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RILA Bulletin

Rhode Island Library Association

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Spring 1975

## Bulletin of the Rhode Island Library Association v. 47, no.3

RILA

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Bulletin of  
THE RHODE ISLAND LIBRARY ASSOC.

Spring  
meeting  
MAY 22<sup>ND</sup>



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Beginning now, the RILA Bulletin will appear on a quarterly basis in the third week of January, April, June and September. Articles and notes should be submitted no later than the first of each of these months.

Advertising rates are available upon request.

As a publication of the Rhode Island Library Association The *Bulletin's* articles are a voice for each of its members and do not necessarily reflect the ideas of the Association nor of *The Bulletin*.

winter '74-'75 numbered incorrectly - should read vol. 47, no. 2

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In the past few months the Executive Board and its committees have taken up the following business of urgent interest to RILA members: the selection of a new Department of State Library Services Director; the Long-Range Planning Committee Recommendations; the Intellectual Freedom Committee's Handbook of Procedures; and legislation to increase the State's support of libraries.

### DSLS DIRECTOR AND RILA'S SEARCH COMMITTEE

With regard to the DSLS position, the Executive Board held a special meeting on January 20 to consider a proposal submitted by the directors of the Regional Center libraries and the Principal Public Library. Acting in support of that proposal, the Executive Board approved two motions:

"that the Executive Board of Rhode Island Library Association appoint a delegation of three members for the purpose of giving input toward the selection of the new Director of the Department of State Library Services."

and

"that James Giles, RILA President, Knight Edwards, Trustee, and Roberta Cairns, Director of Barrington Public Library be appointed to serve as the delegates."

A third motion was then passed:

"that the Executive Board establish a Rhode Island Library Association Search Committee to offer advice in the selection of the Director of the Department of State Library Services, and that the Search Committee be broadly based to include representation of the library community, trustees, and library users."

The delegation was warmly received in Governor Noel's office and encouraged to set up a Search Committee to advise the State's top official.

On February 27 the Search Committee met and elected Charles Churchwell as Chairman of the Committee. It also approved a news release and a job advertisement. Both appear elsewhere in the Bulletin. The Committee will begin preliminary consideration of the credentials of candidates at its next scheduled meeting on May 16.

### LONG-RANGE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Following the Mid-Winter Conference at Providence College, the Executive Board voted to form a new committee and charged it as follows:

"that the Long-Range Plan Implementation Committee be convened to consider means for implementation of the Long-Range Planning Committee report with special attention to the first, second, and third priorities set at the Mid-Winter Conference; and to provide the Association specific information dealing with cost, personnel, and time."

The first three priorities selected by the membership at Mid-Winter were:

1. That a publicist be engaged to promote, using the media and the best professional techniques, the public, school, academic, and special libraries of Rhode Island.

2. That the Rhode Island Library Association cooperate with the Graduate Library School and the Division of University Extension ( soon to be called the College of Continuing Education ) at the University of Rhode Island in the development of a sound program of continuing library education .
3. That there be introduced in Rhode Island a statewide public library borrowers card .

The "Implementation" Committee met April 9 and elected Louise Sherby as Chairman .

Sub-committees were formed, and the Committee plans to present a progress report at the Annual Meeting on May 22 .

#### INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM COMMITTEE HANDBOOK OF PROCEDURES

The Handbook of Procedures, prepared by the Intellectual Freedom Committee, was approved by the Executive Board. It will be distributed to the membership for their examination prior to the Annual Meeting. Then at a special morning session members may discuss and raise questions about the "Handbook" with committee members. Later in the day the membership will vote on the "Handbook" at the Business Meeting.

#### LIBRARY LEGISLATION PROMOTED

The Government Relations Committee distributed a packet of information on the current library legislation and how to get it passed to librarians, directors, trustees, and others. If you would like a packet, please call 781-9580.

