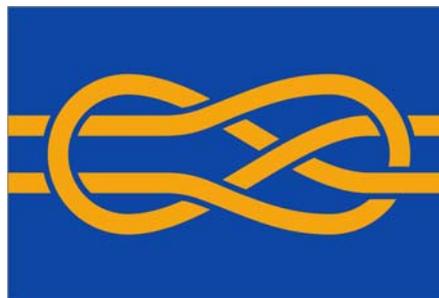

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Fédération internationale
des associations vexillologiques

Federación Internacional de Asociaciones Vexilológicas
International Federation of Vexillological Associations
Internationale Föderation Vexillologischer Gesellschaften

www.fiav.org

MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY AUGUST 6, 2013 ROTTERDAM, ZUID-HOLLAND, NETHERLANDS

Summary::

- GA 22 minutes approved
- VAST reported that FRC Collection has been permanently placed at The University of Texas at Austin
- Current Board reelected
- ICV 24 *Proceedings* concluded
- Board continued current Vexillological Conventions for Flag Descriptions Commission, consisting of Graham Bartram, chair; Željko Heimer; and Charles Spain
- FI selected to organize ICV 27 in 2017 in Greenwich, England, United Kingdom
- VAST selected to organize ICV 28 in 2019 in San Antonio, Texas United States
- Board explained that its recommendation on membership applications is ministerial, based on whether application demonstrates candidate meets FIAV Constitution article 7(a), (c) criteria
- BHVS, PFA, BS, and GSI admitted as Members
- AVS, FRCSL, HVK, HAVSOM, IVA, MZT, MBV, NFF, NEVA, NF, SRV, TWMF, and VSHS did not send a delegate (Constitution article 8(a): "A Member voluntarily resigns if it does not send a delegate to three consecutive sessions of the General Assembly. The resignation is effective at the adjournment of the third consecutive session.")
- Best Paper Award presented to Art Néss Proaño Gaibor-de Vries for "Hidden History behind the Colorants of Banners"
- Vexillon Award presented to Andreas Herzfeld for "Die Rimann'sche Sammlung deutscher Autoflaggen und Kfz-Stander"
- Fellows of the Federation presented to Andriy Grechylo, Hans H. Horsting, Anne M. Platoff, Alain Raullet, Joost C.A. Schokkenbroek, Ian Sumner, and Marcel van Westerhoven

1. Call to order by the President; official opening of the Twenty-Third Session The President, wielding the FIAV Gavel, called the meeting to order on August 6, 2013 at 3:10 p.m. in the Engels auditorium of the Groothandelsgebouw in Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands and officially opened the Twenty-Third Session of the General Assembly of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques.

2. Verification by the President of written credentials of delegates from FIAV Members The President verified the written credentials of the following FIAV Members and Applicants:

AAV	Gustav Tracchia
ACV	Sebastià Herreros i Agüí
BS (applicant)	Flavio Marchetto

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FIAV Board 10

BHVS (applicant)	Roumiana Popova
BDA	Charles Spain
CFA	Kevin Harrington
CEBED	Rudi Longueville
CISV	Roberto Breschi
CFZ	Roman Klimeš
CVS	Jaroslav Martykán
CBFA	Christopher Maddish
GSI (applicant)	Tom Conlon
DGF	Heiko Probst
FFN (applicant)	application withdrawn
FHF	Scot Guenter
FI	Geoffrey Parsons
FRC	Scot Guenter
FSA	Ralph Bartlett
FOTW	Rob Raeside
CIDEC	Gustav Tracchia
GWAV	David Breitenbach
HS	Aleksander Hribovšek
HGZD	Željko Heimer
IHW	Roman Klimeš
KVV	Alain Raullet
MHZ	Željko Heimer
NVvV	Marcel van Westerhoven
NZFA	Ralph Bartlett
JAVA	Edward Kaye
NAVA	Hugh Brady
PH	Henrik Söderman
PTW	Roman Klimeš
PFA (applicant)	Max Liberman
RCVH	Joost Schokkenbroek
SSV	Emil Dreyer
SEV	José Carlos Alegría Díaz
SVB	Roger Baert

