INSIGNIA

A journal of inquiry into the history and memorabilia of the Boy Scouts

Order of the Arrow Sashes

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No Arrow Sashes Type 1 & 4

Felt sash with Brotherhood bars

Type 1 1921-26

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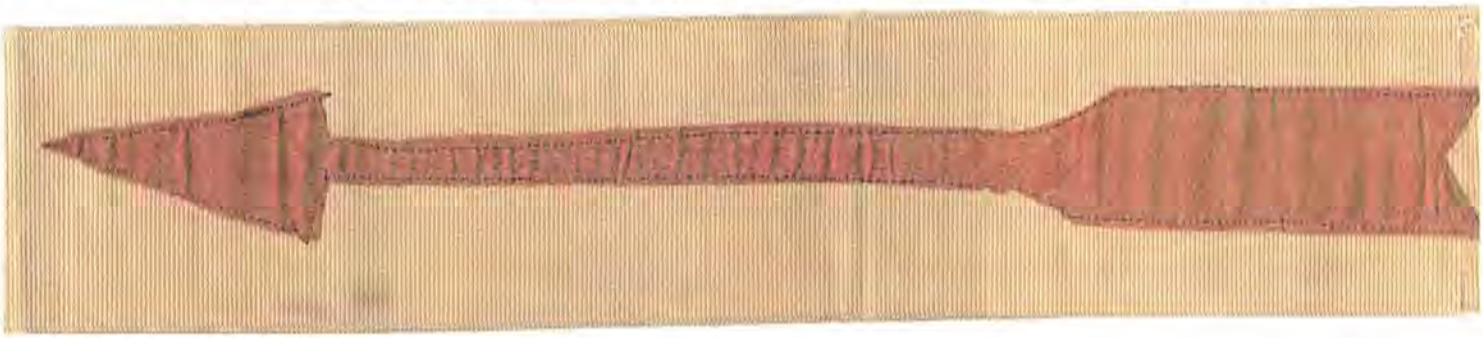
A Worksheet for Identifying and Classifying WWW/OA Sashes

For most of my Scout collecting career I have been accumulating OA sashes. When a sash came in with collections I would compare what I had and anything that looked different would be added to the accumulation. When I added the no arrow 1933 sash, the 1950's National Committee sash and the 1927 Owasippe "ribbon" sash with Goodman & Edson's autographs it occurred to me that I might have a pretty good sash collection. As a result of researching Owasippe Lodge and discovering the regional differences in sashes I acquired the O'Connor collection which had passed through the hands of Kelly Williams. It contained dozens of picky little varieties (much like my accumulation) and I decided if these were going to be collectible (for others) we would need some guidelines on how to look at OA sashes. This booklet is a suggestion as to how we should identify sashes but just as we did 19 years ago with Eagle medals, we need a template to compare and identify sashes.

Type 1 ? 3" wide, red cloth (linen) arrow, flimsy "ribbon" material Chicago 1925.



The Earliest Sashes

I can not establish the original date for the use of a sash as recognition of OA membership, although I believe it to be about 1921. I am not talking about a black sash used as part of a ceremonial costume but rather a sash in the modern sense. You are elected to the WWW and you wore a sash as identification of membership. At the organizing meeting at Camp Biddle in 1921, sashes are visible on only 8 of the roughly 40 individuals in the photo. It is my belief that this is because sashes were not adopted until about this date. If sashes were new in 1921 then only those inducted in 1921 could have had them. Although the WWW was established in 1915 the second lodge (Trenton, N.J). wasn't founded until 1919 and lodges 3-7 were founded in 1920-21, just a year before or the year of the organizing meeting. The WWW as more than a single camp based group was very new in 1921 and it is my belief that sashes were too.

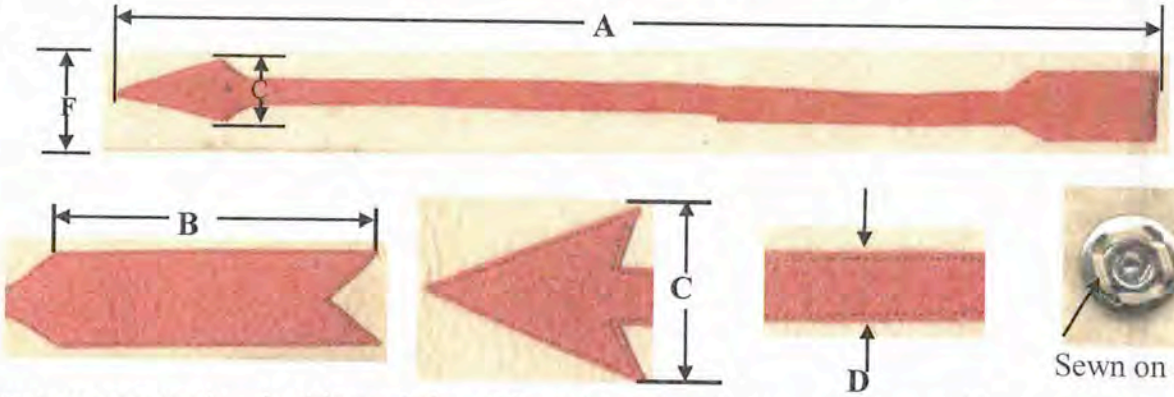
A few clues about the first sashes can be found in A History of the Order of the Arrow by Davis

(June 5, 1922) *"a decision was made to supply each lodge with a mimeographed copy of the ritual and* ***to retain a central outfitter to provide a supply of arrow*** *pins,* ***bands*** *and other items for purchase by lodges"*
(10/1923) *H.P. Kern of the committee on regalia and insignia reported there was a need for* ***arrow bands of "more substantial quality" that were washable and had a hook or clasp to hold the ends together"*** *Page 22*

This seems to indicate that there was no "outfitter" of arrow sashes prior to 1922. If sashes were used earlier than 1922, it seems to indicate that they were made on an as needed basis. The 1923 comment is to indicate that existing sashes, pre-1923 were somehow fragile. At first reading I thought it was against felt on felt sashes but then, felt on felt sashes were used for many years afterwards. Perhaps it's a comment against the ribbon sashes and this could be a clue to helping date them. My research has dated the Owasippe "ribbon" sashes to 1925-27 but it is unknown what kind of material the sashes in the 1921 were made of. Carrol Edson, the founder of the Chicago Lodges, was National Chief in 1923, since I can date the "ribbon" sash to 1925 it's possible that this is the first sash. The ribbon style 3" wide sash needs to be documented to Philadelphia or another eastern lodge for us to make a claim that it is truly Type 1. It seems unlikely that Owasippe Lodge would be using a sash different than the Grand Lodge especially at a time when Edson was National Chief (1923). In an ISCA article Bill Topkis suggested that a Salvation Army "Black Sash" was the earliest Owasippe Lodge sash. How Bill arrived at this conclusion, I can only speculate. However, there is no evidence for his assertion and research by Hal Yocum confirms this particular sash was a Salvation Army sash. The Salvation Army was a strong supporter of Scouting in Chicago and Salvation Army units camped at Camp Wonderland as early as 1924 and had their own Camp Honor Society, The Order of the Black Arrow.

Identifying Felt on Felt Sashes

A. Overall length of the arrow (top to center where the V would meet if not cut into a V)
B. Overall length of the fletching (along the right side, from the flat edge to the V)
C. Width of the arrowhead (across the bottom) OR at the widest point if not across the bottom.
D. Width of the arrow shaft
E. Overall total length of the sash
F. Overall width of the sash
G. Type of closure at the bottom of the sash ***I do NOT consider important***



Sewn on snap

Snaps, no snaps etc. In this worksheet I have identifed the type of closure, if any, at the bottom of the sash, only in the early felt sashes. With the exception of the pressed in snaps I do not consider this a reliable indicator of any significance. One might be tempted to draw conclusions that one sash was older than another because it didn't have a snap or had a sewn in snap rather than a pressed into the material snap. Some of the earliest sashes have pressed in snaps, they were calling for them in 1923, while later ones have sewn in or no snaps. Sewn snaps might have been added to sashes by individual. Concentrating on snaps deflects attention from more important details and this may be removed after editing.

