The Interpreter

Archives, University of Colorado at Boulder Libraries

★ Remember September 11, 2001★

arv@colorado.edu

April 1, 2015

Our Mission

Number 206

In the Spring of 2000, the Archives continued the original efforts of Captain Roger Pineau and William Hudson, and the Archives first attempts in 1992, to gather the papers, letters, photographs, and records of graduates of the US Navy Japanese/ Oriental Language School, University of Colorado at Boulder, 1942-1946. We assemble these papers in recognition of the contributions made by JLS/OLS instructors and graduates to the War effort in the Pacific and the Cold War, to the creation of East Asian language programs across the country, and to the development of Japanese-American cultural reconciliation programs after World War II.

John Ashmead Correspondence A History Detective

My grandfather, Dr. Albert Sydney Ashmead (ASA), who died before I was born, was surgeaon to a member of the family of the Meiji Emperor, and worked in Japan, 1874-75. I had no great interest in doing research on ASA, since I am not very keen on genealogical research, but I mentioned this possibility to Whit Bell, former head of American the Philosophical Society, and a well-known historian of medicine [Whitfield] Bell. Franklin scholar and former Dickinson professor]. encouraged me to give it a try. I stumbled around local libraries, getting almost nowhere at the genealogical files of Historical Society Pennsylvania (which has several collections of Ashmead papers). But then, on an off chance, I walked into the College of Physicians (a Philadelphia medical research library) and

said I was sure they had nothing on ASA, but I wanted to check. As it happened this summer, 1990, they had finally got around to cataloging four boxes, previously not listed, of papers which ASA had left them in 1910, along with copies of his articles.

As you can imagine, I was somewhat stimulated by this find, which gave me the name in Japanese of the hospital he was attached to in Japan, and the name Azumo, supposedly a brother of the Emperor Meiji, whom ASA supposedly cured of TB when Azumo was at Annapolis with our Navy as a cadet. It was because of this treatment that ASA was invited to Japan.

I also learned that ASA had taken his first wife to Japan with him, and by her had a son. And I learned I am from the second wife. So I know now that there may be a collateral branch of my immediate family.

When I was in Japan in September I enlisted the help of my old Harvard teacher of Japanese, Shigemaru Shimoyama (now 90 years old) in doing research (1) at the Diet Library, (2) with the Imperial Household and its secretive records, and (3) in the Tokyo Prefecture Records. I was too busy lecturing and traveling to do this myself, and would have been much slower on these records, often in Kambun, a Japanese variety of Chinese, which I read, if at all, with great difficulty. The imperial Household still keeps Imperial records as a state secret. But at least Shimoyama was able to discover that there was no brother of the Emperor. Next question, was Azumo an illegitimate son? (There was only one legitimate son, the insane next Emperor of Japan, Taisho, who by the way had TB). Unfortunately, about half of the illegitimate sons, by various concubines, are not listed by name in available publications, and the Imperial Household would not allow any inspection of its records. A further complication is that Azumo is not a Japanese male name.

When I was in Kyoto, doing some Hearn research and lecturing, and talking with a Japanese professor friend, Masui, he suggested that there is a Japanese male name, Azuma, which can be read as *Higashi no Kuni* (meaning country of the east). So we are now following up that lead.

On returning to the US, I asked my sister-in-law, widow of my late brother Albert, named for his grandfather ASA, if she had by chance any family papers from my brother. She thought not, but upon searching her attic she came up with a box wich included papers, a pair of military shoulder boards, an oldfashioned hypodermic syringe, and among other documents, the original contract, in Japanese, between ASA and the Tokyo Preficture Hospital at which he and patients, taught saw reportedly 10,000 patients in the 18 months he was in Japan. So we are now seeing f the contract can give us any further leads.

In this country, I have to see the US Navy Annapolis records, for Azumo, Azuma, or Higashi no Kuni. And there is a holograph autobiography by ASA in the Griffis collection of statements from Americans who had been in Japan in the Meiji period, at Rutgers University. About 15 years ago, when I consulted that collection for other reasons, it was in a terrible mess, and I could find only half of the ASA autobiography. I must now go back and put it into enough order to find the other half. A further possibility is a new interest, in Japan, in the medical history of the Meiji period. Then I have to locate Philadelphia marriage, birth, and divorce records to see if my collateral branch still exists (I doubt if it would have any souvenirs of ASA). Whit Bell said that if he were still teaching, he would use this saga as an example of the surprises, frustrations, and joys of research [a major reason for reprinting this letter here.]

