

13 Star United States Flag - The “True Betsy Ross Flag”

Date: circa 1780

Medium: Hand loomed wool bunting, with hand sewn cotton stars, cotton and hemp heading, with red worsted twill ties, hand sewn linen and cotton threads.

Comment: 13 Star U.S. Flag – “The True Betsy Ross Flag” - This single ring with larger center star flag dates from the American Revolution. Americans are familiar with the so-called Betsy Ross pattern, often depicted as a flag with a single ring of 13 stars with a void in the center. The single ring of 13 stars flag is mythologically accepted as the first U.S. flag dated 1777 conceived by Betsy Ross. This has never been documented, and no flag with this design is known to have existed. Only a single period image of such a design dates to 1782 and it is an artist’s interpretation.

Based on surviving examples, it is clear that a single ring of 12 stars around a center star was the design crafted in the late 1770s and 1780s, not just by Mrs. Ross, but throughout the American Colonies. A void in the center of a ring of stars, as a design element, was anathema to 18th century flag designers, and all surviving period examples contain something – a star, an eagle, a monogram or other device - within the ring, like this example. There are a number of examples that have survived, leaving evidence of what the earliest flags looked like. They are all an oblong circle with some device in the middle if they are not of straight horizontal row patterns.

This flag, a well worn 18th century example, was thought to be such a flag by Boleslaw Mastai, who used it for the frontispiece of his landmark book, *The Stars and Stripes*, and selected it for the cover of *Time* magazine in July 1980. Textile analysis and other datable surviving flags with a circle of stars with a single star in the middle confirm its use in the 1780s.

Provenance: Acquired at auction by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0715) in 2002 from the Boleslaw and Marie Louise D’Otrange Mastai Estate via Sotheby’s Auctions, New York, New York. www.FlagCollection.com

“Sheridan’s Ride”

Battle of Cedar Creek

Date: 1886

Media: Chromolithograph on paper.

Comment: This striking print of an artist’s imagined image of Major General Philip Sheridan galloping along lines of Union troops to rally them carrying his personal battle flag. Entitled “Sheridan’s Ride,” it is a reference to Sheridan’s heroic ride along his battle line to rally the troops, with his battle flag ZFC2576, before his counter attack at the Battle of Cedar Creek, 19 October 1864.

These events became an American Civil War legend, an epic poem by Thomas Buchanan Read, and ultimately an iconic image as envisioned by the Swedish born, historical military artist, Thulstrup de Thures, acclaimed by his contemporaries as “the foremost military artist in America.”

The image was printed for distribution by the renowned publisher Louis Prang, and it clearly shows, General Sheridan’s Personal Guidon (See ZFC2576) being used to turn the tide of battle. It was published towards the end of the 19th Century as Prang & Co. responded to a nostalgic revival of interest in the Civil War by printing depictions of famous battles and events, often favoring images of those historical figures and famous personages like General Sheridan.

Patriotic chromolithographic prints like this were a common feature in American parlors, classrooms, and public spaces at the end of the 19th century.

Provenance: Acquired at auction by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0311) in 1996 from Cowan’s Auctions, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio. www.FlagCollection.com

50 Star United States Flag “The South Tower Flag”

Date: 2000–2001

Media: Cotton, machine sewn stripes and canton with dye printed stars.

Comment: On September 18, 2001 a volunteer fireman was helping Engine 54 of the Fire Department of New York during the search, rescue, and recovery efforts at the World Trade Center. While sifting through the rubble of the South Tower, the volunteer fireman discovered what he thought were fragments of clothing from one of the victims of the September 11 terrorist attack. As he dug further, he realized he had found the smoldering remains of a cotton United States flag.

From the amount of office equipment in the vicinity of the flag, it was speculated that the recovered flag was in one of the offices of the World Trade Center. The flag was unearthed and extinguished, and ultimately retained by the fireman.

Many flags were among the 9/11 artifacts retrieved. Most recovered flags went to public institutions, including the Smithsonian, the New York State Museum, and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. It is estimated that hundreds of flags had been in World Trade Center buildings, due both to the large number of government offices there and the American tradition of flag ownership by private individuals. Flags like this in private collections are scarce, as only about a dozen documented debris field flags are known to exist.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC3911) in June 2003 directly from the anonymous volunteer fireman; previously displayed from July 2002 through April 2003, at the EpCot Center, Disney World, Orlando, Florida.
www.FlagCollection.com

United States 33 Star Storm Ensign, 1st Flag Captured in Civil War

Date: January, 1861

Media: Banner, cotton canvas and paint; Flag, wool bunting, machine stitched, cotton hand sewn, double appliqué stars with linen canvas heading.

Comment: This iconic ghost of an American flag is the earliest documented flag captured during the American Civil War. The flag was captured by Florida secessionists at Pensacola, on January 12, 1861, a full three months before the firing on Fort Sumter, thus making it the first United States flag captured in that Great Conflict.

The flag was later retaken by United States Navy Lt. Edward E. Brennand from the storeship USS Supply, who while ashore under a flag of truce, seized the flag back from the secessionists, who were desecrating the flag by trailing it in the dust.

Lt. Brennand returned to his home in Pittsburgh and left the flag in the care of his sister, Mrs. John Erwin, and her grandniece, Mrs. John Prichard. Lt. Brennand did not survive the war, but his relations used the flag in November 1864 to celebrate the reelection of President Abraham Lincoln by attaching it to a commemorative banner and displaying it across Penn Avenue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The flag and banner have not been separated since that time. A careful look at the flag reveals several of the stars are joined only by the slenderest of threads, symbolically much like the Union in the Civil War.