Local Issue sashes Some sashes were made by lodges and not purchased from national suppliers. It seems reasonable in an era when most women were skilled seamstresses that lodges, or even chapters might wish to avoid the time and expense ordering sashes from Philadelphia There is evidence that Moqua Chapter of Chicago made sashes as late as 1943-1946 while other Chicago chapters were using national issue sashes. Although this may have more to do with WW II shortages. A puzzling sash is the Thin Arrow-Thin shaft-Diamond Point sash is traced to Camp Delmont, Lodge 43 during the early 1930's. It seems odd that a lodge in close proximity to the supply source (Philadelphia) would develop their own sashes. Although, this may have had more to do with the economic depression of the 1930's than being disloyal to national suppliers. More research is need to see if other lodges used this type sash

1933 Grand Lodge Meeting

The 1933 Grand Lodge Meeting photo. This photo of the assembled delegates at Camp Owasippe is one of the best photos where numerous early sashes can be identified and dated. I have cropped close up photos of individuals to help you see the sashes.

Lightweight & fragile material

Thick Arrow, red cloth arrow on white "*ribbon*" material.

1. 13 3/8" A, **3 3/4**" F, 1 1/2" AH, 7/16" SW, 31" LOA, **3**" W, **3" width is the widest sash known**
The bottom of #1 is deteriorated and missing it is unknown what the overall length is.
2. 12" A, 3 1/2" F, 1 1/2" AH, 1/2"S, 28" LOA. **3" wide sash** w/different arrowhead SEE COVER.
3. 13 3/8" A, **3 3/4**"F, 1 1/2" AH, 7/16"S, 31" LOA, 2 1/2" W, snap stitched in. Bottom is cut in a V.
The arrowhead on #3 is the style of #1. the sash is just narrower.

These are dated to 1925 & 1927, from Chicago It is believed that the 3" sashes are the oldest Sash #2 is autographed by Goodman & Edson, they were only together in Chicago in 1927.

The width & longer fletching may be clues to the earliest sashes. Note the length of the sash on the man behind E.U. Goodman and next to Edson in this 1921 photo.

Note the width of the sash in this 1921 photo.

A 1927 ceremonial photo. Note the width of the sash.

***LARGE* 4 1/4" to 4 3/4" " fletching**

Felt arrow, ***heavy woven material*** sash,

1. 13"A **4 1/4**" F, 1 1/2" AW, 1/2" S, 31" LOA, 2 1/2" W pressed in snap Bottom of sash is bound.
2. 12"A **4 3/4**" F 1 1/2" AW 9/16S 28 1/4" LOA 2 1/2" W pressed in snap Bottom of sash is bound

Felt Arrow **Sash appears to be canvas**

3. 13 3/4" **4 1/4"F** 1 1/2"AW 7/16"S 35 1/2" LOA 2 1/2" W pressed in snap
4. 13 1/2" **4 1/4"F** 1 1/2"AW 7/16"S 29 3/4" LOA 2 5/8" W pressed in snap, both sides are bound

Felt Arrow on Felt sash w/Large 6" fletching

1 17"A , **6**"F, 1 3/4" AW, 1/2"S, 26" LOA 2 1/2" W Bottom of sash is folded & sewn.
2 17"A, **6**"F, 2"AW 5/16"S 25 1/2"LOA 2 1/2" W Sewn in snaps
One exists sewn in the middle

It is my belief that all the sashes on this page were discontinued before 1930. None are visible in the group photo of arrow-men wearing numerous styles of sashes at the 1933 Grand Lodge Meeting.

All other Ordeal (Brotherhood) sashes described in this text have fletching of no more than 3" length. The length of the fletching is what identifies and makes the sashes on this page early and unique.

1933

Thin Arrow Thin Shaft "diamond point" **red felt arrow on white felt "eastern" 1930's sashes**

1. 14 3/8"A, 1"5/8"F, 1"A, 3/8"SW, 25"LOA w/snap pressed into felt. bottom of sash is cut to a v
2. 14 3/4"A, 1 1/2"F 1 1/16"A, 1/2"SW, 25" LOA w/snap pressed into felt, bottom of sash is cut to a v
3. 15"A, 1 3/4"F 1"A, 5/16"SW, 28 1/4"LOA w/sewn in snap, bottom of sash is cut to a v.
4. 15 3/4"A 1 3/4"F, 1"A, 5/16"SW, 29" LOA w/sewn in snap, bottom of sash is cut to a v.

Sash #2 has POP 1932 written inside. Sash #3 came to me with a 1933 Camp Delmont Red Cross card. Only one of this style of sash can be seen in the 1933 Grand Lodge Meeting photograph.

I am tempted but not quite ready to declare this the Camp Delmont, Lodge 43 sash. It seems odd that a lodge in such close proximity to Unami & official suppliers would have their own unique sashes. BUT, my research has not revealed any evidence that this sash was used elsewhere.

1933

Thinner Shaft, (1/2" to 9/6") red felt arrow on white felt.

1. 12 1/2"A, 2 5/16"F, 2"AW, **1/2**" SW, 28 3/4"LOA, pressed in snap. Chicago Garrison 1944
2. 12 3/4"A, 2 3/4"F, 2"AW, **1/2**"SW, 28 1/2" LOA, pressed in snap

#2 is similar to #1 but in addition to the minor size differences, the arrow is sewn higher on the sash.

3. 12 7/8"A, 2 3/4"F, 1 1/2"AW, **1/2**"SW, 29 1/2"LOA, pressed in snap. Chicago 1941
4. 135/16"A 3"F 2AW 9/16:SW 29"LOA pressed in snap

Thicker Shaft, (5/16 to 3/4") red felt arrow on white felt

1. 13 1/2"A , 3"F, 2"SW, **3/4**"WA, 28 3/4"LOA, snap pressed in
2. 12 1/2"A 2 1/2"F, 2"SW **5/16**"WA, 29" LOA, snap pressed in
3. 13"A, 2 5/16"F, 1 7/8"SW, **3/4**"WA, 30 3/4"LOA no snap or closure, name inside Paul Young
4. 13 3/4"A, 3"F, 2"SW , **3/4**"WA ,29 1/2" LOA with a 1942 membership card

4A Snap pressed into felt 4B No Snap

This arrowhead is unusual in that it is flat across the bottom while most have V's
12 1/2"A, 3"F, 2" SW, **7/8"** WA, 29" OAL . Snap pressed in
This style of arrowhead can be identified in 1930's felt on felt sashes.

Dating thick & thin arrow felt sashes. I am prepared to say that thin shaft sashes were available before the wider shaft styles. However, there is evidence that some thin shaft sashes were presented as late as 1944. There could be numerous explanations for this but one might be that there were two manufacturers with design styles (like badge manufacturers) and ones design called for a smaller arrow shaft. There are no thick shaft arrows visible in the 1933 photograph.

Editors Note: I believe this is just the tip of the iceberg for felt on felt sashes
A lot more investigating needs to be done.

White cloth sashes with red cloth arrows

I have had several of these type sashes come into my possession and ALL have been from Chicago during the WW II years of 1942-1946, After the second or third specimen I began to check more thoroughly (when possible) and it is now my opinion that these sashes were made by the Moqua Chapter of Owasippe Lodge.
My research has revealed that other chapters of Owasippe Lodge were using nationally issued sashes during the same era, see felt on felt thin arrow #1, which I can positively track to the Garrison Chapter of Owasippe Lodge.

1 11"A , 2 1/2"F, 1 1/2" AW, 3/8"S, 28" LOA 2 3/4" W sewn on snap 7 1/2" from bottom
Arrow is sewn onto white cloth with white stitching .
2 10 1/2"A, 2 1/2"F, 1 1/2"AW 3/8"S 28"LOA 2 3/4" W sash is secured with a button & hole
Arrow is sewn onto white cloth with red stitching. These cloth sashes have binding around the edges
These sashes are hand made and there could be an infinite number of variations.

Unique Felt on felt sashes

It may seem odd to separate out a sash as "unique" when it appears that many of the earliest sashes were made locally in small quantities. But this issue and perhaps others will be added, is so different than the "standard" sash that it somehow qualifies in my mind as unique.

Chiseled arrowhead, with a unique back part of the arrowhead, unknown on other felt on felt sashes, the feathers remind me of a tulip and the shaft of the arrow extends beyond what would be the fletching. This specimen is an older sash with discoloration in the felt and mothing.

