



Canadian Association for the History of Nursing
Association canadienne pour l'histoire du Nursing

Newsletter

Volume 19, Number 1, Spring 2006

President's Message - Marg Gorrie

There has been some significant work done over this past winter in support of our Association's goal to promote the development of nursing history. I would like to highlight some of our activities and accomplishments of the past year, which were included in our annual report to the Canadian Nurses' Association.

In 2005, CAHN/ACHN received a legacy from the estate of Vera Roberts to be invested in perpetuity for the purpose of stimulating research and publication into the history of outpost nursing with priority to be given to circumpolar nursing in Canada. Upon receipt of the legacy, the Board established an Ad Hoc Committee made up of five members of the Board including the Treasurer, to study the management of an endowment fund, the terms and conditions for receiving research grants, the application process and the selection of successful applicants. The Ad Hoc Committee has prepared a thorough report with recommendations for the Board. The report and recommendations will be discussed during the spring meeting of the Board. The endowment provides an exciting opportunity to support work in the history of northern nursing. We are fortunate to have had superb expertise in the Committee members to guide CAHN/ACHN in management of the endowment. Many thanks to Judith Hibberd, Florence Melchior, Geertje Boschma, Cynthia Toman and Carol Helmstadter for their considerable effort in this project.

A successful conference was held in Ottawa, June 2005. This followed the AMS Hannah Conference and the official opening of the Canadian Museum of Civilization (CMC) Exhibition on Canadian Nursing History. As in previous years, the CAHN/ACHN conference hosted a Hannah Lecture, sponsored by Associated Medical Services (AMS). In 2005 Dr. Margarete Sandelowski provided the lecture. The conference included a tour of the CMC exhibit "A Caring Profession: Centuries of Nursing in Canada" and the curator of the exhibit, Christina Bates, also provided a presentation about the creation of the exhibit.

Two newsletters were produced in the past year. In 2005, Janet Beaton & Marion McKay stepped down from being the editors after five years in this role and Marilyn Beaton and Jeanette Walsh have now assumed this role. Carol Helmstadter, Treasurer, has devoted significant time to management of the Association's finances, an essential component of maintaining our Association's ability to promote nursing history. Sonya Grypma has developed an electronic database of members, improving the efficiency of membership renewal of CAHN/ACHN. Looking to the future, our former president Anne-Marie Arsenault is putting together a slate of nominations for the new executive positions, to be presented at the annual meeting. CAHN/ACHN works closely with regional groups promoting nursing history. We are looking forward to this year's conference in Vancouver which the BC History of Nursing has planned and organized.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you in June at our annual meeting.

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Editors' Message

As we write this, we are in our third day of a major spring snow storm, commonly known as "Sheila's Brush" and usually occurs in March. Hopefully it is the LAST storm for the season but there are no guarantees! For those of you having a spring, we are so envious!

Our involvement in CAHN/ACHN and new roles as editors of the newsletter have had the distinct advantage of increasing our awareness of local happenings related to nursing history. When we tell colleagues of our involvement with CAHN/ACHN, we discover that many nurses are interested in nursing history but are not always aware of what is being done to preserve it. Getting out the word about CAHN/ACHN and its work may be the motivator for more nurses to undertake the work of preserving their history.

Much to our surprise, several local nursing history activities are planned for 2006. This year Memorial University School of Nursing (MUNSON: the first nursing degree program in the province) is celebrating its 40th Anniversary. One of the planned celebratory projects is the compilation of a history of the school. A Masters in History candidate has agreed to undertake this project. The foundation of her work will be a review of Joyce Nevitt's papers (founder of the school) and other related documents.

Mary Soutcott, Founder of the General Hospital School of Nursing (the first school of Nursing in Newfoundland and Labrador) has been designated a person of national historic significance by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. A plaque in her honour will be installed on the grounds of Southcott Hall, located a short distance from the original site of the first school of nursing some time this fall.