Provenance: Acquired at auction in 2007 by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC2510) from the Soldiers & Sailors National Military Museum & Memorial, Pittsburgh, PA, via James D. Julia Auctions, Fairfield, ME. www.FlagCollection.com

36 Star United States Grand Luminary Mourning Flag

Date: 1865

Media: Hand sewn silk with painted stars.

Comment: Although its popularity had waned during the Civil War, the grand luminary arrangement of the stars to form one great star still held some degree of favor at the end of the American Civil War. The symbolism of the grand luminary or great star was a graphic representation of our national motto, *E Pluribus Unum* or Out of Many, One, which had been popularized by the War of 1812 privateer Captain Samuel Reid.

In this small silk flag, the stars are formed into a large star centered on a star that is slightly larger than the stars composing the points of the great star. All were hand applied to the light blue silk canton with white paint.

A black silk crepe border was added to this flag during the period of official mourning for the death of President Abraham Lincoln, who was assassinated on the evening of April 14, 1865 and who died the next morning. Flags were draped in black crepe, which in Victorian parlance also meant bordering all or some of the edges of a flag.

After this flag was used as a mourning flag after the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, the band of crepe, which surrounds the flag, was never removed, and the flag was used to mourn other assassinated President, John F. Kennedy.

Provenance: Acquired at auction by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0617) in 2002 from the Boleslaw and Marie Louise D'Otrange Mastai Estate via Sotheby's Auctions, New York, New York. www.FlagCollection.com

48 Star United States Flag, Homemade in Occupied Belgium

Date: 1944

Media: Cotton; hand-sewn.

Comment: During the occupation of Belgium, Madame Edith Coort-Fresart and her three daughters (Marguerite-Marie, Marie-Therese, and Francoise) made flags from bed sheets and other materials scavenged in their household. The French Tricolor and British Union Jack were fairly easy to make while the most difficult was the Stars and Stripes. On September 7th, 1944, these women who had taken great risks in making Allied flags, were afforded the opportunity to fly them that day, when American and Belgian resistance forces drove the Germans out of Liege, the Coort-Fresart family responded by flying the American flag from their window. It is interesting to note that the family had attempted to fly the American flag a day earlier but German soldiers remaining in the area fired on the house, Francoise told Ben Zaricor in a telephone conversation in 1998.

That night an American officer, a Major Brice, stayed at their home. As a token of their thanks for the American role in the liberation of Belgium, the grateful women presented this flag to Major Brice, who brought it home to Baltimore after the war. Coincidentally, Major Brice was the great-grandson of Francis Scott Key, who had penned the Star Spangled Banner in 1814.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0149) in 1996 from the Star Spangled Banner Flag House Collection of Baltimore, MD.

www.FlagCollection.com

Taliban Flag (Afghanistan) 170th Regimental Artillery Color

Date: 2002

Media: Silk with silk fringe and embroidery.

Comment: Following 9/11, American forces quickly overthrew the tyrannical Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Jim Burroughs, a distinguished independent film producer, made a real-time video record of the destruction of the Taliban military headquarters in Jalalabad, Afghanistan in November 2001. He also was able to retrieve a Taliban flag from the bombed-out building. That flag, which is said to be caked with blood, probably is the only souvenir in any American flag collection of that oppressive era in Afghanistan. Throughout American history, similar flags from earlier wars have reminded us of the heroic efforts of the United States armed forces in defense of our security and liberty.

The flag is black, one of the traditional national colors of both Islam and Afghanistan, and it is fringed in white and pink. It bears a wreath surrounding the crossed-cannon symbol for artillery. The design, construction, and the staff finial (also salvaged) identify this as a flag from the commander's office in Jalalabad.

The traditional Muslim battle cry, "God Is Almighty" appears above the gold-embroidered emblem, which is represented at the fly end of the flag. Because Arabic script reads from right to left, the hoist of the flag is to the observer's right when the obverse (the principal face of the flag) is seen.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0504) in 2002 from James Burroughs. www.FlagCollection.com

35 Star U.S. National Standard General Phillip Sheridan

Date: 1864–1865

Media: Silk fabric with painted gilt stars, all hand sewn.

Comment: This 35 star silk United States national standard (1863-1865) was used during the American Civil War by Major General Philip Sheridan Commanding General of the Army of the Shenandoah (1864 -1865). Surviving army headquarters staff flags are extremely rare and Union cavalry commanders' national flags are unknown.

This headquarters staff flag was similar in purpose to U.S. flags displayed by both Generals Grant and Sherman except that, in keeping with Sheridan's mostly mounted command, it, like the cavalry's standards, was smaller than army infantry counterparts. General commanding separate armies displayed United States flags at their headquarters in order to further identify them to both staff and couriers. This is such a flag.

This flag is thought to have been captured during the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864, and is believed to be the flag attributed to General Sheridan in the US War Department's collection of U.S. flags returned after the Civil War.

This U.S. Flag was acquired in a box in 200 fragments. The red and white stripes were torn, shredded and fractured and the painted star field in the canton had all but disintegrated. The flag was incapable of supporting its own weight and in desperate need of conservation; otherwise it would be lost forever. This flag is a testimony to the skill of the textile conservator, whose blend of both art and science has created an environment that will preserve this flag for posterity.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC2577) in 2008 from the descendants of Cpl. Daniel Drennan via the estate of his great-great-great grandson William C. Leaman, through auction by Heritage Auctions, Inc. of Dallas, Texas. www.FlagCollection.com

General Phillip Sheridan Civil War Personal Battle Flag

Date: 1864–1865

Media: Hand sewn silk fabric with silk appliqué stars.

