

TEN YEARS OF THE DICTIONARY OF VEXILLOLOGY

Major Dr Željko Heimer LF FF

Croatian Heraldic and Vexillological Association (HGZD)

INTRODUCTION

The *Dictionary of Vexillology* (DoV) is a project and an on-line publication started in 2005 by Andreis Petrus Burgers, Terence Martin and Christopher Southworth and published on line as part of the *Flags of the World* (FOTW) website.¹ As the name implies, it is a dictionary of vexillological terminology in the English language, emerged from the FOTW web site and mailing list discussions and compiled from other vexillological sources into a body of a dictionary covering today over 2,100 entries in the main dictionary part and a couple of hundreds more in the appendices. It would take more than some 500 standard pages in printed form, and considering that each term is illustrated with a few illustrations explaining the concept, it would include at least 5,000 figures, mostly from the FOTW, but some made particularly for the *Dictionary* while others used from other sources.²

The 10th anniversary of uninterrupted updates and enlarging *Dictionary of Vexillology* seemed an appropriate opportunity to present it at the 26th International Congress of Vexillology in Sydney, Australia, 2015.



1 VEXILLOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

Although in his thesis Dr Whitney Smith already complains that the vexillological terminology is only being developed,³ it has made much progress since. Both Smith and other vexillologists did a great deal on its standardization, especially in the English language.

The International Federation of Vexillological Associations (FIAV), was established in 1969, however, already on the previous 2nd International Congress of Vexillology, held in 1967 in Zürich, the Terminology Commission⁴ was established.⁵ This resulted in the adopting of the Flag Information Code⁶ as an official FIAV standard in 1981 at the 9th Congress in Ottawa, which eventually spread through the vexillological community, but more than that was never achieved in the formal vexillological standardization on the FIAV level.

The DoV editorial team lead by Andreis Burgers proposed a set of *Vexillological Conventions for Flag Descriptions*,⁷ to be adopted as substantial extension of the *Flag Information Code*, and FIAV General Assembly established a Commission to investigate the proposal,⁸ but so far, nothing was decided.

1.1 VEXILLOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES

Similarly to the FIAV, the British *Heraldry Society Flag Section* (predecessor of the *Flag Institute*) established the *Terminology Committee*, headed by William Crampton. In 1969 the Committee produced a report titled the *Dictionary of Flag Terminology*,⁹ which Smith calls the "first vexillological dictionary".¹⁰

In his 1975 masterpiece¹¹ Smith provides, as its first chapter, "a verbal and visual glossary of flag terms"¹² entitled *Terms Defined*, on some 20 pages. Considering that the book had large circulation and was translated into a number of languages, it may easily be said that this glossary was the most influential vexillological dictionary of the 20th century.



The Heraldry Society, Flag Section - 1973



Whitney Smith, Flags Through the Ages and Across the World, 1975

However, with the development of technology into the Information Age as well as by globalization of English language as the "official" language of the internet, the English terminology, not least through the international influence of the FOTW mailing list and its web site, has been gradually and substantially standardized, and Burgers' conventions (published on FOTW as an addendum to the *Dictionary of Vexillology*)¹³ are the *de facto* standard for the FOTW and the English vexillological papers - even by the authors who never even heard of them.

If printed in A4 format, the DoV amounts to **500**+ pages and includes **5,000**+ illustrations (mostly from FOTW), some made particularly for the DoV. The original editorial team was Andries Petrus Burgers, Terence Martin, and Christopher Southworth.



Left: Home page of FOTW, with a link to Dictionary page

Right: Sample page from FOTW's Dictionary of Vexillology

	- C Q, estra	9 年 4 余 公
BEAM(5) 1) An empediating stripp (or strippe) which mustly but not exclusively - (also inspection and impact) 2) A term encourses incorrectly used to describe a stripp (or strippe) ing 1) The term may also be trued to describe a hieranstell arm such as these: 4) See <u>human</u>):	lace of the heraldic equivalents - see 'bar', 'bend', 'fess' at	ad 'pale'.
Flag of the Are Force, Rama (tabu), Justidem and Flag of Frag-day, Tam		
A term sometimes incorrectly used in place of pointed - see "pointed" (th	o 'ays 1)').	
EFARING See "charge" and "charged"		
BEAUFORT An early 18th Century alternative term, now obsolete, for bunding - see "	busting 1): (also 'bemper' and 'breadth 2) ').	
RTCRT A loop at the end of the holds line of a flag that fastens to a toggle at the e "ranning type and toggle" and "toggle").	nd of the holyard when holisting a flag – a rounding eye – bo	st see ' <u>me splice</u> ' (alse ' <u>habrand</u> ',
BED SHIEET FLAG (or BSF) See 'logo on a bod short.		

But the rise of Information Age also meant the spread of vexillological thought throughout the world and vexillological research prompted ever more often issues with the terminology they used or found in the sources.

In the *North American Vexillological Association* (NAVA) a glossary was compiled by David Luke,¹⁴ and in 2001 the *Illustrated Dictionary of Vexillology* was edited by Richard R. Gideon.¹⁵ (sample page on right):

Illustrated Dictio	exydife. x +
🔶 🔒 https://web.ar	olive.eg.(=dr/2001112001002/http://www.org/Flag.140 🧱 🗢 C 🔍 Actionary of Teelfology + 👷 🛍 🐥 🕸 - 🚖 🛷 🚍 🚍
	Α
Accretion	Growth in size, as in an increase by accumulated matter. The term is used by textile conservation experts in describing dist, damage, mildco, or other defects in the surface of a flag.
Advance the color	In military terms, to move the flag forward toward the enemy.
Advancing Color	In a dichonantic field, a three damensional effect in which one color seems to be in front of another color. Optical scientists say that red of statese buffee bloc.
Agaus Dei	A symbol of the Lamb of God or Christ the arrive (frown as Jeuns). Depicted as a lamb with a halo carrying a staff in its forearm with a smallownal bunner, bearing the emblem of a cross (Maliese, Bonner, or Flerry). The staff in stopped with a cross shaped final. The symbol is used by many of the Christian faiths on flags, curtaine, despec, bunner, and stained glass windows. <i>trava bunkt Line</i>
Allegory	In writinging of twose, a painting on a first with symbolic memory. Images that depicts a cross of many, such in what some cross and an policial philosophy.
Appliqué	roure: A design in fabric that is seen to the field of a flag. verb: To apply a fabric design to a flag.
Arabesque	A braided ouraneernal instelacing pattern stitched on gameens, flags, and banners to enhance, enrich, or embelink. The intricate pattern implyor flowers, folkage, fruit, accent, annandi, en Nobel designs. Used by Arahanas and Europeans during the mellerel pattern implyor flowers, folkage, fruit, accent, annandi, en Nobel designs. Used by Arahanas and Europeans during the mellerel pattern implyor flowers. In the entry of the first in often spengford in gold, all-tra, brenze, and adorned with tassels or an accent knot. Tweng instal date

