

On Sunday, August 28th, 2022 at 6:58 PM, Charles Spain <[cspain@vexillology.org](mailto:cspain@vexillology.org)> wrote:

Dear [Anne] Onymous,

Although I am hesitant to respond to anonymous emails, I have read your denouncement of what I call “My Flag, Good Flag.” I understand why you would not want to openly engage with said gentleman. I have plenty of experience with him and his followers, and it is most unpleasant.

The issues you raise are important to the history of organized vexillology. I believe it is part of a larger story of a significant group of people who feel grieved because Whitney Smith conceived of vexillology as a serious subject for academic study. Rather than learn how to contribute to vexillology as someone who does not make a living off that work, these grieved individuals decided to feel they were looked down upon by alleged elitist academics, attributing disdain and contempt when that never existed.

And fight back these grieved people have, encouraged by a faux populist and opportunistic leader. David Martucci, Peter Orenski, Bill Trinkle, and Peter Ansoff have contributed mightly [sic] to this de-Whitney-ization of NAVA, led in large part under the populist GFBF banner of common-sense know nothings.

It would be easy to blame this on the Americans, except that it has found traction beyond the United States. It’s amazing what can be peddled by a smiling face, but snake oil sells like a champ around the globe. Who doesn’t want their arthritis and rheumatism cured?

Perhaps we can talk more about this fascinating chapter of everyone-is-a-vexillologist because all opinions are equal. As the person who led the memorial services for Dr. Smith in both London for FIAV and Boston for NAVA, I think the anti-Whineyites [sic] view of vexillology isn’t worth a pitcher of warm piss (with apologies to fellow Texan and former Vice President John Nance Garner).

Sincerely,

Charles A. Spain WSF

Senior Fellow and Director  
The Flag Research Center  
The Trust for Vexillology

[cspain@vexillology.org](mailto:cspain@vexillology.org)  
Mobile [redacted]  
[www.vexillology.org](http://www.vexillology.org)  
[www.FlagResearchCenter.org](http://www.FlagResearchCenter.org)

Pronouns *he/him/his*

[nz.flagoptions.com](http://nz.flagoptions.com) / [oz.flagalternatives.com](http://oz.flagalternatives.com)