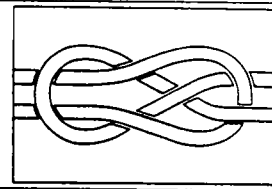


INFO-FIAV

INFO-FIAV No. 7, NOVEMBER 1996



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

XVI. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY, WARSAW, 1995

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

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

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

XVII. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY, CAPE TOWN, 1997

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

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

RECEIVED
9 Dec 94
NAVA PRESIDENT

FIAV OFFICERS (1995-1997)

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

REPORT ON THE FIAV GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1995

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

A preliminary remark by the secretary-general:

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

Emil Dreyer

SUMMARY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Vexillon was awarded to Mr. Frederick Brownell.

Saturday, first of July

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

FIAV member

- 1) Associació Catalana de Vexil·logia (ACV)
- 2) Centre Belgo-Européen d'Etudes des Drapeaux (CEBED)
- 3) The Canadian Flag Association (CFA)
- 4) Centro Italiano Studi Vessillologici (CISV).....
- 5) The Flag Design Center (FDC)
- 6) The Flag Institute (FI)
- 7) The Flag Research Center (FRC)
- 8) Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka (FRCSL)
- 9) Flag Society of Australia (FSA)
- 10) Fundación Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios Culturales (CIDEC)
- 11) National Flag Foundation (NFF)
- 12) Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde (NVV)
- 13) North American Vexillological Association (NAVA)
- 14) Société Suisse de Vexillologie (SSV)
- 15) Sociedad Española de Vexilología (SEV)
- 16) Société Française de Vexillologie (SFV)
- 17) Southern African Vexillological Association (SAVA)
- 18) Tumbling Waters Museum of Flags (TWMF)
- 19) United States Flag Foundation (USFF)
- 20) Västra Sveriges Heraldiska Sällskap (VSHS)
- 21) Vexilologický Klub (VK)
- 22) World Vexillological Research Institute (WVRI)

Representative

Carlos Fernández Espeso
Michel Lupant
Kevin Harrington
Mario Fabretto
Alfred Znamierowski
Michael Faul
Dr. Whitney Smith
Ralph Bartlett
Ron Strachan
Aníbal Gotelli
Bruce Druckenmiller
Thijs van Leeuwen
Don Healy
Dr. Harald Müller
Carlos Fernández Espeso
Alain Raullet
Bruce Berry
Dr. Arthur Etchells
Charles Spain
Leif Pahlsson
Ales Brozek
Roman Klimes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Etchells congratulates the secretary-general for his work.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

yes: 18 ; no: 0 ; abstentions: 7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

▫

Sunday, second of July

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Faul asks, for how long a period such a commission will be chosen and if substitutes are chosen, if one member of it fails. Crampton explains that the period of time will be decided by the GA.

Pahlsson expresses his full confidence in the Board and questions the necessity of a commission. Smith then explains the reasons why such a commission will be useful (plurilateral information and shared responsibility leads to better decisions), Crampton agrees with Smith.

Spain asks if a constitutional amendment for the establishment of the commission is needed and Crampton answers, that the Board wishes to alter article 8 of the constitution to include '*the Board, or a person or commission*' (see INFO-FIAV N°6, p.4), then continues explaining again why a commission is needed, mainly because of the different structures and goals of FIAV members and the diversity of their respective vexillological activities, also because "members may drift away from the requirements for FIAV membership with time. Originally, this was the reason why the constitution provides for two membership categories, though in practice FIAV today has but one membership category."

Klimes argues that only commercial bodies, museums or government agencies should receive an associate status, upon which Gotelli pronounces a long speech in French, defending the academic, scientific values of vexillology, denying membership to commercial bodies at all. Crampton summarises in English at the end.

At this stage the debate generalises, Znamierowski, Brownell, Druckenmiller, Harrington and Espeso making short comments, also on classifying members by their society's name.

