ALC Members Meet

The annual meeting of the African Studies Association took place in Washington, D.C., December 5-8, 2002. Members of the Africana Librarians Council arrived early and met for two days to discuss various projects of the Bibliography, Cataloging, and Book Donations Committees. Other cooperative projects were discussed in meetings of CAMP and the Title VI librarians. After the ALC meetings, the librarians joined other ASA conference participants in attending panels and visiting with vendors in the exhibition hall. Apart from attending these meetings, ALC members also participated in various panels at the conference:

- Joanne M. Zellers (Library of Congress) gave orientations to “Using the Library of Congress to Research Eastern Africa and the Western Indian Ocean Region”
- Gretchen Walsh (Boston University) chaired a panel on “Untangling the Web: Resources and Research Strategies on the Internet”, where she also gave a presentation entitled “Integrating the Web into Research Strategies for Africa: Convincing Students that Print is Important; Introducing Traditional Scholars to Internet Resources”
- A Roundtable on “Africa’s 100 Best Books of the 20th Century and the Challenges Before Us” was chaired by Joseph Caruso
- The African and Middle Eastern Division (AMED) of the Library of Congress hosted a symposium sponsored by the newly established Sudanic/Maghaarbi Studies Unit
- Al Kagan (University of Illinois at Urbana/Champaign) chaired a panel on “Building Library Capacity in Africa: More than just ‘Bridging the Digital Divide’” where Deborah LaFond (SUNY-Albany) presented a paper on “Library Capacity Building in Africa”, and Akilah Nosakhere (Atlanta University Center) spoke about “Designing an Anglophone University Library Collection for a Rural Francophone West African Environment”
- Peter Limb (Michigan State University) chaired a Roundtable on “African e-Publishing and Access”, where Marion Frank-Wilson (Indiana University) presented a paper on the role of libraries/librarians in African e-publishing.

Please look for conference news about book awards and vendors in this issue. The issue also contains abbreviated minutes of the Cataloging Committee. Minutes from other meetings will be in the spring issue of ALN. In the interest of saving space for other news, ALC members decided to only include a summary of minutes in future ALN issues. Subscribers who are interested in the complete minutes are referred to ALC’s website at: http://www.loc.gov/rr/amed/9asa.html. Subscribers who do not have easy internet access should contact ALN’s editor, Marion Frank-Wilson. We will be happy to send a print-copy.

A special note of thanks and appreciation goes to outgoing ALC Chair Greg Finnegan, Harvard University, for a job well done!

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Africana Librarians Council Minutes

ALC Cataloging Committee Meeting
Dec 4, 2002: 1:00 pm-2:45 pm, Washington, D.C.
Abbrev. Minutes for ALN

Present: Julianne Beall (Library of Congress), Ruby Bell-Gam (Univ. of California, Los Angeles), Simon Bockie (Univ. of California, Berkeley), Karen Fung (Stanford Univ.), Andrew deHeer (Schomburg Center, NY), Miki Goral (Univ. of California, Los Angeles), Marieta Harper (Library of Congress), Nina Johnsen (Centre of African Studies, Univ. of Copenhagen), Patricia Kuntz (Madison, Wisc.), Joseph Lauer (Michigan State Univ.), Robert Lesh (Northwestern Univ.), Peter Limb (Michigan State Univ.), Peter Malanchuk (Univ. of Florida), Jeff Myers-Hayer (Serial Record Division, LC), Lauris Olson (Univ. of Pennsylvania), Hans Panofsky (Evanston, Ill.), Loumona Petroff (Boston Univ.), Fred Protopappas (LC), Jason Schultz (Northwestern Univ.), Shoshanah Seidman (Northwestern Univ.), Janet Stanley (Smithsonian Inst.), Paul Steere (LC), Barbara Turfan (SOAS, Univ. of London), Gretchen Walsh (Boston Univ.), David Wesley (Boston Univ.), Joanne Zellers (Library of Congress).

Julianne Beall, Assistant Editor, DDC, distributed a copy of the July 19 query to ALC and a copy of the draft area Table 2 for Morocco and Western Sahara that will be included in Dewey Decimal Classification Edition 22.

