



UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# Almanac

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## Dunn Reports on General Honors Program

by Dr. Richard S. Dunn  
Acting Director  
General Honors Program

Every large American university faces the same dilemma today: how to teach thousands of freshmen and sophomores in introductory survey courses which are necessarily big and impersonal, without boring or stunting the brightest and best prepared of these students.

Introductory survey courses are here to stay, because they conveniently expose large numbers of students to college-level work in a variety of academic fields, and supply a platform for more advanced work in each discipline. But how should we handle our most gifted entering students, who often breeze through their first two college years with a minimum of effort, and stagnate intellectually?

At Pennsylvania, the General Honors Program was instituted in 1961 to challenge and stimulate such students. Now in its fifth year of operation, the Program offers a set of two dozen specially designed courses to some 100 freshmen and sophomores from the College, the College for Women and the Engineering Schools, in lieu of the standard distributional courses in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

The General Honors student takes accelerated courses in French, German or Russian. He chooses among a variety of history, literature and philosophy courses, usually seminar-style and topical in character. He takes a two year integrated series of science courses, combining mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and psychology. The social science course is also interdisciplinary, combining anthropology, economics, political science

and sociology. At the close of his second year, the General Honors student enters into his major field like any other Penn undergraduate, and if his performance warrants, he is accepted as a departmental honors candidate.

Drs. Philip George (Chemistry) and Robert J. Nelson (Romance Languages) piloted the General Honors Program through its initial three years. Dr. Roger Walmsley (Physics) is the current director. During his sabbatical leave this year, this writer (History), Dr. Edward B. Irving (English), Dr. Alan D. Adler (Molecular Biology) and Dr. Paul B. Green (Botany) are in charge, with Mrs. Carol J. Crow the den mother of our office at 113 Duhring Wing. General Honors students have their own lounge at 3800 Locust St., a sketchily furnished but baronially proportioned room in a former fraternity house. The new Dietrich Graduate Library Center, now under construction, will provide a General Honors study room with our own book collection.

Obviously Penn's formula is not the only way to handle exceptionally gifted underclassmen. We might have given automatic sophomore standing to all of our most promising entering freshmen, or waived their distributional requirements, or excused them from formal course work in order to permit independent research in their fields of special interest. Less radically, we might have set up 'honors' sections in every introductory survey course.

But the architects of General Honors believed—correctly, in my opinion—that the most workable plan here would be a unified program of well-designed and severely disciplined courses, distinct from

but not antithetical to the courses taken by other freshmen and sophomores in the College and College for Women. If distributional requirements are justifiable at all, they should probably be applied to everyone—it is hard to see why an A student needs a less broad training than a C student.

In future years, General Honors should perhaps downplay courses, examinations and grades and put more emphasis on independent research. But at the moment, especially considering Pennsylvania's size, we see positive value in a package program, roughly analogous to the first two years at a small, select college, in which our students share a collective educational experience, while at the same time belonging to the larger undergraduate community.

Hence the General Honors philosophy is that students who enter the Program must take it *in toto*, and cannot skip courses in uncongenial fields.

Since the success of the Program depends on our selecting students who will profit from and contribute to our courses, we annually screen all 7,500 applicants for admission to Pennsylvania—with the help of the Admissions Office—and invite the top 2 percent as judged by their college board scores, high school records and interviews.

Other colleges are also seeking these choice candidates, and though we never get as many as we want, it is heartening to find every April that a significant number decide to come here because of General Honors. Some 60 freshmen enter the Program every September.

The current group has a mean verbal/mathematical score of 714/745 in the

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# Dickson Discusses Student Financial Aid Situation

By Douglas R. Dickson  
Director, Office of  
Student Financial Aid

When college costs spiral sharply at the same time that public concern for the economically disadvantaged is at a new peak, student financial aid is suddenly spotlighted. At many colleges scholarship, loan, and job programs have recently developed; at Pennsylvania, where such programs are by no means new, increasing attention has been focused on them.

During the academic year that is now approaching its end, news of financial aid has perhaps been more widely reported than ever before. Locally, the "Gazette" and "From College Hall" have given considerable coverage to the achievements of the University in student aid, and newspapers and journals have commented at length upon both the problems and challenges that are newly revealed in public and semi-public attempts to deal with the issue of financing higher education for students. The spectacular growth of our program, the whole-hearted support given by administration and faculty to the ideal of appropriate financing for every admitted student, and capital goals for the future have all received attention. But no subject seems to evoke more interest today than the effect of local, state, and federal programs on students and colleges.

Governmental subsidy of students is by no means new, particularly at the graduate level. Training grants in health fields, fellowships in the sciences, and more recently subsidy of graduate training in languages have become essential elements of the student support and recruitment efforts of our graduate divisions.

