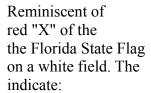
Florida



The State Flag shall commercial sizes and and descriptions: "The one-half the hoist,



Alabama's State Flag and the Confederate States of America, displays two diagonal red bars official state specifications

comform with standard be of the following portions seal of the state, in diameter shall occupy the center of a

white ground. Red bars, in width one-fifth the hoist, shall extend from each corner towards the center, to the outer rim of the seal."

The <u>Great Seal of the State of Florida</u>, at the intersection of the red diagonal bars, features a Native American Seminole woman scattering flowers, a steamboat, a cabbage palmetto tree and a brilliant sun. Florida is thusly represented as the land of sunshine, flowers, palm trees, rivers and lakes... "la Florida"

In 1868, Florida's new State Constitution mandated that the first session of the Legislature must adopt a seal to represent the state. And the Legislature lost no time in coming up with a Joint Resolution that they sent to the Governor in August of that year. The resolution specified that the seal had to be the size of an American silver dollar. It also stated that the seal should contain the sun's rays, a cocoa tree, a steamboat, and a female Indian scattering flowers. These images were to be circled by the words "Great Seal of the State of Florida: In God We Trust."

Several changes have occurred on the seal over the years, although the basic design has been maintained. The Indian woman has changed her clothing and taken off her feathered headdress (only male Seminoles wore headdresses) so that she is now a more authentic Seminole Indian. A mountain in the background has been flattened (Florida has no mountains). The steamboat has been repaired a few times. And a sabal palm has been transplanted in place of the original cocoa tree to reflect the state's adoption of the sabal palmetto palm as the official state tree in 1953.

The latest revisions took place in 1985 and this version of the Great Seal of the State of Florida appears to have been generally accepted as the definitive version.

Sources:

http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/flags/fl flag.htm

http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/seals/fl seal.htm