SGHAPG	Michel Lupant
SFV	Hervé Calvarin
SAVA	Bruce Berry
SCHG	Eldar Shengelaia
SVN	Marcel van Westerhoven
SVPR	Joost Schokkenbroek
SVI	Petr Exner
UHT	Roman Klimeš
VAST	Hugh Brady
WVRI	Roman Klimeš

3. Roll call of delegates; recognition of a quorum by the Secretary-General; declaration by the President that the Twenty-Third Session of the General Assembly is constituted

The SG called the roll as follows:

Members present (42): AAV, ACV, BDA, CFA, CEBED, CISV, CFZ, CVS, CBFA, DGF, FHF, FI, FRC, FSA, FOTW, CIDEK, GWAV, HS, HGZD, IHW, KVV, MHZ, NVVV, NZFA, JAVA, NAVA, PH, PTW, RCVH, SSV, SEV, SVB, SGHAPG, SFV, SAVA, SCHG, SVN, SVPR, SVI, UHT, VAST, and WVRI.

Members absent (13): AVS, FRCSL, HVK, HAVSOM, IVA, MZT, MBV, NFF, NEVA, NF, SRV, TWMF, and VSHS.

Officers present (3): Michel R. Lupant, President; Charles A. Spain, Secretary-General (SG); and Graham M.P. Bartram, Secretary-General for Congresses (SGC).

The SG determined that 42 of the 55 Members were present, which satisfied the constitutional requirement that delegates of at least half of the Members be present. The SG recognized the presence of a quorum, and the President declared that the Twenty-Third Session of the General Assembly was properly constituted.

Because the representatives of 42 Members and three Officers were present for a total of 45 possible votes, the SG reminded the General Assembly that a simple majority vote would require 23 votes, a two-thirds majority vote would require 30 votes, and a three-fourths majority vote would require 34 votes, as long as the persons authorized to exercise the 55 possible votes remained present.

4. Appointment by the President of tellers to count votes The President appointed Aleš Brožek and Jan Oskar Engene as tellers to count votes.

5. Approval of the minutes of the Twenty-Second Session of the General Assembly held August 2, 2011 in Alexandria, Virginia, United States Moved by the SG, seconded by SGC, "That the minutes of the Twenty-Second Session of the General Assembly, as published in published in *Info-FIAV* No. 32, at pages 1–7 (September 2011), subject to the correction of the Cyrillic and Mkhedruli script in the PDF version, be approved." Passed by two-thirds majority.

6. Reports by the Board:

(a) President. Michel Lupant—The President expressed his wish that the discussions in the General Assembly would be plain, short, and respectful. He reminded delegates of the requirement that a motion be seconded and that during the General Assembly, only a delegate or officer has the right to speak and vote.

The President noted the cordiality of the Board and how it operated on the basis of a consensus. He thanked the SG and SCG for their hard work. Carrying out his objective to be an ambassador for FIAV, the President has visited 14 countries on 3 continents since GA 22. He attended vexillological meetings in France and Germany. He noted he has been in contact with vexillologists from Brazil, Columbia, Cuba, Chile, Estonia, Greece, Latvia, Pakistan, Serbia, and Uruguay. He closed his remarks, as always, with "I wish you a good General Assembly."

(b) Secretary-General. Charles Spain—The SG expressed his appreciation for the hard work of the President and the SGC. He pointed out that the Officers do not always initially agree with each other, but that the cordial and collegial nature of their relationship has always led to consensus decisions with which each Officer has been comfortable.

The SG again thanked Jon Radel for both Mr. Radel's generosity in hosting the Internet domain www.fiaav.org and providing e-mail addresses for the FIAV Officers, as well as having the foresight to reserve the domain in the first place. The SG discussed his hiring a reputable web designer to upgrade www.fiaav.org, which resulted in an unusable product after paying a not insubstantial amount of money for the work. After expressing his *c'est la vie* attitude on the unfortunate incident, he pledged to resolve upgrading the web site. He thanked VAST for its financial support in the past biennium.