As far as undergraduates are concerned, the picture has been far different. Locally the Board of Education and Mayor's Scholarship programs (both supported primarily by the University in return for land grants dating back to 1910 and earlier) have had the appearance of public programs without actually providing significant public support for students. The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has had no general program of support for undergraduate students. A small prize scholarship competition has been in operation for many years, but



Douglas R. Dickson

the amount of support (recently raised to \$250 a year) has been insignificant, and the payment of this sum to the student after his academic year is satisfactorily completed and paid for has been of slight help to students. The Senatorial Scholarships are not supported by any direct grant of public funds and cannot be considered a state program. Even the federal government, despite such programs as the World War II loans and G.I. Bill of Rights, the N.Y.A. student jobs of the late 1930's, and the Navy R.O.T.C. scholarships, until 1958 had no general program of support for undergraduate students.

With the passage in that year of the National Defense Education Act, with its provisions for student loans, the flood of public programs for the support of undergraduates began. Next, the Philadelphia City Council passed the City Scholarship program, which provides grants in amounts up to \$800 a year for exceptionally needy local students. 1965 saw the beginning of the federal Work-Study student job program and the authorization of Economic Opportunity Grants. The Commonwealth also began a system of guaranteed loans for students operating through banks in the state. Finally, on January 25, 1966, Governor Scranton signed legislation establishing the first general scholarship program in Pennsylvania. Now there is a local scholarship program, a state loan and scholarship program, and a federal job, loan, and scholarship program all tied solely to financial need and ability.

How much does all of this mean to the University of Pennsylvania? Are the problems many people have predicted in public support for education becoming realities? Will all of this new legislation bring many new dollars to the University? Answers to these questions are just beginning to emerge, but a few trends are already clear.

None of the agencies operating these programs has attempted to exert pressure on the University with regard to admission standards or our policies governing the administration of financial aid. The U. S. Office of Education, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA), and the Philadelphia Commission on Higher Education have consistently tried to leave as much control and authority in the hands of colleges and universities as they can while remaining responsible to their legislative and administrative authorizing bodies. Nevertheless, some kinds of controlling influence are inevitable.

The objectionable features of the disclaimer vow and loyalty oath originally associated with the National Defense program are well known. Agitation from the educational community eventually led to the modification of these requirements, but it is still true that students must execute the oath while borrowers under other kinds of federal programs need not. In another context, the University guards carefully the financial data concerning every family and does nothing to reveal the relative poverty of some candidates. For this reason, we have not until recently told those students holding Work Study jobs that this was the source of their wages, since to do so would label them as recipients of Anti-Poverty funds. We have been forced to identify these students, however, at least to themselves, because the Office of Education has needed information about recipients that only they could provide and has asked each of them to complete lengthy and detailed questionnaires. No one questions the need for such information; Congress must be informed about the effectiveness of the program if it is to be continued. Yet, the result has been to change the University's policy in dealing with some of its students.

The effect on administrative procedures is even more noticeable. Anyone  
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# Kahn Named to New Cret Professorship

The Paul Philippe Cret Professorship of Architecture has been established at the University, memorializing one of the nation's foremost architectural teachers of his day, President Harnwell has announced.

Louis I. Kahn, a student of Cret's, has been named to the professorship. Kahn is regarded as one of the world's most influential architectural teachers and one of its most eminent architects.

The chair, designated by the University's Trustees, was made possible by a bequest under Cret's will.

Cret came to America from France in 1903 to become assistant professor of design at Pennsylvania. He became a full professor five years later and emeritus professor in 1937.

G. Holmes Perkins, dean of the Graduate School of Fine Arts, said recently that Cret was the outstanding architectural teacher of the early years of the century, as his students went on to become leaders in the architectural profession.

Kahn, whom *Fortune Magazine* in January said is "revered by other architects," was mentioned in the March issue of *Holiday* with "a group of young architects who have grown up around Louis Kahn, surely America's most creative living architect." His Alfred Newton Richards Medical Research Building, dedicated at the University in 1960, was called at the time by the Museum of Modern Art "probably the single most consequential building constructed in the United States since the war."

He has been professor of architecture at Pennsylvania since 1955.

His most noted works are the Richards Building; The Salk Institute of Biological Studies in La Jolla, Calif.; the Unitarian Church in Rochester, N. Y., and the master plan and buildings on a 1,000 acre site of the second capital of Pakistan in Dacca, East Pakistan.

Kahn was named a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1951. He has also served as president of the American Society of Planners and Architects. Yale, the University of North Carolina, and Polytechnic Institute of Milan, Italy, have awarded him honorary doctoral degrees.