Pahlsson argues that FIAV should have but one membership category, since the name of a member (for instance "heraldic society") is not important, only the statutes should be taken into consideration. Smith tries to calm down the debate and again explains the advantages of such a commission. Bartlett speaks as the FRC SL delegate defending the right to membership of underprivileged societies. Healy too defends the two category system, since the constitution clearly defines who belongs to which category.

Gotelli expresses his conviction that a body not having the term vexillology in its name may none the less be a scholarly active FIAV member. Faul agrees with Gotelli, repeating that the contribution to vexillology is important, not the name.

Spain proposes to contact all members and to ask them about the commission. Crampton answers that this has been made already, "look at the questionnaire, why repeat it?" Pahlsson agrees with Crampton.

The president proposes not to vote on the amendment of the constitution (art. 8) this evening, but just to come to a decision on the interim establishment of the membership commission and to have the constitutional amendment discussed in 1997.

Gotelli has some doubts as to such a commission, hence Crampton proposes to have the members deliver a memorandum to the secretary-general about their feeling on the membership commission.

Spain wants to make sure, that no punishment will be made for not answering the memorandum or questionnaire. Crampton proposes to have the secretary-general publish this matter in INFO-FIAV.

Znamierowski has some doubts about the amendment of article 8 including the word '*person*', Crampton answers that we could as well amend art. 8 by inserting the words '*a member or commission*'.

Spain asks, if the GA is permitted to change proposed amendments if not 3 months in advance. Crampton: "Yes, we can".

Pahlsson then proposes to have the commission appointed directly by the GA instead of trying to amend the constitution. Again, the debate generalises, Spain, Faul and Brownell making short comments.

Smith says that the constitution of FIAV provides for an appointment of a commission by the GA (art. 15,g).

The president decides to vote on an ordinary resolution to institute a membership commission with Bruce Berry, Ales Brozek and Whitney Smith. Such a resolution needs two-thirds of the votes to pass. 23 members and 3 Board members being present at the time, the voting results are:
Yes: 24 ; no: 0 ; abstentions: 2

⌘ The president then immediately passes to item 10 of New Business, concerning the motion of the Flag Research Center to amend art. 13 of the constitution, on powers of delegates. Smith reads the motion to the GA and explains his reasons for the motion, Pahlsson seconds. An amendment to the FIAV constitution needs three-quarters of the votes to pass. The voting results are:
Yes: 9 ; no: 12 ; abstentions: 4 ; not voting: 1

⌘ The other motion by the FRC (item 9 of New Business), on amendment of art. 18 of the constitution, on composition of the Board of FIAV, is also read and explained by Smith. Znamierowski seconds but then retires. Now Gotelli seconds. The voting results are:
Yes: 10 ; no: 10 ; abstentions: 4 ; not voting: 2

⌘ The president explains the proposition of the Board to amend article 13 of the constitution (item 3 of New Business), on powers of delegates (proxy voting). Lupant motions to alter art. 13 as proposed by the

Board, but permitting one proxy vote to delegates. Znamierowski seconds. The voting results are:
Yes: 11 ; no: 8 ; abstentions: 5 ; not voting: 2

Spain asks for the reasons why the Board also wanted to amend art. 13 as to specify that credentials should be presented on official stationery. Crampton answers, that some of the credentials are written moments before the GA on scraps of paper, and this is not really valid according to the constitution.

Etchells then wants to know, if some of the people present would be thrown out, if that was an assessment. Crampton: "Yes".

Smith then speaks to the point of the main constitutional amendment being submitted: "First of all I would like to dispel some people, that I have spoken with, that had the impression that at some point in the past I carried a substantial number of proxies and that is not true! I looked at the record, I had of course the vote of the FRC, but in all the GA's since FIAV was founded I have never had voting license as a delegate simultaneously from more than two FIAV members at a single time, and colleagues Emil and William have each had two votes in 1991 for example, and others, Hugh McClellan and Capt. Barraclough did in the past, and in fact Peter Mäder in 1969 carried four votes. It's just a matter of history to keep record about what kind of use has been made of proxies. And much more seriously I want to suggest that there are two overriding reasons to continue proxies; one is the one that our colleague Alfred has expressed, and that is that every association should be absolutely free to choose any person it decides to represent it, because the essence of the delegate - we should just remind us that the GA is only taking place once every two years - is to have the most effective voice they can present. Should any society have the good luck to get Boutros Boutros Ghali to serve as their delegate, whether he is or not a member of that association, it is their right and privilege to do. If that person they choose as a delegate is already speaking for another association, so be it.