When FIAV was established, vexillological terminology started to develop systematically in other languages as well. Sierksma soon followed the first English dictionary, with a similar Dutch issue in 1971.¹⁶ Spanish vexillology has at least two issues of dictionaries, the first edited in 1988 by Sastre y Arribas,¹⁷ and the other published by the Spanish Vexillological Association (*Sociedad Española de Vexilología*, SEV) in 2003 by Álvarez Rodriguez.¹⁸ One should also mention the 2005 *Catalogo vexillológico* by Alberto Rubén Perazzo issued in Argentina.¹⁹



Already in 1990 Czech vexillologists prepared a six-language phrase book of vexillological terminology;²⁰ however, this includes rather a list of translations into various languages (English, German, Czech, Russian, French and Spanish) and not the definitions of each term *per se*. It includes some 500 terms on a total 55 pages.

2005 Česki - 2121 Venova Venna And Ovyljavio Constructiona							
Used in Verillology	by	als Elsinod hat das	/znak/ má jako kla-	S EXTECTSE HELLEN-	les armes ont pour	j tiene por tin-1	
Fachausdrücke und stilistische Konstruktionen in der Vexillologie	with a red-lined gold orown	mit einer rot gefüt- terten goldenen	se slatou, červeně vyloženou korunou	SZER.	cimier	bre, va timbrado de	
Odborné výrazy a stylistické konstrukce	and the latest inter an	Krone /golden ge- oder bekront/	- Logor Landstreicher abre	узенчаля Зололо 2 конолко с боноро водоко с боноро	couronné d'or; couronne comblée	coronado de oro /con forro rojo/	
používané ve vezilologii	nural crown	Nauerkrone f	hradební koruna f	1.0 Induits digits	d'une calotte de gueules		
Виражения и словосочетания		das grosse Staats-	velký státní znak	"хорона и буриуа- зии"	couronne murale	corons f mural	
употребляеные в вехоиллодотия	arms	arbban Cwa Stosse prawra-	versy evacuat sheet	TORNUE POSYREPOT-	les granies armes	STER escudo, el bla-	
Termes et locutions propres à la vaxillologie	the lesser arms, small /simplified/	das kleine Staata- wappen	melý stávní znak	телний герб "малий" государот-	d'Etat	son grande del	
Términos y locusiones propios de la ciencia de las banderas	8.756	das mittlere Steats-		"макие" горударот- пеляня герб /т.е. офицальный герб упроценного идля/	les potites armes d Etat	el blasón menor /= versión simpli- ficada del escude/	
	medium state arms	wappen	Stredni statni znak	POCYERO DERKNE POC	les moyennes armee d'Etat	escudo mediano	
	02038	Kreus n	kříš a	obefrato beste		halboare and	
	a concentric cross St.George's cross /a cross through- out/	/durchgehendes/ Kreuz II/1/h	středový, svatojiř- ský kříš II/1/A	яреот н георгиелоний/ге- ральдический/креот	croix f croix traversante II/1/h	erus f ores f de la sitad II/1/h	
	the Seandingvian	skandinavieches	nk and ináv ský kříž II/1/1	II/1/h		the love and because a	
Vexilologický klub	cross, cross of the Scantingvian type	Kreuz, "liegendes Kreuz" II/1/1	II/I/I	крест с кандала во ко- го типа II//1	croix f scandinave II/1/1	oruz escandineva II/1/1	
při Chvodním kulturním domě v Praze 3 1990	a cross with arms rebated /not ex- tending to the margin/, an abbre- vinted cross	Erischisches Kreus	kříl řecký /zkráco- ný/, obecný, kerold- ský, revnoranenný II/1/j	Прямой крест /не до- ходящий до концы/ 11/1/3	croix greeque /droite/ II/1/3	orus latina /corta-	
80-900152+9+8	saltire, St. An- drew's cross, a diagonal cross, cross of Burgundy	Schrägkreus n. Indraskreus n II/1/g	kříš úhlopřidný. ondřejský, burgund- II/1/g	spect socož, sampe- escanž II/1/g	ercix f en sauteir, sauteir m, croix f de Saint André	aspa f de San Andrés, sotuer m, aspa de Borsofa	
	Maltess cross	Johanniter-, Malte-	kříš maltézský	ing star supported to		the restaurant probability	
	patriarchal cross	Patriarchenkroug n	kříž m patriarší	Took Saacher 4208	croix f de Malte	cruz f de Malta	
	/Sazi/ swastika	Eskenkreuz n	kříš hákový, lomený	na to so a start and an	croix patriarcale	cruz f patriarcal	
	per cross	kreusförnig	we /do/ tvaru kříše	spasosagaul spect, ossotant	croix gammée	la /o/ovástica nazi	
	crossed, in saltin	e schräggekreust	skřížené	престообразно сложенине в виде	en forme de croix /écartelé/ en seu-	/puestas/ en la forma de una cruz	

Odborné výrazy a stylistické konstrukce používané ve vexilologii = Terms and stylistic constructions used in vexillology Czech Vexillologists: Josef Česák and Jiří Tenora – Praha, 1990

