

1632 - 1660. Captured before the peace treaty with Poland in 1660.

H. 99 cm, W. 78 cm. Cloth of taffeta. Appliqué ornamentation with the drawings and outlines partly embroidered, partly in paint.

From the originally large silk colour — a cruciform flag-light blue cloth with light yellow horizontal and white vertical crossbar (all in conformity with the arms and colours of Sweden, as well as the white coat of arms of Poland) only the middle part at the cross remains.

In accordance with the hardly faded blue and yellow colours of the original cloth, efforts have been made, in conserving the fragments, to complete the cloth in colours which show the shades that were formerly regarded as correct for the Swedish flag.

In the obverse, the front side, the middle of the cross is covered by the image of the Virgin and the Holy Child. The Blessed Virgin is standing on a crescent moon, surrounded by a halo of sunbeams, illustrating moreover the bridegroom's rhetorical question in the Song of Solomon 6,9: "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon, clear as the sun?" The colour's ornaments have been motivated by inscriptions in Latin, which could be read above and below on the cloth: "PRO GLORIA CRUCIS" and "SUB TUO PRAESIDIO", i. e. "To the Glory of the Cross, faithful to Christ" and "Under Thy, the Virgin Mary's protection, we fly this colour".

On the reverse of the colour the middle cross shows the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece, surrounding the coat of arms belonging to one of King Sigismund's sons, Vladislav IV or John Casimir. The coat of arms is composed of the Polish and Swedish arms. The split inescutcheon per pale shows the arms of Vasa on the paternal line and the arms of Austria on the maternal line. The arms are mirror-imaged, probably because of their placing on the reverse of the colour.

The colour was of considerable size. The high quality of the ornaments indicates that the flag belonged to a troop of Life Guards or others of the king's household troops. The ornament, a combination of Poland's and Sweden's colours and coats of arms, is interesting, because it shows that the idea of a union between Poland and Sweden had survived even the death of King Sigismund.