

Anne M. Platoff

To: LAUC Research and Professional Development Committee
From: Anne M. Platoff, UCSB Library, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9010
Date: 10 January 2013

RE: Application for LAUC Presentation Grant for 2013-2014

Project Title(s):

- a) International Vexillological Index: Poster Session & Personal Consultations with Partner Organizations and Individual Project Volunteers
- b) Flags of the Space Shuttle Program (research paper, working title)

Amount Requested:

\$500

Release Time Required:

1 week (this is the conference I will be attending using my 2013-2014 professional development funding)

A: Current Status of Project and Rationale for Requesting a Mini-Grant:

One of my areas of scholarly interest is the field of vexillology, the study of flags. I have presented a number of conference papers in this field, and have published scholarly articles including two that were monograph-length. I am submitting this presentation grant application to request funding to attend the Netherlands Flag Congress (ICV 25), which will be held on August 5-9, 2013 in Rotterdam, The Netherlands. At the meeting I will be reporting on the International Vexillological Index project, and also presenting a research paper.

URLs for more information:

- Netherlands Flag Congress website - <http://www.nfc2013.com/>
- FIAV website - <http://www.fiav.org/FIAV.html>

International Vexillological Index (IVI)

Abstract: The International Vexillological Index (IVI) (formerly called "VexIndex") will be a collaborative indexing project to create an open access index to the world's vexillological literature. Phase one is in progress and involves converting an existing HTML index of the publications of the North American Vexillological Association (NAVA) into database format. At the conference I will be consulting with project partners and contributors, and hopefully demonstrating a beta version of the database.

Background: I recently completed my service on NAVA's Executive Board, having served 4 terms as 2nd Vice President. In this capacity I oversaw NAVA's publications including a peer-reviewed scholarly journal (*Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*) and a newsletter (*NAVA News*). The biggest project that I undertook in this position was the planning and implementation of the NAVA Digital Library. NAVA is a small bi-national organization about 400 members. To my knowledge, I am one of only three practicing librarians who are members of the organization, so I have committed my professional expertise to help the organization with its publications.

Since my retirement from the board, NAVA's president has asked me to serve as Director of the NAVA Digital Library. I initiated the creation of the NAVA Digital Library and my involvement has included writing a digitization plan; inventorying materials to determine which would need to be scanned and which could be converted from digital formats; establishing parameters for scanning; naming all the PDF files according to an established file-naming convention; converting various "born digital" files to PDF format; adding metadata to all the files; and preparing a web interface to allow users to locate and access the files. The bulk of our publications (*NAVA News* and *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*) are now online, with all but the two most recent years designated as "open access". I am still working out some details with some of the more complicated born-digital files.

The creation of the NAVA Digital Library prompted me to start work on updating an old static HTML index to NAVA publications that I had created with another librarian. I am currently working to convert that data into a database format. The new database will be fully-searchable and will have links to the full text of the articles in the NAVA Digital Library. This database will serve as the beta for my larger project – the International Vexillological Index (IVI).

Because vexillology is a very specialized field and is interdisciplinary in nature, very few of our publications are well indexed. For this reason, I am working to create this specialized index for the world's vexillological literature. Obviously this is a bigger project than one person could complete, so I have enlisted partner organizations and individual contributors who are willing to help me. I envision this index as a collaborative effort where vexillological organizations and individual vexillologists will work together to index our publications. My role is to organize and manage the project, ensure standardization for the indexing, and train contributors to enter indexing information into the database. Partner organizations have given permission to index their publications and will provide indexing information and linking to full text when available. Individual contributors will index runs of specific vexillological publications and input data into the database.

At the last international vexillological congress in Washington, DC in 2011, I obtained partnership agreements from the following vexillological organizations and entities: Burgee Data Archives (Canada), Česká vexilologická společnost (Czech Republic), Flag Data Centre (Czech Republic), Flag Research Center (USA), Flag Society of Australia Inc., Flags of the World (an international collaborative website on flags), Great Waters Association of Vexillology (includes 5 US states), Société Suisse de Vexillologie (Switzerland), Southern African Vexillological Association (includes 11 African nations), and Vexillological Association of the State of Texas.. I also recruited 6 volunteers to be individual contributors. At this meeting I hope to demonstrate the validity of the project, secure partnership agreements with additional vexillological organizations, organize the work of my initial group of contributors, and recruit additional volunteers to work on the project.

URLs for more information:

- NAVA Digital Library: <http://www.nava.org/documents/library/index.php>
- Digitization Plan: <http://www.nava.org/documents/library/plan.pdf>
- NAVA News & Raven Combined Index (1971-2009): current static HTML version - <http://www.nava.org/nava-publications/nava-news-raven>
- NOTE: NAVA's website is currently being migrated to Drupal, so these URLs might change. Please let me know if you need updated URLs.