Understanding Screen Printing

To intelligently collect the red 'flocked" sashes one must have a bit of knowledge of the screen printing process. Screen printing is a process where a screen, comprised of a membrane into which a design has been etched allows ink to pass through the screen while not allowing ink to pass through other parts of the screen. When the membrane becomes clogged with ink the ink transferred onto the sash is not as crisp and details are obscured. Solvents are used to clean the screen but ultimately the screen has a life span and it must be replaced. I have tried to take this into account in attempting to describe differences in the Flocked Felt Sashes. I have described differences that were part of the screen design and tried to avoid differences caused by screens being clogged with ink that would create variations. Thus, I have concentrated on distinct points in the fletching or chips in the arrowheads. Some may find this difficult to follow, and I suggest you collect as you chose. ANY AND ALL SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOME.

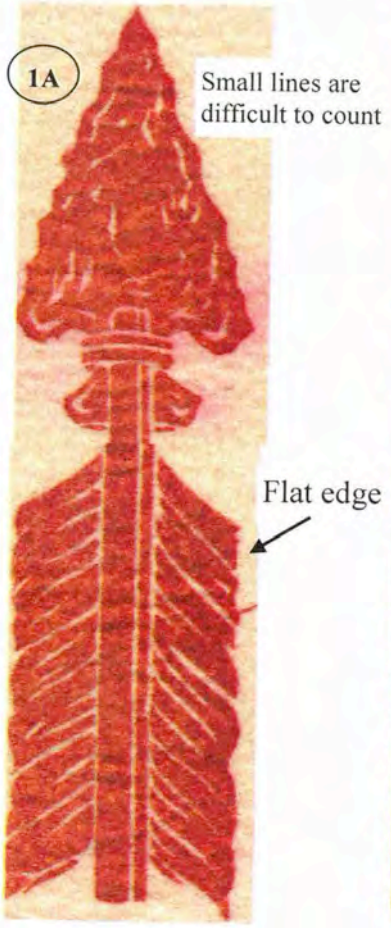
Type 1 1948 to 1950 Screen Print sashes

The screen print sash was introduced in 1948. This design style is the earliest and this design is unknown in the Brotherhood introduced in 1950.

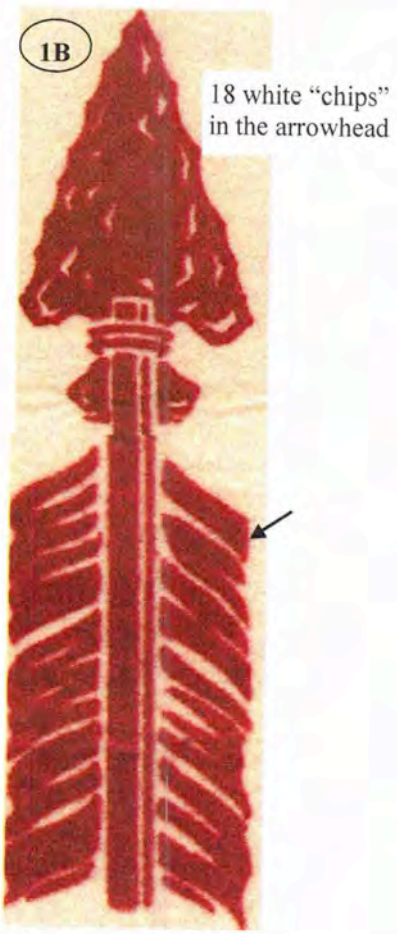
Characteristics of Type 1 sashes

The two lines that attach the arrowhead to the arrow shaft are separate and not attached to other lines in the screen.

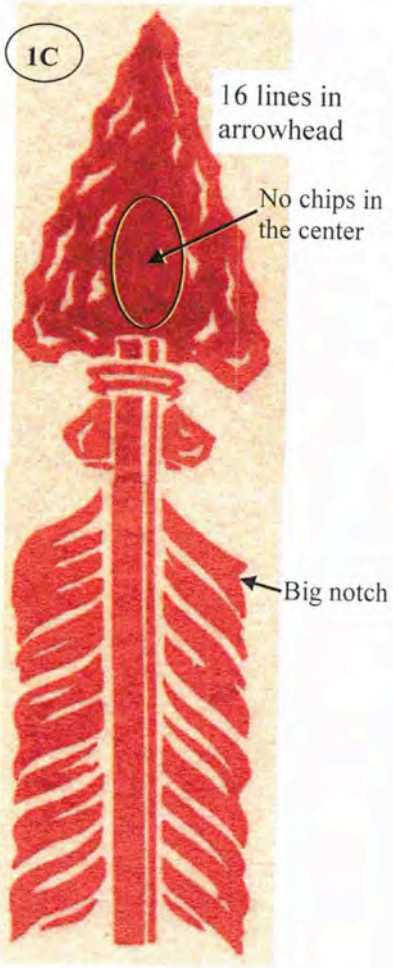
At the bottom of the fletching there is one line on each side of the bottom The detailing of these feathers is one way to identify the varieties.

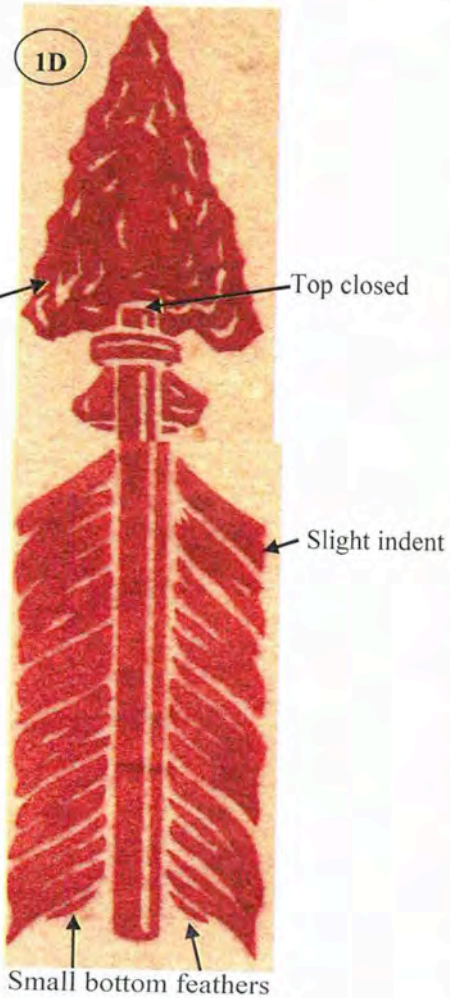


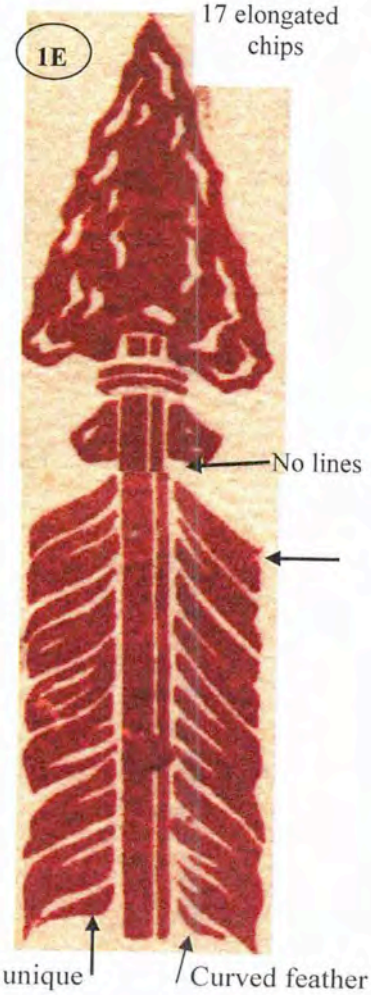
Fletching nearly touch the shaft



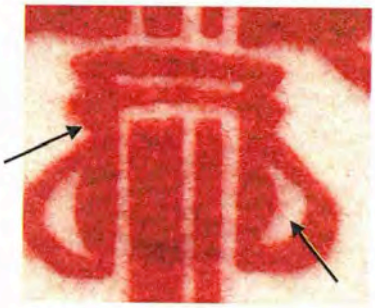
Fletching away from the shaft







Characteristics of Type 2 sashes



The two lines that attach the arrowhead to the arrow shaft are part of the other lines in the arrowhead. Unlike #1 sashes the left & right sides of the arrowhead have white showing through.