I have been asked back to Japan for an increased number of lectures in October 1991. We shall see how the saga slowly continues.

Excerpt written November 6, 1990 John Ashmead JLS 1943 Professor of English & Film Haverford College, 1947-1988 Died in 1992 at 74

[Ed. Note: I found this web entry for the ASA Papers he had mentioned in this letter. So they are much more available than they were before 1990. Perhaps John Ashmead assisted with biographical information:

Albert Sidney Ashmead, leprologist. was born in Philadelphia on 4 Apr. 1850. He married Florence M. Fleming in 1873, then Isabella M. Wale in 1883. Ashmead died after an intestinal operation in Philadelphia on 20 Feb. 1911. Ashmead received an M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1869 and practiced medicine until 1873. He was then appointed Foreign Medical Director of the Tokyo Fu Hospital in Japan and taught the first class of students at the Tokyo Charity Hospital's medical school. Ashmead returned to America in 1876 and practiced medicine in Kansas. He moved to New York in 1882 and began his study of leprosy. He helped form the 1897 International Leprosy Congress and was the author of the Platt leper bill which came before the U.S. Senate in 1902. He also pursued research in syphilis, insanity, pellagra, and Asiatic diseases, such as beri-beri. In the 1890s, Ashmead became involved in a dispute with Rudolph Virchow over leprosy in Pre-Columbian Peru.

College of Physicians
Papers, 1869-1910.
Ashmead, Albert S. (Albert Sydney),
1850-1911.5 boxes.
http://beta.worldcat.org/archivegrid/data/122474251

I also found another Albert Sidney Ashmead on the web:

"Civil War hero, Albert Sidney Ashmead. During the Civil War Ashmead had been Captain and AGM in the renowned 29th Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers. He participated in a number of Civil War events and battles, among them the march on Fredericksburg, the Battle of Gettysburg, and the Battles of Wauhatchie, Lookout Mountain, Ringold, Resaca, and Kenesaw Mountain.'

William Woys Weaver, "Roughwood" Tredyffrin Easttown Historical Society History Quarterly Digital Archives Source: January 1991 Volume 29 Number 1, Pages 13–17

This A. S. Ashmead was John Ashmead's great grandfather. He was married in 1850 and had a son by the same name. The Civil War veteran Ashmead was mustered into this Philadelphia regiment in 1861. I include this information, as this regiment participated in the Valley Campaign, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg (Culp's Hill). Chattanooga, Atlanta and the March through Georgia: averv distinguished record.]

A Russian Anagram

Mr. Bunker (his first name eludes me) [Robert M. Bunker OLS 1945 (Russian) entered from Boulder, CO] was one of the outstanding members of our Russian language group. He was quite brilliant and subsequent to the war he served in the Department of Indian Affairs. One day, in class, he observed that the Russian word "lozung" had virtually the same letters as the English word ("slogan") and, of course, the same meaning.

Lloyd Kramer OLS 1945 (Russian)

Francis X. Prior OLS 1945 (Russian)

Francis X. Prior, 92, of Solomons died Feb. 13, 2013, at Asbury-Solomons.

He was born Nov. 7, 1920, in Worcester, Mass., to the late Bernard and Frances Prior.

He grew up in Springfield, Mass., and graduated from Cathedral High School in 1939. He attended the University of Vermont and was president of his class; he graduated in 1944 with a Bachelor's degree in chemistry. After graduating, he joined the U.S. Navy and was stationed in Washington, D.C. He was then assigned to the U.S. Armed Forces Foreign Language

School in Colorado Springs and studied Russian [sic] [Actually, he attended the USN Oriental Language School at the University of Colorado at Boulder, and studied Russian].

In 1946, he was stationed at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow where he served as a translator and met his first wife, Elizabeth Prior. Upon completing his tour of duty, he returned to the United States, attended Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass., and graduated in 1951 with a Bachelor's degree in Food Technology. He then joined the Textiles Division of the DuPont Co. where he served as a technical service representative. In this position, he traveled throughout South America and Mexico visiting manufacturing facilities and providing technical advice. During this time, he, his wife and three sons lived in Kennett Square, Pa. He worked for DuPont until retiring in 1980.