Comment: This is the personal Civil War battle flag of General Philip Sheridan (1831-1888). It was used by the Union's greatest cavalry commander through his most illustrious campaigns in 1864 and 1865. General Sheridan was noted for both his meteoric rise to Major General, and his close friendship and association with General Ulysses S. Grant. Sheridan used this red over white guidon; with two five pointed stars, after his appointment to command the Union Army of the Shenandoah in 1864.

This battle flag indicated Gen. Sheridan's personal presence on the field. Carried by a sergeant, this flag accompanied General Sheridan through all phases of the Shenandoah Valley and Appomattox Campaigns through some of the thickest fighting of the war. This guidon has been immortalized in several post-war lithographic images of Sheridan, including the famous "Sheridan's Ride" by Thure de Thulstrup, which depicts his famous early morning gallop on 19 October 1864, rallying his troops. Sheridan also used this flag at the commencement of the Appomattox Campaign when, at the battle of Five Forks, on 1 April 1865, he seized the flag from his sergeant and led a famous charge, braving shot and shell, which pierced the guidon.

The image of the dashing General Sheridan at both Cedar Creek and Five Forks was painted or drawn by many major American illustrators for widespread use in books and illustrations.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC2576) in 2008 from the descendants of Cpl. Daniel Drennan via the estate of his great-great-great grandson William C. Leaman, through auction by Heritage Auctions, Inc. of Dallas, Texas. www.FlagCollection.com

Iraq National Flag

1991 to 2004

Date: 2003

Media: Machine sewn synthetic-cotton blend with paint imprint.

Comment: The Iraqi flag is double faced so that the Arabic inscription reads correctly on both sides. The national flag of Iraq was changed after the 1990 Gulf War. As used from 1991 to 2004, it bore the takbir, the Arabic term for the phrase, Allah'u Akbar (God is great). The takbir was reputedly written upon the flag in Saddam Hussein's own hand, and subsequently, this flag, with the takbir, was adopted as the national flag. This flag also bears the three green stars added to the flag when the Ba'ath Party came to power in 1963. The three green stars are said to represent the watchwords of the Ba-thist philosophy, Freedom, Unity and Socialism.

The flag was widely used in Iraq by both the army and the ruling Baath Party to identify official military and party buildings. The Baath Party, which formerly ruled Iraq, played a prominent role in the Iraqi insurgency, and the Baath Party facilities were a source of both interest and scrutiny by the U.S. Army.

This Iraqi flag, along with a cache of valuable intelligence paperwork, and Iraqi Army equipment was captured in the summer of 2003 from a Baath Party Headquarters building in the Al Amel district of Baghdad by Company B, 3rd Battalion, 325th Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division. Captured flags remain one of the most popular War Trophies for returning soldiers.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC3718) in 2012 from 82nd Airborne Division veteran Anthony Purtscher, Santa Cruz, CA. www.FlagCollection.com

The Woman Suffrage Party Pennant and Pin

Date: Circa 1909

Media: Pennant, wool felt with ink imprint; Pin, celluloid over metal.

Comment: The Woman Suffrage Party (WSP) was founded by Mrs. Carrie C. Catt in 1907. The WSP of greater New York was modeled on the Democrat and Republican parties in the hope that by organizing, as the major parties did in New York's assembly and election districts, the WSP thought it would bring woman suffrage close to male voters and eventually influence both politicians and their parties via public opinion.

Pennants like this were distributed at the WSP first convention on 29 October 1909, held at New York City's Carnegie Hall, and waved and worn by members and supporters alike.

The WSP grew out of the efforts of its antecedent organizations, The Brooklyn Woman Suffrage Association, the New York City Society, and the Interurban Woman Suffrage Council. Under Chapman's able leadership the WSP rose to the height of its influence between 1915 and 1917 during an unsuccessful attempt to amend the New York State Constitution.

The WSP canvassed New York's election districts with broadsides directed at men that logically reasoned that a woman's place may be in the home, yet she can perform domestic duties much better if allowed the vote since she will have greater control of outside events that influence her housekeeping, such as public health and clean food.

Provenance: Acquired in 2008 by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC3123 & ZFC3124) at auction, Heritage Auction Inc., Dallas, Texas. www.FlagCollection.com

U.S. Army 5 Star General Officer Flag WWII

Date: 1944–1945

Media: Machine sewn wool bunting with cotton double appliqué stars.

Comment: This extremely rare wool flag is attributed to General of the Army Dwight D. Eisenhower. It indicates the personal presence of general officer of that grade, the highest possible wartime grade in the United States Army. Its rarity is underscored by the fact that only four men achieved the grade of General of the Army during the war: George Marshall, Douglas MacArthur, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and Henry H. Hap Arnold, all in December 1944. As Supreme Commander of Allied Forces Europe (SHAEF), General of the Army Eisenhower had responsibility for the planning and implementing the invasions of France and Germany in 1944 and 1945, and after the war as Military Governor of the U.S. Occupation Zone and later as Chief of Staff of the Army of the United States.

A General of the Army ranks immediately above a full general, and is equivalent in grade to a Fleet Admiral in the U.S. Navy or a General of the Air Force. The Army reserves the grade of General of the Army for wartime. At present, this rank is vacant.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC3275) in 2009 from the Jim Mountain Historical Collection via auction at Alderfer Auctions, Hatboro, PA. www.FlagCollection.com

U.S. Presidential Color, President Franklin D. Roosevelt

Date: circa 1936

Media: Hand embroidered silk, with silver and gold bullion twisted wire fringe.

Comment: This gold and silver fringed model 1916 US Presidential Flag was used in the White House by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose use was longer than any other president, and is often associated with his administrations.