Fletching above the bottom of the shaft
Tiny indentation small NOTCH

Fletching is below the shaft
Notch in bottom right
Two indents in bottom left

Fletching below arrow the shaft
NO Right notch Small notch in bottom left feather

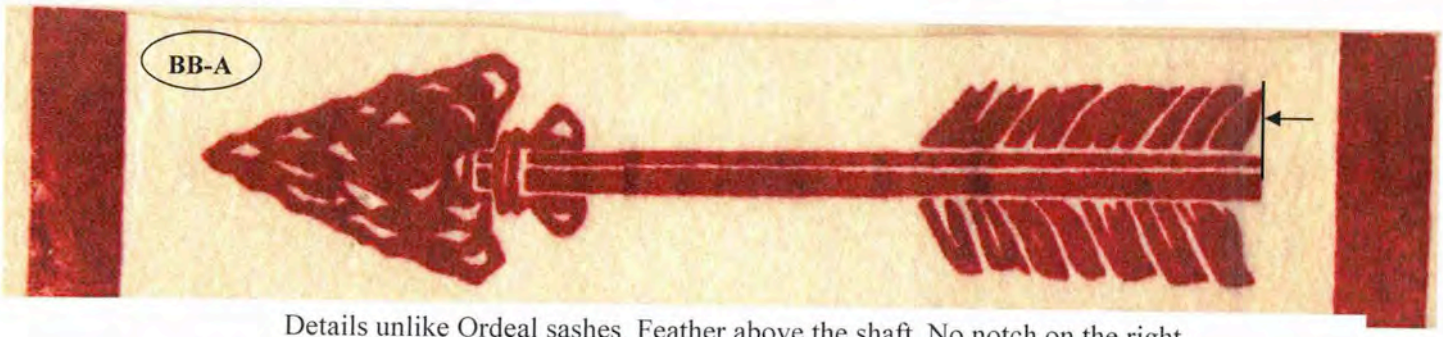
Unique , rectangular fletching
Second from the right bottom

Unique long bottom right Feather. Fletching nearly touches the shaft on both sides

Felt Brotherhood Sashes

I NEED TO ORGANIZE THESE TYPES TO AGREE W/ORDEAL & VIGIL

Sashes with "bars" were introduced in the Spring of 1950. Prior to that time the standard sash was worn over the right shoulder by Ordeal members and over the left shoulder by Brotherhood members. After 1950 all sashes were worn over the right shoulder.



Details unlike Ordeal sashes Feather above the shaft No notch on the right

No notch on the right
Notch on the left
Same screen as O2-D

Fletching is below the shaft
Notch in bottom right
Two indents in bottom left
Same as O2-C , screen in the arrowhead is partially plugged

Fletching is below the shaft Similar to C
Arrowhead same as O2-F Different chips in the arrowhead

It's tempting to say that the differences developed in these sashes are too "picky" and I am not one to dictate how others collects. It seems to me that these sashes were made during an era when the Order of the Arrow was experiencing tremendous expansion. Differences can be explained by the numerous screens and perhaps different manufacturers making sashes. Collect as you wish but I am pointing out the differences that I can identify and perhaps there are others that I have not noticed.

I have 5 more styles of Brotherhood sashes that are different than these and MUCH more needs to be done to develop points of interest in these sashes. **It seems like all Brotherhood sashes "should" exist in the Ordeal design??**

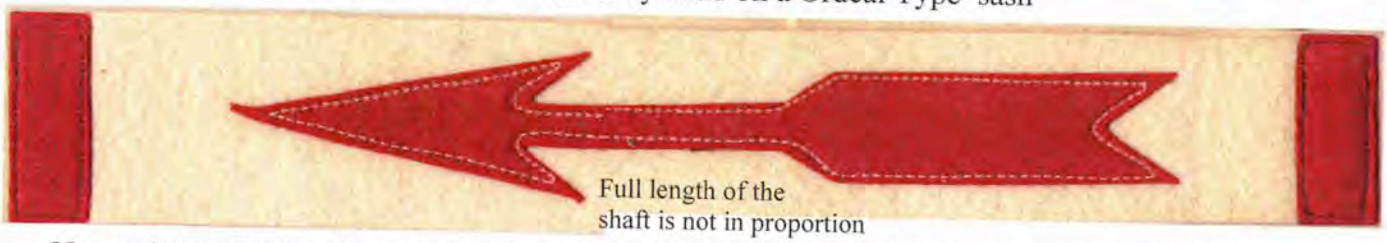
Unusual Brotherhood sashes

Wearing sashes over the left shoulder to identify Brotherhood membership was discontinued in the spring of 1950. The new printed/flocked arrow design on felt sashes was introduced and all sashes were worn over the right shoulder. Somewhere I read (and I'm still searching for where) that brotherhood bars could be added to existing sashes. I did not believe this was a wide spread practice until I discovered this photo of Unami arrow-men at the 1952 NOAC and saw two individuals with bars on felt arrow sashes. In retrospect, if one has an Arrow sash, it is worn only occasionally, buying a new sash which will be worn seldom might have seemed a waste of money. But individuals interested and active enough to attend a NOAC sewing bars on sashes caused me to rethink this situation. WERE SOME NEW FELT SASHES MADE WITH FELT BROTHERHOOD BARS? Perhaps in an effort to "use up "old felt on felt supplies?

Unami delegates at 1952 NOAC

Bars "apparently" added to felt on felt sashes

Small red bar sewn on by hand on a Ordeal Type sash



Full length of the shaft is not in proportion

Unusual "professionally made" sash with bars. Ordeal style not identified elsewhere This very nicely made sash poses questions that I am not prepared to deal with. It appears to have been sewn with great skill, although that's not to say that some ones mother couldn't have made it. The arrow is sewn on with a whitish-red thread while the bars are sewn on with a dark red thread that blends into the red felt. This sash raises question (in my mind), did a lodge continued to make felt sashes after the screen printed design was approved, or did the maker of the felt on felt sashes perhaps add felt bars to existing sashes to get rid of inventories?

I'm not sure how collectible these sashes with "added on" bars can be. The potential for varieties seems potentially endless. I don't believe we should draw any conclusions about dating sashes or styles of sashes because of the possibilities. An individual inducted in the 1930's might return to Scouting with their son in the 1950's and find out he's not supposed to wear the sash over the left shoulder. He could replace his 20 year old sash or he could sew two small red bars to his old sash.

The Earliest Vigil sashes

The first Vigil sash is widely recognized as the three piece sashes worn by Goodman and Edson at the 1921 organizing meeting. It is unknown if these three piece sashes were worn by the other Vigils or if these sashes were ceremonial in nature. In 1921 there were only 8 Vigils and all were Unami arrow-men.

It is generally believed that the "no arrow" sash with a piece of the arrow shaft below the fletching is the earliest "regular" style, circa mid-1920's. What has confused some collectors is the belief that this "no arrow" sash was used through the mid-1930's. Advanced collectors now recognize that the "later" no arrow sash widely attributed to the 1933 Grand Lodge Meeting is a distinctly different sash, although of the "no arrow" design. The earliest Vigils in the west were in Chicago in 1929 and a cloth sash with small embroidered arrows in the triangle is well documented to "western" Vigils (Lodge 7, 16, 40 and perhaps Lodge 51) in a 1929 to 1932 period. It is now believed that the thin arrow cloth sash with felt Vigil triangle and felt arrows, shown to the right, was used sometime in the late 1920's or at least before 1933 by the eastern lodges. All three of these style sashes can be seen in the 1933 Grand Lodge Meeting photograph.

Type 1 Vigil sash
Note: How high the triangle is on the sash

Type 1 arrows have a piece of shaft beyond the fletching

This sash belonged to Wm. Forest, Chicago, 1930

Victor Alm
Vigil 1931
Chicago
1933 photo

2 1/4" arrows 1/8" thick shaft
Triangle is 4 1/2"

WHO IS THIS MAN ?
1933 near Delmont delegation?

