



## Graduate Student Field Training in Senegal

### In Their Own Words



We sat cross-legged on the concrete floor in the antechamber of the Marabout, three first-year graduate students in anthropological archaeology from the University of Michigan, while flies buzzed languidly in the warm, stale air. After six weeks of fieldwork in Senegal, we had learned how to excavate human remains, how to record archaeological data, and how to work together as a team. And waiting for our audience with the Marabout, we learned the virtue of patience. Marabouts are well-respected scholars of the Islamic brotherhoods in West Africa and many are gifted with mystic powers by the grace of Allah . . .

Weeks before, we had arrived in Dakar, Senegal, with Dr. Augustin Holl to participate as a student cohort in the spring field season (May 16-June 30) of the Sine Ngayene Archaeological Project (SNAP) sponsored by the University of Michigan Museum of Anthropology. With Dr. Holl we set off for our field site in a Land Rover piloted by our driver and good friend Tamsir Maiga. Heading inland to the Saloum region of central Senegal, we were immediately struck by the thick humidity that anticipates the summer rains. The UMMA archaeological field station is located in the village of Ngayene only a few kilometers from the Gambia border. For over a century this region has been known to archaeologists for its first millennium megalithic cemeteries.

Augustin Holl's multi-year SNAP project had already conducted a survey along the seasonal watercourse Petit Bao Bolon to locate megalithic cemeteries and their

associated stone quarries, as well as habitation and iron-production sites. This year, we assisted Dr. Holl with the excavation of Ngayene-II, a medium-sized cemetery a few minutes' walk from the field station. This site included numerous megalithic stone circles, earthen tumuli and a possible ritual space. Building upon the work of previous seasons of UM students, our excavations revealed at least two different types of burial practices. One large megalithic stone circle included a secondary interment of numerous individuals with associated grave goods such as copper and iron jewelry and iron spear points. Notably, some of the iron points may have been ritually "killed" by bending the tip backwards. Other mortuary circles made of smaller stones contained the primary burials of individuals laid to rest successively over time. In one case, however, four individuals were probably interred atop one another, together in one burial event.

Unfortunately, many of the human remains we recovered were in an advanced state of decay. Soil chemistry and termites had taken their toll. Indeed, termites continue to ravage human populations, we discovered, as they rained down upon us from the wooden roof beams of our field station during hard rain storms. During

our final, fervent week of excavation, rain showers left us digging in the mud, pausing only to toss the occasional happy frog out of our excavation unit. And suddenly our field season was over. Having successfully taught some of the local children to throw a frisbee, we returned to Dakar in our (t)rusty Land Rover laden with archaeological samples that continue to be analyzed at the Museum of Anthropology in Ann Arbor.

We had journeyed north from Dakar to the town of Louga to visit the Marabout, and receive his cosmic wisdom of things present and future. Finally, we entered his chamber and whispered our desires into a handful of sand, writing there with our breath a future read only with the grace of Allah. But our thoughts inevitably drifted to the dynamics of the past societies who produced the megalithic cemetery of Ngayene-II and the knowledge of prehistory which no cleric can help us understand. The pieces of this knowledge are buried in the sands of central Senegal, waiting to be put together by archaeologists such as ourselves.

*Uthara Suvrathan  
Khorl Newlander  
Cameron Gokee*

## Letter from the Director

I write to you with just two months as Museum Director under my belt and renewed respect and admiration for all who have held this position before me. I marvel at their abilities to gracefully balance research, curation, teaching, and administration and I hope that I can follow in their footsteps in nurturing the commitment to community and dedication to excellence that are our Museum's hallmarks.