James Agenbroad forwarded for Committee review a draft proposal (Consolidated Character Repertoire Expansion) that he prepared for the Asian, African and Middle Eastern Section (AAMES) of ALA’s ACRL and for the American Association of Law Libraries. This proposal consolidated a minor request for new characters with AAMES request for the expansion of the MARC 21 character repertoire to include those languages now getting “romanized only” cataloging. The proposal includes a scheme for assigning Unicode values to all letters or characters in the ALA-LC romanization tables that are not yet in MARC 21.

The Committee agreed on the following resolution of support:
Given the long tradition of writing in the Ethiopic script, the significant library collections of Ethiopian-language resources (as represented by librarians at this meeting), the large number of Ethiopian-Americans and Eritrean-Americans who are attempting to preserve their heritage, and the great difficulties readers of these languages have in locating bibliographic records that transcribe or romanize their script in a fashion not common among native speakers, it is a priority for this group that the Ethiopic script be included in the MARC character set as soon as possible.

Jeffrey Myers-Hayer reported on his experience cataloging African serials at LC. In response to questions, he noted that he can assist in updating bibliographic records (African serials on OCLC and African monographs acquired by LC). Questions about serial or other records should be sent to him at jmye@loc.gov.

Africana Subject Funnel: Lauer distributed Fall 2002 report and reviewed some of the problems contributing to delays. Janet Stanley briefly outlined the procedures she follows in submitting heading to AAT (Art & architecture thesaurus). There was a general discussion of the role of reference works in the process of submitting new subjects. It was agreed that those submitting new form headings such as “Marine painting, South Africa” could submit directly via the web without using the funnel.

Other issues: Walsh raised the issue of records with poor subject headings. The push for core records with fewer subject headings was also discussed. Lauer mentioned problem of Zaire still embedded in subject headings.
Call for Applications for ASA-Funded Book Donation Projects for the Year 2003

The ASA makes available up to $3000 annually to assist groups with shipping costs for book donations to African libraries and schools. The Committee generally provides grants in amounts from $200 to $1000. Those applying for partial funding of a project should clearly show how additional funding will be solicited. The grants are intended to encourage innovative projects that incorporate essential elements, including:

1. Recipient participation
Book donation programs should reflect a partnership between institutions in Africa and the US with a liaison contact from each institution. While large scale donations of container-loads of books can be effective, the ASA is trying to fill a perceived gap by increasing the number of small to medium-sized projects that focus on specific, articulated needs. Community based, grassroot project involvement with benefit to broad, non-sectarian populations are encouraged.

2. High quality materials
While books need not be new, they should be in good condition and relevant to the recipient's needs. Books can be procured from libraries' duplicates, personal libraries, books stores, students and publishers.

3. Attention to details of logistics
The project plan should include a place to store books as they are being collected, a means of reviewing the books for physical quality and relevance to the recipient's request, materials and staff for packing, a means of shipping to Africa, and all necessary paperwork for customs and shipping. The ASA cannot offer any services in arranging shipping or other logistics. Our role is to supply funding to the greatest extent possible.

Applications for Funding

1. Project description: Send a 1-3 page description covering:
   - The recipient and relationship to donor
   - The materials requested (specific titles or subject areas)
   - The number of books, and means of obtaining them
   - Shipping and other logistical plans
   - Status of the project----is it already underway, or just in the idea stage?
   - Who will administer the project?
   - Who is the liaison in Africa?

2. Budget
   - What are total costs of the project?
   - How much is the request to the ASA?
   - How will ASA funds be used?
   - For partial funding requests, how will other funds be solicited?

3. Deadline
Applications are due in the ASA Secretariat, c/o Carol Martin, Interim Executive Director, Rutgers University, Douglas Campus, 132 George St., New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1400 no later than June 1, 2003. Electronic submissions are welcome if all accompanying documents can be sent via e-mail or are on the Web. Please send electronic submissions to Interim Executive Director Carol L. Martin: cclmasa@rci.rutgers.edu. A report on the project and brief summary for ASA News are required at the project's completion.

Previous grants are available on the website at the following URL: http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/amed/bkdn99aw.html.

