“Now Babo's disrespect for the flag of Spain may well be representative of the loss of authority by Benito Cereno, but it has a far greater significance as well. A sanbenito is a garment worn around the neck of a heretic. It is defined in Webster's as: sanbenito . . . (under the Spanish Inquisition) 1. a yellow garment ornamented with flames, devils, etc., worn by a condemned heretic at an auto-de-fe. 2. a penitential garment worn by a confessed heretic.”

"The flag of Spain is of a gaudy hue, the background being largely yellow, with the figures of a closed castle and an upright lion upon it—a perfect sanbenito."