

**INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION
OF VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS
PROTOCOL OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
25 and 27 SEPTEMBER 1989
MELBOURNE AND BALLARAT,
VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

I. The meeting was called to order by FIAV President Hugh Boudin at 8:37 pm on 25 September 1989 at St. Mary's College, University of Melbourne. The FIAV Secretary General read the list of FIAV members and written credentials were presented by the following accredited delegates:

Flag Design Center	(Whitney Smith)
Flag Research Center	(John Purcell)
Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka	(Ralph Bartlett)
Flag Society of Australia	(Ron Strachan)
North American Vexillological Association	(Grace Cooper)
Nordisk Flagselskab	(Lisbeth Langskilde)
Sociedad Espanola de Vexilologia	(Carlos Fernandez Espeso)
societas Vexillologica Belgica	(Hugh Boudin)
Tumbling Waters Museum of Flags	(Whitney Smith)
Also present,	
Secretary General for Congresses,	(William Crampton)

The President noted that the **Centro Italiano di Studi Vessillogici** had indicated its intention to submit credentials for a delegate, but those credentials had not yet arrived. The President called on the FIAV Secretary General to indicate the number of active members of FIAV in accordance with Article 1.1 of the FIAV Statutes. The number of active members being 17 and there being 9 members duly represented, the President noted that the required minimum quorum was present.

II. The FIAV Secretary General was called on by the President to summarize the protocol of the FIAV General Assembly from San Francisco in 1987. The delegate from **Societas Vexillologica Belgica** moved the adoption of the protocol, seconded by the delegate of the **Sociedad Espanola de Vexilologia**. The text of the protocol was unanimously approved.

III. The President indicated that he had received no applications for new prospective members of FIAV. At the request of an attending non-delegate, the conditions for FIAV membership were read. In response to question from another non-delegate, the President indicated that those without credentials as delegates were entitled to listen to the proceedings of the General Assembly but not to vote or speak. At that time a further delegate - John Hall of the **Flag Institute** - joined the General Assembly.

IV. The President indicated that no report had been received from the Statutes Commission appointed at the 1987 General Assembly. On the other hand there were still available for consideration the text of the two proposals for revised statutes which had been submitted to the 1987 General Assembly. The President asked whether it was the pleasure of the current General Assembly to consider these at its next sitting and no objections were raised.

The President asked for proposals concerning meeting sites for the 14th International Congress of Vexillology (1991) and the 15th international Congress of Vexillology (1993). The delegate from the **Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka** indicated that he had telephone and fax communications from the **Associacio Catalana de Vexil.lologia** confirming the desire it had expressed in 1987 to serve as the host of the 14th international Congress of Vexillology, to be held in the city of Barcelona.

The delegate of the **Tumbling Waters Museum** moved the acceptance with thanks of the offer of the **Associacio Catalana de Vexil.lologia** to organize that congress, which motion was unanimously approved. The official FIAV flag and gavel would, the President indicated, be sent to the **Associacio Catalana de Vexil.lologia** through the courtesy of the delegate of the **Sociedad Espanola de Vexilolgia**. The President indicated that **Kevin Harrington**, President of the **Canadian Flag Association**, and **Peter Edwards**, President of the **Heraldry Society of Canada**, would be invited to the next sitting of the General Assembly to discuss the possibility of the 15th international Congress of Vexillology being held in Canada. Other delegates suggested possibilities of meetings in Asia or eastern Europe. It was agreed by general consensus that the next Secretary General for Congresses should report at the 14th international Congress of Vexillology concerning a definitive sponsor for the subsequent congress.

V. The **President on behalf of the FIAV Board** asked the General Assembly whether or not it was willing to accept for presentation at the current international Congress of Vexillology a paper submitted by an individual (**Jiri Tenora**) who was not able to attend in person.

