



Miniature Mystery Author's Book Signing

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Now Being Published**

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Your Regional Team

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(Continued on page 2)

Cooper's Hosts Miniature Mys- tery Author's Book Signing

There is a new mystery writer in town, and dollhouses and miniatures are the central theme of her books. I'm talking about Margaret Grace's new book, "Murder In Miniature" released in paperback by Berkley Prime Crime early in February. On February 16th, Cooper's Doll House Studio in Benicia held a book signing for the release of Ms. Grace's book. I attended the signing, book in hand, and though I had met Ms. Grace at an earlier miniature event, it was delightful to see her again. No stranger to mystery writing, this book, part of the new Dollhouse Mystery Series is the second series of books she has written.

Margaret Grace is the pen name for Camille Minichino, a researcher and teacher with a PhD in physics. She is currently on the faculty of Golden Gate University, San Francisco and on the staff of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, and combines her mystery writing with elements of her life. Her previous eight novels comprised the Periodic Table Mystery series relating to her work in Physics. The second

book of the Dollhouse Mystery series, "Mayhem In Miniature" is scheduled for an August release. Ms. Grace has been an avid miniaturist for many years and just recently decided to combine her love of minis with her mystery writing. Apparently, she has again combined the elements successfully. Cindy Cooper, of Cooper's said: "I read the book and I swear, I knew every character in the book!" I have yet to start my copy, but I am anxious to find out for myself how many of the people I recognize.

Murder In Miniature is available in local bookstores or through Amazon.com. She has other book signings scheduled in the Bay Area including:

Thursday, March 13, 7 PM
Book Passage
Corte Madera, CA

Saturday, March 15, 2 PM
Barnes & Noble
4972 Dublin Boulevard
Dublin, CA

Sunday, March 30, 2:30 PM
Capitola Book Cafe
1475 41st Avenue
Capitola, CA

Your Regional Team

(Continued from page 1)

State Reps

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From The Regional Coordinator...

Our lives are full of change, and while many of us are not always comfortable with it, it is a necessary part of growth. Years ago a mentor of mine told me that he never wanted to be mature. Maturity, he said, means you have stopped growing. You have reached a point at which there is no further growth. You have ripened, as it were, and now can only begin to spoil. Change on the other hand presents us with the opportunity to continue to grow. It helps to keep us fresh and evolving. Here in our Region we are facing some changes as well. Very soon I will finish my term as your Regional Coordinator, and two new people, with fresh new ideas, will assume the leadership of our members. Several of our State Reps are resigning as well; some because of changes in their lives, others because they feel that they have given what they can and it is time to step aside. Many have served long and hard for NAME, some through the terms of several RC's, and the time has come for them to let new people with new ideas step forward.

For those of you who read our President's column in the latest Gazette (and I hope that's all of you), Debbie talked about how she doesn't like change either, but she talked about how we can effect positive change through volunteering. Now I don't want to focus on Debbie's message about change, but rather on vol-

unteering. Our organization continues to function after 35 years mainly because of volunteers. We don't pay our Board who spend countless hours working to ensure the stability and solvency of NAME, they volunteer. We don't pay the State Reps or RC's who travel their regions promoting NAME, they volunteer. We don't pay the many people who put together the State Days, Regional Houseparties or even the National Convention. These events happen because people volunteer. Why? They volunteer because they are passionate about our hobby and about NAME. They want to share that passion and love with others, and volunteering is the best way to achieve that goal.

Now I know what you're thinking; "I wonder why he's going on about all this?" You're not even considering the thought that I might be talking directly to you. You're thinking I'm talking to "the other guy". You're sure someone else will step forward to volunteer. But this is a time of change; you are the other guy. It is time for you to be the one to step forward, to volunteer, to give back a little of what NAME has given to you.

