

PRAHRAN MECHANICS' INSTITUTE VICTORIAN & LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY

NEWSLETTER NO 50 - APRIL 2007



140 High Street, Prahran (PO Box 1080 Windsor VIC 3181) Ph/Fax (03) 9510 3393 library@pmi.net.au
www.pmi.net.au Open Mon-Fri 9.30am-4.30pm, Sat 9.30am-1.00pm Membership \$12, \$10 conc., \$30 inst.
Feedback / suggestions for this newsletter may be directed to writer / compiler Christine Worthington

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Enclosed with this newsletter is your notice of the Annual General Meeting, which will be held at the library at 6pm on Tuesday 1 May.

This is an opportunity to show your support, to meet the committee, and to see how the Institute and library service have been progressing over the previous calendar year.

Please be sure to RSVP and note the date for nominations for the committee. Refreshments will be provided.



The Prahran Tech History
HAS ARRIVED!

DESIGN FOR LIVING A HISTORY OF 'PRAHRAN TECH'

will be launched at the
Prahran Town Hall at
6.00pm on Tuesday 5 June

RSVP by Friday 1 June 9510 3393 or
library@pmi.net.au

The long-awaited history of the technical school, which became one of Australia's most important art schools, has arrived. The school, which began life as the Prahran Technical Art School at the Prahran Mechanics' Institute in Chapel Street in 1908, moved over to High Street, Prahran in 1915. *Design for Living* traces its history from humble beginnings through to 1971 when the school was divided up. A comprehensive afterword outlines the fates of the various sections of the school beyond that point.

The school had many facets. It played an important role in education for the technical arts and trades, in training for returned servicemen, in the education of junior boys and girls, and it spawned a school of domestic economy for girls in Hornby Street, Prahran. Its business school had one of the state's first computer sections and it ran many innovative programs in its general studies section. Prahran Tech had Australia's first planned parenthood clinic and on-campus crèche.

PRE-PUBLICATION ORDER FORM on p.3 →

(cont. p.3)

✻ Membership Drive ✻

It is always important for a not-for-profit organisation to keep membership numbers up.

Find out how you can help and have the chance to win a \$50 book voucher!

Details on page 4 →

This newsletter is sponsored by
Windsor Community Bank
111 Chapel Street, Windsor, Vic 3181
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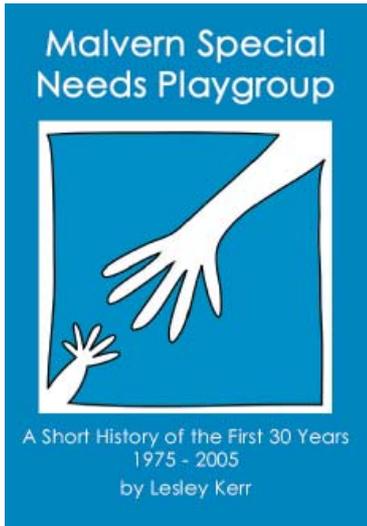
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New from PMI Press ...

Malvern Special Needs Playgroup: a Short History of the First 30 Years 1975-2005 by Lesley Kerr



This is a collection of informal style notes compiled by Lesley Kerr from the minute books, annual reports and other material of the Malvern Special Needs Playgroup, Victoria, Australia.

It is a record of the genesis, struggles and growth of a grass-roots community organisation which has provided three decades of professional respite care for young children with special needs. The Playgroup has also given many families important time for relaxation and opportunities to network with other families of special needs children.

The book was made possible with the kind assistance of the East Malvern Community Bank®.

Copies are available for \$10 (inc postage) from the Malvern Special Needs Playgroup, 22 McArthur Street, Malvern VIC 3144 and order forms are available from the PMI Press website or by phoning PMI library staff on 9510 3393.

PRAHRAN TECH HISTORY *(from p. 1)*

In the first edition of the PMI newsletter in 1996, Cathy Milward-Bason wrote: *'On Australia Day, 26 January, 1996, I opened a storeroom at the Institute that had been locked for thirty years and discovered a veritable treasure trove of documents and books belonging to the former Prahran Technical School (1915-1966). Amongst the records ... were School Council minutes, student and teacher records, copies of examinations and certificates, and fee registers ... In recent months the Institute has received a number of visitors, ex-students of the Prahran Technical School, who remember the 'tech' with great clarity. I have it in mind to record some of their stories not just for interest's sake but for their historical significance. WANTED - a volunteer with experience in recording oral histories to undertake this project.'* The seeds of a history of the Prahran Technical School were sewn.

