

CLASHING

Symbols

Talossa's Coats of Arms, Logos, and Crests

By R. Ben Madison, M.A.

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INTRODUCTION: Yes, O.K., I admit it: this book is a blatant rip-off of the recently published "Flags of the Kingdom of Talossa" by my rival newspaper publisher, John A. Jahn. But Herr Jahn's service to the Regipäts Talossán by writing a book putting all of Talossa's historic flags in one place for all to see, was a truly brilliant stroke which I should have had long ago.

In a sense this book is a companion to his, as it deepens still further our country's appreciation of its own decade-plus-old tradition of national, regional, and ideological iconography. I had originally suggested to him that he do this project as well as his own; when he said "hell, no," I consented to do the research myself.

A seemingly inevitable reaction of anyone doing research into any aspect of Talossa is, "My God, there's so much of it!" That was also my reaction after completing my research in the National Archives, Støtanneu, and TNN in search of all the neat symbols in this book. I had guessed maybe I'd find forty; I found seventy-three.

Each of the 73 coats of arms, emblems, and logos used to the present day to promote Talossa, her provinces, and her various movements and parties is in here. Most are photocopied from the originals; a few are redrawn because of the poor quality of the original or because original colours prevented a clean copy. Regretfully I have not followed Herr Jahn's lead in colouring in all the coats of arms in here. Most of them, fortunately, were black-and-white to begin with.

A majority of the designs in here (51) were furnished by yours truly. Of the remainder, Jahn designed 16 of them. Dan Lorentz, Patrick Matter, Charmaine Chvala-Smith, Frédéric Maugey, and Andrew Wozniak also made their contributions (see credits on p. 15).

The symbols are lumped into general thematic areas: #1-17 are national coats of arms; #18-30 are ministries, quasi-governmental organizations ('quangos') or the Monarchy; #31-43 are provincial coats of arms; the remainder are political parties, PACs, private organizations, and symbols that were inadvertently left out of the preceding sections.

I dedicate this book to the few, the proud: the readers.

R. Ben Madison

#1. THE BEN SYMBOL



This famous symbol was Talossa's 1st national coat of arms, dating from Independence Day, 26 December 1979. It appeared in dozens of variations, some more stylised than others. Pronounced "Ben," it was chosen by Ben for obvious reasons. It means "energetic" in the Chinese language.

#2. ORDER OF LENIN/PRT ARMS



King Robert overthrew himself on 11 January 1980 and proclaimed Talossa a Communist "People's Republic," the "PRT." The "revolution" adopted this Soviet decoration, the Order of Lenin, as its coat of arms, sticking it onto the middle of the flag. The PRT was ousted on 11 February 1980.

#3. 3TD ARMS



After the demise of RT "communism," the old Ben Symbol was restored. The still authoritarian Ben set up a Kemal Atatürk-inspired "republic" on 24 September 1980, with this coat of arms surrounded by a red triangle. This experiment in authoritarianism was abandoned on 8 October 1980.

#4. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS



On 9 December 1980 Talossa adopted this loosely Cambodian-inspired coat of arms. It survived for two months, and was used in the RT press on a handful of occasions, being replaced in February by the very popular version below.

#5. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS



Adopted on 8 February 1981, these arms survived through the RT's lust-crazed collapse in July. The fasces shows the King's political leanings; the Phrygian cap stands (incongruously) for freedom; bands of grain (why?) were stolen from the East German coat of arms.



#6. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS

An attempt to simplify the coat of arms after the Kingdom was reasserted, this version dates from 2 September 1981, and contains the Ben Symbol and the words "Kingdom of Talossa." It lasted little over one month.

#7. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS



This very popular design was first used sometime in October, 1981, on a Talossan passport. The middle of the Ben Symbol (which looked like an "equals sign") was replaced by the two-coloured Talossan flag. Officially replaced in 1982, this design continued to appear on many occasions, as late as October, 1984.



#8. PROPOSED RT ARMS

The King's growing interest in heraldry prompted this coat of arms; it was never officially adopted. Drawn on 15 Sep 1981, it featured a socialist red star, a crown, a silver spoon (for wealth) and a fasces (for you-know-what). The national motto on a ribbon appears below the arms.



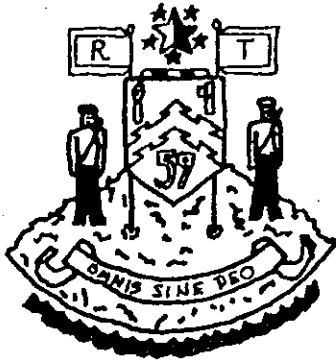
#9. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS

A version of the coat of arms published on 29 March 1982, featuring the Ben Symbol with the words *Regipäts Talossán* (Kingdom of Talossa) and *Omnis Sine Deo*, an unofficial RT motto meaning "All Without God," in a box. It was published on at least two occasions.



#10. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS

Published on 19 May 1982 this "busy" version of the national arms holds a drawing of King Robert, a fasces, a flag, a spoon, and the letters "LIX" --the Roman numeral for "59." This "official" version died only four days later.



