Questions & Answers

Question: What was or is "The Ahiman Rezon?"
Answer: It was the Constitution of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England and first published in 1734 as compiled by Rev. Laurence Dermott, Grand Secretary. The name is Hebrew in origin and is supposed to mean "A Help to a Brother." It is the name of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania, published in book form.

Question: Although I have never seen a close-up of the Past Grand Master's jewel of Pennsylvania, I have always been fascinated by its design and beauty. Will you describe or explain it?
Answer: The lower portion is the Compasses and Square united, with the irradiated Sun, in the center, setting behind clouds, and with the Gavel pendient between the legs of the Compasses. The jewel is gold, set with a diamond and suspended by a purple ribbon. By coincidence, you can observe the beauty of this rare and coveted jewel shown on the oil portrait of Bro. Joseph E. Tate, Right Worshipful Grand Master, appearing on Page 1 of this edition of "The Pennsylvania Freemason."

Question: While visiting Lodges recently I have noticed a new or different procedure used in the ceremony for opening and closing the Holy Bible. When was the change made and why?
Answer: The ceremony used for opening and closing the Holy Bible has been taught and used for many, many years. Recent directives to the Ritualistic Instructors to bring uniformity through out the Jurisdiction, relative to proper procedures in all Ritualistic and Lodge Work, has resulted in many areas in what appears as "something new." It isn't. It is really the way it should have been done all the time.

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The Pennsylvania Freemason

Volume XXVIII
November-December 1981

Number 4

Long Needed and Vital Concerns of Craft Have Been Priority Items in Grand Master's Program

My Brethren:

This is the last time that we will have the privilege, as your Right Worshipful Grand Master, of addressing you from these pages. We take this opportunity, therefore, to express to you, the Freemasons of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, our eternal gratitude for the honor and pleasure of serving you as your Grand Master in 1980 and 1981. It has been, for us, an extremely valuable and most enjoyable experience, the reality of which, I don't think, was realized to at least, times, difficult to comprehend as reality because of the extraordinary excitement and exhilaration produced by the many Masonic functions and events which occurred in those two years.

The most valuable experience and that which gave us the greatest enjoyment, my Brethren, was in meeting, personally, with so many of you in almost every nook and cranny of this great Jurisdiction of ours. By the end of this Masonic year (the end of our two-year term) we will have been in over 100 cities, towns, and localities in Pennsylvania, traveled more than 100,000 miles in the process and greeted, personally, between 20,000 and 25,000 of you, our Pennsylvania Brethren.

We cannot help but recall, as we write this, the words of a good friend and distinguished Mason, our late Brother and Right Worshipful Past Grand Master, Rochester B. Woodall, as he asked: "How can you be a Freemason to someone you don't even know?" Our Brethren, our only regret is that we could not meet and greet all of you and, further, that each of you cannot meet and know every other Pennsylvania Freemason. There is something to be said, however, for the joy of anticipation of meeting and making new friends amongst our Brethren, a joy we have been experiencing for some time in the District Visitations.

The District Visitations also provided us with the knowledge that Pennsylvania Freemasons are enthusiastic about their Masonry and concerned with the things that the Masonic Fraternity must endure in this day and age. We found a thirst for knowledge about Freemasonry in general and about the Grand Lodge in particular. Great concern was expressed for the physical problems besetting the Masonic Temple in Philadelphia which we reported. Following our many progress reports, the concerns seem to be diminishing.

Bro. Joseph E. Tate
Past Grand Master

A four-color photograph of the large oil portrait by Artist, Henry Cooper, which will take its rightful place after December 28, 1981, on a wall in the Benjamin Franklin Room, Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, with the portraits of the living Right Worshipful Past Grand Masters.

[Continued on Page 3]
A Broad Definition of Freemasonry

Our Declaration of Principles

Adopted by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania at the Quarterly Communication, held March 1st.

FREEMASONRY is a charitable, benevolent, educational and religious society. Its principles are proclaimed as widely as men will hear. Its only secrets are in its methods of recognition and of symbolic instruction.

