



THE
FLAG RESEARCH CENTER

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May 19, 2009

Mr. Charles A. Spain, Jr.
504 Branard Street
Houston TX 77006-5018

Dear Mr. Spain,

I am responding to your inquiry of 15 April concerning the issue of the authenticity of the claim that the designer of the second national flag of the Republic of Texas (the Lone Star flag) was Charles Stewart. I am glad to provide you with my position on this important issue. In particular I want to take the opportunity to repudiate the statement I made when authoring *The Flag Book of the United States*, published in 1970 and republished with modifications in 1975. My statement, made on page 207, read "The new design, the idea of Dr. Charles B. Stewart...".

I cannot recall which book served as the source for my claim concerning the flag. In any event I have since been convinced by documentary evidence that the claim and, therefore, my reliance on it were in error.

The issue is important because of the significance in Texas history of the Lone Star flag. School children, those concerned with flag history (vexillologists), members of the Texas legislature and other branches of the Texas government are among the many who are concerned with the importance of the claim.

As Director of the Flag Research Center, internationally recognized as the oldest and largest institution in the world devoted exclusively to research and publication concerning flags, I am committed to presenting accurate and thorough information in this and similar circumstances.

I have now had a chance to read the information on the question of the identification of the individual responsible for the design of the Lone Star flag. Several individuals have put forth claims on the subject, but in my considered opinion the available documentation does not adequately and decisively provide an answer to the question of the authorship of the flag. Considering the importance of the issue it would be a dereliction of duty to claim the honor for one person or another simply because his name has been associated with the authorship of the flag.

It is possible, of course, that at some point in the future evidence may become available that will allow for a definitive judgment. In the meantime I would strongly counsel against endorsing

any claim. Moreover, aware as I am of the efforts that have been made to credit Stewart with the designing of the flag, I wish to record my strong belief that those claims appear to be no more than partisan attempts to present a "favorite son" candidate for the honor.

I hope this information is of some value for you.

Sincerely,



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