Now, the second reason, which has not been brought up, but which is I think in its own way perhaps even more important or as equal important, is that the idea of the proxy is to allow us to have a quorum in situations where we might not be able to conduct any legal business whatsoever. And I mention this because the Europeans have had the good fortune to have congresses 11 times out of 16 in Europe, we had only 4 congresses in North America, 1 in the Pacific, and so the question for most European associations doesn't come up. In 69 in fact there were very heavy proxy votes by European associations at the congress in Boston. Now, is this a hypothetical question? No, it's not, because I have found 3 circumstances in which without proxy votes we would not have had a legal GA. In 1969 five delegates carried 12 votes, in 1981 it was only the presence of someone from the Stichting voor Banistiek en Heraldiek which saved our quorum, there were no proxies, and we got by that one by a skin of the teeth interpretation of the constitution, that the presence of someone who had no delegation of power was sufficient. And in 1989, to bring it up to date, there were 2 proxies in Melbourne Australia which gave us the bare quorum of 9 out of 17, which allowed us to conduct business. So I would suggest that it would be preventive on our part not to restrict proxies, because we might find ourselves in Cape Town in 2 years time unable to conduct any business whatsoever."

"Should a case like this happen," Dreyer questions, "is there an absolute necessity to conduct a FIAV business at every congress? And do we really want FIAV decisions made, in the case you mentioned, by 5 members holding 12 votes? So, the theoretical case that this should happen in South Africa or Argentina or wherever, that we had 5 members with 12 votes out of say 15 or 6 members with 16 or 18 votes, means that they would decide upon FIAV, a decision by a very few persons. I think this is not desirable. The more people we are in deciding, the more we will reach and the more democratic it will be."

Bartlett then speaks as the FRCSL delegate, reminding us that "if we are not going to have a FIAV meeting during congresses, then how will we decide where we're going to have the next congress? And secondly, if all the other non-personally represented societies don't come, then it is their responsibility to make instructions about their proxies. If in theory there are 5 physical people here, if those 5 hold another 5 votes, the organisations ordering those proxies have to make sure, that these 5 people vote according to their instructions, and if they feel that they're happy to do that, well, then there's not very much reason saying that a minority is ruling FIAV. If they're not happy with that, then they will have to make sure, that somebody else will represent them."

Asking for any other comments, the president gives the word to Znamierowski: "I cannot agree with you, that only 5 people would decide of FIAV, because those 5 people with their proxies, with directions from institutions and associations who are giving these proxies..". Crampton interrupts Znamierowski remarking that "at the moment there's no provision for direction of proxies". "If they do not direct for proxy, then they have to bare with what their proxy is about" Faul ads.

Dreyer says that "we're not going to talk about directions, because that's another question at all - we could get it by mail and forget about a GA, you know. The point about these delegates you're talking about having directions is that I have seen several delegates writing their delegation in here."

Znamierowski: "When Whitney had proxies for 3 congresses from me, we discussed at the FIAV meetings and I told him how he had to vote..".

Crampton interrupts: "Excuse me, Alfred, but the issue whether the proxies are directed or not is not on the table at the moment".

Strickland asks "if it is possible, that the proxy could be given to a non-member non-delegate as already discussed, but for the proxies of the quorum, and the quorum only, it could be given to somebody who could carry then 2 votes?" The president hesitates, and says "I'm afraid I don't follow that, could you explain it again?" Strickland: "I'm afraid I didn't explain that very well. What I mean is, as an observer I go along with this business of not having 2 votes in the normal course of events, I think that's fair. But if it means, that you will risk not having a quorum, then for the purpose of having a quorum only, one may delegate to somebody who is already a delegate."