Upon retirement, he moved to California, Md., where he lived with his second wife, Mary Prior, whom he married in 1980. He and his wife enjoyed playing golf and traveling. He also enjoyed studying the stock market and investing, and had an interest in and a facility with foreign languages. He was always kind and cheerful and was a great husband, father and grandfather. He enjoyed spending time with his family, including his wife, children and grandsons. He always encouraged his sons and grandsons to study hard to make good lives for themselves. His life provided an excellent example for them to follow. His family and friends will miss him greatly, and he will always be in their hearts.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Elizabeth Prior; brothers, Philip Prior and William Prior; and sister, Mary Bradshaw.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Prior of Solomons; sons, Robert Prior of Lexington Park, Bruce Prior of North Wales, Pa., and Donald Prior of Belleair Shores, Fla.; and grandsons, Francis, Robert, Thomas, Jake and Jack.

Southern Maryland Newspapers

Online
February 15, 2013
http://www.somdnews.com/article/20
130215/MISC/130219468/0/francisx-prior-92solomons&template=southernMaryl

Goodman, Ecker, et al.: a Proof-Reader's Comments

To learrn more about my Ann Arbor friend, Grant Goodman, was nice. We were in the Center for Japanese seminar for a couple years, and have met in Japan, Korea, and conventions of the Association for Asian Studies. I often had the pleasure of buying coffee for his mother, a delightful person from Shaker Heights. I had not known that Grant went to college at Princeton. Nor about the scheme he and his friends undertook to be tutored in Japanese. Grant and I stay in touch by email.

On Frank and Florence Ecker. I think I have mentioned them before, in regard to the transcontinental poker game in September 1947. Florence was then secretary to Professor Carl Sauer, geographer at Berkeley. He was in South America that summer, and his office was occupied by Professor Robert B. Hall of the University of Michigan, who taught a course on Japan that I took. One day he took me out on the sunny lawn nearby, and asked about my background. I revealed my Navy language training, and my Colorado birth. He had been born in New Mexico, but lived in Colorado from age two. He then asked what I was doing in Berkeley, and I said that I had hoped to do advanced work in Japanese. But for one thing, I confessed. Professor Peter Boodberg, great Tibetan expert, had told me the war was over. and that I should start on Tibetan. I was at the right psychological point to listen to Hall's story about the new Center for Japanese Studies at Michigan. Then I mentioned that I had not yet been paid my GI Bill stipend, was short of cash, but was interested in his new venture. He asked me if I could add Chinese (Mandarin) to my skills: if so he could get me a Chinese Language scholarship. I agreed, and a new life started.

Back to the Eckers. Frank had decided to get a doctorate at Ann Arbor in political science. He either planned to study Russian. or already could read it. I'm not sure which. He eventually wrote a dissertation on Uzbekistan. I told Florence about our going to Michigan, and she had an idea. Why not go on the same train? I said that I had earlier in the summer taken a course on the geography of Australia, and that the lecturer, Patricia McBryde, was going to Ann Arbor also. It turned out that she would be travelling with her fiancé, Carl Bartz [Carl Frederick Bartz, Jr. JLS 1943?]. (Actually, I am not sure of his status, so I am guessing.) This was the origin of the six-person three-day poker game.

Sam Ramsey, student of Sam Martin [Issue #196], I first met when we both lived n the Fulbright House in downtown Seoul, in 1971-72. I bought Yale's last copy of Martin's book, The Japanese Through Time.

Punahou School in Honolulu (Issue #195, p.2) was and is an affiliate of Yale by long tradition. It is also President Obama's alma mater.

I knew Jackson Baily, but not well, and not long.

Forrest "Woody" Pitts OLS 3/1945 –

[Ed. Note: Woody Pitts generously offers to proof the USN JLS/OLS newsletter issues before I place them on the website. These were the remarks he included in his comments regarding Issues #193-#202 in May 2013. I asked him about whether it was JLO Carl Bartz. This was his reply.]

