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Cover design by Lacey Losh.

The yellow-and-black checked flag depicted on the cover is an international maritime signal flag denoting the letter “L” or “Lima.” When flown from a ship, it has been used to indicate that the vessel is under quarantine. The “Q” or “Quebec” flag is solid yellow; while it was apparently used to designate a vessel under quarantine in the past, it evolved to denote that the ship’s captain considered his ship disease-free and thus ready for boarding and inspection by public health authorities in the hope that quarantine would be lifted. Its past association with quarantine for yellow fever led to the term “Yellow Jack,” as it is sometimes referred to in naval lingo.