It is charitable in that it teaches men to improve the condition of their fellow men, and it teaches them to respect the equal rights of all mankind, and to aid those who are in poverty or difficulty.

It is educational in that it teaches men to form and to maintain their own characters. It is a system of morality and of brotherhood based upon the social instinct.

It is religious in that it teaches the individual and the society to unite in prayer and in thanksgiving.

It is political in that it teaches men to act in civil life according to their individual judgment and the dictates of experience.

To that end, it teaches and stands for the worship of God, truth and justice; fraternity and charity; respect for the rights and duties of man; orderliness, liberty, civil, religious and intellectual. It charges each of its Members to be true and loyal to the fundamental principles of every society, and to be true and loyal to the country to which he owes allegiance and to obey the law of any state in which he may be.

It is charitable in that it teaches and exemplifies altruism as a duty.

It is educational in that it teaches by precept and by example, and a system of morality and of brotherhood based upon the social instinct.

It is religious in that it teaches men to improve the condition of their fellow men, and to respect the equal rights of all mankind, and to aid those who are in poverty or difficulty.

It is political in that it teaches men to act in civil life according to their individual judgment and the dictates of experience.

The philosophies of Freemasonry, as discovered, then accepted, and then practiced, provide that simple but profound solution to the problems of human relationships.

Vital Concerns of Freemasonry Has Been Theme of Grand Master

(Continued from Page 1)

Foremost in the minds of most of the Brethren that we met, however, was the concern about the financial condition of your Masonic Homes that has contributed much to the care, comfort and security of the Masonic Homes in the Districts during our term of office.

Many of our actions and Decisions were derived from the questions and comments which we received during our District Visits.

Our concern, of which Freemasons and Fraternal Organizations are especially acquainted, was the need of leadership and the lack of leadership.

For these reasons, the Freemasons of Pennsylvania have been in a continuous program of improvement in many respects.

The Grand Lodge Special Youth Program.

Every year, young men and women are given an opportunity to attend the Masonic Lodge and seminars held by the DeMolay, Rainbow for Girls and Job’s Daughters using the buildings and grounds on the Campus.

The Masonic Temple in Philadelphia has never been more beautiful, its Masonic knowledge of not only new Members but all Members, whatever their number of years of service.

It is our hope that we have improved the lines of communication between our Grand Lodge and its 582 Blue Lodges, and in the process strengthened the lattice. We believe that we have given the Freemasons of Pennsylvania a work of great knowledge and the Grand Lodge and its actions, and a better understanding of Freemasonry.

We, again, urge each and every one of you to live your Freemasonry, don’t just “wear” it. Spread the word! There is a good deal of Freemasonry that you can tell those who are not Masons about our Fraternity. Remember that you have a duty to your Brothers and sisters. Remember that you have a duty to this great and honorable Fraternity. Remember that you have a duty to the Masonic Craft that should reflect all of its viewers the origin of our Ancient and Honorable Fraternity in Pennsylvania. The working model of that statue has been erected at the Masonic Homes near the Benjamin Franklin Building of the Masonic Health Care Center for our patients and visitors to enjoy.

In closing these remarks, my Brothers, I wish you to know that we have tried our very best to live up to the great traditions of our Craft and to the examples set for us by our predecessors in this high office. By appointing Brothers from every part of our Masonic Jurisdiction to Grand Lodge Offices, we have endeavored to spare the section of snobishness, it has been our good fortune that we were not caught by it.
Our Responsibilities as Recommenders

Responsibilities as Recommenders are many.

When a Member signs a petition, he becomes, in a large measure, responsible to the Fraternity for the Petitioner. One of the two Recommenders signing the petition, must have known the Petitioner for at least one year. Both Recommenders should have a knowledge of the Petitioner's character. They should be reasonably sure that the Petitioner is worthy of consideration and, if accepted, will bring honor to the Fraternity.

Recommending a man for the Degrees of Freemasonry is a serious matter. The Recommenders are staking their own reputation on the character of the Petitioner. Hence, it isn't wise, nor can a Member afford, to be careless as to sign a petition just to accommodate a friend or another Member.

