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## Manuscript Repositories Newsletter

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### Spring 2005

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#### Society of American Archivists

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#### From the Chair

##### *Cynthia Pease Miller*

Suddenly last summer, the winds of change swept through when SAA switched from paper to electronic newsletters for all sections and roundtables. This announcement came too late to include in the Summer 2004 newsletter, the last one to be mailed, or to make the announcement at the section meeting in Boston.

This is a big change, particularly for those of us who like the feel of paper. But there are advantages:

- You will never lose it.
- The newsletter won't be at home and you need it at the office.
- You no longer have to keep your personal archive of old newsletters.
- You can forward it to a friend.
- You can read the newsletters of all sections and roundtables and search them as needed for information.
- There is no page limit. Within reason we can include all news, not having to tweak the margins or font size.

Most importantly, we now have the ability to post information and reach all of our members quickly. For the printed newsletter, we needed to allow a month for the printing and mailing process.

Karen Spicher, our web liaison, will send an email to all section members when a new posting is made. Many thanks to Karen for making this transition appear so effortless, for it has been a lot of work on her part.

The deadline for the next newsletter will be posted at the end of each newsletter. They remain as before: October (post-conference), February/March, and June/July (pre-conference).

To read the newsletter, from the SAA home page, go to sections, then Manuscripts.

The newsletter continues to be our most important communication and source of repository news. Keep it coming!!

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## **The Relationship Between the Program Committee and Sections and Roundtables**

***Tom Hyry, Yale University Library***

As a member of the section steering committee and incoming co-chair of the SAA Program Committee for the 2006 annual meeting, I have been asked to write this short piece about the relationship of sections and roundtables to the Program Committee's work and procedures and to comment on the session endorsement system in particular.

The SAA Vice President (who takes the position of President at the August meeting) appoints the chairs of the Program Committee (PC), who in turn work with the vice president to appoint the members of the program committee. In making appointments, the vice president and co-chairs strive to achieve diversity by appointing archivists who represent different ethnicities, genders, geographic areas, and types of repositories and functional expertise. With a membership no larger than twelve, however, the committee cannot possibly reflect the entire range of SAA's membership.

When developing the program for the annual meeting, the PC relies on session proposals submitted by members. Because there are almost always many more proposals than available session slots, the committee faces a very difficult task. Traditionally, section and roundtable endorsements have served as an aid to the committee in evaluating proposals, as they each bring their own particular expertise into the process. From year to year, the procedure for attaining endorsements has changed. Some committees have requested a simple yes/no approval on the many sessions that could be submitted to individual sections and roundtables; others have asked that sections rank the sessions they have agreed to endorse. Plans for tweaking the endorsement process for the 2006 conference are underway but not finalized. Sections and roundtables treat endorsements differently as well. Some take a great deal of time evaluating and making selective endorsements, while others seem to endorse every session submitted to them.

Regardless of the number of endorsements a proposal receives, the PC still considers each one independently and makes decisions based on the overall quality of the proposal and its relationship to other sessions on the program. Section and roundtable endorsements provide a boost to proposals under consideration by the committee, but they are by no means determinative. In other words, session proposals can receive an endorsement from a section or roundtable (or multiple sections and roundtables) and still not be accepted by the program committee. Conversely, proposals can also be accepted even if they have no endorsement.

Sections can have perhaps an even greater impact on the program by developing good proposals, to be submitted under the name of the section chair. The PC carefully considers these proposals, which are, in my mind, the best way for SAA groups to affect the annual program. The Manuscript Repositories section has a long tradition of submitting proposals that have developed into excellent sessions. Please keep the section leadership in mind when developing ideas for proposals. We can help flesh out ideas, make connections between section members, and use our expertise to hone proposals. In the end, an excellent annual program depends on the participation of members, so please work to develop new ideas for great sessions!

Those wishing to know more about the workings of the Program Committee can read "'Demystifying' the SAA Program Committee," the excellent overview of the process written by 2004 co-chairs Mark Greene and Christine Weideman in the September/October 2004 issue of *Archival Outlook*.