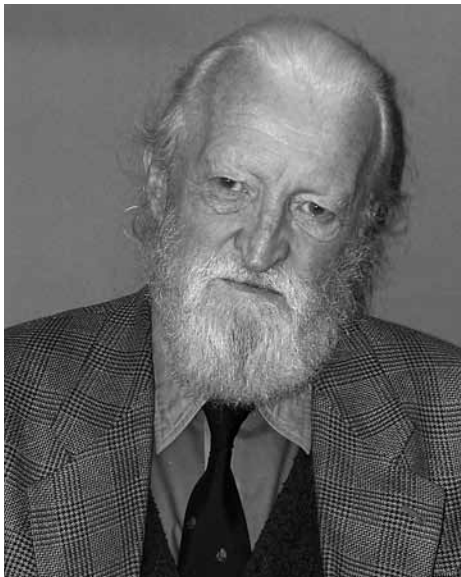
This issue of our newsletter seeks to bring you up to date on the exciting field and collections research of the curators, staff, and affiliated graduate students of the Museum of Anthropology over the past year. The Museum has entered a period of transition with the approaching retirements of two of our curators: Jeffrey Parsons and Richard (Dick) Ford. Both, of course, will maintain their active research programs and their long-standing association with our Museum. And both continue to share their vast knowledge with students and colleagues. But their daily presence in our classrooms, halls, meetings, and lunch room will be deeply missed. We wish Jeff, Dick and their families the very best as they begin this next stage of their lives and careers.

This is a challenging and exciting period in the Museum's history, made especially daunting by declining resources available from the State and University. Yet the Museum remains a center of exciting and innovative archaeological research conducted around the globe by our curators and graduate students, as well as in our laboratories. Through our field schools, teaching, and research in our "ranges" we remain committed to providing top-notch graduate and undergraduate education and hands-on training in archaeological practice. In addition, we are working hard to improve our collection documentation and accessibility and will very soon have our 30,000+ image database available on the World Wide Web for your use in teaching and research.

As we devote our energies to maintaining and enhancing the Museum's activities and stature as a center for excellence in anthropological archaeology, we thank you for your commitment to our institution and look forward to working with you in the future to assure our intellectual and financial stability.

Carla M. Sinopoli  
November 1, 2005

## Curator Honors



C. Loring Brace

**Charles Loring Brace** was awarded the **Charles R. Darwin Lifetime Achievement Award** by the American Association of Physical Anthropologists. This award was established in 1992 to recognize and honor distinguished senior members of the Association who have demonstrated a lifetime of contributions and commitment to physical anthropology through their scholarship, training, and service.

Professor Brace has had an enormous influence on the field of biological anthropology, and this award acknowledges his long and distinguished career. He has been a consistent advocate of adopting a Darwinian perspective to address questions in biological anthropology. He pioneered the use of quantitative metric data to investigate the evolutionary relationships of humans. He has been a strong and vocal proponent of the idea that race is not a valid biological construct. Loring's writings on this topic have had a significant impact and were recently summarized in his book: *"Race" is a Four-Letter Word* (Oxford University Press, 2005). Early in his career, Loring's "single-species hypothesis" focused attention on the number of species of early humans in the fossil record. This debate currently lives on in the form of the multiregional hypothesis of modern human origins. Loring has long championed the hypothesis that Neandertals were a part of a single evolving human lineage.

As we acknowledge this much-deserved honor, we also express our profound sadness that Mimi Brace is not here to join our celebrations. Mimi passed away on August 15, 2005.

As Loring's wife, editor, collaborator, and inspiration for nearly 50 years, Mimi's contributions to Loring's academic career and life are profound and immeasurable; this Lifetime Achievement Award belongs to her as well as Loring.

**Kent V. Flannery** was elected to the **American Philosophical Society**. Founded by Ben Franklin in 1743, election to the Society honors extraordinary accomplishment in all scholarly fields and seeks to promote useful knowledge in the sciences and humanities through excellence in scholarly research, professional meetings, publications, library resources, and community outreach.

**Richard I. Ford** presented the 26th College of Literature, Science, and the Arts **Distinguished Senior Faculty Lecture** "Metaphors in Stone: Interpreting Rock Art in New Mexico," in the Rackham Amphitheater in March 2005.

**Joyce Marcus** was awarded the University of Michigan's highest faculty honor in being named the **Robert L. Carneiro Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology**. This Distinguished University Professorship honors Joyce's originality and scholarly achievement in Pre-Columbian archaeology, ethnohistory, hieroglyphic writing, and cultural evolution, as well as her dedication and commitment to teaching and mentoring.

In September 2004, **Henry Wright** presented the annual Stanley Ulam Lectures at the Santa Fe Institute, New Mexico, addressing theories of early state emergence and research on early states in Mesopotamia and Madagascar.