"Normally speaking", the president answers "the business of delegation is done in advance of the congress, and the later creditations which came to the table last night were for people already present. When we're talking about proxies we're talking about people who are not present, and who, if they want to present proxies, should have done that beforehand. It would be very difficult to conceive the circumstances in which a proxy could be got at the very last minute from somebody haven't thought about doing it beforehand. So the answer to your question is, I think, that this wouldn't arise."

Ⓡ The president urges delegates to go through the items quickly, "because it's past ten and we've got to finish the meeting". He continues emphasising the points from the Board: "First of all, we're not objecting to the existence of proxies as such. All members will be free to make proxy delegations, as they are now. We rejected an amendment, that no delegate can have more than one proxy - so, unless we accept, ehm, no, that wasn't quite evident, was it? Just to reemphasize then, we're not objecting the proxies at all, so that the virtues of being able to send in proxies will continue to exist. All we're aiming at doing is to restrict the number of proxies to a person who is not already a delegate. And in addition to a point which was raised from the floor, our amendment does also require that all the creditations should be on the official note paper of the body."

Smith has a question: "Art. 13 as I read it on page 5 also has another substantial change in the last sentence where just members of the Board are entitled to one additional vote when acting both as an officer and as a delegate from a member. I assume, that that means, that there could be a situation where a member of the Board had an ex-officio vote as a member of the Board and a vote as a proxy".

The president answers, that "it would continue the situation were the members of the Board continue to have one vote but could also be delegates. Are you trying to say that they could also be proxies? Because we're aiming of course at abolishing proxies, aren't we?" Smith: "About this extra vote I mean additional to what?" Crampton: "I think you're right with that Whitney, I guess we just didn't adapt it to the situation."

Dreyer: "If we consider the Board being a delegate in itself, then of course it cannot have a proxy". Smith: "But it's not a delegate in itself". Dreyer: "I mean, if a member of the Board has a vote as a delegate, then we consider him like a delegate, and then he cannot have an additional vote, you're right with that, I must say. It should be one vote and no proxy."

The president thanks Smith for drawing the attention to this particular situation and strikes, with permission from the colleagues of the Board, this sentence from the proposed amendment.

Spain asks for clarification: "Then does that mean, in the instance, that a member of the Board is given credentials by his or her organisation, then that Board member may cast a vote both as a delegate for the association or institution and may cast a vote as a Board member, thus allowing that person to cast two votes?"

Crampton: "Yes." Dreyer: "According to current constitution". Spain: "So in fact there would be a class of people, who could cast 2 votes?" Dreyer: "Yes."

Crampton: "That would be the case as we're proposing at the moment, but speaking personally, I would like to see a situation in which the Board members did not represent a home association at all, because like that we didn't have any clash of loyalties between speaking for the home association and speaking as a Board member. But we haven't yet arrived to that situation where we can say that. So, the amendment before you, as on page 5, is now minus the last sentence. We're going to vote, the amendment requires 20 votes to pass". Voting result:

Yes: 2 ; no: 17 ; abstentions: 6 ; not voting: 1

Ⓡ In view of the lateness of the hour, the president proposes to abandon item 4 of New Business, hoping to get through with it at the next meeting, where we will have only one hour to do all our business. Znamierowski fears that one hour won't be enough, the remaining business needing at least two hours more.

Dreyer and Znamierowski propose to continue the meeting now. Smith agrees, since that's what for the delegates came.

Znamierowski proposes to have a short brake, the president agrees and proposes to discuss the question of admissions and expulsions at the last session, together with the elections, and not to do more this night than to deal with item 4 of New Business.

Ⓡ The president explains the proposed amendment to constitution concerning art. 14 and art. 24 (item 4 of New Business), the purpose of these alterations being to alter the majorities that are needed for resolutions, etc. to pass - as written on page 5 of INFO-FIAV nr. 6.