For more information on Book Donation Programs: http://www.albany.edu/~dlafonde/Global/bookdonation.htm


Africana Librarians Council, Book Donation Committee page: http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/amed/bkdncte.html
CALENDAR OF FUTURE MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

**ALA**
- Midwinter Meeting 2003
  Philadelphia, PA, January 24-29
- Midwinter Meeting 2004
  San Diego, CA, Jan. 9-14

**ASA & ALC/CAMP**
- ASA Annual Meeting 2003, Boston, MA
  October 30 – November 2, Sheraton Boston Hotel
- ASA Annual Meeting 2004, New Orleans, LA
  November 11-14, Marriott Hotel in New Orleans’ French Quarter
- ASA Annual Meeting 2005, Washington, D.C.
  November 17-20, Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2003**
- Toronto, Canada, June 19-25

**ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2004**
- Orlando, FL, June 24-30

**ACRL**
- National Conference 2003
  Charlotte, NC, April 10-13

**IFLA Annual Conferences**
- Berlin, Germany, August 1-9, 2003
- Buenos Aires, Argentina, dates TBA, 2004
- Oslo, Norway August 14-19, 2005
- Seoul, Republic of Korea, 2006
- Durban, South Africa, 2007

**TRANSPORTATION FOR ALC’S SPRING MEETING AT YALE UNIVERSITY**
**April 24-26, 2003**

**BY AIR**
There are two airports serving New Haven. The most convenient is Tweed Airport, located 4 miles from downtown. However, Tweed is only serviced by U.S. Airways, and only to and from Philadelphia where there are connecting flights. To check on current schedules see the following: http://www.tweednewhavenairport.com/airport_facilities.htm.

The other airport is Bradley International Airport in Hartford. Bradley is served by all the major airlines: http://www.bradleyairport.com/flights/major.shtml. Bradley is about an hour’s drive from New Haven and the limo service costs about $58.00 roundtrip. See http://www.ctlimo.com/.

It should also be mentioned that Connecticut Limo operates to and from Newark Airport, JFK Airport, and LaGuardia Airport. The round trip fare from New Haven to one of these three airports runs about $90.00. The trip from Newark is about two and half hours; from JFK the trip can be three hours, because the limo stops at La Guardia as well. (This can be a tedious trip, made all the more frustrating by the fact that the distance is only about 70 miles!).

**BY TRAIN**
Train service to New Haven is available via Metro-North from Grand Central Terminal in New York City, or via Amtrak from Boston or New York and points south. From New York, Amtrak uses Penn Station, NOT Grand Central. For Metro-North Schedules see: http://as0.mta.nyc.ny.us/mnr/schedules/sched_results.cfm. The fare on Metro North is about $25.00 round trip depending upon time of day and the trip takes about an hour and forty minutes.
2002 Awards

The 2002 Noma Award

The Arabic Novel: Bibliography and Critical Introduction, 1865-1995 (6 vols.), by Hamdi Sakkut, a monumental reference work on the history of the Arabic novel wins the 2002 Noma Award. The book was published in 2001 by The American University in Cairo Press. The 23rd Award, for 2002, marks the first time that a University Press has won the Award.

The 2002 Conover-Porter Award for Africana Bibliography or Reference Work

The Africana Librarians Council of the African Studies Association is pleased to announce the winners of the twelfth biennial Conover-Porter Award for excellence in Africana bibliography or reference work. Titles eligible for nomination were Africa-related reference works, bibliographies or bibliographic essays published separately or as part of a larger work during 1999, 2000 or 2001.

Since 1980, the African Studies Association has honored outstanding achievement in Africana bibliography and the reference works. Every two years, the Conover-Porter Award winners are selected by the Association’s Africana Librarians Council. The award is named after two distinguished Africana librarians: Helen F. Conover, who enjoyed a long career at the Library of Congress; and, Dorothy B. Porter, who served for many years at Howard University and was a founder of the Association’s “Library Committee” in 1957.