Now I realize that not everyone can do all the tasks we have available, but there are always numerous opportunities to volunteer and assist in some capacity. If you have a little more time and

Your Regional Team

(Continued from page 2)

North Bay/ Napa/ Sonoma

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Napa, CA 94559
rjnapa@yahoo.com

Regional Website

[www.nameregionn2.org/
namen2.html](http://www.nameregionn2.org/namen2.html)

OTHER CONTACT INFO

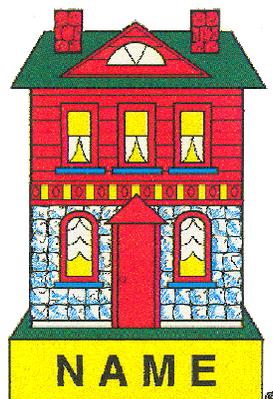
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would like to be a State Rep, we have openings in the Sonoma/ Napa/ Marin, Sacramento, San Francisco/Oakland, and North Central California areas. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet lots of new people, visit clubs and events and promote NAME and the world of miniatures. The Folsom Fiesta committee is looking for a Chairperson (or co-chairs) for next year's event. Our newsletter Editor is looking for people to submit articles and photos about their club's activities. The various Houseparty committees need people to make tote bag favors. The Gazette is always looking for more project ideas. The opportunities are endless; all you need to do is ask.

And, one of the easiest things you can do, very needed and appreciated, is to nominate someone you know for a Regional Award. We all know someone who has given more than their share to promote NAME, helping our clubs or region, assisted others with projects, or inspired young people. How much time does it take to send in their name for nomination to receive a little recognition? I know, maybe "the other guy" will do it. But maybe s/he won't. And, maybe you'll miss the opportunity to volunteer in even the smallest capacity. I will extend the deadline for a couple weeks, but please send me your nominations by March 30th. You may nominate anyone as a candidate for the N2 Hall of Fame, Youth Mentor, Rising Star (an artist sharing talents), and a club as

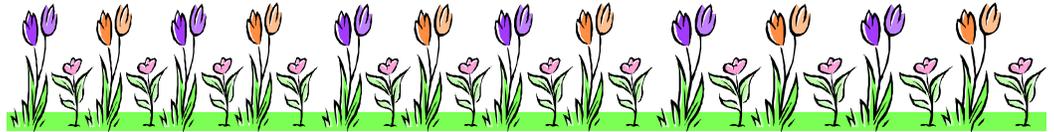
Club of the Year. Also you may nominate a candidate for Regional Ambassador, the award given at National to a person who "has shown outstanding efforts to promote NAME and public awareness of miniatures and the miniature hobby".

On another note, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to attend this year's River City Rendezvous. I had signed up the previous year and was really looking forward to it, but sometimes things just don't happen the way you want. I did speak to several people who did make it, and I am even sadder that I didn't! This year the host group, Mini Wizards, planned a Catch Up Day (or Ketchup, as they called it). The idea was that participants could bring in projects from previous State Days for assistance in completing any difficult or misunderstood parts. In addition, members put on "hands on" demonstrations in the use of various power tools and held presentations in the use and techniques of various products used by miniaturists, such as Paperclay[®].

While the bad weather resulted in a number of no-shows, the good news is that the event was still considered so successful, that the Mini Wizards are planning a repeat for next year. Please watch this newsletter for details when they become available, or visit the group's website at www.MiniWizards.com.

Until the next issue, I'll see you around the Region. Cary

E ditors C orner



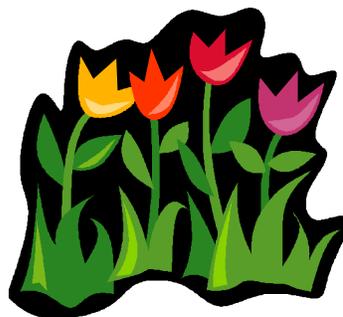
Spring is just beginning to show it's face here in the forest where I live. It is always fun this time of year...because along with the daffodil bulbs starting to peak out...there is snow on the ground. But the warm weather is coming...you can see it everywhere I look.

I have just sent in my registration to the New Hampshire National in July. My daughter-in-law, her mother, and my granddaughter and her friend are all going to go! And we are going early so that we can tour a castle or two and also work on the mini projects that we all have pending. I'm pretty sure that I'm going to have to live to be 200 years old in order to finish the mini projects that I have! So we are looking forward to the castle-like hotel and its 16 acres of land. We are looking forward to 6 full days of miniatures and the people who love them. We are looking forward to connecting with people and dealers from all over. I am planning on bringing an exhibit...a lovely little cottage that was one of the souvenirs from the Regional Houseparty in Fresno...guess I better get busy finishing that furniture! And we are looking forward to spending some quality time together...that might be the most fun of all!

