



"COINCIDENCES" OF THE EUROPEAN FLAG

Designer Inspired by Virgin's Image in Paris' Rue du Bac

ROME, DEC 7 (ZENIT) - December 8 is a very special day for Europe: in 1955, on that day, the European Ministers' delegates officially adopted the European flag designed by Arsene Heitz, who today is an octogenarian artist in Strasbourg.

The decision was taken following the 1950 European Council's (one of the predecessors of today's European Union) convocation of a competition to design the flag of the newborn European Community. Among many other artists, Heitz presented several designs, and one was chosen: 12 stars on a blue background.

Recently Heitz revealed to a French magazine the reason for his inspiration. At that time he was reading the history of the Blessed Virgin's apparitions in Paris' Rue du Bac, known today as the Virgin of the Miraculous Medal. According to the artist, he thought of the 12 stars in a circle on a blue background, exactly the way it is represented in traditional iconography of this image of the Immaculate Conception. In the beginning, Heitz saw it as a flight of fancy, among the many that run through an artist's imagination; but the idea caught his attention, to the point that it became the subject of his meditation.

According to Javier Paredes, Professor of Contemporary History at the University of Alcala in Spain, in statements sent to ZENIT, "Heitz listens to God in his interior; in other words, he prays with his heart and his head. He says he is profoundly religious and devoted to the Virgin, to whom he never misses praying a daily Rosary, together with his wife. Because of this, he believes the inspiration not only from his artistic talents, but from the silent voices that Heaven always speaks to men of good will, among whom Heitz can undoubtedly be numbered. He is an artist who, virtually at the end of his life and at the zenith of his career, can proclaim with the guarantee of authenticity that he recalls that moment, that he is interested in very few but very important things, that he regards himself as a man who loves the whole world, but especially the Blessed Virgin, who is our Mother."

Professor Paredes admits that "neither the stars nor the blue of the flag are particularly religious symbols, thus respecting the conscience of all Europeans, regardless of their beliefs."

Indeed, he recalls that "when Paul M.G. Levy, first director of the Press and Information Service of the European Council had to explain to the Members of the Economic Community the meaning of the design, he interpreted the number of 12 stars as a 'figure of plentitude,' given that in the 50s there were not 12 members in that Council, nor in the European Community."

"However, in Heitz's soul the words of the Apocalypse were very present: 'A great sign appeared in the Heavens: a Woman clothed with the sun and with the moon at her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.' And, perhaps without realizing it, the delegates of the European Ministers officially adopted the design proposed by Heitz on the feast of Our Lady: December 8, 1955," explained Prof. Paredes. "That's a lot of coincidences, so henceforth it should not be difficult for us to discover in the folds of the Europeans' flag the smile and affection of Our Mother, the Queen of Europe, ready to lend a hand in that great challenge that St. Peter's successor has proposed to us: to re-Christianize the Old Continent with the example of our lives and the testimony of our words." ZE99120707



1. Pope with 12 stars on Vatican Euro (even The Vatican is not an official member of the European Union)

		<p>2 Euro: This shows a portrait of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, facing left.</p>
		<p>1 Euro: As all the Vatican Euro coins, this shows a portrait of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, facing left.</p>
		<p>50 Euro Cents: As all the Vatican Euro coins, this shows a portrait of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, facing left.</p>

		<p>20 Euro Cents: As all the Vatican Euro coins, this shows a portrait of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, facing left.</p>
		<p>10 Euro Cents: As all the Vatican Euro coins, this shows a portrait of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, facing left.</p>
		<p>5 Euro Cents: As all the Vatican Euro coins, this shows a portrait of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, facing left.</p>
		<p>2 Euro Cents: As all the Vatican Euro coins, this shows a portrait of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, facing left.</p>
		<p>1 Euro Cent: As all the Vatican Euro coins, this shows a portrait of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, facing left.</p>

2. European flag/Marian symbol on every license plate in the EU



3. European flag/ Marian symbol on every banknote in Europe



4. Levi

The original idea for the blue European flag has an Roman Catholic origin. Paul G.M. Levi, professor at the Roman Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium) was a Jew but became a Roman Catholic. In 1949 he became director of the Cultural department of the Board of Europe. Six years later he came up (according to the leading German Newspaper *Die Welt*) with the concept of the European flag. Levi, fascinated by the holy virgin with the stars around her head, proposed to the Secretary General of Board of Europe, Earl Benvenuti, to choose the symbol of Mary. When the members of parliament agreed, Levi said: “How on earth is it possible. We just rediscovered the introit of the new Mass of Mary’s Assumption!”