Louis I. Kahn, the new Paul Philippe Cret Professor of Architecture.

## DESIGNER:

**Dr. Abraham Noordergraaf**, associate professor of biomedical engineering at the Moore School of Electrical Engineering, has constructed an analogue computer which "simulates the functions of the left ventricle of the heart and systemic arterial septum." The computer, when finished, will contribute to the measurement of the physiological age of individual pilots to determine their flight capability and permit the measurement of many quantities in a simulated human cardiovascular system.

## SPEAKER:

**Dr. Alvin Z. Rubinstein**, associate professor of political science, delivered a series of five lectures in December 1965 and January 1966 on "International Relations and Soviet Foreign Policy." The lectures were given at the Institute of International Politics and Economy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

## AUTHOR:

Among the recent publications of **Dr. Edward B. Shils**, associate professor of industry, are the following: "Automation—A Current Appraisal" in the *Forensic Quarterly*; "Small Business: Its Prospects and Problems," *Current History*; "Role of the Economists in the Creation of 'Isms'," *The American Behavioral Scientist*; and "Fact and Theory in Social Science," *American Anthropologist*.

## GIFTS:

The University recently announced the receipt of two important gifts:

Johnson and Johnson gave \$1.5 million for a clinical research building, which will be named in honor of General Robert Wood Johnson, industrialist and civic leader, who for 25 years was chairman of the board of the world-wide surgical dressings and medical products company.

Edmund J. Kahn of Dallas, Texas, pledged \$250,000 toward the University's \$93,000,000 capital campaign. Kahn, a member of the class of 1925 of the University's Wharton School of Finance and Commerce, has been regional vice president and a member of the executive council of the University Alumni Clubs.

## VISITOR:

**John Rowe Townsend**, the English editor and author, is a visiting lecturer in the Graduate School of Education and The Annenberg School of Communications.

## WORKER:

**Dr. Harold Lewis**, professor of social research, conducted workshops on the Use of Research in Social Agency Administration for the Middle Atlantic and Central-Northern Pacific Regional Institutes of Family Service Association of America.

## Among other things...

### AUTHORS:

**Dr. Thornsten Sellin**, professor of sociology, recently published "Penal Servitude: Origin and Survival," in the *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* (October, 1965). **Dr. David E. Lavin**, assistant professor of sociology, has published "The Prediction of Academic Performance: A Theoretical Analysis and Review of the Research."

Appearing in the Fall issue of *Orbis* is an article entitled "The Prospects for Western Sciences and Technology" by **Dr. William R. Kintner**, professor of political science, and **Dr. Robert L. Pfaltzgraff**, assistant professor of political science. **Dr. Morse Peckham**, professor of English literature, is the author of *Romanticism: The Culture of the 19th Century* (Braziller).

Recent research monographs from the University's Foreign Policy Research Institute include: *Measuring International Alignments* by **Dr. Henry J. Teune**, associate professor of political science, and Sig Synnestvedt; and *To The Twenty-Third Congress of the Soviet Communist Party*, by **Dr. Sidney I. Ploss**, assistant professor of political science.

**Dr. Donald E. Smith**, associate professor of political science, is the author of *Religion and Politics in Burma*, published by Princeton University Press. This is the second of three books by Dr. Smith on religion and politics published by the Princeton Press. *India as a Secular State* appeared in 1963, and *Religion and Politics in South Asia*, a symposium, will be published next summer.

Chilton has just published the latest book of **Dr. Sidney Weintraub**, professor of economics. It is entitled *A Keynesian Theory of Employment, Growth and Income Distribution*.

**Dr. Arthur B. Shostak**, assistant professor of sociology, has published two articles on the role of the poor in anti-poverty community action programs: one in *American Child*, November, 1965, and the other in *Social Work*, January, 1966.

### TRAVELERS & SPEAKERS:

**Dr. Robert F. Lucid**, assistant professor of English, and **Dr. J. Wesley Schneyer**, assistant professor of education and associate director of the Reading Clinic, were participants in the 1965 National Council of Teachers of English.

**Dr. George F. Bass**, assistant professor of classical archaeology, presented the last of four subscription lectures in the form of expedition reports to members and guests of the University Museum of the University. Dr. Bass, who is assistant curator of the University Museum's Mediterranean Section, explained new techniques of mapping in searching underwater, using a submarine television and electronic detectors.