It is the same Carl Bartz [Carl Frederick Bartz, Jr., JLS 1943]. He and Patricia McBryde later got married. When I had my Fulbright at Seoul National University in 1971-1972, Carl was an official in the American Embassy in Seoul. I used to see Pat at the Embassy Post Exchange, where we bought groceries. She wrote a book titled South Korea, which was mainly a physical geography: very well done.

Forrest "Woody" Pitts OLS 3/1945 –

Chiyoko Otagiri, Daniel Date & Otis Cary

I enclose a copy of a recent article about Chivoko Otagiri, who was probably well known to many of your readers. I have known her since she moved to Piedmont Gardens 9 years ago. My husband, Otis Cary, was still alive, and they had lively conversations. She enjoyed reading the books he'd written I Japanese (although born in the USA, her education, grades 1 through 12, was in Japan) and she was truly bilingual, as was Otis. In addition to the June 1 party described in this article, there had already been one on May 25 when a dozen of her Piedmont Gardens friends enjoyed bentos from a local Japanese restaurant and a huge birthday cake.

Another Navy Language School teacher who lived here for several years was Daniel Date, who died two years ago. And Henry May was here until he died last year.

I should have informed you earlier that Amherst College Library asked for and received Otis Carey's papers, magazine articles, and books, mostly in Japanese). I sent them what was in my possession in February 2012, and Professor Kitagaki of Doshisha University in Kyoto is sending to Amherst Library what is still at Doshisha [I sent a notice to Amherst Special Collections to make use of our USN JLS/OLS Archival Project website, if needed].

An early book of Otis's, *Nihon no Wakai Mono*, 1950, is being republished and will appear this year.



Otis Cary, 1989. Source: Otis Cary and His Broad Vision, 1921-2006

Do you have a copy of *The Purple Book?* That is not the official title. It's a compilation of many letters and articles about

Otis, published as sort of a eulogy, a gorgeous heavy tome much in Japanese, but with several English letters and explanations of photos, *Otis Cary and His Broad Vision*, (Doshisha: Doshisha Amherst Club, March 2007).

If you do not have a copy, I'll be glad to send you one.

Appreciatively, Alice S. Cary

[Ed. Note: The article on Chiyoko Otagiri is carried in Issue #207.]

NOEL L. LEATHERS USMCEL, OLS 5/1945-1924-2013

Dr. Noel L. Leathers fell asleep in the Lord January 28, 2013.

He was born in Columbus, Ohio on January 14, 1924 to Ernest and Della Leathers. He attended the Ohio State University from 1941-1942.

He served on Active duty as a Japanese Interpreter with the 4th U.S. Marine Division from 1942 to 1946. In 1946 he served in the Joint Intelligence Center under Admiral Nimitz in the Pacific. He was active in the campaigns on Saipan, Tinian, Guam, Palau and Iwo Jima. He was on special assignment from 1946-1947 as a Second Lt. for the Marine Corps. He was proficient in Japanese, French and German and had intermediate proficiency in Farsi, Korean and Italian. He published a number of books, the most recent on January 31, 2012, Reflections on the Pacific War: Marine Interpreter Remembers.

He graduated from Oklahoma State University in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in History and German. He earned his Master of Arts Degree in European History at Oklahoma State in 1950 and his PhD Degree in European History from the University of Oklahoma in 1963.

After the war he served as a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and received two commendations from J. Edgar Hoover. He was assigned to the FBI bureaus in Los Angeles, California and Washington, D.C. on special assignments.

He taught at the University of Toledo and served as Head of the History Department and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In 1972, Dr. Leathers came to the University of Akron as Professor of History and Vice President for Academic Affairs until 1988 and taught European and Japanese History until his retirement in 1995. In June, 1997 he was reappointed Senior Vice President and Provost and he subsequently retired in July of 2000.

He traveled over a good part of this earth, as a consultant on academic programs and as a retired professor, enjoying many cultures and interesting sites in this world.

He was a devoted husband of 25 years to Dr. Violet Leathers; and father of Shelley Austin (John); Phillip Leathers (Cheryl); Karen Stevens (Dr. Hal); Matthew (Jacquelyn Vennie); Douglas Leathers; Stacie Burgess (Mike); Rafael Terrill-Leathers: Tamara Bogner Laurel (Shawn): Maikranz (William); and Bradlev Tomi (deceased, January 14, 2010.)