The design was created when President Woodrow Wilson signed Executive Order 2390 on 29 May 1916, that established the first exclusive presidential flag. This pattern came after a succession of different designs, which both the US Navy and US Army had promulgated and used for their own purposes. The President as Commander-in-Chief now had a single design. In 1945 this pattern was altered, when it was redesigned to give the president more stars at a time when some admirals and generals flags had more stars than the President's. The eagle was made to face the olive branches, which symbolize the power of peace. The four corner stars were dropped and a single ring of stars that changed with the admission of more states. This remains the design for the modern US Presidential flag we see today.

This flag was handloom embroidered, with silk yarns, by skilled embroideresses, at the Philadelphia Quartermaster Depot, the nation's official supplier of Presidential colors and flags. Silken colors like this one would also have been used to indicate the President's office as both the Chief Executive and the Commander-in-Chief of the United States.

Provenance: Acquired at auction by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC2502) in 2006 from the Cowan's Auctions, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio. www.FlagCollection.com

Socialism Saves Capitalism

Banner “Bail-Out” Wall Street

2008

Date: 2008

Media: Vinyl impregnated cotton with adhesive vinyl lettering.

Comment: This large green banner was produced for the Nader-Gonzales Campaign. Ralph Nader and Matt Gonzalez, independent candidates in 2008, for President and Vice President respectively, protested the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008, commonly referred to as the “Wall Street Bailout” or the Stimulus. The banner features the ironic slogan ‘Socialism saves Capitalism’. The banner was prominently displayed at the Nader-Gonzales anti-bailout rally at Federal Hall, 26 Wall Street in New York City, Thursday 16 October 2008.

Their opposition slogan to the Stimulus was “Jail Time Not Bail Time - Stop the Bailout” and it became a key component of the Nader-Gonzales campaign, in direct opposition to both the Republican and Democratic positions which supported the Act.

Ephemeral topical political banners like this rarely survive, but images of this banner and the 16 October 2008 rally were featured on the Nader-Gonzales website.

Dramatic demonstrations and progressive slogans became hallmarks of the Nader-Gonzales Campaign, which repeatedly came under fire during and after the campaign for comments critical of Senators Barrack Obama and John McCain, former President Bush and Democrats and Republicans in general. Ultimately the Nader-Gonzales campaign was unsuccessful, garnering only 738,475 votes nationwide or 0.56 percent of the popular vote.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC3186) in 2008 directly from the Nader-Gonzales Campaign, Washington, D.C. www.FlagCollection.com

Woman Suffrage Parade Pennant

Date: 1913

Media: Cotton gauze netting imprinted with paint.

Comment: This cotton gauze pennant with a decorative imprint was created for the Woman Suffrage Parade held on 3 March 1913, one day prior to the inauguration of President Woodrow Wilson. The suffragette Alice Paul and the National American Woman Suffrage Association organized a march down Washington DC's Pennsylvania Avenue. The parade was huge for its day, with over 5,000 participants that included four mounted units, nine bands, and over twenty floats. Among the marchers were such luminaries as Inez Milholland, Helen Keller, and Nellie Bly.

This important march attracted much attention for both the cause, suffrage for women, and the mistreatment of the marchers by both onlookers and the police. This attention did much to further the cause of woman suffrage in the United States as the journalist Elizabeth Jane Cochran writing under her pen name, Nellie Bly, championed the suffragette cause in her article "Suffragists are Men's Superiors."

Decorative pennants like this are extremely rare since they were seldom preserved. This pennant was imprinted on gauze with a stylized capitol dome, a stylized American eagle, "1913", the location, Washington D.C., and the slogan "Votes for Women."

Provenance: Acquired in 2008 by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC3238) at auction, Heritage Auction Inc., Dallas, Texas. www.FlagCollection.com

37 Star U.S. Provenance Lincoln Funeral Flag

A handwritten certificate on aged paper. The text is written in cursive ink. At the top left, it says 'Washington D.C.' and at the top right, 'December 2, 1922'. The main body of text certifies that a silk flag, 16 x 25 1/2 inches, with two 1 x 16 inch red, white, and blue silk streamers, is now in the possession of Daten Heitmuller. It was draped on the coffin of President Abraham Lincoln in Philadelphia, Pa., in Independence Hall, on April 21, 1865. The flag was presented to the writer's mother, Mrs. Coughlin, by Joe Stevey (Strong) of the Guard. The signature 'Mrs Anna Cooper' is at the bottom right.

Washington D.C.

December 2, 1922

This is to certify that the silk flag 16 x 25 1/2
With 2.- 1" x 16" = red white & blue silk streamers
now in the possession of Daten Heitmuller
was draped on the Coffin of the President
Abraham Lincoln in Philadelphia, Pa.
in Independence Hall, April 2[?], 1865.
And was presented to my mother, Mrs. Coughlin
By Joe Stevey (Strong) the Guard.

Mrs. Anna Cooper

UK, 6th Airborne Division, Headquarters Guidon, WWII

Date: 1944–1945

Media: Wool and cotton.

Comment: This British Airborne Divisional HQ Command Pennant came from the Estate of United States Army General Matthew B. Ridgway, who acquired the guidon as a memento of command from elements of the British 6th Airborne Division.

The pennant honored Ridgway's contributions to airborne warfare. From the ultimately triumphant Normandy invasion which had begun on 6 June 1944, D-Day; where Ridgway helped plan airborne operations and commanded the U.S. 82nd, All-American Airborne Division. This guidon was presented in the spring of 1945, after the crossing of the Rhine and the advance into Germany.