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RILA Legislation to Help Ease Effects of Inflation  
by Paul J. Rinaldi  
for the Government Relations Committee

Every year at this time, librarians across the state are scurrying, trying to secure additional funds for next year's budget. This year, however, the problem is even more severe. While inflation demands more money to meet current service levels, many local officials are talking of budget cuts in order to prevent a tax increase.

Particularly hard hit has been the Rhode Island Interrelated Library Network as there has been no increase since 1971. With the grants being frozen and costs ever increasing, the network has been severely damaged and indeed, its future is in doubt. ----- The Government Relations Committee, through a series of amendments to the state's library law, is attempting to ease some of the financial pressure.

On March 12, seven State Representatives, led by Rep. Matthew Smith ( D. Prov. ) introduced into the General Assembly, RILA's 1975 legislative program. The package, referred to the House Finance Committee, contained four bills.



75-H7667 --- designates the libraries of Bryant College and Providence College as "special research centers." This proposal acknowledges the fine collections of both institutions and asks for funds amounting to \$7,500 each to meet the expenses of services already provided.

75-H7668 --- increases the minimum state per capita grant from 25¢ to 40¢. It is important to note that while the law refers to a 15¢ increase, the current level of funding is at 35¢, making the actual increase only 5¢.

75-H7669 --- increases the minimum state grant to regions from 25¢ to 45¢ and allows the population of Westerly to be included when computing the grant to the Southern Region. This is necessary because all centers are required to provide certain services, regardless of size, and because of the seasonal change in the size of the Southern Region's population.

75-H7670 --- appropriates \$76,634.00 to raise the minimum state grant to the Principal Public Library from \$100,000 to \$300,000.

When we began discussing our legislative program, we had difficulty obtaining sponsors; at the time of introduction, we had seven. When it was first sent to the House Committee on Finance, we felt it would get pigeonholed; we have the support of five members, (four more and the bills will be reported out of committee). This is our first priority. To have a chance, it MUST be reported out of committee.

CALL YOUR LEGISLATORS; BOTH REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS !

VOICE YOUR SUPPORT AND REQUEST THEIR SUPPORT .

REMEMBER: WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. SUPPORT ALL FOUR BILLS .

Judging from the state's economy, we may lose this battle, but the war is everlasting. We must educate the legislators as to who we are and what are our needs. It is by working with them in this manner that we will learn what they want and then earn their respect and support.

If anyone has any requests, recommendations, or information, please contact any of the following members:

Robert Burford	Pawtucket Public Library	722-8840	Reference Dept.
James T. Giles	Cranston Public Library	781-9580	
James S. Healey	URI Library School	792-2947	
Paul J. Rinaldi	Providence Public Library	521-7722	Periodical Dept.

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CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE LIBRARY ASSOC.

The Church and Synagogue Librarian in Today's World is the theme of the Church and Synagogue Library Association's 1975 conference on the campus of Oberlin College. Dates: June 15 - 16 - 17. A brochure with complete program and registration information is available from CSLA, Box 530, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010.

NASIC AT URI  
by Betsey Gates  
Social Science Reference Librarian  
URI Library

Wouldn't it be nice to type a subject heading on a keyboard and have a list of bibliographic citations available instantly? Theoretically, this is now possible at the University of Rhode Island Library through its NASIC/URI program. NASIC (Northeast Academic Scientific Information Center) has been implemented by NEBHE (The New England Board of Higher Education) with a grant from NSF (National Science Foundation). URI is one of several schools, including Dartmouth, MIT, the University of Delaware and the University of New Hampshire, who have taken advantage of the training programs and facilities offered through NASIC.

Two commercial electronic data base services, SDC (Systems Development Corporation) and Lockheed, are accessible from a computer terminal in the URI Library which is connected by telephone to computers in California. Many of the data bases are already available in paper format in the Library's Reference Collection, but whereas a researcher would have to go through many issues of a paper index or cumulated indices, the computer searches an entire data base in a fraction of a second.