He continues: "The technical terms refer back to items, which where in the proposed standing orders. The purpose of the preferential vote is to make it possible for the situation when there are more than 2 candidates for a post, for the candidates who receive the lowest votes in the first round of balloting to be withdrawn, rather than to continue into later rounds. Preferential voting means, that instead of putting crosses you put 1, 2, 3 or 4 on the names of people you're voting for, putting 1 for the one you most want to see elected, etc. Perhaps you'd like to address yourself to that?"

Znamierowski: "I have a question". Crampton: "I thought you might have." Znamierowski: "Why do we need to change art. 14 and art. 24?"

Crampton: "Well, I have just explained that." Znamierowski: "No, you just told what you would like to change." Crampton: "Well, we feel that the system of voting for candidates is rather invidious, when, as in Zurich, the rounds go on and on with the members receiving lower votes still continuing to appear on the ballot paper. And we feel that there are plenty of examples of fair voting systems where this doesn't happen. The alterations to the voting numbers are to follow the standing orders, which as I explained to you yesterday were drawn up on a model for constitutions and chairmanship, which prevail in most organisations. We feel, that the high rate required for any action to take place makes for inflexibility, and as in most other organisations it should be possible to argue a case which stands with reasonable chance of being passed. It's really just to bring the association into line with what is done in most other associations."

Pahlsson: "I have never heard of such a complicated system in any Swedish association, and I have 35 years of association experience. It is quite ununderstandable".

Crampton: "I'm afraid I'm not following your point?" Dreyer: "He means the preferential voting system". Pahlsson: "Yes, why not just put the name you want, like Mr. X for president, and not the complicated, I don't follow it at all."

Bartlett: "In Australia there is a preferential system, because otherwise, if you have two candidates with an equal number of votes, what do you do then?"

Crampton: "The virtue of the preferential system is that it makes sure that the winning candidate receives a plurality of the votes which are cast. And, if I can draw the attention to the French presidential elections of the other week for example, those were done in 2 rounds. In the first round a number of candidates were available and preferential votes were cast for them, it would have been very silly if the following day exactly the same candidates would have been put forward for voting, so in order to avoid that the French removed the ones with the lowest votes from the second round. That's all it amounts to."

Smith: "I find, that the way it is phrased, the reference to the preferential vote does not give the details. They are only set forth in an explanatory note and therefore have no legal standing. There are many of us from societies in which this system is not used and therefore were being asked to deal with an unfamiliar situation which might lead to the advantage of one or another candidate who understood it very well. But quite aside from that I think it's totally unnecessary, because we have had 16 General Assemblies and only once did the question arise, it was the last GA, and we elected the members of the Board quite nicely without this."

Smith continues giving a little bit of background on why FIAV has such high constitutional requirements for resolutions, elections, etc. . Speaking of the delegates, he says "and furthermore they do not have the resources to have the kind of contact that, let's say a professional scientific or commercial association may have, because we don't have the money, we don't have the numbers, and consequently everything that happens of important in FIAV, or 90% of it, happens during the GA. Keeping the Federation together, all of its members, as we have for now 30 plus years, is a prime goal. Having a high majority required is a way of being sure that no changes are made that really don't express not simply a bare majority but the real consensus - and I accept what's happened with the proposals I made. The danger is that with lowering the majority, it is not the preferential question, I would just separate this I think also wrong thing, but lowering the majority runs the risk that we would alienate an association which means a whole country or potentially whole part of the world in something of importance to them. So I would have to speak against this."

Crampton: "Any other comments?"

Klimes: "This procedure must be made so simple as possible. It is impossible when we had 10 or 12 rounds of the voting. It would be the best solution when after every round the candidate with small of votes would be eliminated." Crampton: "Well, that is the proposal in fact."

Bartlett: "It's simple with one round of voting, because we have the numbers there in front of you and it's just a matter of once everyone has filled in the ballot paper, the numbers against the candidates, you sit down and count up the number of votes each candidate got in first, second, third. You just count and registrate, you don't have to go it through another round and another round."