George Keller Unami Chief 1932
is written inside this sash

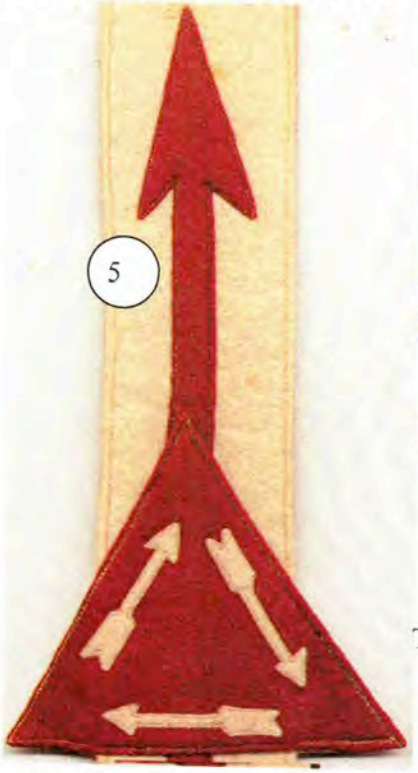
Type 1 2 3/4" wide felt sash, red felt triangle with white felt arrows sewn on. 60" overall length sash (30" each side). The triangle is sewn onto the sash close to the top. When you see the Type 1 sash in photos you can usually recognize it because the triangle is usually above the wearers heart.
Type 2 2 3/4" wide cloth (cotton) with red cloth arrow. White cloth triangle with unique machine stitched arrows. 6" long fletching. ***I have NOT identified any Ordeal sashes with this design.***
Type 3 1 7/8" wide cloth sash. The sash itself is "padded" and almost 1/8" thick. The arrow shaft is 1/2" thick and unlike any Ordeal arrow and sash that I have identified.

Dimensions and specific details of these sashes have been purposely limited.

Vigil sashes continued

It is known that Vigil members recognized in 1933 received the "*second style no arrow sash*". I have documented this sash to Bob Eikenberry (Lodge 2) awarded at a eastern regional event and to George Hinn of Lodge 40 presented at the 1933 Grand Lodge Meeting. What surprises some researchers is that Walter Christensen of Lodge 7 received the "*second style no arrow sash*" as late as 1935. The evidence seems to be that this style of sash was used during a 3 year period (33-35) during which 68 Vigils were awarded, although dating sashes is a topic I will deal with separately.

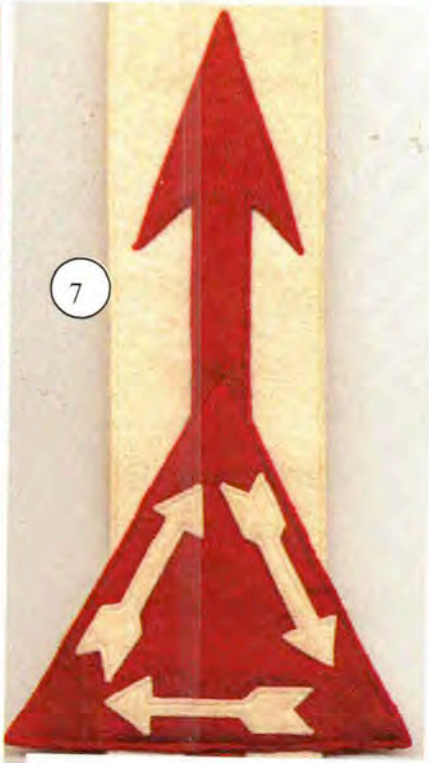
1 7/8" arrows 3/16" thick shaft
Triangle is 4 1/2"



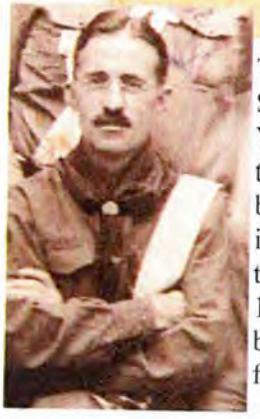
2 1/8" Arrows, 1/8" thick shaft
Triangle measures 4 3/4"

Unusually thick
7/8" arrow

Triangle on 6 is
identical to 5



2 3/8" arrows 1/4" thick shaft
Triangle measurers 4 1/2"



Type 4 No Arrow Sash circa 1933
You can identify the sash as Type 4 because the arrow is sewn lower on the sash than Type 1 and is concealed by the wearers folded arms.

Shaft is 1/2" thick
The arrow is 14" long

Shaft is 7/8" thick
The arrow is 13 3/4"long

Shaft is 5/8" thick
The arrow is 13" long

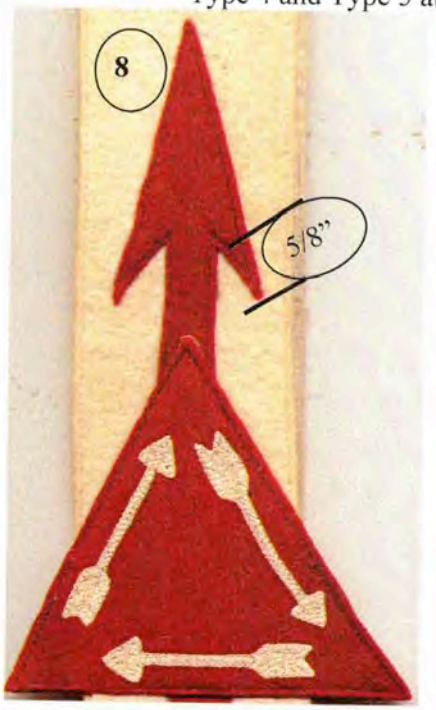
Type 4 No arrow Sash. *Second style* Triangle is sewn in the middle of the sash. Arrows have no part of the arrow shaft extending beyond the fletching. 1933-1935 Sash & triangle have a white cloth backing.
Type 5 Thin 1/2" arrow , Smaller arrows on the triangle, bottom of triangle is 4 **3/4**"
Type 6 Thickest 7/8" arrow, Smaller arrows on the triangle, bottom of triangle is 4 **3/4**" Date on sash 1939
Type 7 Thick 5/8" arrow, Large arrows on the triangle, bottom of triangle is 4 **1/2**".
Characteristics of Type 5-7 sashes: White felt sash with a red felt arrow sewn on. The felt sash has a **cloth (linen?) backing** and the red felt triangle has a similar **white cloth (linen) backing**. The arrows on the red Vigil triangle are pieces of white felt sewn onto the triangle. .

There is potential for confusing Type 5 with Type 3, both have thin arrows but Type 3 is more pointed and on a padded cloth sash while Type 5 is on a felt sash. The Vigil triangles are similar.

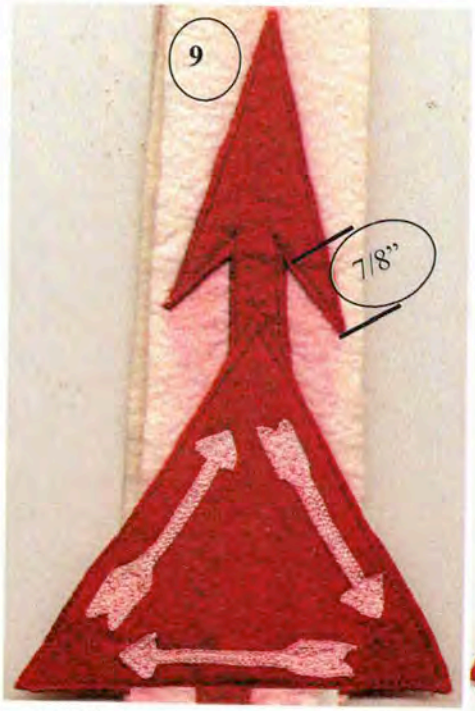
AM I MISSING ONE??? The minutes of the 1936 meeting; *Vigil Honor members reported that incorrect bands have been discovered. The correct band is the regular arrow band with a red triangle and white arrows pointing* ***clockwise****. Lodges are reminded that the small arrows in the triangle are to point CLOCKWISE"* **A counterclockwise felt on felt sash must exist.?**

