

(16) *Methods of Construction—Shapes and Proportions of Flags.*

There have been flags of many shapes and sizes, deep and narrow, square, oblong, tapering, semi-circular and notched in various ways. Some had tails or streamers and some the silhouette or outline of animals. Names, applied to them with different meanings at different times, and in different countries are standard, banner, guidon, gonfalon, jack, pennon, pennant, pedant, ensign; all are flags. To-day almost all national flags are rectangular, Norway, Sweden and Denmark are swallow-tailed exceptions. The proportion of the sides of rectangular flags to-day vary from 1 by 1, to 1 by 2; for example:

International Naval Signal Code flags.....	3 by 4
International Naval Signal Code pennants.....	1 by 3
South Africa .....	2 by 3
Great Britain .....	1 by 1, 4 by 5, 1 by 2
Iceland .....	18 by 25
U.S.A. ....	3 by 5

At this point I would like to call your attention to this display of coloured flags which I have had prepared and mounted on a card for demonstration and comparison.

The first is the Union Flag, or Union Jack, of proportions 4 by 5, and of design as in the King's Colour of British and Canadian regiments.

The second, 2 by 3, has three red maple leaves conjoined on one stem on a white field, the National symbol of the Dominion of Canada assigned by Royal Proclamation of 21 Nov. 1921, as it would appear alone on a flag.

The third is the Union flag, of Admiralty pattern and proportions 1 by 2, with central circular device a seven-pointed golden star with the Imperial crown denoting the King's senior representative in the Commonwealth of Australia, that is, the Governor General.

Mr. REID: May I ask about the Union Jack, why the white cross does not go straight through? I have often wondered why the white cross of the Union Jack does not go straight through in a broad band.

The WITNESS: The ancestor of this Union Jack, when you had England and Scotland only, required only the cross of St. George and the cross of St. Andrew. The cross of St. Andrew is white on a blue field. When Ireland came in it was desirable to make some provision so the cross of St. Patrick was used; and to make a complete blending according to heraldic practice, which we see there, to make a device which was possible of reproduction, the Scottish band of St. Andrew was split and half of it given all the way around the corner to the cross of St. Patrick; so that in the first quarter you have St. Andrew, St. Patrick; then in the next going around clock-wise, you have St. Andrew, St. Patrick—and so on around the quarters, going around clock-wise, not counter clock-wise.

To resume the description of the display of coloured flags before you:

The fourth is the national symbol of Canada, three red maple leaves on a white field, with the Union Jack in a canton, or compartment, next the staff, denoting British association.

The fifth is the national symbol of Canada three red maple leaves on a white field; with the Imperial Crown proper, in a blue canton, or compartment, which would indicate a representative of the British Crown, or a government office, or appointment held from the Crown.

The sixth is a form of the national flag of Canada, displaying the national symbol of the Dominion of Canada in the national colours, three red maple leaves on a white field, with the British Union Jack in a canton next the staff and the three golden fleurs-de-lis of Royal France in a blue circle in the fly,