



Journal of Vexillology

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DEFINE GOALS ?

As a member of the New England Vexillological Association, I was content to enjoy the meetings, read the Newsletter, and pursue my own interests among the highways and byways of vexillological lore. As the President of our Association, however although careful not to take myself too seriously, I find myself compelled to take a different view of our goals and aims.

have not been clearly articulated, and almost certainly, never written down.

My own strongly-held personal belief is that we, being a small organization, with an interest in a field, which although is very popular, has few dedicated students, need to maintain an "umbrella" approach to vexillology.

entire spectrum, from the flag hobbyist with little specialized knowledge who thrills at the brilliant display of national colors, to the most serious of vexillologists, carefully researching arcane legal codes to find the detailed formal descriptions.

Perhaps we might collectively discuss our goals, aims, and focus at our upcoming meeting, or alternatively, let well enough alone, continuing as before. *Carl S. Gurtman*

To the best of my knowledge, these

We should welcome all who approach as, accepting warmly the

Northampton Massachusetts — Paradise of America

Ed. Note—This article is based on material written by James Croft originally published in the NAVA News, November-December 1988 and submitted by Jim for publication here. We are grateful to both Jim and NAVA for this opportunity.

sentation of the Connecticut River, and some depicted education with the use of the lamp as a symbol. Other designs noted the historic city hall, while others had feathers for the original Native Americans or for Caleb Strong, a Northampton statesman.

issue.

In 1986, Jim Croft approached the Northampton Town Crier, Wendell Roberts, with the idea of replacing the unofficial flag of the city, its seal on a white field, with the idea of a simpler, official flag. After a nine month planning process, support was gained from the City Council who approved the formation of a Flag Commission in November 1987.

The Commission met with the judges, who had chosen the top three entries and recommended that a composite design be made as no single entry was satisfactory by itself. The Commission agreed and the judges were asked to submit seven designs based on the winning entries for selection by the Commission. Of the seven designs, one received unanimous approval and was sent back to the artists for refinement.

The flag is simple, distinctive and rich in symbolism. The green field has multiple meanings. First, it represents one of the city's nicknames, "The Meadow City," and recalls its agricultural past. The fertile meadows and farmland, some of the finest in Massachusetts, lured the early settlers to this area. The green color also symbolizes another of the city's nicknames, "The Paradise of America," coined in 1851 by the famous Swedish vocalist Jenny Lind. Green also represents the many verdant areas within the city and is indicative of the future vitality and growth of Northampton.

This Commission initiated a contest in 1988, which required that anyone living or working in Northampton of any age could enter, no words or numerals could be employed in the design, that the colors and symbols be distinctive and meaningful, unique and not complicated and that only basic colors would be used. It was also decided that three local graphic artists would judge the entries.

The final design was presented to the City Council on 16 June, 1988. During discussion, some further modifications were suggested and the Council unanimously approved the basic design and sent it back to the Commission to decide the final modifications.

The blue stripe with white fimbriations represents the Connecticut

Continued on page 7

The contest received 63 entries. Many of these designs had a repre-

Minor modifications were made to the design and the final product is illustrated in color on page 5 of this

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Boston City Flag and Municipal Standard

The Columbus Day Committee proposed the City Flag in 1913. It was introduced into the City Council 16 January 1914 but was not adopted until 30 January 1917. (See color illustration on Page 4.)

The design is the City Seal in dark blue on white and buff centered on a dark blue field. The proportions are 7:10.

The City Seal was originally designed and adopted by the City in 1823; the artist was John R. Penniman, New England's most famous flag and standard painter of the day. The seal was slightly modified in 1827 and readopted by the Revised Ordinances of 1914, Chapter 1, Section 5. It consists of a view of the City, including the Massachu-



Seal of The Boston Society.

setts State House, and ships in the harbor in the foreground depicted in dark blue on white. Below is the legend 'Bostonia Condita A.D. 1630' in dark blue and encircling the seal at the top is the motto 'Sicut Patribus Sit Deus Nobis', which means 'God

be with us as He was with our fathers' (1 Kings, viii, 57), and 'Civitas Regimine Donata A.D. 1822' around the bottom. These last two inscriptions appear in dark blue on a buff circle, fimbriated white.