Research Paper Description

Abstract: The Space Shuttle Program was NASA's longest-running human spaceflight program. Spanning three decades from 1981-2011, the program consisted of 135 flights conducted using five orbiter spacecraft. Throughout the history of the program, flags were used in many different contexts. The most traditional use, in terms of human spaceflight, was using a flag as a national identifier on spacecraft, payloads, and spacesuits. In addition, flags and flag symbolism were used on the mission emblems designed by shuttle crews to represent their flights. On the emblems, flags indicate the nationalities of individual crew members, the use of hardware contributed by various nations, and the increasingly international nature of the program as it evolved from an American space program to a collaborative program where many nations cooperated to conduct individual missions and to construct the International Space Station. The Space Shuttle Program also spawned new flags designed to represent each orbiter, specific payloads, or selected missions. Finally, the Space Shuttle was the largest spacecraft designed to ferry both astronauts and equipment into orbit. This provided an unique opportunity to carry large numbers of flags into orbit. This paper will discuss these varied uses of flags during the Space Shuttle Program, documenting specific flags and demonstrating the dynamic role of flags in human spaceflight.

Background: As a former NASA contract employee I have experience researching and writing about the history of the U.S. manned space program. I have published several works on NASA history including a history of the lunar flag assembly, a history of NASA symbols and the use of flags in the U.S. manned space program, and also a history of NASA's early manned Mars mission planning efforts. A presentation on flags of the Space Shuttle program is an ideal topic for a presentation to an international vexillological audience. The program evolved from an American space program to an international one involving many partner nations. Participants from many of those countries will be in attendance at the Netherlands Flag Congress.

B: Summary of Budget:

My estimated expenses for attending the Rotterdam Flag Congress are:

- Early Conference Registration: €250 / ~ \$335 (early bird price, will be paid by Jan. 15)
- Hotel (Sun. Aug. 4 - Sat. August 10):
 - €135 / ~ \$179 per night
 - Total for 6 nights: €810 / ~ \$1,074
- Flight (estimated): \$1,600
- Meals: \$400
- Estimated total: \$3,409

I hope that you will decide to fund \$500 of the cost of me attending this conference. I will be using my 2013-2014 professional development funding and my personal funds to cover the remainder.

C: Timetable for Activities:

The deadline to submit the abstract of my presentation is February 28. I have already conducted much of the research on my topic, and am in the process of following up on some final items.

Anne M. Platoff, LAUC Mini-Grant Application
May 9, 2011
Page 4

Once completed, the text of the final paper is due to the conference organizers on May 31. The Netherlands Flag Congress is scheduled for Monday, August 5 - Friday, August 9.

D: Representation by UC-AFT

I am a member of the bargaining unit represented by UC-AFT.

If you have any questions, please contact me by phone at (805) 893-2074 or by e-mail at platoff@library.ucsb.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anne M. Platoff

Attachment: Memo from supervisor to verify support of travel to attend the Congress

Vexillological Presentations and Publications

“Of Tablecloths and Soviet Relics: A Study of the Banner of Victory (*Znamia Pobedy*).”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 46 (Columbus, OH, October 2012). Publication pending.

“Panel Discussion on the Next 25 Years for NAVA.”

- Panel member, North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 46 (Columbus, OH, October 2012).

[Memoir about Whitney Smith.]

- Published in a special 50th-anniversary issue of *The Flag Bulletin: The International Journal of Vexillology* (July 2008-October 2011), p. 108-113.

“Zastave u Svemiru: Zastave programa Space Shuttle / Flags in Space: Flags of the Space Shuttle Program.”

- Published in *Gerb i Zastava*, 5 #10 (November 2011): p. 5-7. Article published in English and Croatian translation.

“Six Flags Over Luna: The Role of Flags in Moon Landing Conspiracy Theories.”

- Presented to the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques/North American Vexillological Association, ICV 24/NAVA 45 (Washington, D.C., August 2011). Published in the conference proceedings (CD-ROM).
- Cited in (selected examples):
 - Leigh Newman, “One Woman's Passion: How to Hang A Flag On the Moon,” *Oprah.com*, <http://www.oprah.com/blogs/One-Womans-Passion-How-to-Hang-A-Flag-On-the-Moon>, 2011.
 - Olivia B. Waxman, “One Librarian's Mission: To Locate American Flags On The Moon,” *Time (magazine) News Feed*, <http://newsfeed.time.com/2011/07/06/one-librarians-mission-to-locate-american-flags-on-the-moon/>, 2011.
 - Jim Axelrod, “What happened to the American flags on the moon?,” *CBS Evening News (website)*, <http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2011/07/04/eveningnews/main20076710.shtml?tag=cbsContent;cbsCarousel>, 2011.

Poster session/short presentation on the NAVA Digital Library and VexIndex Projects.

- Presented to the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques/North American Vexillological Association, Washington Flag Congress — ICV 24/NAVA 45 (Washington, D.C., August 2011).

“The ‘Forward Russia’ Flag: Examining the Changing Use of the Bear as a Symbol of Russia.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 44 (Los Angeles, CA, October 2010).
- Published in *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 19 (2012): 99-126.

“Soviet Children’s Flags.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 43 (Charleston, SC, October 2009).
- Published in *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 17 (2010): 63-84.