A general discussion ensued of the desirability or undesirability of establishing such a practice. It was pointed out that some individuals might have every intention of attending, but would be prevented at the last moment by unforeseen circumstances. On the other hand there was also the possibility of many individuals submitting papers without being present to deliver them and answer questions, which would also create problems for those responsible for publishing the proceedings.

The delegate from the **Flag Design Center** moved that the paper submitted by **Jiri Tenora** be accepted for presentation at the present international Congress of Vexillology, providing that time was available in the schedule, and that in the future any non-attending presenters would be required to sign an agreement with the organizers of an International Congress of Vexillology under terms to be established by FIAV. The motion was seconded by the **Secretary General for Congresses**.

During further discussion the suggestion was made that such presentations would be included in an annex to the proceedings and that one of the conditions for the agreement should be that the presenter at least be required to register as a non-attending congress participant, paying the appropriate registration fees.

VII. The **FIAV Secretary General** submitted a written report of his activities over the previous two years.

The **Secretary General for Congresses** delivered an oral report on his activities which included intensive correspondence with the **Flag Society of Australia** concerning the 13th international Congress of Vexillology. He indicated that the response had been prompt and cooperative in all regards. He also indicated that he had unsuccessful contacts with potential organizers of future international congresses of Vexillology and that he had continued working on the handbook which was in the future to serve as a guide for congress organizers.

This handbook should become a permanent item passed on to all future organizers and therefore should incorporate the programs of each congress, comments by participants, and other relevant notes. It should be the responsibility of the Secretary General for Congresses to maintain this handbook.

Finally, he suggested that the flags of all past international Congresses of Vexillology should be brought to each congress by the FIAV Secretary General. The delegate of the Flag Design Center pointed out some of the practical problems which would be involved (difficulty of transporting an increasing number of flags around the world; the likelihood of different sizes and manners of hoisting for such flags; and the requirements for maintenance of the collection). He moved that the FIAV Secretary General be called on to submit a report on the entire question for future consideration. The delegate from the Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

VIII. The President called on the FIAV Secretary General to make an announcement at the next session of the current international Congress of Vexillology regarding possible nominees for the three, elective positions on the FIAV Board. By unanimous consent the sitting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

IX. The General Assembly was reconvened at 8:50 PM. on 27 September at the MidCity Motel in Ballarat. A quorum of accredited delegates was present.

The President announced that dossiers concerning the International Congress of Vexillology had been received from the *Associacio Catalana de Vexil·lologia* and would be distributed the following day to delegates. Furthermore they would be able to see a video tape concerning Barcelona, also received.

X. At the request of the President, Kevin Harrington, of the Canadian flag Association spoke concerning possible hosting of the 15th international Congress of Vexillology.

Mr. Harrington indicated that he had no mandate from members of the association and that therefore it would be premature to make any promises. General discussion followed on other alternatives.

It was agreed by general consensus that the Secretary General for Congresses should approach authorities in one or more countries of Eastern Europe responsible for museums and other institutions to see if arrangements could be made for the organization of the 15th international Congress of Vexillology through their auspices.

Although previous congresses had been organized by vexillological organisations or institutions, it was felt that FIAV could preserve its own interests and program, while coordinating technical details through a government organization. Such a congress would help vexillologists in the country in question to get official recognition for their activities which would otherwise be impossible and it would allow all participants to see important

XI. The delegate of the **Tumbling Waters** Museum requested consideration of a motion which he had previously circularized to delegates concerning the Flag Bibliography International program of the Flag Heritage Foundation.

The motion read:

Whereas
the Flag Heritage Foundation has provisionally approved a program to be known as the Flag Bibliography International which is designed to develop a professional, annotated, on-line, and continuously updated bibliography of all published and manuscript materials relating in any way to flags and to make that bibliography available to vexillologists and other interested individuals and institutions;

and whereas
the success the Flag Bibliography International program will depend upon adequate funding from a variety of sources, including possibly foundation and government grants which are competitive and require proof of public interest in the proposed project

and whereas
the Statutes of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations state that the purposes of the Federation include coordinating the work and studies of vexillological associations and institutions and of sanctioning International standards facilitating the development of the science,

therefore
the General Assembly of the International Federation of vexillological Associations, assembled in Melbourne, Australia, endorses the Flag Bibliography international program and calls upon its member associations and institutions, the individuals belonging to them, and other individuals and organizations concerned with the advancement of vexillology to assist the Flag Heritage Foundation in bringing this operation into operation.

