



Changing Canada's Flag

Apparently the only thing for which
Nobel Laureate Lester Pearson is known

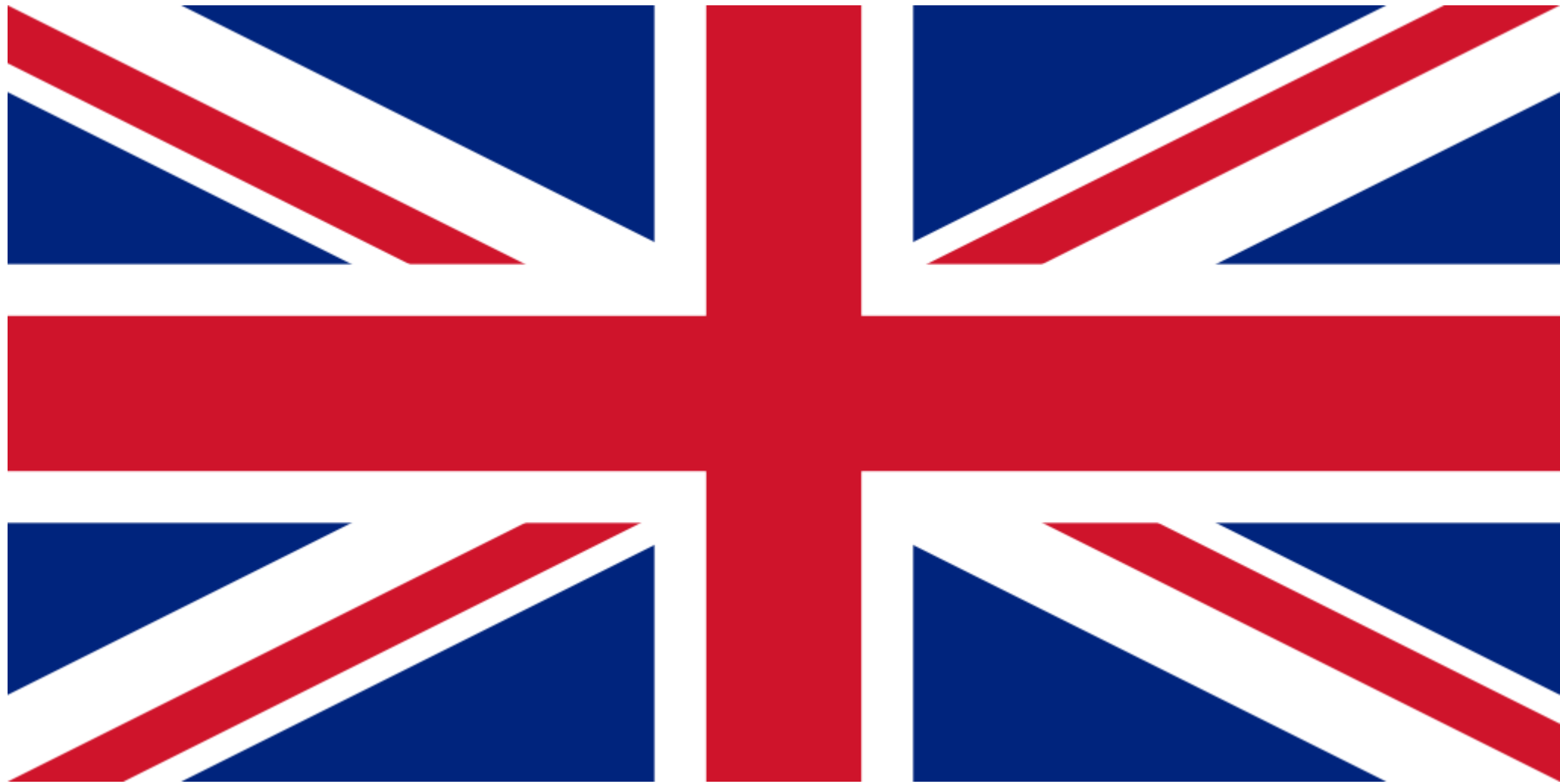
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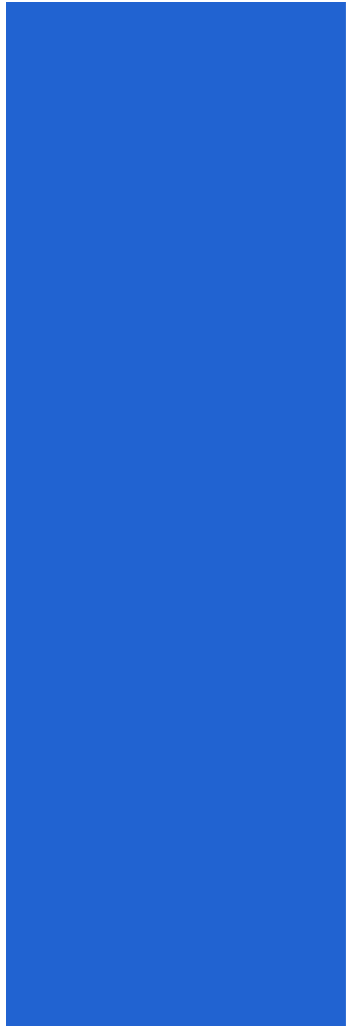
Lester Pearson (above)
John Diefenbaker (center, top)
John Matheson (center, bottom)
George Stanley (right)