#11. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS

A complex coat of arms issued on 23 May 1982, featuring the number "59" and the motto *Omnis Sine Deo*, as well as a spoon, fasces, and a hill with water below it to symbolise the territorial nature of the state. The two supporters with red shirts and berets have never been explained.



#12. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS

Issued on 3 November 1982 this simplified and dignified version bears the Ben Symbol in a shield over a wreath reading "Talossa 2755 Omnis Sine," the "Deo" being implied since the wreath was too small to put it in. The year "2755" stands for 1979, on a proposed "Talossan Calendar."



#13. NATIONAL COAT OF ARMS

By "Royal edict" on 10 January 1983, this version of the Ben Symbol was "resurrected" as the Talossan coat of arms. Two months later this version was renamed the "Lesser Arms," to be used jointly with the version numbered #14, below, the "Grand Form Arms."



#14. "GRAND FORM ARMS"

This complex coat of arms was proclaimed on 20 March 1983 and was in use as late as August of 1985 with a few minor modifications. The motto, "Crackin' Up," was an unfortunate choice from an ABBA song. Communist and Fascist iconography--both Lithuanian!--inspired this popular arms.



#15. PROPOSED "PENGGO" ARMS

In a much more light-hearted vein, King Robert commissioned John Jahn to design this coat of arms, published on 14 August 1983. The centre design is the video game hero Pengo, the only video game the King ever really mastered. This version never officially replaced #14.



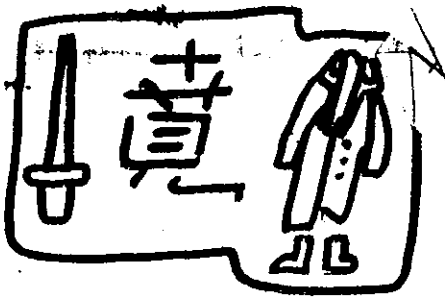
#16. MODERN RT COAT OF ARMS

Designed by the King on 29 January 1987, this has proven to be the most popular and enduring official arms in Talossan history. The shield is based on the University of Wales and the date commemorates Talossa's independence on 26 December 1979. A true Talossan artistic masterpiece.



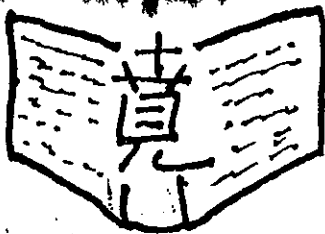
#17. REPUBLICAN ARMS

Temporarily replacing the preceding version--from 6 April 87 till 1 September 87--was this 'decrowned' version of the national arms, during Talossa's "Peculiar Republic." This version was also designed by Robert Madison, "under protest," at the direction of the Lorentz régime.



#18. TAL. BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Set up on 28 November 1980 to draw up a "confidential report" on the evil Glib Room Empire of Gary Cone, the T.B.I. featured a seal of sorts which was supposed to represent a cloak and dagger. The boots make the cloak look like a raincoat, which somewhat spoils the effect.



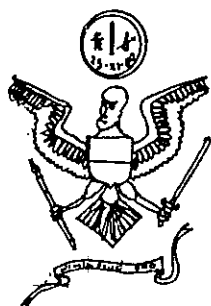
#19. THE TALOSSAN ACADEMY

A "Talossan Academy" with this seal was created on 13 December 1980 to oversee the growth of the new-born Talossan language. The Academy eventually disappeared and was replaced in 1983 by the *Comità për l'Utzil del Gihetg* (CUG), whose emblem is shown below (#25).



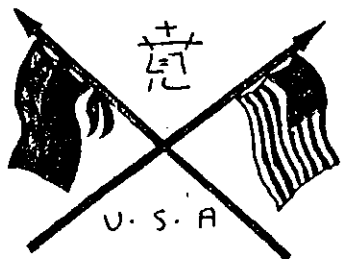
#20. OFFICIAL ROYAL "MONOGRAM"

This curious design is simply an "official royal monogram" published on 16 September 1981. It has no official function or purpose, but is supposedly a sort of personal emblem of King Robert I, whose initials, as "RRI" (Regeu Robert I) are intertwined in the design.



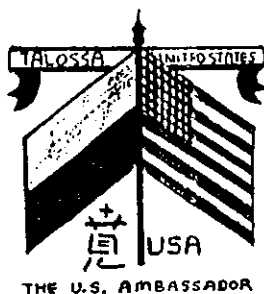
#21. "DUCE HEAD" WAR MINISTRY LOGO

One of the King's weirder designs, a logo for the RT's War Ministry drawn up on 16 February 1983 features an American Bald Eagle with Benito Mussolini's head! The date, 25.XI.80, commemorates the RT's war win over Gary Cone, as does the cone with an arrow through it in the circle.



#22. US AMBASSADOR'S EMBLEM

Designed by US Ambassador to Talossa John A. Jahn, this 'official' emblem was proposed on 2 March 1983. It incorporates the flags of Talossa and the United States, with the latter in the place of honour, as per proper US flag etiquette.