XII. The delegate of the **Sociedad Espanola de Vexilologia** suggested that international assistance should be gained from UNESCO, national libraries, ministries of culture, and similar institutions. He was concerned, however, what use would be made of the FIAV name.

The **Secretary General for Congresses** wanted to know about the status of the Flag Heritage Foundation. The delegate of **The Tumbling Waters Museum** indicated that no use was intended of the FIAV name except submitting the motion, if passed, as part of a grant application for financial assistance from private or public foundations. He explained that the Flag Heritage Foundation was a not-for profit institution recognized by the Internal Revenue Service of the United States as an educational, scientific, and charitable institution devoted to the advancement of vexillology. Its legal control was in the hands of a Board of Directors and that he himself had no paid position with the Foundation. The Foundation had undertaken modest exhibits in the past and wished to make a major contribution to vexillology by updating and expanding existing vexillological bibliographies and making these available in computerized form to scholars and other interested persons.

He made the formal motion to approve the letter previously submitted conditional upon receipt by the FIAV Board of a letter from the Chairman of the trustees of the Foundation setting forth its legal status, the nature of its Flag Bibliography International program, an explanation of other activities and goals of the Foundation, and a promise not to make use of the FIAV name for purposes other than grant applications. The delegate of the **Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka** seconded the motion. The delegate of the **North American Vexillological Association** indicated that the program itself seemed a worthwhile one, but that more knowledge was needed about the Foundation. After further discussion approval was given to the exemption, with 7 voting in favor and 1 abstaining.

XIII At the request of the **President**, Tony Burton of the **Flag Society of Australia** explained the award which that society proposed to establish on a permanent basis as part of future International Congresses of Vexillology.

The **Vexillon** consists of a metal plaque on a wooden base given "for excellence in the promotion of vexillology". It is intended as a perpetual award to honor those who have striven to advance vexillology and its design reflects these ideals and achievements. The original would be maintained by FIAV and brought to each International Congress of Vexillology. The individual receiving the award would be given a miniature version and a sheet explaining its significance.

The delegate of the **Flag Design Center** asked whether it was intended to be given only to individuals or to associations, institutions, and other bodies. The delegate of the **Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka** indicated that it was intended only for individuals. The **President** pointed out that the FIAV Board at its meeting had voted to accept the Vexillon for presentation at the 13th International Congress of Vexillology without a commitment to accepting the award in the future. The contributions of those making speeches at the Congress were to be judged by the **President**, Grace Cooper, and Bruce Luxford.

The delegate of the **Flag Design Center** indicated he favored acceptance of the award conditional upon the right of the General Assembly to determine all details concerning its presentation in the future. Others pointed out that earlier presentations by Soviet vexillologists and by the *Stichting voor Banistiek en Heraldiek* had been made without any FIAV control and sometimes without its advance knowledge, which was not proper.

The delegate of the **North American Vexillological Association** indicated that a project rather than a presentation at a congress should also be considered eligible. There was general agreement that this was appropriate and that the award should reflect the most important contribution to vexillology during the two years preceding a given International Congress of Vexillology. The **President** suggested that in this light it could well become the Nobel Prize of vexillology.

The **Secretary General for Congresses** moved to accept with appreciation the offer of the **Flag Society of Australia** for the institution of the **Vexillon** as a FIAV award. The motion was seconded and received unanimous approval. The delegate from the **Flag Institute** queried whether the FIAV flag was included in the design and was told by Mr. Burton that it was not, but that its colors were those of the Vexillon.