The SG reported that five issues of *Info-FIAV* (numbers 32, 33, 34, 35, and 36) were produced and distributed in the last two years. He noted the small amount of correspondence he received in the past two years that was not related to membership applications or recommendations for Fellows, which he hoped was due to the fact that people were generally pleased with the direction the Board and FIAV have taken.

(c) Secretary-General for Congresses. Graham Bartram—The SGC first thanked the President and the SG for their assistance and second thanked the individuals who have volunteered to organize the Twenty-Fifth International Congress of Vexillology in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He especially thanked the Congress Organizing Representatives Hans Horsting, Joost Schokkenbroek, and Marcel van Westerhoven, as well as Eveline Brugghe, Tom Bokhout, Sylvia Kester, Theun Okkerse, Martin Thurmer, and the other individuals working with NVvV, SVN, and SVPR. The SGC noted that Ms. Brugghe, who had planned the accompanying persons program, was ill and expressed the Board's wish for her recovery. [Note: Regrettably, Ms. Brugghe died on August 12, 2013.]

The SGC attended IMEX 2013, the international exhibition for international association executives, held in Frankfurt, Germany. He reported that considerable resources exist to assist Congress organizers at no cost and that he would continue to work with Congress organizers to utilize these resources.

7. Announcements:

(a) Candidates for the FIAV Board

(i) President. Michel Lupant announced his candidacy for reelection.

(ii) Secretary-General. Charles Spain announced his candidacy for reelection.

(iii) Secretary-General for Congresses. Graham Bartram announced his candidacy for reelection.

(b) IVC organizer bids

(i) ICV 27 (2017) (received February 6, 2013) (see *Info-FIAV* No. 34, at pages 13–14 (June 2013))

(ii) ICV 28 (2019) (received February 11, 2013) (see *Info-FIAV* No. 34, at pages 15–17 (June 2013))

(c) Applicants for FIAV membership (arranged in order membership applications were received):

(i) Българско хералдическо и вексилолошко общество / Bulgarian Heraldry and Vexillology Society (BHVS) (received March 22, 2011) (see *Info-FIAV* No. 34, at pages 3–4 (June 2013)). Representative present.

(ii) The Flag Foundation of Nigeria (FFN) (received June 22, 2011) (see *Info-FIAV* No. 34, at pages 4–6 (June 2013)). Membership application voluntarily withdrawn on August 1, 2013:

1ST August 2013.

The Secretary-General
Permanent Secretary of FIAV
HOUSTON TEXAS
USA.

Sir,

WITHDRAWAL OF APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP.

Against the backdrop of the FIAV policy on applications for membership, which says that applicants must be represented at a previous International Congress of Vexillology, before the Board can recommend them for admission, we hereby wish to voluntarily withdraw our application for admission.

The Flag Foundation of Nigeria has never participated nor been represented at any International Congress of Vexillology before. It is on this note that we voluntarily withdraw our application from consideration at Rotterdam, hoping to resubmit it in Sydney, in 2015.

Yours Truly

Agiri Chris J. N. *Esq.*
Director General
1st August, 2013.

Note: No representative of FFN participated in ICV 25.

(iii) The Portland Flag Association (PFA) (received October 9, 2012) (see *Info-FIAV* No. 34, at pages 6–7 (June 2013)). Representative present.

(iv) Bandiere Storiche (BS) (received January 20, 2013) (see *Info-FIAV* No. 34, at pages 7–9 (June 2013)). Representative present.

(v) Cumann Geinealais na hÉireann Teoranta / Genealogical Society of Ireland Limited (GSI) (received February 4, 2013) (see *Info-FIAV* No. 34, at pages 10–11 (June 2013)). Representative present.