I recently had a learning experience I want to share with you all. I took a job in Sacramento...too far away from my home to commute...and I ended up living in a 5th wheel for four nights a week. I knew that I would miss my husband, Gary...and my dog, Sadie. I had no idea that I would miss my house so much. My real life house is the container for so many things...including my minis. I brought some of the "things" with me...but there were many things that I couldn't take. That included my minis. Oh how I missed seeing them every day! They are 30 years of memories...nights without sleep...laughter with friends and also by myself...when I messed up and could do nothing but laugh! So I took another job...where I live...with less pay...and more expensive benefits...but I would be home every night...with Gary...and Sadie...and my minis! I am happier than I have been in a long time because those "things" that don't mean much to many people...those things mean a lot to me. They are memories of wonderful times...and I'm SO glad to be home!

Lastly I would like to ask for your help! I need articles for this newsletter! I am the "editor" which means that I look at all the articles that are presented, change things as I need to in order for it to fit, and then make the newsletter look cool. But that is difficult to do when people don't give me articles to put in the newsletter. I am getting better at working with Publisher and I would love to have some articles to play with. Please...if you have ANYTHING that might be newsworthy or interesting to other miniaturists...send them to me! I don't mind putting together this newsletter but I want it to be OURS not mine. In order to do that...I need your help...and your articles! Send them please!

Yours in Miniature,
Leslie



News From Around The Region

State Rep's Reports

East Bay/ Tri-Valley by Jennifer Rich

A Happy Belated New Year to all! I love the start of a New Year...all the Resolutions to make...and hopefully keep :) Mine are pretty constant: lose weight, get organized and of course, make more time to work on miniatures!

In the last Newsletter I mentioned that the Antioch Historical Society was having an exhibit in February entitled "Miniatures – a Reflection of History." I hope some of you were able to attend.

While emailing members in my area I realized that NAME didn't have updated email addresses for everyone. If you have an email address please email me so that I can make sure I have your current one (incase anything of miniature interest comes up.) I can be reached at: msjenniferrich@yahoo.com

I also promise to be better about contacting members who would prefer to be contacted by phone.

Members in Antioch and Walnut Creek are trying to get groups together. Please contact me so I can put you in touch with them.

The Miniacs in San Francisco is open for new members also. This month we made flowers (all different scales) and next month we plan on making a 1/144 scene in a globe.

I attended the 29th Bay Area Miniaturists' Potluck & Flea Market, It was a lot of fun (good food, good people and an opportunity to sell and shop.) I sold about half of the things I brought and hope to donate the remaining items to the Good Sam Show in October.

The next miniature related event I heard about is the author, Margaret Grace (aka Camille Minichino), who writes The Dollhouse Mysteries is having a "Meet the Author" at several locations in the Bay Area. Her web site <http://www.dollhousemysteries.com> and can give you first hand info on the events (mine is second hand.) If you don't have access to the Internet one that should be occurring after you receive the newsletter is on Saturday, March 15, at 2 PM at Barnes & Noble 4972 Dublin Boulevard, Dublin, CA. The phone number that appears for the store is (925) 560-1434 (so you can verify the date, time and location.)

I am looking forward to attending the Portland House Party. Though I better start working on my exchange and swap gifts, otherwise I'll be finishing them up in the hotel room like I did at Fresno. Speaking of the Fresno House Party I'm so excited that I have almost finished the Thursday Night class I took there (I work slowly.)

At the time I'm writing, next weekend is President's Weekend, which brings our annual trip to Pismo Beach to visit friends. Last year I found out that the Morro Bay Show was not far from the "tourist" part of Morro Bay that we all visit so I was able to sneak over there for a while. I hope to be able to do the same this year....

A happy Spring to all!!

Contact me at:
msjenniferrich@yahoo.com

Sacramento
by Lagena Chrisman

No Report Received

State Rep's Reports (cont.)