In 2006, the Lillian Stevenson Nursing Archives and Museum celebrates its 25th Anniversary. The museum was opened on the 75th Anniversary of the General Hospital School of Nursing and has a significant collection of artifacts, memorabilia and documents associated with the school of nursing and the General Hospital (oldest hospital in the province). More information on the Archives/Museum can be found at www.anla.nf.ca/lillian.htm or www.manl.nf.ca/lillianstevenson.htm

We believe similar history related activities are happening across the country. Gathering that information and sharing it is one way of establishing links within and between provinces and with nurse historians across Canada.

Marilyn Beaton & Jeanette Walsh

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Membership Report, April 2006

I am pleased to report a current total of 152 members. We extend a warm welcome to the six new members who have joined us since our last report! Once again I have been impressed by the generosity of our members, eighteen of whom have donated between \$10 and \$100, totalling over \$850.00 in donations so far this year!

Totals		Types of Members	
New Members	= 8	Active	= 47
Renewed memberships	= 99	Retired	= 66
Not yet renewed	= 48	Associate	= 25
Total 2006 Membership (in database)	= 154 (107 paid to date)	Student	= 16
		Total	= 154

Donations

I made changes to the receipts to reflect Revenue Canada rules for charitable donations

Other

- I sent out welcome letters & complimentary copies of the Canadian Bulletin of Medical History (CBMH) to 8 new members
- I sent out letters to our international members re: opportunity to renew by MasterCard. So far only one has responded – and she chose to pay by cheque in USD!
- 4 of 11 students who received free membership for 2005 have renewed for 2006
- 3 students have been given free student memberships for 2006
- I have been in touch with the two members who I understand will be taking over the membership chair functions in June, and I will be bringing the membership database etc to Vancouver in June to facilitate a smooth transfer over.
- Suggestions that I will pass along to the new membership committee are:
 - Send out renewal reminders to those who have not yet renewed in July or Aug (n=48)
 - Send out renewal reminders to remainder in October or November
 - MasterCard set up: Continue to implement and monitor this system
 - Look into possibility of new/ renewing memberships by MasterCard online
 - Make changes to membership mailing addresses on membership forms/ online
 - Enter/link up email addresses to Outlook or other system for mass emails if necessary

I am pleased to report that we are now able to accept dues payments by MasterCard. This option will be available on the next renewal forms. For those who have not yet renewed and desire to pay by MasterCard for 2006, please write or email me, and I will send you an updated renewal form with a MasterCard option.

For those who have not yet renewed: All updated membership information has been entered into a database, including provincial registration numbers. Thus, to renew, your membership, you may simply make note of any changes since the previous year. **There are 4 ways to renew membership for 2006:** (1) complete and mail the membership form mailed out to you in December; (2) download and mail the membership form from <http://www.cahn-achn.ca/membership.htm>; (3) email me with your updated information at sonya.grypma@uleth.ca; (4) write or email to request information on MasterCard payments. You may send application forms and cheques or money orders to: Sonya Grypma, School of Health Sciences, University of Lethbridge, 4401 University Drive Lethbridge AB CANADA T1K 3M4.

I apologize for the delay in getting payment receipts out; I have unexpectedly been away for most of January to March, but hope to have everything caught up by early April. If you have any questions or concerns about your membership status, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sonya Grypma
Membership Chair

News from University of Ottawa/AMS Nursing History Research Unit

" Primary Sources for Teaching Students"- Cynthia Toman

In preparation for developing a distance undergraduate course on Canadian nursing history through the University of Ottawa and the AMS Nursing History Research Unit, I will be compiling a set of primary sources to enhance students' learning experiences. I welcome your recommendations and wisdom in these matters. The focus is on Canadian content although this can be broadly understood to include other settings wherein Canadian nurses worked such as mission fields, military postings, international relief movements, etc.

Many CAHN members have expertise in using primary sources for nursing history, and many of you either have collections, or know of good materials that merit wider exposure. Technology now offers opportunity to share these resources through a variety of ways such as scanning images of relevant artifacts, photos, letters, diaries, etc. or by providing the Internet URL (location) where previously scanned images and documents may be accessed by students regardless of where the student is located. Audio and video resources are also of interest. I will have a graduate student research assistant assisting with this part of the project during the spring and summer.

Spring Seminar Series - Jayne Elliot

The Associated Medical Services Nursing History Research Unit at the University of Ottawa is pleased to announce that nurse historian Julie Fairman from the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing will inaugurate our spring seminar series on May 1, 2006 (3-4 pm at the Health Sciences campus).