Etchells: "I agree with the principle of making it simpler, but as I read this and as most people read it, it sounds much more complicated."

Crampton: "A logical illusion." Bartlett: "It's only because it's unfamiliar." Etchells: "But if it's unfamiliar now, it's always unfamiliar." Bartlett: "No, look, if I can do it, anyone can do it." General laughing.

Pahlsson: "From my experience in politics, the chap who gets the most votes, if only by one single vote, gets elected. That's the simplest way of doing an election."

Crampton: "Yes it is, but this means that he doesn't have a majority of the votes." Pahlsson: "Well, if he has most votes, he has a majority."

Bartlett: "That doesn't work, because that person might have the most number of votes, but three-quarters of the assembly voted for everyone else but him, so he's actually been elected on a minority."

Crampton: "And I should also point out, that the present system of voting demands that the winning candidate has a plurality - you can't just have a simple majority in the way you described."

Spain: "Since I represent an organisation, whose neck is on the chopping block, if this amendment is to pass, will it take a two-thirds vote or a majority vote of 50%?"

Crampton: "Well, as for our previous issue, any alteration won't come into effect until the next assembly".

Spain: "I was just asking to confirm that, Mr. president."

Bartlett: "All numbers of votes required to pass resolutions are as they currently are, and have been for the last 6 years."

Crampton: "And if you accept this amendment, it won't happen until 1997."

Ⓜ After a short silence the president continues: "Well then, I ought to remind you again that the number of votes required to pass an amendment to the constitution is 20."

Znamierowski: "Do we vote for all three of them, or first art. 14, then 24 and then preferential vote? Or do we vote as a block?"

Crampton: "Well, it's up to the assembly, but I think it might be a good idea, if we do each article in turn, just to be on the safe side. So, looking at page 5 of INFO-FIAV, the first one you're going to be asked to accept is amendment to article 13." Dreyer: "14". Crampton: "Ehm, I beg your pardon, it's article 14 - I'm getting tired, to alter the majorities, yes." **Voting results:**

Yes: 10 ; no: 11 ; abstentions: 2 ; not voting: 3 .

The voting on amendment to art. 24 follows immediately. Results:
Yes: 0 ; no: 11 ; abstentions: 11 ; not voting: 4

Ⓜ Late in the evening now, the president continues the session summarising the work still to be done, consideration of membership applications, debates on the removal of certain societies, a motion from the WVRI and the election of officers, "I really do think that we can, if we're lucky, get through all these at the next session, but I would just like to ask you for guidance on one issue first, which is, that since we decided earlier on that we would have a membership commission, do you think it would be right and proper for the members who are listed as being recommended for removal, that they should have their cases referred to the commission, or do you want to deal with it here in this assembly?"

Faul: "There is no point in appointing a commission, and then as the very first thing you say, in the case of these members, is you cannot do what we've asked you to do." Bartlett: "So you think it should be referred to the membership commission?" Faul: "Yes."

Healy: "The membership committee is not going to act on the individual member?" Dreyer answers, that the commission will just advise the Board, and Bartlett adds, that the commission will only issue recommendations, all decisions will be made following the GA.

Healy: "I think since the topic was sent out in INFO-FIAV as to be voted on here, I think we should take on the topic at this time we have representatives from many of those associations that may be here solely because their membership was threatened and I think it would only be fair that they be given a chance to express their case and to find out how the other members of FIAV feel about their continued or non-continued membership in the organisation."

Znamierowski: "If we refer this to the commission, they had 2 years grace period time, so I think it's better to refer it to the commission than to present their case now. Because anyway we won't decide here in Warsaw about their fate." Crampton: "We can."

Smith: "The commission might indeed recommend the removal of other members or the retention of procedures for dealing with this, so whether we make a decision on this now or not, everything still could change later on. Next time, if we're in Cape Town, I am sure every association will attempt to be present, but in fact we may have a different group and some member might find it impossible to send a delegate and that might prejudice other delegates as their ability to speak on the issue. I would tend to favour a vote, they're expecting to hear from us."

