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Annex No. 3
(13§4)

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FLAG

Act of 10th December 1898 relating to the Flag of the Realm of Norway.

§ 1.

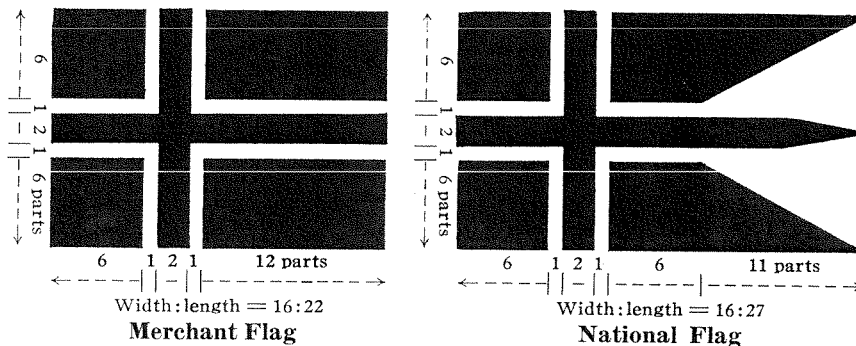
Norway's Merchant Flag shall be a dark blue cross, bordered with white, set on a bright red ground, its width in the proportion of 16 to 22 parts of its length. When flown from a mast or jack-staff, the two red quarters closest to the mast or jack-staff shall be squares, each with a side equal to six sixteenths of the width and six twenty-second parts of the length of the flag, while the two red rectangles furthest from the mast or jack-staff, both having the same width, shall comprise twelve twenty-second parts of the length of the flag. The width of the blue cross shall be equal to two sixteenths of the width of the flag, or two twenty-second parts of its length, while the width of the white border shall be equal to one sixteenth of the width of the flag or one twenty-second part of its length.

§ 2.

The flag as described in § 1 above shall be used on merchant vessels whenever in foreign harbours they wish to remain under the protection, or obtain the services, of embassies, consuls or commercial agents. On public buildings, mail and customs vessels, the same flag, but with a swallow-tail and tongue, shall be used, with this difference, however, that a white field shall be inserted in the centre of the mail and customs flag, bearing respectively the words «Post» and «Told», surmounted by a crown.

§ 3.

This Act shall come into force one year after the day on which it is published in «Lovtidenden» (Gazette).



Royal Standard¹⁾

¹⁾ The Standard of the Crown Prince shall be the Royal Standard with an obtuse swallow-tail.

THE NATIONAL FLAG OF NORWAY AND THE ROYAL STANDARD

The Norwegian merchant flag goes back to 1821, when the Storting enacted legislation establishing its colours and design. The colours red, white and blue were the colours of freedom, identical with the colours in the flags of the United States and the United Kingdom, as well as in the Tricolour, the French revolutionary symbol. The cross was in its design the same as in the national flags of Denmark and Sweden.

The resolution passed by the Storting in 1821, however, failed to secure the royal assent, as the King was only prepared to sanction a limited use of the Norwegian flag. It could only be flown in Northern waters, and Norwegian vessels proceeding south of Cape Finisterre were obliged to hoist the Swedish flag when this point was passed. The reason for this was the danger of attacks by North African pirates, who did not recognise the Norwegian flag. In 1838 the King granted permission for the use of the Norwegian merchant flag all over the world, while military units were still obliged to use the Swedish flag with the «Union badge» quartered in the top corner nearest to the mast.

Pursuant to Royal Decree of 1844 a Norwegian naval (and national) flag was also introduced, viz. the tri-coloured Norwegian flag of 1821 with the addition of a swallow-tail and tongue, and with the addition of a «Union badge» inserted in the top corner by the mast. At the same time the «Union badge» was also added to the merchant flag. During the conflict at the end of the 19th century that led to the dissolution of the Union with Sweden, insistent demands for a genuinely Norwegian (unquartered) flag were raised. An act to this effect was passed by the Storting in 1893, but the King exercised the royal veto, and the Flag Act of 10th December 1898 was not finally embodied until it had been passed on two further occasions, with Parliamentary elections intervening. The act was gazetted on 15th December 1898, and came into force a year later, Military units continued to use the swallow-tail flag with the «Union badge» right up to the Dissolution of the Union in 1905, but otherwise the unquartered flag was used pursuant to the Flag Act of 1898.

