

# ASM Ink

April 2015, Vol. 42, No. 4

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



[www.marylandarcheology.org](http://www.marylandarcheology.org)

## Symposium to highlight public archeology

This year's Spring Symposium will be held Saturday, April 25 at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center (SERC) in Anne Arundel County. Doors open at 8:30 with the program beginning at 9.

The first session, on citizen science at SERC, will feature two speakers talking about its Shaw's Folly and Sparrow's Rest sites. Kiley Gilbert will talk about animal species diversity and Sarah Grady will focus on their ceramic assemblages. Also in this portion, Bailey Berry will discuss shell button making in central Delaware from the 1920s to 1992.

They will be followed by Lisa Kraus of the State Highway Administration who will deliver the Richard E. Stearns Memorial Lecture. Her subject is public archeology in Baltimore City and will feature details about the discoveries to date and the ways they've worked with the community to create a "DIY" archeology program.

In the other named lecture, the Iris McGillivray Memorial Lecture, Esther Doyle-Read of UMBC will present on her involvement with public archeology projects at the Jewish Museum, State Circle and Mount Clare, each of which engaged with the community in different ways.

After lunch, two speakers will share the ASM Student Spotlight. Jonathan Schuster and Alice-Joy Williams of Howard Community College will relate their research into the Crownsville Hospital, formerly known as the Hospital for the Negro Insane of Maryland. The demography of the hospital's population from 1920-1940 will be discussed and a social memory of the contribution of former patients will be shared, in an attempt to replace a lack of public recognition in death.

Following them, Laura Cripps of Howard Community College will highlight the skills gained by students studying archeology for the first time. She will reflect on the value of archeology to the wider community and will ask, is all archeology good archeology when presented to a public audience?

A final speaker may follow her.

Also being offered in the afternoon is a CAT workshop, a 90-minute Native American overview. Carol Ebright, of the State Highway Administration, will focus on the Middle Atlantic region and those American Indian groups who were and are indigenous to Maryland, as well as tribes who had a more transient presence. Archeologist interactions with modern federally recognized Indian tribes, state recognized Indian tribes and non-recognized groups will also be covered. The talk is open to non-CAT attendees if there is room.

Several lunch options are available. There is no cafeteria, but there is a limited automat at the nearby Mathias Lab, which accepts credit and debit cards but not money. Several restaurants are within a few miles of SERC, but only one hour is set aside for lunch. For people who want to bring their own food microwave ovens and a refrigerator are available.

Smile, participate: April is Archeology Month

## Upcoming events

**April:** Archeology Month in Maryland. Activities throughout the month around the state.

**April 18:** Discovering Archeology Day. Jefferson Patterson Park. 10-5.

**April 25:** Spring Symposium, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater. 9-3.

**May 22 – June 1:** Field session at Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County.

**May 30:** ASM board meeting. At Biggs Ford.

**October 9 – 19:** Fall field school. Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, Edgewater.

**October 24:** Annual meeting, Oregon Ridge Nature Center.

## Volunteer opportunities

The following volunteer opportunities are open to CAT participants and other ASM members:

**ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab:** The lab in Crownsville will be open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3. Contact Louise Akerson at [lakerson1@verizon.net](mailto:lakerson1@verizon.net) or Charlie Hall at [charles.hall@maryland.gov](mailto:charles.hall@maryland.gov)

A volunteer opportunity is available at a 17<sup>th</sup> Century site in Edgewater in Anne Arundel County, on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays, with Jim Gibb [jamesggibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net) and Laura Cripps [lcripps@howardcc.edu](mailto:lcripps@howardcc.edu) under the auspices of the Smithsonian. Contact either one to participate. There will be magnetometer training.

The **Smithsonian Environmental Research Center** seeks participants in its Citizen-Scientist Program in archeology and other environmental research programs in Edgewater. Field and lab work are conducted Wednesdays and on occasional Saturdays. Contact Jim Gibb at [jamesggibb@verizon.net](mailto:jamesggibb@verizon.net)

**Montgomery County** offers opportunities for lab and field work. Lab is at Needwood Mansion in Derwood on Mondays and Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and the first Tuesday evening of each month (except July and August). 301-563-7531 or contact [heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@montgomeryparks.org). CAT opportunity.