The 1917 ordinance specifies the flag is to be used on City Hall and on the Boston Common and that it is to be made of bunting with the seal showing through to the back side. The ordinance also specifies a 'Municipal Standard' to be made of silk for use in parades and other occasions when the mayor is present. The City Seal appears on the obverse and a depiction of the Trimountain is supposed to appear on the reverse. No illustration of this distinctive reverse is known to exist, however the seal of The Boston Society includes a drawing of the Trimountain and the reverse of the Standard may look like this emblem. The Standard is supposed to be fringed in buff.

The colors of the flag and standard, 'Continental blue' and buff are the colors of the Revolutionary War uniforms of Boston Soldiers. In practice, the City Flag is used exclusively and is often fringed.

The Cambridge City Flag

As reported by Ann Shapiro in *The Flag Bulletin*, Volume , Number 1 (FB No. 17 - 1965), the Cambridge City Flag is composed of white silk, bearing the City Seal on the obverse in color and a representation of the Washington Elm on the reverse. (See color illustration on page 4.) It has gold fringe on three sides and a gold cord and tassel set hangs from the pole. The flag in the City Council Chambers measures five feet five inches by four feet three inches, making the proportions 51:65.

The seal on the obverse was superseded in 1964 by a new design designed by the City Planning Board; the editor of this Journal requests any vexillologist who happens to get to the City to check and see if a new flag has been made.

The City Motto on the seal, 'Literas Antiquis Novis Institutis Decora' may be translated as 'Adorned with ancient literature and new institutions.' Also around the bottom of the seal is the latin statement that translates as 'Chartered a City A.D. 1846.' In the center of the seal is a shield bearing a likeness of Gore Hall, which was formerly located at Harvard University and the Washington Elm. Below the shield is the city name in latin and (also in latin) the statement 'Built A.D. 1630.' The seal was adopted in 1846 and originally bore just the image of Gore Hall. The Washington Elm was added in 1896. Gore Hall was torn down in 1912 and the Washington Elm died in 1923. Washington supposedly took command of the Continental Army un-

der this tree in 1775.

The similarities between this flag and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Flag prior to 1971 are quite striking. Both are white with the 'arms' of the respective entity on the obverse and a tree emblem on the reverse.

Somerset: Logo on Bedsheet?

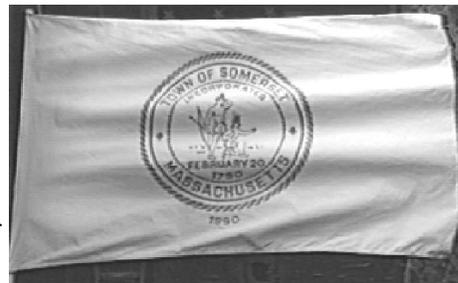
by Dave Martucci

One of the abbreviations used on the email list "Flags of the World" is "LOB" which means "Logo on Bedsheet." It is a derivative of a term coined by the late William Crampton referring to a simple one color field, usually white, bearing a logo or seal of the corporate entity in charge.

In 1990, I had the opportunity to attend a Living History event in the Town of Somerset, Massachusetts. That year was the bicentennial of the town's incorporation. Several months earlier was a parade down Main Street and, in order to decorate for this event, it was decided that every pole along that street would have a bracket from which two flags on poles could be hung. But after inquiring about costs, the Town Fathers decided to nix the idea completely as being too expensive.

However, the students at the local High School took up the cause and did some fund raising to provide these items. Unfortunately, they didn't raise enough for both the brackets and the flags but they did have enough to buy the brackets and

some bedsheets. The sheets were cut up into pieces, hemmed, and the School's Art Class then made up a silk-screen stencil and proceeded to print the Town



Seal with the date 1990 below it in blue on each of these white bed sheet pieces. The flags were stapled onto scrap wooden poles and they were mounted high up on the light poles along Main Street for the parade.

When we arrived for the Reenactment, I was impressed with all the civic flags. After the battles, our camp was open to the public and a group of students were milling about so I asked one if he knew anything about the flags. He laughed and told me the story and I told him of my vexillological interests. About 11 p.m., long after the camp was closed to the public, a deputation of High School Students arrived and presented me with a flag, still mounted on its crude pole. Seems as though they had climbed a light pole and removed a flag as a gift. I sure do appreciate this "LOB" souvenir of Somerset!

A TOWN FLAG FOR SANDWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

Thomas W. Hutcheson

The Town of Sandwich, Massachusetts recently accepted a flag designed by the author (*See color illustration on page 5*). The design is as conservative as the town itself: the town seal on a field of blue. This is of course not of particular note in itself, but it did require resolving problems in the design and coloring of the town seal in an attempt to bring it more in line with heraldic custom.

