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COMMITMENT TO FLAGS: The Briscoe Center, houses some historic flags now, such as the flag that hung behind Sam Rayburn when he was Speaker of the U.S. House. *Courtesy Briscoe Center*

GTT: FLAG RESEARCH CENTER COLLECTION MOVES TO UT'S BRISCOE CENTER FOR AMERICAN HISTORY

The Briscoe Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin has acquired the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection. This vast and unique archive documents the development of the academic discipline that seeks to understand the symbolism and significance of flags and heraldry.

"I'm delighted and proud that the center will be the home of the Whitney Smith Collection, the most important and complete archive of its kind," said Don Carleton, executive director of the Briscoe Center. "This acquisition creates a new collection strength for the center. Historically, flags have transmitted significant symbolic information that can tell us much about the origins, culture, self image, and values of a society."

The collection includes the contents of the Flag Research Center, created in 1962 and directed by Whitney Smith, widely recognized as the foremost expert on the study of flags and their historical significance, known as vexillology. The center was home to thousands of books, charts, pamphlets, serials, clippings, and flags, as well as troves of associated memorabilia. The Smith Collection contains considerable research materials related to American history and Americana, with detailed information about the development of the Stars and Stripes as well as state flags. Migrating the collection took a crew of twelve people four days to pack into two 53-foot trailers.

"By entrusting this collection to the university, Dr. Smith has ensured that his collection remains a vibrant resource for scholars across the country and around the world," said Hugh L. Brady, president of the North American Vexillological Association, vice president of the Vexillological Association of the State of Texas, and director of the Legislative

continued on page 4

CONTENTS

2013 Meeting2
ICV 25 Report.....2
2013 Fellows.....2
NAVA 47 Report.....3



From Top: **Hugh Brady** FF, VAST vice president; **Charles Spain** WSF, VAST secretary-treasurer and FIAV secretary-general; **Pete Van de Putte** FVAST; **Scot Guenter** LF, FF, WSF, FVAST. Courtesy Brian Fitzpatrick; Texas Sen. Media Servs.

REPORT: 2013 BUSINESS MEETING, FORT WORTH

The Association held its annual business meeting on Saturday, March 2, 2013, 12 noon, at the Fort Worth Club. President James Liston presided. Members re-elected James Liston, Hugh Brady, and Charles Spain as members of the board; the board re-elected Liston as president; Brady as vice president; and Spain as secretary-treasurer.

REPORT: NETHERLANDS FLAG CONGRESS

The 25th International Congress of Vexillology was held in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from Aug. 5-9, 2013. The Congress was organized by the Netherlands Vexillological Association, the Netherlands Flag Museum Foundation, and the Rotterdam Flag Parade Foundation under the auspices of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques.

The Association was represented by Association Secretary-Treasurer Charles Spain, who was present and re-elected as the FIAV Secretary-General. Vice President Hugh Brady represented the Association in the General Assembly and delivered a report on the transition of the Flag Research Center Collection to The University of Texas. Dr. Scot Guenter delivered another excellent presentation about flag rituals. Finally, VAST has been selected as the organizer of the 28th International Congress of Vexillology in 2019 in San Antonio.

2013 FELLOWSHIPS HONOR WORK TO SECURE FLAG RESEARCH CENTER COLLECTION

The Association's Board of Directors may elect as a Fellow of the Association any member who, among other things, renders exceptional service to the Association in the advancement of vexillology. The position of Fellow is an honorary position of the Association. Fellows may use the postnominals "FVAST."

In 2013, the board elected Dr. Scot M. Guenter and H.P. (Pete) Van de Putte, Jr., as Fellows of the Association for their rendition of exceptional service to the Association in the advancement of vexillology. Vice President Hugh Brady announced the fellowships on October 12 as a part of the Whitney Smith Dinner during the 47th annual meeting of the North American Vexillological Association in Salt Lake City, Utah. Both Dr. Guenter and Mr. Van de Putte have worked tirelessly to place the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection at The University of Texas at Austin's Dolph Briscoe Center for American History. Dr. Guenter and Mr. Van de Putte join Dr. Whitney Smith as Fellows of the Association, who was so honored in 2012.