**The Last Towns Project** of Anne Arundel County welcomes volunteers for its prolific Pig Point prehistoric site. Fridays. Call Jasmine Gollup at 410-222-1318.

**Mount Calvert.** Lab work and field work. 301-627-1286,

**Jefferson Patterson Park** invites volunteers to take part in its activities, including archeology, historical research and conservation. Contact Ed Chaney at [echaney@mdp.state.md.us](mailto:echaney@mdp.state.md.us) or 410-586-8554.

The Archaeological Institute of America provides an online listing of fieldwork opportunities worldwide, Call up [www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/](http://www.archaeological.org/fieldwork/) to get started.

## CAT corner

Several workshops are planned for this year in addition to the Historic Overview scheduled during the March 28 Workshop in Archeology. During the Spring Symposium April 25 Carol Ebright will offer the Native American Overview session. (CONFIRM). Two analytic programs are hoped for this summer, one of Native American Ceramic Analysis and another on Faunal Analysis. During the fall field school, three workshops are hoped for: Field Survey, Historic Ceramics Analysis and Faunal Analysis.

For more information on the CAT program, visit the ASM website.

## ASM news

### V. Hall replaces Cripps as ASM vice president

Because of greatly increased duties in her day job on the faculty of Howard Community College, Laura Cripps has stepped down as vice president of ASM. She has been replaced by Valerie Hall, of the Mid-Potomac Chapter, a longtime Society activist and, until recently, a board member.

### And away we don't go

Any plans to move the Maryland Historical Trust from its Crownsville home are no longer operative at this point in time. Most of the other state departments using the 100 Community Place building have been reassigned and a search is on for others to replace them. But the Trust will be staying.

What this means for ASM is that rooms in the building which the Society used for meetings will again become available. But not right away as the areas are being used for storage as other departments transition.

### Silent Auction being held at Symposium

A silent auction has become a feature of some ASM meetings. This year the auction will be held during the Spring Symposium and Valerie Hall is collecting items and etc. that might be of interest to people attending the event.

Past donations have included archeology-related material as well as non-archeology-related. It is a fine chance for you to help ASM raise funds by making a donation. You also can contact a business - a restaurant, a theater, a flower shop, for instance - that would offer something.

Donation forms accompany this newsletter. Time is very short. Let Valerie know of your donation plans by April 11 by e-mail or by phone, and also to arrange for the transfer. She can be reached at 301-814-8028 or [valeriehall@gmail.com](mailto:valeriehall@gmail.com)

### Field session coming up the end of May

The site has been selected, the dates have been chosen, the registration is under way for ASM's spring field session. The location is the Biggs Ford Site in Frederick County, the dates are Friday, May 22 to Monday, June 1.

It is unusual for ASM to work a site for three straight years, but the multi-component prehistoric Biggs Ford Site has proven interesting and popular and questions remain to be answered. Joe Dent will again be the principle investigator.

Start making your plans to take part in this interesting dig. A registration form accompanies this newsletter. You will note that the cost has gone up slightly, \$5 day for ASM members, to \$20 for one day and a maximum of \$60 for three days or more.

### Want your newsletter in the mail? Pay up

ASM switched to distributing this newsletter electronically a while back. But not all members have email. Others prefer to receive a paper copy. We are striving to satisfy these members, but it takes money to print and mail these copies and one of the main reasons for going online was to cut expenses. Therefore members wanting paper copies have to add \$6 to their membership fees. If you haven't done so, send a check to Membership Secretary Jo Boodon (her address is on the back page). And be forewarned: the charge is going up to \$10 next year, to make the money loss a bit less.

# 'Barbarian invasion targeting our heritage'

By Anne Barnard

*Condensed from the New York Times, March 9, 2015*

BAGHDAD — In those areas of Iraq and Syria controlled by the Islamic State, residents are furtively recording on their cellphones damage done to antiquities by the extremist group. In northern Syria, museum curators have covered precious mosaics with sealant and sandbags. And at Baghdad's recently reopened National Museum of Iraq, new iron bars protect galleries of ancient artifacts from the worst-case scenario.