Sandwich lies on the north shore of Upper Cape Cod and was incorporated in 1639. When the State required that all towns adopt a Town Seal by 1900, the town adopted a seal based on the arms and motto of Sandwich, Kent, England.

The arms of Sandwich, England are gules (red), three lions or (gold) dimidiated with azure (blue), three shops argent (silver, or white). So, on a background of half red and half blue, the front halves of three gold lions were joined with the rear halves of three silver ships (galleons).

Unfortunately, the designer of the town seal was not well versed in heraldry. She replaced the British lions with American eagle heads, a clever notion, but one not easily translatable into heraldic terms, eagles usually being “displayed,” with wings and feet outstretched.

She also effectively removed the line of dimidiation, so that the eagles’ heads and ships were joined into one device on a field of a single tincture. It is difficult to describe these devices in heraldic terms. The clearest might be, “bendwise, three eagles’ heads issuant from the rear halves of three galleons.”

The whole seal is the “arms” on a disk above the motto “Post tot naufragia portus” (“After every storm, a port”) and below the words “Incorporated 1639.” This is surrounded by a rope, outside of which is another disk with the words “Town of Sandwich Massachusetts,” bordered by a slightly thicker rope.

At least three variations exist for the seal’s colors, none of which is in accordance with heraldic custom. A

large wooden model hanging in Town Hall has a field of gold with the three white (silver) devices; metal on metal is heraldically unsuitable.

Town vehicles have the reverse, gold devices on a white background; the police station sign has a medium blue field with gold devices, in itself all right, but it places these arms on a disk of a pale shade of blue, itself on a larger disk of dark blue.

In all the seals the eagles’ heads had become unrecognizable as such. The new design calls for heads based on the reverse of American coins from the early-to-mid nineteenth century. These are drawn equal in size with the ships, and with lines between the heads and ships halfway across the shield to indicate the earlier dimidiation.

After an initial consultation, in which the conservative design of the town seal on a field of blue was established, several designs were submitted for the coloring of the seal. Despite proposals which restored the dimidiation, the Board of Selectmen preferred what has become the traditional seal, three devices of the same tincture on a field of a single tincture.

While the attempt to restore the dimidiation failed, the incorporation of all of the tinctures in the original arms—gold, silver, red and blue—was successful.

The alternate arms design I considered most likely to succeed (which still failed) was blazoned per pale gules and or, the three devices counterchanged (vertically half red, half gold, with gold eagles and red ships). This seemed a good and colorful differencing of the original arms, with the blue and white present elsewhere in the seal. Incidentally, it also had the support of Town staff.

The final tinctures are: for the arms, a field of gold with the three devices in red. The motto below is blue on white (again, blue on gold was not preferred though it would

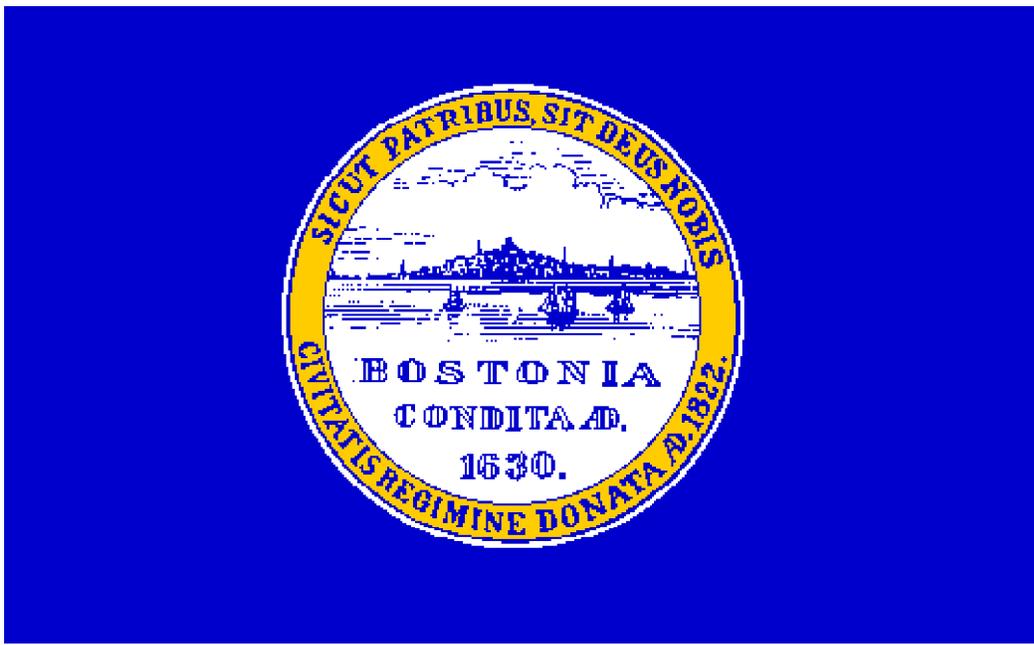
have been more symmetric), the words above, “Incorporated 1639,” are in gold; all the rope is proper (brown); and “Town of Sandwich Massachusetts” is blue on white. The field of the flag is blue; the diameter of the seal is one-half the height of the flag. The proportions are 2:3, as mandated by the Commonwealth.