XIV. The **President** called for nominations for the three officers of the FIAV Board. The delegate of the **Flag Design Center** nominated Reverend Hugh Boudin for **President**; this was seconded by the delegate of the **Flag Institute**. No other nominations were made. The candidate left the room and the **Secretary General for Congresses** took the Chair. The delegate of the **Flag Institute** was sent to ask if Reverend Boudin would accept election, receiving an affirmative reply. He was unanimously re-elected to the position of **President**.

The **President** resumed the Chair and called for nominations for the position of FIAV **Secretary General**. The delegate of the **Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka** nominated Dr. Whitney Smith. No other individual was nominated. The candidate left the room and a general discussion ensued. The delegate of **The Flag Institute** determined that the candidate would accept election and Dr. Smith was re-elected.

The **President** called for nominations for the position of **Secretary General for Congresses**. The current **Secretary General for Congresses** nominated Ralph G.C. Bartlett. The nomination was seconded by the delegate of the **Flag Institute**. There were no other nominations. The candidate was unanimously elected.

XV. The President raised the question as to whether the current General Assembly wished to consider the possibility of voting for the proposals submitted by the Statutes Commission in 1987 or for the proposal for a FIAV Constitution submitted by the FIAV Board in 1987.

The delegate for the **Flag Design Center** suggested that the question had taken too much time during several previous General Assemblies and therefore it was important to make a final resolution on the question, if possible and move on to issues more directly related to vexillology. The delegate of the **Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka** suggested that possibly a set of general principles rather than a complete Constitution would be sufficient.

The delegate of the **Flag Design Center** insisted that details of the Constitution were in fact needed. To promote constructive debate, he moved the adoption of the Constitution by the FIAV Board in 1987, striking out in Article 13, paragraph 2, the words "and each officer of the Board." The delegate of the **Flag Society of Australia** seconded the motion.

The delegate of the **Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka** asked if provisional approval only was appropriate. The delegate of the **Flag Institute** insisted that it was important to settle the issue definitively. William Crampton, who had not stood for re-election as Secretary General for Congresses, noted that the proposed amendment concerned the right of FIAV Board members to participate at General Assemblies and that under the existing statutes he had no right to continue in the present General Assembly. The **FIAV Secretary General** on the other hand indicated that it had previously been determined that new members of the FIAV Board assumed their duties at the termination of the General-Assembly session at which they were elected and that consequently Mr. Crampton had a rightful place in the current General Assembly.

XVI. After discussion of the advisability of including Board members in future General Assemblies, should the proposed constitution be adopted, the delegate of the **Flag Design Center** withdrew his amendment of the Board proposal. The delegate of the **Flag Society of Australia** withdrew his second to that part of the motion. Following further discussion a vote was taken on the motion which was unanimously approved except for abstention by the delegate of the **Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka**. Thus the Board Proposal for a FIAV Constitution replaced the statutes adopted by the 1983 General Assembly.

XVII. The delegate of the **Sociedad Espanola de Vexillologia** indicated that that association had some reservation regarding Article 21 of the new Constitution because other languages should have the possibility of being recognized as official. After general consideration of the possible problems involved (for example, in translating the Constitution and/or in publishing congress proceedings), the delegate of the **Flag Research Centre of Sri Lanka** moved to add Spanish to the list of official languages in Article 21 and to correct the typographical error in the relevant sentence so that "language" could read "languages." The delegate of the **North American Vexillological Association** seconded the motion which was unanimously approved.

XVIII. The **FIAV Secretary General** expressed the wish that the General Assembly direct him to write a letter of salutation to William Pedersen, a Danish vexillologist with great interest in Australian flags who was unfortunately unable to attend the congress. Unanimous general agreement approved this sentiment.

The General Assembly was adjourned at 11:25 pm.