These are just a few of the continuing efforts to guard the treasures of Iraq and Syria, two countries rich with traces of the world's earliest civilizations. Yet only so much can be done under fire, and time is running out as Islamic State militants speed ahead with the systematic looting and destruction of antiquities.

In just a few days last week, officials said, the group destroyed parts of two of northern Iraq's most prized ancient cities, Nimrud and Hatra. On Sunday, residents said militants destroyed parts of Dur Sharrukin, a 2,800-year-old Assyrian site near the village of Khorsabad.

Islamic State militants have called ancient art idolatry that must be destroyed. But they also loot antiquities on a large scale to raise money, according to officials and experts who track the thefts.

"Everything is dealt with for its value," said Amr al Azm, a former antiquities official in Syria who now works with the Safeguarding the Heritage of Syria and Iraq Project, an international consortium. "If it has propaganda value they exploit it for propaganda. If they can sell it, they sell it."

Archeologists and preservationists, used to battling mundane enemies like weather and development, lament that in areas held by the Islamic State there is little they can do but document the destruction.

"A fool criminal can come with one hit of a hammer and destroy all our efforts, and we can do nothing," said Qais Hussein Rashid, deputy minister for tourism and antiquities. "It's a great grief."

Some have even called for air strikes, not the usual province of Iraq's cultural elite. Rashid and his boss, the minister, Adel Shirshab, both called for American-led coalition warplanes to strike militants approaching other historic sites.

On Sunday, the officials took their latest step in seeking designation of the ruins of ancient Babylon as a Unesco world heritage site, hoping for a measure of protection by the United Nations.

Yet the prospect feels like thin armor given the damage wrought to other Unesco-designated sites, like Hatra in Iraq and the Krak des Chevaliers crusader castle and the Old City of Aleppo in Syria. Those Syrian sites are victims not of the Islamic State, but of four years of conflict between government and opposition forces, who shelled them and used them for cover.

Now, Iraq's cultural institutions are "on the front lines against terrorism," Shirshab said, fighting a "barbarian invasion that is targeting our heritage."

But Iraq, he said, has survived "many invaders." He was not referring only to Hulagu Khan, the Mongol conqueror who razed the world's greatest library and some of its finest buildings when he sacked Baghdad in 1258. There was also the United States invasion in 2003, when American troops stood by as looters ransacked the Baghdad museum, a scenario that, Shirshab suggested, is being repeated today.

He spoke as Jeff Allen, a program director at the World Monuments Fund, ceremonially handed over a thick set of plans, produced with Iraqi conservators, for the preservation of the Babylon site. The solutions are mundane, like creating a single government agency authorized to protect antiquities. Invaders bent on wholesale destruction, Allen said dryly, were "beyond the scope of the plan."

Luckily, Babylon and other sites like the ziggurat of Ur are south of Baghdad, where the national government is more firmly in control. Only the military can keep those sites safe, said Hadi Moussa, an employee at the Babylon site.

The Babylon preservation plan also includes new documentation of the site, including brick-by-brick scale drawings of the ruins. In the event the site is destroyed, Allen said, the drawings can be used to rebuild it. But there are no equivalent drawings of Hatra and Nineveh.

After years of neglect and sanctions during Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, and the political chaos after his downfall, the American invasion alerted archeologists to what needed protecting. After damage and looting at many sites, documentation and preservation accelerated. Items not seen destroyed on video were presumed looted, and a list has been passed to law enforcement, said Kathryn Hanson, a University of Pennsylvania archeology fellow working with the consortium.

Around 2005 in Syria, Azm helped start similar projects amid fears that country would face the next American invasion. But the work was never finished, said Azm, who now opposes the Syrian government and teaches at Shawnee University in Ohio.

He oversees an informal team of Syrians he has nicknamed the Monuments Men, many of them his former students. They document damage and looting by the Islamic State, pushing for crackdowns on the black market. Recently, the United Nations banned all trade in Syrian artifacts.