On Sunday 27 October that year a reunion was held at the Prahran Town Hall. The Malvern Prahran Leader reported that the queue for the reunion extended all the way from the Greville Street entrance to the hall and around the corner into Chapel Street. After the success of the reunion a former student, Margaret Robinson, carried out an oral history project which involved interviews and correspondence from around 60 former students and teachers. A grant from the City of Stonnington and a contribution from Swinburne University helped to pay for the transcription of the interviews. It was hoped that the oral history project would lead to the writing of a history of the school for publication.

Unfortunately the project languished for some years due to a lack of funding, and it wasn't until the establishment of PMI Press that the PMI committee gave serious consideration again to the Prahran Tech history. With further help from the City of Stonnington the PMI commissioned Dr Judith Buckrich to write the history. Judith used much archival material and interviews with many of the school's luminaries and has most successfully brought the Tech and its times back to life.

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Pre-publication order form - PRICE APPLICABLE UNTIL 10 JUNE 2007

	Unit Price	Quantity	
DESIGN FOR LIVING: A HISTORY OF 'PRAHRAN TECH' ISBN 978-09756000-8-5 ; 280 B5 pages	\$30		
Postage & handling (\$8 within Victoria, \$10 other states, multiple copies additional \$4)			
Total			

Make cheques/money orders payable to Prahran Mechanics' Institute Press and post to
 PO Box 1080, Windsor VIC 3181 Ph (03) 9510 3393 www.pmi.net.au/press.htm ABN 13164635256
 Institutions will be invoiced. Library/bookseller discounts apply.

✿ Win a \$50 Book Voucher ✿

When you are a non-profit organisation every membership counts

In 2007 we are undertaking a number of strategies including letter box drops in the local area, and reviewing the library service by surveying members who have lapsed in recent years, to find out how we can improve the usefulness of the library to current and potential members.

✿ You can help ✿

by supporting our ✿ membership drive ✿

1. Write your name on the back of the enclosed coloured bookmark.
2. Pass it on to a friend or relative who is interested in history and may be interested in joining the PMI Library.
3. Make sure he/she presents the bookmark upon joining the library.

All completed bookmarks will go into a hat and one will be drawn out at our 2007 AGM on 1 May 2007.

If your bookmark is drawn, then you and the new member will each receive a \$50 voucher from Borders Books.

You do not have to be present at the AGM to claim your prize.

✿ we look forward to your support ✿



Above: The warm, cuddly feeling you get when you help non-profit community organisations.



Winter Book Club

Sat 2 June - *The Secret River* / Kate Grenville (2005)

Sat 7 July - *The Kite Runner* / Kahled Hosseini (2003)

Sat 4 August - *The Book Thief* / Marcus Zusak (2005)

In 2007 our Book Club will meet at the library from 10am to 12pm on the first Saturdays of the Winter months.

Participation in the Winter Book Club is FREE, and it is a fun and relaxing Winter activity for our members who love to read and talk about fiction. Morning tea provided. ALL WELCOME.

Start reading now! If you would like to reserve any of the above books, please do so by calling 9510 3393 or email library@pmi.net.au. Registrations will be taken in May.

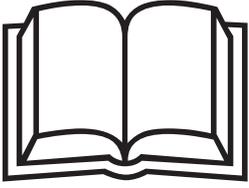
MARCH LECTURE

Thank you very much to Dr Max Lay for taking the time to conduct our first lecture for 2007 on 14 March.

Dr Lay's illustrated lecture was based on his 2003 book *Melbourne Miles: the Story of Melbourne's Roads*, and showed us a unique aspect of the development of the inner suburbs and our local area.

This event was much enjoyed by all and a number of attendees purchased Dr Lay's book.