A German vexillological dictionary was compiled by Hans-Urlich Herzog in 2002, published on the German Vexillological Association (*Deutsche Gesellschaft für Flaggenkunde*, DGF) web-site and eventually issued an updated version, in series, in recent *Flaggenkuriers*.²¹

	_																a						
🖉 🔎 Deutsche Gesellschaft fü	ir F., o	× \ +																Glosser zu Flaggen und Wa × +					
🔶 🖲 wen faggerkunde d	k								-	v C Q See	ch		8 -	* #	合 自	⊜≡		🔄 🕲 www.flaggenkunde./e/Tieggenkunde/glosse.htm					
8	Deutsche Gesellschaft																	E Ehewappen: siehe <i>Allianzwappen</i> . Ehrenfahne: Eine nicht reglementarische, sondern aus einem besonderen Anlass gestiffete oder verliehene Fahne. Solche Fahnen					
DOF	Glossar zu Flaggen und Wappen																	erhielten britische Regimenter für die Schlacht bei Assaye 1803, die württembergischen 2. Dragoner für Linz 1809.					
DGF	Numi: 10.9.2005 - Emiliane - Bandination - Machinet Resolution - Normalida Liseadu																	Ehrenflagge: Flagge, die Schiffen für bestimmte Leistungen ihrer Besatzung verliehen wird, z. B. die neun verschiedenen Birnwnimpel der Französischen Kriegmanine, der Kriegsverdienstvinnel der Deutschen Kriegsmarine von 1941, die zwei österreichichen Ehrenflaggen von 1854 und die verschiedenen Sonderforma der sowjetischen Kriegsflaggen.					
Neues																		Ehrenwimpel: eine Ehrenflagge in Wimpelform.					
Die DGF Flaggenkunde	-	aleituna														_		Ehrenzeichen und Orden: etwa seit 1800 werden an Truppeneinheiten für besondere Leistungen oder Verdienste					
Deutsche Flaggen Veröffentlichungen	Im	Flagoeni	urier" Nr. :	6 (Dezerr	ber 2002)	5. 70-85.	stellte Hans	- Uirich Herzo	g sein Glossar z	ur Diskussion.	Wir hatten e	s zunächst in	internen Bereic	h unserer	Website			Entretzeten und Orotet: etwa seit 1500 werden an imperiemmeinen mr besondere Leistingen oder verdiens Auszichnungen verlichen, deren Abzeichen im Tom von Entrezensteinen und Orden au den Truppenfahmen angebracht werden. B. erhielt 1800 die Fahme des 1. Bataillons des 3. bayerischen Infanterieregiments die Tapferkeitsmedaille, bald folgten d allgemeinen Kriegsgedenkminzen u.d.g., seltener und erst in neuester Zeit eigemliche Orden, wie die Ehrenlegion in Frankzie oder in Preußen der Schwarze Alderorden bzw. der Hassorden von Fohenzollen. Preuend (die bluer Fahme ill Eisemen Kreue)					
Tagungen Projekte Links	ein	gehangt.	Seit 18. Ma	2005 sts	iht das Gio	ssar allen	Flaggeninte	respenten zu	r Verfügung. . vielen Dank!														
Fragen+Antworten DGF-Intern	٨lı	phabeti	icher Sc <u>B</u>	inellzug <u>C</u>	niff	D	E	E	6	н	I	,	к	L		м		und Russland verliehen auch Kriegsauszeichnungen, die in der Fahnenspitze oder als Fahnenbänder in den Ordensbandfarben angebracht wurden.					
Kontakt	_	N	Q	P		Q	R	s	I	u	¥	ж	x	¥		z		Einfassung, Umrandung: sehr schmale, andersfarbige Kante eines Feldes, eines Heroldsbildes, englisch = fimbriation. Nicht zu verwechseln mit Bord					
	۸																	Eisernes Kreuz: Abkürzung EK, 1813 anläßlich der Befreiungskriege gestifteter preußischer Orden, 1870 und 1914 erneuert; es					
							h Preportioner		terrer Brech der				Tables of Dece					gab ein Großkreuz und zwei Klassen; eine Sonderform war der Stern zum Großkreuz, der 1815 an Blücher ("Blücherstern") und					
	sich	Marikhen: hendische Figur, hendisches Zeichen, wappenklasisches Embiens, das jedoch nicht des strengen Regels der Hendik unterworfen it; kann sowehl als besonderes Embiens auf Flaggen als auch allein Verwendung finden, sinke Zadjo.									PELES, LARE SCA	an as resource	Larnes au riego		an vervena	ag mont	1918 an Hindenburg verliehen wurde. 1939 wurde das EK für das Deutsche Reich erneuert: Großkreuz, Ritterkreiter						
		Addressent mylick = Robuspen. 1880 De Werd de Zeer de eksterne in Alterne in Marten de Jerre Starbel ensembliser de sterne Berler. De berlie de Starbe eksterne de sterne Berler.										chen Laninean ar	mbracht dam läntf	of Barless	where and 1	Sale areb		Klassen (EK I und EK II).					
	After Der Vopil des Zeus, des oberetes der Gitter, im Altertam als dessen Symbol verwendet und nich Spätzen der stangenfitzeigen Takten" der stanischen Legissen angebrecht, dem Heisflich Häufig untersammel. Siehe such Dapprichtler. Seit 11 n. Olle heisig als dessenden Sambolien, Wahrtmeiden Wir Fördelch 11. für die Standere des Gabe du. Copp Pendiens, später von Kaiser Naychens (aufo) wieden aufgestiffen. Im 20. Jahlsmoliet von dem Frachsters in Ublicken Gestendent.											Kaiser Napoleo	a (atgle) winder aufj	spilles in i	0 Jahrhrande	et von den		Als Flaggensymbol erschien es unter anderem in der Standarte des Königs von Preußen und der deutschen Kaiserstandarte sowie					
									der, Diempfagge de	r dieser unterstellt	n Fahrongs (ra	istisches Ruffani	and Hamburg).					der Reichskriegsflagge beider Weltkriege. Die Bundeswehr verwendet es heute wieder, schwarz mit weißabgesetzten schwarzen					
								ida Flagoficie										Seitenstreifen, als militärisches Erkennungszeichen der Panzer und Flugzeuge sowie zur Gestaltung der Rang- und Kommandozeichen der Bundesmarine.					
		ppyshik tan	redenen Staats	а Афійна то	r, off kombini	ert mit Oarvy	r Farhakkend	Rat-Selavarz-Orti	n oder dem von dies	en benutzten schre	wron Stern (An	the parafrikanisch	laggen der Mehrzahl Farben genannt)	der seit Aut	nf os wa	ofer wre							
	Ahn								unitglieder und dzee									Emblem: bildlich-symbolische Darstellung, durch deren Anbringen eine vorhandene Flagge für einen speziellen Zweck					

