

# ASM Ink

August 2016, Vol. 43, No. 8

Newsletter of the Archeological Society of Maryland, Inc.



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

## Waiting for your response

**Election ballot:** Ballots for this year's ASM election were sent out with the July newsletter. To cut down on voter fraud they won't be repeated. Mail them to the address on the ballot or bring them to the Annual Meeting in Frederick Oct. 22. Don't wait for TV ads to tell you whom to vote for; there won't be any.

**Marye Award:** Nominations are still being accepted for the 2016 Marye Award for outstanding contributions to Maryland archeology. Send in your nomination by September 12. Time is a-wasting.

## Coming up

**Back to River Farm:** Lost Towns is going back to River Farm, the site of this summer's successful field session. The dates are August 15 - 20. Call 410 - 222 - 1318 for information or to register.

**CAT workshop:** Jim Gibb will be offering a two-part workshop on ethics and preservation law August 20. Details in CAT Corner on Page 2.

**Annual Meeting:** This year's Annual Meeting takes place October 22 at Catoctin Furnace near Thurmont in Frederick County. The Monocacy Chapter promises it will be a good one. Save the date.

# Upcoming events

**August 15 – 20:** Further excavation at River Farm field session site. 410-222-1318.

**September 10:** ASM board meeting. Heritage House, Ellicott City. 10 a.m. All members welcome.

**September 17:** Symposium, "Divine Kingship: The political ideology of pre-Columbian Rulers." The Pre-Columbian Society of Washington, D.C. Naval Memorial and Heritage Center. 9 to 5:30. Registration at [www.pcswdc.org](http://www.pcswdc.org)

**October 22:** ASM Annual Meeting. Catoctin Furnace Historic District, Frederick County.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

**ASM Tuesday Volunteer Lab:** The lab in Crownsville is open Tuesdays from 9:30 until 3 and is now cataloging Mason Island II (18MO13) material. Anyone interested (especially CAT candidates) is welcome. Contact Louis 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 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** is accepting applications from for lab and field work volunteers for work beginning in September. Contact Heather Bouslog at 301 563 7530 or [Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org](mailto:Heather.Bouslog@montgomeryparks.org)

**The Anne Arundel County** Archaeology Program and the Lost Towns Project welcome volunteers in both field and lab at numerous sites throughout Anne Arundel County. Weekdays only. Email Jasmine Gollup at [volunteers@losttownsproject.org](mailto:volunteers@losttownsproject.org) or call the lab 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 [ed.chaney@maryland.gov](mailto:ed.chaney@maryland.gov) 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:

Jim Gibb will offer two workshops on August 20, with a repeat on September 17. The morning sessions, 10 a.m. to noon, will be on ethics, the afternoon, 1:30 to 3:30, on preservation law. Bring your own lunch. The workshops will be at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Edgewater. A tour of SERC is available during the lunch break. RSVP required by August 13 at: [burquiza@comcast.net](mailto:burquiza@comcast.net) or 410-535-2586.

For other information and the latest news on the CAT program, visit the ASM website.

## Calvin Swomley, of Claggetts Retreat fame, dies

Calvin Swomley of Buckeystown died July 22 in Frederick at 91. He was well known to people who participated in the 2007 and 2008 Claggetts Retreat field schools. He brought his knowledge of the site and the artifacts he had collected there to help determine possible places to dig. He then donated his collection to the state.

# A-sitting on a Tell

By Agatha Christie Mallowan

I'll tell you everything I can  
If you will listen well:  
I met an erudite young man  
A-sitting on a Tell.  
"Who are you, sir?" to him I said,  
"For what is it you look?"  
His answer trickled through my head  
Like bloodstains in a book.

He said: "I look for aged pots  
Of prehistoric days,  
And then I measure them in lots  
And lots of different ways.  
And then (like you) I start to write,  
My words are twice as long  
As yours, and far more erudite.  
They prove my colleagues wrong!"

But I was thinking of a plan  
To kill a millionaire  
And hide the body in a van  
Or some large Frigidaire.  
So, having no reply to give,  
And feeling rather shy,  
I cried: "Come, tell me how you live!  
And when, and where, and why?"

