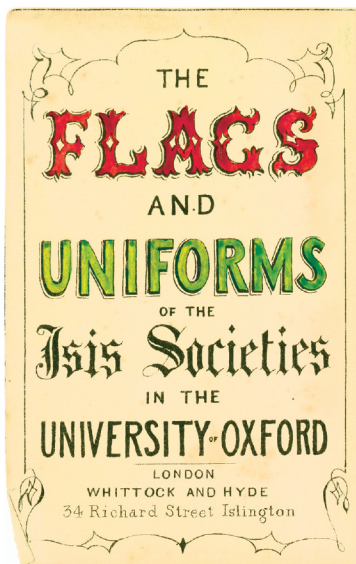
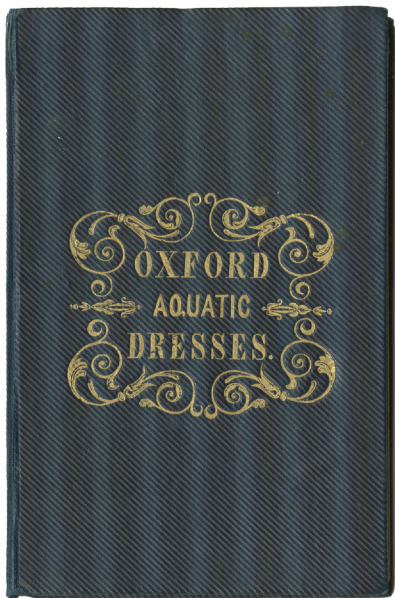


FLAGS AND UNIFORMS OF THE OXFORD COLLEGE ROWING SOCIETIES



The **FLAG HERITAGE FOUNDATION**, an American constituent member of **FIABV**, is pleased to present this pamphlet for the pleasure of the participants in the **26TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF VEXILLOLOGY**, meeting August 31- September 5, 2015 in Sydney, Australia.



The original from which this pamphlet was produced, dated roughly to the 1830s, was part of the great library of flag documentation created by Dr. Whitney Smith for his **FLAG RESEARCH CENTER** in Winchester, Massachusetts. The reprint is issued to celebrate the transfer of this library last year to the **UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN** as the **WHITNEY SMITH FLAG RESEARCH CENTER COLLECTION**.











OXFORD COLLEGE ROWING SOCIETIES

Oxford University, the oldest university in Britain, is situated on the River Thames. It is formed of many separate colleges, and since the early 19th century the friendly rivalry among these colleges has been expressed in sporting contests, especially rowing on the Thames, the local reach of which is called the River Isis.

The first intercollegiate Oxford rowing event was held in 1815. By the 1830s, as close a date as is known for this pamphlet, many other Oxford colleges had organized rowing teams. The best Oxford college rowers compete in the famous annual race between Oxford and Cambridge, held in southwest London.

The flags shown are not armorial banners of the colleges, but are the flags of the rowing societies of the time. Cambridge and some other universities have similar traditions.

The 20 plates in the original pamphlet were arranged in alphabetical order and connected side to side, unfolding in concertina fashion. That order is followed here, the top two on each page being read before the bottom two, and the top two on the next page coming next.

THE FLAG HERITAGE FOUNDATION

The **FLAG HERITAGE FOUNDATION** is an American non-profit organization, formed in 1971 to advance the study and understanding of flags. It is not a membership organization, but is administered by a Board of Trustees. The Foundation's charter, history, programs, publications and recent activities are described on its website, found at *www.flagheritagefoundation.org*.

WHITNEY SMITH FLAG RESEARCH CENTER COLLECTION

Dr. Whitney Smith is known to vexillologists everywhere as the foremost scholar in the field. The very name of the study was his creation; he was instrumental in establishing worldwide structures such as FIAV and the first International Congress of Vexillology. His writings, his Flag Research Center, and the journal *Flag Bulletin* which he published for 50 years, were all central to the development of vexillology as a mature discipline.

Dr. Smith retired in 2011. With the assistance of the Flag Heritage Foundation, his library and collection of flag documentation were transferred to the University of Texas at Austin. There they form the core of the Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection within the Dolph Briscoe Center for American History.

Five hundred boxes of the Flag Research Center's famous files are now open for the first time for use by scholars. Finding aids for these files are posted on the Briscoe Center's website at tinyurl.com/whitneyfiles. Thousands of books (some quite rare) in dozens of languages are being catalogued and will become available for scholarly use. The Collection includes much else, including the archives of many distinguished vexillologists including Ottfried Neubecker and John M. Purcell.

The Whitney Smith Flag Research Center Collection is intended to form the nucleus of a great research center for the study of flags, heraldry and state symbolism. Scholars can multiply its usefulness and importance by having their own collections eventually preserved there.