## Transitions

### Jeffrey Parsons Retires

Curator and Professor Jeffrey Parsons retired this fall, though we see no evidence that he is slowing down. Jeff has been a stellar teacher, colleague, and scholar and received the University's **Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award** in October 2002. Jeff received his BS (1961) from Pennsylvania State University and his MA (1963) and PhD (1966) from the University of Michigan. He joined the UM as an assistant professor/assistant curator in 1966, becoming a professor of anthropology and curator of Latin American archaeology in 1976. He served as director of the Museum from 1983-1986.



Jeff is currently completing his book on the uses of aquatic resources in the Valley of Mexico lake system, *The Last Pescadores of Chimalhuacán*. This will join his other two monographs on traditional economies of the Mesoamerican highlands (*The Last Saltmakers of Nexquipayac, Mexico*, and *Maquey Utilization in Highland Central Mexico*, by Jeffrey R. Parsons and Mary H. Parsons), both UMMA Anthropological Papers, available through our website. An associated exhibit opened at the UM Exhibit Museum

this fall. Jeff looks forward to continuing his research and publications on Latin American archaeology, with five monographs under way on his research in Mexico and Peru, including publication of his 1966 doctoral dissertation!

Jeff's many students, colleagues, and friends acknowledged his distinguished career as scholar and field researcher, extraordinary teacher, fair and honest colleague, and supportive and generous friend at a well-attended reception at the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology in Salt Lake City last spring. It is impossible to acknowledge Jeff without also recognizing his partner in life and scholarship, **Mary Hrones Parsons**. Jeff's contributions to Latin American archaeology and regional archaeology will be acknowledged in a forthcoming volume, edited by Richard Blanton and Mary Hrones Parsons (Cotsen Institute, University of California, Los Angeles).

We are pleased to announce the creation of the **Jeffrey R. Parsons Lecture Fund**. This quasi-endowment will be used to bring in speakers for our Brown Bag Lecture Series and other lectures. (All who have spent time in our Museum are no doubt familiar with Jeff's commitment to such talks, with his brown paper bag containing a wholesome wax-paper-wrapped sandwich and crisp fall apple.) This fund will enhance our ability to bring exciting speakers to the Museum. To make a contribution, please use the enclosed card.

### Richard I. Ford Retires

Dick Ford has also begun the journey toward retirement. Although his official retirement date is not until summer of 2007, Dick will be mov-



ing to Santa Fe, and continuing his work on rock art, ethnobiology, and a range of Southwestern prehistoric and historic archaeology issues. Dick was honored last spring by an all-day session at the annual meetings of the Society for American Archaeology. Papers from that session will appear soon in *Engaged Anthropology: Research Essays on North American Archaeology, Ethnobotany, and Museology*, edited by Michelle Hegmon and B. Sunday Eiselt (see ad, p. 7). In April 2005, more than 80 friends, colleagues, and family members gathered in the Museum's rotunda for a dinner honoring Dick. Thanks to Paul Minnis for helping to organize the gathering and C. Wesley Cowan for emceeding. To honor Dick's myriad contributions to the University of Michigan and his wide-ranging scholarship in paleoethnobotany, ethnobotany, and Native American archaeology and ethnology, the Museum has established the **Richard I. Ford Research Fund for the Anthropological Study of Humans and the Environment**. Income generated from this quasi-endowment will provide resources to undergraduate and graduate students conducting anthropological research on humans and the environment. To make a contribution to this fund in Dick's honor, please use the enclosed card.

## Curator Research and Activities

**John D. Speth** is on sabbatical in 2005-06 but remains in Ann Arbor to write about his recent excavations at Bloom Mound, a small 14th-century village located near Roswell, New Mexico. He continues to work on Kebara Cave (Israel) animal bones. Last May, he and Honors student **Matt LeDuc** visited several West Texas museums to collect data on whole vessels that usually show up in southwestern archaeological sites as tiny sherds. This information will provide the basis for Matt's Honors Thesis. In September, Speth was an invited speaker in the "Time Travelers" series sponsored by the Royal Alberta Provincial Museum in Edmonton.

**Robert Whallon** continued his field research at

the Paleolithic rockshelter of S. Angelo in Abruzzo, Italy, in collaboration with Amilcare Bietti of the University of Rome, and at the Middle Paleolithic rockshelter of Crvena Stijena in Montenegro.