His accents mild were full of wit:  
"Five thousand years ago  
Is really, when I think of it,  
The choicest Age I know.  
And once you learn to scorn A.D.  
And you have got the knack,  
Then you could come and dig with me  
And never wander back."

But I was thinking how to thrust  
Some arsenic into tea,  
And could not all at once adjust  
My mind so far B.C.  
I looked at him and softly sighed,  
His face was pleasant too . . .  
"Come, tell me how you live?" I cried,  
"And what it is you do?"

He said: "I hunt for objects made

By men where'er they roam,  
I photograph and catalogue  
And pack and send them home.  
These things we do not sell for gold  
(Nor yet, indeed, for copper!),  
But place them on Museum shelves  
As only right and proper.

"I sometimes dig up amulets  
And figurines most lewd,  
For in those prehistoric days  
They were extremely rude!  
And that's the way we take our fun,  
'Tis not the way of wealth  
But archeologists live long  
And have the rudest health."

I heard him then, for I had just  
Completed a design  
To keep a body free from dust  
By boiling it in brine.  
I thanked him much for telling me  
With so much erudition,  
And said that I would go with him  
Upon an Expedition. . .

And now, if e'er by chance I dip  
My fingers into acid,  
Or smash some pottery (with slip!)  
Because I am not placid,  
Or if I see a river flow  
And hear a far-off yell,  
I sigh, for it reminds me so  
Of that young man I learned to know -

Whose look was mild, whose speech was slow,  
Whose thoughts were in the long ago,  
Whose pockets sagged with potsherds so,  
Who lectured learnedly and low,  
Who used long words I didn't know,  
Whose eyes, with fervor all a-glow,  
Upon the ground look to and fro  
Who sought conclusively to show  
That there were things I ought to know  
And that with him I ought to go  
And dig upon a Tell!

*In 1930 Agatha Christie married British Mideast archeologist Max Mallowan and joined him on his expeditions.*

# Vitamin D deficiency recorded in teeth

By Joanna Klein

*Condensed from the New York Times, July 20, 2016*

You don't just have teeth in your mouth: You have around 32 fossils that tell a microscopic history of your health. And scientists have found that even the old, discarded, not-so-pearly whites of people that lived hundreds of years ago tell a story about them, too.

According to a paper published Monday in *The Journal of Archaeological Science*, the researchers discovered a permanent record of vitamin D deficiency in the microscopic structure of old teeth and shed new light on the daily challenges faced by people of the past.

When the body doesn't get enough vitamin D from the sun or food, they found, teeth develop gaps or bubbles in dentin, the layer under enamel that makes up about 85 percent of a tooth's structure. These abnormalities reveal stories not just about past environmental conditions or food availability, but about culture and society as well.

Throughout history and across the world, there have been epidemics of children with rickets, a disease characterized by bowed legs and deformed hips, caused in part by a lack of sunlight. Anthropologists have identified rickets outbreaks by examining skeletal remains in places at high latitudes with limited access to sunlight, like some in England, Canada or France.

But the vast majority of children who had rickets will outgrow it. That makes the dental record of the condition important because abnormalities within teeth don't disappear with age, as evidence of bowed legs, for example, can in adult bones.

The researchers, led by Megan Brickley, an anthropologist at McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, examined the remains of six individuals who had been buried in the 18th and 19th Centuries in cemeteries known to contain cases of rickets and individuals who had survived childhood vitamin D deficiencies. The team determined who likely had rickets from their bones and then analyzed their teeth, cutting each tooth into several transparent slices, thinner than a sheet of tissue paper, and examining them under microscopes.

They found that a 24-year-old man who had been buried in Quebec between 1771 and 1860 had suffered four bouts of rickets in his short life: twice before the age of 2, once again around the age of 6 and again in a somewhat severe episode, around the age of 12.

"We were able to see inside that tooth, what was housed in there, years ago," said Brickley.

They reached this precision because teeth develop at different rates and leave behind concentric circles like tree rings over time. The researchers could look at the abnormalities within those layers to estimate occurrence and severity.

"You can't get that info from a skeleton," said Lori D'Ortenzio, a paleopathologist who worked on the study.