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## **Director of the Russell Library Recipient of the Scone Foundation's 2004 Archivist Award**

***Jill Severn, Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia***

Sheryl B. Vogt, director of the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia, is the 2004 recipient of "The Archivist of the Year Award," presented annually by the Scone Foundation. The award recognizes an archivist who has made considerable contributions to his or her profession and who has provided significant support to scholars conducting research in history and biography.

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies has the distinction of being the sole repository in Georgia dedicated to the support of scholarly research in modern political history with the collections of more than 100 public officials, influential citizens and political organizations. Recent additions include the papers of former governor and U.S. Sen. Zell Miller, those of current U.S. Rep. Sanford Bishop, and the papers of Georgia's junior U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson.

Vogt has been an archivist at the Russell Library for 30 years and its director for 25. "During her tenure, Sheryl Vogt has established the Russell Library as one of the most important centers in the United States for the documentation and study of politics and public policy," said William Gray Potter, the University Librarian. "She has overseen the exponential increase of the Library's holdings from the cornerstone collection of Sen. Richard B. Russell to more than 100 collections of politicians, political parties, civic and lobbying organizations, and political observers. She has also initiated strategic partnerships for collection development and public programming such as those with the university's Foot Soldier Project for Civil Rights Studies and the Center for International Trade and Security. The UGA Libraries are grateful to the Scone Foundation for recognizing Sheryl's many contributions to the profession."

Stanley Cohen, president of the Scone Foundation, said he established the award when he realized there were no programs to recognize outstanding archivists. In the "peculiar" selection process, the prominent historian chosen to lecture in tribute to the honored archivist chooses the honoree for the next year. On December 9, 2004, Ina Caro, researcher for Robert B. Caro and author of *The Road from the Past: Traveling through History in France*, presented the award to Vogt at a reception in New York. Asa Briggs (Lord Briggs of Lewes), one of Britain's foremost social historians, delivered the lecture in honor of the event. Vogt has worked closely with Ina and Robert Caro as they researched Caro's multi-volume biography of President Lyndon Baines Johnson and was nominated for the award by Ina Caro. "They are most grateful for the way she has helped them in their research," said Cohen. "A good archivist can save you six months to a year in your work; a bad archivist makes you crazy. A first-rate archivist responds to questions that we writers forget to ask."

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**The Peoples Temple Collection at the California Historical Society's North Baker Research Library is featured in a new play and a new book about Peoples Temple and Jonestown**  
***Denice Stephenson, Archivist & Mary Morganti, Director of Library & Archives, California Historical Society***



*Early settlers of Jonestown*

The California Historical Society is the chief repository of documents, publications, and photographs related to Peoples Temple and events that surrounded the 1978 tragedy in Jonestown, Guyana. In addition to holding the official records of Peoples Temple and the settlement of the organization's estate overseen by Robert A. Fabian, the court-appointed receiver, the Peoples Temple Collection encompasses individual collections of documents and personal papers, including the Moore Family Papers, 1968 -1988, John R. Hall's research materials on Peoples Temple, 1954 -1987, the Ross E. Case collection pertaining to Peoples Temple, 1961-1984, and the FBI collection of Peoples Temple papers from Jonestown, Guyana, 1972-1978, consisting of papers collected by U.S. and Guyanese government agencies in the immediate aftermath of the Jonestown tragedy and assembled by the FBI for its investigation of the death of Congressman Leo J. Ryan. Recent additions to the collection include papers from the family of Berkeley based psychologist Margaret Thaler Singer who worked with former members of Peoples Temple and Jonestown survivors, a collection of more than twelve hundred images of Peoples Temple members in the U.S. and Guyana from the late 1960s to 1978, and hundreds of audiotapes of Peoples Temple services, communications between the U.S. and Guyana, and media broadcasts that were also gathered by the FBI after Jonestown.