I did not specify specific hues for the colors. My opinion is that specific shades or pantone numbers may be inconvenient to obtain or reproduce; that people of different times may prefer different shades; and that some variation is acceptable so long as the colors are easily recognizable and distinguishable.

In practical terms, I found it necessary to accept as a matter of course the often rambling and uneven political process of gaining support from the Board of Selectmen. Town staff were very helpful, though their frequent function as intermediaries may have lessened the intensity of some of my ideas—for instance, those about restoring a strong dimidiation in the arms.

The process seems to me to have taken some time, though it was very quick by democratic standards. The last I heard, the design had been sent to an artist for final rendering in late October; the solicitation of designs had been published in early summer. The project was not considered one of relative import and decisions were made whenever they might be; frequently quite some time had elapsed before a presentation and action on it.

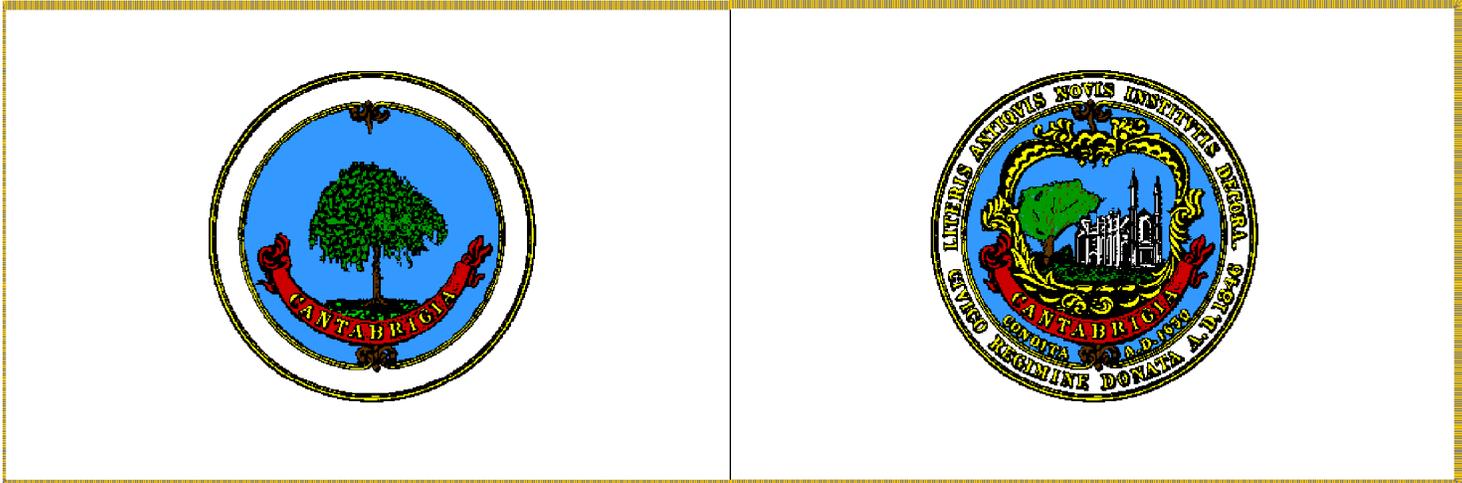
Nonetheless, I urge NEVA members, and especially those in Massachusetts and other states where town flags are being created, to become involved in town processes early and submit a wide range of ideas. Some towns are inherently conservative; others are more willing to experiment. At the least, no town should have to create and adopt a flag without the participation of those most interested in the endeavor.