But the insights aren't limited to the past. It's estimated that more than a billion people worldwide don't get enough vitamin D and around the world rickets still can affect up to 9 percent of the childhood population in some places. Knowing about the past and lifestyle factors that led to rickets in particular communities worldwide may help put what's happening today into historical context.

In Britain, for example, rickets is on the rise. The fact that vitamin D deficiency could be recorded in teeth, "was certainly news to me," John Middleton, president of Britain's Faculty of Public Health, wrote in an email.

"We are concerned about dietary deficiency, lack of dairy, fish and meat, and particularly lack of sunlight for children who spend all their time indoors watching TV or playing video games," he said.

The opportunity to access never-before-told stories trapped within molars that started growing when a fetus was still inside the womb also may contribute to conversations around an idea called the Barker Hypothesis, which says that conditions in the womb contribute to development of diseases later in life.

The World Health Organization currently warns mothers about vitamin D deficiency, which is common during pregnancy and linked to poor health outcomes for both mother and child. Brickley said archeological evidence from the molars of those no longer living could provide new links between prenatal vitamin D deficiency and early death or chronic disease.

## **Book Review: The mystery that was Sutton Hoo**

*The Dig*, by John Preston, The Other Press, 2016. 259 pages, \$17

*"... one of the most spectacular archaeological discoveries of all time. The Sutton Hoo ship burial provides remarkable insights into early Anglo-Saxon England. It reveals a place of exquisite craftsmanship and extensive international connections, spanning Europe and beyond. It also shows that the world of great halls, glittering treasures and formidable warriors described in Anglo-Saxon poetry was not a myth."*

*-- The British Museum*

In the spring of 1939, as warstorms were gathering over England, landowner Edith Pretty hired local archeologist Basil Brown to find out what might be beneath several mounds on her property in the Sutton Hoo area of Suffolk.

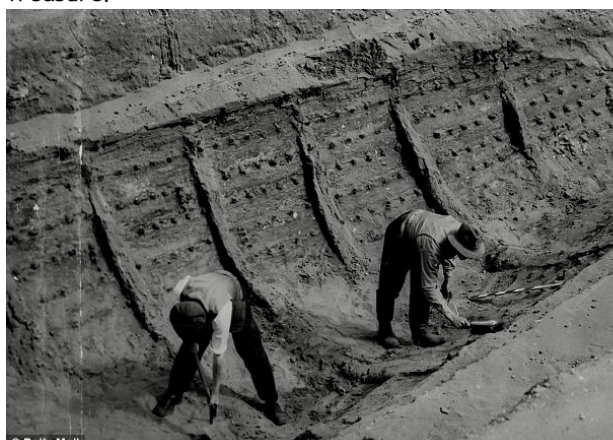
Brown found indications that robbers had visited the mounds sometime in the past and was unsure when digging began what may have been taken and what disturbed - as well as what was under the mounds in the first place.

Several persons involved in the dig take turns narrating the story. Mrs. Pretty: "The first indication that Mr. Brown might have made a discovery was when I saw him crouch down and put his face very close to the ground. Taking his pastry brush out of his back pocket he began sweeping.... 'What is it, Mr. Brown?' 'There's something here,' he said, his voice muffled. 'Something, although Chri - heaven only knows what.'"

It was a piece of wood. The most interesting early find was a four-inch long piece of corroded iron. Guided by changes in the color of the soil, they found a trail of these objects at 6-inch intervals. He recognized them as ship bolts, the only things left from the hull besides clear impressions in the sand of where the planking had been.

Pieces of finely worked jewelry also start appearing. Local authorities, worried that Brown did not have the ability to conduct what suddenly had turned into a major find, worked to have him replaced. More skilled archeologists were called in to take over, though Brown was given a supporting role.

The buried ship turned out to be the largest found in Britain and, despite early conjecture that it was of Viking origin, it was soon found to be even older, somewhere around 600 AD. And it contained a trove of treasure.



© Daily Mail  
 Preston's novelization of the Sutton Hoo find is both colorful and matter of fact. He details the excavation procedure, the methods used to keep the public away (such as a sign "DANGER! LIVE BOMBS!"), the fight over various bodies for control of the digs and for possession of the rich store of relics that were uncovered. Was it buried property to which the owner intended to return (in which case it would belong to the state) or was it a grave site (meaning the finds belonged to the property owner)?