The European Union’s flag consists of 12 stars, inspired by the halo of 12 stars that appear around the Madonna in Catholic pictures of her. A former secretary general of the Council of Europe, Leon Marchal, affirmed that the stars are those of “the woman of the Apocalypse.” Enthusiastically he explained, “It’s wonderful that we have gotten back to the Introit of the new Mass of the Assumption. It’s the corona stellarum duodecim (the crown of the twelve stars) of the woman of the Apocalypse.”¹ This is a reference to the woman in Revelation 12 who appears with a crown of 12 stars. The Catholic Church has always claimed that she represents the virgin Mary, “the mother of God.”

The EU, which now has 15 member countries, has confirmed that the number of stars will always stay at 12, which indicates that the stars do not represent countries. I quote from a leaflet, “Building Europe Together,” which was given to visitors to EU headquarters in Brussels: “The European flag (is) a shared flag, blue with 12 gold stars symbolizing completeness. The number will remain 12 no matter how many countries there are in the European Union.”

5. Days

The day the European flag was introduced was 8 december 1955, the feast of The Immaculate Conception of Mary our co-redeemer. On 2 september 1958 Archbishop Montini of Milan (the later Pope Pius XII) released on the mountain Serenissima a 20 meter high statue of Mary and called it "Our Beloved Lady, Ruler of Europe." Pope Pius XII called Mary “Mother of all Nations” and called on 3 march 1953 for a reunion of nations. Bishop Dr. Graber said on 9

September 1978: “ I’ve asked for a Marian European International... We pray and ask in silence that the western world one day will be as it was: a IMPERIUM MARIANUM”

6. Pan European movement

The Pan-European movement of Otto Habsburg wants a conservative and Roman Catholic Europe. In his book, *The Social Order of Tomorrow*, he writes:

Now we do possess a European symbol which belongs to all nations equally. This is the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, which embodies the tradition of Charlemagne, the ruler of a united occident . . . the Crown represents not merely the sovereignty of the monarch, but also the ties between authority and the people. True, it is the monarch who is crowned, but in this sacred act he appears as the representative of the whole people. It should therefore be considered whether the European head of state, as the protector of European law and justice, should not also become the guardian of a symbol which, more than any other, represents the sovereignty of the European community.

Dr. Habsburg wants to see Europe have an elected head of state — a man elected for life. This influence of both Charlemagne and the Habsburgs hangs heavily over the new federal Europe. The crown of Charlemagne, the first person to attempt to revive the Roman Empire in 800 AD, is an inspiration to those who promote the breaking down of nation states, and a Charlemagne prize has been established for those who work hardest for European unity. One who did was ex-President Clinton, who in June 2000, was the first American president to receive the Charlemagne prize for his work in promoting European unity. He received the prize at the cathedral in Aachen, Germany, where the first Holy Roman Emperor lies buried. Clinton called for an enlargement of the EU to even take in Russia.

This is the flag of the pan-european movement:



Origin of the Paneuropa Union

The Paneuropa Union is currently headed by Otto Habsburg and was founded in 1923 by Richard Nikolaus Count Coudenhove-Kalergi. It is credited with some influence over the creation of what is now the European Union. Paneuropa is, unsurprisingly, more active in Austria and the former Austro-Hungarian states. It is very anti-Communist and Christian Democratic in political orientation, with a strong Catholic influence. The famous 1989 'picnic' on the Austrian/Hungarian border was organized by Paneuropa.

Stuart A. Notholt, 3 May 1996 & Dieter Linder, 12 July 1998

Cross is the symbol of Christianity and sun symbolizes the European civilization enlightening the world. After the Second World War, the flag was used by the European Parliamentary Union.

Source: Carole Lager : Le drapeau européen, histoire et symbolisme pp. 126-129 in "Fahnen, Flags, Drapeaux", Proceedings of the 15th International Congress of Vexillology, Zurich, 23-27 August 1993 ([\[icv93\]](#))

Ivan Sache, 6 January 2000