Left
City Flag of
Boston. Also
obverse of the
Municipal
Standard of
Boston.



Right
Town Flag of
Northampton.



Cambridge City Flag (Reverse)

Cambridge City Flag (Obverse)

Right
City Flag of Malden
(Fig. 1).



Below
Arms of Maldon,
England (Fig. 4).



Reverse of
14th Century
Seal of the
Borough of
Maldon,
England
(Fig. 5).



Obverse of
14th Century
Seal of the
Borough of
Maldon,
England
(Fig. 6).



Town Flag of Sandwich, Massachusetts.

Proposed Flag of Sandwich, Massachusetts.

THE HERALDRY OF MALDEN

by Dr. Whitney Smith

It has been observed frequently (and accurately) that most of the seals employed by cities, towns, and counties in the United States are deficient when measured by traditional standards of heraldic art. Overwhelmingly, the central design of such seals tends to be a naturalistic representation of local scenery (mountains, rivers, trees, cows, etc.) or a graphic "yard sale" of familiar objects (churches, bridges, founding fathers, windmills, abstract symbols of education or industry or religion, etc.). It is therefore surprising to find an American civic seal bearing heraldically proper arms which, moreover, reflect real significance and historical precedents. Such a design is used by the City of Malden, Massachusetts, as a seal (Fig. 2) and the central emblem on its civic flag (Fig. 1, page 5).

Malden, a residential community of approximately 54,000 people lying five miles (8 km) north of Boston, grew from the efforts of the first English settlers who arrived in 1640. Their part of Charlestown was known as Mystic Side because a branch of the Mystic River ran through it. On 2 May 1649, "in answer to the petition of several inhabitants of Misticke side their request is

granted [by the Great and General Court of Massachusetts-Bay] viz. to be a distinct towne of themselves & the name thereof to be Maulden." The new name was apparently chosen because Joseph Hills and several other early landowners had emigrated to the area from Maldon, Essex County, England.

Malden was the first town (on 27 May 1776) to petition the Massachusetts-Bay colonial government to withdraw allegiance from King George. Among the noteworthy people born in Malden was James B. Upham, sometimes reputed to be the author of the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States flag.¹ Another Maldonian was Wayne Whipple, designer of a version of the Stars and Stripes known as the "Whipple Flag."² He sent a sample of his new design (Fig. 3) to the Malden Public Library for display, but it did not meet with public favor according to one newspaper account:³

Mr. Whipple's design is quite pretty but it is not the Stars and Stripes that thousands have fought for. Several old soldiers have seen it and say that the sooner it is hauled down from the library walls the better.

When the town became the City of Malden in 1882, steps were taken to establish an official seal. The design

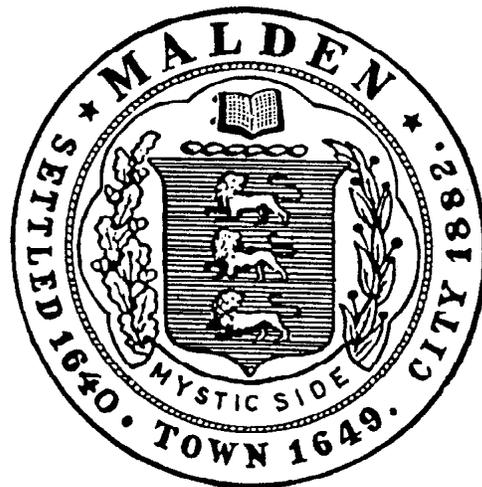


Fig. 2 Malden City Seal still in use was adopted at that time:⁴

The following shall be the design of the seal of the City of Malden: within a circle, bearing at the top "Malden", and below, "Settled 1640. Town 1649, City 1882", a shield azure, three lions passant regardant, or, as borne by Maldon, County Essex, England. Crest: an open Bible proper; supporters: dexter, a branch of oak; sinister: a branch of olive; both fruited, proper. Below the base of the shield: "Mystic side".