Her presentation is entitled "Disrupting Perceptions in the Exam Room: The American Nurse Practitioner Movement, 1960-1980." Dr Fairman, whose first book, *Critical Care Nursing: A History*, was favourably received, is now working on a history of the nurse practitioner movement in the United States.

Student Opportunities

Meryn Stuart and Cynthia Toman are actively looking for doctoral students who are interested in focusing their dissertation research on nursing history. Please see our website (below) for prerequisites. For new and generous funding opportunities, please see the Webpage of the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies at the University of Ottawa. Inquiries from potential post-doctoral students from either Nursing or History faculties are also welcomed. And for those who would like some direction and help with a smaller research project, please watch our website for details on our Summer Research Internship program, to begin Summer 2007. Check us out at <http://www.health.uottawa.ca/nursinghistory/>

Nursing Exhibit - The Canadian Museum of Civilization closing early

Gatineau, Quebec, March 15, 2006 — The closing date of *A Caring Profession: Centuries of Nursing in Canada* has been moved ahead by five weeks, to July 30, 2006. The Canadian Museum of Civilization had to shorten the run of this very well attended exhibition to accommodate major structural changes to the gallery space. These renovations could not be done at any other time.

The Museum sincerely regrets any inconvenience caused to visitors, and is asking those planning a visit to the exhibition this summer to take note of the new closing date.

A Caring Profession: Centuries of Nursing in Canada opened on June 16, 2005. By the time it closes on July 30, 2006, the exhibition will have been on display for more than a year at the Museum. To date, the exhibition has welcomed close to 110,000 visitors. The Museum expects thousands more visitors will see the first-ever exhibition on the compelling history of Canadian nurses before it closes on July 30, 2006.

More information is available at www.civilization.ca or by calling (819) 776-7000 or 1 800 555-5621.



REVIEWS

Book Review - Northern Nurses: True Nursing Adventures from Canada's North, edited by J. Karen Scott and Joan E. Kieser

Marilyn Beaton reviewed this book and found the stories compelling. CAHN/ACHN members would undoubtedly be interested.

With the permission of Dr. Shirley Stinson, we are including portions of her forward which capture the essence of the book.

“ The book contains fascinating, unique, true accounts written by nurses and a few others about their experiences, not only on the land, but on the sea and in the air.

Most of the stories in this volume happened within the past 55 years. They range from giving health care to individuals, families, school children and, in many instances, to the community as a whole. Experiences in industrial and maritime nursing and in epidemics are also described. Many of the authors give their vivid first-person accounts of the expanded nursing roles in what is now called Primary Health Care. Tales about the challenges and risks of using air transport in and out of remote areas in extreme weather conditions and the many maps and pictures help to give "outsiders" a beginning grasp of the vastness of Canada's North.

These "eye-witness" narratives by nurses and others in the far North of Canada collected by Scott and Kieser constitute wonderful historical gems of the history of health care in Canada. Both volumes of Northern Nurses are valuable sources for learning about many of the ways humans can help each other, even with limited resources and amidst life-threatening circumstances.

This book will be of interest to all

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those who live and work in the North. It is a "must" for all nurses and other health professionals, school teachers, clergy, Royal Canadian Mounted Police, diamond miners, oil drillers, and for anyone who may be thinking about living in remote areas of Canada's North.”

Article Review - Influenza "Everything Depends on Good Nursing" in the March 2006 edition of the Canadian Nurse by Jean N. Groft, a CAHN/ACHN member, relates the lessons learned during the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1918-19. It reviews how the virus was spread through the movement of troops during the war. Good nursing care was the only effective treatment for the illness. Once influenza came to Canada it was obvious to most that the health care system could not cope. The experience led to nursing leaders in Canada lobbying the government for a formal public health system and eventually led to the formation of professional nursing associations. Given the current discussion of an impending pandemic this is a very timely article for nurses to read.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Emailing Newsletter - In the last newsletter, we asked for your thoughts on emailing the newsletter to members with email addresses. (We would continue to use Canada Post for others.) We heard from one member who wished to have her newsletter emailed. We are not sure if we should assume that silence means agreement with this proposal. We are suggesting that if we don't receive any negative feedback prior to the next newsletter (Fall, 2006), we do a sample test run of emailing the newsletter. No doubt there will be delivery issues but we plan to identify strategies to reduce these to a minimum.