Type 4 and Type 5 at the 1938 National meeting

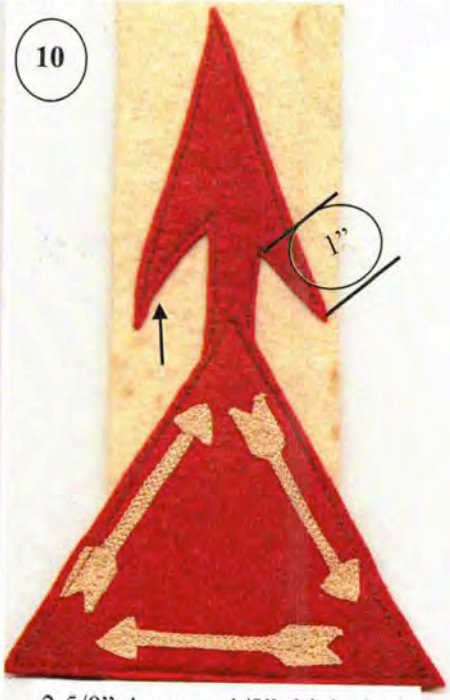
Type 6 or 7 "thick arrow" in 1938



2 1/4" Embroidered Arrows, 1/8" thick shaft Triangle measures 4 3/8"

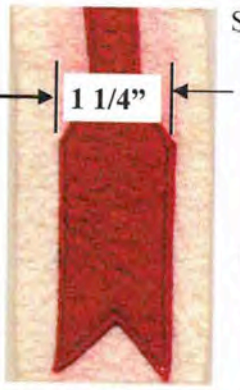


2 1/4" Arrows, 1/8" thick shaft Triangle measures 4 3/8"



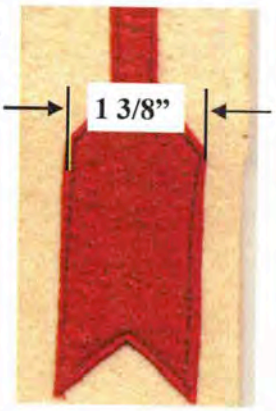
2 5/8" Arrows, 1/8" thick shaft Triangle measures 4 3/4"

Sash is Lined



Sashes are NOT Lined

1946 NOAC



Type 8 5/8" thick arrow, 12 3/4" arrow similar to Type 7.but with a slightly smaller head. Red felt Vigil triangle with white ***embroidered*** *arrows* instead of the earlier white felt arrows. The bottom of the triangle is 4 3/8" wide. **This sash and the triangle has a white backing.**

Type 9 Similar to 8, slightly deeper V in arrowhead, slightly wider fletching. After Type 9 sashes no longer have a sewn in lining. This style of sash was awarded at the 1946 NOAC

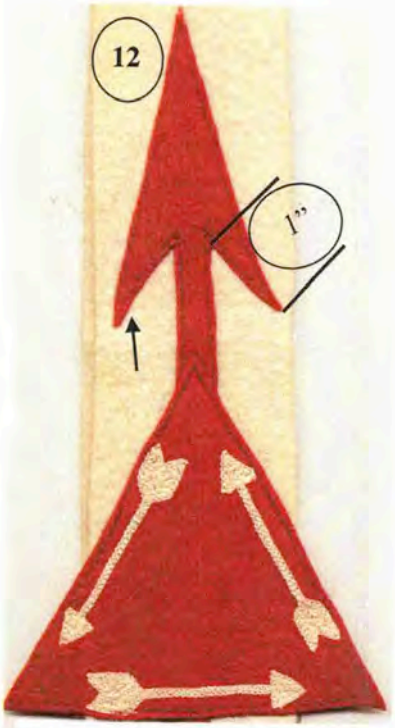
Type 10 Deeper V in arrowhead, wider fletching, curve to left arrow point, Longer embroidered arrows on triangle. Bottom of the triangle is 4 3/4" wide. A unique sash unlike others of this style. The overall length of this sash is **only 25 1/2" long** (51" opened) All others are 28 1/2" (58 opened) This style of arrow is similar to the sashes with counter clockwise arrows.

Sashes 8, 9 & 10 have embroidered arrows in the Vigil triangle.

Counterclockwise embroidered. Arrows the sash is fully lined

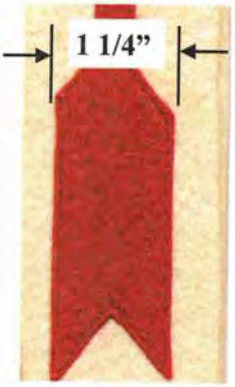
Counterclockwise
Embroidered arrows

ISSUE SEQUENCE IS WRONG, Red Sash came in 1950.



2 1/2" Arrows, 1/6" thick shaft
Triangle measures 4 1/4"

National Committee Sash



1948 NOAC

Type 11 National Committee reverse colors sash. Counterclockwise arrows. Believed introduced in 1950 and used through 1953. The sash is fully lined although other sashes made after 1946 are NOT lined. I am purposely not giving dimensions for fear of faking. At least one fake and one representation sash made for display are known to exist.

Type 12 ***Counterclockwise*** Arrows on Vigil triangle. 7/16" thick arrow, 12 1/4" long arrow, the bottom left side of the arrows point is longer than the right, the bottom of the triangle is 4 1/4" wide, I can not document the sequence of Type 10 & 12. I know that Type 12 was issued at the 1948 NOAC but the unusual Type 10 may be earlier or later.

Type 9 Counter Clockwise Arrows & Type 11 sashes at the 1950 NOAC

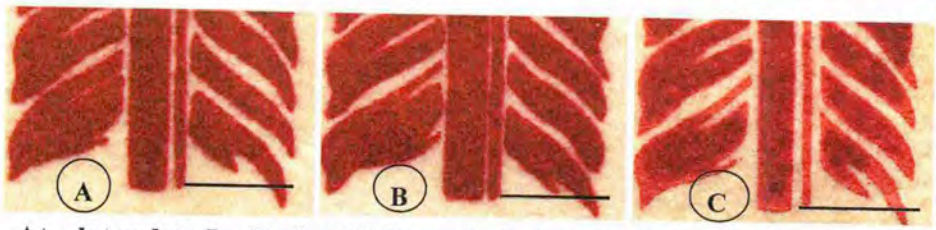
Counter Clockwise Embroidered Arrows worn at the 1952 NOAC

White in the arrows is flocked not "painted"

White in the arrows is "painted, NOT flocked

Screen Printed Triangles w/"ink" on red felt
As shown on Type 14A **Counterclockwise** Arrows

13. Wider 2 3/8" sash, Larger Flocked Triangle (Larger than other screened varieties) 4 1/2" 4 1/2 & 4 3/4""
14. **Counter**clockwise arrows The arrows on the triangle are "flocked" (fuzzy like the arrow) not "paint" like others
14. 2 1/8" wide sash, Screen printed (ink) Smaller Triangle 4 1/2" x 4 1/2" x 4".**Counter Clockwise** arrows
    A Right notch in fletching, although chips in the arrowhead are different.
    17 chips in the arrowhead
    B. Smaller notch in right fletching, 17 different chips in arrowhead
    C. Longer notch in right fletching, 17 different chips in arrowhead



At a later date I will identify the sash design by the numbering system I have developed for Ordeal printed sashes.

There is the potential for variations in the way the triangle is sewn onto the sash Triangles have two "long" sides & one shorter side. The shortest side is usually the bottom. Type 13 has the 4 1/2" side to the right.

It may be possible that there are other screen printed Vigil sashes, more research is needed to identify others. These sashes were used during an era when 250+ Vigils were awarded per year.

Feb 1951 Nat'l Mtg

Screen printed Vigil sashes with small triangle inside the sash. Introduced 19?? discontinued 1955 ***I MUST CONFIRM THESE DATES*** . Embroidered sashes were first introduced in January of 1955.