Viktor Lomantsov edited in 2002 the Russian flag terminology list available at the Russian Centre of Vexillology & Heraldry (RCVH, i.e. *Русский центр флаговедения и геральдики*, *РЦФГ*) website.²²



Orenburg, Russia - 2002

Zagreb, Croatia - 2000

A Croatian vexillological terminology and the English-Croatian Vexillological Dictionary was compiled by the author in 2000 and published on his web site,²³ and eventually served as the basis for the glossary of vexillological terms in his thesis.²⁴



This is hardly an exhaustive list of various dictionaries, glossaries and terminology lists made by vexillologists world-wide, but it is quite illustrative to show the difference in volume and scope of most of them in regard with the *Dictionary of Vexillology*.

To end this short overview, probably the most complete vexillological dictionary in the English language printed so far is the one published in the high ranking South African Navy Officers' book,²⁵ and that was, of course, based on the *Dictionary of Vexillology* itself (published in Pretoria 2008).

1.2 VEXILLOLOGICAL DICTIONARIES COMPARED

While quantities certainly cannot be used to asses quality of work, the comparative Table 1 lists quantitative descriptions of some mentioned dictionaries. It illustrates well the essential difference, in sheer volume, the corpus of vexillological vocabulary that the *Dictionary of Vexillology* includes in comparison.

The number of entries represents the number of main dictionary terms defined, usually around 200 to 300 in the dictionaries considered, but reaching to some 700, and more than doubled and even tripled in the subsequent versions of the *Dictionary of Vexillology*. The number of pages mostly stays around two dozen, doubled in some cases. However, the comparison may be misleading in cases where the printed edition is of smaller (e.g. Álvarez Rodrigez or Burgers and even Česák & Tenora) or larger format (e.g. Smith).

The number of Figures (illustrations) shows that the majority of dictionaries are without any, or rather scarce, used mostly only where they seemed necessary. Those "illustrated" include on average one illustration for every 6-8 entries (though Crampton et al. have as much as one for every 2-3 entries). The *Dictionary of Vexillology* takes a different approach, trying to illustrate nearly all entries with multiple examples: in 2010 the number of illustrations exceeded the number of entries, and today is well over 4,000.

No.	Dictionary	Language	Entries	Pages	Figures	Characters ¹	Ch/Entry	
1.	Crampton et al., 1969	English	152	32	60	45000	296	
2.	Smith, 1975	English	212	20	32	35000 ²	165	
3.	Gideon, 2001	English	223	40 ³	25	57000	256	
4.	Herzog, 2002	German	669	52 ³	0	114000	170	
5.	Sastre Arribas, 1988	Spanish	700 ²	76	n/a	n/a	n/a	
6.	Česák and Tenora, 1990	6 languages ^c	200 ²	108	7	50000 ²	250	
7.	Álvarez Rodriguez, 2003	Spanish	700 ²	175	29	150000 ²	214	
8.	Perazzo, 2005	Spanish	247	27	0	50000 ²	202	
9.	Lomantsov, 2002	Russian	45	7 ³	6	16000	356	
10.	Heimer, 2000 ^a	Croatian	192	18 ³	0	30000	156	
11.	Heimer, 2000 ^b	English-Croatian	241	15 ³	0	17000	71	
12.	Heimer, 2013	Croatian	235	14	0	28000	119	
13.	Burgers, 2008	English	326	42	0	100000 ²	307	
14.	DoV, 2006	English	871 ⁴	84	126	179000	206	
15.	DoV, 2010	English	1819 ⁴	336 ⁴	2067 ⁴	532000 ⁴	292	
16.	DoV, 2015	English	2165 ⁴	653 ⁴	4185 ⁴	698000 ⁴	322	

Table 1. Quantitative comparison of vexillological dictionaries

NOTES:

- 1 With spaces, rounded to the closest thousand.
- 2 Estimated.
- 3 Estimate based on opening of the on-line published version in Word, converting fonts to Arial 12pt on A4 pages, without further editing.
- 4 Excluding the introduction, appendices etc.
- a Croatian Terminology.
- b English-Croatian Dictionary.
- c English, German, Czech, Russian, French and Spanish.

2 ORIGIN OF THE DICTIONARY OF VEXILLOLOGY

In the Introduction to the *Dictionary of Vexillology* the original three-member team²⁶ describes the origin of the *Dictionary of Vexillology* thus:²⁷

"This Dictionary has its origins in the inconclusive discussions on the FOTW mailing list concerning flag definitions that occurred in May and June of 2005. As a result, we three contributors formed ourselves off-

list into a voluntary and unofficial international committee in an attempt to find a series of simple descriptive conventions upon which everybody could agree."

As Andries Burgers describes in his South African Flag Book,²⁸ he approached "two of his overseas Internet acquaintances, Christopher Southworth in the UK and Terence Martin in the USA, with suggestion that they should co-operate in compiling a dictionary of vexillology."

And indeed, the team was ready to present the draft version of the *Dictionary of Vexillology* by December 2005, and 85 A4 pages document covering already almost a full thousand entries, some of them illustrated.

The document was sent to various prominent "Fotwers",²⁹ among others to Joe McMillan and Željko Heimer, as well as to Phil Nelson, Santiago Dotor, and Michael Faul, and after considering their inputs and comments, eventually the final version of the *Dictionary of Vexillology* was published on the FOTW in March 2006. The re-coding of the already huge document into the FOTW html style was done by Phil Nelson. There was also the matter of fiddling out the errors that crept into the text in the process.