The insignia of British Airborne Divisions features the winged horse Pegasus beneath Bellerophon, slayer of monsters and, according to Greek myth, the first airborne warrior. In 1941, Prime Minister Winston Churchill appointed Lieutenant General Sir Frederick Boy Browning to organize Great Britain's airborne forces. General Browning's wife, Daphne du Maurier, was the master of modern Gothic narrative and the author of the story on which Alfred Hitchcock would base his film *The Birds*.

du Maurier suggested the maroon background color for the airborne soldier's insignia and headgear, and her husband liked the idea. The Airborne's maroon berets and shoulder insignia would inspire the German nickname for Britain's airborne troops, *Rote Teufel* or the "Red Devils." Today, the UK's Parachute Regiment carries on the tradition, and the maroon beret is recognized as the headgear of airborne troops the world over.

Provenance: Acquired in 1997 by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC1271) directly from the estate of General and Mrs. Matthew Ridgway via Dargate Auction Galleries, Pittsburgh, PA. www.FlagCollection.com

34 Star U.S. Flag, 1st Consular Officer Amoy, China 1861

Date: 1862

Media: Silk.

Comment: One of the first U.S. flags made in China, belonged to Arthur Bullus Bradford (1810-1899), President Abraham Lincoln's first consul, to Amoy, (now Xiamen) China in 1861. This was a flag he had made from a silk handkerchief, during his tenure in China.

Arthur Bradford and his wife Elizabeth, nee Wicks, settled in Darlington, PA, where he became preacher at Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church.

Bradford wrote articles on abolition for various newspapers, including William Lloyd Garrison's *Liberator*. His Darlington home, Buttonwood, was an Underground Railroad station, and the daughters spent much time making clothes to disguise fugitive slaves. Buttonwood was an integral link on the route from New Brighton/Beaver to Enon Valley in Lawrence County, and then on to Ohio. The conductors on this Underground Railroad route were mostly local, freed slaves, often working for their keep, until moving to the next station.

Because of Bradford's outspoken abolitionist activities, numerous threats were made on his life. Fearing for his safety his wife implored Lincoln to give him a diplomatic appointment. He stayed in China for eight months and returned to the U.S. in 1863 with this flag.

Note that the canton has been turned 90 degrees to be vertical instead of horizontal which was the traditional orientation of the canton. Likely the Chinese maker was using a sketch or written description and he made a choice to place the star pattern in vertical rows, almost as if he were doing Chinese calligraphy, a familiar design element.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC2555) at auction in 2008, from the Great-great-granddaughter of Arthur Bullus Bradford, Mrs. Dona McCaughtry Luster, via Jerry Wishart Auctions, Warren, Ohio. www.FlagCollection.com

U.S. 50 Star Flag, Sen. Barack Obama A More Perfect Union Speech

Date: 2008

Media: Machine sewn nylon bunting, cotton embroidery and rayon fringe.

Comment: The United States flag has figured prominently in all candidates campaign decor since it was effectively used by the patrician and soldier William Henry Harrison in the election of 1840. The 2008 election was no exception, and the Democratic candidate Senator Barack Obama used flags as a backdrop when he delivered his “A More Perfect Union” address on the topic of race in America at Philadelphia’s National Constitution Center.

President Obama framed his remarks in terms of the broader issue of race in the United States, and took his title from the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States; addressing racial tensions, privilege, inequality, African American anger, and white resentment. He closed with a plea to move beyond America’s “racial stalemate” and address common social problems.

The flags selected were eight fringed U.S. parade or presentation flag sets in floor stands. In modern American politics image is everything and most campaign managers will use redundant flags on stage to ensure that a flag will appear next to or behind a candidate regardless of the angle from which he or she is photographed.

There is an adage in the American flag business about flags in political campaigns stemming from the election of 1984 “Democrats rent and Republicans buy”. Appropriately then, these flags did not belong to the Democratic Party, the Obama campaign or the Constitution Center; instead, they were rented from a Philadelphia flag company for the event.

Provenance: Acquired in 2008 by the Zaricor Flag collection (ZFC3242) directly from the Humphreys Flag Co. of Philadelphia, PA. www.FlagCollection.com

HMS *Glory* Trapunto

1900 to 1904

Date: 1900–1904

Media: Silk yarn and thread.

Comment: A trapunto is an ornately embroidered commemorative fabric. Making a trapunto involves the addition of padding behind a piece of silk, upon which elaborate designs are embroidered to create a three-dimensional image. It was not uncommon for trapuntos of the time to contain many patriotic symbols.

Many trapuntos were made and sold by the George Washington Co. in Yokohama, Japan in the late 1880s to the early 1930s. Besides sailors from the Royal Navy's China station (collectively the ports of Singapore, Hong Kong and Wei Hai Wei) and their German counterparts from the German East Asia Squadron at Tsingtao, American soldiers and sailors from the Philippines were typical customers for these embroideries. Visiting servicemen would send trapuntos home for framing as a memento of their service.

This Royal Navy trapunto for a crewman from the HMS *Glory*, assigned to the Royal Navy's China Station, has a typical design, a panoply of naval ensigns around exquisite embroidery of a warship, surmounted by Britain's Imperial Crown. The HMS *Glory* was a purpose built Canopus class British battleship, that was intended for and detailed to the China Station in 1900. She would be withdrawn in 1905, after a treaty with the Japanese Empire reduced the need for the Royal Navy to maintain a large force patrolling the China Coast.

Provenance: Acquired in 2011 by the Zaricor Flag Collection ZFC3699, at auction from Charles Miller Ltd., London, United Kingdom. www.FlagCollection.com

General George A. Custer's Third Personal Cavalry Headquarters Guidon

Date: 1864

Media: Wool bunting with cotton crossed sabers; all hand-sewn.