In April 2005, Berkeley Repertory Theatre, in association with Z Space Studio, will present the world premiere of Peoples Temple based on contemporary interviews and archival materials. Heyday Books, in collaboration with CHS, will publish *Dear People: Remembering Jonestown* based on selections from the Peoples Temple Collection. *Peoples Temple*, written and directed by Leigh Fondakowski (The Laramie Project) is a riveting examination of the charged events surrounding the deaths of more than nine hundred members of Peoples Temple in Jonestown, Guyana and the unique mixture of radical local politics and Pentecostal fervor that fueled this organization. KQED, the San Francisco based public television station is filming a documentary on the making of the play. *Dear People: Remembering Jonestown* includes letters, personal histories, internal organizational documents, and photographs, many published for the first time, that provide an emotionally dense and vivid portrait of a compelling and ultimately tragic social movement of the twentieth century. The books will be available in bookstores in April 2005.

For more information about the Peoples Temple Collection and other collections at the California Historical Society, please visit our website at [www.californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org).

## **University of Iowa Horvat Collection of Science Fiction Fanzines**

### ***Amy Cooper Cary, University of Iowa Libraries***

The University of Iowa has acquired more than 250,000 science fiction fanzines and almost overnight has increased its stature as a prominent science fiction research center. The collection was assembled by Martin M. (Mike) Horvat of Stayton, Ore., a longtime science fiction fan and collector of fanzines. Rob Latham, a UI professor of English and American Studies who researches science fiction literature and its fan base, originally brought the collection to the attention of the University of Iowa Libraries. Sid Huttner, Head of the Special Collections Department at the University of Iowa Libraries, and Latham worked with Brooks Landon, professor of English, to bring the collection to the university. Latham said the collection is one of the most impressive he's ever seen, with titles from the U.S., Canada, Britain and Australia.

The Horvat Collection contains substantial runs of all major and many minor fanzines from the 1960s to the 1990s. Zines from the 1940s and 1950s—such as Bob Tucker's legendary *Le Zombie* and Robert Silverberg's *Starship*—are also well represented. The collection includes many British, Canadian, and Australian zines, such as Pete Weston's *Zenith/Speculation* and John Bangsund's *SF Commentary*. The archive rivals the Bruce Pelz and Terry Carr collections, housed in the J. Lloyd Eaton Collection of the University of California at Riverside.

At present, the archive is being sorted and indexed, a painstaking task that will take many months. "One portion of the collection -- issues of about 3,000 titles -- came very well organized in file cases," said Huttner. "We have prepared a list

of those titles that is already available on the Web." The link is on the University of Iowa Libraries' Special Collections home page at [www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll](http://www.lib.uiowa.edu/spec-coll). "It's an extraordinary collection and a significant contribution to the resources available in our library," said Huttner. "When it is fully available to scholars, the Horvat Collection will provide an invaluable resource for research into the history of modern science fiction and the formation of fan communities," said Latham. "We are deeply indebted to Mr. Horvat for providing us with this superb archive."

**Recently processed collections at the Moorland-Spangarn Research Center, Howard University Manuscript Department**  
***Lela Sewell-Williams, Moorland Spangarn Research Center, Howard University***

***Max Yergan Papers, 1917-1969, (10 linear ft.).*** Yergan was a missionary, educator, civil rights activist and sociologist. The bulk of his papers consist of writings reflecting his work with the Young Men's Christian Association in South Africa, where his mission from 1921 to 1936 was to establish African YMCAs throughout the country; his co-founding of and resignation from the Council of African Affairs, and his campaign for civil rights for black South Africans. His papers also include correspondence, research files, subject files, photographs and artifacts.

***William Lorenzo Patterson Papers, 1919-1979, (15.5 linear ft.).*** Patterson was a political activist, lawyer, orator, writer and a member of the Communist Party from San Francisco. William L. Patterson, known as "Mister Civil Rights" and a "race man" because of his courageous and tenacious battles against racism, spent the major portion of his life participating in, organizing and leading mass struggles in defense of the victims of racist and political oppression in the United States. By initiating and drafting the historic petition "We Charge Genocide," following adoption by the United Nations of a resolution condemning genocide, William Patterson exposed the crimes of the United States government against its African American citizens, citing the nature and depth of racism at home and abroad. The papers, which cover the mid-1950s to 1979, contain correspondence, printed materials, writings and clippings, and reflect his political activism.

