

Messenger

Oregon State University Libraries

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Fall 1985

Friends Fund for the Humanities Challenge

At their Board meeting in May 1985, the Directors of Friends of the Library at Oregon State University welcomed Dr. Peter J. Copek, Director of the Center for the Humanities. After his presentation, a proposal was accepted, unanimously, to raise funds to meet part of a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Behind this undertaking lies a story. . . .

Oregon State University has long been known as one of the best land-grant colleges of the West. This, we all know, means that it puts primary emphasis on the instruction and research of Agriculture, Forestry, Engineering, Oceanography, and Home Economics, together with their allied sciences. However, this means also that OSU pays attention to the Humanities! No scientist, engineer, or home economist can function without good language abilities for reading, writing, and speaking. Appreciation of the fine arts is another essential, for life is a constant viewing and reviewing of the world around us and is a part of the work and pleasure of everyone. Without history and a knowledge of other parts of the world, people would not have the full picture of any subject and constantly would be "redesigning the wheel."

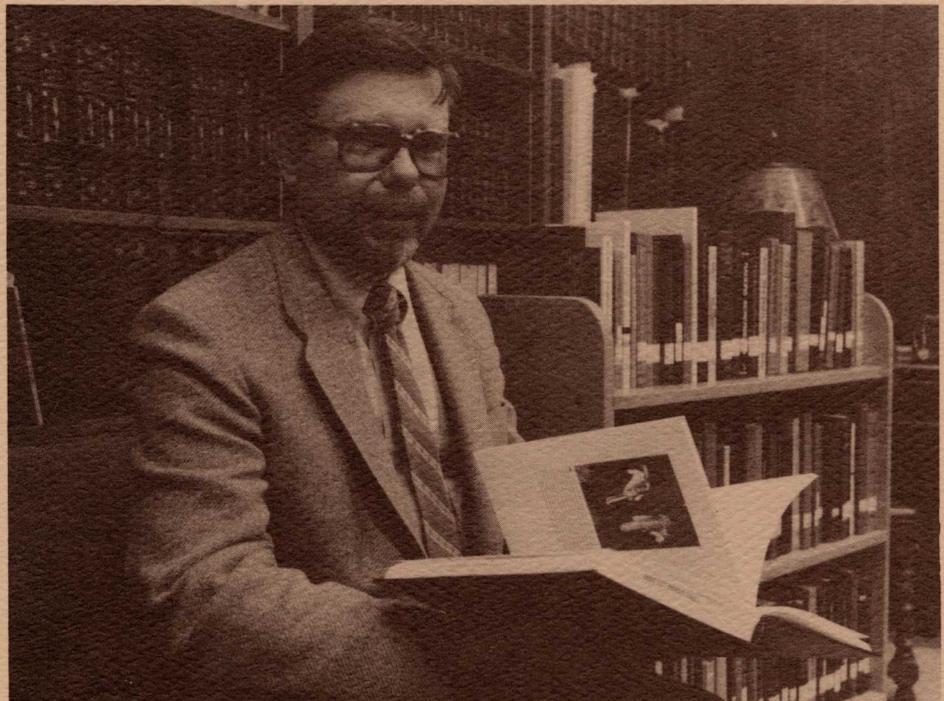
Thus, it is with great enthusiasm and some excitement that we welcome into the midst of our campus the Center for the Humanities, with its Director, Peter J. Copek. The Humanities Development Program began in 1977, with a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities; this grant was used for curriculum development. In December 1984, after further efforts by Dr. Copek and his colleagues, NEH awarded to OSU the second largest grant ever made to a land-grant institution. This is a challenge grant to support the new Center. OSU will receive \$700,000 in federal funds provided it can raise \$2,100,000 in matching funds over a period of the next three years. This total federal and challenge fund of \$2,800,000 will make a substantial endowment, from which the annual interest will be used to support the Center and its activities.

The activities of the Center will now include several new aspects as well as enhancing the instructional programs originally planned with the 1977 NEH grant. The new funds will provide additional resources to maintain research and curriculum development which will enrich the staff who instruct within the University; also they will bring programs and personalities for everyone on campus and the public at large.