North Bay/ Napa/ Sonoma by Robin Rose

It's pouring down rain in Napa as I write this and Punxsutawney Phil has seen his shadow so it looks as if we'll have another 6 weeks of this stuff.

I gave myself an early Christmas present in 2007. Mary Fish and I went on Molly Cromwell's Rhine River Cruise through France, Germany and the Netherlands in early December. The passenger list was made entirely of miniaturists, spouses and others so we had lots of fun. The main focus of the cruise was to visit the Christmas Markets and there was one in every town we visited, while the larger cities had many. There were all kinds of miniatures to be had but you had to search for them. The treasure hunt was the best part. There were lots of show and tell meetings when we left a port. Of course there were lots of nutcrackers, smokers (incense burners that seem to have overtaken the nutcrackers in popularity), gingerbread, cookies and of course gluhwein (spiced wine) in every market.

The weather was much like it is in Northern California now except when it rained it did so mostly at night. The ship

was small but the amenities were all that we could wish for. The crew was really great and the food was wonderful. Most of us were happy to do walking tours and were hoping not to gain too much weight. St Nicolas even visited us on the evening of Dec 6, leaving chocolate in our shoes outside our cabin doors.

I understand that Molly is planning another Christmas Market cruise this year but will be cruising the Danube. If this is something that you've thought about doing, this is a perfect way to do it. Mary and I met lots of wonderful miniaturists that we never would have met otherwise.

I will be retiring from my State Rep position in July so if you live in the Marin, Sonoma, Napa or Solano County area and would be interested in doing this wonderful job, contact Cary or myself for more information.

Don't forget to nominate someone for our Regional Awards and, of course, for Regional Ambassador. Send Cary the nominations-he needs them as soon as possible.

All of the clubs in the region have been sent reports that need to be filled out and sent to me or your state rep

soon. This is really important, especially if you have done any community events or taught classes to children, or anything like that. NAME is a non profit and we need to keep track of all of the club activities in order to maintain that status.

Hope you all signed up to go the Houseparty in Portland the first weekend of May. The classes are wonderful and I signed up for three of them. This is from a person who "doesn't do classes!" The registration for the National in Nashua New Hampshire will have opened by the time you receive this newsletter-that looks to be great too. According to reports the entire hotel will be miniaturists, that's a first. The committee has been working hard on this one. Watch the Gazette and the website for more information.



South Bay/ Peninsula by Laura Johnson

No Report Received

State Rep's Reports (cont.)

North Coast by Jo Anne Grundhofer

On behalf of Joanne I'm helping her submit her news article:

Hi again from Humboldt County:

We have had some very busy months. Our three month display (changing every month) in the Ferndale Library was very well received.

The display at the Clark Museum in Eureka done by Pat Carter and Carolyn Waldon was also a great hit.

Now our Redwood Small World club is busy planning a play day for April 26. We plan on twenty people attending, "having lunch," and a great time building a garden/potting shed.

We will be doing a display at the McKinnleyville Library during the month of April.

Among all the planning going on, a couple of us will be working with the Humboldt County Fair to improve their handbook and thus improve the miniature entries and display at the fair in August.

Last year, in January, every member of the club was given a piece of furniture to bash. Some hutches, like the ones found in Michaels, some odd sized beds and night stands and a dresser or two. At our meeting in December, we all

shared and explained what and how we did it. Many clever things came about, i.e., a computer desk, a couch and a plant stand, an artist table and chair, a cabinet/table/ garden window, a room divider, a very elegant display cabinet. Many others. Soooo much fun! One member got so excited, she brought four more just to "bash." Some members had never bashed anything.

Four of us planned to go to Sacramento for River City Rendezvous. Due to a death, Shirley could not attend and due to the snow, Jean and Delores could not go. That left me to haul stuff home for them.. The best thing I could take to them, is the news that there will be a River City Rendezvous next year. If you want to attend, get in touch with Susanne Rodgers.