PROPOSAL OF THE FIAV BOARD: CONSTITUTION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATIONS

I. PURPOSES OF THE FEDERATION

- Art. 1 The International Federation of Vexillological Associations unites those associations and institutions throughout the world whose object is the pursuit of vexillology, that is, the creation and development of a body of knowledge about flags of all types, their forms and functions, and of scientific theories and principles based on that knowledge.
- Art. 2 The International Federation of Vexillological Associations (hereafter called the Federation) has as its purposes:
- To create a strong bond among those associations and institutions and to encourage and coordinate their work, studies and research;
 - to promote periodically the organisation of International Congresses of Vexillology and to lend its support to their organisers;
 - to encourage the creation in all countries of associations and institutions dedicated to vexillology
 - to sanction international standards facilitating the development of these activities.
- Art. 3 The Federation, being strictly scientific, has no commercial ends and renounces any political or religious activity or stand.

II. HEADQUARTERS

- Art. 4. The administrative headquarters of the Federation are located at the residences of its Secretaries-General. It may also have a legal headquarters.

III. MEMBERSHIP

- Art. 5 An applicant for membership in the Federation
- must be an organisation of the type expressed in Art. I of the Constitution of the Federation;
 - must be committed to the purposes of the Federation expressed in Art. 2 of its Constitution
 - must be constituted in conformity with the laws of the country where it is located.
- Art. 6 Full membership in the Federation is open to any association or institution anywhere in the world having as its principal purpose the scientific study of vexillology. Associate membership in the Federation is open to other associations or institutions anywhere in the world having vexillology as a center of subsidiary interest.

The processing of membership applications is the responsibility of the Board of the Federation. The Board may at its discretion devolve the function upon a person appointed by them for this purpose. The procedure consists of the following:

- a) The candidate member is to complete the membership-application form, which must be received by the Board no later than six months before the opening of the next General Assembly of the Federation.
- b) The Board shall consider the form and make recommendation to the General Assembly relative to the applicant and shall communicate that recommendation to the applicant and to existing members of the Federation;
- c) The Board may recommend acceptance of the applicant or may recommend rejection of the application,
- d) The General Assembly at its next meeting shall vote on the application. An authorised representative of the applicant may appear at the meeting to represent its case. A rejected applicant has the right to re-apply for membership at any later General Assembly.

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

- a) The existence of a written constitution and its provisions
- b) the vexillological and non-vexillological activities of the applicant including
 - i. meetings
 - ii. publications
 - iii. international relations
- c) in the case of an association, the number of its dues-paying members (minimum of five);
- d) registration of its members in International Congresses of Vexillology sponsored by the Federation;
- e) the length of time it has existed, and
- f) the presence of an autochthonous and authorised representative of the applicant at the General Assembly dealing with the membership application.

Art. 7 The voluntary resignation of any member must be received in writing by the President of the Federation; it is effective upon the date of its receipt.

Art. 8 At its discretion the Board may require a Member to furnish evidence of its continued qualification for membership under the terms set forth in Art. 6.

On the basis of this evidence the Board may make recommendation to the General Assembly on the continuation or modification of the membership of the association or institution. If the recommendation is made to remove a member from the Federation or change its status from full to associate membership the Member in question must be notified at least three months in advance of the General Assembly which is to vote on this matter. The Member shall be invited to be present its defence before the General Assembly, but shall not participate in the vote on the matter.

Art. 9 Each Member of the Federation regulates its own affairs in complete freedom, limited only by the laws in effect in the territory where it functions. The Federation may not limit the rights of the Members in this respect.

Art. 10 Members of the Federation shall not undertake any activities contrary to the interests of the Federation.

Art. 11 The Federation may not act on behalf of its Members without their authorization expressed in the General Assembly. Members may not make commitments nor act on behalf of the Federation, nor may they hold international meetings for vexillology on their own.

Art. 12 The General Assembly may name as Laureates of the Federation individuals who have made outstanding contribution to vexillology. This status does not confer any rights within the Federation.