A portion of this NEH grant is to be set aside specifically for the Oregon State University Libraries. Over the three-year period, up to June 1988, the fund for library acquisitions will be \$100,000 from NEH which must be matched by donations of \$300,000. The annual interest from this \$400,000 endowment will be for exclusive use of the Libraries for acquisitions in all areas of the Center's endeavors. This money will purchase books and periodicals, over and above the regular departmental purchases, and will increase the material available for research and instruction. With the 1977 NEH grant, some 9,400 titles were added to the William Jasper Kerr Library in the fields of Northwest Studies, Marine and

Maritime Studies, and Twentieth-Century Studies. The latter included subjects such as "The City," "Literature and Linguistics," "Science, Technology, and Values," and "Art, Architecture, and Photography: History and Theory." With money from the new endowment we can expect additions of materials to these and many other fields of endeavor.

The Board of Directors of Friends of the Library at OSU met again in October 1985. At that time it was proposed and accepted unanimously that \$5,000 be taken from the Friends of the Library account to initiate the Friends Fund for the Humanities Challenge. The Board now throws the challenge to the Friends of the Library! Please talk about these plans; invite friends, alumni, faculty, business people and students, young and retired, to become new Friends of the Library at OSU. The lives of us all can be enriched by the knowledge collected and used by the OSU Libraries. The Board of Directors will keep you informed on the growth of the Friends Fund for the Humanities Challenge. Keep watching in *The Messenger* for the rise in "temperature"!



Peter J. Copek, Director, Center for the Humanities, with some of the 9,400 volumes purchased with part of the 1977 NEH Grant.



Dr. Melvin George, Director of Libraries.

What has the Library Been Doing Lately? A Report from the Director

Members of the University Library staff have made substantial progress during the last year in responding to faculty and student demands and in improving library management and services. The following list is only a partial list of accomplishments focusing upon major initiatives.

1. Established Library Microcomputer Software Information Center
 - \$200,000+ software the result of gifts
 - \$160,000+ hardware the result of gifts from Hewlett Packard, Apple, Inc., and DEC.
 - operated a software preview service, a microcomputer literacy instructional program, and a general use program
2. Expanded the use of an automated office network system with nine terminals
 - trained nearly half the library faculty in word processing, many in spread sheet use
 - converted several major files to automated format including the Friends of the Library membership file and the reserve book file
3. Expansion of the Friends of the Library membership
 - completed a direct mail campaign to 4,000 potential donors/members
 - raised \$6,900 toward the millionth volume campaign
 - purchased two valuable and rare titles to commemorate the addition of the millionth volume to OSU's collections
 - sponsored a successful annual meeting/brunch at which Senator Mark O. Hatfield was the featured speaker
4. Expanded the use of OCLC, an international automated bibliographic data base for cataloging and interlibrary loan
 - published the first of a three-times-per-year newsletter for University faculty and Friends named the LIBRARY MESSENGER
 - converted more than 100,000 titles to machine-readable format in preparation for eventual automation of library services
 - introduced local use of microcomputer interface with the online system
 - installed terminals for reference use at the two major reference desks
5. Planned for new services/projects at the Marine Science Center library
 - wrote detailed program statement for a proposed new library building
 - developed grant proposal for the suggested Coastal Information Center
6. Installed an electronic detection system at the entrance to the third floor of Kerr Library
 - installed nearly 300,000 markers in books and other materials throughout the library in a three day period
7. Extended hours of the Reserve Book Room to make it a 24-hour study area
 - at peak periods there have been students standing in the hallway at 3 a.m. to occupy one of the room's 200+ seats
8. Installed a new COPICARD system to replace coin mechanisms on some photocopy machines. This will eliminate the need for users to carry coins and provide greater control over copy costs for University departments
9. Installed seventy-five lockers to allow students and faculty members to store valuables temporarily in the library
10. Instituted a reciprocal borrowing program with the faculty and staff of Linn-Benton Community College
11. Developed, together with other State System librarians, a comprehensive specifications document for automation of circulation, acquisitions, serials control, the public catalog, and other management functions
12. Planned and coordinated a statewide database searching conference, Oregon ONLINE 85
13. Held two library faculty retreats and one series of meetings for classified staff resulting in the recognition of many problems and opportunities and the creation of a number of task forces and committees to tackle those problems
14. Re-established a Staff Association and worked toward the substantial improvement of communication among staff throughout the libraries
15. Increased the use of automatic approval programs to speed the acquisition of materials through the development of carefully defined profiles of subject interests
16. Won a planning grant from the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust for \$3,500 which resulted in a major grant proposal for \$170,000 to improve cooperative activities among the National Agricultural Library, the land-grant universities in the Pacific Northwest and end-users of agricultural information including extension agents, managers of governmental agencies in agriculture, agri-business staff, and individual ranchers and farmers. The proposal is one of thirteen from a total of 150 for which the Trust has requested further development
17. An ad hoc bindery committee reviewed binding schedules, microfilm purchase policies, and staff organization. Changes were recommended which would improve services to library users
18. Moved ahead with an administrative reorganization of the library to include three additional officers at the assistant/associate director level:
 - Coordinator of Access Services
 - created a new unit, Stack Maintenance, to speed the return of materials to the shelves
 - reorganized the two circulation departments, General Circulation and the Reserve Book Room, into a single Circulation Services unit
 - planned a work space to house Access Services and Stack Maintenance which will be built in the near future
 - Assistant Director for Research and Reference Services
 - this new officer will coordinate reference activities in the two major reference areas as well as interlibrary loan, documents, the map room, bibliographic instruction, and database searching
 - the screening committee has identified top candidates; interviews on campus are scheduled for late October and early November
 - Collection Development Librarian
 - established a bibliographer's council to coordinate collection development and to develop policy for the expenditure of the library's \$1.8 million annual materials budget
 - initiated a formal review of collection management practices using the guided self-evaluation procedures of the Association of Research Libraries' Collection Analysis Program (CAP). The CAP team has completed an intensive study of University goals and objectives, curricular and research