#23. US AMBASSADOR'S ARMS

Jahn's second version of the US Ambassador's Arms dates from 7 May 83 and is used on official US Embassy stationery in a number of letters from Ambassador Jahn to King Robert. With Jahn's ouster as Ambassador in the summer of 1983 the whole ambassadorship fell into oblivion.



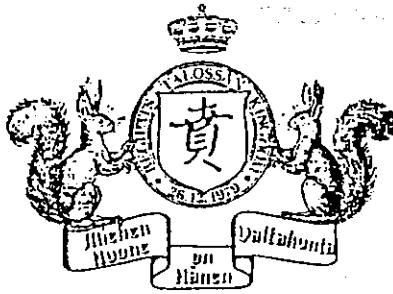
#24. WAR MINISTRY LOGO

Designed by John Jahn (who else?), this War Ministry Logo was used on RT War Ministry stationery starting on 16 May 1983. The three swords are said to represent "the oath of this sacred organization: HONOUR DISCIPLINE COUNTRY." The long German word simply means 'War Ministry.'



#25. CUG LOGO

The official logo for *La Comitá për l'Utzil del Gihetg* (CUG; the RT's official language agency) was first published in Støtanneu on 25 March 1985. The logo fell into disuse but was revived on 28 August 1992 and is again the official CUG emblem. The Talossan flag is its centrepiece.



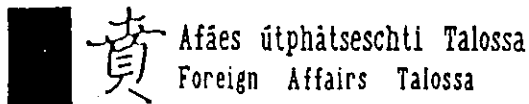
#26. MADISON FAMILY ROYAL ARMS

First used in February of 1987 this impressive coat of arms is the official Arms of the Royal House and Dynasty of Madison. The squirrels are native to Talossa; the scroll bears the national motto (since independence): "A Man's Room Is His Kingdom," in the Finnish language.



#27. VUODEPOST LOGO

Established on 8 April 1987, this is the official emblem of "VuodePôst," the postal service of the Province of Vuode. The bugle design is a common European emblem for posts and telecommunications.



#28. RT GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES LOGO

A Law of the Cosâ in September, 1987 established this logo (modelled on a similar emblem in Canada) for all RT Government ministries. The names of individual ministries (e.g. "Ministry of Stuff") are printed to the right of the emblem, in both the Talossan and English languages.



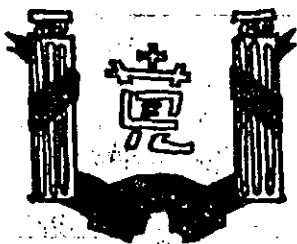
#29. RTV LOGO

RTV (*Restéglih Talossán Viens*), "Talossan Network One," is the official RT radio/TV network set up on 15 October 1987 with this emblem, loosely based on the Icelandic TV network logo. As Talossans have never been able to afford a TV transmitter, it was never used except in Støtanneu.



#30. RTV LOGO

A second version of the RTV television network's logo was announced in December of 1990. Its official status is unclear. The design is based on the logo of the Finnish national railway system!



#31. VUODE PROVINCE ARMS

Based loosely on the arms of Spain, this Vuode Province Coat of Arms was first published on 29 March 1982 and its general design has been used for all coats of arms in Vuode Province ever since. The Vuode Constitution of 1985 made official a design "similar" to this original version.



#32. VUODE PROVINCE ARMS (OFFICIAL)

Designed on 8 April 1987 this arms was the subject of much controversy, as its monarchist crown was a deliberate provocation of the Republican régime ruling Talossa at the time. Eventually it became official and it still is, despite a brief interruption (see below).



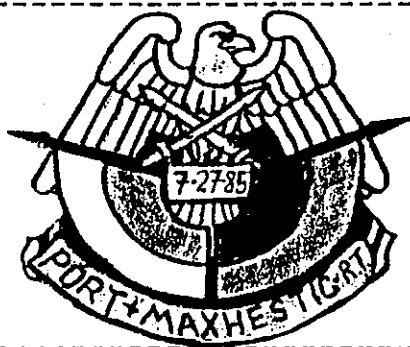
#33. VUODE PROVINCE ARMS

This version of the Vuode arms was proclaimed on 15 March 1991 along with a new Vuodean flag. The force of tradition was too strong in the conservative Province, however, and on 26 June 1991 the original flag and arms (#32) were restored.



#34. PORT MAXHESTIC EAGLE

This John Jahn design served as an official Coat of Arms for Port Maxhestic Province from its proclamation on 26 August 1985. It appeared in the centre of the P.M. flag designed the same day. Apparently it remained official until replaced by the following version.



#35. PORT MAXHESTIC ARMS

This coat of arms was proclaimed in Port Maxhestic Province on 6 January 1986. The illustration comes from Talossan National News, and differs slightly from the version described in the provincial constitution which states the scroll at bottom should appear above the eagle.