2002 Award co-winners

Bassett, Thomas J. and Yvette Scheven. Maps of Africa to 1900: A Checklist of Maps in Atlases and Geographical Journals in the Collections of the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. [Urbana, IL]: Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois: distrib. by [University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign], The Graduate School of Library and Information Science, 2000. xiii, 317 pp. (Robert B. Downs Publication Fund: no. 9).

This groundbreaking work contains 2416 citations of sheet maps, maps in atlases, and in geographical journals, organized by region. Each entry contains information on the size and scale of the map and brief notes on any insets or other special features. The authors note that they began their work as a checklist to improve access to the University’s extensive collection of sheet maps and maps in atlases, but as they focused on the links between mapmaking, imperialism, and colonialism, they expanded their scope to include “maps that are commonly associated with a written text … that reveals much about the institutional and ideological contexts of mapmaking” (p. i). The inclusion of geographical journals also increases this work’s usefulness to researchers without access to the University of Illinois collection. The introduction is an essay on the historical significance of maps of Africa prior to the twentieth century, with its own bibliography on the history of cartography. The work includes bibliographies of atlases and of geographical journals, as well as authority and title indexes. Mr. Bassett is Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Ms. Scheven is Professor Emerita of Library Administration and former Bibliographer for African Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Ms. Scheven won the Conover-Porter Award in 1990, and an Honorable Mention with Alfred Kagan in 2000.

This remarkable work provides both electronic and print access to a collection of nearly 10,600 previously uncataloged works in African languages at Northwestern University, as of the end of 1998. In his preface to the print version, David Easterbrook, Curator of the Herskovits Library, notes that over the years there have been a number of catalogs published of African language collections, but that the Herskovits catalog is the most extensive. The catalog is arranged by the countries in which the language is spoken as well as the variant names of the language. Particularly useful is the information on the variant names used by the SOAS and Library of Congress catalogs, and Mann & Dalby’s Thesaurus of African languages. In his introduction, unfortunately available only in the print edition, the author provides detailed explanations of coverage, terminology, language verification, transliteration, descriptions, abbreviations and a brief bibliography of sources. Four indexes are included in both the print and online versions, and provide excellent access for the researcher by short title, author name, language name and language by country. This catalog is clearly a labor of great patience and tenacity as well as of infinite care. Its publication in both print and electronic form makes it an important tool for scholars worldwide.

2002 Honorable Mention


This work is an update of a bibliography compiled by Robert Myers 1989, but with eighty-five per cent of its citations from materials published since 1989, it is an almost completely new work, and should be considered a companion volume rather than a replacement for the earlier book. The authors have been highly selective, choosing works in English for their importance in a subject area, and availability to researchers. The 815 entries, arranged by subject area, include substantial and thoughtful annotations. The work contains an introductory essay on Nigeria’s economy, geography, and history, and a single combined subject, author and title index. Ms. Bell-Gam is the Bibliographer for African Studies and Third World Development Studies at the UCLA Research Library, and Mr. Iyam is Associate Professor of Anthropology at Whittier College.


The authors have set out to teach the appreciation and uses of traditional food plants to researchers, development workers and conservationists. They have described the 175 most important plants in great detail, and list 130 others more briefly. Included are tables of local names arranged by language, marketable species, species particularly apt for cultivation, nutritional values, as well as a bibliography of other works on Kenya edible plants. Each citation is illustrated with a distribution map and line drawings, and includes a description and notes on ecology, uses, and cultural details. This work is an excellent example of research that brings plants formerly regarded by many as unimportant for serious examination into their proper role not just in human nutrition, but in numerous areas of human culture.


Bengt Sundkler was a Lutheran pastor and bishop in South Africa and Tanzania, and a professor of Church history at the University of Uppsala. He spent fifteen years compiling this vast work before his death in 1995. His viewpoint was a profound departure from previous missionary histories, because instead of seeing in Africa a static religious landscape to be changed only by Western influence, Sundkler found a “dynamic, multifaceted image of local territorial cults undergoing change, sometimes over a period of some 400 years” (p. 2) with Africans as the principal actors. The author undertook an “unashamedly ecumenical study” (p. 4), again a great departure from tradition. His bibliography, though limited to published books, is on a scale proportional to the rest of the work, with approximately 1500 entries. Articles and academic theses are cited in the reference notes. After Sundkler’s death, Christopher Steed spent five years reviewing the work, with particular attention to the references, which needed extensive verification and some expansion. This work represents a view of Christianity in Africa long overlooked by Western scholars, and the bibliography is sufficient to stand on its own as an important reference work.