Recommenders should be familiar with The Ahiman Rezon and Digest of Decisions as portrain to Recommenders and Petitioners. Your lodge may have copies of these two books for your reference.

Recommenders should have a knowledge of certain basic facts and requirements relative to the processing of a petition. These facts and requirements can always be obtained from the Lodge Secretary when the blank form of petition is requested.

The Candidate should be cautioned by his Recommenders beforehand that every word spoken, every step that is taken during the ceremonies has a definite purpose and will become a part of the record on file for further reference.

The Candidate should be assured that there is no prejudice, either by word or act, during the conferring of degrees.

The Candidate should be reminded that he must put aside all doubts and fears in order that he may observe every detail with reverent attention.

Recommenders should not only satisfy themselves that their Candidate is receiving the degrees in accordance with the ceremonial but should look through every step of each Degree as has been conferred by acquainting him with the correct forms and meanings. They should obtain further Masonic knowledge.

Recommenders are bound to see that the Candidate in acquiring an understanding of the real meaning of Freemasonry. This is why a Recommender should always be in Lodge whenever his Candidate is receiving a Degree. In a sense, the Candidate is under their protection and care. It is distinctly important that you show your Candidate that you really care about him. Be ever ready to congratulate him as he completes another step in his progress through the degrees. You have an opportunity to add to your equity in Freemasonry.

You are expected to be familiar with the duties and requirements of the various degrees in the craft. You are expected to know how to guide your Candidate from one degree to another and to know how the office is to be filled.

Your Candidate is expected to be present at all meetings and to be punctual. You are expected to see that your Candidate is present at all meetings, not only the meetings of his Lodge but the meetings of all other Lodges in which he may be present.

It is important to show your Candidate that you are interested in his progress in the Craft.

When Recommenders consider it a duty to become a Petitioner and present a Candidate for the degrees, both their reputation and the Candidate's will be reflected in the life of any newly made Mason. A most important undertaking.

An American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a Government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies. — William Tyler Page

Proud Worshipful Master Shares Great Experiences

Bro. Jack W. Fritsche, Worshipful Master of Williamson Lodge, No. 369, held at Philadelphia, writes to tell us how the program he adopted for his Lodge in this year set aside to commemorate 250 years of Freemasonry in our Commonwealth, was highlighted by emphasis on the Masonic Homes at Elizabethown, Pa.

Williamson Lodge, dedicated to supporting our Legacy of Love at Elizabethown, presented a check in the amount of $1,000.00 to be used to refurbish a Guest room in the renovation program now underway on the interiors of the residential buildings at the Homes.

Bro. Fritsche also arranged for a visit to the Masonic Homes of approximately 80 members on September 27, 1981, which included Officers and Members of his Lodge with their families and even Brethren and their families from other Lodges.

Bro. Fritsche states that the visit to the Homes was, indeed, a mountain-top experience for each and every one who made the trip. He highly recommends that other Lodges get to know the Masonic Homes in every part. A picture does not show the real beauty of this Lodge. You must see it in person.

We Welcome Another Masonic Centenarian

Bro. E. Fred Anderson, a Member of Pennsylvania Lodge, No. 380, died in Philadelphia, has been a Member for 70 years, having been Entered in September 1911. Bro. Williams will be 100 years-old on December 29, 1981. He lives alone in a first floor apartment, receives his meals from a local service and has an excellent neighborhood who keep an eye on him daily.

Bro. Otto A. Schoenly, a Member of Warren Lodge, No. 510, and a neighbor, visits with Bro. Williams and tells us that Bro. Williams is in good health and has a wonderful personality. For many years, Bro. Williams has been self-employed as a master mechanic. He retired in 1953.

Bro. Schoenly tells us that during the baseball season, Bro. Williams has a habit of staying up until the game is over on his TV.

We welcome Bro. Williams to our ever increasing group of Masonic Centenarians.
Three Brothers Now Fifty-Year Members

Word comes from Bro. Richard W. Wood, District Deputy Grand Master for the 3rd Masonic District, that three blood Brothers, all Members of Cumberland Valley Lodge, No. 315, Shippensburg, are now the proud recipients of the Grand Lodge Fifty Year Masonic Service Emblem.