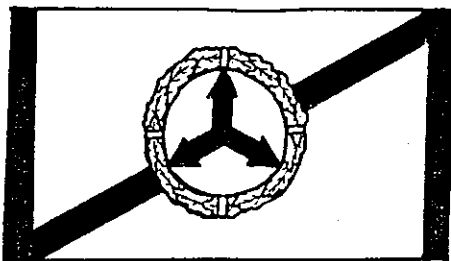
#36. SÜDLICHER GROßHAVEN ARMS

As a swipe at Talossan patriotism, Pórt Maxhestic changed its name to "Südllicher Großhaven" in September, 1986. A new constitution, flag and arms were proclaimed on 15 September. The anchor illustrates the maritime character of the Province, and appeared in the centre of its flag.



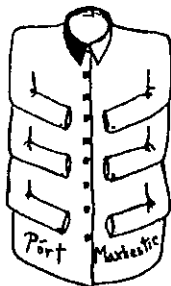
#37. PORT MAXHESTIC ARMS

Proclaimed on 19 February 1988, this new version of the Pórt Maxhestic coat of arms heralds the restoration of the Province after months of territorial slumber. As with previous versions, this John Jahn design was featured in the centre of the Province's official flag.



#38. PORT MAXHESTIC ARMS

Interestingly, this version of the P.M. coat of arms is simply the flag of P.M. Province *in toto*. The Constitution of 2 January 1990 made this Jahn design official. The field of the flag behind the wreath was red--a rather obvious hearkening back to Jahn's dubious political origins.



#39. P.M. ("DOVE WORLD") ARMS

John Jahn was routed from power in Pórt Maxhestic's March, 1991 elections by Charmaine Chvala-Smith, a feminist of left-wing leanings. One of her first casualties was the Province's iconography. Arms #38 was scrapped in the Summer of 1991 by this 'coat of arms' (get it?).



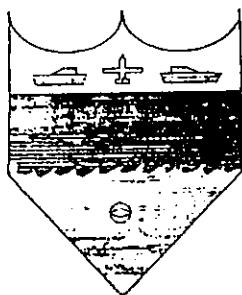
#40. ATATÜRK PROVINCE ARMS

One of Talossa's most enduring coats of arms, this design for Atatürk, Talossa's northernmost province, was published on 29 March 1982 and has remained official ever since. The inscription literally reads "Kemâl Atatürk State," the original name of the province. A Ben Madison design.



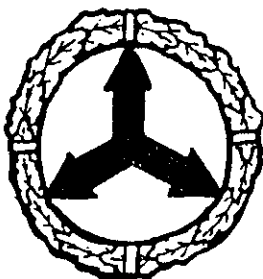
#41. ENVER HOXHA STATE ARMS

Talossa once contained an "Enver Hoxha State" named for the Albanian Communist tyrant. Its coat of arms (of Madisonian design) dates from 29 March 1982. "Enver Hoxha" was abolished as a territorial subdivision of Talossa in the spring of 1983, thus killing its coat of arms.



#42. MARITIIMI PROVINCE ARMS

Designed by Andrew Wozniak in January of 1989, this coat of arms was official in Maritiimi Province. It featured four coloured bands: white, green, red, and blue. The eye in the water at the bottom of the arms is unexplained. This coat of arms remained official until June 1991.



#43. MARITIIMI PROVINCE ARMS

Design #42 was abolished on 8 June 1991 when John A. Jahn took command of Maritiimi Province from the disappeared Andrew Wozniak. This coat of arms dates from Jahn's take-over, and features a variant of Jahn's political party emblem from years past.



#44. "PVT" EMBLEM

Talossa's first non-Communist political party was the anodyne Parti da Viensqáb Talossán (Talossan Unity Party; various spellings) of King Robert I, set up in January of 1981. This vapid emblem was designed back in November of 1980, and needed only a party to link it to.



#45. NATIONAL FASCIST PARTY LOGO

When King Robert I proclaimed himself a "Fascist" in the spring of 1981, several Italianesque fascist emblems were displayed in the RT press. This particular version dates from May of 1981. Innumerable versions of the fasces were used to promote Ben's right-wing ideologies.



#46. NATASHA EAGLE

Vaguely Russian in appearance, this eagle was the badge of the "National Anti-Totalitarian Alliance for Socialism, Humanity and Aborigines," or NATASHA for short--proclaimed on 16 May 1981. Several variants of this emblem for Ben's new pseudofascist movement appeared in Støtanneu.



#47. NATASHA "N"

A simpler emblem for "NATASHA" was also created on 16 May 1981, the so-called "NATASHA 'N'" which obviously stood for the name of the movement itself. Many variants of this Robert Madison design appeared in the RT press over the next few months.



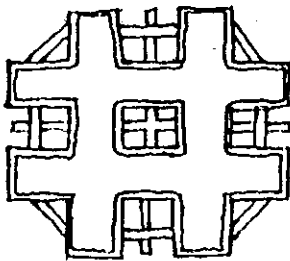
#48. ROYAL SOCIALIST PARTY LOGO

The PSRT (Royal Socialist Party of Talossa) was christened on 4 August 1981 by King Robert I, with this distinctive crown-and-hammer logo. The PSRT was gradually absorbed into a rightist "Fatherland Front" with a fasces as its emblem after 7 September 1981.