3 THE DICTIONARY OF VEXILLOLOGY ON THE FLAGS OF THE WORLD

Following the publishing of the *Dictionary of Vexillology* on the FOTW web site, the "Triumvirate" have not ceased to work on it, quite to the contrary – the inputs of FOTW members and wider public, who could now reach the full text, were constantly further considered and new entries were included, as well as the old definitions enlarged, polished and reconsidered, while the expressions and depth of the definitions were made uniform and balanced throughout the text.



Andreis Petrus Burgers 1937 – 2008

As mentioned above, in 2008 Andreis Burgers included a considerable excerpt from the *Dictionary of Vexillology* in his monumental *South African*

Flag Book, although he has (naturally) decided only to include there those terms that were relevant for the general topic of his book. To great sorrow Andries passed away soon following the publishing of his master piece. Nevertheless, the dictionary in the book, as well as his vexillological theory and his research resulted in Andreis awarded the *Vexillon* posthumously by the FIAV Board at the ICV in Yokohama 2009.³⁰ "for his contribution to vexillology as a result of his research and the subsequent publication of the South African Flag Book. He was also named a Fellow of the Federation at the same time."



A gentleman and an officer, Andreis was also apparently a good judge of character, and he had chosen his team wisely. Christopher Southworth and Terence Martin continued perfecting the *Dictionary of Vexillology* and eventually invited several of their correspondents to join them in the effort. Thus, some time in 2009 Željko Heimer "stepped into the breach"³¹ and became an integral member of the team. In Southworth's words:³²

"It became apparent that the sheer number of banners of arms, or of heraldically derived flags in general, required that the Dictionary must go much, much further into the world of heraldry than had been initially envisaged, and has thus expanded accordingly."

Nevertheless, Christopher, who became the group secretary after Andries' death, managed to retain balance in keeping the *Dictionary of Vexillology* from becoming predominantly a heraldic manual. This was done, first of all, by keeping heraldic terms to as little as possible, and only to the extent necessary to understand vexillology (which is, as noted, much entangled in some parts of the world with heraldry), and by providing only the necessary explanations and as further research of many heraldic intricacies required directing to the relevant and specialised heraldic literature.

The editors also sought to retain good balance by including the most important vexillological charges, but without allowing the *Dictionary of Vexillology* to become a list of all the various and possible charges that

appear in all the flags of the world. If a charge does appear on a flag, it does not make it automatically a vexillological term!

The new team opened two further "fronts": one searching and collecting terms used in various vexillological literature (both printed and on-line) not included in the *Dictionary of Vexillology* previously and finding definitions for these, and the other, trying to find terms for concepts that were found (often in foreign vexillological literature) for which no suitable English term has been noted, and suggesting possible terms for those.

4 THE DICTIONARY OF VEXILLOLOGY TODAY

The *Dictionary of Vexillology* today is available in the most updated version on the FOTW web site (and in several of its mirrors) including over 2,100 entries in the main dictionary and a couple of hundred more and in the Appendices, well over 4,000 figures, mostly from the FOTW, and illustrating almost every entry with several images.

The editorial team consists of Christopher Southworth, Terence Martin and Željko Heimer, with additional consultation often with a number of vexillologists on a temporary basis and as the team sees fit. Among them, Martin Laurenson Grieve, member of SAVA, Klaus-Michael Schneider, member of DGF and a number of others. The "htmlization" of the text is performed by Rob Raeside, FOTW Director, and the current editor of the FOTW DoV pages.

The DoV on-line consists of three general pages: the *Table of Contents*, the *Introduction* and the *Proposed Vexillological Conventions*, a hundred alphabetized pages of the main dictionary body, nine pages of Appendices – some of them further elaborating heraldic concepts that were found to be outside general scope, but useful enough to be provided nevertheless, while others provide overviews of vexillological concepts included in the dictionary in alphabetical order.³³ In addition, there is ten-page alphabetic *Index of Terms*, and, in addition, the *Supplemental Information* – a page entitled *Additional Notes* (originating with an older version of a vexillological glossary produced by FOTW, two dozen links to specific FOTW pages dealing with particular terms and other useful FOTW pages (on etymology, vexillological theory etc.) and finally, links to the two foreign language on-line vexillological dictionaries (German at the DGF site and Croatian at the FAME site). There is also a set of pages tracking changes (updates, additions etc.) of the on-line version of the *Dictionary of Vexillology* entitled *Corrections and Updates*.

While the editors are confident that the definitions of terms are useful and sound, they are certainly far from ideal, and hardly a day goes by that the team is not in e-mail conference discussing possible improvements of this or that definition or inclusion of one or another new term.

5 EDITORIAL POLICY

The main premise of editorial policy is explained in the *Introduction* of the *Dictionary of Vexillology*, defined by Andries Burgers and agreed among the original *Triumvirate*, so:

"The editors of the Dictionary of Vexillology function as objective recorders of all vexillological and closely associated terms which are discovered, whether as direct entries into the DoV, or as entries on a Provisional List when the status of a term or word is in doubt. The editors are not to allow their personal prejudice or dislike of a word or term to colour their decision on the inclusion or exclusion of a word or term, provided such included terms or words fulfil the criteria established below."

Thus, the main philosophy is to include in the *Dictionary of Vexillology* vexillological terms without judgment. In fact, this has become a matter under consideration recently among the editors – whether the non-judgmental inclusion is still appropriate, and if the editors should be expected – now that the *Dictionary of Vexillology* already includes, hopefully, the major part of the corpus of vexillological vocabulary – to determine values to some terms, emphasising those preferred and "weeding out" those deemed unworthy? And if so, under what criteria?

That is to say, it has happened occasionally (especially through FOTW mailing list, where discussion is often less formal than a vexillological paper in a journal or proceedings would have been) that a term emerges or is deliberately coined, using inappropriate (whatever that means?) words borrowed from popular culture, sometimes even if there is a (possibly obscure?) term that already covers the concept well. Or even if there is no established term, the proposed term is linguistically or by some other criterion below a certain level to be considered "scholarly". The original philosophy requires that the editors include any such term that finds its way to the FOTW web site (or any other vexillological bulletin, printed or on-line, for that matter).