plans for the near future, collection development patterns at OSU over the past decade, and a review of technological change which will have an impact upon the libraries. The team has issued an interim report and task forces have begun further intensive studies which will result in concrete recommendations for the improvement of collection development practices.

19. Participation in the Pacific Northwest collection inventory project sponsored by the Fred Meyer Charitable Trust
 - trained one OSU librarian as a regional consultant
 - trained six OSU librarians to support the inventory locally
 - hosted an area training program for participants in Western Oregon
20. Worked on developing stronger relationships with departmental reading rooms and libraries
 - developed preliminary plans for cooperation between Kerr and the Forest Products Research Library
21. Completed a survey of more than 2,000 students and faculty in conjunction with the University's Survey Research Center to determine faculty and student attitudes toward the library and its services. With a 90 percent response rate, respondents requested longer hours, better and more comfortable seating, more books and periodicals for research purposes, and overwhelming support for increased funding of libraries in general.

In addition, the library staff did all the usual things with skill and care:

- spent the library's annual budget of \$4,000,000 in a responsible fashion
- circulated 300,000 items
- processed and cataloged 32,000 new volumes
- answered 57,000 reference questions
- loaned 10,000 items and borrowed 3,600 items to/from other libraries
- processed 2,325 government documents
- indexed several Oregon business journals and the *Barometer*
- performed 705 database searches using 1,403 databases
- shelved and reshelved 684,000 volumes
- filed thousands upon thousands of incoming microfiche
- added over 500 new periodical and serial titles
- taught computer literacy classes to 300 students and provided 750 previews of software
- provided 97 library use instructional programs to 2,201 students
- and did all of the other countless tasks that make up a library's day-to-day operation.

The Library Preservation Program

Pick up an old book or newspaper whose paper has turned brown and brittle and you will begin to appreciate a problem that librarians across the country have become increasingly concerned about in recent years. For a long time most books have been published with little thought given to how long they will last. Acid introduced into paper during the paper-making process builds up over time and the paper self-destructs. Acid can be introduced by outside pollution also, but it is not the only enemy of paper. Mold and insects and other vermin can be destructive, but the book's arch-enemy is the reader, the handler, the one for whom the book waits on the shelf.