**Lisa Young** was awarded an NSF REU grant for her project HUROP (see "Undergraduate Field Opportunities," p. 6). She continued her research on pithouse communities in northeastern Arizona with the help of **Rachel Barnick**, a freshman participant in the UM's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

**Augustin Holl** was appointed a Research Associate at the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, and a Fellow at the W.E.B. Dubois

Institute for African and African-American Research, Harvard University, Cambridge.

**Joyce Marcus** and Jerry Sabloff co-chaired the symposium "Early Cities: New Perspectives on Pre-Industrial Urbanism" at the National Academy of Sciences in May 2005.

**Richard Redding** was elected to the Board of AERA (Ancient Egyptian Research Associates), a private, non-profit foundation supporting archaeological research in Egypt.

**Henry Wright** continued his peripatetic ways, conducting fieldwork in Madagascar and Syria, interspersed by trips to China, Thailand, and Myanmar (Burma).

# Snapshots from the field...

In May and June 2005, curator **John O'Shea** and doctoral candidate **Meghan Howey** co-directed our 2005 North American archaeological field school, assisted by doctoral student **Dan Pugh** and recent BA graduate **Bethany Dykstra**. Students participated in an ongoing long-term project in north-central Michigan, conducting excavations at the Missaukee Earthworks and Chief White Bird sites. And they were involved in the start-up of a new archaeological research program at the University of Michigan Biological Station along Douglas Lake, in Pellston, Michigan.



In July and August, **John O'Shea**, with co-directors Alex Barker and Sarah Sherwood, began NSF-sponsored collaborative research at the important Bronze Age site of Pecica in western Romania. Working in collaboration with Romanian archaeologists from the Banatuli Museum in Timisoara and the County Museum of Arad, UM graduate students **Amy Nicodemus**, **Eric Rupley**, and **Paul Duffy** and former undergrad Christopher Papalas participated in this first season of excavation at the renowned tell. The site was central in controlling the production and distribution of bronze goods throughout southeastern Europe, and is critically important in understanding the chronology of the Bronze Age.



Doctoral student **Dan Pugh** excavating in Central Nebraska. Dan's NSF- and Griffin Fellowship-supported research examines Oneota expansion on its western frontier in a project "Tribal Expansion and Social Boundary Maintenance: Oneota's Far-Western Edge in the Vicinity of the Swantek Site, Central Nebraska." UM undergraduates **Stephanie Salwen**, **Elisa Ramirez Lagos**, and **Erin Lutgens** participated in the 2005 field research.

**Augustin Holl** conducted two field seasons in Senegal, working with undergraduate students in the Winter term and graduate students in the Spring. The course "Advanced Field Studies" is new and provides collaborative field-training experience to first year graduate students in anthropological archaeology. **Cameron Gokee**, **Khori Newlander**, and **Uthara Suvrathan** participated (see p. 1).



Doctoral candidate **Li Min** directed the 2005 excavation season at the Daxinzhuang site in the Henan province of China, with a team of students from Shandong University, and local volunteers. They've uncovered oracle bones and offering pits for human and animal sacrifice, as well as animal bones, ceramics and plant remains. They've also discovered Houli remains from the 6th millennium BC.



Doctoral candidate **Howard Tsai** spent the summer in Peru, surveying the site of Las Varas in the Jequetepeque Valley. This unusual lowland site contains material remains associated with the highland Cajamarca polity, and will be the focus of his dissertation research. He will be exploring the nature and history of this intriguing community.



**Jamie Clark** conducted preliminary dissertation research on the Middle Stone Age in South Africa. During her trip, Jamie received training in the identification of Southern African fauna and participated in excavations run by Dr. Lyn Wadley at the Middle Stone Age site of Sibudu Cave. Jamie's dissertation will examine fauna from the Howiesons Poort substage of the MSA, exploring the relationship between demography and the emergence of "modern" behaviors.



