

## Laurania – The Nation's Symbol and its Flags

### The Nation's Symbol – The Lauranian Eagle

Every since Laurania formed part of the Roman Empire, the Lauranian Eagle has been the national symbol.



The original design of the Lauranian Eagle.

It was carried into battle against the Visigoths by the troops of Flavius Maximus Molarius and was emblazoned on the banners of the Lauranians who took part in the Crusades.

It was during the period of the Crusades that Saint George was adopted as the patron saint of Laurania, and to commemorate this a red cross against a white background was added to the Eagle. In this form it was incorporated into the battle flags carried by Roberto Molar's army in its many battles against the Ottoman invaders.



The revised design of the Lauranian Eagle incorporating the Cross of Saint George.

Under the Ottomans the wearing of the Lauranian Eagle was punishable by death, but it was featured in the canton of every battle flag carried by the émigré Lauranian regiments serving in the Austrian and Russian armies during the eighteenth century. When the French recruited the Lauranian Legion (*La Legion Lauranienne*) during the Napoleonic Wars, the Lauranian Eagle was carried with pride on the flag of each of the Legionary units.

After the fall of Napoleon and the creation of the Principality of Laurania, a crown was added to the Eagle to signify the change in the country's status.



The princely crown was added to the Lauranian Eagle to signify the country's change of status.

This design remained unchanged until the 1848 Revolution, after which the crown was removed and replaced by a scroll with the letters PPL on it. This was the motto of the Republican movement and stands for *Pro Populo Lauranio* (For the People of Laurania).



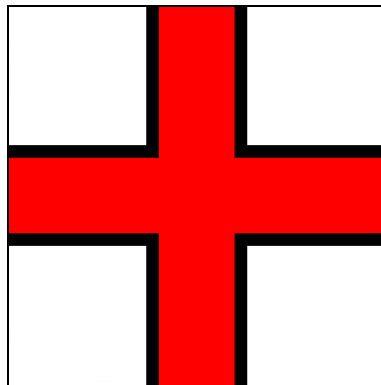
The removal of the princely crown from the Lauranian Eagle and its replacement with a scroll bearing the initials PPL – *Pro Populo Lauranio* – showed the World that the former Principality was now a Republic.

This alludes to the scroll that formed part of every Roman Eagle. These carried the letters SPQR (standing for *Senatus Populusque Romanus* [‘The Senate and People of Rome’ or ‘The Senate and Roman People’]), and it is in keeping with their ‘Roman’ tradition that such a scroll be incorporated into the current design of the Lauranian Eagle.

### The Lauranian National Flag

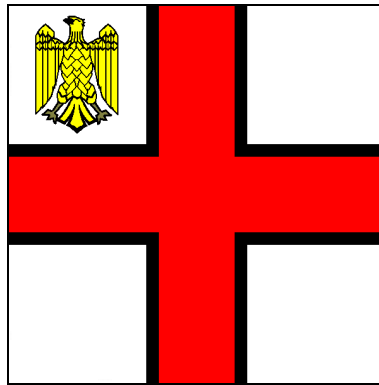
The earliest recorded instance of a uniquely Lauranian identifying marker can be found in the diary of Gulio Montebranca. He records hearing the story of Flavius Maximus Molarius’s request that the Bishop of Torracastra bless the Eagle – later known as the Lauranian Eagle – that his troops were about to carry into battle against the Visigoths.

There is some debate as to whether or not this was actually a *vexillum*, but by the time of the Crusades the Lauranians taking part did so under the Lauranian version of the Cross of Saint George. This led to some confusion on the battlefield, as this was very similar to the banner carried by the Knights Templar, and thus was born the Cross of Laurania. This was originally square, with the Cross of Saint George outlined in black.



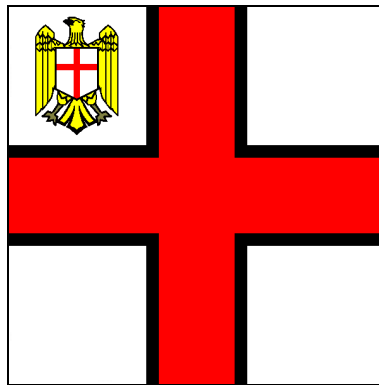
The resemblance of the flag carried by the Lauranians to that of the Knights Templar led to a black edge being added to the Cross of Saint George to form the Cross of Laurania. It was the first national flag of Laurania.

It is conjectured that the black was added to serve as a memorial to all those Lauranians who had died defending the Holy Land, but it is more likely that it was added to ensure that there was no further confusion with the banners of the Knights Templar. At some stage a plain Lauranian Eagle was added to the canton ...



