

Preface

This volume contains the proceedings of the 17th International Congress of Vexillology, which was held in Capé Town, South Africa, between 10–15 August 1997. The Congress was held under the auspices of the International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV) and was hosted by the Southern African Vexillological Association (SAVA) under the distinguished patronage of Nelson Mandela, President of the Republic of South Africa. The Congress was attended by over 60 delegates from 19 countries.

A detailed description of the Congress, meetings of the FIAV General Assembly, visits and tours, seminars, awards and social events was presented in the *SAVA Newsletter SN: 19/97*.

During the course of the Congress, 29 papers were presented. The complete edited text of each paper as well as the illustrations, in full colour where applicable, are reproduced here. Papers presented in French or German are reproduced in their original language, followed by an English summary. The SAVA management committee expresses its sincere thanks to the Editor of the Proceedings, Peter Martinez, for his untiring efforts which led to the publication of this volume. The cooperation received from the presenters of the papers in submitting their work in electronic or other formats to the Editor is also greatly appreciated.

The costs of publication have been only partly covered by the Congress budget, thus requiring a generous subsidy from SAVA as well as contributions from individual as well as institutional SAVA members.

SAVA Management Committee
March 1999

Introduction

The title of this volume, *Flags in Southern Africa and the World*, was chosen to record the fact that the XVII Congress of Vexillology was the first such Congress to be held in Africa. The title is reflected in the structure of this book, which is divided into two parts. Part A (Flags in Southern Africa) contains papers concerning past and present flags of Southern Africa, arranged in alphabetical order by author. Part B (World Flags) contains the remainder of the papers, also in alphabetical order by author. Papers delivered in French, German and Spanish are presented in their original language, with a brief English summary.

This volume contains 400 pages, of which roughly one-half make reference to colour illustrations. Since the cost of placing colour on every page would have been prohibitive, it was decided to place the colour illustrations on 88 colour Plates, which are distributed in colour sections throughout the book. Each paper includes a reference to the relevant colour Plates, just after the abstract. The Table of Contents also indicates (in *italics*) the colour Plates pertaining to each paper. Figure references in the text are given in a bold font to facilitate cross-referencing the figures on the Plate pages to the text.

It has taken one and a half years to produce this Proceedings volume. During this time, papers received in a bewildering variety of formats, languages and writing styles were edited and recast into a more uniform format. Marked proofs were sent to all the authors, and in all but two cases, the marked proofs were returned with author corrections. The end result of this process is the book you now hold in your hands. The fact that this volume was produced in under two years is a remarkable achievement given that it was accomplished on a shoestring budget as a collective effort of many individuals working in their 'spare' time. As such, it is a tribute to vexillologists world-wide.

As this work draws to an end, it is my pleasant duty to thank all the people who contributed in various ways towards the completion of this volume. Firstly, I would like to thank all the authors for their cooperation, both in the preparation of their manuscripts and subsequently. I also would like to thank the dedicated members of the Cape Chapter of SAVA, Messrs Leon Breytenbach, André Burgers, Rev. Herbert Syre for assistance with courier services, proof-reading and minor translations. I am particularly grateful to Mrs Joan Merrington for her assistance with the illustrations and to Fr David Musgrave and his helpers for their very substantial assistance with translations and typing of the French and Spanish papers. Members of the SAVA Executive, Messrs. Fred Brownell, Bruce Berry and Mike Clingman, rendered assistance with contacting ICV97 delegates, courier services, proof-reading and securing finance for this publication. Last but not least, I would like to acknowledge the courteous and professional assistance of Messrs David Page and Rodney Stemmett of Rustica Press.

Peter Martinez
June 1999

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SAVA, and the Organising Committee, wish to thank the following sponsors for their generous contributions towards the hosting of the XVII International Congress of Vexillology:

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