Publishing the membership list - We are considering publishing the membership list annually in the

newsletter. This information would serve as a link for members with local nurse historians as well provincial or even national historians. As we plan to send the newsletter to provincial associations; this information would also identify resource persons for them.

The membership list has never been published in the newsletter and there are privacy issues around such a move. In discussion with Sonia Grypma (Membership Chair) two possible options have been identified: publish the membership list with contact information, or publish names with province/city only. With either option we need the members' permission to release the information. A release form could be added to the 2007 membership renewal application. This proposal will be discussed with the Executive at the Spring Board meeting. Members are encouraged to contact us with their thoughts or comments.

LOOKING FOR SUGGESTIONS!

Objective #2 of CAHN/ACHN is to educate teaching institutions, nurses and the general public on the history of nursing in Canada by holding conferences and distributing newsletters. It has been suggested that we broaden the content of the newsletter to include articles (other than committee reports) that would stimulate interest among the membership and expand the Readership. We plan to distribute the newsletter to provincial associations and other national nursing groups to inform them about who we are and what we do, seek their assistance in gathering information related to nursing history activities in their jurisdiction and subsequently to increase their awareness of Canadian nursing history. This information could be included in subsequent newsletters. What do you think? Have you any suggestions as to how we bring Canadian nursing history to the forefront? We would really appreciate your thoughts and ideas.

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The 40th Anniversary Celebrations of Memorial University of School of Nursing, Newfoundland and Labrador.

The 40th Anniversary Celebrations of Memorial University of School of Nursing, Newfoundland and Labrador, began with the Margaret D. McLean 2006 Lecture in Nursing. Guest speaker was Dr. Sioban Nelson, Dean and Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto. Her presentation was entitled *The Rise and Fall of Care of the Sick: A History and its Legacy*. The presentation revealed how the increasing need for nurses, is a far deeper problem than a recruitment challenge to the nursing profession. The bigger question rests with the value of the care of the sick in contemporary society. The presentation traced the history of nursing and examined the social and political importance of care of the sick over time in an effort to shed light on the contemporary issue of nursing shortages. The following is a synopsis of Dr. Nelson's presentation.

Care of the sick in hospital settings began at the time of the pilgrims with the first hospital established in Jerusalem to care for those taken ill during the pilgrimages. The idea of caring for the sick evolved from that time and eventually the idea took hold in Europe. Care of the sick was based in Christianity. Within this framework, the underlying premise of caring for the sick could be found in the Corporal Works of Mercy as outlined in Matthew XXV, vv32 - 36. Six of the seven acts of mercy could be met within a hospital setting and also fit with the notion that performance of good works, i.e. caring for the sick, would lead to redemption.

The first nurses were men but very soon the work was taken over by religious nursing sisters who became primary caregivers of the sick in hospitals as well as administering to the sick poor. Post- reformation the notion of nurses as working women began to emerge and the work of nursing became separated from domestic work. About the 19th century, concerns emerged regarding the quality of nurses in London hospitals to the extent that the nurses' work was described as dirty work. Women providing nursing care were uneducated, had little, if any, formal training and were poorly paid. Doctors recognized that good nursing care was vital to the well being and survival of their patients and felt nurses should be appropriately

compensated for providing good care. About this time medical practices were changing with increased surgeries, treatments, and the introduction of ether which in turn led to an increase in the need for nurses. Doctors began to pressure governments and hospitals for more nurses and pushed for educated women trained in nursing. Enter Florence Nightingale and nursing reform. Nightingale set a new agenda for hospitals and nurses' place within the hospital setting. She provided an opportunity for women to develop themselves. The reforms introduced by Nightingale marked the beginning of modern day nursing and quickly spread throughout the Empire.