Bro. Wood held a rendezvous with the three Brothers at the bedside of Bro. Carroll F. Hockersmith, a resident of the Leader Nursing Home in Shippensburg and a retired heating sylvan Game Commissioner. He indicated to us that he is one of the spacious and attractive Lodge Rooms in the Masonic Temple, Pittsburgh, where the new Right Worshipful Grand Master will be installed at Noon on December 28, 1981, followed by the installation of other elected Grand Lodge Officers. A Special Meeting of Tyrann Lodge, No. 612, will be held at 3:00 o’clock, P.M., in Egyptian Hall, to receive the new Right Worshipful Grand Master.

All that is necessary for the forces of evil to win is for enough good men to do nothing.

DO YOU KNOW ME?

It amuses me to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new Members — when I was there all the time. Do you remember me?

I’m the fellow who petitioned and was accepted. I paid my dues and then I was asked to be a loyal and faithful Member.

Top are the Masonic Products of the past. 100,000 Members in the Masonic Lodge of the past. 200,000 Members in the Masonic Lodge of the present. 300,000 Members in the Masonic Lodge of the future. We have to work to make these numbers increase. We have to work to keep the Masonic Lodge alive.

Pennsylvania Masons Urged to Support Hospital Visitation Program of M.S.A.

In a recent “Short Talk Bulletin”, published by the Masonic Service Association of the United States, the following facts were revealed:

“Masonic Fraternity is truly charitable. Last year over one half billion dollars were spent in various charitable endeavors by the Masons in the United States.” A quick breakdown of that figure tells us we contributed more than one million four hundred thousand dollars a day for the assistance of those less fortunate than ourselves.

You have to agree this is an impressive record and one of which we should all be proud. However, when you break it down a little further you find that it amounts to just about the price of a cup of coffee per Mason per day. And that is more than most of us spend on a coffee cup.

If you will think about it, you will realize this is less than most of us spend for a good cup of coffee per day. And that is why the Masonic Service Association is asking for your support to help in this program.

The Masonic Field Agent and his volunteers come up on the scene.

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One of the reasons we do this is to show that we care. We care about the work that the Masonic Service Association is doing. We care about the people who are being helped by the Masonic Service Association.

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The Higher Education Loan Program (H.E.I.P.) is a program that has been ongoing in the Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania for a period of 52 years. During that period of time, many young men and women have been helped to complete their advanced education. The total impact upon leadership that has provided can never be told, but we should take pride in both their accomplishments and our influence upon their lives.

Unfortunately, we are finding that the attitude regarding repayment of these loans is becoming similar to the attitude regarding repayment of advanced education. The total impact that has been helped to complete their Pennsylvania for a period of 52 years is significant.

Pensylvania for a period of 52-

New Chaplain

Appointed

19th Masonic District

When Bro. Joseph E. Trate, Right Worshipful Grand Master, scheduled one of his 70 District Meetings for the 19th Masonic District at Levistown, Pa., the Officers and Members of the Lodges in the 19th Masonic District decided they would do something special.

Plans were made to publish a 1-page supplement to be carried in the various newspapers in the three-county area of Mifflin, Juniata, and Perry Counties. The supplement contained a brief history of each of the seven Lodges in the Masonic District and also a summary of the early history of Freemasonry in Pennsylvania. The District felt it would make the 19th Masonic District Meeting a memorable one for the R.W. Grand Master and also with the Brothers and Sisters who have contributed to the Masonic and the community in general. The cost of the printed supplement was underwritten by many of the Masonic businessmen of the 19th Masonic District and by donations to the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown by conductors of District Meetings. Pennsylvania Masons have every reason to feel proud as they continue to support our "Greatest Charity, the Masonic Homes."

HELP NEEDED

AT MASONIC TEMPLE PHILADELPHIA

Due to retirements and other personnel changes, there is a need for Security Guards and Maintenance men to work at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia.