He enjoyed his role as a grandparent and taught his grandchildren about interesting historical places, sang opera to them in foreign languages to calm them down, and enjoyed their responses to everyday life. He delighted in all his grandchildren and was fortunate to be in local proximity to Christina and George Bogner in Jackson Township, Ohio and Anastasia and Natalia Maikranz in Hudson, Ohio from the time of their birth.

Dr. Leathers was a member of Presentation of Our Lord Orthodox Church in Fairlawn, OH., Rotary International of Cuyahoga Falls, OH., the University of Akron Retiree Group of Akron, OH. and the Marine Heritage Foundation in Quantico, VA.

We are grateful to the care and love shown to him in the past two months by the medical staff of Summa Home Hospice. He especially grew fond of his Hospice nurse, Meg, who cared for him in the past two months.

Exerpted from
Akron Beacon Journal
from January 30 to January 31, 2013

[Ed. Note: Noel Leathers was an enlisted linguist in the Marines, but

he was eventually sent to the OLS,m where the end of the war halted his course. Professor Leathers' stories were posted in Issues #157, #160 and #161. We will miss him.]

Army MIS Receive the Congressional Gold Medal

For the past two years, we, in Chicago, have been involved with the Congressional Gold Medal. As the Navy did not train Nisei, your group would not be involved in this, even though many of the Boulder graduates had considerable contact with the Army trainees once they found themselves in the work for which they were trained. The CGM is honoring those who served in Europe (in the 100th Bn. and the 442nd RCT) as well as about 3.000 who served in the Pacific and early Occupation.

Chicago is one of the six sites where the Medal is being displayed. It will be here for seven weeks, starting this weekend, at our Chicago History Museum, highlighting over 50 artifacts, panel discussions, tours school children. and participation by the MISers who have survived to this late date. Bear in mind that, as of 1940, there were only about 300 people of Japanese ancestry in the Chicago area, while at present, we have a population of some 25,000 of that ancestry in this region, mainly due to the resettlement from the Arkansas internment camps, and early acceptance of the families of the GIs during the war...a circumstance not unlike what happened in Denver.

I am proud to say that I am one of the Non-Nikkei recipients of the Medal, even though I have no common ancestry with the people whom the Medal is intended to honor. In fact, this weekend I will be the only Caucasian being among the honorees at the Museum opening. Your readers have periodically commented on the paradox of how they Ithe Nisei Sensei] displayed their loyalty while their families were behind barbed wire. Clearly, you do devote attention to the instructors at Boulder, as a display of good

will [and accurate inclusion]. I do, however, recall a contrast in the Services: the Sensei in the Army included no Issei, a concern in DC that they may not be loyal, while the Navy correctly had no such concern.

Allen H. Meyer US Army MIS

Eugene Kerrick JICPOAn

I am Eugene Kerrick, a 1944 graduate of the Japanese Language School. Up until about a year ago, I received *The Interpreter* (October 2013). It took me a while to realize it had been discontinued. I would like to receive it again and also the intervening issues, if you have extra copies [We sent him Issues #175-191 in October 2013].

I am ninety-one and in full realization of my mental and physical faculties, such as they are at that age.



Kerrick, Gene, Hudson19_03_00_50, AUCBL.

I worked at JICPOA in the geographic section and went with a transportation division for the invasions of Iwo Jima and Okinawa. My roommates at Pearl were James Durbin, Don Ayers, and Dean Towner. The two former are deceased.

After the war, I worked at the Washington Document Center for the summer of 1946. On Labor Day, Fred Tremaine and I went to Guam for war crimes trials where the Navy had its own tribunal. The first trial in process then was for cannibalism of American flyers in the Bonins.

Later there were trials for medical experimentations on American prisoners on Truk and various murders of American military people on various islands in the Pacific. All were done under very loose SCAP rules. The commander of the trial unit was Rear Admiral John Damian Murphy. I remained there until December 1946 when I was discharged.

Eugene E. Kerrick JLS 1944

GEORGE W. 'BILL' ZIEGLER

George William "Bill" Ziegler, 84, died June 21, 2000.

