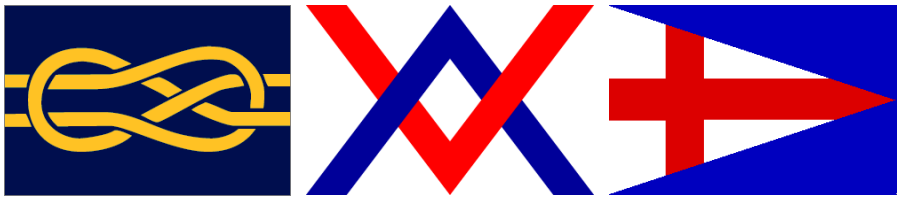
5th International Congress of Vexillology (ICV5)

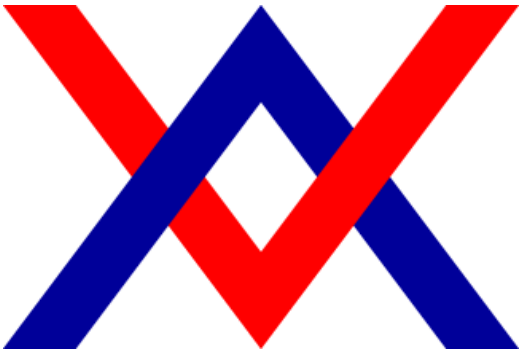
University of London
13–18 September 1973

Additional material



The limited reproduction technology available in 1973 makes the original ICV5 programme booklet rather sparse. The illustrations below give some idea of the Congress and its surroundings.

The Congress flag



The Congress flag, designed by Bruce Nicolls
Two interlinked Vs represent Vexillology and the Roman numeral V for the 5th International Congress

Congress venue




The University of London, the ICV5 venue
***Left**, Malet Street, where the Congress took place. Accommodation was in College Hall, left; the lecture rooms were in Birkbeck College, right.*
(photo: Geograph-2855076-by-Jonathan Thacker)
***Right**, the University of London's iconic Senate House, viewed from Malet Street.*
(photo: Geograph-7235514-by-Dylan-More)

ICV5 visits






Three visits took place during ICV5
***Top left**, Saturday 15 September, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich.*
(photo: Geograph-1176275-by-Richard-Croft)
***Top right**, Sunday 16 September, Commonwealth Institute, Kensington (now the Design Museum).*
(photo: Twentieth Century Society website, original by Sarah Duncan)
***Below**, Monday 17 September, National Army Museum, Chelsea.*
(photo: Geograph-5699405-by-PAUL-FARMER)

ICV5 in the media

Some ICV5 delegates



A contemporary photo shows some ICV5 delegates outside the University buildings.
No names were recorded but identified so far are: .
Standing left to right: *?, ?, Roger Baert with the flag of the Office généalogique et héraldique de Belgique, ?, Whitney Smith, Roger Denille, Linda Osborne? with the NAVA flag, Günther Mattern with the Flag Research Center flag, ?, ?, ? with the London County Council flag, Sven Tito Achen?, ?, ?, ?, Lucien Philippe with the SFV flag, Cornelis Pama with the ICV3 flag, and ?;*
kneeling, *Alfred Znamierowski and ? with the City of Westminster Council flag.*

If you can add any name(s), please contact the Flag Institute Crampton Library.
(photo: Crampton Library collection; thanks also to
Emil Dreyer, Michel Lupant and Jos Poels for their help).

Transcript of an item broadcast on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, 14 September 1975

Presenter: Vexillology, vexillology … well, as I say. I managed to get it right – how about Dick Tracy?

P: It's not difficult to pronounce: vex-ill-ology … vexillology.

Whitney Smith: One of the qualifications for membership of the Association, we say, is being able to pronounce the word. It comes however from a good solid Latin word, *vexillum*, which means a flag, so it's the study of flag history of symbolism.

P: Dr Whitney Smith, formerly of Boston University, who now runs the Flag Research Centre in America.

WS: Well, ten years ago there was really nothing. Many of us were interested, but in an amateur sort of way. My own background is academic. I taught political science. I began publishing a magazine that became the focal point of much of the

activity that is going on today.

P: Then what do you hope to do – to study these flags?

WS: Well, it's related to history of course. It's a question of analysing flags as a social phenomenon. Every society has used flags of some kind or another, and what we want to know is why. What impact do they have; the different kinds of colours and designs in usage; and consequently our interest is world-wide and past and present.

P: It spread to Britain too, and William Crampton runs the Flag Institute in Chester. He's organised this Congress.

William Crampton: There are fifty-three delegates from fourteen countries of the world. Several of the people here are from the UK, but we've got people from as far away as the Mid-West of the USA, South Africa, Scandinavia and western Europe generally.

P: They started this morning with the General Assembly, and for four days they'll be talking solidly about … you've guessed it … flags. As well as visiting a few relevant museums. Well, how did you get interested, Madame de Switzerland?

'Madame de Switzerland': My husband was very much interested in tin soldiers, from young on. And then from the tin soldiers he went to history of the flags, of course, and that's why he joined the vexillological congresses, and all that such as flags. That's all, and I'm just following, and of course I'm very happy to be in England because I love the country.

P: That may be her story, but surely looking at flags, reading about flags, collecting flags and maybe restoring flags, must make you patriotic?

WS: No, it's very interesting. Many people assume that because we're interested in flags we're 'flag-wavers', and of course in the US 'flag-waving' is practically a religion. But in point of fact we study the flag-wavers. This isn't to say that we're unpatriotic, but as vexillologists we're more interested in what other people are doing with their flags than in doing it with our own.

The interview then terminated with a few bars of *Land of Hope and Glory*, a British patriotic song.