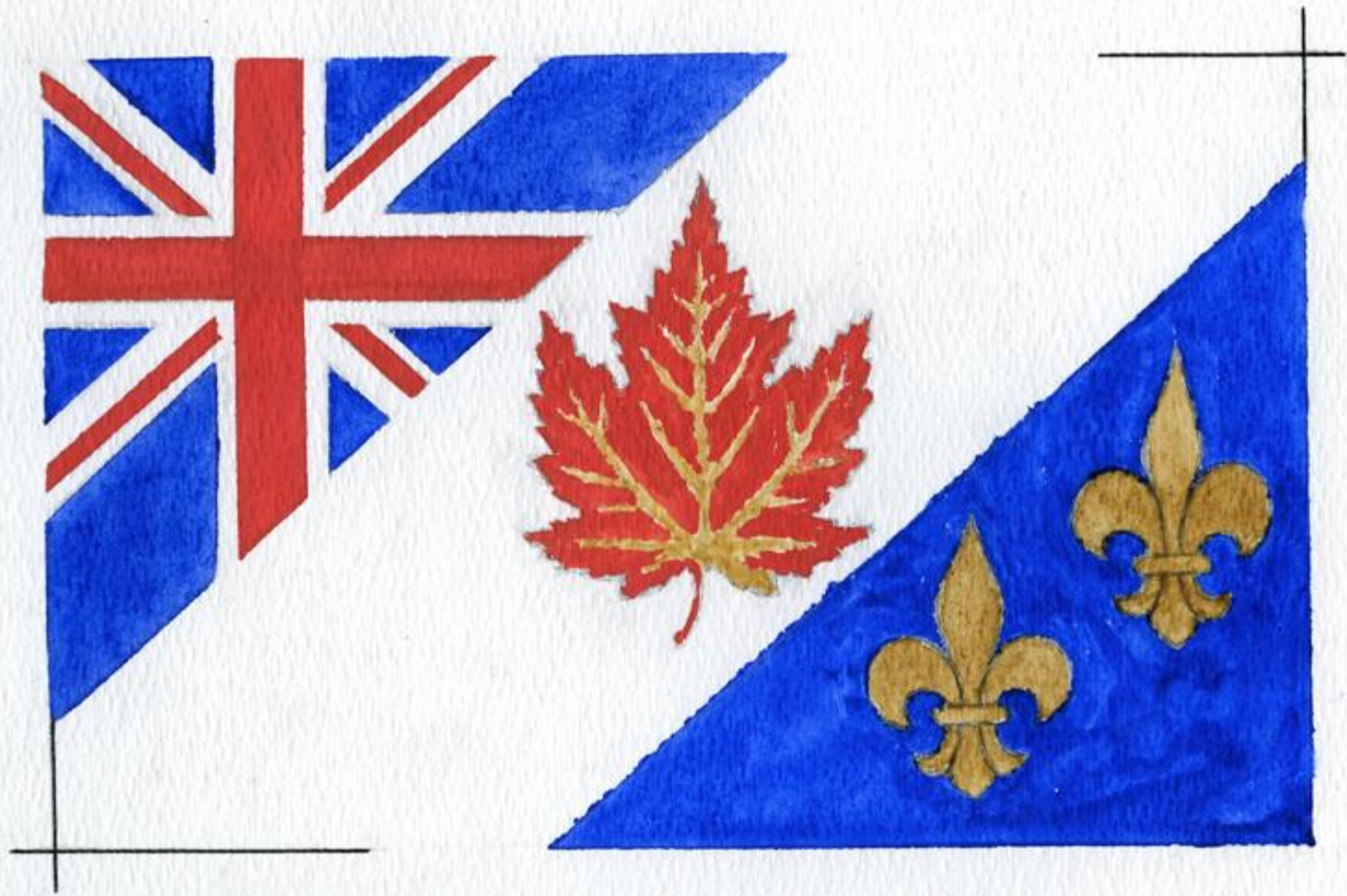






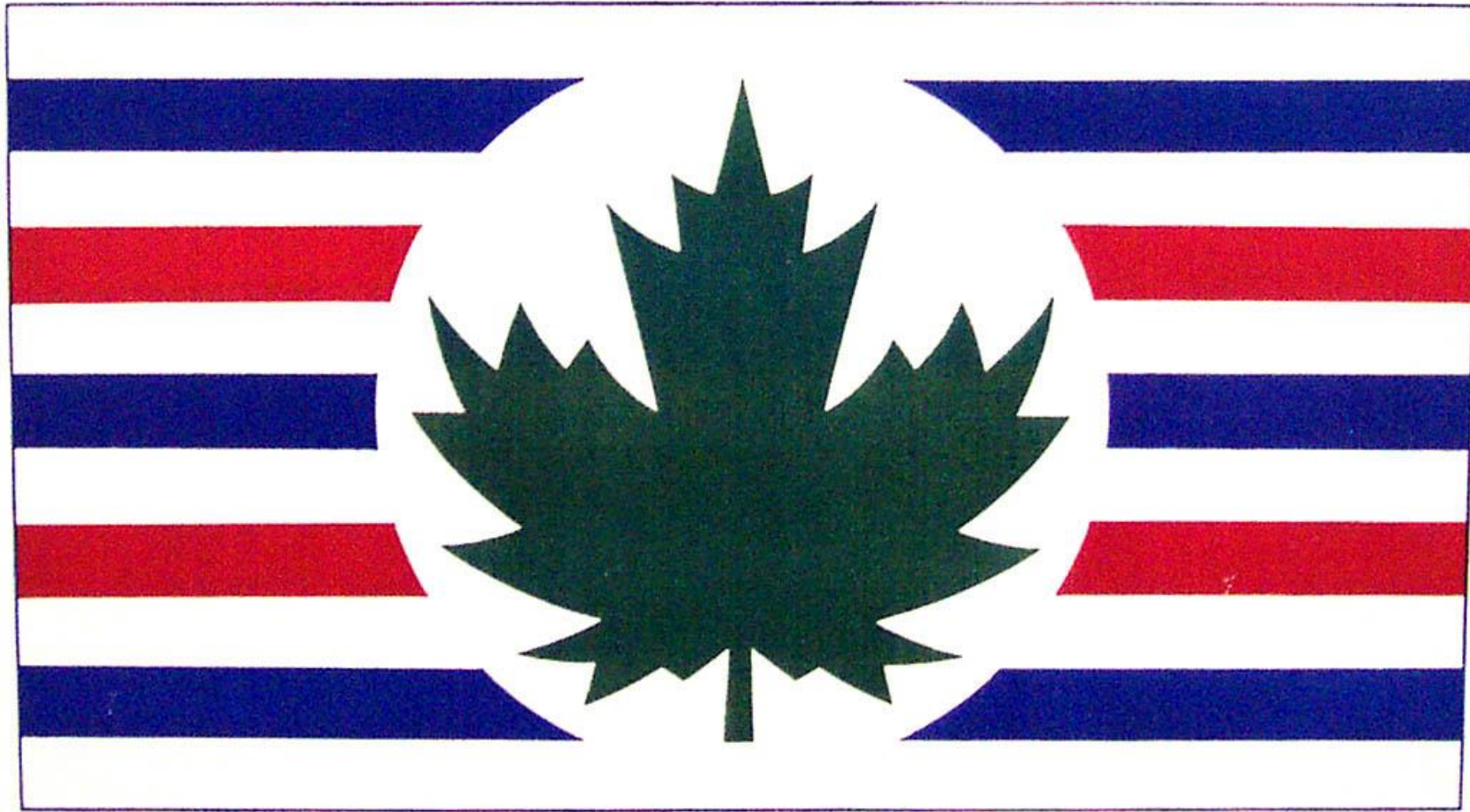






THE CANADIAN FLAG.