Happily Yours,
Joanne Grundhofer



Northern Nevada by Mary Ann VanBuskirk

No Report Received

Fresno by Joan McLean

*No Report Received
Due to Illness*

San Francisco/Oakland by Jan Costello

No Report Received

Shasta Trinity Open Position

No Report Received



In Memoriam

We are sad to report of the passing of Barbara Personett on January 27, 2008, Barbara was the owner of The Pink Dollhouse in Fresno, CA and was approaching her 30 year anni-

versary in NAME. Members of the Fresno Tinkerbelles Miniature club assisted the family with the cataloging and disposition of her shop and collection and in return the family donated

a number of items to Region N2. Items from her estate will probably be available at the Good Sam Show in October. Details forthcoming in a later issue.

More Mini Pictures



These were from the Small Scales Houseparty in Fresno

October 2007



Snippets — Little Bits of Mini News

Non-Renewing Clubs To Lose Charters

All chartered NAME clubs are required by the IRS to renew their charters each year in order to remain active in NAME. Each club receives a renewal packet in early April and must return it to the NAME office by July 1st or they lose their status and cannot operate as a 501(c) non-profit organization. There is no cost to renew, but it must be done every year. The following clubs have not renewed their

charters from the 2007 year and will become inactive on the NAME roles, as new packets are due out next month.

If your club is listed here and you want to remain active, you must return your renewal form right away to Kim at the office. If you do not have the form, email me and I will send you one. Remember, if you renew right now, you are doing so for last year, and still need to renew again the first of April when you receive new forms.

You may not have this amnesty period in future years. This list is as of **February 1st, 2008**.

- C-057 Do-Littles of Marin Santa Rosa
- C-671 Half-To's Pleasanton
- C-711 Mini Makers Lancaster
- C-850 N2 Miniatures Sacramento
- C-919 May Day Minis Woodland
- C-960 Mini Attics Foster City

Folsom Fiesta Committee Seeks Chairperson/Locale

Members of the May Day Minis, the host group of the Folsom Fiesta State Day, are seeking help from interested area miniaturists in planning the groups' event in 2009. The group has been putting on this event for 23 years, and according to one member, "...we are getting burned out." They are looking for someone who is willing to step forward to either chair the committee of next years project, or at the least, serve as a co-chair. It is hoped that new blood will bring new ideas and energy, to this tireless and dedicated group of people. The group is usually a committee of ten people who work together very well. They usually meet once a month on Sundays, starting in September, except in December and January.

In addition, they need a new venue for the event. According to the group, they have been priced out of using KVIE and are looking for someplace that has enough room for approximately 72 persons, lots of parking, a kitchen for breakfast and lunch and coffee, lots of tables and chairs, a microphone set up and a good location, easy to find and centrally located. They prefer to remain in the Sacramento area as everyone plans to participate in the parking lot sale at the Elegant Doll House the following day.

If you have any information regarding a location, or would like to join this great group of miniature enthusiasts, please contact Lynn Ruona at 916-988-5532 or e-mail lynnrcole@yahoo.com

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For further questions, please contact Kayanne Yung at:

Home: (559) 431-8288

Cell: (559) 240-8427

Email: knyung@aol.com



TOOLS, TIPS &



TECHNIQUES



New "Miniatures Only" Auction Site Competition For eBay

There is a new auction site that is online now and is already showing promise as an alternative to eBay. The site is part of a larger auction site, but with its own web address, will be easier to find than slogging through the numerous eBay categories to try and find the miniature sellers. The lady heading up the project is also a longtime NAME member. Here is their press release:

A NEW auction site for those of us who love miniatures but don't want to have to pass through all the non-mini items in order to locate the dollhouse minis that

interest us. We hope you will take a moment to check out <http://miniaturesonly.com/>

We believe you'll find some bargains there... and please check back often because new sellers are joining daily. If you are a seller, you'll be happy to know that listings are about half of eBay and no Final Value Fee . We hope too, that you will share this information with your friends.

New San Jose Mini Shop Seeking Input

(We received this note via email just before press time.) I am work-

ing with someone to open a miniature shop here in the San Jose/ Fremont area. I would like to poll the people in the area for their wants and desires. We will be doing a build-out from the walls out so we can design it to be very mini friendly. I intend to bring in workshops both NAME artisans and others with skills to teach. We will have a spot to do building and workshops. We will have sinks and be a full service store. The website will provide next day shipping for in stock items and no additional cost. I think a shop for miniaturists should ask them what they want.