IV. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Art. 13 The General Assembly is composed of the officers of the Board together with a delegate from each of the Full Associate Members of the Federation. Each delegate must present to the President of the General Assembly written credentials from the Member represented. A Member may delegate any or all of its powers in writing to a delegate from any other Member or to an officer of the Federation.

The General Assembly is not validly constituted unless at least half its duly represented Full Members, as determined at the beginning of the session, are present, except as provided for in Art. 24. Each Full Member and each officer of the Board is entitled to one vote in the General Assembly.

Art. 14 Majorities in General Assembly sessions are constituted of the following fractions of those present and voting:

- a) a simple majority in the election of an officer;
- b) two-thirds for ordinary resolutions; and
- c) three-quarters for amendments to the Constitution or dissolution of the Federation.

Art. 15 The Powers of the General Assembly are the following:

- a) The election of the President and the two Secretaries-General;
- b) examination and approval of the administration of the Board and the commissions;
- c) the examination of all questions concerning the Federation and in particular the organization of the International Congresses of Vexillology;
- d) interpretation of the Constitution of the Federation;
- e) the appointment of Laureates of the Federation and the awarding of such distinctions as it deems appropriate, to persons or institutions who have shown particular merit in the field of vexillology;
- f) the determination of the amount and disposition of the annual dues to be paid by Members;
- g) the appointment of special commissions.

Art. 16 The General Assembly meets at least once every two years, normally on the occasion of each International Congress of Vexillology. It must be convened by the Board at least three months in advance, with notification of the agenda including any proposed amendments to the Constitution.

Art. 17 The General Assembly may be called into emergency session if extraordinary conditions require this, as determined by the Board or if three quarters of the Full Members request this of the Board.

V. **ADMINISTRATION OF THE FEDERATION**

Art. 18 The administration of the Federation is entrusted to a Board which acts only by unanimous agreement. The Board is composed of the President of the Federation and its two Secretaries-General.

The Board is elected at the end of each General Assembly and serves until the election of the new Board at the next General Assembly. Consent of the nominees for election is required. The Members are eligible for re-election.

The two Secretaries-General shall reside in different continents. One Secretary-General manages the Secretariat of the Federation and the other manages the Permanent Secretariat of the International Congresses of Vexillology. The Board is considered to be in continuous session, conducted by correspondence. In addition it must meet at least once between the International Congresses.

Art. 19 The Board of the Federation:

- a) manages the current affairs of the Federation and establishes the duties and obligations of its officers;
- b) issues directives which it considers necessary to the success of the activities of the Federation, including the International Congresses of Vexillology;
- c) establishes such commissions as it deems necessary and appoints members;
- d) convokes General Assemblies in accord with Arts. 16 and 17 of the Constitution;
- e) represents the Federation in its relations with other national and international institutions;
- f) manages membership procedures in accordance with Art. 6 of the Constitution and encourages the adherence to the Federation of new members.

Art. 20. All acts binding upon the Federation must be signed by the President and both the Secretaries-General. Current correspondence may be signed either by the President or the Secretaries-General.

VI. **LANGUAGES**

Art. 21 The Official languages of the International Congresses of Vexillology and of communications of the Federation shall be English, French and Spanish. Other languages may be used as well, where appropriate.

VII. **PUBLICATIONS**

Art. 22 The official journal of the Federation is THE FLAG BULLETIN (ISSN0-015-3370). In addition the Federation shall publish a newsletter concerning its activities at least once a year for the benefit of its members, which may be freely reproduced. The General Assembly may initiate or authorize other publications.

VIII. **SYMBOLS**

Art. 23 The flag of the Federation is as described and illustrated in the *Recueil du 11 Congres International de Vexillologie, Zurich 1967*. The General Assembly may initiate or authorize other symbols for the Federation.

IX. **DISSOLUTION**

Art. 24 Dissolution of the Federation may be considered only at a session of the General Assembly attended by at least three-quarters of the members. Members prevented from attending the General Assmebly may submit written, notarised votes. This General Assembly establishes the terms of the dissolution.