***Clarence Cameron White Papers, 1872-1965, (19 linear ft.).*** White was a violinist, composer and music educator. White's papers consist of correspondence, writings, programs, and photographs documenting his life as a performing artist and composer. The collection also reflects the lives of White's family members, including a noteworthy amount of material related to his second wife, Pura Belpré White, the first Latina librarian in the New York Public Library System.

***Williams J. Faulkner Papers, 1914-1980, (38 linear ft.).*** Faulkner was a Congregational minister, folklorist, author, and Fisk University dean. The bulk of this collection is made up of Faulkner's correspondence and writings, which span his entire career. Faulkner's renown throughout African American society is reflected in the voluminous correspondence from his professional and personal relationships. There are also several manuscript versions of his book, *The Days When the Animals Talked: Black American Folktales and How They Came to Be* (1977), a collection of folktales representing a substantial and significant contribution to African American folklore. The papers comprise family materials, personal papers, correspondence, photographs, artifacts and audio recordings.

**Recently processed collections at the Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies at the University of Georgia**  
***Mary McKay, University of Georgia Libraries***

The Richard B. Russell Library for Political Research and Studies (the University of Georgia) announces the opening of two recently processed collections:

**William Armstrong Smith Papers, 1966-1978, 18 linear feet, 188 photographs.** William Armstrong Smith was a Georgia senator from the 34th District (Fulton County) from 1966 to 1974. During this time, Smith introduced various bills, served on and/or chaired numerous senate committees, and actively supported the development of the Republican Party in Georgia. The collection of Smith's state legislative papers documents his career and to a lesser degree his campaigns as well as his continued interest in legislative matters after his senate career ended (1975-1978). The majority of the collection consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, financial records, legislative bills, and photographs. Some examples of his legislative accomplishments include: safer highways, better pay for teachers, additional parks and playgrounds, and elimination of pollution from streams. Proposals that were important to him personally, but that did not pass, include making the daily reading of the Ten Commandments mandatory in public schools and requiring biology textbooks to give the biblical version of creation in addition to evolution. Smith also sponsored legislation that engendered controversy. In response to increasing rape statistics in Atlanta and the fear of a possible baby boom in the state's mental institutions once patients were granted the right to marry, Smith proposed legislation requiring the castration of convicted rapists as well as sterilization of the mentally retarded. Another important aspect of the collection is correspondence Smith created after his senate career with politicians. Correspondents include: Georgia politicians Howard "Bo" Callaway, John J. Flynt, Jr., Wyche Fowler, Zell Miller, Sam Nunn, as well as United States Presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, and Richard Nixon.

**Iris F. Blitch Papers, ca. 1930 - 1985 (bulk 1954-1962) 67.5 linear feet, 239 photographs.** In 1954, Democratic national committeewoman and three-time member of the Georgia State Legislature, Iris Blitch, announced her candidacy for the United States Congress. After conducting a grass-roots campaign, Blitch became the first woman ever elected from Georgia to serve a full term in the United States Congress. The Iris F. Blitch Papers document her two terms representing Georgia's Eighth District in the United States Congress from 1955 to 1963, and, to a lesser extent, her personal life. The majority of the collection consists of correspondence, newspaper clippings, legislative bills, research and campaign materials, scrapbooks and photographs. Well-documented throughout the entire collection, particularly in the Legislative and Subject Series, are the issues that were important to Blitch and to the twenty counties that composed the Eighth District, including agriculture and environmental issues. Additionally, the papers provide insight into the political climate for women in the second half of the 1950s and the early 1960s as well as into social mores regarding their participation. As one of only 15 female members (and the only "southerner") in the House of Representatives in 1958, the challenges faced by Blitch and other females in Washington, as well as the public's perceptions, are recorded throughout the papers, mainly in feature newspaper articles and interviews. Blitch's personal beliefs and opinions regarding women's roles and responsibilities in government and politics are evident in the speeches and interviews she gave throughout her career. Correspondents include the following Georgia politicians: D.W. Brooks, Phil Campbell, John J. Flynt, Jr., E.L. Forrester, Ed Friend, Henderson L. Lanham, Herman E. Talmadge, John Leonard Pilcher, Prince Preston, and Richard B. Russell, Jr.