The seal, first "officially" utilized on grammar school diplomas in 1868, was based on research conducted by a local historian, Mr. D. P. Corey. It was referred to as a "chaste and appropriate symbol," not one of those "heraldic emblems which boast their foundation in brute strength, or regal favoritism."⁵

There is no known record of any civic flag until 1974. Indeed even after its creation little attention seems to have been paid to the flag. It does not fly on public buildings such as the Malden Government Center and the Malden Public Library, although there is a reproduction of the city seal, about 9' (2.8 m) high and made of concrete, displayed in front of the Malden High School. The city flag is to be found both in the Office of the Mayor and in the City Council Chambers. No colors were specified for the seal when it was created since, being a metal die, it was inherently colorless. When the sigilliferous flag was established it became necessary

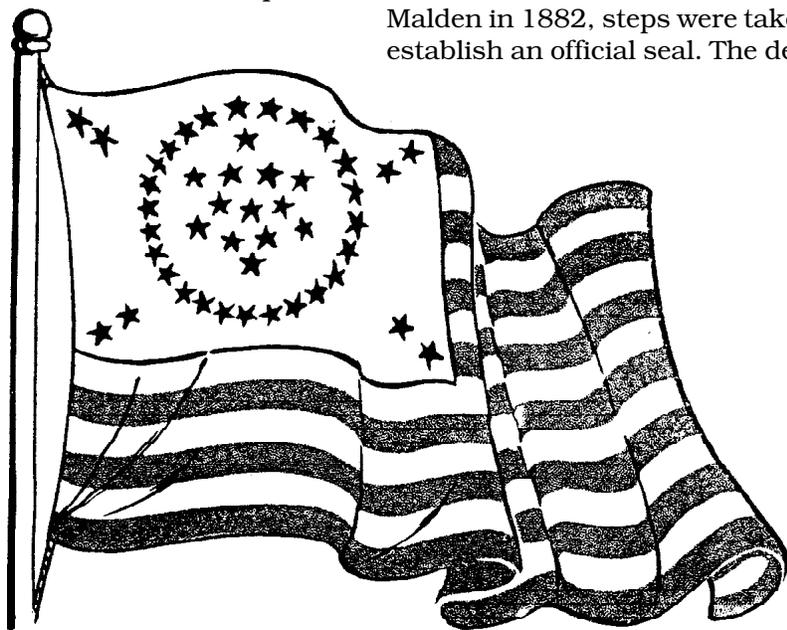


Fig. 3 The Whipple Flag

Northampton Massachusetts — Paradise of America *Continued*

River, New England's longest. The shape of the stripe indicates the unique sharp curve in the river at Northampton called the "Ox Bow," as it reminded the early settlers of the bow of an ox yoke. The stripe also indicates Northampton's original Native American name, "Nonotuck" meaning "in the middle of the river."

The river was important to the Indians as it was a source of food, acted as a boundary and was a means of transportation. Later, the settlers used the river for transportation for the transportation of goods upstream such as rum, molasses and mackerel, in exchange for wood, brooms and potash to be shipped downstream. Today the river is an impor-

tant source for recreational activities, and the beautiful scenery surrounding the river brings tourists to the area from all parts of the world.

Finally, the stripe commemorates the political leaders, early boatmen, and rugged individualists who were called "River Gods" in the late 1700s. This endearing term was used to describe these men who assisted in establishing Northampton during this time period.

The gold feather, like the other symbols, has several meanings. It signifies the original inhabitants of the area, the Nonotuck Indians. A single eagle, hawk or turkey feather in a Nonotuck brave's headband was a mark of honor. The feather, shaped

to look like a quill pen, also represents the statesmen of Northampton, most notably Caleb Strong, Governor of Massachusetts during the War of 1812 and a delegate to both the Massachusetts and United States Constitutional Conventions. It is also indicative of Calvin Coolidge, Mayor of Northampton, Governor of Massachusetts and 32nd President of the United States.

The feather is placed between the curve of the stripe as if it were an ink well. This placement, along with its shape as a feathered quill pen, symbolizes the city as an educational center. The first public school was founded in 1664. Today Northampton is located in the "Five College Area" and is home to world renowned Smith College. In addition, the feather pen symbolizes a strong government and a creative people.

The proportions of the flag are 3:5.

THE HERALDRY OF MALDEN *Continued*

to attribute colors to the various seal elements.