**-- Myron Beckenstein**

## Another week set for River Farm field session site

The 2016 field session at River Farm in Anne Arundel County was so productive and raised such interesting questions that ASM partner Lost Towns is going back there August 15-20 to look for some answers.

Over 11 days, over 100 people excavated 20 test units, found 13 features and recovered thousands of artifacts that span at least 10,000 years of history on the shores of the Patuxent. The team also discovered about half of a large (possibly oval-shaped) structure that appears to date to between 900 and 1400 AD.

For more information: [www.LOSTTOWNSPROJECT.ORG](http://www.LOSTTOWNSPROJECT.ORG). Or to sign up call 410 - 222 - 1318 or go online to [www.losttownsproject.org/connect-to-your-history/whats-going-on-now-2/upcoming-events/river-farm/](http://www.losttownsproject.org/connect-to-your-history/whats-going-on-now-2/upcoming-events/river-farm/)

## Slave ship remnants come to Smithsonian

By Michael E. Ruane

*Condensed from the Washington Post, July 14, 2016*

The Portuguese slave ship had left Mozambique Island four weeks earlier and headed along the East African coast with its cargo of 500 captives, bound for the rice and cotton plantations of northern Brazil.

Now, two days after Christmas in 1794, the São José Paquete de Africa had been blown into treacherous waters near the Dutch settlement of Cape Town in southern Africa and was impaled on rocks.

It was 2 a.m. And as the ship, weighed down with cast iron ballast bars and human beings, was torn apart in the swells, the captain, crew and many slaves reached shore with a rescue line. But 212 slaves drowned in the frigid water, 11 more died in the next few days.

On Wednesday morning, four of those ballast bars arrived at a storage site in Maryland for the Smithsonian's new National Museum of African American History and Culture. Oblong in shape, they were dark brown and chipped with age. Each weighed 88 pounds, perhaps the weight of some of the slaves on board.

"Although we haven't found human remains — [and] there's an expectation that we might do that — we will find them trapped under something like a ballast block," said Jaco Boshoff, the South African marine archeologist from Cape Town's Iziko Museums who brought them to the surface.

The bars constitute some of the remnants from the first known slave ship to sink with Africans on board that has been identified, studied and excavated, the Smithsonian said.

A wooden pulley block from the ship's rigging and a piece of mangrove timber from the hull will be delivered later. They are modest but haunting reminders of the 400-year global commerce in slaves that transformed 12.5 million Africans into a commodity and shipped them like cargo to the Western Hemisphere in bondage.

Tens of thousands of men, women and children died on ships like the São José during the "Middle Passage" across the ocean.

"I spent years looking around the world trying to find slave ship pieces ... as almost like a religious relic," said Lonnie G. Bunch III, the museum's founding director. They "are really the only tangible evidence that these people existed."

The wreck of the São José was discovered in the 1980s in about 30 feet of water, 400 feet off shore, near the community of Clifton, according to experts at the Smithsonian, George Washington University and the international Slave Wrecks Project.

But it was long thought to be an older Dutch vessel. And it was not until 2010-11 that maritime archeologists in South Africa found the captain's account of the sinking in local archives, as well as the telltale ballast bars on the bottom. Such ballast was often used to compensate for the relatively light weight of human cargo.

The São José set sail on April 27, 1794. Its destination was East Africa's Mozambique Island. The São José had headed to East Africa because British anti-slaving patrols were trying to suppress the traditional trade from West Africa.

The ocean crossing was often horrific. Slaves were jammed on board. Disease, death and cruelty were constants. Mortality rates were high. The dead were thrown into the sea, and sharks grew accustomed to following the ships. On Dec. 5, 1801, a Spanish slave ship left Charleston, S.C., for Mozambique, according to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database. It gathered 200 slaves, but by the time it reached Montevideo, Uruguay, only 66 were still alive.



Slaves resisted however they could, although they often were shackled or chained. Many jumped overboard to try to escape or commit suicide. Slaves revolted often. The Liverpool slave ship, *Unity*, had four insurrections in one voyage.