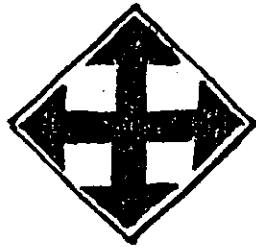
#49. THUNDERSWORD EMBLEM

One of the King's most long-lasting political incarnations was "Thundersword," a sort of leftist-fascist mélange. Innumerable variants of this popular emblem appeared after its 17 October 1981 birth; there is still a small Thundersword party in Vuode Province with this emblem.

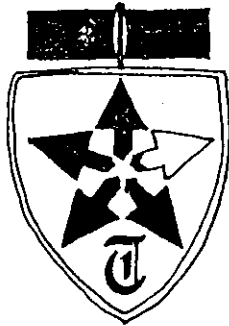


#50. NATIONAL SAFEGUARD LOGO

"National Safeguard" (NS) was yet another loopy Madisonian rightist movement in Talossa. Its name and logo date from 6 March 1982. This design may be based on the Romanian "Iron Guard" movement; exactly what it was supposed to represent is highly unclear--perhaps prison bars?

#51. FOUR ARROWS MOVEMENT LOGO

The King's iconography moved steadily rightward during 1982. His "Four Arrows Movement" with this symbol dates from 30 March 1982--it was blatantly ripped off from the Hungarian Nazi party. Thanks to its evil origins it did not last more than a couple of months.

#52. FIVE ARROWS MOVEMENT LOGO

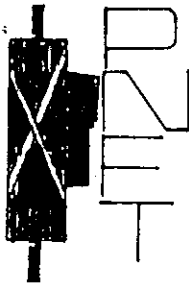
The "Four Arrows" became "Five Arrows" on 10 May 1982. This emblem is said to have been derived from some Syrian medal the King saw in a book. It lasted all of fifteen days, as the King couldn't think of what flavorless eternal principle the 5th arrow should stand for.

#53. THUNDERSWORD-NEMESIS LOGO

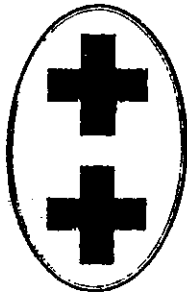
Another totally meaningless movement was founded by King Robert I on 25 May 1982: "Thundersword-Nemesis," with this 'Big Dipper' emblem. The King described the movement as "the ideal of our liberal backlash" whatever that was supposed to mean. It was understandably short-lived.

#54. RES PUBLICA TALOSSAN LOGO

The next incarnation for the King's gyrating politics was "Res Publica Talossán," loosely modelled after a Belgian Fascist party called "Rex." Proclaimed on 17 June 1982, "Res" featured a sword, flag, the Big Dipper, and little else. Amazingly it muddled along for five months.

#55. PNFT LOGO

On 14 November 1982 Fascism returned officially to Talossa with the King proclaiming the PNFT (Talossan National Fascist Party) the new official party of the Regipäts. This variant of the classic design features in place of the Italian axe-head, a Kwakiutl Indian copper plate.



#56. DOUBLE CROSS MOVEMENT LOGO

Copied from Charlie Chaplin's "Great Dictator," the "Double Cross Movement" was proclaimed official in the RT on 20 December 1982, capping a tumultuous year in Royal political phases--eight different political parties! This design was ripped off from the Danzig city coat of arms.



#57. PROGRESSIVE CONSERVATIVE PARTY

And then the King moderated. In August of 1985 his new Progressive Conservative Party adopted this neat-looking logo, said to represent a vibrant, active Talossa. Different variations on this design have been published, but the PC has used it faithfully for more than 7 years.



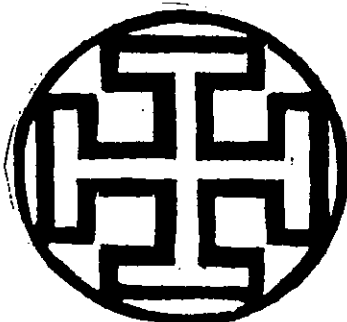
#58. TALOSSAN NATIONAL PARTY EMBLEM

The Nationalist Party of Talossa set up this vaguely swastikoid emblem on 6 May 1985 as its official signet. The "N" in the design, created by TNP leader John A. Jahn, obviously refers to "nationalism," though just whose nationalism--Talossan or American--was open to debate.



#59. TALOSSAN NATIONAL PARTY EMBLEM

The TNP emblem was changed on 20 February 1986 into this variant. The "T" in the design more obviously stated the "Talossan" character of Jahn's political party.



#60. TNP-ST(A)H(L)HELM PARTY EMBLEM

1986 saw the TNP evolve at almost Ben-like speed. The party adopted an official nickname, "Stälhelm" (a misspelling, later corrected, of the German Stahlhelm or "Steel Helmet") and a new symbol on 25 April 1986. The symbol came from Austria's pre-war "Heimwehr" paramilitary units.