PMI Library Collection Guide

No 2. Historical Collection: 'Local Histories'

As the historical collection is quite large, we will cover it using two guides. This one will focus on the local histories and no 3 (in the June newsletter) will discuss the rest, or what I refer to as the 'subject histories' part of the historical collection

The Origin of the Historical Collection

As stated before in this newsletter, the historical collection began in the early 1980s when the committee decided that a specialisation would be the best way to ensure the future usefulness (and therefore survival of the library). A number of options were discussed, and all aspects of the history of Victoria was chosen.

The historical collection is the only lending collection of its kind in Australia. Similar collections may be found at the State Library of Victoria and the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, as well as at some university libraries, but only the PMI collection is able to be loaned by the general public. Today the historical collection contains around 12,000 items, most of which are available for loan. Reference (or not-for-loan) items are interfiled on the shelf with the rest of the collection, and may be identified by the NOT FOR LOAN sticker. Not-for-loan items appear in the catalogue with the call number prefix "REF".

How are books selected for the historical collection?

Originally books for the historical collection were purchased second hand from local booksellers. Today we acquire items from a wide range of sources. Rather than order books from a large supplier the way public libraries do, we deal personally with large and small suppliers, publishers and distributors, as well as second hand book dealers and organisations such as churches, schools, historical societies and archives, and individual authors. This can sometimes be a time-consuming way to acquire items, but it is the only way to ensure the kind of comprehensiveness and depth that we require for the collection.

To aid book selection we subscribe to a wide range of journals and newsletters so that we can keep up with what is being published. Tim has searched the publications lists of every historical society in Victoria so that we can find and fill gaps in our stock of local histories. We refer to the State Library catalogue quite regularly, to ensure that we know about as many books published recently in our subject area as possible. When we need to find something that is likely to be out of print, we use booksandcollectibles.com, which tells us if a second hand bookseller in Australia has the item. We also find that our library users are an excellent source of information regarding publications that we should have, and we are usually able to respond well to requests for particular items.

Location

The local histories begin at 994.51 which is the area of the shelves at the most westerly window of the library. From there they wind around and extend across the front of the library to 994.59 - at the east wall of the library.

Browsing the local histories collection

You can search the history catalogue by clicking on the catalogue tab on the PMI website, but the map (over the page) and details of local history call numbers will help you to browse that part of the collection more effectively. A (much larger) copy of the map and corresponding codes can be found pinned up on the wall next to the public access computer in the east section of the library. Once you get to know the system it can be quite easy to bypass the catalogue and find books directly on the shelves.

What do the call numbers mean?

Local history is a term used to describe the history of individual places. Because many people come to the library looking for information about a place, the local histories are organised on the shelves that way - by location.



994 - this is the Dewey Decimal Classification (DDC) number for Australia

994.5 - this is the DDC number for Victoria

994.51 - Melbourne Metropolitan district

994.52 - Central district

994.53 - North central district

994.54 - Northern district

994.55 - Northeastern district

994.56 - Gippsland district

994.57 - Western district

994.58 - Wimmera district

994.59 - Mallee district

We then add two further parts to the call number to distinguish the books further:

place name code (usually the first four letters of the place name)

subject code (such as MED for hospitals, EDU for schools, REL for churches, SPO for sporting clubs. If the book is not about a specific aspect of the place, we put the first three letters of the author's name here)

994.51 PRAH MEC This is a book about a mechanics' institute in Prahran

994.54 BEND CHI This is a book about the chinese community in Bendigo

994.55 BENA EDU This is a book about a school in Benalla

994.59 SWAN CEM This is an item about a cemetery at Swan Hill

994.51 PMEL SPO This is a book about a sporting club in Port Melbourne

Other local history items in the library

The Vertical File - This is located at the west end of the library and consists of two filing cabinets full of articles, pamphlets, booklets, ephemera and other items too flimsy to put on the library shelves. The vertical file is arranged alphabetically by Victorian place name (but there are also some subject headings such as "Town Planning"). Most of the material in the vertical file is not able to be loaned, but is usually small so can be easily photocopied. The contents of the vertical file are indexed on the catalogue. Vertical file categories in the catalogue have "[vertical file]" after the title.