Notre Drapeau



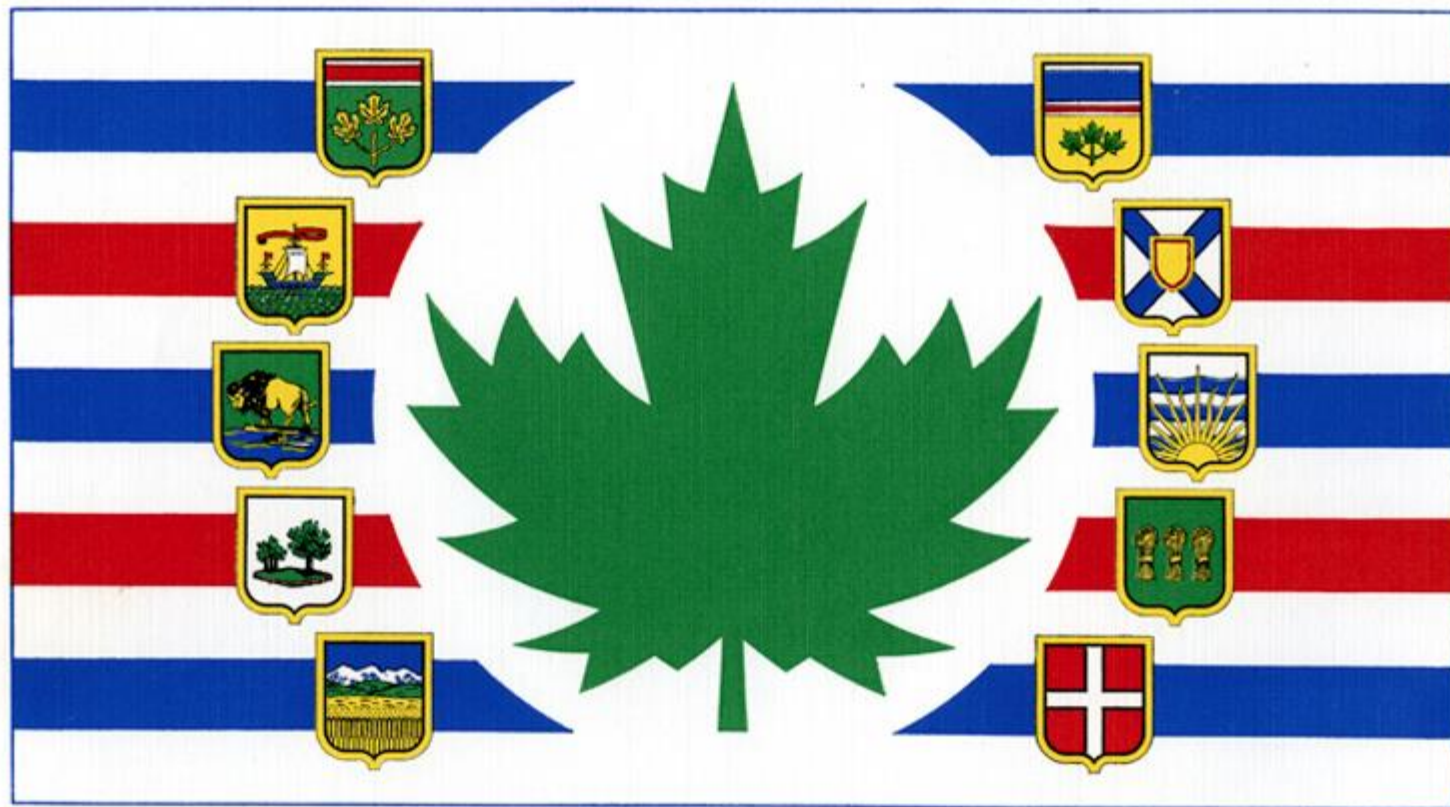
POPULAR — VERSION — POPULAIRE

Le Chevronné à Feuille d'Erable



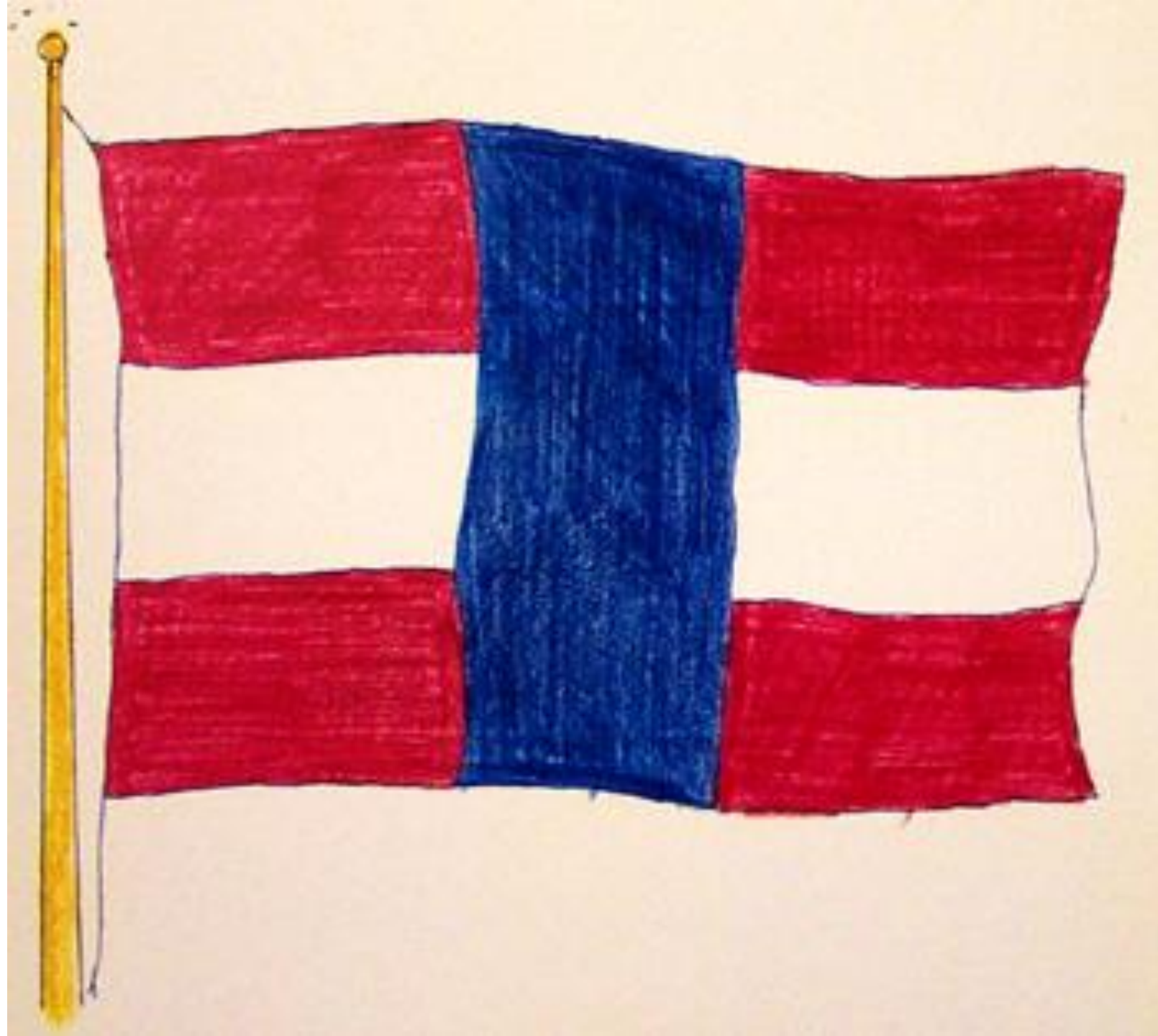


Our Flag



STATE — VERSION — D'APPARAT