For finding aids for these collections and information about other collections, programs, and services of the Russell Library, please visit the Library web site at [www.libs.uga.edu/russell](http://www.libs.uga.edu/russell). You may contact the Russell Library at 706-542-5788 or [russlib@uga.edu](mailto:russlib@uga.edu).

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**The Louise Bryant Papers, Manuscripts and Archives,  
Sterling Memorial Library  
Sahr Conway-Lanz, Yale University Library**

An extensive collection of the papers of the foreign correspondent and writer Louise Bryant is now processed and open to researchers in the department of Manuscripts and Archives in the Yale University Library. The 36 boxes of correspondence, journals, writings, photographs, and other material document the remarkable life and work of Bryant, including her journalism on the Russian Revolution of 1917 that made her a star reporter. Her biographers had assumed these papers were lost, but they unexpectedly came to Yale with the

William C. Bullitt Papers as part of a deposit by Anne Moen Bullitt, the daughter of Bryant and Bullitt.

Louise Bryant was born on December 5, 1885, in San Francisco, California. She began her career in journalism as an illustrator, and later the society editor, for the *Spectator* newspaper in Portland, Oregon. In 1916, Bryant moved to New York City and married the journalist John Reed. After reporting on the war in France for the Bell Syndicate in 1917, Bryant traveled with Reed to Russia and witnessed the Bolshevik Revolution. Her articles on Russia appeared in hundreds of American newspapers and later were published as the book *Six Red Months in Russia*. This reporting made Bryant, for a brief period, one of the leading authorities in the United States on the new Soviet government, and in 1919 she made a speaking tour around the United States to present her views of the situation in Russia. From 1920 to 1923, she worked for the International News Service and King Features Syndicate reporting mainly on Russia and Turkey but also on events elsewhere in Europe and Asia. Another series of articles about the Soviet Union and its leaders, which Bryant wrote during this period, was published as *Mirrors of Moscow* in 1923. That same year, Bryant married the writer, and later American ambassador to the Soviet Union and France, William C. Bullitt.

The collection is a rich source on Bryant's career as a foreign correspondent writing for various American newspapers and the International News Service. Materials on her time reporting on the Russian Revolution and Civil War and on Turkey in the 1920's are well represented. The papers also document her literary and artistic endeavors. A substantial quantity of material concerns Bryant's social and family life, and a small amount of material relates to the life of John Reed. The finding aid is available electronically at <http://mssa.library.yale.edu/findaids/stream.php?xmlfile=mssa.ms.1840.xml>.

### **The Bancroft Library is Moving!** ***Jessica Lemieux, The Bancroft Library***

In 2005, The Bancroft Library will relocate to temporary quarters during a California state-mandated seismic retrofitting of its building, and, thanks to many donors, a much-needed upgrading of its facilities. The Library will be closed for approximately three months during its move, and then will reopen in a temporary location where it will operate for at least two years. The Bancroft Library has been in its current location, the Doe Library Annex, since the 1950s.

Bancroft's open hours will be reduced this spring as we prepare to move. For current information regarding our open hours, please see our website at <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/info/hours.html>, or call (510) 642-3781.

On June 1, 2005 Bancroft will close to the public in order to move its collections. A temporary reading room will tentatively reopen in October at 2121 Allston Way in Berkeley. While in the temporary space, not all materials will be available and there may be a delay in paging materials, as most items will be housed off-site.

Other Bancroft Library programs affected by the move include the Mark Twain Papers and Project, the Regional Oral History Office, the Center for Tebtunis Papyri, and the University Archives. The Mark Twain Project has already moved to temporary quarters at 2195 Hearst Avenue in Berkeley. The Regional Oral History Office (ROHO) will be moving to Evans Hall on the Berkeley Campus in spring 2005. The Center for Tebtunis Papyri and University Archives will be moving with Bancroft to its temporary location. For more information and updates about the move, please visit the Bancroft website at <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/info/move/> or call (510) 642-3781.