“Lions and Babrs and Bears: Analyzing the Flags of Russia’s Federal Subjects.”

- Full paper presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 42 (Austin, TX, October 2008). Awarded the Captain William Driver Award for best paper.
- Published in book form as *Russian Regional Flags: The Flags of the Subjects of the Russian Federation* (ISBN 978-0-9747728-2-0, volume 16 of *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 2009), 154 pages.
- Book was awarded the Vexillon Award by the Fédération internationale des associations vexillologiques as the best vexillological work published between ICV 23 and ICV 24.

“Flags in Space: Symbols of NASA and Use of Flags in the Manned Space Program.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 36 (Denver, CO, October 2002).
- Published as volume 46, # 5-6 of *The Flag Bulletin* (Sept.-Dec. 2007), actually published in December 2010, 80 pages.

“Panel Discussion on Multi-Disciplinary Research in Vexillology.”

- Panel member, North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 31 (Chicago, IL, October 1997).

“The Pike-Pawnee Flag Incident: Reexamining a Vexillological Legend.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 31 (Chicago, IL, October 1997).
- Published in *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 6 (1999): 1-8.
- Cited by: Michael L. Olsen, “Zebulon Pike and American Popular Culture, or Has Pike Peaked?” *Kansas History* 29 #1 (2006): 55.

“Where No Flag Has Gone Before: Political and Technical Aspects of Placing a Flag on the Moon.”

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 26 (San Antonio, TX, October 1992). Awarded the Captain William Driver Award for best paper.
- Published in:
 - *Raven: A Journal of Vexillology*, 1 (1994): 3-10.
 - *Final Frontier*, 7 (July/August 1994): 74-75. (short version for a general audience).
 - *JSC Space News Roundup*, 33 (July 22, 1994): 3. (reprint of *Final Frontier* version)
 - NASA Contractor Report, NASA CR-188251 (Houston: NASA Johnson Space Center, 1992).
- Cited in (selected examples):
 - Mary Roach, *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void* (New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2010).
 - Virgiliu Pop, *Who Owns the Moon?: Extraterrestrial Aspects of Land and Mineral Resources Ownership* (Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Springer, 2009).

- Gina Sunseri, "Stars and Stripes: Putting the Flag on the Moon. The Astronauts Left Six Lunar Flags, None Flapping in the Breeze," *ABC News*, July 18, 2009. <http://abcnews.go.com/Technology/Apollo11MoonLanding/story?id=8113235>
- Alice Gorman, "The Cultural Landscape of Interplanetary Space," *Journal of Social Archaeology* v. 5 #1 (2005): 85-106.
- Larry Albert, "Off to the Moon," *Houston Wet: a Sprawl Economy* (web documentary/Master's thesis), 2000. <http://www.rice.edu/~lda/wet/index.htm>.

"Proposed Designs for the State Flag of Kansas."

- Presented to the North American Vexillological Association, NAVA 23 (Dallas, TX, October 1989).

"The World Flag of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts."

- Published in *NAVA News*, 22 #5 (September/October 1989): 3.

Vexillological Consulting and Interviews:

- Flag Heritage Foundation (FHF): Board of Directors, 2012-present.
- Flag Research Center (FRC): prepared a preliminary collection description document, similar to an archival finding aid. This document has been useful as the FHF has worked to facilitate transfer of the FRC collection to a university archival research center.
- International Congress of Vexillology (ICV 23/Yokohama, Japan) Conference Proceedings: helped edit some of the papers for the proceedings after the original editor died unexpectedly.
- Oprah.com: Phone interview about the flags on the Moon that led to blog article, July 2011.
- KCLU Radio (California): On-air interview about the flags on the Moon, July 2011.
- UCSB Office of Public Affairs: On-air interview and press release about the flags on the Moon, July 2011.
- WDEL Radio (Delaware): On-air interview about the flags on the Moon, July 2011.
- CBS Evening News: Provided information and on-camera interview about the flags on the Moon, June 2011.
- Mythbusters TV Show: Provided information on the lunar flag assembly for episode, 2008.
- ABC News: Provided information about the flags on the Moon, July 2003.
- Outside Magazine: Provided information about the flags on the Moon.
- Independence Day (film): Provided information about flag and plaque on the Moon, 1995.
- Apollo 13 (film): Provided information to film's NASA technical advisor, 1994.
- NASA: Have answered questions about the flags on the Moon and other flag-related topics on various occasions.

TO: LAUC Research and Professional Development Committee

FROM: Rebecca Metzger, Assistant University Librarian for Outreach and Academic Collaboration

DATE: January 11, 2013

RE: Memorandum of support, Annie Platoff

I hope that LAUC will consider issuing a presentation grant to Annie Platoff in order for her to attend and present at the Rotterdam Flag Congress. Annie's contributions to the field of vexillology have been significant and her continued ability to participate fully in this community will be a benefit to flag specialists, to Annie herself, and to the UCSB Library. I support Annie's attendance at this congress as official travel.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Metzger". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the "g".

Rebecca Metzger