8. **Report on ICV 26 (Sydney, 2015) organized by FSA** Ralph Kelly gave a presentation on plans for the Congress and announced web site www.icv26.com.au was operational.

9. Report on status of the Flag Research Center VAST submitted a written report:

23d Session of the General Assembly
Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques
Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE
FLAG RESEARCH CENTER**

Mr. President, Messrs. Secretaries-General, Delegates:

On behalf of the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas, I am pleased to report on the status of the Flag Research Center Collection.

In October 2010, Dr. Whitney Smith announced that he had signed a letter of intent with The University of Texas to transfer the FRC Collection—indisputably the largest and most comprehensive collection of vexillological and related research material in the world—to The University in Austin, Texas, and to be housed at that institution’s Dolph Briscoe Center. The Briscoe Center is a leading history research center that collects, preserves, and makes available documentary and material culture evidence encompassing key themes.

Since at least 1987, Dr. Smith has been engaged in securing the future of the FRC Collection at a major research institution that would agree not only to preserve the Collection, but sustain it and grow it by continuing the acquisition of flags and flag-related material. He sought an institution that would make the Collection available to scholars and schoolchildren alike so that they could engage “directly in the creative process” themselves, “without wasting countless hours” having to hunt and search for sources. He wanted an institution that would provide a place where it was “possible to achieve total immersion in the shapes and colors and symbols and usages and history and meanings of every flag.”

The transfer of the FRC Collection to The University of Texas fulfills Dr. Smith’s vision. The University of Texas is one of the world’s leading research institutions—the Times of London ranks it as number 25 in its World University Rankings. It has an internationally diverse student body and its faculty is home to award-winning professors, including Nobel laureates.

As many of you know, the FRC has evolved to meet the demands of the 21st century and accommodate Dr. Smith’s research interests, both of which determined the schedule for transferring the Collection. On 16 July 2013, representatives of VAST, the North American Vexillological Association / Association nord-américaine de vexillologie, the Federation, the Flag Heritage Foundation, and the Briscoe Center gathered in Boston to mark the transition of the Collection. Secretary-General Charles Spain, Foundation Trustee Dr. Scot Guenter, Briscoe Director Dr. Don Carleton, Dr. Smith and his son Austin, the Smith Family, FRC employees, and I participated in a unique ceremony to mark the physical relocation of the Collection to Austin, Texas. In addition to speeches by the organization representatives, Dr. Smith reminded us of the quarter-century endeavor to secure the FRC, ending appropriately with the words, “We did it.”

The FRC Collection is currently housed at Sid Richardson Hall on the campus of The University, adjacent to the Lyndon B. Johnson Presidential Library, awaiting cataloging and processing. That will be a monumental task, with over 1,000 boxes, map cases, filing cabinets, and other material that will need review and classification. The Briscoe Center has expressed a desire for a long-standing cooperative partnership with the vexillological community and that commitment will permit us to continue to further interest in flags and promote research that explains the human condition.

Having observed similar processes, I can say that there are a million ways for a deal to go wrong and few ways for a deal to go right. This was one of the times things went right, and that is due to the unwavering commitment of all participants to Dr. Smith’s vision of vexillology and their desire to secure this Collection.

This endeavor would not have succeeded without the tireless efforts of Secretary-General Spain, Dr. Guenter, Dr. Carleton, Dr. Kirby Baker, chairman of the Flag Heritage Foundation Trustees, Trustees Annie Platoff and David Philips, Pete Van de Putte, VAST President James Liston, the support I received from other NAVA members, and—most importantly—Whitney and Austin Smith. On behalf of VAST, I move a vote of thanks to these persons for their critical and lasting work.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh L. Brady FF
Delegate for the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas

Moved by VAST, seconded by JAVA, “That FIAV thank the persons who participated in placing the FRC Collection at The University of Texas at Austin.” Passed by two-thirds majority.

10. Election of 2013–2015 Board Moved by SSV, seconded by FSA, “That Michel Lupant, Charles Spain, and Graham Bartram be reelected as President, Secretary-General, and Secretary-General for Congresses, respectively.” Passed by simple majority (acclamation).