Any Brethren interested in this type of employment may call the Building Superintendent, Bro. William Vogt at 215-988-1916.

THREE GENERATIONS OF MASONSThe Committee on Youth Services, under the leadership of William A. Carpenter, W. K. Senior Grand Warden, responsible for

Software, Hardware, Input, Output, Diskettes, Bath, Memory, Etc.

at the

Computor Room in Masonic Temple

Becoming Real "Control Center"

Although we do not feel adequate to write about and describe the sophisticated furnishings within the new Computer Room at the Masonic Temple, Philadelphia, we can attest to the fact that it is not only an unusual room but it is a beautiful room with pleasing green wall-to-wall carpeting and four walls covered with beige floor-to-ceiling carpeting. Yet, the room has a tendency to want to "hug" you when you enter.

The photograph above shows a portable Disk Storage System back in the corner. This equipment holds two removable Disk Packs, each with 203 million Bytes of storage capability. The Packs can be removed and stored in case of disasters.

The Terminals, one on the left and the other where Bro. Parker is seated, are used for data entry, file inquiries, development and debugging of programs, and creation and maintenance of the loan. This room is staffed by personnel that is working towards a College degree. The tape is used whenever a hard copy of data is required.

Whew!!

Fifty Years of Membership

Needed for Service Emblem

A Member of a Symbolic Lodge in Pennsylvania who has been a Mason in good standing for fifty years is eligible to receive the Grand Lodge Fifty Year Masonic Service Emblem and an engraved Wallet Card.

New Grand Warden

Announced

Masonic Homes

$8,127.69 to assist in the cost of the large bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin — Craftsman, dedicated on June 27, 1984, in Philadelphia as a highlight of the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Freemasonry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a second check in the amount of $9,000.00 for the Masonic Homes.

Quite often the Right Worshipful Grand Master has been pleased to receive generous contributions from Districts and Lodges to support the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown while conducting his District Meetings. Pennsylvania Masons have every reason to feel proud as they continue to support our "Greatest Charity, the Masonic Homes."

Generous Contribution by

19th Masonic District

To the success of the undertaking, on the evening of the 19th Masonic District Meeting, two checks were presented to the R.W. Grand Master, one in the amount of $8,127.69 to assist in the cost of the large bronze statue of Benjamin Franklin — Craftsman, dedicated on June 27, 1984, in Philadelphia as a highlight of the 250th Anniversary Celebration of Freemasonry in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and a second check in the amount of $9,000.00 for the Masonic Homes.

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Software, Hardware, Input, Output, Diskettes, Bath, Memory, Etc.
A Very Proud and Happy Mason Takes Time to Express Himself

Bro. Thomas L. Moore, a newly Raised Master Mason in John Marshall Lodge No. 734, just couldn't refrain from expressing himself, now that he has been the recipient of the Three Symbolic Degrees of Freemasonry. The following was delivered in his Lodge after he was Raised:

"I feel a deep sense of humility and gratitude upon becoming a Master Mason, thereby attaining the threshold of service to Freemasonry, as well as the good council and fellowship of this most worthy Lodge.

"My only regret is that I did not seek to enter the Masonic life many years ago, but it has only been in recent years that I began to search for some knowledge of what was "missing" in my life.

"After my heart was broken to pieces, I have thus embarked upon the search for knowledge of secrets and mysteries of Freemasonry.

"My gratitude goes out, not only to you who are gathered here, and those who have helped me to this most memorable moment in my spiritual life, but to another Master Mason whose name I never learned. Many, many years ago, that strong, kind, forward-looking gentleman helped to a small boy crippled by Cerebral Palsy. Through this Mason's effort, the young boy was admitted to the Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia where he underwent some nine operations in a six-month period. He returned home in a waist-to-toes cast for 7 years. Today he drives his own car and walks where he underwent his treatments.

"I missed the Masonic meeting in 1981 is comparable to that of last year when a total of more than $40,000 was raised. In reality, however, more than $40,000 of the current year-to-date total has already been established by two individual gifts.