The addition of the Lauranian Eagle to the national flag carried by Lauranian troops during the Crusades made it even more difficult to confuse it with that carried by the Knights Templar.

... but this replaced by the version that incorporated the Cross of Saint George. This remained Laurania's flag until the conquest of Laurania by the Ottomans.



The version of the Lauranian national flag in use at the time of the Ottoman invasion.

The Ottomans banned the display of any Lauranian symbols, especially the Lauranian Eagle. The flag was, however, used by Lauranian troops serving in émigré regiments in the Austrian and Russian armies during the eighteenth centuries.

When Laurania was invaded and 'liberated' by French troops during the Revolutionary Wars, a new flag was adopted to mark its change of status. Following the example of the French *Tricolor*, the Lauranians began using a blue, white, and green *tricolor* with a Lauranian Eagle at its centre. The colours signified the blue of the Lauranian Sea, the white of the snow on its mountains, and the green fertility of its soil.



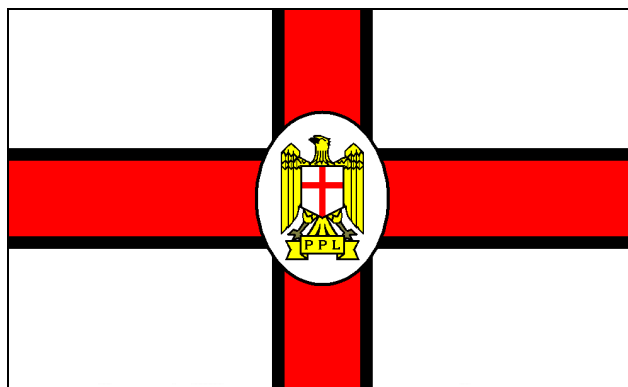
The national flag introduced by the French was a complete departure from all previous designs. Its oblong shape and use of blue, white and green signified a complete break with Lauranian traditions, although the use of the Lauranian Eagle at the centre helped it to gain wider acceptance amongst the people of Laurania.

After Napoleon's fall the new Principality of Laurania adopted a flag design based on the Cross of Laurania. It was oblong in shape (the ratio of its sides were 2:3) and had the Lauranian Eagle – surmounted by a princely crown – within a shield at its centre



The flag of the Principality of Laurania was based on the original design of the Cross of Laurania but retained the size and oblong shape of the previous national flag.

After the 1848 Revolution the design of the Lauranian Eagle was changed slightly. The crown was omitted, the shield was replaced by an oval, and a scroll bearing the letters PPL (standing for *Pro Populo Lauranio*) was added.

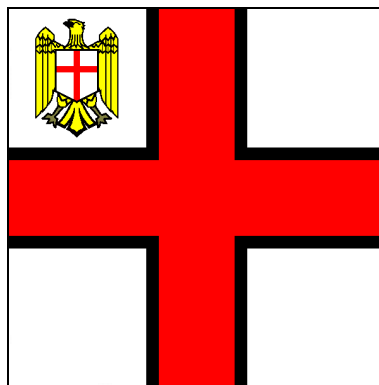


The present-day national flag of Laurania.

This flag remains in use to this day, and is the basis of many other flags flown in Laurania.

### Lauranian Military and Naval Flags

The first Lauranian military units to carry regimental flags were the émigré regiments of Lauranians that served in the Austrian and Russian armies during the eighteenth century.



The version Lauranian national flag that was in use at the time of the Ottoman invasion served as a battle flag – and reminder of their homeland – for the Lauranians who served in émigré regiments in the Austrian and Russian armies.

The units of the Lauranian Legion (*La Legion Lauranienne*) that was raised by the French also adopted a new style of regimental flag. It was oblong in shape (the ratio of its sides were 2:3) and was blue, white, and green. It also carried the Lauranian Eagle at its centre surrounded by the name of the unit.



The first regimental flag used by the Lauranian Legion (*La Legion Lauranieme*) was very simple and in keeping with the republican tendencies of many Lauranians. It used the same colour combination of blue, white, and green as the national flag that was in use at the time.

This style of regimental flag was replaced in 1804 with a squarer, more ornate flag that was similar in design to the flags carried by French and Italian troops.



The second regimental flag used by the Lauranian Legion (*La Legion Lauranieme*) was much more ornate, and was heavily influenced by the designs used in the Napoleonic French and Italian armies.

After the fall of Napoleon the units of the new Army of the Principality of Laurania used a version of the Lauranian Legion's regimental flag. The main colour changes were the replacement of green by red, and blue by black. The version of the Lauranian Eagle that was introduced when the country became a Principality replaced the existing version of the Eagle, and it was displayed within a shield in the centre of the flag.