A decision on changing the initial policy may be eventually needed, but it should, probably, not be taken lightly. An intention of this paper is, among others, to ask the international community of vexillologists for guidance regarding the issue. Are we ready to move from descriptive to prescriptive dictionary? ³⁴

The terms for inclusion in the *Dictionary of Vexillology* are, in general, of threefold origin. They are either "recorded in written sources considered credible by the Editors" or "established by relatively consistent usage by vexillologists". Finally, a term may be "proposed by the Editors, but only if no word or term to cover the relevant item exists, and that any such proposal is prominently identified".³⁵ (cf. "fronts" at the end of section 3 above).

Editorial procedure is also defined in the policy, thus:³⁶

"Any member of the editorial team may suggest an entry and/or definition, or forward any such suggestion from another vexillologist. The group secretary will then prepare or edit a draft entry for consideration by the other Editors and this is discussed and amended until a consensus has been reached or if necessary, if a consensus cannot be reached, approved or rejected by majority vote."

The last case appears incredibly rarely. Most often a consensus is indeed reached. The members of the editorial team often actively "scan" for vexillological terms they encounter and not infrequently propose them for inclusion, or update. Also, proposals from the FOTW are forwarded either by the FOTW editors directly or through the FOTW Director.

6 EDITORIAL ISSUES/CHALLENGES

One editorial issue was already pointed out in the previous section – the question whether the editors should pass judgement on some terms encountered and provide an opinion of suitability of some terms (over others).

Linked with that, there are some terms that are almost falling into disuse and they survive (possibly) only

through their inclusion in the *Dictionary of Vexillology*. A typical example would be a set of the so called "compass-point diagonals".³⁷ The sheer amount of volume they cover in the *Dictionary of Vexillology*, appearing scattered throughout the corps, make them look like an important vexillological concept, whereas their use in vexillological literature is really only marginal.³⁸

Included in the Dictionary, it may well be that many vexillologists would have simply forgotten all about it and would never heard them in the first place. These terms for diagonal stripe were, presumably, invented as convenient shorthand by someone (most probably indeed for the brief style of the FOTW mailing list) ignorant of the perfectly suitable pre-existing terminology.

Another term the author finds especially displeasing is the "archivexillum", a term devised around 2010 at the FOTW to describe a flag template, upon which a series of other flags is based – for example the undefaced British blue ensign with a blank white disk of a certain size in the fly half being the "archivexillum" for various for various defaced blue ensigns.³⁹





While the term may have been devised somewhat jovially it was taken up by some Fotwers quite seriously and for some time it entered a number of FOTW articles and possibly some printed works. Indeed, it does sound as "scholarly" and "pretentious" - and no wonder: quite accidentally, such term was recorded in 19th century German etymological dictionary, but in quite different meaning.⁴⁰ Several years since, the newly-coined term fell into disuse; most

Fotwers would need to look in the *Dictionary* to see what it means. Shouldn't we let the term die out calmly than let it linger on like this?

Among the barely comprehensible (even if they apparently use everyday words) may be the "cut-and-paste flag". I challenge the reader to figure out what it is without looking into the *Dictionary* (or indeed, please, do look elsewhere). Maybe an alternative synonym? The "friendship flag". No? The Dictionary explains it as "[a] term that is used when two or more flag designs are combined into a single entity", pointing also to the related terms of "combined flag", "marshalling", "union flag" and "union mark". If those collage artefacts of mutilated flags require a term, any of the latter would be better suited than the "cut-and-paste flag" does, wouldn't you agree?



Another type of "dubious" term are those that found their way into English vexillological texts as mistranslations from other languages, often heraldic terms that already have had perfectly good English version, but unknown to the vexillologist using it. For example, the term "campaign" appears in a number of

blazons of Portuguese civic coats of arms appearing in their flags blazoned by a FOTW contributor years ago, when the general understanding of heraldic terminology among Fotwers was only emerging, and so the word went uncorrected for a long time – providing reason enough to be included in the DoV.



The term is a corruption of the French heraldic term "champagne", usually translated by the English heraldic term "base". In the author's opinion such erroneous terms are the worst offenders. Such use should be corrected on FOTW as any other kind of typo, rather than legitimated in a dictionary, without even a note that the use is incorrect, possibly only with mild reference to the correct term as synonym.

This again is repeating the question: should the DoV editors make judgments and prescribe the usage of terms (and actively promote correction of some) or should they remain simply recorders of what happens around them?

Finally, there is another issue or challenge to mention. Should the *Dictionary of Vexillology* remain an (ever expanding) on-line project, or should it be produced as a printed version? Even if many vexillologists today are of the younger generation accustomed to on-line sources, there are still enough of us born before the age of cell phones, who would not mind to have their dictionaries printed and bound in the shelf of our vexillological library. Should the DoV editors or indeed the wider vexillological community make an effort to issue a hard copy of such work? Would it be useful and would it be feasible?

7 CONCLUSIONS

In the 10 years since it was first published on the FOTW, the DoV has become a major vexillological resource, hardly comparable with any other similar project in English, or any other language for that matter. In the number of terms defined it surpasses the largest other vexillological dictionaries at least threefold. While the most illustrated vexillological dictionaries provide illustrations for a limited number of terms, the DoV provides several illustrations for each single term. Even so, the DoV is still a work in progress, with many possibilities for improvement, quantitative and qualitative, both in the number of terms it encompasses and in the correction or expansion of existing definitions. While the editorial policy as established by the original editors has served well in these 10 years, we have identified challenges and issues indicating that the original paradigm might need to be changed eventually, providing for prescriptive, judgmental inclusion of some terms and filtering some others. Other policy changes might come to be questioned as well.

END NOTES

Refer to Literature for full details of citations.