**Carla M. Sinopoli** continued her work on 1st millennium BC emergent complexity in South India. Excavations at the 60 hectare site of Kadebakele revealed stratified domestic architecture spanning from c. 800-500 BCE, and complex ritual architecture and deposits of the South Indian megalith tradition. UM doctoral students **Elizabeth Bridges** and **Matt Gallon** joined the international team, which also includes archaeometallurgist Dr. Sharada Srinivasan and ceramic petrographer Dr. Kajal Shah. The NSF-supported project, entitled "Early Historic Landscapes of the Tungabhadra Corridor," is co-directed with Kathleen D. Morrison (U. Chicago) and R. Gopal (Karnataka Department of Archaeology and Museums).

## Collections

A busy year: we finished the Museum Loan Network project, adding over 100 baskets to this database for loan and exhibit purposes. Check out the Museum's website next spring for a virtual exhibit of the baskets in our collection. In April, Dr. Kelley Hays-Gilpin (Northern Arizona University) visited us and helped identify over 300 southwestern pottery vessels that had recently been rehoused, cleaned and inventoried.

The UMMA Image Library of more than 30,000 images from our collections is almost complete. It will be available through the UMMA website. **Patrick Livingood** will present a poster at both the SEAC (November 2005) and SAA (April 2006) meetings to show it off. There are still some mystery images: stop by and take a look. Maybe you can help us identify people, places and sites from the history of North American archaeology.

Several new collections were added to the Museum: field-generated collections from **Au-**

**gustin Holl's** excavations in Senegal and from the Museum's field school run by **John O'Shea** and **Meghan Howey** in Northern Michigan; ethnographic pottery and baskets collected in China, Myanmar, and Thailand by **Henry T. Wright**; and several private donations from **Dr. Richard I. Ford**, Mrs. Fran Wright, Mr. Peter Elliot, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Warner, and Mrs. Catherine La Du.

Finally, the Museum has started some multi-year inventory projects, which will allow us to update catalog and location information, and identify conservation concerns. We're nearly finished with the Latin American Ethnohistory Library and the Archaeozoology Laboratory, soon to be available on our website. Other inventory projects include the enormous Ethnobotanical Laboratory and a large section of the material culture collections. The ultimate goal of the latter project is to get a better understanding of the materials in the museum and plan for new storage equipment and space.

## Exhibits

Some of our collections were on exhibit this summer at the U-M Museum of Art. Our first formal collaboration in more than 20 years, "Paisley and Peacocks: Woven and Embroidered Textiles from Kashmir and the Punjab" featured objects from the Museum's Koelz Collection of South and Central Asian artifacts, curated by Maribeth Graybill (Art Museum) in collaboration with Asian curator, **Carla Sinopoli**.

The museum published a monograph on the shawls by Grace Beardsley and **Carla Sinopoli**, and undertook a conservation assessment by textile conservator Deborah Bede and a photo session in the College of Art and Architecture hallways by photographer Dwight Cendrowski.



A 19th century Kashmir shawl from the Koelz Collection. The Koelz shawl project was made possible by funds from the College of LSA and the Office of the Vice President for Research.

## Undergraduates in the Collections



Richard Redding (second from left) with archaeozoology students.

the University's Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, Senior theses, and volunteer work. This Fall semester more than 200 students engaged with the Museum's collections, creating an exciting context for active-learning and direct engagement with the material remains of humanity's past.

**Richard Redding** and **Kent Flannery** offered a new class on archaeozoology. Using the Museum's comparative and archaeological collections, 17 students combined lectures and laboratory training to gain familiarity with zooarchaeological techniques and their application to the study of important anthropological questions. In another class ("Introduction to Asian Cultures," Asian Studies 235) more than 60 undergraduates conducted research on trade ceramics, inscribed bamboo texts, and other objects in the Museum's Asian's Division.

## Undergraduate Field Research Opportunities in 2005-2006

The Museum sponsored two exciting undergraduate field research experiences in 2005 and we have at least three such projects in store for the spring and summer of 2006. In the winter semester (happily escaping an exceptionally harsh winter), curator **Augustin Holl** conducted his fourth consecutive archaeological field training course at Sine Ngayene, Senegal, in collaboration with colleague Dr. Hamady Bocoum and graduate students **Daphne Gallagher** and **Stephen Dueppen**; UM undergraduate participants were **Dana Begun**, **Amanda O'Brien**, and **David Standish**, and University of Dakar student Abdoulaye Kane. The team lived in UM's field station and continued excavations of mortuary features associated with large megalithic stone circles. Dr. Holl will be returning to the field with undergraduate and graduate students in Spring 2006.