11. Discussion about publication of ICV *Proceedings* in general and specific status of proceedings from: ICV 24 2011 Alexandria NAVA and CBFA

ICV 24: NAVA submitted a written report:

23d Session of the General Assembly
Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques
Rotterdam, Zuid-Holland, Netherlands

**REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THE
PROCEEDINGS OF THE
24th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY**

Mr. President, Messrs. Secretaries-General, Delegates:

I am pleased to report that, in accordance with the Federation's guidelines for Congress organizers, the proceedings of the 24th International Congress of Vexillology have been printed as a CD-ROM disk and distributed to those persons who registered as a Congress participant.

Papers were reviewed by Gustavo Tracchia, the Congress program chairman, in conjunction with the Congress Scientific Committee, which consisted of Anne M. Platoff, M.S., M.A., Chairman, Luc V. Baronian, Ph.D., Perry Dane, J.D., Scot M. Guenter, Ph.D., Kevin Harrington, M.A.T., Laura Kidd, Ph.D., John M. Purcell, Ph.D., and Ken Reynolds, Ph.D. The proceedings editor was Dr. Scot Guenter, who wrote a magnificent Introduction. Administrative, clerical, and fulfillment tasks were handled by Edward B. Kaye.

NAVA's delegate stated to the General Assembly in Yokohama that the proceedings would be printed as a special issue of *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*. This did not occur due to an initial budgeting decision that was not reviewed by the Association's Executive Board until after the Congress concluded. The Association's Executive Board has taken steps to ensure that an error like this does not happen again.

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the advancement of vexillology.

Respectfully submitted,

Hugh L. Brady FF

Delegate for the North American Vexillological Association / Association nord-américaine de vexillologie

The SGC noted the Board's appreciation to NAVA and CBFA for the timely publication of the ICV 24 *Proceedings*.

12. Report of commission established by the Board to study SAVA's proposal on behalf of Christopher Southworth, Terence Martin, and Andries Burgers to adopt vexillological conventions for flag descriptions, including possible amendments to the Flag Information Code The FIAV Board in 2011 appointed a commission composed of Graham Bartram, chair; Željko Heimer; and Charles Spain. The SGC, as chair of the commission, stated the commission has a working draft, but has no report at this time. The Board has continued the current commission, consisting of Graham Bartram, chair; Željko Heimer; and Charles Spain.

13. Selection of ICV 27 (2017) organizer Moved by the SG, seconded by the SGC, "That FI be selected as the organizer for the Twentieth-Seventh International Congress of Vexillology in 2017, to be held in Greenwich, England, United Kingdom." Passed by two-thirds majority. The tentative dates for ICV 27 are August 3–7, 2017.

14. Selection of ICV 28 (2019) organizer Moved by the SGC, seconded by the SG, "That VAST be selected as the organizer for the Twentieth-Eighth International Congress of Vexillology in 2019, to be held in San Antonio, Texas, United States." Passed by two-thirds majority. The tentative dates for ICV 27 are July 15–19, 2019.

15. Consideration of applicants for membership:

The President reminded the applicants that new Members may vote only after all applicants for membership have been considered.

The President explained that the Board's recommendation on a membership application is ministerial. The Board considers whether an application demonstrates the candidate is an "association or institution anywhere in the world having as a substantial purpose the scientific study of vexillology," see FIAV Constitution article 7(a), and whether the application satisfies the criteria of article 7(c):

The Board and the General Assembly, in making their decisions about an applicant, shall have regard to the following:

- (1) the existence of a written constitution and its provisions;
- (2) the vexillological and non-vexillological activities of the applicant, including meetings, publications, and international relations;
- (3) in the case of an association, the number of its dues-paying members (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 an autochthonous and authorized representative of the applicant at the session of the General Assembly at which there is to be a vote on the application.

