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Illinois

The governor of Illinois has paved the way for a new flag for the "Land of Lincoln". If the committee decides to replace the flag, designs must be submitted by December 3rd, 2024.

Utah

Opponents to the new Utah flag (see Vlag! 32) are attempting to retain the old flag by means of a referendum. This is allowed as the bill for the new flag did not have a two-thirds majority. According to the opponents, the old flag is the symbol that has always united them.

Maine

Maine residents will be able to choose in 2024 whether they want to keep the current 1909 flag, or whether it should be replaced with Maine's first flag. This first flag of Maine — buff with green pine and star — was adopted in 1901.

Minnesota

The House of Representatives has approved a bill to design a new flag by Jan. 1, 2024. This flag should better represent the different cultures within Minnesota.

Latgale

As the first of the five Latvian historical regions, Latgale received its own flag in 2023. The flag has the shape of the Latvian flag where the red stripes are changed to dark blue.

Forest Finns

The Forest Finns in Norway and Sweden are descendants of Finns who moved west in the 16th century. Recognized as a national minority, the Forest Finns adopted a flag in April 2023. The flag is based on the Scandinavian cross and contains the colours of nature and how they practiced their slash-and-burn agriculture.

Vatican City

Vatican City adopted a new constitution in 2023. In the coloured drawing of the flag, the rear key of the coat of arms is shaded and is grey while the front key is yellow.

Belize

The flag of Belize, which contains the coat of arms of Belize, was standardized in 2019 and 2020. The two shield bearers in the coat of arms, a Mestizo-Belizean and an Afro-Belizean, are now both brown-skinned.

Netherlands

Dutch MP K. Houwelingen wants to know the status of the Dutch, provincial and municipal flags. These flags represent every resident in the Netherlands, in the province or in the municipality. Government buildings can hoist these flags. Other flags, such as the rainbow flag or the SDG flag, should not be hoisted by government buildings.

Yucatán

On May 8, 2023, the Constitution of Mexico was amended to allow states to establish regional symbols. Yucatán immediately chose as a regional symbol the flag that the state adopted in 1841 when it declared its independence. In 1848, Yucatán became a state of Mexico again.

Flags and coats of arms of the Dutch province North Brabant

In 2023, a beautiful book "Noord-Brabantse wapens en vlaggen" was published. The book describes the provincial flag and the flags of all North Brabant municipalities. Originally written by Willem van Ham who passed away in 2020. The book was completed by G. Beuring, J. de Grauw, J. Hopstaken, and J. Jacobs. The price is € 39.99; e-book € 19.99.

Colour order more important than equally width stripes

The author has compared many Dutch ship models and paintings of ships from the 17th and 18th centuries. The conclusion was that most painted ships carried a red, white and blue flag in which the white stripe was wider than the red and blue stripes. Model ships also have such flags, which are made with multiple strips. The number of strips per colour is often not constant. Images of flags after the French period (1794-1814) are correct.

On water, blue stripe turns dark blue

On Dutch sailing yachts and motorboats, more and more flags can be seen whose blue stripe is darker than the cobalt blue determined for the Dutch flag. Those flags are more expensive and are considered more chic. The author describes those flags and mentions the different methods by which the different blue colour is defined.

A pennant of the Spanish Armada

Museum De Lakenhal in Leiden’s collection contains the pennant of the Portuguese galleon San Mateo of the Spanish Armada. This Armada was on its way to prevent English support to the Dutch revolt against Spanish rule. The San Mateo, badly battered in the battle, was stranded on a sand bank between Ostend and Sluis. The very long pennant of the San Mateo was presented to the head scout of Leiden.

The Elbers family in Zwartsluis decorated the Dutch white central stripe

In various Dutch museums, Dutch flags are kept with a decorated white stripe. In the 19th century, these flags were included with newly build ships. Many of these flags were painted by Herm Elbers from Zwartsluis. The author Alle Elbers describes some of these flags, how they were made and for whom these flags were intended.

Noordwijk colours tongue and nails of the lion red in flag after merger

On January 1, 2019, the municipalities of Noordwijk and Noordwijkerhout merged into the municipality of Noordwijk in the province of South Holland. The new flag shows the black standing lion of Noordwijk, but now with red tongue and nails. The old flags of Noordwijkerhout and the village of De Zilk are also provided.

Nissewaard flag rearrangement of municipal coat of arms elements

The South Holland municipality of Nissewaard was created in 2015 by the merger of Bernisse and Spijkenisse. In 2020 it was time to design a municipal flag. The flag contains all parts of the municipal coat of arms, albeit in a different order. The flags of the municipalities that had merged with Bernisse or Spijkenisse - Heenvliet, Geervliet and Zuidland - are also discussed.

Fictional flags to imagine another world

The strong symbolism of a flag is undeniable. For this reason, flags play a major role in the United Nations Hall in Museum Omniversum in The Hague, which opened in April 2023. The room is decorated with all kinds of fantasy flags. The fictional flags cross the real world: they symbolize unity rather than national division.