On Dec. 3, 1794, the *São José* set sail for Maranhão, Brazil, aiming to stop in Cape Town to resupply. But the captain had never sailed in the area before, and as the ship approached Cape Town on Dec. 27, it ran into strong winds that prevented its entrance to the harbor. He dropped anchor just off the coast.

By this time the slaves had been in the stifling hold for three weeks. "These are people who have been in the bottom of the ship, throwing up," said Stephen C. Lubkemann, an associate professor at George Washington University, who is part of the Slave Wrecks Project. "They have no strength." Few knew how to swim.

Meanwhile, the wind had blown the ship — dragging its anchor — up onto the rocks, the captain later recounted. He tried to haul the vessel off using another anchor, but its rope broke.

He sent a small boat toward shore carrying a rescue line, but the boat was wrecked in the sea.

Then, with the help of rescuers from Cape Town, a rope with a basket was extended from shore to the ship, and evacuations began. Lubkemann said the water was rough and probably littered with debris.

It also was freezing, because of the Antarctic current, he said. The captain, crew and scores of slaves made it to safety. The others died as the ship was smashed apart.

Afterward, the surviving captives were sold to local buyers, their stories at an end until now.

## Better technology leads to 16<sup>th</sup> Century find. . .

By Stephen Fastenau

*Condensed from the Beaufort (S.C.) Gazette, July 26, 2016*

Improving technology helped archeologists finally find the remains of a 16th-Century Spanish fort on what is now Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island.

Archeologists had been looking for San Marcos, one of several forts built on the Santa Elena settlement, for more than 20 years. The remains were discovered in June using radar and magnetometers.

The machines have been in play for archeologists for years, but the computer programs interpreting the data have vastly improved in recent years, said University of Georgia archeologist Victor Thompson. Thompson has worked on the site with University of South Carolina archeologist Chester DePratter, whose search for San Marcos began in 1991.

The fort was founded in 1577 by Pedro Menedez Marquez. The outpost went up in six days, using prefabricated pieces, to protect against an attack by Native Americans.

The general location of the fort had been noted using documents archived in Spain. Traditional digging methods had failed to find the fort, a press release said. Its whereabouts remained a mystery until 1979, when archeologists found evidence while digging on the Parris Island golf course.

## . . . and to a Holocaust escape tunnel in Lithuania

*Condensed from the Hartford Courant, July 2, 2016*

It's a Holocaust story that University of Hartford professor and archeologist Richard Freund says sounds completely improbable: 80 Jews attempting to escape an extermination pit in Lithuania through a tunnel dug with their hands and rudimentary tools like spoons.

"People who were in that escape gave their testimony on tape," Freund said, "but nobody could find [it]."

But new technology allows archeologists to explore what might be beneath the surface and then, Freund said, locate what they are looking for without disturbing remains. Besides the ground-penetrating radar, the scientists use electrical resistivity tomography, which Freund likened to an underground MRI.

"We never go in cold. We never just start digging," Freund said. "...This has revolutionized the way people do archeology."

## Chapter notes

In addition to the listed chapters, ASM has a chapter at the Community College of Baltimore County, led by Nina Brown, and a club at Huntingtown High School in Calvert County, run by Jeff Cunningham.

### Anne Arundel

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

### Central Chapter

For information contact [centralchapterasm@yahoo.com](mailto:centralchapterasm@yahoo.com) or [stephenisrael2701@comcast.net](mailto:stephenisrael2701@comcast.net) 410-945-5514. Or on Facebook, [www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter](http://www.facebook.com/asmcentralchapter) or <http://asmcentralchapter.weebly.com/>

### 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)

### Mid-Potomac

The chapter meets the third Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at Needwood Mansion in 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 [donthou704@earthlink.net](mailto:donthou704@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>

### 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.

### 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>

### St. Mary's County

Meetings are the third Monday of the month at St. Francis Xavier Church in Newtown or at St. Mary's College. For information contact Chris Coogan at [Cicoogan@smcm.edu](mailto:Cicoogan@smcm.edu)

### Upper Patuxent

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

### 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. Email: [wmdasm@yahoo.com](mailto:wmdasm@yahoo.com) Website: <http://sites.google.com/site/wmdasm>



**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 percent 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)

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