If the application complies with article 7, then the Board will recommend the acceptance of the applicant as a Member. If the application does not, then the Board will not recommend the acceptance of the applicant as a Member. The nonministerial decision whether to accept an applicant as a FIAV Member lies with the General Assembly, not the Board.

(a) BHVS—The Board recommended the admission of BHVS. Moved by the NAVA, seconded by HGZD, "That BHVS be admitted as a Member." Passed by two-thirds majority, increasing the number of FIAV Members

to 56. BHVS is the sixty-eighth association or institution admitted as a FIAV Member, of which twelve are no longer FIAV Members.

(b) PFA—The Board recommended the admission of PFA. Moved by the SSV, seconded by SAVA, “That PFA be admitted as a Member.” Passed by two-thirds majority, increasing the number of FIAV Members to 57. PFA is the sixty-ninth association or institution admitted as a FIAV Member, of which twelve are no longer FIAV Members.

(c) BS—The Board recommended the admission of BS. Moved by the CBFA, seconded by ACV, “That BS be admitted as a Member.” Passed by two-thirds majority, increasing the number of FIAV Members to 58. BS is the seventieth association or institution admitted as a FIAV Member, of which twelve are no longer FIAV Members.

(d) GSI—The Board recommended the admission of GSI. Moved by the SGC, seconded by SAVA, “That GSI be admitted as a Member.” Passed by two-thirds majority, increasing the number of FIAV Members to 59. GSI is the seventy-first association or institution admitted as a FIAV Member, of which twelve are no longer FIAV Members.

The President recognized BHVS’s delegate, Roumiana Popova, PFA’s delegate, Max Liberman, BS’s delegate, Flavio Marchetto, and GSI’s delegate, Tom Conlon, who were given seats in the General Assembly and membership certificates signed by the three Board members in the presence of the General Assembly. As a result, the number of Members present increased from 42 to 46 (3 Officers were still present), increasing the total possible votes to 49. With the admission of three new Members, a simple majority vote would require 25 votes, a two-thirds majority vote would require 33 votes, and a three-fourths majority vote would require 37 votes, as long as the persons authorized to exercise the 49 possible votes remained present.

16. Canvas of Members that did not send a delegate for purposes of Constitution article 8 The SG confirmed that the following Members did not send a delegate to the Twenty-Third Session of the General Assembly: AVS, FRCSL, HVK, HAVSOM, IVA, MZT, MBV, NFF, NEVA, NF, SRV, TWMF, and VSHS. The Members without a delegate for two consecutive General Assembly sessions are: AVS, HVK, HAVSOM, IVA, MZT, MBV, NFF, SRV, TWMF, and VSHS; any of these Members that do not send a delegate to the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly will voluntarily resign as a Member effective at the adjournment of the Twenty-Fourth Session (2015). The Members without a delegate for only one General Assembly session are FRCSL, NEVA, and NF; any of these Members that do not send a delegate to both the Twenty-Fourth and Twenty-Fifth Sessions of the General Assembly will voluntarily resign as a Member effective at the adjournment of the Twenty-Fifth Session (2017).

17. Final adjournment of the Twenty-Third Session by President With no further business pending, the President adjourned the Twenty-Third Session of the General Assembly with a loud bang of the FIAV Gavel at 4:32 p.m. without fixing a time and day for another meeting of the session, noting with approval that the session lasted for only one hour and twelve minutes.

Respectfully submitted,



Charles A. Spain
FIAV Secretary-General
Houston, July 14, 2015

Info-FIAV

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APPENDIX TO THE MINUTES

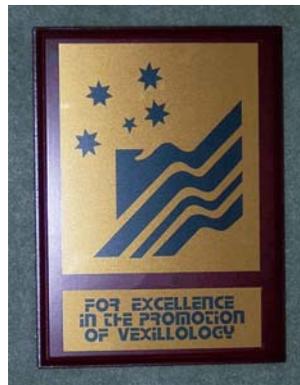
BEST PAPER AWARD



BEST PAPER AWARD
Twenty-Fifth
International Congress of Vexillology
Rotterdam, The Netherlands, August 9, 2013
Presented by the
Fédération internationale
des associations vexillologiques
Sponsored by the
North American Vexillological Association /
Association nord-américaine de vexillologie