- 1 Flags of the World (FOTW) is an international vexillological association established in September 1993 as an internet discussion group, organized as a mailing list and the web site serving as the repository of the edited topics discussed on the list. It became a FIAV member in 2001. The FOTW web site includes more the 57,000 pages with more than 113,000 images of flags of countries, organizations, states, territories, districts and cities, both past and present, thus being the main vexillological resource on the internet. The FOTW is available on line at a dozen mirror sites world-wide, among others at http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/, http://flagspot.net/flags/, and http://fotw.flagchart.net/ See the full up-to-date list at http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/mirror.html. For the purpose of references in this paper the first mentioned site shall be quoted.
- 2 *Dictionary of Vexillology: Table of Contents* page available at http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/vxt-dtoc.html.
- 3 Smith, 1969 p. 96.
- 4 It is named the *Flag Description Commission* in the *GA 1 Minutes*, 1999, with Klaas Sierksma as the secretary, the *Terminology Commission* again in *GA 4 Minutes*, 2001, chaired by Dr. Atle Grahl-Madsen, and changed name to the *Commission on Terminology and Standardization* by the *GA 5 Minutes*, 2001.
- 5 *ICV 2 Minutes*, 1999.
- 6 *GA* 7 *Minutes*, 2001.
- 7 *GA 20 Agenda*, 2007. Note pp. 12 15.
- 8 GA 20 Minutes, 2007. Note p. 8.
- 9 Crampton et al., 1969. Some works cite it as the *Dictionary of Flag Section*.
- 10 Smith, 1997, pp. 94 97.
- 11 Smith, 1975 pp. 12-31.
- 12 *ibid.* p. 5.
- 13 Dictionary of Vexillology: Proposed Vexillological Conventions, www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/vxt_dvcv.html
- 14 Luke, 2000.
- 15 Gideon, 2001.
- 16 Sierksma, 1971.
- 17 Sastre y Arribas, 1988.
- 18 Álvarez Rodriguez, 2003.
- 19 Perazzo, 2005.
- 20 Česák and Tenora, 1990.
- 21 Herzog, 2002

- 22 Lomantsov, 2002.
- 23 Heimer, 2000.
- Limited to military terminology. *Glosar veksiloloških pojmova*, in: Heimer, 2013: 282 295.
- 25 Burgers, 2008: pp. 35-76.
- In the humorous spirit in which the work was often done by e-mail, the team facetiously referred to itself as *The Triumvirate*.
- 27 Dictionary of Vexillology: Introduction, http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/vxt-dvex.html
- 28 Burgers, 2008, p. 35.
- 29 Members of the *Flags of the World* mailing list.
- 30 Loeser, 2008.; GA 21 Minutes, 2009.
- 31 Southworth, 2013 in Dictionary of Vexillology: Introduction, http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/vxt-dvex.html
- 32 idem.
- 33 Cf. the titles of the appendices: I. Parts of a Flag and Flagpole, II. International Customs Regarding the Placing and Handling of Flags, III. Tinctures, IV. Armorial Bearings, V. Heraldic Beasts, VI. Stripes in Heraldry, VII. Variations of Cotticed, VIII. Crosses in Heraldry, IX. Diagonal Stripes.
- 34 Of course, one can argue that every dictionary *per se* is an anthology of terms, consciously filtered by the editors, but this is not what we are talking about here.
- 35 The Dictionary of Vexillology Editorial Policy: Words and Terms, in: Dictionary of Vexillology: Introduction,
- 36 Editorial Procedure, idem. http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/vxt-dvex.html
- 37 The "compass-point diagonals" are terms describing diagonal stripes by using the compass directions convention (top north, hoist west etc.) to describe the edges on which the stripe ends, when the stripe ends only along a single edge on one of its ends. See overview in *The Dictionary of Vexillology: Appendix IX, Diagonal Stripes*, http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/vxt!-dv-9.html
- 38 At least as the author was able to note. This could possibly be compared with various heraldic *goutes* [drops of different tinctures] seemingly by heraldic literature an important heraldic concept, but in practice nothing but rare.
- 39 Actually, the modern blue ensigns do not include the white disk any more, but that is beyond the issue here.
- 40 The note at the term *Archivexillum* in the *Dictionary of Vexillology: A (Aqua Argent)*, http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/vxt-dva4.html#archivexillum

LITERATURE

Álvarez Rodríguez, Rafael: Diccionario de vexilología, Sociedad Española de Vexilología, Madrid, 2003.

Burgers, Andries Petrus; Martin, Terence; Southworth, Christopher and Heimer, Željko: *Dictionary of Vexillology*. FOTW – *Flags of the World*. http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/vxt-dvex.html, 2005. – , (accessed 17.12.2014.)

Burgers, Andries Petrus: The South African Flag Book. The History of South African Flags, Protea Boekhuis, Pretoria, 2008.

Česák, Josef and Tenora, Jiří: Odborné výrazy a stylistické konstrukce používané ve vexilologii = Terms and stylistic constructions used in vexillology = Fachausdrücke und stilistische Konstruktionen in der Vexillologie = Выражения и словосочетания употребляемые в взксиллологии (Vyraženija i slovosočetanija upotrebljajemyje v veksillologii) = Termes et locutions propres a la vexillologie = Términos y locusiones propios de la ciencia de las banderas, Vexilologický klub při Obvodním kulturním domě, Praha, 1990.

Crampton, William G. (convenor); Lister, David; Loynes, Louis; Moyce, P. M.: *Dictionary of Flag Terminology*, 1968-69 Report of the Terminology Committee; Heraldry Society Flag Section, London, 1969.

GA 1, Boston, Massachusetts, United States, September 7, 1969 (Minutes), Info-FIAV 14, July 1999, pp. 11-10.

GA 4, IJsselmeer, Netherlands, April 17, 18, 1975 (Minutes), Info-FIAV 16, February 2001, pp. 16-18.

GA 5, Washington, DC, United States, June 12, 1977 (Minutes), Info-FIAV 16, February 2001, pp.19-21.

GA 7, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, August 24 - 28, 1981 (Minutes), Info-FIAV 16, February 2001, pp. 25 - 34.

GA 20 Agenda (Agenda for the Twentieth Session of the FIAV General Assembly to be Convened August 7, 2007, Berlin, Germany), Info-FIAV 22, July 2007, pp.1-5.