The Norwegian Royal Standard has a long historical tradition, stretching all the way back to the Middle Ages. The lion rampant *or*, holding a sword *argent*, on a ground *gules*, was the badge of the Norwegian kings, and the red standard with the lion on it appears to have been used as a royal standard on various castles and naval vessels up to the 18th century. In 1748, by a Royal Order-in-Council the red-and-white flag of Denmark was formally adopted as the only legal flag in the dual monarchy of Denmark—Norway. During the period 1844—1905 (Spring) the Palace in Oslo (then named Christiania) flew a Norwegian royal standard which corresponded to the Norwegian naval flag with swallow-tail and tongue, with a red ground and blue cross edged with white, and with the royal coat of arms of the Union with crown and mantling set on the middle of the cross, and in addition the «Union badge» in the corner of the flag. The present Norwegian royal standard, which only includes the lion, and is a form of the national coat of arms, was flown from the Palace for the first time after a national plebiscite had resulted in the accession of King Hakon VII in 1905.

Ever since the 17th century the lion, as it appears in the royal standard, has figured as one of the principal motifs in the regimental colours of Norwegian army units, and it was included in the Norwegian flag from 1814 to 1821.

NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS — SEAL OF THE REALM



Royal Decree of 19th March 1937.

1. The Norwegian national coat of arms is a lion rampant and crowned *or*, holding in its fore paws an axe *argent* with a handle *or*, on a ground *gules*.

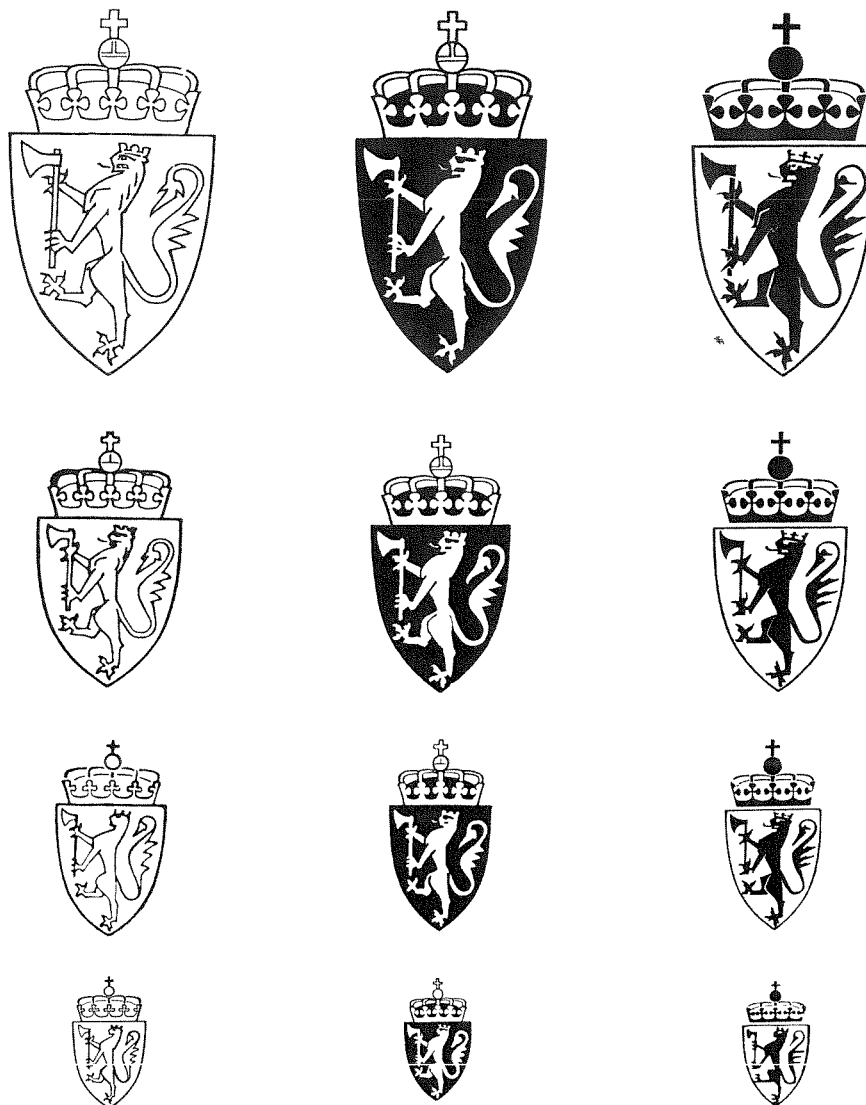
2. The national coat of arms shall have the shape of a shield. The shield shall generally be «ensigned» with a royal crown differenced with a cross and orb.