On August 9, 2013, the FIAV Board presented The Best Paper Award at the closing banquet, which was held in the Grote- of St. Laurenskerk. The Best Paper Award, established in 2005, recognizes outstanding scholarship and presentation of a paper at an International Congress of Vexillology. The recipient is selected by a panel appointed by the FIAV Board consisting, if possible, of a representative of the Congress organizers, flag manufacturers, and vexillologists. The award consists of a certificate signed by the Board and a pewter tray. The Best Paper Award is graciously sponsored by the North American Vexillological Association / Association nord-américaine de vexillologie. The Best Paper Award recipient is Art Néss Proaño Gaibor-de Vries for "Hidden History behind the Colorants of Banners."

THE VEXILLON AWARD



On August 9, 2013, the FIAV Board presented the Vexillon Award at the closing banquet, which was held in the Grote- of St. Laurenskerk. The Vexillon, established in 1989, has developed into an award for the most important contribution to vexillology during the two years preceding an International Congress of Vexillology. The recipient is selected by the FIAV Board. The award consists of a certificate signed by the Board and a plaque. The Vexillon is graciously sponsored by the Flag Society of Australia Inc. The Vexillon Award recipient is Andreas Herzfeld for "Die Rimann'sche Sammlung deutscher Autoflaggen und Kfz-Stander."

FELLOWS OF THE FEDERATION



On August 9, 2013, the FIAV Board presented Fellowships at the closing banquet, which was held in the Grote- of St. Laurenskerk. The honor of Fellows of the Federation was established in 2001. Fellows are named by the FIAV Board for significant contributions to vexillology and/or for rendering significant service to FIAV or a FIAV Member. The award consists of a certificate signed by the Board and a medal bearing the central knot device of the FIAV flag suspended from a chest ribbon of blue and yellow, the colors of the FIAV flag, as well as a miniature ribbon and a lapel pin. Fellows may use the post-nominal ^{FF}. Fellows are named only when there are worthy recipients. The new Fellows are Andriy Grechylo, Hans H. Horsting, Anne M. Platoff, Alain Raullet, Joost C.A. Schokkenbroek, Ian Sumner, and Marcel van Westerhoven.

BOARD RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS REGARDING ICV 26

The Board has received a number of substantive questions from the ICV 26 Organizer relating to the Congress and the Twenty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly. Because the Board believes that the questions may either be discussed at GA 24 or arise in the future, the Board has paraphrased the questions and provided a formal responses.

Question 1. Can the Board provide copies of membership applications in advance of their publication in *Info-FIAV*?

Response: It is the practice of the Board to provide information to all FIAV Members at the same time. Insofar as possible, the Board provides information through *Info-FIAV* as that publication is FIAV's gazette, officially documenting the business of FIAV and providing a historical record (see Constitution art. 23(a)).

Question 2. Must delegates to the General Assembly and representatives of applicants for membership be registered—and if required by the Congress Organizer, paid—attendees at the Congress at which the General Assembly session is held?

Response: The Board is not aware that the issue has previously been addressed by the General Assembly, and the Board believes that it does not have the constitutional power to make such a requirement.

The Constitution states “The General Assembly at its next session shall vote on the application. An authorized representative of the applicant may appear at the session to represent its case.” (Constitution art. 7(b)(4)). The Constitution also draws a distinction between “registration of its members in International Congresses of Vexillology” (Constitution art. 7(c)(4)) as a factor in making a decision about an applicant versus “the presence of an autochthonous and authorized representative of the applicant at the session of the General Assembly at which there is to be a vote on the application” (Constitution art. 7(c)(6)). Further, article 17 of the Constitution states that “The General Assembly holds a session at least once every two years, normally on the occasion of each International Congress of Vexillology.” While all previous sessions of the General Assembly have been conducted during International Congresses of Vexillology, the Constitution does not require that.