Comment: Shortly after receiving his commission as a brigadier-general and closely following the Battle of Gettysburg, George Armstrong Custer caused to be made a swallow-tailed guidon, divided horizontally red over blue with white crossed sabers. This served as his personal guidon to mark his location in the field of battle and in camp. The first one was crude, but it was replaced in the winter of 1863-1864 by an elaborate flag of the same design made of silk, fringed, and decorated with battle honors from Custer's 1863 service. In June 1864 this second personal flag was nearly captured; it was saved only by tearing it from its staff. As it was too damaged in the process for further use, in the summer of 1864 Custer commissioned yet a third example of his personal flag. This is that very flag.

Custer's third personal flag was carried by him through the remaining campaigns of 1864, including the Shenandoah Valley campaign, where Custer was photographed with it (and his 3rd Division guidon) in front of his headquarters. It also started with him on the spring 1865 campaign south of Petersburg and was only replaced by another fine silk example crafted by his wife, Libbie, as Custer began the final battles on April 1, 1865, that culminated at Appomattox Court House in April 9, 1865.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0489) in 1995 from the descendants of G. A. Custer through auction by Butterfield & Butterfield Auction House of San Francisco, CA. www.FlagCollection.com

General George A. Custer's Headquarters Command Flag 3rd Division, Cavalry Corps

Date: 1864

Media: Wool bunting and cotton; hand-sewn.

Comment: In 1864 when General Sheridan came East with General Grant and assumed command of the Cavalry Corps of the Army of the Potomac, he instituted a special headquarters flag for the commanders of each of his three cavalry divisions. The flag imitated the pre-War traditional cavalry guidon in that it was swallow-tailed in form and divided horizontally, red over white. On each of the two horizontal bars, the respective division number was applied in the color of the opposite bar.

The 3rd Cavalry Division of Sheridan's Cavalry Corps was first commanded by General James Wilson until September 1864, when Wilson was transferred to the western theater to command his own cavalry corps, see ZFC0227. General George A. Custer then assumed command of the 3rd Cavalry Division until the close of the War. Custer's orderlies carried this flag along with his personally designed flag ZFC0489, in the campaigns, until the 3rd Division guidon became too worn from battle damage for further use; on 31 March 1865, when it was retired, souvenirs were taken by Custer's staff.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0490) in 1995 from the descendants of G. A. Custer, through Butterfield & Butterfield Auction House of San Francisco, CA. www.FlagCollection.com

Photo of General Custer, his wife Libbie, his staff and his 2 guidons

Date: 1864

Media: Photographic paper.

Comment: This is a print taken directly from the historic William H. Bowlsby photograph of General George A. Custer with his wife and staff at the M.Y. Mason mansion, Winchester, Virginia, on the 25th of December, 1864. Custer had made this house his headquarters in Winchester. His two guidons are clearly visible in this photo. On the left is his 3rd Personal Guidon ZFC0489 and the 3rd Cavalry Division designating flag ZFC0490.

Shortly after receiving his commission as a brigadier general and closely following the Battle of Gettysburg, George Armstrong Custer had made a swallow-tailed guidon, divided horizontally red over blue with white crossed sabers. This served as his personal guidon to mark his location in the field of battle and in camp. The first one was crude, but it was replaced in the winter of 1863 – 1864 by an elaborate flag of the same design made of silk, fringed, and decorated with battle honors from Custer's 1863 service. In June 1864 this second personal flag was nearly captured; it was saved only by tearing it from its staff. As it was too damaged in the process for further use, in the summer of 1864 Custer's wife made yet a third personal flag, which was his most famous.

Custer's third personal guidon, his most famous, was carried by him through the remaining campaigns of 1864, including the Shenandoah Valley campaign, where Custer was photographed with it, and his 3rd Division guidon, in front of his headquarters.

Provenance: Acquired by Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC1492) in 1970 by purchase from photographic archival collections of The Little Big Horn Battlefield National Monument, Crow Agency, Montana. www.FlagCollection.com

Philippine Battle Flag

Philippine Insurrection, 1899

Date: 1899

Media: Hand sewn cotton, cotton lace, paper backed cotton stars.

Comment: This homemade, blood-stained Philippine flag was captured in the City of Pasig, located near Manila in the Philippines. During the Philippine Insurrection, Pasig was a region of intense Philippine nationalism and saw heavy fighting between U.S. Army and Philippine forces, called Insurrectos.

This flag was taken by Lieutenant Colonel Victor Duboce, a prominent San Francisco leader, who personally led the 1st California Infantry Volunteers in a successful foray against a strongly fortified church in the Battle of Pasig, 15 March 1899. The flag has emblems on one side only, and it was probably displayed flat on a wall in that church, which is thought to have been the Insurrectos headquarters.

The flag central emblem, a sun with human facial features, was similar in design to the flag that Philippine independence leader Emilio Aguinaldo brought with him from Hong Kong in 1898. The lace along the bottom fly edge of the flag was an attempt to mimic the appearance of fringe, a common adornment on military flags. This flag's original red and blue horizontal stripes have now faded to orange and gray from long term display at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, CA after Colonel Duboce's widow donated the flag in 1900, after his death of tropical disease contracted during the campaigns of 1899.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0206) in 1997 from the de Young Museum Collection through Butterfield & Butterfield Auctions of San Francisco, CA. www.FlagCollection.com

13 Star United States Bible Flag & U.S. Soldier Tintype

Date: 1861–1865

Media: Hand sewn silk, photographic tin.

Comment: This flag of the unknown Union sergeant depicted on the accompanying full plate tintype, presumably belonged to his wife and family.