Please send your comments. Ideas or suggestions to Jeralyn Spradlin, email ditmywy@att.net



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Show Your NAME Card For A 10% Courtesy Discount

Note: This is an excerpt from the *Regional Matters* newsletter that is sent to all the NAME Regional Coordinators and State Reps by Cat Wingler, our Board RC Liaison. I felt the message that this contains is applicable to everyone and wanted to share it. In addition, there is some information on Board activities that I wanted you all to know about. Board information appears in the Gazette, but I am not sure everyone reads it, and you should be aware of how hard your Board works to ensure that NAME continues to grow and connect the miniature community

REGIONAL MATTERS

By Cat Wingler

If I could give just one word of advice it would be "be positive". OK, that's two words but they are two *good* words. It's important that the messages we send on behalf of NAME are happy and uplifting. Nobody works well in an unhappy atmosphere.

For instance, just one of the typical complaints we all deal with is that the Gazette is late. Of course, I'm sure we all know it's not late for everybody, but someone has to get theirs last! It's just too easy to call the office and rant or post complaints online. No one seems to remember that there are a lot of reasons why that might be: maybe some of the articles or announcements (written by an unpaid volunteer) didn't get turned in on time. Maybe the printer got behind. More often the case, the Post Office is a little slow. Could be holiday mail, could be the weather, could be that the mailman has a bigger than usual load. Maybe a little of all of the above, there are lots of reasons, and none of them can ever be fixed by angry words.

What can be more productive is a gentle reminder that we are all volunteers. We, especially those of us on the Regional or State Teams, who represent NAME, should remember (and remember to remind others), that all of us, from the NAME President, to the Board Members, to the RC's, SR's and the Club Presidents, are volunteers. We are all trying to do impossibly big jobs with no pay, no budget and little help. When things do go wrong, and of course, we know that they do sometimes, even when everyone is trying very hard, we need to remember that we are all doing our best. When someone complains in our hearing, it would be

nice if we all responded with a gentle reminder. Blaming people doesn't get things done any better but it really hurts feelings, and makes all of our jobs harder.

Board News

The NAME Board met for a face to face meeting in Nashua in January. We spent the entire weekend putting together a Long Range Plan that will carry us into the coming years. In the face of the declining numbers in our hobby, we worked to create a plan that was both fiscally responsible, and will keep NAME alive and healthy over the long haul. We unanimously agreed that as long as there are miniaturists that wanted to share the love of miniatures; NAME would be there for them.

One major decision was to work as closely as possible with other groups dedicated to Miniatures. To that end we plan to join the Kansas City Museum, the Museum of Miniature Houses and Other Collections in Carmel Indiana, the Denver Toy and Miniature Museum and The International Guild of Miniature Artisans. We also plan to join the National Miniatures Trust as soon as they accept members to the new museum.

And to the same end, we'd like to create a list of ALL miniature clubs, even the ones who are not NAME clubs. We'll use the list to help NAME members find clubs in their own areas by listing them online. Of course, we'll ask permission first but we do believe that it will be good for everyone to have EVERYONE listed. Clubs that are NAME clubs will be flagged, and at this time, we plan to recognize the Blue Ribbon clubs.

Regional Calendar of Events

March

9th—Cooper's Annual Flea Market
Cooper's Dollhouse Studio
129 First St., Benicia, CA
Info: 707-745-9411

May

3rd—Folsom Fiesta
KVIE TV—Sacramento, CA
Info: gnomehome13@sbcglobal.net

4th—Elegant Dollhouse Parking Lot Sale
1120 Fulton Ave. Sacramento, CA
Info: 916-484-0411

Portland Regional Houseparty
"Wine, Rain And Roses" - Reg. Closed

July

24—27 National Convention
"Castles And Cottages"
Nashua, NH.
Info: In Gazette

September

5th—6th CHAMP's Show
El Sobrante Boy's & Girl's Club
El Sobrante, CA
Info: jandi2000@aol.com

October

11th—12th Showcase of Miniatures
Good Sam Show
Parkside Hall, San Jose, CA
Info: northbaj@att.net



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