Submitted by outgoing bibliography committee chair, Ken Lohrentz, University of Kansas.
Distinguished Africanist Award
The 2002 Distinguished Africanist Award winner is Peter Geschiere. The ASA Distinguished Africanist Award was established to recognize and honor scholars who have contributed a lifetime record of outstanding scholarship in their respective field of African studies and service to the Africanist community.

Herskovits Award
The Herskovits Award recognizes authors of outstanding original scholarly works published on Africa in the previous year. This year's winners are:


Children's Africana Book Award
This award was established in 1991 by the African Studies Association Outreach Council to encourage the publication and use of accurate, balanced children's materials on Africa. The awards are offered annually to the authors and illustrators of the best children's books on Africa.

Winner Best Book for Young Children
What's Cooking Jamela, written and illustrated by Niki Daly

Young Reader Honor Books
Beatrice's Goat, by Page McBriet and illustrated by Lori Lohstoeter
Gugu's House, written and illustrated by Catherine Stock
Bikes for Rent, written by Isaac Olaleye and illustrated by Chris Demarest

Current Exhibition at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art

In & Out of Focus: Images from Central Africa, 1885-1960
December 6, 2002 - March 16, 2003

“Images from Central Africa, 1885-1960 examines how widely disseminated images by Euro-American photographers created and perpetuated sentiments about the peoples of central Africa who lived under colonial rule. Among the featured photographers is Casimir Zagourski (1883–1944), one of the most successful practitioners whose evocative works are highlighted in the exhibition. In addition, the exhibition explores the role Africans played in the photographic encounters. In some instances they were active participants, "performing" for the cameras and developing strategies to meet the photographers’ demands. Africans also frequented photographic studios and took up photography to demonstrate their modernity. The photographs on view are from the extensive holdings of the Eliot Elisofon Photographic Archives at the National”
http://www.nmafa.si.edu/exhibits/currexhb.htm
Literature on Library and Information Services

_African Publishing Review_, Vol. 11, no. 1 includes:
"The Book and Other Media in Africa"
"What Ethiopian Publishers have done since 1995"
"APNET's Capacity Building Workshop"
"Opportunities from New Delhi Book Fair"

_African Publishing Review_, Vol 11, no. 2, includes:
"Protection of Writers and Publishers in Africa"
"The Malawian Experience in Reproductive Rights Management"
"International Day Stresses Importance of Indigenous Languages"
"CAPNET Follows in APNET's Footsteps"
"The Scope of Unauthorised copying and piracy of literary works"
"Africa's 100 Bet Books of the 20th Century"

David Westley, "A Bibliography of Swahili Bibliographies."
Tom Ofcansky, "The Italian-Ethiopian War: a Selected Bibliography, Part 1."

_African Journal of Library, Archives and Information Science_, vol. 11, no. 2, October 2001, includes:
Ayoku A. Ojedokun, "Internet Access and Usage by Students of the University of Botswana."
Y. Olajumoke Fasheun-Motesho, "Adoption and Growth of Information Technology in Nigerian Architectural Firms."
A. Ajayi, W.M. Olatokun and M.A. Tiamiyu, "Computer Anxiety, Phobia, Obsession and Work Stress at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria: Part 1 - Prevalence and Correlates."
Edwin Qobose, "A Comparative Study of Subject Specialisation at the University of Botswana and Rand Afrikaans University Libraries."
Kebede Hundie, "Retrospective Conversion of Card Catalogue at the Nationa University of Lesotho Library."
Short Communication, "The Challenges of Computerising University of Ibadan Library Services, Nigeria."

_African Research & Documentation_, no. 88. 2002, includes:
Nathan Oyori Ogechi, "Publishing in Kiswahili and Indigenous Languages for Enhanced Adult Literacy in Kenya."