These small flags are often referred to as “bible flags.” They were common to both the North and the South during the American Civil War. Often made for a soldier by a mother, wife, sweetheart or sister, smaller flags were often carried by soldiers in pocket bibles as a reminder of loved ones at home. Slightly larger flags were used as bookmarks for passages of scripture in family bibles as a way to remember those serving at the front.

Religion was a factor on both sides, especially after 1863, when the Union and the Confederacy each began to equate their cause with a crusade. In the North the fight to free the slaves was added to the campaign to save the Union, while in the South it became a fight to defend hearths and altars.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0253) in 1998 from Cowan’s Auctions, Cincinnati, OH. www.FlagCollection.com

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11 Star Confederate States of America, Bible Flag & Union Draft Notice

Date: 1861–1863

Media: Hand sewn silk and paper.

Comment: This small flag were referred to as “bible flags.” They were common to both the North and the South during the American Civil War. Often made by a family member or sweethearts, some were smaller flags often carried by soldiers in pocket bibles as a reminder of loved ones at home. Slightly larger flags were used as bookmarks for passages of scripture in family bibles as a way to remember those serving at the front.

Religion was meaningful on both sides, especially after 1863, when the Union and the Confederacy each began to equate their cause with a crusade. In the North the fight to free the slaves was added to the campaign to save the Union, while in the South it became a fight to defend hearths and altars.

It is representative of the religious fervor with which many southern soldiers embraced the Lost Cause.

This 1st National flag, which is in its original frame, was probably taken as a trophy by Richard H. Smith, the Union soldier whose army induction papers are framed on the reverse side of the flag.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0002) in 1996 from the Star Spangled Banner Flag House Collection of Baltimore, MD.

www.FlagCollection.com

31 Star U.S. Flag, Pratt St. Riots Baltimore, MD.

Date: 1851–1858

Media: Wool with cotton stars.

Comment: This small hand-sewn 31 star wool flag is remarkable. It was made in Baltimore, at the Pratt Street shop of the flag maker Mark Pickersgill. It was later discovered in a Baltimore home, a few blocks from the site of the infamous 19 April 1861 event now known as the Baltimore Riot of 1861. Also called the Pratt St. Riots, they were between southern sympathizers and members of the 6th Massachusetts Infantry en route to Washington for federal service. It is regarded by many historians as the first bloodshed of the Civil War. This flag was displayed by Union supporters.

The noted flag historian Howard Madaus examined the flag in the 1990s and speculated that it was also of the size and type of flags used by the U.S. Navy for Boat Flags. Curiously, it is of the same size and type of flag Commodore Perry took to Japan in 1853. Perry's surviving flag at the U.S. Naval Academy is almost identical to this flag; the only exception is the vertical row of six stars on the hoist side of Perry's flag, the same flag that was placed on the quarter deck of the USS Missouri in September 1945 when the instrument of surrender of Imperial Japan was signed.

It is likely that this 31 star United States flag, which became current upon the admission of California in 1851, was made for the Navy by Mary Pickersgill, used by as a small boat flag in the 1850s, and then returned to Baltimore where it was displayed during the Baltimore Riot of 1861.

Provenance: Acquired by private purchase in 1998 by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC1453), from Star Spangled Banner Flag House & Museum, Baltimore, MD. www.FlagCollection.com

U.S. 50 Star Apollo 14 Flag

First Flag to Moon and Return to Earth

Date: 1971

Media: Printed rayon, paper & cardboard.

Comment: This 50 Star United States Flag is one of only two flags placed on the lunar surface and returned to Earth. Astronaut Captain Alan Shepard, USN took the flag to the lunar surface in the Apollo 14 Lunar Module, during the third successful lunar landing, at the request of his friend, Mr. Brad Washburn, Director of the Museum of Science in Boston, MA.

Director Washburn eschewed the small U.S. flags traditionally carried in the Apollo missions Official Flight Kits, and wanted to acquire a large Moon flown U.S. flag for his museum. He provided two large, private purchase, United States flags to Capt. Shepard, carried these, along with a Wilson six-iron golf club head intended for some lunar golf, in his Personal Preference Kit.

During one of the periods of Extra Vehicular Activity, he was able to display this flag on the surface of the Moon, and for posterity, “post-mark” the flag from the Moon by creasing it with the Apollo 14 Mobile Equipment Transporter (MET) tires, which created the undulations seen on the flag.

Thus, this and the 2nd Apollo 14 flag, which Alan Shepard took for his friend to the Moon in January 1971 and post-marked this flag with the treads of the lunar MET, are the only flags to be displayed on the surface of the moon and then returned to earth. This is a truly celestial flag from one of the greatest astronauts of the time.

Provenance: Acquired in 2007 by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC2521), from The Naylor Collection, who acquired it from Brad Washburn who had provided it to Alan Shepard; via Guernsey’s Auctions, New York, New York.

www.FlagCollection.com

U.S. 24 Star Pennsylvania Militia Color Capture/Recapture Civil War

Date: 1822

Media: Silk, oil and silver-gilt paint.

Comment: During the American Civil War an unidentified Pennsylvania militia unit took what was already a 40 year old, 24 star militia national color into battle against rebel forces. The Confederates captured this color, either in the first year of the war or when Pennsylvania militia units were again activated during the Gettysburg Campaign of 1863. The unit, time, and place of its capture are not recorded.