In May and June 2005, curator **John O'Shea** and doctoral candidate **Meghan Howey** co-directed our North American archaeological field school, assisted by doctoral student **Dan Pugh** and recent BA graduate **Bethany Dykstra**. Students saw two very different stages of the archaeological research process: an ongoing long-term project focusing on late prehistoric regional organization in north-central Michigan, conducting excavations at the Missaukee Earthworks and Chief White Bird sites, and the start-up of a new archaeological research program along Douglas Lake, in Pellston, Michigan, where they conducted preliminary assessments of archaeological resources at the University of Michigan Biological Station.

Three field projects are on tap for Spring and Summer 2006: Augustin Holl's spring semester field training project in Senegal and two North American field schools, in Michigan and Arizona.

Museum Research Scientist **Lisa C. Young** will be directing the Homol'ovi Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (HUROP). This project, supported by a grant from National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) and the Museum of Anthropology, focuses on a critical transition in southwestern prehistory: the shift from semi-subterranean to above-ground houses, also known as "the pithouse-to-pueblo" transition. Students will work with Dr. Young and archaeologists from the Arizona State Museum, as well as **Dr. Ray Silverman**, director of UM's Museum Studies Program, and Susan Secakuku of the Hopi Tribe. They will be developing interpretive materials that will be integrated into public outreach programs at the Homolovi Ruins State Park, a website on the archaeology of the Homol'ovi area, and curriculum for use in K-12 classrooms.

And once again, **John O'Shea** will be supervising a field school in northern Michigan in collaboration with the University of Michigan Biological Station.

## We Thank Our 2004-2005 Donors

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### A Generous Gift from a Friend of the Museum

This summer we learned of a generous charitable gift annuity made by **Mr. Pierre Berry of Baltimore, MD** to our Museum. Mr. Berry earned his MA in Anthropology in 1950, and fondly remembers working in the Museum's ranges. His gift is made in memory of Mrs. Margaret Guta, Museum registrar from the early 1940s until c. 1960.

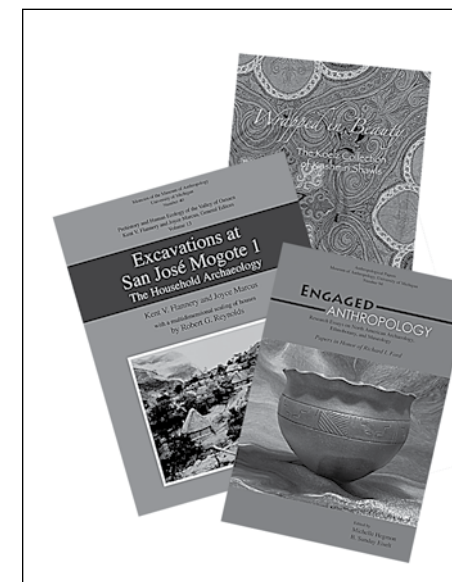
## New in 2005 from Museum of Anthropology Publications

*Excavations at San José Mogote 1: The Household Archaeology* (Memoir 40)  
by Kent V. Flannery and Joyce Marcus

*Wrapped in Beauty: The Koelz Collection of Kashmiri Shawls* (Anthro. Papers, 93)  
by Grace Beardsley in collaboration with Carla M. Sinopoli

*Engaged Anthropology: Research Essays on North American Archaeology, Ethnobotany, and Museology* (Anthro. Papers, 94)  
edited by Michelle Hegmon and B. Sunday Eiselt

To order these and other UMMA publications see our website at [www.lsa.umich.edu/umma](http://www.lsa.umich.edu/umma) and click on Publications. Or email [umma-pubs@umich.edu](mailto:umma-pubs@umich.edu).





UM undergraduates  
**Bradley Krueger** and  
**Bethany Dykstra** in  
East Tawas Bay, Michigan

Part of **John O'Shea's** shipwreck  
survey, they are searching for  
evidence of shipwrecked *Linden*,  
which burnt to the waterline just off  
Tawas Bay docks in the 1920s.

*More about undergraduate field  
research opportunities inside (p. 6).*

**The University of Michigan  
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