The armorial colors long since established in Maldon, England, were adopted by its American namesake: thus the shield was blue (with a yellow outline), the lions yellow, the torse above the shield alternately yellow and blue from dexter to sinister. The inscriptions and the frame around the shield as well as the Bible serving as a crest were made yellow, the two rings in the exergue blue. The oak and olive leaves were green, while the acorns and olives appeared in brown. The white background of the flag served the seal as well. These colors may well have been arbitrarily chosen by some Malden government official — or even possibly by the flag maker — but in any event there is no official record on the subject nor is the flag defined in the *City Code*.

The core design of the Malden seal — the blue shield with three yellow lions regardant — is related to sym-

bols at least 600 years old, employed by what was formerly the Royal Borough of Maldon, England. Its coat of arms (*Fig. 4, page 5*) is⁶

Party per pale azure and argent, on the dexter side three lions passant guardant in pale or, and on the sinister on waves of the sea in base proper a ship of one mast sable, the mast surmounted by a fleur-de-lis gold, and from the masthead a pennon floting gules, the sail furled argent, and from a turret at the stern a flagstaff erect surmounted by a fleur-de-lis of the sixth, and therefrom a banner of the first charged with three lions passant guardant of the third.

While the arms date back to the mid-16th century, the two principal emblems — a shield of the arms of England and a ship flying a banner of those arms — are found in a seal (*Figs. 5-6, page 5*) which may have first been in use prior to 1340.⁷

FOOTNOTES

- ¹ Allan Forbes and Ralph M. Eastman, *Town and City Seals of Massachusetts* (Boston: State Street Trust Company, 1951), Vol. II, p. 61.
- ² See his *The Story of the American Flag* (Philadelphia: Altemus, 1910), pp. 58-60.
- ³ "Wayne Whipple Wants American Flag Changed," *Malden News*, 29 March 1913, p. 3.
- ⁴ Section 1.12 of the *City Code*.
- ⁵ Unsigned editorial, *Malden Messenger*, 22 August 1868, p. 2.
- ⁶ Arthur Charles Fox-Davies, *The Book of Public Arms* (London: Jack, 1915), p. 484.
- ⁷ The conjectural date is based on the fact that the arms of England, which are part of the seal, were quartered with the arms of France Ancient (blue semé of golden fleurs de lis) at some time between January and March of 1340. Impressions of the Maldon seal dating from 1384 and from 1600 are the earliest available examples. Information on these appears in W. Gurney Benham, *Essex Borough Arms and the Traditional Arms of Essex ...* (Colchester: Benham, 1916), p. 17. The original seal is no longer extant.

NOTICE OF NEXT MEETING

The April meeting of NEVA will be held at **1:00 p.m.** on **Sunday, April 19th, 1998** at the **Carl Gurtman's house** on Brave Boat Harbor Road in York, Maine.

Traveling North or South on Interstate 95/Maine Turnpike to York: Take exit immediately after the toll in York (going south) or the last exit immediately prior to the toll at Turnpike (going north), then turn right at U.S. 1 and an immediate left onto 1-A; follow into town.

At one mile, you are in the center of town; a Civil War statue is located there. Continue straight - the road actually bears slightly to the right - on York Street.

Continue one-half mile beyond the statue and take a right onto Rte 103. Continue for one mile on Rte. 103. Take a left onto Brave Boat Harbor Road. Note: the cross-street there is Seabury Road. After one-tenth of a mile, continue following Brave Boat Harbor Road as it bears right up a hill. Do not go left onto the dead end.

The Gurtman home is a gray colonial, 228 Brave Boat Harbor Road, near the top of the hill on your left. It is set a little distance off the road. If you pass High Rock Road on your left, you have gone a bit too far.

Call Carl at (207) 363-4920 for more info. Call Dave at (207) 845-2857 (or email vex@midcoast.com) if you need a ride. He will see if he can find someone from your area to share with.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The November meeting of NEVA was held Sunday, November 2, 1997 at the People's Institute in Northampton, Massachusetts. Many thanks go to that organization for allowing us the use of their facility, especially on a Sunday when they are normally closed. Thanks also goes to Jim Croft for arranging logistics.

Attending the meeting were members Carl Gurtman, President; Dave Martucci, Secretary/Treasurer; Peter Augello; John Ayer; Jim Croft; Paul Eno; Greg Gonzales; Tom Hale; Tom Hutcheson; and Robert Lloyd Wheelock. Lorna Blake of Leeds, Massachusetts also joined us as a guest and fellow vexillologist.

Meeting was called to order by President Gurtman at 1:25 p.m. Introductions were made around and flag cookies by Robert Lloyd Wheelock were offered and enjoyed along with other refreshments.