SDC and Lockheed offer data bases in many subject areas. Included are ERIC (based on Research in Education (RIE) and Current Index to Journals in Education); PREDICASTS (business information); INFORM (business periodical and newspaper abstracts); NTIS; INSPEC (Science abstracts, Physics abstracts, Electrical and Electronics Abstracts, Computers and Controls Abstracts); Chemical Abstracts Condensates; SSCI (Social Science Citation Index); SCISEARCH (Science Citation Index, Current Contents/Life Sciences and Current Contents/Clinical Practice); CAIN (books, journals, U.S. Government and international agency research reports, based on Bibliography of Agriculture and the catalog of the National Agriculture Library); GEO-REF (covers research journals in geology and related disciplines, based on Bibliography and Index of Geology); and Psychological Abstracts.

Of course, money is involved, as it is with anything. The NASIC/URI search service is on a fee basis which varies with each data base. Typically, there is a set fee for the first twenty minutes of an on-line search, with an additional per minute cost for each minute over the initial twenty. If the search produces a list of citations, the bibliographic information, which in many cases includes an abstract, is printed off-line and mailed to the researcher. The charge per citation also varies between data bases. Non-University users will be charged at 1.5 times the rates of University people.

Anyone who desires either more information or a search should arrange an appointment with one of the five subject specialists by calling the Reference Department. (Telephone 792-2653) Oh, yes. Acronym dictionaries are also available in the Reference Department.



Release Date: 3 / 25 / 75

The Executive Board of the Rhode Island Library Association has appointed a Search Committee to advise Governor Noel in the selection of a successor to Miss Elizabeth G. Myer as Director of the Department of State Library Services.

The Search Committee is made up of representatives from all types of libraries and includes Charles Churchwell, Brown University Librarian (Chairman); Knight Edwards, President of the Board of Trustees of the Providence Public Library; Richard Robbins, Director of the Warwick Public Library; Dan Bergen, Associate Professor at the University of Rhode Island; Sarah Henderson, Coordinating Librarian at the Foster Public Library; Mildred Nichols, library user; Louis Leveille, Library Coordinator at Woonsocket Senior High School; Elliott Andrews, State Librarian; James Giles, President of the Rhode Island Library Association; Joseph Doherty, Director of Providence College's Phillips Memorial Library; and Dorothy Brown, Supervisor of Young Readers' Services at the Department of State Library Services.

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JOB ADVERTISEMENT FOR DIRECTOR OF THE  
RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF STATE LIBRARY SERVICES

**DIRECTOR.** Rhode Island Department of State Library Services, the state library agency. **Qualifications:** Graduate of ALA accredited library school; demonstrated administrative ability; and knowledge of library networks and informational systems. Director appoints staff; promotes and develops library services throughout the state in cooperation with any and all other state or municipal libraries, public libraries, schools or other agencies wherever practical; and administers state and federal aid for library services and construction, centralized processing center, services to state institutions, and the Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped.

Minimum Salary: \$21,060.00. Send letter of application, resume and references by May 15, 1975 to Charles Churchwell, Chairman, Search Committee, Brown University, Rockefeller Library, Providence, Rhode Island 02906. Position is available immediately after May 15. The Committee's recommendations will be submitted to Governor Noel who will make the appointment with the advice and consent of the State Senate. An equal opportunity and affirmative action program.



## THE NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY BOARD:

### WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT HAS DONE, WHAT IT HOPES TO DO

by Mary McKenzie

The New England Library Board was created by popular demand to work with all types of libraries in efforts to improve library and information services throughout the region. The Board also depends largely upon grass-roots sentiment to chart the direction it will take. Toward that end, it has an advisory council designed to reflect as fully as possible all the library interests within the six states of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