#61. TNP "NATIONAL HONOUR CROSS"

This TNP symbol (peacenik? phallic? Mercedes Benz?) was first announced in April, 1987, and superseded all previous TNP emblems. As usual, it appeared in a number of exquisitely crafted varieties. It remained the TNP's official emblem until the party's collapse in November, 1990.



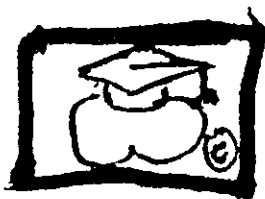
#62. TNP "NATIONAL EAGLE CROSS"

A souped-up variation of the preceding Honour Cross, this emblem was exceedingly popular (in a number of varieties) among TNP members. Several different eagles were used in variants of this design; this version was quite popular, being used after July, 1988.



#63. PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC PARTY

An "opposition" party set up by King Robert on 21 March 1981, the "Paarti Volks-Demokraatisch af Talossa" even had its own language based on Dutch! This simple leftish emblem was its official symbol; the "PVD" was dead within a week, absorbed into the official Fascist Party.



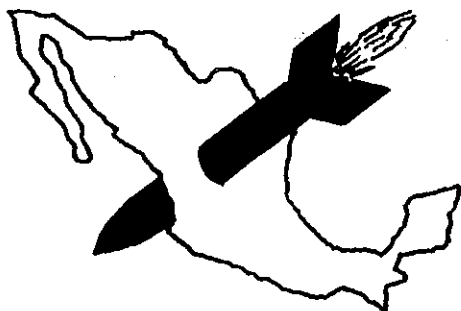
#64. SMART ASS PARTY LOGO

Never an official RT organization, the "Smart Ass Party" of Madison, Macht, Murphy, Lorentz and Wozniak flittered around the edges of Talossa in the spring of 1981 and got some coverage in Støtanneu. Its emblem was designed by Ben Madison in the spring of 1981.



#65. DEMOCRATIC DANDIPRATIC PARTY

This symbol (dis)graced DDP literature in 1981 and was used as late as 1985. First used on 4 August 1981, its intent is obvious: "No Talossa." The DDP's avowed aim in those early days was to "return" Talossa to the United States.



#66. "BLOW UP MEXICO SOON" LOGO

The King's only serious foray into outright racism came on 11 June 1983 when a short-lived "BUMS" movement was founded, dedicated to building a huge wall on the Mexican border to keep out illegal immigrants, and the utter extirpation of the Spanish language in the US. It died quickly.



#67. LIBERAL PARTY LOGO (AUGUST '85)

Set up by Jean Williams and Florence Yarney at King Robert's behest, the Liberal Party was a tool to sap leftist votes away from the DDP. This party emblem was designed by Madison and features 3 RT flags in the shape of an "L." Loosely based on the symbol of the Australian Liberal Party.

Front
Uni pour la
Nation

#68. FRONT UNI POUR LA NATION

Designed by Frédéric Maugey, this snappy logo for his Front Uni pour la Nation party was used in a few FUN publications. It was designed in January, 1986.



#69. PARTI POPULAR (PEOPLE'S PARTY)

When Swiss-Talossan Patrick Matter took over the dying Communist Party on 13 June 1986 he gave it this new logo, said to refer to psychoanalytical mumbo-jumbo about "the devotion of all one's deepest energies and drives to higher more spiritual pursuits." It sank without a trace.



#70. BLACK HAND

Wes Erni's Black Hand movement (its name is traced variously to Serbian terrorists, the Mafia, and Sauron) adopted this emblem--found in North African Berber artwork--on 29 January 1987, after much pleading from Berberphile King Robert I.

The Man With Ideas

As reported in last month's TNN, John Jahn is once again making an effort to become standard-bearer of the party he led to victory four times: the PC. It's been a long time since John Jahn was Prime Minister of Talossa - this March 26th will be 3 years since he was that. Jahn feels that his past experience is a major plus, and since he's a "man of ideas," he feels he'd be the right choice to be PM Toumayan's successor if, and when, the latter chooses to step aside for a breather.

In late October, Jahn drafted a speech to the members of his own party in compliance with the rules of the PC Leadership Contest then ongoing. Stotanneu editor Madison was given the speech, and he says it will be published soon, along with that of another office-seeker, newcomer Ryan Hughes. Looks to be a David vs. Goliath scenario, but with a slightly different outcome. But anything can (and will) happen in the world of Talossan politics. Knowing this, Jahn is making a serious effort to not only be named Deputy Prime Minister in the new Toumayan Cabinet, but also PC Party President.

The Deputy PM-ship is crucial, since this person takes over should the sitting PM resign (as Schwichtenberg did following Jahn's resignation 3 years ago). Also, being named PC President is crucial because, according to the soon-to-be adopted party bylaws, the President will have the ability to make decisions by himself, which would only be put up to a vote amongst other, card-carrying PC members should there be sufficient clamoring for such.