The initial design of regimental flag used by the new Army of the Principality of Laurania.

This design did not prove popular with many of the troops who had fought in the Austrian and Russian armies against Napoleon, and one based on the original Cross of Laurania with the Lauranian Eagle – surmounted by a princely crown and displayed within a shield – at its centre, replaced it.



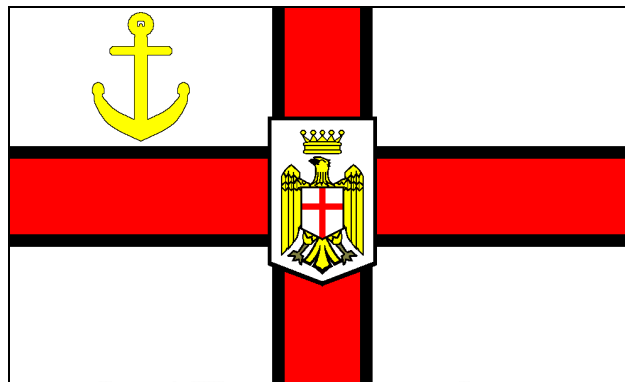
The second design of regimental flag used by the Army of the Principality of Laurania.

After the 1848 Revolution the regiments of the Lauranian Army adopted a new design for its regimental flags, and this remains in use today. It is square and based on the current Lauranian flag. In addition to the Lauranian Eagle within an oval at its centre, it has a scroll beneath the Eagle upon which the number and name of the regiment is displayed.



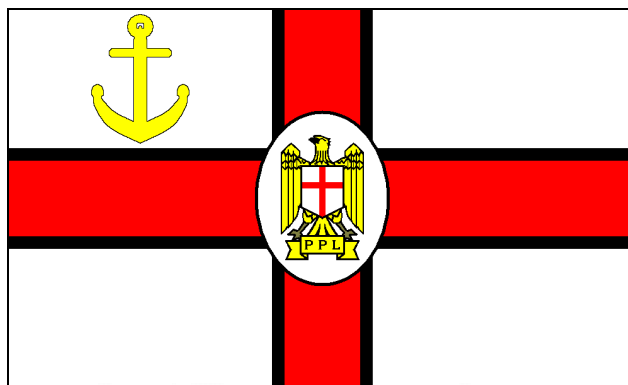
The present-day design of regimental flag used by the Lauranian Army.

Since it was created in 1815, the ensign flown by the ships of the Lauranian Navy has been the Lauranian flag with the addition of a gold anchor in the canton.



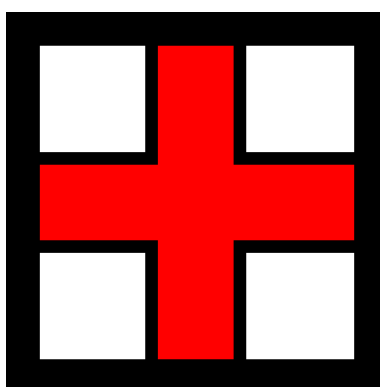
The ensign flown by ships of the Navy of the Principality of Laurania.

The only significant change to the design of the Lauranian Navy's ensign took place after the 1848 Revolution when – in line with all other Lauranian flags – the design of the Lauranian Eagle at the centre of the flag was changed to show that the Principality was now a Republic.

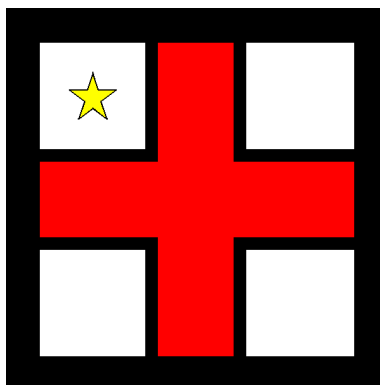


The present-day ensign of the Lauranian Navy.

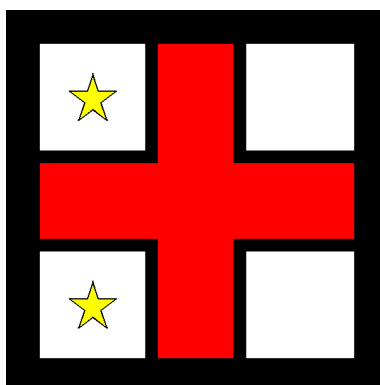
When at sea, any ship of the fleet that is acting as the flagship of a fleet or squadron flies a flag that indicates the rank of the Flag Officer in command of the fleet or squadron. The flag is square, is based on the original Cross of Laurania, and has a black border. The number of stars on the flag indicates the rank of the Flag Officer.



Admiral's flag.



Vice Admiral's flag.



Rear Admiral's flag