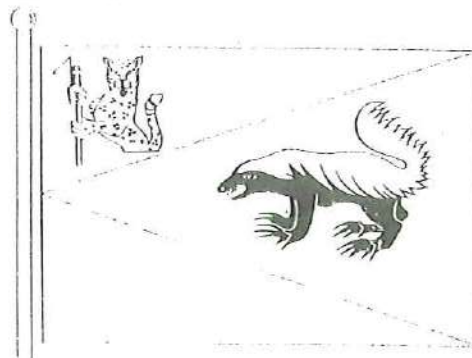
Outside the city the congressists were taken by coaches to Sant Sadurní d'Anoia where, after an excellent lunch they visited the champagne cellars of the Codorniu firm, to Montserrat where after another excellent lunch they were shown the monastery and its art gallery. In the city they saw the Olympic stadium and the Institute of Catalan Studies and the Textile Museum, the repository of the *Estandard de Sant Oí*. On the same occasion they were invited to visit the shop of the Doublet firm and the world's most interesting Badge Shop, which just happened to be near by.

The climax of the Congress was the gala dinner at the *Hotel Ramada Renaissance*. The dinner was first class, and was followed by a display of folk dancing and singing. During the closing session there were awards to Whitney Smith (made a Laureate of FIAV) and William Crampton (the award of the *Vexillon*). The business of the Congress included the election of a new Board of FIAV (Hugh Boudin, President, Émil Dreyer, Secretary, and

Ralph Bartlett, Congress Secretary). Two new societies were admitted: the *Société Française de Vexillologie* and the Southern African Vexillological Association. A new society in Argentina, the *Asociación Argentina de Vexillología* was also represented at the Congress, and has begun to publish a bulletin, entitled *Estandarte*. Jirí Tenora also announced that he would be publishing a bulletin, entitled *Flag.Doc*, from *Das Flaggen Kabinett Berlin*. It was decided that the next Congress would be in Zürich in 1993 under the auspices of the *Société Suisse de Vexillologie*.



As usual, there was a wide range of interesting lectures, which will be published separately in the Proceedings. Here we show two flags, one illustrated in the talk given by Ron Strachan: the flag of the Northern



Territory Fire Service, and the flag of the Intelligence Service of Bophuthatswana, one of several illustrations shown by Daniel de Waal of SAVA. The flag is blue with a yellow triangle, black and white *ratel* and a leopard with a gold axe.

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