If there is any concern out there about a Jahn PM-ship and subsequent candidacy in mid-'97, it's regarding his reputation amongst Cybercits and swing voters, a reputation Jahn has been rebuilding steadily ever since his brief flirtation with Nathan and the TFTF last summer.

Jahn is definitely on the conservative side of the PC, seeking to preserve as many of our precious traditions as possible, and keeping the RT as close as possible to its past and present condition, though balancing these goals with Cyberization and immigration. Regarding these crucial issues, Jahn has been putting together organized and cogent positions which will become public right here in TNN in the coming months. As the PC's self-proclaimed Man of Ideas, it's only prudent Jahn do so at this juncture.

Jahn's "ideas" thus far are regarding immigration, foreign policy, the Uppermost Cort, and the Cabinet. To briefly announce his positions on these issues of the day, PC Sec'y Jahn has the following comments to TNN:

IMMIGRATION "I think we need to take more time between acquisitions of new citizens in order to get to know them before we go about getting more. We have no coherent immigration policy, and immigration is a critical issue today. We definitely need to slow things down."

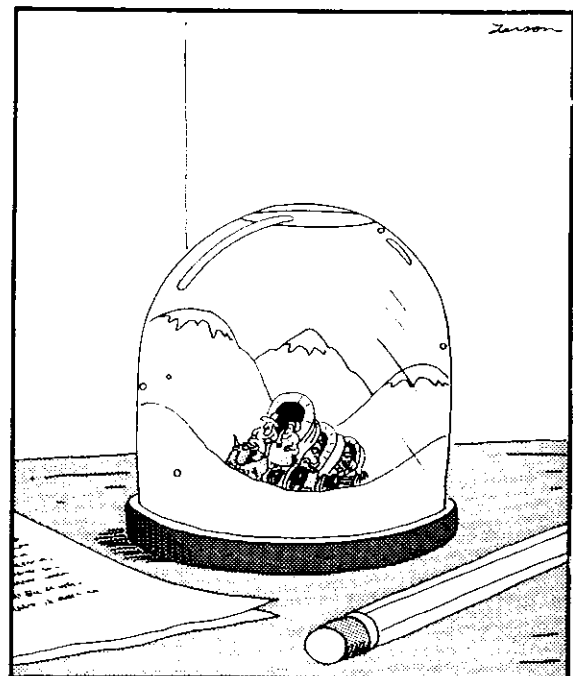
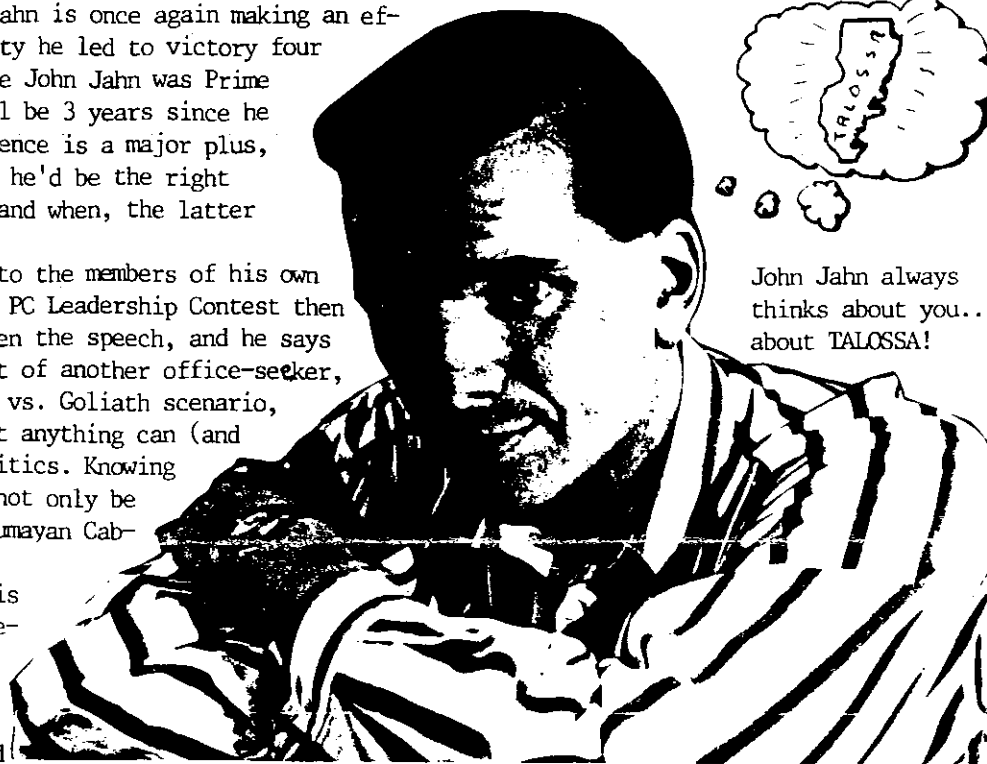
FOREIGN POLICY All too often Talossa just ignores the world around it these days. That's not the way it used to be, and that's not the way it will be under a Jahn Administration. We'll have an active and involved Foreign Ministry, and not just regarding other microstates."