### **Georgia State University Receives NHPRC Grant** ***Pam Hackbart-Dean, Georgia State University***

The National Historical Publications and Records Commission recently awarded \$82,000 to the Georgia State University Library Special Collections Department for the processing of the most extensive collection of Southern nursing association records in the nation. The project begins a groundbreaking collaborative effort between two Atlanta repositories: the Auburn Avenue

Research Library on African-American Culture and History and project sponsor Georgia State University.

"We are delighted to be partnering with the Avenue Research Library on African-American Culture and History, and hope it will be the first of many similar collaborations," said Charlene S. Hurt, university librarian at Georgia State University. "We are especially pleased to bring together two important areas of our special collections in this project-labor history and women's history."

More than 250 linear feet of papers from the Georgia State Nurses Association, the South Carolina Nurses Association, the Maryland Nurses Association, the Kentucky Nurses Association and the Grady Nurses' Conclave dating from 1907 to 1991 will be preserved during the 18-month enterprise. Archives staff will arrange, describe and make publicly accessible the nurses association manuscript collections held at the two institutions. In addition, bibliographic records will be created in a national database and finding aids will be made available on the Web.

"These collections will give researchers, scholars, and others who are interested a panoramic view of what the nursing world was like during those years," said Francine I. Henderson, research library administrator for the Auburn Avenue Research Library. "The Grady Nurses' Conclave collection especially helps paint a more complete picture of the African-American experience during segregation and attempts to integrate nursing."

### **The Robert A. and Ruth B. Olson Special Collections Fund at the University of Iowa Libraries** ***Amy Cooper Cary, University of Iowa Libraries***

As a part of a more than \$5 million gift made to the University of Iowa by the estate of Robert A. Olson, the University of Iowa Libraries will receive \$1.4 million towards the Robert A. and Ruth B. Olson Special Collections Fund. Mr. Olson was a native of Lansing, Iowa. A University of Iowa graduate with degrees in business and law, he worked as a student employee of the libraries in the 1930's. Mr. Olson made his career in the public utility industry and he was past President and Chairman of the Board of the Kansas City Power and Light Company. He was awarded a University of Iowa Distinguished Alumni Award in 1982. University Librarian Nancy Baker noted that "The most wonderful thing about Mr. Olson's extraordinary generosity is that it gives the UI Libraries the flexibility to respond to unanticipated opportunities to enrich its special collections and services."

### **Nominations Sought For Section Leadership** ***Pam Hackbart-Dean, Chair of Nominations***

Elections for Vice Chair/Chair Elect and three Steering Committee members will be held during the section meeting in New Orleans. The Nominations and Election Committee-- Pam Hackbart-Dean (Chair), Jill Severn, Maria R. Estorino and Fernanda Perrone-- currently seeks candidates to consider for these positions. Candidates must be members of SAA and the Manuscript Repositories Section. In forming the slate, the committee will strive to represent the wide range of repository types found in the section as well as different geographic areas. Duties of the offices are as follows:

Vice Chair/Chair Elect: Serves as the Vice Chair from the conclusion of the 2005 meeting through the 2006 meeting, at which time (s)he assumes the office of Chair for one year. Presides over the 2006 meeting. Also serves as newsletter editor while Vice Chair.

Steering Committee members: Serve for two years from the end of the 2005 meeting through the 2007 meeting. The three committee members elected in 2005 will serve on the Nominations and Election Committee and perform other section duties.

We should identify two candidates for each opening. Please take time to send suggestions to Pam Hackbart-Dean at [libphd@langate.gsu.edu](mailto:libphd@langate.gsu.edu) or by phone



404-651-2477. The deadline for nominations is April 22, 2005. Thanks for participating!

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## **Manuscript Repositories Section**

### [Leadership](#)

**News items, articles, letters to the editor,  
and comments are welcome.**

**Next Newsletter deadline: June 1, 2005**

**Send to [Amy Cooper Cary](#)**

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