The Maple Leaf and Stripes











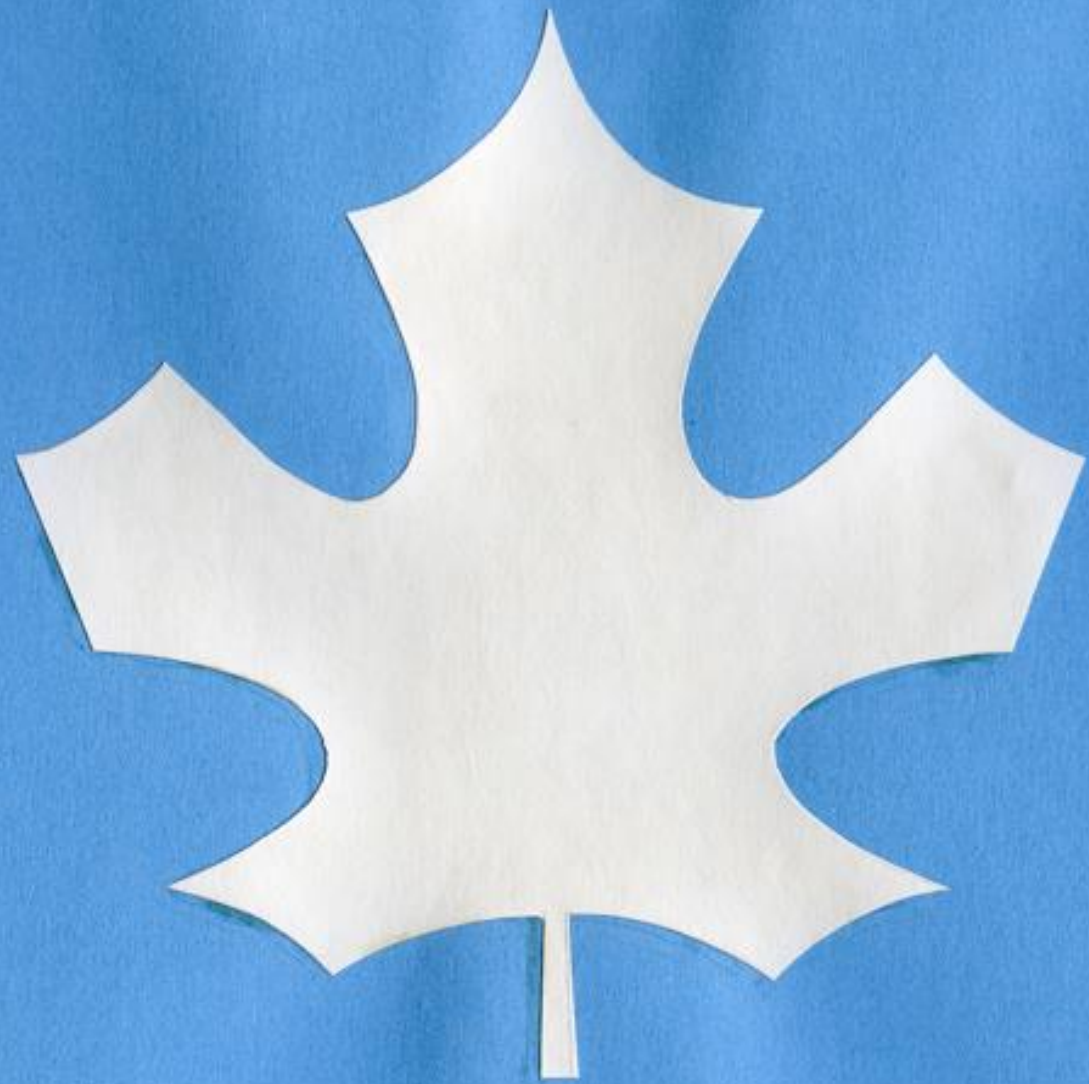










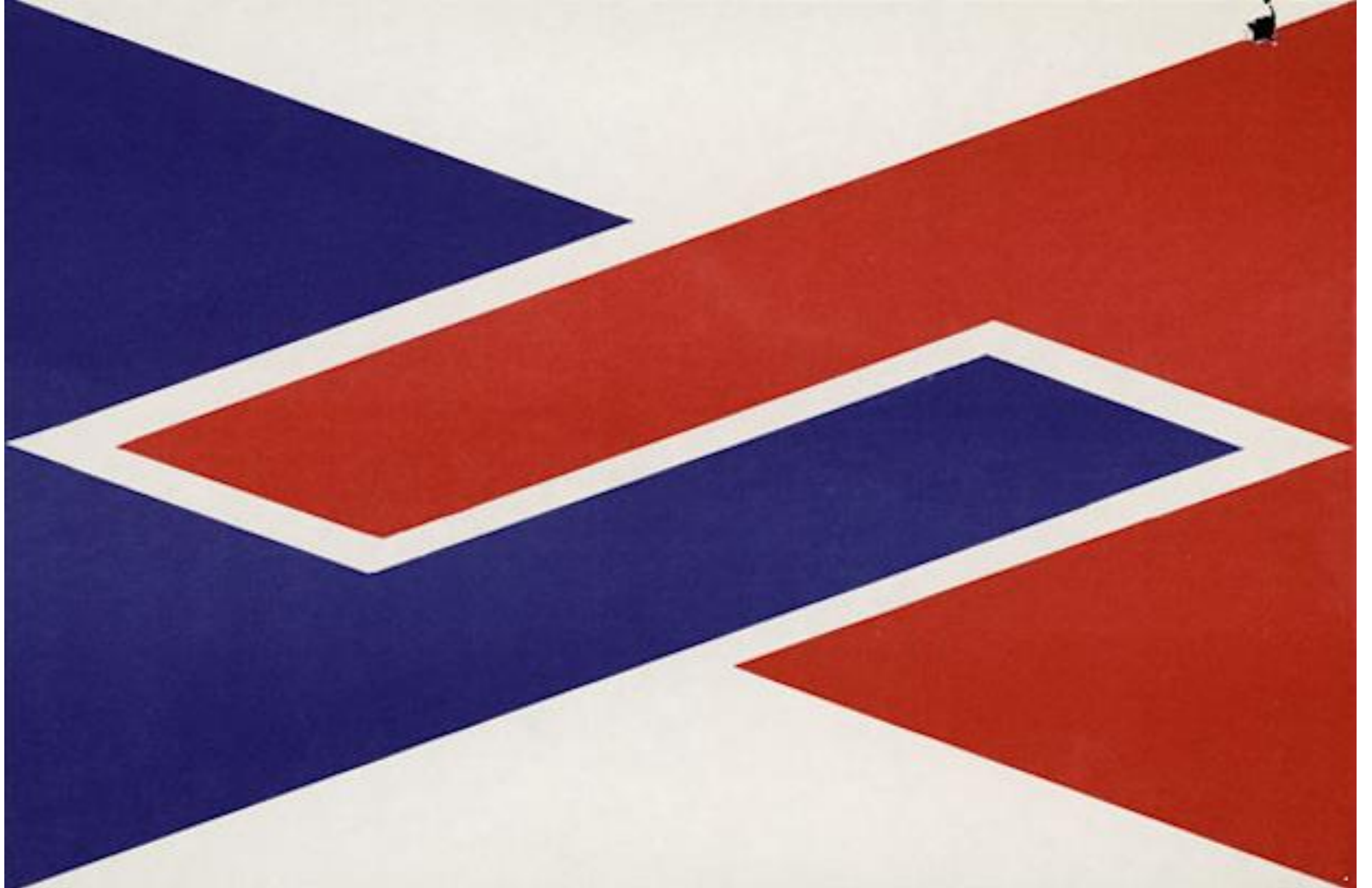










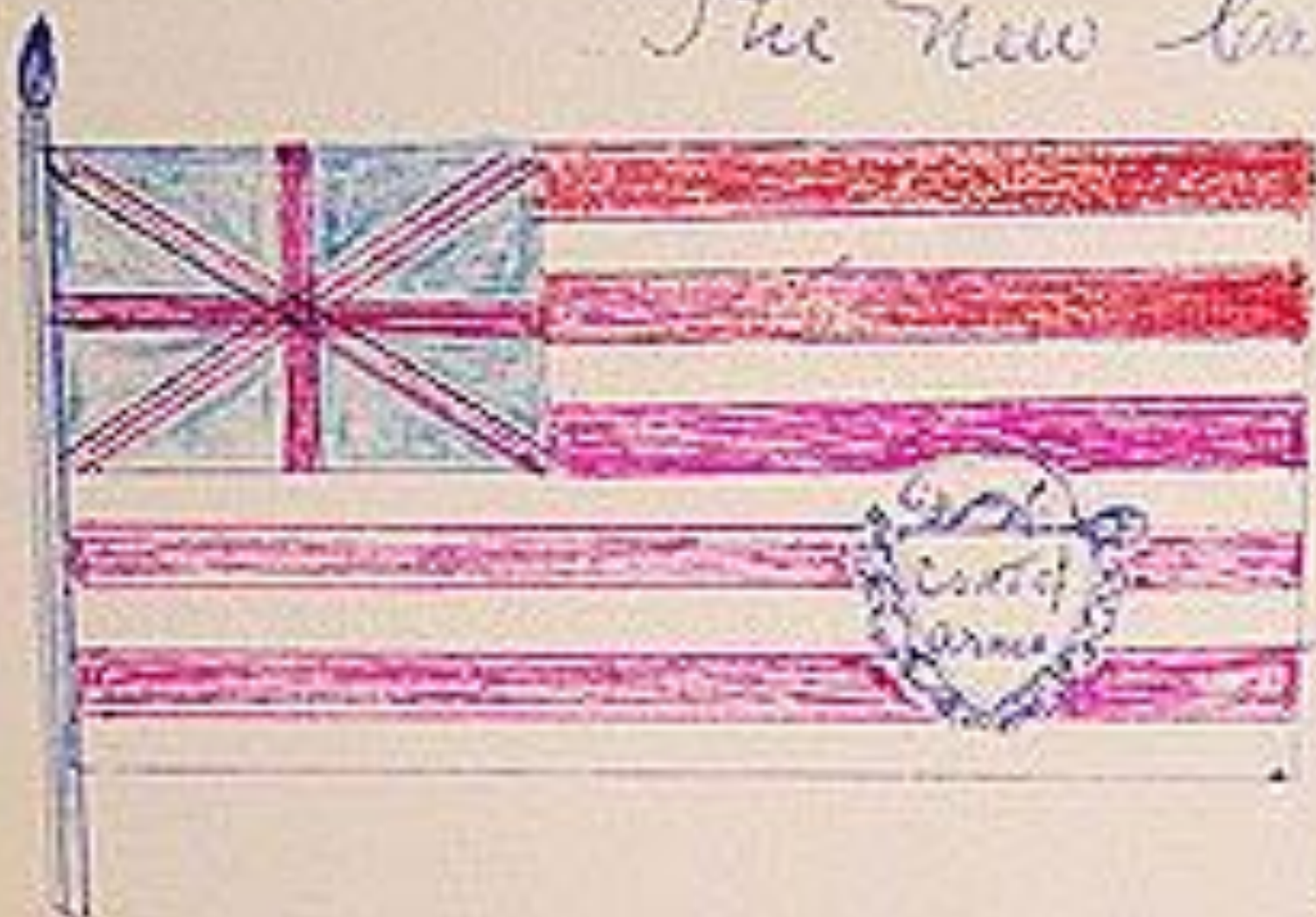