Later at the Siege of Petersburg, on 2 April 1865, the 54th Pa. Volunteer Infantry broke through the siege lines around Petersburg, VA at Fort Gregg. During their movement within Confederate lines, Sergeant Nelson Meyers Company "C" of the 54th recaptured this flag from the Rebels, and he returned the color to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where it was ultimately presented to the Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum, Pittsburgh, PA. Subsequently, it was identified as third oldest Pennsylvania Militia color extant. Of special note are the flags 24 silver-gilt, six-pointed stars, a rarity on surviving flags from this era.

It should be noted that there are stories and other period accounts of other similar older flags, some dating back to the American Revolution, that were taken by Militia units for use in the American Civil War. To be able to document a surviving example is extremely rare.

Provenance: Acquired in 2007 by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC2509), from the collection of The Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum, Pittsburgh, PA; via James D. Julia Auctions, Fairfield, Maine. www.FlagCollection.com

37 Star U.S.

“Lincoln Funeral” Flag

Date: 1865

Media: Printed silk flag and grosgrain ribbon.

Comment: This small 37 star silk flag 16“ X 25.5“ was placed on the casket of President Abraham Lincoln while the body lay in state in Independence Hall Philadelphia, Pa., 22 and 23 April 1865. Secretary of War William Stanton imposed restrictions regarding the body’s disposition while it was on public view, which included his infamous edict that no photographs were to be allowed of the President’s body nor flags placed on the casket, both which were followed except for the clandestine act of Jeremiah Gurney’s photograph of the body lying in state in City Hall in N.Y. The photographs were confiscated and destroyed and thought to be lost until a single copy was rediscovered in 1952 in the Illinois State Historical Library.

This is the only documented flag placed on Abraham Lincoln’s casket during the viewing at Independence Hall. Like the photograph, this flag went unnoticed by historians because the 37 star flag did not become official (earliest date) 1 March 1867, two years after the death of Lincoln. However, what was not widely known is that the 37th state, Nebraska made three attempts to have the state constitution accepted by Congress, prerequisite to joining the Union but twice rejected in 1864 and again in 1865 and accepted in 1867. In the Zaricor Collection there are two documented 37 star flags of the same construction and size plus a third flag, which indicates at least two flag companies anticipated Nebraska’s entry into the Union in 1864/65. Thus 37 star flags were available to the general public at the time of the president’s funeral.

Provenance: Acquired by the Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0276) in 1996 the family of Mrs. Anna Cooper by Greg Martin via Private Treaty, San Francisco, CA. www.FlagCollection.com

People's Liberation Army Flag, Unit 8706 with Red Guard Armband

Date: 1968

Media: Printed silk & printed cotton.

Comment: The Red Guards were paramilitary units of radical students and workers which were formed during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution or Chinese Cultural Revolution from 1966 to 1976. It was the response to Mao Zedong's call to revitalize the revolutionary spirit of the Chinese Communist Party, and by extension China itself.

During this era the Red Guards made banners and flags and began wearing red armbands, scarves and pins and carrying the infamous Little Red Book. As evidenced by this flag, the students and workers evolved a cult of Mao, and his image often graced these items.

Translation of the characters reads: "Memorial to honor, having received a cordial meeting with the great leader Chairman Mao on August 11th 1968; The great leader Chairman Mao meeting with military cadres is the greatest glory and the great happiness of our army; all the comrades of the 8706th unit having participated in Mao Zedong Thought call held by Chinese Communist Party Central Committee in Beijing."

This is framed with a companion piece, ZFC3016, an armband inscribed, "Proletarian revolutionary rebels' great unified command center City of Tianjin, Copper Electrolysis Plant."

Chinese Cultural Revolution items, while ubiquitous in China between 1966 and 1976, are quite scarce in the West.

Provenance: Acquired by Zaricor Flag Collection (ZFC0753 & ZFC3016) by private purchase in 2004. www.FlagCollection.com

General Custer's Speech

3rd Cavalry Division

Appomattox, April 9, 1865

With profound gratitude toward the God of battles, by whose blessings our enemies have been humbled and our arms rendered triumphant, your commanding General avails himself of this, his first opportunity to express to you his admiration of the heroic manner in which you have passed through the series of battles which today resulted in the surrender of the enemy's entire army.

The record established by your indomitable courage is unparalleled in the annals of war. Your prowess has won for you even the respect and admiration of your enemies. During the past six months, although in most instances confronted by superior numbers, you have captured from the enemy, in open battle, one hundred and eleven pieces of field artillery, sixty-five battle-flags, and upwards of ten thousand prisoners of war, including seven general officers. Within the past ten days, and included in the above, you have captured forty-six pieces of field artillery and thirty-seven battle-flags. You have never lost a gun, never lost a color, and have never been defeated; and notwithstanding the numerous engagements in which you have borne a prominent part, including those memorable battles of the Shenandoah, you have captured every piece of artillery which the enemy has dared to open upon you. The near approach of peace renders it improbable that you will again be called upon to undergo the fatigues of the toilsome march or the exposure of the battle-field; but should the assistance of keen blades, wielded by your sturdy arms, be required to hasten the coming of that glorious peace for which we have been so long contending, the General commanding is proudly confident that, in the future as in the past, every demand will meet with a hearty and willing response.

Let us hope that our work is done, and that, blessed with the comforts of peace, we may be permitted to enjoy the pleasures of home and friends. For our comrades who have fallen, let us ever cherish a grateful remembrance. To the wounded and to those who languish in Southern prisons, let our heartfelt sympathy be tendered.

And now, speaking for myself alone, when the war is ended and the task of the historian begins—when those deeds of daring which have rendered the name and fame of the Third Cavalry Division imperishable are inscribed upon the bright pages of our country's history, I only ask that my name be written as that of the commander of the Third Cavalry Division.



—G. A. Custer, Brevet Major General Commanding
April 9, 1865.