Of course we are not about to close our libraries to save them from the readers. Books are meant to be read and it is only the relative few which should be placed behind glass and seldom touched. The OSU Library has a small collection of rare and valuable books, but most of our one million volumes of books and periodicals are out on the open shelves, readily available to all users. Few are so old that they are going to crumble to dust tomorrow, but many are battered, torn, and stained. All too many have had their pages marked or removed by the thoughtless, the careless, or vandals. Only by locking all the books and periodicals away can they be kept safe and sound, but there are other measures that can be taken.

The history of book conservation at Oregon State University extends back to the earliest efforts at binding, followed shortly by the establishment of a room for mending. Very early in the library's development a locked room, now called the vault, was set up, and in the 1930's the McDonald Room was created; both of them provide protection for old, valuable, and rare books. In the 1960's other locked rooms were set aside to protect less valuable but deteriorating material. In the late 1970's an organized effort was made to identify, preserve, or replace old, rare, valuable, or deteriorating books remaining on the open shelves. A conservation officer, supported by an advisory committee, is responsible for an on-going program of education and planning. A conservation manual and a disaster manual provide detailed information and guidelines for the conservation of library materials and their salvage in the case of floods, fires, and even earthquakes.

Books damaged by acid and user can be dealt with in a number of ways. When the technology is developed and costs permit, our irreplaceable books could be "deacidified." When possible, damaged volumes are mended. Books can be replaced with new reprinted editions if they are available,

and in some cases photocopies are made as replacements. The problem of acid damage is being reduced as some publishers now print new books on acid-free paper. These books, however, may sit on library shelves next to older books with acid paper and the acid can "migrate" from one volume to another.

Newspapers have long been kept permanently in libraries only on microfilm because of their bulk and the rapid deterioration of newsprint. With increasing frequency, libraries, OSU among them, have been buying periodicals and other publications on microfilm or microfiche, not only to save space but as a preservation measure. It is ironic that these microform materials are also subject to abuse and environmental deterioration.

It appears that conservation and preservation will be a continuing concern for librarians, whether the treasure they are protecting is on paper, film, or magnetic tape.

Preservation-Conservation Workshop

Donetta Sheffold, Head of the Materials Preparation Department, attended a workshop on conservation and preservation of library materials at Stanford University in August. The workshop, sponsored by the American Library Association, covered topics ranging from environmental controls for preservation purposes to the creation of a new spine for a book.

Many conservation and preservation techniques cost money, but the benefits of extending the shelf life of a book far outweigh the initial expenditure. Donetta learned a number of new techniques which can easily be integrated into the Kerr Library's conservation program.

One such item is known as a phase box. The structure of this box enables a very fragile item to be placed on the shelf for patron usage without suffering from the abrasion caused by being shelved and reshelved. The item is also protected from dust and dirt, and looks like a well-bound book when placed on the shelf.

Ms. Sheffold will conduct a regional workshop on conservation/preservation techniques at OSU in cooperation with the continuing education project sponsored by LAMGO in early spring '86.

Assessing Library Services A Survey of the University

All schools of Oregon State University need the services of a good library for their instruction programs and research projects. For many years whenever the University's budget was cut, one of the first places "to come under the hatchet" was the William Jasper Kerr Library. Thus during the past year a number of questions have been raised concerning the adequacy of the Library to fulfill its supporting role at OSU.

President John Byrne provided funds in early 1985 for the purpose of conducting a survey of faculty and students. The Faculty Senate Library Committee and the Director of OSU Libraries asked the OSU Survey Research Center to design and complete a survey of the university community. The intent of the survey was to gather quantitative data about the needs and attitudes of faculty and students with regard to library services.

The results of the survey indicate that faculty members use Kerr Library more often for research than for any other purpose. Graduate students go there most often to work on class assignments and research projects. Undergraduates use the Library principally to study and do homework.

The response of the university community suggests that the need for research materials in the form of journals and books is the least well met of the library's objectives. A majority of both faculty and students find a problem in shortages of materials and insufficient copies of some required texts.

Perhaps the most widely perceived problem with the service provided at Kerr Library is the slow return of materials to the stacks. A majority of students are dissatisfied with the hours the Library is open. Nearly half of the responding student body and about a quarter of the responding faculty expressed dissatisfaction with the lack of lounge and informal reading areas in Kerr Library.

The university community was questioned about the addition of new services that the Library might offer. Help in selection of new materials, specialized research support, and instruction in library use are future services which were considered important.