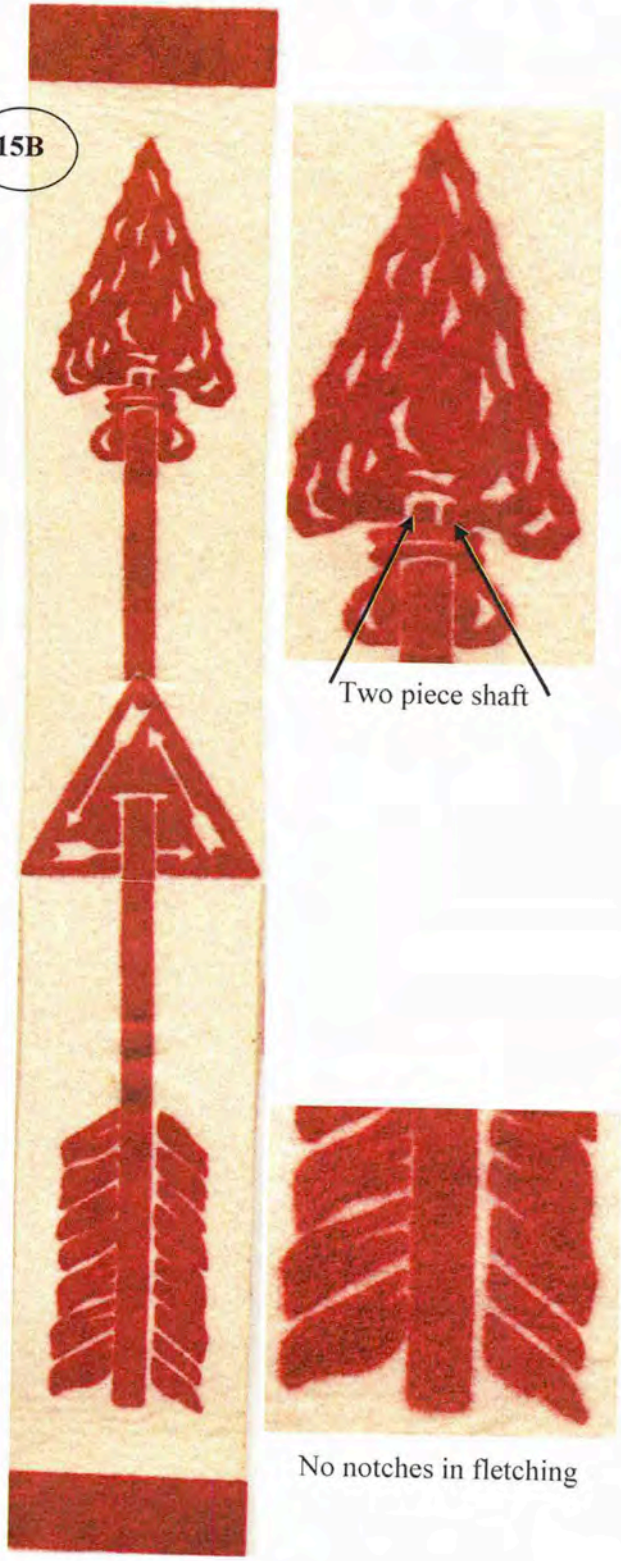
Counterclockwise Arrows

15A

One piece shaft

Notch in left & right fletching

15B



Two piece shaft

No notches in fletching

It is possible that there are other screen designs of this type of sash. They were issued for a short period (I must research this further) in an era when there were 300+ Vigils per year being awarded. It seems likely that all of those sashes were not made from just a couple of screens. There has been discussion about the existence of a reverse screen sash; that is where the screen was accidentally turned over and the details like the arrows in the triangle or the notches in the fletching might be reversed. I don't believe many people have been looking that closely at these sashes but I suspect that will change.

A few unique Vigil sashes.

The owner of this sash apparently didn't like the small triangle Vigil sash. He procured a large screen print triangle and sewed it onto this later style sash.

A leather sash with autographs, originally owned by A. Geller Unami Lodge

A beautifully hand embroidered sash dated 1952. Kahagon could be lodge 131 or a Chapter of Lodge 7.

Beaded Sashes In the modern era beaded sashes are widely available as souvenir items from numerous sources. This trend started with Vigil sashes sometime in the late 1940's. The earliest beaded sash that I am able to document is the 1946 Vigil sash of Eugene Houck of Lone Wolf Lodge 182. Bob Finehout, a famous Indiana arrow-man personally beaded numerous sashes and presented them to Lodge 75, 142 and 182 Vigils, during the late 1950's and early 1960's era.

1946 Type 9 sash that has been beaded

Beaded type 15 Vigil sash (screen print w/small triangle)
A large leather triangle is sewn over the smaller one .

I am not showing the various styles of machine made beaded sashes.

Vigil Sashes Clockwise or Counterclockwise

It's interesting to track the difficulty of establishing a national "standard" for OA sashes. This is especially brought to light by the difficulty in keeping the direction of the small arrows in the Vigil triangle pointing in the proper direction. In the minutes of the 1936 National meeting it was reported that "incorrect" Vigil bands had been identified with the arrows pointing counterclockwise and lodges were reminded that the small arrows in the triangle are to point clockwise. Vigil sashes presented in 1948 (at the NOAC) had embroidered **counter** clockwise arrows. The National Committee sash of the early 1950's had **counter-**clockwise arrows and the screen printed Vigil triangle sashes, large and small, of the 1950's had **counter-**clockwise arrows. Embroidered cloth sashes in the modern era have counter clockwise arrows, although clockwise sashes from the 1970's and later exist. It seems that sometime in the late 1940's a conscious decision was made to switch the direction of the arrows in the Vigil triangle.

Scarcity of Vigil sashes

These numbers are from the History of the OA by Davis (page 43)

1915-1	1931-21	1944-26
1916-1	1932-30	1945-30
1919-3	1933-25	1946-102
1921-3	1934-17	1947-107
1922-6	1935-26	1948-147
1923-6	1936-60	1949-129
1924-9	1937-25	1950-174
1925-17	1938-54	1951-205
1926-8	1939-38	1952-259
1927-13	1940-27	
1928-17	1941-19	
1929-19	1942-28	
1930-18	1943-25	

From 1915 through 1930 there were only 121 Vigils. Add another 323 from 1931-1940. Most lodges chartered after 1940 didn't induct their first Vigil until about 1946. (Lodge 182 Gene Houck) Lodge 95 recognized their first Vigils in 1946, etc. I have not researched this but would estimate that 75% of the lodges didn't recognize their first Vigils until 1951 or 1952

When you consider that Vigil sashes Type 1 through 7 were only presented to roughly 444 arrow-men and the National Committee sash to roughly 10 or 12 men you come to realize how truly rare and precious these items are. More Vigil sashes were awarded in 1951 & 1952 than the previous 35 years.

Mis-information, fakes and outright foolishness. Part of the problem in studying sashes is having enough knowledge to recognize foolishness and poor research by others. In the original work on sashes Arapapaho I by Hoogeveen, a photo of a BLACK Vigil sash is shown (page 186) looking at the photo it is clear that the sash is "new" and probably made as a representation of what was believed at that time to have been a "real" black Vigil sash. We now recognize this is incorrect but it is published in what must be called part of the historic record. I'll address the legend of the black sash as perpetuated in The History of the OA by Davis, elsewhere. But, Davis had to work hard to get it so wrong in his otherwise excellent book. Perhaps like Hoogeveen in Arapaho, he was relying on other sources and didn't have enough knowledge of sashes to recognize faulty research by others. In the 1975 Unami Lodge Pictorial History (page 7) it is stated that at the end of 1915 "there were 25 members sporting the black sashes with **white stripes**". The author of this booklet is unnamed and I have no way of knowing why the Unami writer thought that WWW members were wearing a black sash with a white stripe. Although, this style of sash was used in the earliest ceremonies. I do not believe that members of the WWW in Unami in 1915 were wearing black sashes and IF it were true, how did the black sash legend come to have an arrow instead of a stripe? On the first page I have already commented on the Salvation Army black sashes.

The potential for fakes of any of these felt on felt sashes is great. I was almost fooled by a Ron Oslin at a Philly TOR years ago. He had a felt on felt Vigil sash that was beautiful. Under close inspection it was "too perfect". First he didn't know that a sash from that era should have a lining and at the time I wasn't certain of that fact. He told me he had a "line" on a National Committee sash and when I saw something of red felt in his brief case, our conversation ended. I did not have enough knowledge to confront him but later wish I had. I learned that he was a known faker in felts.(246 Wakota, etc) I have no doubt that these sashes found their way into someone's collection. That individual will argue like hell that they are authentic. That's one of the problems scouting collectors face. Someone gets "scammed" for a lot of money but doesn't want to admit to such a mistake. Instead they make up stories to hide their foolishness and every one who doesn't "believe" is a fool. It's a fascinating example of arrogance and ego that we frequently see in our hobby. Anyone who questions is treated with condescension.