The new American Flag



Depicting
The union Jack as of
the Commonwealth of
Nations

The Red and white stripes
as of the American
O.A.S.
with the ten stripes
as of the ten provinces



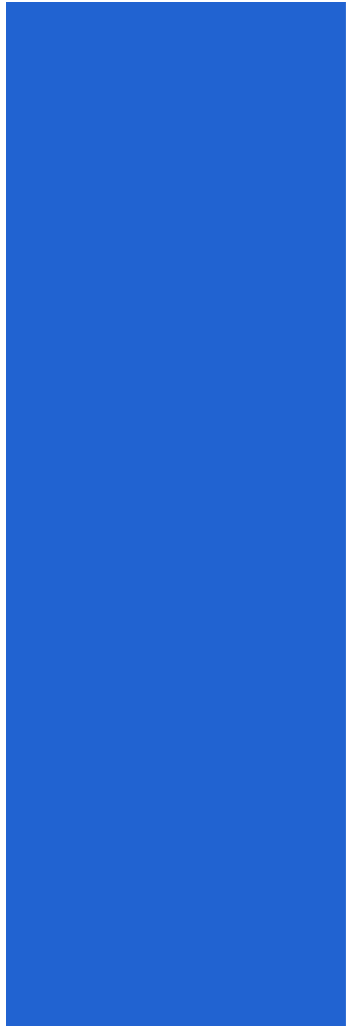














silver maple leaf brooches similar to those used by the Queen mother (Elizabeth). It was subsequently embodied in the coat of arms of Quebec, Ontario and Canada.