Mr. Ziegler was born in Colorado Springs, Colo. and moved to Long Beach as a boy. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from Pomona College in 1936 he earned a business degree at Woodbury College.

He joined U.S. Naval intelligence during World War II and attended Japanese language school in Colorado. After the war, he and his wife, Virginia, settled in Burbank where they lived for more than 50 years.

Mr. Ziegler had a long career in the insurance business and was an expert in marine insurance.

He was married to Virginia for 61 years before her death in October.

He is survived by daughters Caroline Swaisgood, of Burbank, Jean Cawood and Diana Larsen; and six grandchildren.

A private family service will be held in July for Bill and Virginia.

The Burbank Leader June 24, 2000

Jerome Elswit JLS 1944

Jerome "Jerry" Elswit was a reporter and editor for *BNA* publications in Washington for over 25 years. He covered the Pentagon, the White House and military contractors and never lost his pride in being a journalist. He suffered a heart attack and died at his home on Sunday, March 14, 2010 at the age of 87.

Jerry grew up in New York City and received his journalism degree from the University of Missouri. As soon as he graduated he married his college sweetheart, fellow journalism major Joan Cummings, and joined the Marine Corps to fight in World War II through the islands of the Pacific. [Jerome Elswit entered the USN JLS in January 1943, graduating in March 1944]. He remained in the Marine Reserves and rose to the rank of Captain.

For over fifty years Jerry shared and encouraged Joan's many interests. He took his family camping, shelling and spelunking and bought them the first Land Rover in Fairfax County. When Joan became seriously ill, he nursed her without complaint for a decade until her death in 1999.

After he retired from *BNA* Jerry moved to Warrenton where he became an antiquarian book dealer. He spent many pleasant years driving through Virginia, West Virginia and Maryland searching for books to sell in his small store, Bookfinders, at Fox Den, and online on the Internet. His special interests were military and Virginia history and through his mail order business he supplied books on those topics around the world.

Jerry remained sharp and active throughout his long life. He is remembered with pleasure by all who knew him. He is survived by his sister Joan Schweitz, two sons, Daniel of Ithaca New York and Michael of New York City, fond daughtersin-law Betsy and Sharon, and by his beloved granddaughter Kate of San Francisco.

http://www.memorialobituaries.com/ memorials/memorials.cgi?action=0 bit&memid=202132&clientid=_mos

> & submitted to us by Jack Bronston JLS 1943

[Ed. Note: We never found Mr. Elswit, which is regrettable, as it appears he would have enjoyed the project and the newsletter.]

Arthur B. Shenefelt OLS 1945

I'm enclosing one of my bio packets of my Japanese related past, I was US senate spokesperson on transportation related matters and advisor to Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp to plan transportation in the "corridor" state.

I noticed the passing of one of our brothers in your letters,

especially because he was born on my birthday- a year before I was! - May 5 1919 vs. 1920. I write because I think God sets us at war with those he thinks we ought to get to know and love for example, in addition to all I did in and with Japan, my next door neighbor is a little boy, just born, who is half Japanese and half American and we have out arrangements worked whereby he inherits my home upon my death, he is the most beautiful little gentleman I have ever seen.

Back in 1980 when I was 60 years old, I was the only American allowed to walk on the floor of the Pacific Ocean, on rail being laid down for the bullet train between northern Honshu and Hakodate, Hokkaido Japan. That area is exactly like California in that it is parallel by the plates that shift, causing earthquakes!

If you reverse North and South on maps of Philadelphia and Tokyo, reversed as to North and South, they exactly reflect each other- as to future plans for the Northeast corridor and current bullet train layouts Tokyo south - I never got over Boulder, I never forgot the death of FDR and the Bach Chorale filled every radio channel for 24 hours

I wish all and each of you the very finest as I expect to join so many of my Boulder friends very soon. (written in 2013)

Respectfully, Arthur B. Shenefelt USN 409190 from P.R. Director Crudes Pac Pearl Harbor

[Ed Note: See Arthur Shenefelt's story in Issue # 109 (March 1, 2006).]

\$Donations Accepted

To support the JLS/OLS Archival Project, make your check out to the University of Colorado, writing US Navy JLS Fund on the memo line to the bottom left of your check, and mail it to our contact address.

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