3. All designs for the national coat of arms for use by official institutions must be sanctioned by the Foreign Ministry, except in cases where they have been established by the Crown.

4. The Norwegian seal of the realm shall consist of the national coat of arms «ensigned» with a royal crown and with the name and title of the king enscrolled.

5. The Royal Decree of 14th December 1905 concerning the national coat of arms and seal of the realm shall no longer apply.

A number of different impressions of the seal of the realm in black and white are also included on the following page.



An outline — also in gilt — of the national coat of arms can readily be used on most kinds of printed matter. The type involving a white lion on a black ground is most suitable where the typography and lay-out are appropriately bold and heavy, e.g. covers. This version can also be used in conjunction with simple colour printing. The third type here shown, with a black lion on a white ground, is primarily used in gilt.

Blocks for printing the national coat of arms on official printed matter may not be made except after consultation with the State Printing Office (Statens trykningskontor).

NORWEGIAN NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS

The lion was first used as the device of the Norwegian monarch at the end of the 12th or the beginning of the 13th century. Both King Haakon Haakonsson and his son King Magnus Lagabøter chose the lion as a device on their shield, and it was also used by Magnus Lagabøter's son and heir, King Eirik Magnusson, who gave it its modern form by adding the crown and axe to the lion.

Ever since, the lion *or*, holding a battle-axe *argent* on a ground *gules* has been adopted as the Norwegian national coat of arms. While the lion symbolised strength, the battle-axe was the traditional Norwegian combat weapon, as well as being the device of the national patron saint, St. Olav (King Olav Haraldsson, 1016—1030).

The lion's shape has undergone certain changes, in conformity with stylistic trends, during the course of time. The one used in the Norwegian Royal Standard dates back to 1905, when the present Royal Family accepted the Norwegian crown, while the design to be found in the national coat of arms was a version adopted pursuant to Royal Decree of 19th March 1937 with a view to approaching more closely to the medieval design.

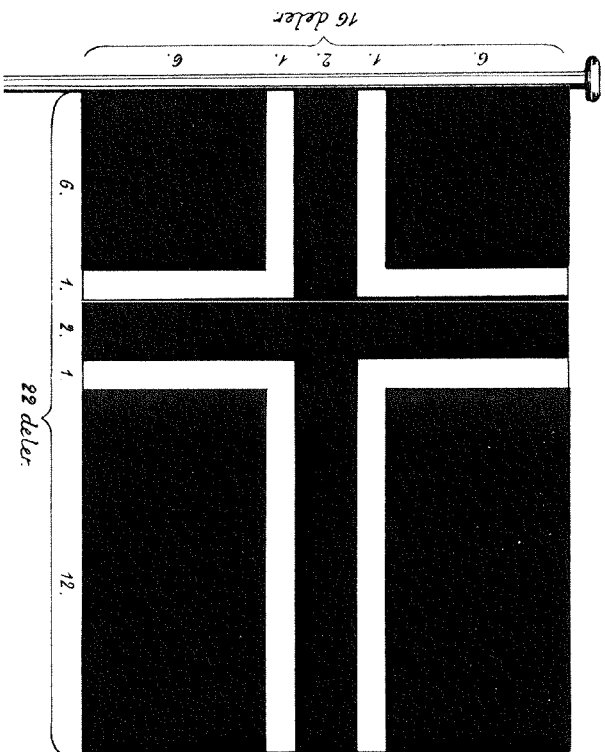
The custom of showing the national coat of arms «ensigned» with the crown of the realm was in Norway's case established after the Reformation, and became more or less compulsory at about the same time that the Norwegian-Danish coronation crown assumed the shape of an arched crown surmounted by orb and cross (1671), instead of the open medieval type of crown.

For the use of the national coat of arms as the royal standard see Annex No. 3.

For the King's special insignia, use is also made of the national coat of arms in the form of a shield placed on a royal mantling of ermine and purple, surmounted by the royal crown and surrounded by the chain of the Order of St. Olav (Royal Decree of 30th December 1905).

Norges handelsflagg.

The Merchant
Flag
of Norway.



Le pavillon
de la marine
marchande
de Norvège.