GA 20 Minutes (Minutes of the Twentieth Session of the FIAV General Assembly, August 7, 2007, Berlin, Germany), Info-FIAV 24, October 2007, pp.1-9.

GA 21 Minutes (Minutes of the Twenty-First Session of the FIAV General Assembly, July 14, 2009, Yokohama, Japan), Info-FIAV 28, October 2009, pp.1-10.

Gideon, Richard R.: *Illustrated Dictionary of Vexillology: Volume One (A through M)*, at http://www.nava.org/flag-information/dictionary/volume-one, Last Revision: June 1st, 2001, and *Illustrated Dictionary of Vexillology: Volume Two (N through Z)* http://www.nava.org/flag-information/dictionary/volume-two, Last Revision: April 29th, 2001, North American Vexillological Association, 2001.

Heimer, Željko: *Hrvatsko Stjegoslovno Nazivlje. Veksilološki pojmovnik i rječnik, Englesko-Hrvatski Stjegoslovni Rječnik* = *English-Croatian Vexillologic Dictionary*, Zagreb, 2000. http://zeljko-heimer-fame.from.hr/hsn/hsn.html

Heimer, Željko: Identitet Oružanih snaga Republike Hrvatske iskazan zastavama vojnih postrojbi u Domovinskom ratu i nakon njega, Filozofski fakultet, Sveučilište u Zagrebu, doctoral thesis, 27.03.2013.

Herzog, Hans-Urlich, *Glossar zu Flaggen und Wappen*, Flaggenkurier, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Flaggenkunde, p. 16, 2002, pp. 70–82. Also available on line at http://www.flaggenkunde.de/flaggenkunde/glossar.htm, and issued (updated) in parts in the Flaggenkurier, 36/ 2012, 37/2013 (*Border – Erkennungsflagge*), 38/2013 (*Eroberte Fahne – Flaggenleine*), 39/2014 (*Flaggenlinie – Handelschiffsbeflaggung*)

ICV 2, Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland, September 1 – 3, 1967 (Minutes), Info-FIAV 14, July 1999, pp. 4 – 10.

Loeser, Pete: *In Memory of Andries Burgers (1937-2008)*, Flags of the World, page created 2008, last modified 2013-08-17, and visited 2015-04-21. http://www.crwflags.com/fotw/flags/xm-ab.html

Ломанцов, Виктор Анатольевич (Lomantsov, Viktor Anatol'evič): Флажная терминология (Flažnaya terminologiya), Русский Центр флаговедения и геральдики (РЦФГ, Russian Centre of Vexillology and Heraldry), http://www.vexillographia.ru/termin.htm, Orenburg, 2002.

Luke, David K.: *Glossary of Vexillology, Terms, Phrases and Facts*, (quoted by Gideon, 2000, also quoted in Luke, David K. *Vexillological Question*, NAVA News, Vol. 34, No. 4 (Issue 172), pp. 10-11)

Perazzo, Alberto Rubén: *Catalogo vexillológico*. In: Perazzo, Alberto Rubén: *Manual de vexilología universal*, Editorial Dunken, Buenos Aires, 2005, pp. 151-178.

Sastre y Arribas, María José: Diccionario de Vexilología, Pensa y Ediciones Iberoamericanas, Madrid, 1988.

Sierksma, Klaas: Vlaggenkundig Woordenboekje: samengesteld onder redactie van de Stichting voor Bannistiek en Heraldiek, te Muiderberg, Nederlandse Vereniging voor Vlaggenkunde, Den Haag, 1971.

Smith, Whitney: Prolegomena to the Study of Political Symbols, thesis, Boston University, 1969.

Smith, Whitney: Flags Through the Ages and Across the World, McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, 1975.

Smith, Whitney: An Introduction to Vexillology, NAVA News, Vol. X, No. 3, July-September, 1997, pp. 2-3

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author wishes to thank the original "Triumvirate" which started the DoV: Andries Petrus Burgers (1937 -2008), Terence Martin and Christopher Southworth, who involved me ever more in the work on the DoV. The almost daily messages we became used to exchanging in the last 10 years have been a pleasure and I have had the opportunity to learn so much, not the least the gallantry in writing among gentlemen.

I am grateful to Ian Sumner, the Flag Institute librarian, who provided me with data to some dictionaries that were otherwise unavailable to me and long out of print. Similar thanks I owe also to Petr Exner, the Czech Vexillological Association (ČSV).

BIOGRAPHICAL



Major ŽELJKO HEIMER, PhD, is president of the Croatian Heraldic and Vexillological Association (HGZD) and the editor of its semi-annual journal "Grb i zastava" (since 2006).

He graduated with a degree in electronic engineering in 1997, receiving a Master of Science in 2005 at the University of Zagreb. In 2013 he was awarded a PhD in Sociology with the dissertation topic of vexillology and the Croatian military colours. An active duty officer of the Croatian Armed Forces, he is currently appointed as Senior IT Advisor in the IT Department of the Ministry of Defence. He has published numerous articles in vexillological and other scientific journals, as well as popular articles in various newspapers and magazines (such as the Croatian bi-weekly military magazine *Hrvatski vojnik* where he has a regular column since 2012), lectured at a number of international vexillological, heraldic, and other academic conferences, and published two books on the coat of arms and flags of Croatia and Zagreb.

Since 1995 he has served as editor, 1996-1997 Vice-Director of Flags of the World (FOTW). He is a member of FOTW *Dictionary of Vexillology* editorial board, an honorary member of the *Bulgarian Heraldic and Vexillological Association* (BHVA) and the *Macedonian Heraldic Association* (MHZ), an associate member of the *Académie internationale d'héraldique* (AIH). In 2010 he was awarded the national Order of the Croatian Wattle by the President of the Republic.

Željko was awarded Fellow of the Federation at the Sydney ICV in 2015 and Laureate of the Federation in 2017. He became President of FIAV in 2019, at ICV 28 at San Antonio.

CONTACT Maj Dr Željko Heimer Croatian Heraldic and Vexillological Association (HGZD), Zagreb <u>zheimer@gmail.com</u>