Nightingale's system of 'nurses in control of nursing and nurses' continued over the next century significantly influencing the practice and education of nurses. In the 1980 and 1990s when health care came under pressure to reduce costs, the Nightingale system of nurse control was eliminated. Over the last two decades we have seen an assault on public services with nursing often being the major loser. Over this time, society's value of nurses' work has diminished. Subsequently issues like nursing shortages are more difficult to resolve. Nursing must be concerned with this assault on patient care and its long term implications for the profession. Pressure to reduce health care costs will continue into the future and governments will most likely seek to have the lowest paid, lowest educated workers care for the sick; at a time when the sick are at most risk. In many respects we could see a repeat of the circumstances that existed before the Nightingale era. It is essential that 'care of the sick' be revitalized as a core societal value. Nurses can best achieve this by focusing on how we talk about and promote our work. We must learn from the past and work to prevent history from repeating itself.



Dr. Sioban Nelson
Dean and Professor
Faculty of Nursing
University of Toronto

Geertje Boschma launches a new book

On April 7, the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Calgary held an official book launch of Faculty of Nursing on the Move: Nursing at the University of Calgary 1969 – 2004, written by nurse historian Geertje Boschma, and published by the University of Calgary Press. As the University of Calgary is celebrating its 40th anniversary, the book is a timely reflection on the Faculty's history, its major programs and events and its contribution to academic nursing in Canada.

Geertje Boschma, who is now Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia, began to work on this book in 1999, when she had just joined the Faculty of Nursing in Calgary. The faculty, headed by Dean Deborah Tamlyn, invited her to take on the project as the university prepared to celebrate the new millennium. Against the backdrop of changes in health care and nursing education in Canada, the book illustrates how academic nursing became more widely established at Canadian universities as of the 1960s.

Since its inception in 1969, the faculty has sustained itself as an academic nursing unit amidst rapid changes in the health care system, the academic environment, and a changing society. For example, the School of Nursing, as it was initially called, was the first school on campus to be headed by a woman. Shirley Good, former consultant of higher education of the Canadian Nurses Association, became its first director.

The book includes a large selection of photographs, illustrating a changing learning environment and the launch of major programs and events. Boschma acknowledges the help of many current and former faculty members and staff; without their help she could not have done the work. Also, Nadine Kozak was an invaluable research assistant and co-authored the last chapter.

The book explores how the faculty carved out a niche for itself in the

larger university structure, how it developed its identity as an academic unit, made up primarily of women, and how it responded to important social trends and changes in health care policy. In addressing persistent and contemporary issues in nursing education and research, the book provides a glimpse into an important piece of Canadian nursing history

CONGRATULATIONS Geertje!

Scholarship Committee Report Spring 2006

Margaret Allemang Scholarship in Nursing History

The committee, Florence Melchior (chair), Judith Young, Diana Mansell, and Heather MacDougall, has received three excellent applications for the Margaret Allemang Scholarship in Nursing History. The committee is reviewing the submitted research proposals and will name a recommended recipient for the award to the Executive of the Board at the April meeting.

Vera Roberts Endowment

An Ad Hoc committee was formed after the Executive meeting in June 2005. The committee members included Judith Hibberd (co-chair), Florence Melchior (co-chair), Geertje Boschma, Carol Helmstadter, and Cynthia Toman. The mandate of the committee was to make recommendations to the Board regarding the Vera Roberts Endowment. This generous legacy is to be used, as Vera Roberts stipulated in her will, to stimulate research and publication in the history of outpost nursing with priority given to circumpolar nursing in Canada. The committee focused on making recommendations about management of the endowment fund, the application process, and the selection of successful applicants. The Ad Hoc Committee (Geertje Boschma, Cynthia Toman, and Florence Melchior) was formed in December to develop guidelines for nursing history proposals. The work of the Ad Hoc Committee was completed in March 2006 and a report was submitted to the President of the Board (Marg Gorrie). The recommendations from the Ad Hoc Committee will be presented and discussed at the Executive Board meeting in April, 2006.

Florence Melchior

Nominations Committee

CAHN / ACHN is seeking members for several committees since the terms of office of a significant number of members terminate in 2006. The involvement of members in the various committees is essential for the development and vitality of the Association and we encourage a broad participation from across the country. To avoid, in the future, the termination of several mandates at the same time it would be important to stagger the terms of office to assure continuity.