The Glass Cabinet - The glass cabinet is located in the east section of the library. Items in the collection which are rare need to be kept secure, and to access these items, please ask library staff to open it for you. You will actually find that most of the items in the cabinet are available for loan. Items in the locked cabinet appear in the catalogue with the call number prefix "L".

Folio Items - Some books are simply too large to put on a regular sized shelf. These big books (some of them very big) are kept together at the east wall of the library and they are arranged in DDC number order. Folio items appear in the catalogue with the call number prefix "F".

Journals and newsletters - Many small newsletters are kept with the local histories with the subject code "NEW", but you should also check the journal/newsletter boxes section at the east wall of the library. These are arranged alphabetically by title, so it could be worth checking the catalogue or enquiring with library staff first. These items show "magazines in box" within their catalogue entries.

Any questions?

If you have any specific questions about the local history collection that have not been answered by this guide, please inform library staff, and we will include this information in the next newsletter.

GENERAL COLLECTION

Ancient Egypt (Great Ages of Man series)
 Ancient China (Great Ages of Man series)
 Christine Falls / Benjamin Black
 Depths / Henning Mankell
 Chronicler of the winds / Henning Mankell
 Sick to death / Hedley Thomas
 The inheritance of loss / Kiran Desai
 Bad blood / Linda Fairstein
 Next / Michael Crichton
 Step on a crack / James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge
 Five quarters of the orange / Joanne Harris
 The unlikely spy / Daniel Silva
 A case of two cities / Qiu Xiaolong
 Mother, missing / Joyce Carol Oates [donated by Judy Buckrich]
 Silence of the grave / Arnaldur Indridason
 The book of lost things / John Connolly

HISTORICAL COLLECTION

Victoria-General

A history of Victoria / Geoffrey Blainey
 The golden age: a history of the colony of Victoria 1851-1861 / Geoffrey Serle
 The diggings, the bush and Melbourne or reminiscences of three years wandering in Victoria / James Armour 1864
 Port Phillip government gazette 1847 CD-ROM
 Victoria Government gazette 1887
 Victoria Police gazette 1876
 Victoria Police gazette 1886
 Victoria Police gazette 1887
 Victoria Police gazette 1888

Allansford Allansford 1855-2006 / Graeme and Barbara McLeod

Armadale Breaking wishbones: the story of Gawith Villa / Andrea Watson [donated by Hybrid Publishing]

Ballarat The golden city and its tramways: Ballarat's tramway era / Alan Bradley

Banool Homes in the hills: historic glimpses of Barongarook, Gellibrand, Banool and Carlisle River / Norman Houghton

Barongarook Homes in the hills: historic glimpses of Barongarook, Gellibrand, Banool and Carlisle River / Norman Houghton

Baringhup The early history of Baringhup / compiled by D. Thomas (1950)

Bell Park Holy family Bell Park celebrates 20 years of service in Catholic education: book of memories [donated by Holy Family Catholic School, Bell Park]

Brunswick The pillars of our land: Brunswick citizen pioneers / Kenneth Eric Eckersall

Camberwell Hartwell Scouts : the abridged history of the first seventy-five years 1930 to 2005

Carlisle River Homes in the hills: historic glimpses of Barongarook, Gellibrand, Banool and Carlisle River / Norman Houghton

Carrum A history of the Carrum Fire Brigade 1912 to 2006

Caulfield From cabbage patch to Caulfield [Football] / Marc Fiddian

Chelsea Ready and willing: a retrospective history of the Chelsea Fire Brigade [donated by Gary Best, Patterson River Fire Brigade]

Chocolyn Beginning of a community: history of Purrumbete North and Chocolyn district / Ian I. McErvale

Curdies River Curdies River / Rosamund Duruz 1972

Dandenong A light in the hills: a history of St Michael and All Angels Mount Dandenong, Victoria / H.L. Speagle [donated by David Hayter]

Dimboola The ins and outs of Dimboola fox shooters

Dunolly Official souvenir book: back to Dunolly 150 years / compiled by Jeanette Richards

The second telling: Mike Lester reports... [Dunolly Hospital] [2 copies donated by Mike Lester]

RECENT ACQUISITIONS (February-March)