Azm also worked with curators at the Ma'arra Mosaics Museum in the northern Syrian province of Idlib, who, in what so far is a rare success story, have safeguarded the mosaics there.

The preservation consortium trained and financed the curators who sealed the mosaics and barricaded them behind sandbags — not sturdy enough to withstand a direct hit, but a measure of protection and a barrier to thieves.

The town is held by the Al Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front. But a small local insurgent group occupies it, cooperating with the curators, Azm said. Azm said his former colleagues still working for the Syrian government are doing their best.

There have been reports that as the Islamic State approached, museum officials spirited valuable artifacts out of Deir al Zour on a military plane along with the bodies of slain soldiers.

Iraqi colleagues teach conservators and concerned residents simple techniques to use in areas controlled by the Islamic State, such as turning on a cellphone's GPS function when photographing objects, to help trace damage or theft, or to add sites to the "no-strike" list for warplanes.

Also in Erbil, the Rev. Nageeb Michael, a Dominican priest and a scholar at the Digital Center for Eastern Manuscripts, works to digitize historic Assyrian Christian manuscripts. Other scholars catalog artifacts that displaced residents have managed to safeguard.

In another cultural salvo against the Islamic State, officials reopened the national museum last week after 12 years of repairs and ahead of schedule. On Sunday, Qais Abdelkareem, 26, a gardener who helped plant petunias and pansies for the museum's opening, went inside for the first time.

"This is Iraq's history," he said, admiring stone tools made tens of thousands of years ago. "You can say it's the world's history."

## An old twist in a new find

*Condensed from the Associated Press, March 12, 2015*

Two pretzels unearthed during a dig on the banks of the Danube in Regensburg, Germany, could be more than 300 years old but are similar to ones available today, archeologists said Thursday.

Dorothee Ott, spokeswoman for the Bavarian Office for Historical Conservation, said the pretzel fragments and other baked goods found were badly burned, which is why they survived over the centuries. Archeologists say they believe they were discarded from a bakery that was once on the site. Carbon dating places their creation between 1700 and 1800.

Taking into account about 15 percent shrinkage, Ott said, "It's a normal pretzel, maybe a little smaller than today."

## Book Review: An engaging look at war and archeology

*"Archaeology of the War of 1812," edited by Michael T. Lucas and Julie M. Schablitsky, Left Coast Press, 337 pages, \$80.*

The bicentennial of the War of 1812 produced many history books, but for the first time a definitive book on the archeology has been published, "Archaeology of the War of 1812." The editors, Michael Lucas and Julie Schablitsky, compiled 15 comprehensive and fascinating papers on the archeology of the war on its many fronts.

This engaging book provides the reader with a deeper understanding of a forgotten war. Readers interested in military history, archeology and U.S. history will find much to contemplate, as will terrestrial and underwater archeologists.

The book is divided into four sections, arranged in chronological order and by region. Context for the overall conflict is established in the first (Grodzinski and Eshelman) and last (Orr) chapters.

The role of public archeology and the answers it can shed on even well-known sites are examined at Fort York in Toronto, Canada, (chapter 2, MacDonald et al.) and Fort McHenry in Baltimore (chapter 10, Cheek, Balicki and Orr). One of the most famous battles of the war took place at Fort McHenry and archeological investigations shed light on why the fort was never captured.

Excavations at Cantonment Saranac soldiers' cabin in Plattsburgh, New York (chapter 3, Abel), Old Fort Niagara in Youngstown, New York (chapter 4, Maguire) and at Point Peter, Georgia (chapter 13, Butler) show the importance of combining the archeological and written records when trying to understand the human experience of the war. In particular, the material culture at Old Fort Niagara, occupied first by Americans (1812-1813) and later by the British (1813-1815), shows how ill-prepared the American military was at the start of the war, foreshadowing even bigger losses for the Americans to come.

The level of preservation at several archeological sites is a critical factor at many of the projects. An almost untouched landscape allowed archeologists to successfully reconstruct the Battle of Caulk's Field in Maryland (chapter 9, Schablitsky) and relocate Fort Osage and Sibley's Fort in Missouri (chapter 12, Baumann, Peterson and Dickey).