About 85 percent of faculty members and graduate students think that their departments or Kerr Library should cover the costs of computer database bibliographic searching and interlibrary loans. A majority of undergraduates, on the other hand, favor having to pay their own fees for these services.

There are a great many departmental libraries on campus. Two-thirds of faculty members and graduate students are in departments that maintain their own libraries. A faculty member is more likely

to use grant money to buy books and periodicals to be kept in the departmental library than to file a request for those materials for the Kerr Library. The willingness to share departmental libraries exceeds the desire for access, apparently because over half of the faculty members and graduate students know very little about libraries in other departments.

Seven out of ten responses show that faculty members have had extensive experience with other academic libraries. Of these, 61 percent find that OSU's libraries are not as good in providing support for research and teaching. Graduate students, who have less experience, generally, with other libraries, are less negative in their evaluation of the OSU Libraries.

Support for increasing the funding of the Library is overwhelming among OSU faculty and graduate students. Among those who have an opinion, 90 percent favor increasing the funding and 10 percent favor maintaining the present level. Among undergraduates who have an opinion, the corresponding percentages are 60 to 40.

The top priorities of both faculty and students, for the use of additional funding, are the purchase of more journals and books. A second-level priority, among students, is expanding the operating hours of the Library. Among undergraduates, more comfortable and useable furnishings are a third-level priority.



Pictured here in front of a few of the many books needing repair, Ms. Sheffold, Head of Materials Preparation Department, displays some of the techniques she learned while attending the ALA sponsored preservation workshop held at Stanford University.

New Acquisitions by OSU Libraries

Two recent acquisitions by the Library, purchased with some money from the Rare Book Fund, were *THE NATURALIST IN VANCOUVER ISLAND AND BRITISH COLUMBIA* by John Keast Lord, published in London in 1866, and Captain Frederick William Beechey's *A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY TOWARDS THE NORTH POLE* published in 1843. Mr. Lord was a member of an English commission to mark the boundary between the United States and British Columbia from the coast to the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains. He says "in the following pages, the Author has purposely avoided any definite system of arrangement, preferring a pleasant gossip, chatting, as it were, by the fireside about North-Western Wilds." F. W. Beechey, who was a lieutenant on the expedition, decided to write his book since his superiors had not done so for the lack of time and the feeling that there was not sufficient interest on the part of the public for such an account. The captain of the "Trent" was John Franklin. At the end of the book Beechey has written a long section on early attempts to reach the Pacific by way of the Pole.

WOMEN OF THE WAR; THEIR HEROISM AND SELF-SACRIFICE by Frank Moore was published in 1866. "The story of the Civil War will never be fully or fairly written if the achievements of the women in it are untold. It is the object of this book to gather and present narratives of the services in the war of some of the women who shared its perils, and ought to inherit its glories."

A MEDIEVAL MIRROR, SPECULUM HUMANAE SALVATIONIS, 1324-1500 by Adrian and Joyce Wilson is an explication of a unique book. The *Speculum humanae salvationis* is the only medieval work that exists in manuscripts, in blockbooks, and in sixteen later incunabula. The anonymous original manuscript of the *Speculum* was written in Latin sometime between 1309 and 1324. It vividly depicts the medieval typological system whereby the events in the Gospels were prefigured in the stories of the Old Testament. *A MEDIEVAL MIRROR* is the first study to trace the metamorphoses of this work, its translations, its iconography, and its significance in early printing.

A huge and notable book recently added is *BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR: THE COMPLETE KURZ AND ALLISON PRINTS*. 18" x 21" book was published in 1976 by Oxmoor House Press.

Charles Dickens' last completed work of fiction is *GEORGE SILVERMAN'S EXPLANATION*. It is of short story length and is virtually unknown. Santa Susana Press of Northridge, California, has reprinted it in an edition of 326 copies, in two colors, and

bound in specially decorated cloth over boards.

MEXICO ON STONE: LITHOGRAPHY IN MEXICO, 1826-1900 by W. M. Mathes is a Book Club of California publication. This work presents the history and evolution of a virtually unstudied Mexican art form. Examples of subject matter and the differing quality and style of individual lithographers are presented in monochrome and full-color reproductions.