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VEXILLOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

JAMES T. LISTON President | **HUGH L. BRADY** FF Vice President | **CHARLES A. SPAIN** WSF Secretary-Treasurer



The NAVA 47 meeting flag, designed by John M. Hartvigsen. *Courtesy NAVA*

REPORT: NAVA 47: SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

The North American Vexillological Association held its 47th Annual Meeting from October 11-13 the Plaza Hotel at Temple Square, Salt Lake City, Utah. The meeting was organized by the Utah Flag Association, with NAVA Secretary John Hartvigsen chairing the organizing committee.

On Friday, NAVA President (and Association Vice President) Hugh Brady presided over the inaugural George Preble Lecture. Dr. Richard E. Bennett, a Brigham Young University professor and president of the Mormon History Association, was the featured speaker. The LDS Church History Museum displayed four historic flags to illustrate Dr. Bennett's lecture on flags used by the Mormon Pioneers. Participants also toured an exhibit of flags from four local collections, including the historic Life Guard Bear Flag which had been examined the day before in a charette.

The Association was represented by Brady, Secretary-Treasurer Charles Spain, Dr. Scot Guenter, H.P. (Pete) Van de Putte, Jr., and Vanessa Van de Putte. Brady was re-elected to a sixth term as NAVA president, and Guenter and Pete Van de Putte were re-elected as members of the NAVA nominating committee.

Several awards and honors were presented at NAVA 47 by Brady:

- Dean Thomas received the Captain William Driver Award for his paper "Flags and Emblems of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea: Vexillidolatriy in Its Purest Form."
- For his scholarly and organizational work over two decades, including securing the transition of the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection to the Briscoe Center at The University of Texas, Charles A. Spain was elected as a Whitney Smith Fellow.
- For their work to transition the FRC to UT, the Executive Board elected Austin Smith, Dr. Kirby A. Baker, and Dr. Don E. Carleton were named Honorary Members of NAVA.
- For the conception, planning and execution of the inaugural George Henry Preble Lecture and for organizing the charette of the Mormon Life Guard Bear Flag, John M. Hartvigsen received the John Purcell Award for these exemplary contributions that promote public understanding of vexillology in North America.
- For his lifelong commitment to outreach to non-vexillologists and for scholarly excellence in vexillology, Kevin Harrington received the inaugural Kevin Harrington Award.
- For her continuous and remarkable service to the Association over three decades, Doreen Braverman received the inaugural Doreen Braverman Award.
- To mark her service to the Association, retiring Treasurer Mary Ann Docktor-Smith received a commemorative certificate.



IT'S OFFICIAL:

Dr. Whitney Smith, LF, FF, WSF, left, and Dr. Don Carleton mark the transfer of the FRC Collection to The University of Texas in a July ceremony in Boston.

Courtesy Peter Mumford and Austin Smith

SMITH'S COLLECTION MOVES TO TEXAS

continued from page 1

Lawyering Clinic at the University's School of Law. "Flags matter. People fly them, fight for them, burn them, and fuss over them."

The Smith Collection compliments numerous resources at the Briscoe Center, including captured battle flags found in its material culture holdings; significant photographs of flags in its photojournalism holdings; documents related to the original design of the Texas flag in the Moses and Stephen F. Austin papers; and film resources featuring flags and heraldry.

"Like words, flags are representations of ideas," said Charles A. Spain, secretary-general of the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques, former NAVA president, and Association secretary-treasurer. "The ever shrewd Napoleon recognized their power: 'It is with these things that men are led.'"

Whitney Smith founded the North American Vexillological Association and FIAV. He has written 27 books about flags, authored hundreds of articles, has been a flag consultant for hundreds of companies, and has authored over 250 Britannica encyclopedia entries concerning individual flag histories. Smith even designed the national flag of Guyana in 1966.

"Not many people can rightfully claim to have founded a field of study, and shepherded it through to maturity as a community of scholars, publications, and enthusiasts," said Carleton. "Smith's life work will not only be persevered, it will be open for academic research and act as a magnet for similar collections."

A one-year project to process and catalog the Smith Collection will begin shortly, after which the materials will be available for research.