UPPERMOST CORT "I'm of the old school that says 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it.' I don't think the TUC is broke in any way, shape, or form, and thus I'm status quo on the Cort, period."

THREE STRIKES "I fully endorse the current way citizenship in the RT is lost, and once again the adage regarding the Cort holds here."

THE CABINET - "Cabinet ministers will actually have jobs to perform. They'll be actively involved in their ministry or they'll be dismissed, period. No more empty suits in the cabinet."

COMMUNICATION "Are you ready for this, Talossa? If I'm made Deputy PM and earmarked as Toumayan's successor, I'll get, maintain, and use, an active e-mail account. PM Jahn will be accessible via e-mail directly, if my fellow citizens so desire."



The ever-popular Donner Party snow dome

88*99

Well, this is the last of our "86-96" columns, where we look back at our beloved Kingdom 10 years ago this month...

- There were NO TNNs published as Jahn had renounced his citizenship the previous month.
- Stotanue announced that A-F of the English-Talossan Dictionary was completed, containing some 2,500 words.
- Much to Jahn's chagrin, Brook Glaefke announced he would remain a Talossan citizen despite Jahn's departure.
- Madison began a long and windy series of articles by a real live FASCIST named Maurice Bardeche, entitled "What is Fascism?", which he said came quite close to his own beliefs, which Madison called "Ben Fascism."
- Talossa celebrated its 7th year of existence. Meanwhile, Madison announced to a startled nation that he was thinking of stepping down as King in favor of brand new citizen Robert Dobberpuhl. A referendum on the monarchy was planned for Jan. '87.
- Eiffler, whose personal attacks on Jahn were instrumental in the latter's quitting of Talossa, somewhat remorsefully proclaimed: "Without Jahn all we are is a group of babbling moderates and liberals who can talk about changes but are too busy arguing with each other to actually go anywhere with the ideas."
- Madison & Lorentz were on opposite sides of the monarchy plans. The PC was about to make a huge mistake.

Nattering Negativism

JAHN'S FIRST & LAST WORD ON
POCKET VOTES

It's easy to see why opposition parties want more and more citizens. At the Anniversary party, ZPT leader Pendl said he'd start to become uncomfortable once RT population reached "about 4,000." It's easy to see why the ZPT and COP want an ever increasing citizen base: to dilute to strength of the individual voter. Since the PC is currently the only party with existing "pocket votes" - citizens who vote for a party but don't do anything else Talossa-related, more citizens means marginalizing these few people. This is an inherently evil reason to support unchecked growth of population. Most reasonable Talossans, however, are increasingly looking at the number 50 being the maximum size of RT citizenship. Were we to have 50 voters, a single vote would be worth 2%. This election, one vote equalled about 3.7%. We are going to grow - how much has yet to be determined - and any bad tastes in people's mouths about pocket votes will (or should) dissolve away as each individual vote becomes weaker and weaker.

Having once been the leader of a non-PC party (the TNP), I, too was upset that there were people out there seemingly beyond my reach, who would simply vote for Ben come what may, because they didn't know anything or care about anything except pleasing Ben. Two things changed my mind about trying to "do something" about such people. One, the country continuously grew, so I went after new people, not without success. Second, I actually approached one of these "pocket votes," and know what? She joined the TNP! (Jennifer Madison).

Eventually, every party will have these silent partners - people who vote for a party but don't really have any interest in helping it govern in a hands-on fashion. We can't all be in the Cosa, after all (actually, we could under the current system, but it would be absurd and ludicrous). Therefore, parties have constituents, and like all constituents, they'll have various degrees of interest and activity.

The facts are these: There is NO WORKABLE SOLUTION to inactive, but voting citizens. Any "solution" seems to have the odor of the Final Solution about it. Finally, these are legitimate Talossan citizens who have played roles in the past in our country and who (with only 1 exception) have voted for several different parties in the past. There's no reason why they couldn't change their minds in the future.

Opponents of so-called "pocket votes" like to look at voters in our elections as roulette wheels - we just spin 'em round and round and wherever they stop is how they vote (the exception being these "evil" pocket people who just automatically vote PC). They fail to realize, however, that most voters go into the election already pretty much decided on who they're voting for. Unfortunately for them, a large number of Talossans support the PC because they like what they're doing. They just find it hard to accept the fact that many voters are just going into the elections in support of the PC, and this predisposition is hard to accept if you're on the outside looking in.

If you want to win an election you have to campaign for people's votes. If you don't campaign for votes amongst certain people, you're very unlikely to get their votes, either. The PC is the only party to consistently and effectively campaign election after election, and if that predisposes certain Talossans to vote PC, then so be it. Sorry, opposition parties, but the PC has simply outfought you. The PC has earned its votes.

Earn yours.



John A. Jahn
on-in-Chief, TNN

FACTOID: Without the votes of the three so-called pocket votes this election, the PC would've still won the election, getting 12 of 24 votes (50%), so they essentially played no decisive role even in an electorate of 27.