Etchells: "Are there standards, against which we're going to say this group exists as member or this group does not? I almost understood the commission was going to come up and set that sort of standards."

Crampton: "Yes, but we still have the option to make these decisions here."

Smith: "But the Board has already recommended, it's not out of nothing."

After a short question by Brownell, the president asks the GA to vote whether to keep these proposed removals on the agenda (item 7 of New Business) or to remit them to the membership commission. Voting

positively will mean to keep them on the agenda. Voting results:
Yes: 12 ; no: 7 ; abstentions: 4 ; not voting: 3

Spain: "It's my understanding, that the GA can only act by a minimum of two-thirds majority, I mean, it's in the constitution under article 14, two-thirds for ordinary resolutions..., I correct that, you can certainly elect officers by a simple majority."

Crampton: "Well, you've got already a good position here ladies and gentlemen, to debate it here, the constitution doesn't allow you to do that, so may be you now are having second thoughts about those alterations to the voting numbers". General rumour from the floor.

Spain: "Don't we have to vote to change the agenda?" Crampton: "Yes, and I think this is probably the way out, that we'll assume, that your wishes that there should be no alteration to the agenda..., so that in other words these items stay on the agenda."

Spain: "Shouldn't the vote have been to change the agenda in the latest item referring to the committee?". Several delegates start speaking all at the same time, generally disagreeing with Spain.

Znamierowski proposes a possible way out: "Since the GA did vote that the item would stay in the agenda, I move to postpone any decisions to the next congress."

The president disagrees: "No. Alfred, I really do feel, that the sense of the meeting was that you wanted to continue with these items on the agenda and have a chance to debate them at our next session. And although I'm willing to accept correction on this point I think that you'll find it very difficult to proceed if you don't go along with that, so to speak."

Upon a suggestion by Brownell, the president proposes to have another vote, putting the vote the other way round this time: "I'm going to ask you to vote whether these members who are listed under item 7 should have their cases remitted to the commission."

Druckenmiller: "As I conceive the vote, member bodies in question voted in the affirmative, and I believe they have every right to except this GA to follow it's agenda, where their very life is at stake, and so those who voted in the negative voted against the wishes of the people they might feel they want to help."

Crampton: "Those people who want to have their case debated here at the assembly should vote against having it remitted to the commission."

Pahlsson wants to know which of the 6 members, whose case is at debate, are present or not present at the moment - the president answers, that two members are not represented.

Again, the president explains that a vote in favour will mean to be in favour of taking them off the agenda now and remitting it to the commission. This commission will then issue in two years a recommendation to the Board, no decision will be taken now. The vote will require a two-thirds majority to pass, i.e. 18 votes. Voting results:

Yes: 9 ; no: 15 ; abstentions: 0 ; not voting: 2

☞ Since it has become late in the evening without getting further, a lot of the agenda still to be dealt with, the GA decides to close the session at 10.50 p.m. and to call for an extra session the next day.

☞

Monday, third of July

☞ The president opens the extra session at 8 p.m. with 21 members and 3 Board members present, the two-thirds majority thus needing 16 votes.

He calls on the WVRl delegate, Roman Klimes, to shortly explain his proposal for the establishment of a "Welt Vexillological Exchange Service" (item 8 of New Business).

Klimes: "Ladies and gentlemen, you know very good, how difficult it is to get a correct information on flags, coat-of-arms and seals, specially to get copies or originals of the flag laws, coat-of-arms laws and other technical and official specifications. Therefore I'm calling to found this WVES. I will in short next time make an index of these laws and decrees, which are at the disposition of the WVRl; and the index of these laws will be sent to all organisations which are members in FIAV or which have interest in this index, and I hope that the same will be made also by the other organisations and so we can exchange this information on a base of reciprocity. We do not make money with this service, but the service is meant as a help for vexillologists and heraldists in the whole world. Any questions?"

Smith: "Roman, I think everyone can see the value of having this service. My question is, what exactly is FIAV's role supposed to be in this? Because as far as I can see, you intend to do and run this anyway. Does