In Rhode Island, if you are a public librarian, you are represented currently by Martha Bullard of the Cumberland Public Library; an academic librarian, by George Parks of the University of Rhode Island; a school librarian, by Hope Carey of Pawtucket; a special librarian, by Ruth Szabo of St. Joseph's Hospital Library, Providence; or a member of the public, by David Brindamour of West Warwick, a trustee, and by Paul Campbell of Cranston. Besides six representatives from each state, the advisory body, known as the Panel of Counsellors, has six regional members: Joseph G. Sakey, President of the New England Library Association; Ronald F. Miller, Director of the New England Library Information Network (NELINET); Arlene Hope, Library Services Program Officer in Boston for the U.S. Office of Education; Chapman Stockford, Executive Director of the New England Governors' Conference; and Ronald E. Flagg, Director of Government Affairs, New England Council. From its inception in 1972 through April 1975, the Panel had as its chairman a public librarian from Maine, Edward V. Chenevert of Portland, and as its vice-chairman a special librarian from Massachusetts, Richard Huleatt of Stone and Webster Engineering Corporation in Boston. (A new election will probably have been held before this issue is distributed.)

NELB itself is composed of the heads of the six state library agencies, and Elizabeth G. Myer of Rhode Island was its chairman in 1974-1975 up to her recent resignation. To understand the reason for the Board's composition, one must go back to the origins of the movement to bring an agency such as NELB into being. The telling thrust occurred back in the late 1960's, when members of the regional Planning Committee of the New England Library Association gradually came to the realization that they lacked the time, the money, and the clout to initiate the many regional programs which they and their predecessors had long recognized as needed. Setting out to create a new entity which could provide what a voluntary association could not, the Committee discovered that the most feasible, least time-consuming means of establishing such an entity was through the New England Interstate Library Compact, already on the books. Since the Compact Administrators (the six state library agency heads) could not legally delegate their authority to another body, they simply reconstituted themselves to function as the Regional Planning Committee had envisioned. Thus in that capacity on October 6, 1972, each of them, together with the Attorney General of each state, signed the Agreement bringing the New England Library Board into existence.

The NELB bylaws, drafted by the Regional Planning Committee, called for a secretariat headed by an executive director. Even before the headquarters office was funded, however, the Board launched its first major program. On April 1, 1973, what was to grow into a pilot project of both national and international significance was begun under the direction of George M. Cunha, formerly of the Boston Atheneum. The mission of the new undertaking was to offer on a non-profit basis the hitherto prohibitively expensive service of restoring and conserving valuable documents, books, manuscripts, broadsides, photographs, and other library and archival materials which were deteriorating or which had been damaged by fire or flood.



In its first two years, the New England Document Conservation Center, located in the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum in North Andover, Massachusetts, has perhaps become better known and certainly more widely acclaimed than its parent organization. With a seed grant from the Council on Library Resources and with the development of a phenomenal demand for its services, the Center has become self-supporting, and in a short time it has built a strong reputation for leadership, reliability, and craftsmanship. It is, for example, the only conservation workshop outside the National Archives which the federal government has allowed to handle Presidential papers.

Faced with the impoundment of federal funds during the Nixon Administration and with tight state budgets, the New England Library Board found it difficult to allocate money to create and staff its own headquarters. When impounded funds were released in 1974, however, it became possible to move forward. The Board named this writer as its first executive director beginning September 1974, and an office was subsequently set up in the Library Service Center in Middletown, Conn.

To get a reading of needs from the field, NELB in September cosponsored, with NELA and NELINET, an "Idea Conference" attended by representatives of interstate library organizations in the region. From that conference and a December meeting of its own Panel of Counsellors, plus a questionnaire to both groups, which some passed on to their constituents, the Board came up with tentative proposals of several possible programs and activities.

Some steps have been taken. Because continuing education was one of the needs which the groups pointed to and because grant deadlines were in the offing, the three accredited library schools in New England -- Simmons, the University of Rhode Island, and Southern Connecticut State College -- were invited to discuss a program which they might offer cooperatively. All responded willingly, and as a result the NELB executive director wrote two proposals for HEW grants to conduct a leadership institute and follow-up state workshops in public relations to aid practicing librarians in communicating with actual and potential users and with governing boards. One application was declined, and the other has not yet been heard from, but whatever the outcome of these first attempts, it must be considered a landmark to have broken the ground for cooperation among the library schools.