The Board is not aware of any instance in which the General Assembly has acted to require delegates to the General Assembly and representatives of applicants for membership to register as Congress attendees in order to participate in the General Assembly session. Even were there proof that all past delegates and past representatives were registered attendees, that past practice would not answer the question posed.

The Board concludes that nothing in the Constitution explicitly requires registration of delegates and representatives in order for them to participate in a General Assembly session. A definitive interpretation of the Constitution on this point is beyond the power of the Board because the General Assembly “interprets the Constitution” (Constitution art. 16(d)).

Question 3. Is a Congress opened only to registered attendees, their companions, and special guests (if (a) information about those special guests has been communicated to the Congress Organizer(s) and (b) the special guests “will add to the enjoyment of all other Congress [attendees]”)?

Response: The Constitution states that “The General Assembly . . . examines all questions concerning FIAV and in particular the organization of the International Congresses of Vexillology” (Constitution art. 16(c)). The Constitution also states “The Board . . . issues directives which it considers necessary to the success of the activities of FIAV, including the International Congresses of Vexillology” (Constitution art. 20(b)).

The Board is aware that the financial responsibility for a Congress falls on the Organizer(s), not FIAV, and deeply appreciates the hard work of such Organizer(s). One of FIAV's purposes is “to promote the organization of International Congresses of Vexillology and to lend its support to their organizers” (Constitution art. 3(b)). Accordingly, the Board believes that questions regarding who may participate in the Congress and whether they must pay lie within the sound discretion of the Congress Organizer(s). Trusting the sound judgment of Congress Organizers and in light of the history of 25 successful Congresses, the Board does not currently consider it necessary to issue directives on this matter.

Question 4. Can Congress Organizer(s) exclude a representative of an applicant for membership from a session of the General Assembly at which there is to be a vote on the application if the representative is not a registered Congress attendee?

Response: Please see the response to question 2.

Question 5. Can Congress Organizer(s) exclude a representative of an applicant for membership from a session of the General Assembly at which there is to be a vote on the application based on the Organizer(s) good-faith belief that the representative has “vilified” the Congress Organizer?

Response: The Board has a long-standing commitment to maintaining civil and respectful deliberations during sessions of the General Assembly and during International Congresses of Vexillology generally. The Board, however, has no authority to determine factual disputes. Furthermore, issues of slander, libel, et cetera are ultimately matters to be decided by the legal system(s) with jurisdiction. Whether the General Assembly is an appropriate forum for the introduction of evidence related to the alleged "vilification" is a matter to be decided by the General Assembly, not the Board.

Question 6. If a representative of an applicant for membership has not registered as a Congress attendee, is the representative to be treated as an invited guest of the FIAV Board?

Response: There is no precedent for the Board to extend special invitations to guests to attend a session of the General Assembly for the purpose of membership applications. Nor does the Board have the authority to affect the ability of a representative of an applicant for membership to attend a session of the General Assembly at which there is to be a vote on the application. Furthermore, the Board makes its recommendations on membership applications based on objective criteria, so an implied special relationship between the applicant representatives and the Board is inappropriate. The Board, therefore, has no reason to designate representatives as the Board's "invited guests."

Question 7. May a FIAV Member submit for publication in *Info-FIAV* a detailed response to a membership application?

Response: The Board is not aware of any authority or precedent that either allows or precludes publication in *Info-FIAV* of a detailed response to a membership application. The Board generally believes that the General Assembly is the better forum for such discussion as long as the discussion is relevant to the motion under consideration. To the extent that any such response were to include disputed factual allegations, then the Board would have to consider whether publishing such allegations would possibly create a potential legal liability under applicable laws related to libel et cetera. For these reasons, the Board believes that publication of any such response is problematic and should be discouraged.

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"C'est avec ces hochets qu'on mène les hommes."