For further details:
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Tel: + 44 (0) 1865 726686
Email: abc@africanbookscollective.com
Website: www.africanbookscollective.com

News from Hans Zell

Hans Zell Publishing Consultants have re-launched their newly designed web site at [http://www.hanszell.co.uk](http://www.hanszell.co.uk). I regret however that the extensive links section, The Electronic African Bookworm, formerly at [http://www.hanszell.co.uk/navtitle.htm](http://www.hanszell.co.uk/navtitle.htm) has now been withdrawn (it had not been updated since May 2001). Would any libraries that have links to the EABW please remove it from their links collections, or change descriptive text. The previous navtitle pages now offer a small selection of links to organizations, networks, and associations that support African publishing and book development, and you may wish to retain this as a link.


-Hans Zell

New email address for Hans Zell, effective immediately: hanszell@hanszell.co.uk. The existing email address, hzell@dial.pipex.com, remains operational until February 9, 2003, but will cease to work thereafter. As a back-up email address (e.g. on occasions when the server is down at hanszell.co.uk) you can also use hzell@btopenworld.com. Other full contact details can be found at Hans Zell's (recently re-launched) web site at [http://www.hanszell.co.uk](http://www.hanszell.co.uk).
Gerald Rilling, 1315 Ryan Street, Machesney Park, IL 6115-1844, tel. 815-654-0389, email: eafricabk@ix.netcom.com, has issued his Holiday 2002 catalog on Military, History, Hunting & Exploration, Natural History, Anthropology & Assorted

SASA SEMA Publications, P.O. Box 13956, Nairobi, Kenya, Tel.: (254-2) 550400/399 072-522310; email: sasasema@wananchi.com; website: www.sasasema.com has issued its Catalogue 2002


OSSREA (Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Outhern Africa) Publications, P.O. Box 31971, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; email: ossrea@telecom.net.et; website: www.ossrea.org has issued its 2002 catalogue.

Africa World Press, Inc./The Read Sea Press, Inc., P.O. Box 1892, Trenton, NJ 08607; or P.O. Box 48, Asmara, Eritrea; email: awprsp@africanworld.com; has issued its Fall 2002 catalogue.

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New Books Noted

Florence Howe, Co-Director. Women Writing Africa. New York: The Feminist Press at CUNY, 2002. For more information contact: fhowe@gc.cuny.edu; or see: www.feministpress.org


Kgafela oa Magogodi is a writer, performer, lyrical theater director, film scholar and academic from South Africa. He is a part-time lecturer for the Department of African Literature and the School of Dramatic Art at the University of the Witwatersrand, where he teaches film, theater and performance in Africa. He has written short film scripts (*Yeoville Blues & Valentines*, 1997; *Shoot First Laugh Last*, co-authored, 1998;) and several works of poetry, including *Book of Revelashinz* (1998), *Love Thighs Lies* (1997), and *Untamed Lovelines* (1996), which have all been self-published. He has also published poems in magazines and literary journals, e.g. *New Coin* (vol. 35, June 1999, no. 1). *Thy Condom Come* has been published by New Leaf, and imprint of Thela Thesis. Magogodi has performed his poetry with a jazz band in pubs and cultural festivals, as for example the Grahamstown Arts Festival. He has also toured Europe with his afro-jazz band. For more information, contact the author at 142mag@muse.wits.ac.za

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**Dr. Eugene deBenko,** 86, retired Michigan State University (MSU) International Librarian died on October 11, 2002, in Budapest, Hungary. He was buried at his birthplace, in Szaszregen, Transylvania.

DeBenko was educated in Cluj, in the Transylvanian region of Romania/Hungary, earning a doctorate in economic history in 1943. After working in the Hungarian civil service and as an interpreter with a refugee organization in Austria, he came to the US around 1950.

After working as an accountant in South Bend, Ind., he earned his MLS at Indiana University (1956) and came to work at MSU (1956). In 1963, he was appointed International Librarian, responsible for developing collections relating to Africa, Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe. He was active in the affairs of ALC, taught an interdisciplinary seminar in African Studies and went on at least 5 extended buying trips to Africa. He retired in about 1984 and returned to Hungary in 2001.
In this issue of

Africana Libraries Newsletter

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