- Eltham We did open a school in little Eltham: Eltham Primary School 209 1856-2006: a history / Ian Anderson, Barry Carozzi and Tarja Fellowes
- Fitzroy A place of their own: the Old Colonists' Homes in Victoria / Frances O'Neill [donated by Old Colonists Association of Victoria]
- Maroon and blue: recollections and tales of the Fitzroy Football Club / Adam Muyt
- Radio city: the first 30 years of 3RRR / Mark Phillips
- Frankston The Frankston Womersleys: a family of entrepreneurs: 1860-2004 / John Leckey
- Geelong Business and industry, Geelong: a history of the Geelong Chamber of Commerce, 1853-2005 / Roy Hay and G.A. McLean
- Greensborough Green and growing 150 years : historical snapshots of All Saints' Anglican Church Greensborough
- Gellibrand Homes in the hills: historic glimpses of Barongarook, Gellibrand, Banool and Carlisle River / Norman Houghton
- Hastings Hastings - people and places vol. II / edited by Shirley Davies, Beryl Stockton and Pauline Esler
- Hawthorn Hawthorn Tennis Club 1905-2005: a history: a century of friendly competition / David Neyland
- Leongatha Town water: a history of Leongatha Waterworks Trust 1905-1983, Leongatha Sewerage Authority 1939-1983, Leongatha Water Board 1984-1993 / John Murphy
- Merbein A pictorial history of Merbein 1909-1939 / Bronwyn Zrna and Bernadette Wells
- Mirboo North Mirboo North street names / compiled and published by the members of the Mirboo & District Historical Society
- Mornington Peninsula Official guide for visitors: Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, Australia [donated by Di Foster, Malvern Archives]
- Nagambie Souvenir of back to Nagambie Xmas 1951-1952
- Nagambie N15 'a century of rowing' / Elaine Lodding
- North Melbourne Men of Hotham: municipal government in North Melbourne 1859-1905 / Heather McKay
- Port Albert My memories of Port Albert in the 1940s / Dianne Appleyard
- Port Melbourne Unduly rough play: a history of the Port Melbourne Football Club volume 2 1918-1944 / Terry Keenan
- Portland Portland and surrounds: visitor's handbook 2003/04 [donated by Di Foster, Malvern Archives]
- Purrumbete North Beginning of a community: history of Purrumbete North and Chocolyn district / Ian I. McErvale
- Richmond Richmond 150 years on: a John Morrison film [DVD] [donated by Di Foster, Malvern Archives]
- Rushworth The golden years of Rushworth and Whroo / Joyce Hammond
- Shepparton More birds than birdies: the story of the Shepparton Golf Club / Ron Michael
- Skipton Skipton sketchbook / Skipton and District Historical Society 2002
- South Yarra Walking tour of South Yarra Central 2nd ed. / Betty Malone and L. Oscar Slater
- St Kilda The Michaelian 2006 / St Michael's Grammar School [donated by the school]
- Stonnington Stonnington thematic environmental history / Context Pty Ltd [donated by City of Stonnington]
- Tantaraboo The Clarkes of Tantaraboo / Graham Marshall
- Tatura Sing me that lovely song again... / Helga Griffin
- Terang 'But generations to come': the evolution of health services in Terang and district / Margaret J. Baker 1990
- Wandiligong 'Nothing worth saving': the history of the Wandiligong Preservation Society 1972-2005 / Bet Moore with Dave Deakin
- Warrnambool The nineteenth century Mechanics' Institute School of Art in Warrnambool / Peter Lewis Young 1980
- Waverley The Rotary Club of Waverley Inc. 40 years of service 1966-2006: a brief history of the club / Ken Pollard [donated by Ken Pollard, Rotary Club of Waverley]
- Western district Around the elephant: a western plains sketchbook / Loyis Gedye, Alison Moll and David Williams 1985
- Mount Elephant once had trees: a life shaped on the Western Plains of Victoria / Josiah John 'Jack' Rawson [donated by John Rawson]
- Whroo The golden years of Rushworth and Whroo / Joyce Hammond
- Wunghnu Wunghnu Football Club: celebrating 110 years of football / researched and compiled by

RECENT ACQUISITIONS (February-March)

Alan and Flo Ward [*donated by Flo Ward*]