We are soliciting members for the following positions and committees; all committees have two years mandates except the Nominations Committee which has a mandate of one year. The Treasurer's position is vacant. The Membership Committee work has been done by one person in the past (an electronic list of members has been established). Two members are required for the Nominations Committee (the chair's mandate terminates in 2007), and two members for the Long Range Planning Committee.

Please consider submitting your name, or encouraging other members to become actively involved in the Association. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the AGM in June. Send your name and coordinates to: arseneam@umoncton.ca or telephone me at (506) 858-4259 for more information.

Anne-Marie Arseneault, Chair; Committee members: Sheila J. Rankin Zerr, Sandra Bassendowski, Genevieve MacDonald and Penny Ericson.

Comité des nominations

CAHN / ACHN sollicite des membres pour plusieurs de ses comités puisque le mandat de plusieurs personnes termine cette année. L'implication des membres dans les activités de l'Association est essentielle afin d'assurer son développement et sa vitalité. Une association nationale a besoin d'une participation de ses membres de tous les coins du pays. Afin d'éviter la situation actuelle où plusieurs mandats se terminent en même temps, il faudrait dans l'avenir préciser des mandats de un et deux ans ou de deux et trois ans.

Nous recherchons des membres pour des positions et comités dont le mandat est de deux ans sauf pour le Comité des nominations dont le mandat est d'un an. Le poste de trésorier / trésorière est vacant. Le Comité de nominations est assumé par une personne depuis quelques années et un système de listes électroniques a été implanté. Deux membres sont requis pour le Comité des nominations (le mandat de la présidente de ce comité termine en 2007). Deux membres sont également requis pour le Comité de planification à long terme.

Veillez, s'il vous plaît, soumettre votre nom ou encourager d'autres personnes à devenir des membres actifs de l'Association. Des nominations seront également acceptées lors de la réunion générale annuelle. Faites parvenir votre nom et vos coordonnées à arseneam@umoncton.ca ou me rejoindre par téléphone pour plus d'information à (506) 858-4259.

Anne-Marie Arseneault, présidente; les membres du Comité : Sheila J. Rankin Zerr, Sandra Bassendowski, Genevieve MacDonald et Penny Ericson.

Advanced notice of 2007 CAHN/ACHN conference

The 2007 CAHN/ACHN conference will be held in May, in Saskatoon in conjunction with the Canadian Society for the History of Medicine. The exact dates and additional information will be published in the fall newsletter.

Upcoming conferences

2006 Australian and New Zealand American Studies Association Conference, University of Tasmania, Launceston, Australia, July 9-12, 2006.

2nd Biennial ANU Missionary History Conference. Asia-Pacific missionaries: At Home and Abroad. The Australian National University Coombs Lecture Theatre. August 25-27, 2006. Abstracts close May 30, 2006.

Detailed information appeared in the Fall 2005 newsletter.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS: Canadian Association for the History of Nursing/Association canadienne pour l'histoire du nursing History of Nursing Conference, June 8-10, 2006, Vancouver, B.C.

Displays/exhibits/poster presentations: A secure room at the conference location will be set aside for table-top historical displays, exhibits, poster presentations and a Conference Store. All sales of books, note-cards, artwork and other items will be through the Conference Store. For further information, please contact Beth Fitzpatrick at:

bethfitz32@shaw.ca

Student Funding: Some funding is available for students wishing to submit papers or posters. The submission date has been extended until April 30th FOR STUDENTS ONLY.

Program Notes: Dianne Dodd's address has been moved to the opening session on Friday morning, June 9, 2006

- Glennis Zilm's address will close the conference on Saturday 10:45 - 12:00 noon
- CAHN/ACHN annual general meeting will be held Friday, June 9, 2006 at the Box Lunch Session.

Registration: The early bird registration of \$220 ends April 30, 2006. If you plan to attend the conference in Vancouver send your money now. After April 30th registration is \$250. *For more information* about the CAHN/ACHN 2006 conference in Vancouver June 8 - 10, 2006 check out the web site bcnursinghistory.ca or e-mail bchn@canada.com or Mail to: BC History of Nursing Group
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