3. Flags and Heraldry

(a) In the beginnings the heraldic emblem was no more than a device by which, in an age of violence, friend could be identified from foe and leader from led. The first heraldic devices were therefore very simple, chevrons, crosses, bars. Colours, too, were simple. However, in time heraldic emblems became more and more ornate, with the addition of personal crests, mantles, scrolls, mottos and quarterings. This necessitated the laying down of various rules and regulations and the formation of special bodies to control the use and registration of such devices or coats of arms.

(b) Flags are also a heraldic device. They are flown as an indication of allegiance and as marks of national identity. In the past they have been derived from the cross of some patron saint, or royal badge, or from the livery colours of the sovereign's arms. The flag is, therefore, still the simplest form of heraldic device. It is marked by simplicity and lacks the paraphernalia of personal arms. It is not, therefore, to be compared with the arms of the state, town, corporation or individual. I question whether the flag has to be governed in the same strict sense by heraldic rules as coats of arms or personal achievements.

4. Principles to be followed in the selection of a Canadian Flag

- (a) simplicity - they should be clean cut and not cluttered.
- (b) easily recognizable.
- (c) use traditional colours and traditional emblems.
- (d) serve as a rallying symbol and hence to be a unifying force.

5. Application of the above principles to a Canadian Flag

(a) The Canadian flag should avoid the over-use of heraldic devices such as are to be found on coats of arms. A flag embodying the Canadian coat of arms might be properly devised for the use of the Governor-General as the head of the state in Canada. It seems to me that the Red Ensign is unsuitable because it lacks simplicity, and because it includes a complicated coat of arms on the fly.

(b) There should be no question of confusing the flag of one country with that of another. In selecting a Canadian flag, therefore, every effort should be made to avoid including on it symbols more properly associated with another

country, i.e., stripes, stars. A Canadian flag must be sufficiently Canadian that it can be easily recognized at a distance as being Canadian. I believe that the Red Ensign, which is similar to the British merchant marine flag, and the flag flown by several British colonies, is unsuitable for Canadian purposes, because it is not easily identifiable as Canadian at a distance.

(c) The colours now associated with Canada are Red and White. These are traditional colours in the sense that they are usually looked upon as representing Great Britain and France. However, it might be worth noting that the "oriflamme" used in battle by the French in medieval days was a piece of red silk. White is to be found on the royal flag of France during the 17th and 18th centuries along with the gold lilies (see para. 1(a)). It is also to be found on the English Cross of St. George. Red and White are, therefore, clearly traditional colours both for French and English Canadians. Moreover, these colours were approved in 1921 as special Canadian colours and were included in the Canadian coat of arms approved at that time (Three red maple leaves on a white background).

(d) The traditional heraldic device or emblem of Canada is the maple leaf (See para. 2(b)). This emblem has official sanction by its inclusion in two provincial coats of arms and in the official coat of arms of Canada. It has been used by Canadian troops in two world wars, and by Canadian Olympic teams (including the colours red and white). It appears to have universal acceptance both in and outside Canada as a distinctive Canadian emblem.

(e) If the flag is to be a unifying symbol it must avoid the use of national or racial symbols that are of a divisive nature. It is clearly inadvisable in a purely Canadian flag to include such obvious national symbols as the Union Jack or the Fleur de Lys. Racial feelings should be content with the use of the colours red and white, if it is essential to read these in such a light.

6. Suggestions

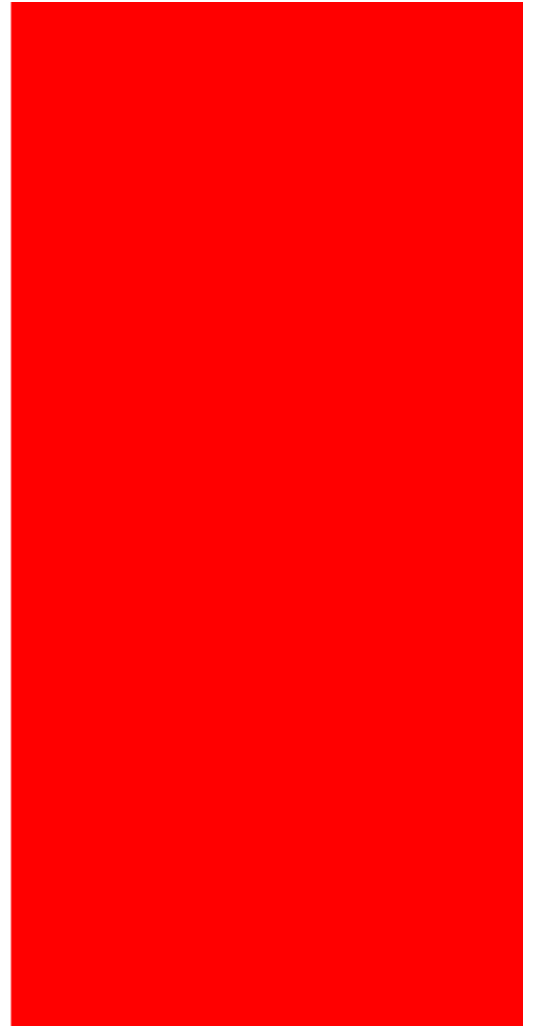
(a) The flag which would meet most of the requirements mentioned above would be a simple red and white flag bearing a stylized maple leaf on it. Such a flag might appear in this way:

