

JOHN FLETCHER HURST  
BELMONT AVENUE  
HAWLEY, PENNSYLVANIA  
U.S.A.

K. ARMEMUSEUM

Ink. den 2/11 1966 Nr 519

Haft del: .....

Exp. av: August 11, 1966. / *LD*

To the Rev. Pastor and Superintendent of  
The Riddarholm Church, RIDDARHOLMSKYRKA,  
Stockholm, Sweden.

Reverend Sir:

Quite recently I came in possession of a "Souvenir Book" consisting of various botanical and other specimens and among them the enclosed piece of a flag. This latter had been apparently cut out by the unknown collector from your Church where I suppose the flags of Charles XII of Sweden are still on display. The inscription on the paper on which the bit of flag is affixed clearly states its origin, and gives the date, namely July 1884.

I am sorry that your flag was damaged through the misplaced ardor of this collector probably long since deceased, and now, after eighty two years, I am sending it to you so that it may rest near the flag of your great king whence it was removed.

Hoping to receive if only a brief word of acknowledgment of the receipt of this scrap of cloth, I am,

Sincerely yours,

*John Fletcher Hurst*

John Fletcher Hurst.

Stockholm 8.12.1966, nr 544

Mr. John Fletcher Hurst  
 Belmont Avenue  
 Hawley, Pennsylvania  
 U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Fletcher Hurst

By the Riddarholms Kyrkan I have received your kind letter of the 11th of August 1966 with the enclosed fragment of a trophy, affixed on a paper, with which it has an inscription: "A piece of one of the flags won by Charles XII in battle. Riddarholm Church, Stockholm, Sweden, July, 1684".


How extremely kind of you to restore the fragment to us. We are lucky to tell you, that among our more than 4.000 trophies we have found the one, to which the fragment belongs: Royal Army Museum, Trophy Collection of the Swedish State, no. 21:31, of which I enclose a photo.

Description: Russian infantry colour, belonging to a company of Peter Ivanovitj Borisov's regiment of Moscow strelitz. Manufactured before the 27th of October 1689, when the damaged colour according to the inscription was restored to its former state. Captured at Saladen in Lithuania in 1703. H. 262 cm, w. now 284 cm. Cloth of silk taffeta, red with bordure in different colours. Fringe of silk in seven different shades of colours. The medallion in the upper bordure shows Christ as a young man, as Immanuel, holding the scroll of the Bible in his left hand and giving blessings with the right one. The fragmentarily preserved text on the lower bordure shows the dating of the standard and the troop, where it belongs.

"Archangel Michael, frightful leader of armies", runs in translation the Russian ~~text~~ inscription accompanying the central motif. The feeling for stage effect, exaggerated movements and excitement, typical for the west-european baroque, gives the impression, that this over-radiating, winged rider in his flight through the doomsday-red, starlighted space are on his way to burst the borders of the representation. Closely the description in the Apocalypse is followed of this prince among angels, whose attributes are the rainbow's arch springing over his head, the doomsday's accountbook and fiercely clanging trumpet and even the swinging incensory, from which the downfalling fire brings thunder and other catastrophes in the nature.

If you will come to Sweden, please let me know, so I can show you our collection and the Borisov colour.

With kindest regards

  
 Arne Danielsson  
 Curator, Dr.

Trophy Collection of the Swedish State

K. ARMÉMUSEUM

JOHN FLETCHER HURST  
 BELMONT AVENUE  
 HAWLEY, PENNSYLVANIA, U.S.A.

Ink. den 28/3 1967 Nr 151

Haft del: .....

Evn. av: 15, 1967.

Dr.. Arne Danielsson,  
 Curator, Kungl. Armémuseum,  
 Stockholm 7.

Dear Dr. Danielsson:

Please excuse this long delay in replying to your kind letter of December 8, 1966, due to the fact that I was away in Spain until just recently, and though your communication was properly forwarded, it was returned here by mistake thus never reaching me until a few days ago! I do hope you will pardon this and I wish to thank you most emphatically for your courtesy and for sending me a photograph of the Russian infantry color captured at the battle of Saladen, Lithuania, in 1703, with the highly interesting description of its design and symbolism. And how very admirable to have located it and the very spot from which the fragment had been cut, from your 4,000 items!

I enclose a clipping of an article which appeared in a local newspaper where the reporter seizes this occasion to digress, semi-humorously, towards considerations of world improvement. This was dated August 24, 1966, when it was thought to be a flag of Charles XII of Sweden, and to Secretary General Treschow's thoughtful acknowledgment.

I deeply appreciate your very kind idea to show me your famous collection and the Borjov color, and I would not fail to inform you if should come to Sweden.

Thanking you again, I am,  
 With kindest respects,

*John Fletcher Hurst.*  
 John Fletcher Hurst.

# Eagle

... and THE CITIZEN-TIMES

Hawley, Pa. — Wednesday Morning, August 24, 1966

## Bit of Old Flag Returned To Church of Swedish Kings

A bit of Sweden's history has been restored and a Hawley man has a letter of thanks from the office of the Marshal of the Realm of Sweden — all because of the collecting ardor of a European traveler in July 1884.

J. Fletcher Hurst of Hawley recently came in possession of a "Souvenir Book" consisting of various botanical and other specimens gathered by an ancestor on a tour of Europe 82 years ago. Among the souvenirs was a piece of a flag, and the page on which it was mounted indicated it was from a flag of Charles XII of Sweden which had been on display at Riddarholms-kyrkan in Stockholm.

Believing that his ancestor had overstepped the bounds of reasonable souvenir-hunting, at least in the light of present-day codes for travelers, Mr. Hurst returned the scrap of flag with a letter of apology for the "misplaced ardor" of the collector.

Within 10 days he had a letter of appreciation from one Johan Treschow, Secretary General of the Office of the Marshal of the Realm of Sweden, assuring him that the specimen is "now being put back in its original place in the old church of the Swedish kings."

Thus the face of the "Ugly American" — which most of us thought was a product of more recent vintage — received a touch of beautification. The unanswered question is whether or not — if such collecting was commonplace in the late 19th century — there was any flag left to which the scrap could be restored.

Perhaps Mr. Hurst will start a trend, and there will be a vast jigsaw-puzzle type of activity to restore the treasures of antiquity — and fitting together the pieces might prove so therapeutic that the woes of the world will be forgotten and tensions relaxed. Ah — peace at last!

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won by Charles XII. in battle,

Riddarsholm Church

Stockholm Sweden,

July, 1884.

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