Wyuna Wyuna 1840-1940: a story of settlement on the northern plains / Noel L. Thompson

Yarraville Yarraville Club centenary history 1905 to 2005 / Srebrenka Kunek [*donated by Barry West, Yarraville Club Inc.*]

Goldfields

Round the country : the goldfield adventures of J. M. Barr, Central Victoria 1855-1865 / edited by Lynton Barr & John Tully

Shenanigans on the Ovens goldfields: the 1859 election / Antony O'Brien

Serendipity at Vaughan Springs: sojourns on the Victorian goldfields / Irene Norman and Peter Norman [*donated by Peter Norman, A.N.A. Secretarial*]

A world turned upside down: cultural change on Australia's goldfields 1851-2001 / edited by Kerry Cardell and Cliff Cumming

Biography & autobiography

Finding 'Uncle Harry': the search for Henry Wragge, MRCVSL, Castlemaine and Melbourne, 1857-1898 / Winty Calder

The criminal of the century [Frederick Deeming] / Rachael Weaver

Reminiscences of ages past / Jennifer Smyth [Syme and Smyth families]

In my skin: a memoir / Kate Holden

The Huguenot background of Charles Joseph La Trobe / Robert Nash [article]

Minnie: memoirs of a squatter's daughter / Mary Brewer, edited by Lois Dean

An historian's life: Max Crawford and the politics of academic freedom / Fay Anderson

Lenton Parr: vital presences

Topsec (Major-retired-Australian Regular Army) / John Rawson [*donated by John Rawson*]

Australian literature

The dressmaker / Rosalie Ham

Shadowboxing / Tony Birch

Religion

A brief history of Victorian Baptist lay preachers : serving and sharing Jesus Christ in a changing world 1838-2005 / Les Hutchinson

Staunch and true: Christian Science in Victoria, Australia / Norman C. Hutchinson

Pitch your tents on distant shores: a history of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Australia, Aotearoa / New Zealand and Tahiti / Catherine Kovesi

A time to keep : the story of Temple Beth Israel : 1930 to 2005 / Werner Graff, Malcolm J.

Turnbull, Eliot J. Baskin, edited by Hilary L. Rubinstein and Howard A. Freeman

Australian Jewish Historical Society Journal vol.18 part 2 2006 [*donated by Hybrid Publishing*]

Miscellaneous

The host behind: the campaign for a Victorian Women's Centre / Barbara Cameron

Roaring through the 20s: the writings of Richard Hughes from the Victorian Railways Magazine 1927-1930 / edited by David Burke

The Huguenot heritage of Victoria / Robert Nash [article]

Inducements and agents: German, northern European and Scandinavian recruitment to Tasmania 1855-1887 / Marita Hargraves [*donated by Marita Hargraves*]

Mugshots 2: a compelling lineup of murderers, madmen and the mafia in Australia / Keith Moor and Geoff Wilkinson

Comeng: a history of Commonwealth Engineering volume 1: 1921-1955 / John Dunn

The Australian screen: a pictorial history of Australian film making / Eric Reade 1975

The Argus: life and death of a newspaper / edited by Jim Usher

Engines of influence: newspapers of country Victoria, 1840-1890 / Elizabeth Morrison

Swiss Club of Victoria: the first 100 years / edited by Sally Moss [*donated by the Swiss Club of Vic.*]

The Australian Imperial Force in Sinai and Palestine 1914-1918 / H.S. Gullett 1937

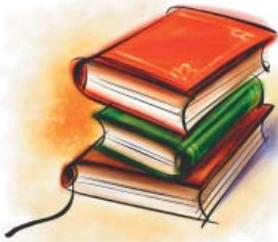
Tech voices : recollections of the Technical Teachers Association of Victoria/ Technical Teachers Union of Victoria / written and edited by Peter Crocker ...

Wonnangatta Moroka National Park / John Siseman [*donated by David Hayter*]

Donated books for sale

2 books for sale [*donated by Roland McCausland*]

4 books for sale [*donated by Mary-Louise Phillips*]



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Would you like to protect your books from wear and tear by having them professionally covered?

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maximum of 5 books at a time please.

INSIDE : Your notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Malvern Special Needs Playgroup history now available

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