Besides continuing education, other programs under consideration include the following:

1. Directory of information resource centers, networks, consortia, and relevant organizations in New England and establishment of intercommunication links among them.
2. Information (telephone reference) center, possibly preceded by a survey of user needs -- an extension of Connecticut's successful Library Line.
3. Evaluative survey of current and completed outreach programs to determine ways to make future ones more effective.
4. Depository for serials, last-copy books, and possibly materials for the blind and physically handicapped.
5. Coordination of a regional legislative network to enlist governmental support for library programs.
6. Clearinghouse for meetings and other regional activities -- an expansion of Massachusetts' LIS/MEX.

The headquarters office is also expected to begin issuing a newsletter with a wide distribution to keep interested publics informed of NELB's activities and plans.



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and subject headings . . .  
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Many questions remain to be answered. What of the need to improve interlibrary loan systems? NELINET has plans to introduce new services in this area, and NELB could conceivably work to supplement them among libraries outside the NELINET membership. What action, if any, will be taken on the recommendations by Westat, Inc., a research firm, to the National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for a national network? NCLIS is studying the report of the Westat study, completed in 1974 but issued in February or March 1975, and should take a position on it in April. If the plan is accepted, NELB could elect to assume responsibility for implementing the regional resource system proposed as a complement to the regional Bibliographic system, which NELINET is already building. The activities seen in developing a regional resource system are 1) coordination of regional resources, 2) collection development, and 3) last-copy depository. The programs already under consideration by NELB are not contrary to such a course. The full Westat report, entitled Resources and Bibliographic Support for a Nationwide Library Program, is available from the U. S. Government Office at \$3.25 a copy (stock no. 5203-00061).

A joint meeting of the Panel of Counsellors and the participants in last September's Idea Conference is scheduled for April 10-11 with the aim of formulating an action plan. Out of it is expected to come an outline of specific steps to be taken in realizing the various programs and a timetable for work on each within an overall scheme.

An essential ingredient for NELB's success, of course, is money. Some contributions have been received thus far from library associations and institutions, but most of the support has come from federal funds channeled through the state library agencies. Foundations and other private sources will have to be tapped if a major program is to be introduced, although any long-term activity must eventually become self-sustaining or be permanently subsidized.

What can the individual contribute to the work that NELB has agreed to undertake on behalf of the libraries and citizens of New England? As noted, every resident of a member state has a representative on the Panel of Counsellors. Let that representative know of your ideas and suggestions for programs or funding. Or communicate directly with the NELB office, 786 South Main Street, Middletown, Connecticut 06457 (telephone 203-347-7473). Talk with others in your library or association about ways to become involved in cooperative activities sponsored by NELB. Widespread support is needed and solicited; only with it can an ambitious dream become a working reality.

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#### NELA MEMORIAL FUND

The New England Library Association has set an initial goal of \$5000 for its Memorial Endowment Fund for Education. As soon as \$5000 has been accumulated in the capital fund, the interest will be spent on continuing education projects for librarians such as inservice training, NELA-sponsored workshops and expenses toward degrees beyond the MLS. To date the Memorial Fund has received \$800 in memory of various librarians. The Fund provides a way for friends and families to perpetuate the memory of a member of the library field and at the same time contribute to the on-going education of librarians. Individuals or organizations are invited to make memorial gifts to the Fund in the name of any deceased person in the library field. Contributions may be sent to:

NELA Memorial Fund for Education  
NELA  
P.O. Box 273  
Holden, Mass. 01526



"Running Out of Space -- What are the Alternatives?" -- An  
Institute in San Francisco

The ALA Library Administration Division, Buildings and Equipment Section, Buildings Committee for College and University Libraries will sponsor an institute on June 26-28, 1975, prior to the American Library Association Annual Conference in San Francisco, at the Sheraton Palace Hotel.

The program is planned for librarians, college and university administrators, budget officers, and others who are or will be facing serious space problems in the near future. The program will include speakers, a panel of reactors, roundtable discussions with the speakers, and question-answer sessions.