Years of flooding and erosion at Credit Island Battlefield in Iowa depleted the archeological record, but using KOCO analysis (**K**ey/decisive terrain, **O**bservation and field of fire, **C**over and concealment, **O**bstacles, and **A**venues of approach/withdrawal is a standard traditional military analysis) and archival data, archeologists were able to reconstruct the battle (chapter 11, Espenshade). Investigations at the Bladensburg Battlefield, which started in Maryland and ended in the District of Columbia, show that despite intense urban development, there is still archeological potential remaining (chapter 7, Broadbent and Ervin).

The lesser-known early period of U.S. naval history is explored in the chapter about the Chesapeake Flotilla (Chapter 6 Neyland and Enright). A predictive model shows merit for investigations in locations where naval and terrestrial battles intersected in the lower Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay (chapter 8, O'Neill).

By the end of this captivating book not only will the reader have a deeper understanding of the War of 1812 and the role it played in the development of the American military, but also of the newest trends in battlefield archeology. GIS, remote sensing and metal detecting are three of the most important technical advancements, and an array of these techniques were used at Nottingham, Maryland (chapter 5, Lucas and Swain) and at the site of the Battle of New Orleans (chapter 14, Cornelison and Lowe).

In fact, many of the sites couldn't have been identified and understood without them. Investigation of Jackson's defensive line at New Orleans shows the importance of GIS on landscape and artifact patterning. For example, historic battle maps projected using GIS let archeologists to accurately locate the battle lines at the beginning of fieldwork, giving them more time to collect data on the site instead of searching for it.

Surely this book will be of great interest for any future research into the archeology and history of the War of 1812 and early 19th Century military sites. "Archaeology of the War of 1812" provides an excellent introduction for the renewed interest into this largely forgotten war.

-- Chardé Reid, Assistant City Archaeologist, DC Historic Preservation Office

# Latest high-tech aid: Furry, four legs, burrowing

By Richard Farrell

*Condensed from Discovery News.com, March 4, 2015*

If you're trying to dig up a fort from the Middle Ages, and you want a little help narrowing your search for buildings underground, who you gonna call? Why not a mole?

Archeologists with Denmark's Viborg Museum have done just that, using moles at a dig site south of Viborg. The little burrowers leave their telltale hills behind, and the scientists then sift through them to see if their furry helpers brought up any pottery, bricks or other artifacts.

When the museum first applied to Danish cultural authorities for the okay to use moles at the site, the officials thought it must be a joke, the Copenhagen Post reported. But soon they realized that not only was the museum serious, but that the idea was also a novel way to help dig a historic site while lessening the risk of damage to the ruins.

"It's simple, but it works," Viborg Museum archeologist Jesper Hjerminde told the Post. He explained that whenever the number of artifacts in a set of mole hills increases, a building is likely close by, lurking beneath the earth. Plugging the finds into a database then helps the team narrow down the location of the potential building.

## Chapter notes

### Anne Arundel

Meets the second Tuesday of the month at the Severna Park Branch Library, 45 West McKinsey Road, Severna Park. 7:30 p.m. Contact Mechelle Kerns at [AACHapASM@hotmail.com](mailto:AACHapASM@hotmail.com) or the chapter website <http://www.aachapasm.org/calendar.html>

### Central Maryland

For information contact on Central Chapter, contact [centralchapterasm@yahoo.com](mailto:centralchapterasm@yahoo.com) or Stephen Israel, 410-945-5514 or [ssisrael@verizon.net](mailto:ssisrael@verizon.net)

### Charles County

Meetings are held at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday (September-May) in the community room of the LaPlata Police Department. Contact President Sarah Grady at [sarahgrady11@gmail.com](mailto:sarahgrady11@gmail.com) or 410-533-1390. Chapter website is [charlescoasm.org](http://charlescoasm.org) and its blog is [ccarchsoc.blogspot.com](http://ccarchsoc.blogspot.com)