Two highly specialized and expensive titles have been added: *RESPONSES OF MARINE ORGANISMS TO POLLUTANTS* and *SOLUBILITY OF GASES AND SOLIDS*. These new books cost as much as or more than the rare books mentioned earlier. Yet, the rare books will undoubtedly be placed in the McDonald Room or the Vault and the scientific books on the open shelves. An unusual new acquisition is *BIOMEDICAL AND SURGICAL ASPECTS OF CAPTIVE REPTILE HUSBANDRY* by Fred L. Frye; and surely, Rosemary Romberg's *CIRCUMCISION* will be useful to those interested.

THE LATER PAINTINGS AND DRAWINGS OF JOHN CONSTABLE by Graham Reynolds is a two-volume set of plates and text. The "aim in this catalogue is to give as complete a record as possible of the paintings and drawings produced . . . between 1817 and 1837." In over a thousand paintings, in color, and black and white drawings, we see his superbly fascinating and enchanting paintings of English canals, rivers, landscapes, bridges, farm houses, and portraits. There is a universal appeal to the paintings of Constable. It is quite fitting and true that when one tours England, looking at the heaths, the sky, the bays, the castles, one says, "Oh, it looks just like a Constable." The paintings have become typical views of England.

More briefly, other new acquisitions are *THE LANDSCAPE PAINTINGS OF THOMAS GAINSBOROUGH* in two volumes; *ERTE AT NINETY: THE COMPLETE GRAPHICS*; *AMERICAN IMPRESSIONISM* by William H. Gerdts; *HISTORICAL ATLAS OF AFRICA* published by Cambridge University Press; and *AN IRISH FLORILEGIUM: WILD AND GARDEN PLANTS OF IRELAND* with 48 watercolor paintings.

Serials

New serial acquisitions this year which support graduate study and research in particular, include the *IOWA DRUG INFORMATION SERVICE* (\$4400), the *DEFENSE SPECIFICATION SERVICE* (\$2084), and the *IEEE CONFERENCE RECORD OPEN ORDER PLAN* (\$5750).

The *IOWA DRUG INFORMATION SERVICE* is a data base which allows for the manual search of clinical literature. Every article indexed in the *IDIS* is included in full text on microfiche. This source provides major support for the clinical emphasis in the College of Pharmacy.

The *DEFENSE SPECIFICATION SERVICE* includes virtually all active federal and military specifications and standards, and is updated every seven days. This source will serve all areas of the engineering curriculum.

Under the *IEEE CONFERENCE RECORDS OPEN ORDER PLAN* the Library will receive automatically as published all major IEEE technical Societies' and Councils' meeting publications. These are non-periodical conference records; digests, and reports falling within eight broad categories of publications whose contents are related by technical disciplines.

Indexes

Special indexes added this year to the Library's holdings include the *HISPANIC AMERICAN PERIODICAL INDEX (1975-)* from the UCLA Latin American Center, the *INDEX TO IEEE PUBLICATIONS*, and the *IEEE TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES GUIDE*.

The *INDEX TO IEEE PUBLICATIONS* covers all technical items published by IEEE.

The *IEEE TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES GUIDE* is a new quarterly periodical which features a five-year cross-indexed schedule of IEEE's major conferences, listing dates, locations, sponsors, information contact, and publication plans.

Noteworthy

A resource recently acquired by the Oregon State Library in Salem and available to OSU patrons is the U.S. Patent Depository Library (the first in Oregon). Full text patents from 1965 on are available free of charge as well as on-line key word and term searching capabilities of the *CASSIS* system. OSU Library has manual indexes and searching tools to identify needed patents. Additional information is available from Karen Bell, Patent Office, Oregon State Library (378-4239).

Friends of the Library Fund for Humanities Challenge



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Please make checks payable to *OSU Friends of the Library* and mail with the above form to:

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All contributions are tax deductible.

** I understand that my contribution is to be used to match the NEH Challenge Grant for the Library's Humanities Endowment.*

Thank You!

Contribution by Ed Brazee, Dr. Melvin George, E. Anne Merryfield, Nancy Powell, Donetta Sheffold, Karen Starr, and S. Swanson.

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