"Brother Edward Williams, Jr. of Lodge No. 500, Member of Committee on Temple, held his 150th birthday on October 15, 1981.

"Brother L. Moore, lover of Masonic history, was raised to the thirty-second degree in this year.

"Brother L. Moore, president of the Masonic Club of Mt. Washington, was assisted by other Members of the Common Council who occupied the other Freemason Offices for the Degree. Conversely, incidently, is Masonic, spelled backward. Read the adjoining article, written by Bro. Moore after he received his Master Mason's Degree.

In Memoriam

Go to see the event of the death of four Members of the Grand Lodge since the previous edition of "The Pennsylvania Freemason."

THOMAS L. MOORE, JR., L. of Lodge No. 500, Member of Committee on Temple, held his 150th birthday on October 15, 1981.

Walter L. Moore

Lodge No. 126

Past District Deputy Grand Master

Died October 20, 1981

BRO. HERBERT S. MULLER

Lodge No. 126

Past District Deputy Grand Master

Died November 16, 1981

BRO. ARCHIBALD W. NORMAN

Former Member and Chairman of Grand Lodge Committee on Finance

Died December 29, 1981

Bro. Norman celebrated his 101st Birthday in February this year.

Guest and Building Fund for the Homes Remember It Always

It is a signal honor to contribute to the Guest and Building Fund of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pa.

Your contributions enable the Grand Lodge Committee on Masonic Homes to provide a real home and place of solace to more than 200 Guests spending the sunset years of their lives at the Homes.

I take my checks payable to Masonic Homes, Elizabethtown, Pa. to 16024 or to Office of Grand Masonic Lodge, Temple, One North Main Street, Philadelphia. Pa. 19107.

Give til You Feel Good.

About Current Guest and Building Fund for Homes

Contributions to the Guest and Building Fund of the Masonic Homes at Elizabethtown, Pa. are being collected in the first week of September amounting to a little more than $70,000.

The Masonic Homes are open to every member of the Order of the United Freemasons in the United States.

"My Master Mason's Card" in my wallet is a little scrap of paper about 2 1/4 inches in size. It is of no intrinsic value not a bond, not a check or receipt for value, yet it is my most priceless possession. It is my Membership Card in a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons.

It tells me that I have entered into a spiritual and material kinship with Brother Master Masons to practice charity in the word and deeds to forgive and forget the faults of my Brethren; to curb the tongues of scandal and innuendo; to care for the crippled, the hungry and the sick, and to be righteous to all mankind.

It tells me that no matter where I travel in the world, I am welcome to visit a place where good fellowship prevails among Brothers and friends.

It tells me that I have loved ones, my home, and my household, are under the protection of every Member of the Grand Lodge of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. They are, therefore, urged to take advantage of this opportunity.

Officers, Members and others are to be worn formal coat, black vest, black tie, black shoes and white gloves; or it can be tail coat, black vest, black tie, black shoes and white gloves; or it can be tail coat, black vest, black tie, black shoes and white gloves.

MASONIC DRESS CLARIFIED

The Masonic Decision covering 1982:

"The Masonic Dress of Lodge Officers, with the exception of the Worshipful Master (or Acting Worshipful Master), can be taxcoed, black vest, black tie, black shoes and white gloves; or it can be tail coat, black vest, black tie, black shoes and white gloves; or it can be tail coat, black vest, black tie, black shoes and white gloves; or it can be tail coat, black vest, black tie, black shoes and white gloves.

The decision on the Grand Lodge Elected Officers (past Grand Masters, Grand Lodge Appointed Officers (predecessors of the Grand Chaplains), District Deputy Grand Masters, Past District Deputys) is not what it should be.

"My Master Mason's Card" is not what it should be. This is not a good situation for Brother Masons. Members are not particularly interested in doing the Ritualistic work. Why is that? Because the Schools are in existence, to offer all Lodge Officers and Members the instruction necessary to do the work. They are, therefore, urged to take advantage of this opportunity.

The Masonic Homes are in existence and the Sections of the Masonic Homes to be held in 1982:

"The Masonic Decision of the Masonic Homes states the following:

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