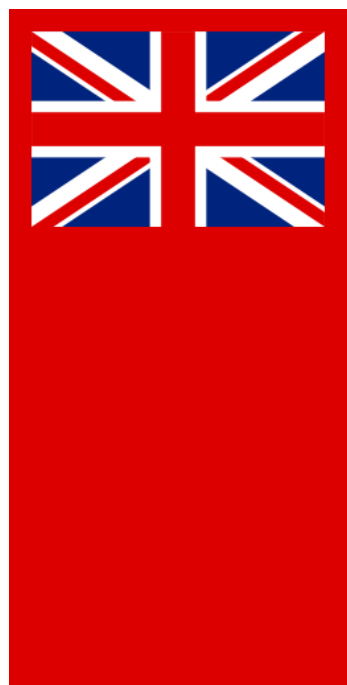
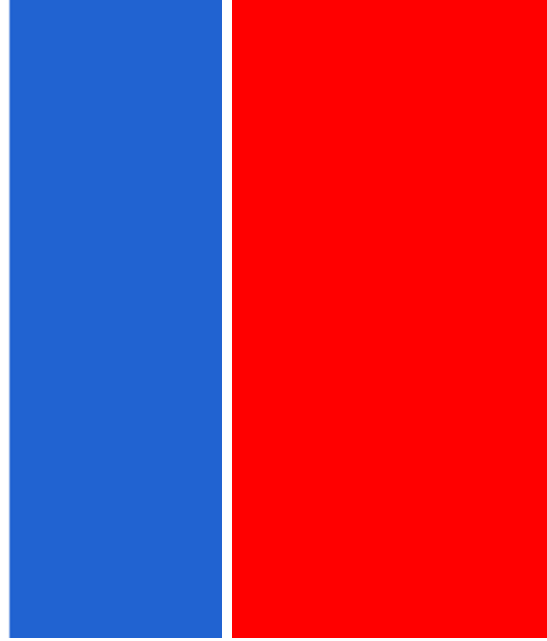


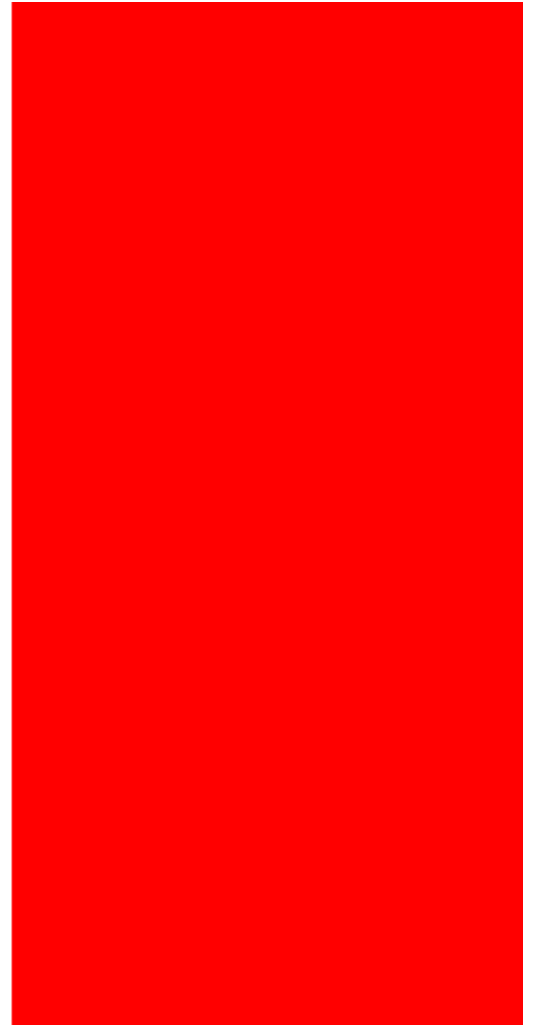
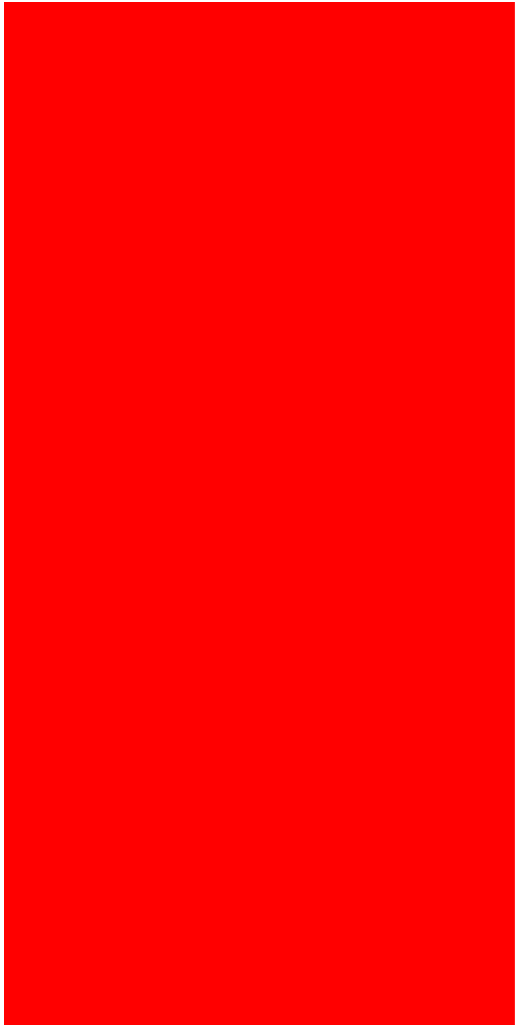
A



B









Thank you!

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