An update on the 18th International Congress was given by Dave Martucci. FIAV accepted the proposal of Victoria, BC to host the Congress. Our proposal was not presented because the President of NAVA was not satisfied with it.

Minutes of the April 20, 1997 meeting were accepted as written in NEJV No. 5.

Treasurer reported our balance on 4/20/97 was \$148.13. Income since then was \$180 (dues, gifts and the sale of back issues of the NEJV) and expenses were \$190.10 (printing and postage), leaving

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The views of individual authors are their own and do not reflect the views of NEVA.

a new balance of \$143.03 as of 11/2/97. Report was accepted as presented.

The NEJV Editor pleaded for more articles, ideas and clippings from the members.

Jim Croft reported on the 171CV in Capetown, South Africa and about his travels in that region after a long hiatus. Of importance, he reported the South African Flag, although originally intended to be an interim design, has been widely accepted and is no longer thought of as interim. The red on this flag is described as "Chile Red."

As is our custom, a round table was held in which each person attending briefly described their recent vexi-activities and interests:

Carl Gurtman described his search for the original Maine Maritime Flag at the Maine Maritime Academy. So far, no luck. He also reported the flag he asked about at the last meeting he saw flying from a church, white with a yellow cross throughout, was used to symbolize Easter. He also described some of his vexiobservations while in Ireland.

Peter Augello has a collection of about 200 4"x 6" international flags.

Jim Croft, besides his travels as already described, illuminated us on the designing of the Northampton Municipal Flag in 1988, in which he had a hand.

Robert Lloyd Wheelock is working on his "Flag Handbook," has a new computer to aid his work and is gathering info on the flags of the provinces of Ecuador. He relayed a message he received via email from Lynn Knights, who sends greetings to NEVA.

Tom Hutcheson recently designed the Town Flag of Sandwich, Massachusetts. He presented the assembly with the details and promised to submit them for inclusion in the *Journal*.

Dave Martucci presented a show and tell of materials gathered recently, particularly the *Flag Data Bank* periodical published in Germany and *Vexilla Nostra* published in the Netherlands. The latter is an exchange subscription for the *Journal* and if any member who can translate the Dutch would like to have them, please let the Secretary know. He also showed the recently acquired flags in his collection, Tibet, Nepal, Buddhist Prayer Flags, and a 13 Star US Navy Small Boat Flag (c. 1899).

Greg Gonzales displayed some of his airbrushed 4"x 6" flags and explained some of the techniques he uses in making them.

John Ayer talked about his research on the Holy Grail cum Torch symbolism for Leadership. He also mentioned he is interested in all forms of National Insignia and Car Emblems.

Paul Eno has a collection of more than 100 flags and he is interested in working on promoting new city and town flags in Rhode Island.

Lorna Blake, formerly of Belfast, Northern Ireland, is learning flags because of her work at Smith College. She is Director Emerita of Admissions and after seeing a display in Smith's Gym of the flags of the countries the students have hailed from, has published a serialized discussion of them in Smith's Campus Newspaper.

Tom Hale has tried to get the City of Quincy, Massachusetts to adopt a new flag but so far has had no luck. He designed the flag of South Boston.

Dave Martucci made the presentation to the meeting entitled "Flag Stories," consisting of humor, gaffes, errors and amusing anecdotes related to flags. This presentation will be published in the *Journal* at some point.

The next meeting was set for 1:00 p.m. Sunday, April 19, 1998 at York, Maine. Jim Croft will make the presentation and Dave Martucci promises to attend in his Revolutionary War best since it is the real Patriot's Day.

A general discussion of our website was held; we have received many praises for it. The meeting agreed by consensus that the NEJV articles would only be published online after the next issue appears in print.

A general discussion of meeting frequency was held. Although the twice a year formal meeting schedule seems okay, additional meetings may be called at other times. Some discussion was held on having an informal meeting in June. This will be discussed further at the April 19 meeting.

It was suggested perhaps the host of each meeting would send a notice to the local press on the meeting so that local vexillologists unknown to us can come and participate.

A suggestion for including a brief bio on each member in the *Journal* was made. Members are asked to send their bio, including their vexinterests, to the Editor, Dave Martucci.

Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Dave Martucci, Secretary

NEW MEMBERS SINCE 10/15/97

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A complete listina will be distributed at the 4/19 Meeting.