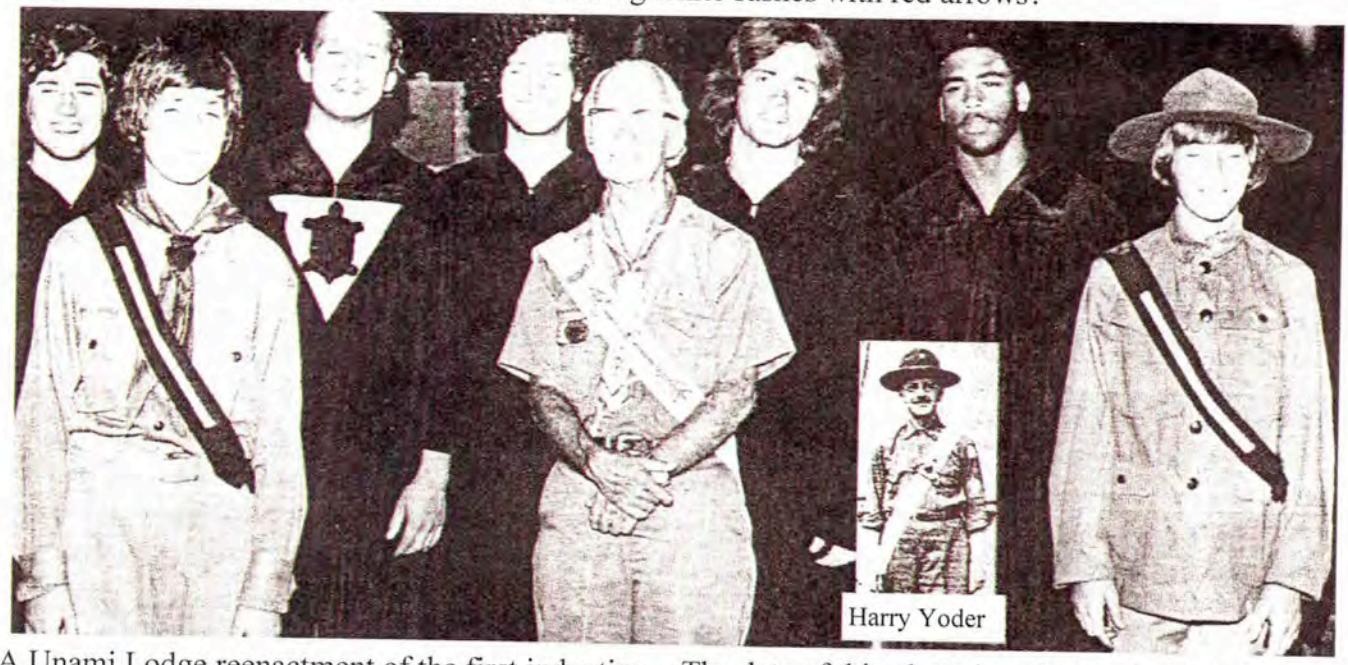
Curiosity/Fake/Questionable Cloth on cloth sash with a 1960's Treasure Island Camp & Unami Lodge round & Yoder stencil. This sash came to me from a supposedly knowledgeable sash collector. It is claimed that this sash had belonged to Harry Yoder of Unami Lodge and it was valued very highly by the owner. I discounted this information because I recognize the sash as a "Chicago" sash. I have heard that Harry Yoder, III. moved to Chicago from Philadelphia, I can not document this. The "famous" Harry Yoder, First Guide and Guardian of Unami Lodge received Vigil in 1919. I can find no explanation why ***he*** would wear an Ordeal sash and I can't imagine how a seemingly knowledgeable collector would believe he would. On the other hand I could see an arrow-man named Yoder, perhaps even a relative of "the" famous Harry Yoder, living in Chicago, sewing badges from the founding lodge on his sash. Or, I could see deceitful individuals sewing such badges from the 1960's on what they believe to be an older sash and hoping that someone will believe it's a sash from much earlier. *In any case, a curiosity and perhaps a warning of things to come.*

Prototypes/Chief's Award (?)

There seems to be a trend in collecting that when ever anything unusual comes along if it doesn't end up being called a fake, it usually is labeled a prototype. Those of you who have known me over 30 year know that I frequently rail against such assertions.. I have no doubt that prototypes were made, selling and manufacturing sashes by the tens of thousands was big business and different manufacturers were vying for the business, submitting samples, etc. This sash is a screen printed Brotherhood of standard issue but the arrow and Brotherhood bars are outlined in embroidered gold. Perhaps it was a presentation sash for a lodge or chapter officer or a prototype or maybe just a sash that a skilled sewing machine operator put a gold border on. *I do not know but present it for your inspection.*

1921 WWW organizational meeting at Camp Biddle, Philadelphia Council, Pennsylvania

E.U. Goodman in three piece Vigil sash and robe . Carroll Edson, behind to his left with three piece Vigil sash. Only 8 of the roughly 40 individuals in this photo are wearing sashes. Is it because sashes were new in 1921? Although the WWW was started in 1915, the second lodge wasn't founded until 1919 and the lodges that would become #3-#7 weren't organized until 1920 & 1921. The WWW was very new at this 1921 organizing meeting. When did Unami arrow-men start wearing white sashes with red arrows?



A Unami Lodge reenactment of the first induction. The date of this photo is unknown but Goodman is elderly. The principal characters of the ceremony are in robes and the boys in uniform are the guides for the ceremony. I do not know if these robes or black sashes with white stripes are the original from 1915, or made for the occasion. It is my guess that someone with knowledge of the original ceremony had the costumes fashioned to reflect what they were like in 1915. The guides wore black sashes with a white stripe to help lead the campers through the dark. Note that these are **not** arrows, just long white bars. In this era the group wasn't known as the Order of the Arrow, so arrows weren't used. A man named Harry Yoder was the original Guide and Guardian of Unami Lodge and in the reenactment one of the Scouts in uniform would be representing Harry Yoder. Later in written memoirs; Mr. Yoder wrote that he recalled wearing a black sash. This would be a true statement, as the original Guide and Guardian of Unami lodge he would have worn a black sash with a white bar on it. But, people without the knowledge of the ceremonial nature of the black sash might draw the conclusion that in the early years members of the WWW, they were NOT yet arrow-men, wore black sashes. I wish we could positively date the first use of a white sash with an arrow on it. The WWW wasn't called the Order of the Arrow until 1923 and then primarily in Chicago

8/16/2007

Dear Patch L'ers

Attached is my January 2007 draft on OA sashes. It's about the 3rd time that I've written on sashes and the point of this worksheet was an attempt to enlist knowledgeable collectors in sharing knowledge. This was originally mailed to people who I know to have OA sash collections, in most case old friends. What I unfortunately discovered was that while several people may have "a lot" of sashes, hardly anyone knows what they have or for that matter what they didn't have or anything about dating or classifying sashes.

You will note that this is a "worksheet" and I'm asking questions, making observations, etc. It's a work in progress and I will rewrite it during the winter when I go on vacation. BUT, I think it's the best we GOT. But, welcome any and all advise and suggestions.

In another article I have already addressed the myth of the black sash and knowledgeable collectors have finally come around to my point of view. That is namely, the black sash with a white stripe was a piece of ceremonial gear worn by Kitchniket and Nunitek in the very earliest ceremonies. There is an often repeated story about Harry Yoder remembering he wore a black sash in the early years. WELL, Harry Yoder was the original guide and guardian (Kitchineket) and as the guide he WOULD HAVE WORN A BLACK SASH. This type of antidotal information has plagued me all the years I have been researching Scouting insignia and history. Individuals without a thorough knowledge of the subject take a piece of information from an eyewitness that remembers something 50 years ago as gospel. The earliest known photo of Arrow-men wearing sashes is circa 1921; first the well known photo of delegates at the organizing meeting (around the campfire) and secondly an August 1921 Philadelphia newspaper clipping showing Lodge officers in white sashes with red arrows. There is absolutely no documentation (what so ever) that anyone, other than the Guard and Guide in the early ceremonies, ever wore black sashes.

In any case, I hope you enjoy the pamphlet. The original question on Patch L was "what is a flocked sash" and I hope this will at least answer that question.

Best Regards,

Paul E. Myers, Jr. Goshen, In

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