**April 9:** Rebecca Morehouse will highlight several Charles County collections stored at the MAC Lab.

**May 14:** Doug Zabel on "The Basics of Rocks."

### Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion, 6700 Needwood Road, Derwood. Dinner at a local restaurant at 5:30 p.m. Contact [heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org](mailto:heather.bouslog@mncppc-mc.org) or 301-563-7530 or Don Housley at [donhou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donhou704@earthlink.net) or 301-424-8526. Chapter website: <http://www.asmmidpotomac.org> Email: [asmmidpotomac@gmail.com](mailto:asmmidpotomac@gmail.com) Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mid-Potomac-Archaeology/182856471768>

**April 16:** Geologist Don Mullis on "The Importance of Developing a Geomorphological Site Conceptual Model for Archeological Sites- It Can Really Add a Lot to the Story."



**May 21:** Elizabeth Bollwerk, archeological analyst at the Thomas Jefferson Foundation in Charlottesville, Va. will speak on "Getting Archaeological Data In and Out of the Cloud and What You Can Do With It."

**June 11:** (note this is the *second* Thursday) Annual Picnic at Needwood Mansion from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

## Monocacy

The chapter meets in the C. Burr Artz Library in Frederick the second Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. For more information, visit the chapter's web page at [digfrederick.com](http://digfrederick.com) or call 301-378-0212.

**April 8:** "Bison in the East: A Story of Pigs, People, and Pigeons" by Stephen R. Potter, regional archeologist, National Capital Region, National Park Service.

## Northern Chesapeake

Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month. Members and guests assemble at 6:30 for light refreshments. A business meeting at 7 is followed by the presentation at 7:30. Contact Dan Coates at 410-273-9619 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/northernchesapeake>

**April 24:** Friday. Doug Owsley of the Smithsonian will deliver the Cresthull Memorial Lecture, on Written in Bone. Harford Community College, Edgewood Hall, Room E132.

**June 6:** Annual ASNC picnic meeting, Rock Church and "Beehive" Historic Site, MD 273 at Little Elk Creek, in Cecil County.

## St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown. For information contact Scott Lawrence at [graveconcerns@md.metrocast.net](mailto:graveconcerns@md.metrocast.net)

**April 20:** Scott Lawrence will talk on recovery and restoration at St. Nicholas Church cemetery.

**May 18:** Patricia Samford offers a presentation on King's Reach.

## Upper Patuxent

Meets the second Monday at 7 p.m. at 9944 Route 108 in Ellicott City. Labs are the second and fourth Saturdays. For information contact Dave Cavey at 410-747-0093 or [hoplite1@comcast.net](mailto:hoplite1@comcast.net) On Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Upper-Patuxent-Archaeology-Group/464236446964358> or try [UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com](mailto:UPArchaeologygroup@yahoo.com) or <http://uparchaeologygroup.weebly.com/>

**April 13:** Dave Peters will talk on "Pipe Stem Dating of Six Historic Sites in Harford County."

## Western Maryland

Programs are the fourth Friday of the month, at 7:30 p.m. in the LaVale Library, unless noted. Contact Roy Brown, 301-724-7769. Chapter email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>

**April 24:** Overwhelmed by the Sea: A report on sites at Point Lookout State Park by Lynne Bulhack.



**The Archeological Society of Maryland Inc. is a statewide nonprofit organization devoted to the study and conservation of Maryland archeology.**

ASM members receive the monthly newsletter, ASM Ink; the biannual journal, MARYLAND ARCHEOLOGY, reduced admission to ASM events and a 10% discount on items sold by the Society. Contact Membership Secretary Jo Boodon, PO Box 1584, Ellicott City, MD 21043 for membership rates. For publication sales, not including newsletter or Journal, contact Dan Coates at ASM Publications, 716 Country Club Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078-2104 or 410-273-9619 or [dancoates@comcast.net](mailto:dancoates@comcast.net)

**Submissions.** Please send to Myron Beckenstein, 6817 Pineway, University Park, MD. 20782, 301-864-5289 or [myronbeck@verizon.net](mailto:myronbeck@verizon.net)

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