Registration will be limited to 250. It is therefore necessary to preregister by mail. Registration for the institute is \$40.00 for ALA members and \$55.00 for nonmembers. Please make checks payable to the American Library Association and send to Donald P. Hammer, Executive Secretary, LAD, American Library Association, 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

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The Annual Spring Meeting of the Rhode Island Library Association will be held Thursday, May 22nd from 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. at Bryant College. Programs this year will deal with Intellectual Freedom, the right to know versus the right to privacy, management from a continuing education viewpoint, cinema appreciation and evaluation of films, and a discussion of current literature, as well as the annual business meeting. The Intellectual Freedom Committee has been working continually to produce a handbook to be used by librarians in dealing with intellectual freedom problems. The handbook will be mailed out prior to the Spring Meeting so that the membership will have a chance to study it before voting to accept it at the business meeting on May 22nd. During the morning of the conference, the Intellectual Freedom Committee will present a program at which time discussion will take place about the handbook. It is hoped that everyone will attend this session so that they will know the background for the handbook and be able to vote with facts in mind on this important issue. Continuing Education with particular emphasis on management was one of the foremost priorities decided on by RILA membership at the Midwinter Conference in February at Providence College. As a result of the importance attached to this topic by the membership, a program will be presented during the morning of the Conference. There will be a session on the "right to know" versus the "right to privacy" following luncheon.

The annual business meeting will be held in the afternoon, as will sessions on cinema appreciation/film evaluation and a discussion of current literature. Programs with exact times and room numbers for the programs will be mailed out in the near future along with registration forms.

RILA Conference Committee

Roberta A.E. Cairns, Chairperson  
Verma Brown  
Virginia Carter  
Ned Comstock  
Ron Heroux  
Diana Kadanoff  
Jim Norman

SPRING  
MEETING  
MEETING  
MEETING



MR. GEORGE PARKS OF U. R. I. REGRETS HIS INABILITY TO MEET THE DEADLINE FOR THIS ISSUE REGARDING HIS SPEECH ON UNIONS FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF AN ADMINISTRATOR (heard at the fall conference, Newport, 1974) DUE TO UNION PROBLEMS.

#### EDITORIAL

As this is the last issue of the Bulletin under my editorship, I would like to indulge myself, taking a chance at boring all of you, in a few thoughts on the Association and the Bulletin of the future. I have held the post of editor for just over four years en toto (in two segments), and won't mind the job again at some future date, but my hands are now itchy to try something else in the job pool of the Association. Anyhow.....

Finances for the Association are not at their best at the moment -- costs have been rising drastically yearly and yet our income has remained fairly constant for the last 7 -8 years. If the priorities we decided upon at the midwinter conference are to become actualities, if the Bulletin is to be maintained and upgraded, if our conferences and workshops are to increase and continually improve, if we are to become vital to our members as an active Association then our dues must increase and our workshops, conferences and Bulletin will have to pay for themselves and various dormant committees must be prodded back into life. To help us all, the dues change must come now before the Association loses the assets it has. Under the present administration and its predecessor the other items are being encouraged and acted upon.

The Bulletin is, of course, one of these areas touched by financial problems. The cost of publishing greatly exceeds the income from its advertisers. (When I first became editor it was a dream very quickly shattered to have a financially self-sustaining publication). Mr. Kevin Carty, our advertising staffer, has worked long tedious months to try and increase advertising and he has yet to grumble, despite the lack of success. If our ads could pay the Bulletin's cost, wouldn't it be lovely to have it really regular, predictable well laid out and practical format with news instead of fourth time warmed-over hash. And, a dream to be sure, let's get a guaranteed top quality article on a library issue each time that really hits the pulse of the RILA community -- not by being bitter or caustic or superior, but simply by telling things as they are complete with facts, causes and effects, evaluations, etc.

My successor may have a few things up his sleeve, you can be sure the Bulletin will be changing, but even Lee Flanagan of Pawtucket will need financial miracles to keep this small token of communication open to its members.

DJ

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