**Dr. Paul Liebman**, assistant professor of physiology, delivered the invited paper, "Microspectrophotometric Detection of Color Vision Pigments in Single Retinal Cones," at the annual meeting of the Optical Society of America. Dr. Liebman was also an invited participant in the 1965 Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on Sensory Receptors, and a lecturer at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

University Professor **Louis B. Schwartz** of the Law School, who was on sabbatical leave during the fall term, taught at the Faculty of Law and the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge University. He also gave lectures at Oxford, London, Paris, Oslo and Stockholm, and lectured at the University of Edinburgh on December 6, shortly before returning to the United States. At Cambridge, Professor Schwartz was William Curtis Senior Fellow in Clare College. **Dr. Thomas C. Cochran**, professor of history, this year's Pitt Professor of History at Cambridge, is also a Fellow of Clare.

**Sol Worth**, assistant professor of communications, presented a program of films made by students at colleges and universities throughout America, and a paper: "An Invitation to View Some Student Concerns," at the American Council on Education meeting on "The American College Student," in Washington, D. C.

### U. of P. PERIODICALS:

One of the many journals published at the University is *The Library Chronicle* edited by **Dr. William E. Miller**, assistant curator of the Furness and Lea Libraries. Among the articles in the Winter 1966 issue are: "Guillelmus Brito and His Works" by **Dr. Lloyd W. Daly**, Allen Memorial Professor of Greek and chairman of classical studies; "The Pride of Shakespeare's Brutus" by **Phyllis Rackin**, assistant professor of English; and "'Much Virtue in If' in Shakespeare's Comedies" by **Dr. Peter B. Murray**, assistant professor of English.

*Other Library Chronicle Items:* "Two Printings of the First Edition of Heinrich Heine's Dance Poem Der Doktor Faust" by **Dr. Heinz Moenkemeyer**, associate professor of German; "William Carlos Williams: An Exhibition of a Collection" by **Neda M. Westlake**, rare book librarian of Van Pelt; and "John Frederick Lewis, Jr. 1899-1965" by **Jesse C. Mills**, assistant director of libraries.

### GRANTS:

**Dr. David E. Lavin**, assistant professor of sociology, has received an institutional grant from the National Science Foundation for a study of "Family Structure and Academic Achievement."

The University has received an unrestricted grant of \$10,000 from the Sears-Roebuck Foundation. The grant was announced by R. J. Doherty, local representative of the Foundation.

The U.S. Public Health Service has awarded grants to two of our faculty: for the study of "Comparative Brain Metabolism in Thiamine Deficiencies," \$17,162 to **Dr. James H. Jones**, head and professor of biochemical animal biology in veterinary medicine; to **Dr. Arthur Kowalsky**, assistant professor of physical biochemistry in the Eldridge Reeves Johnson Research Foundation for Biophysics, \$21,555 for the investigation of "NMR Studies of Proteins and Macromolecules."

The Bulletin Contributionship of the *Philadelphia Bulletin* has made a \$10,200 grant which will enable the School of Social Work to provide help for potential dropouts in four University City elementary schools.



## Dickson

(Continued from page 2)

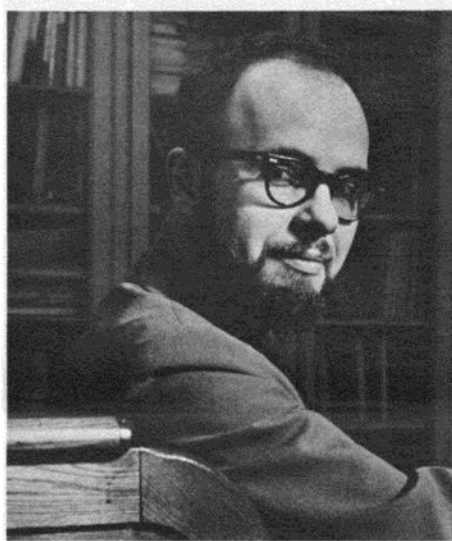
who has dealt with a governmental agency knows the complexity of reports and applications that must be submitted. Each year the questions differ, so information accumulated on the basis of the previous year's forms often becomes useless. And legislation amended and delayed in its course through committees can produce strange results. One notorious example is the teacher forgiveness feature of the National Defense Loans: a teacher may have 10% of his loan canceled for each year of teaching, up to a total of 50%, unless he teaches in an economically deprived-area school. Then he can have 15% canceled annually with no limit on the total cancellation. And the same school can be classified as a "10% school" one year and a "15% school" the next! The University's Collection Manager must deal with this maze.

Another administrative oddity is written into the new state scholarship program. The PHEAA is required to provide scholarships to 1965 high school graduates for their first year of college. The agency hopes to make these awards in May 1966.

Yet anomalies and complexities, even if they require the enlarging of the University administrative staff, are likely to be more annoying than serious if the financial advantage to the University and its students is significant. The newness of several of these programs makes it difficult to estimate their magnitude at Pennsylvania. We have yet to experience any results from the state program, and the provision that state residents may take their scholarships out-of-state makes prediction especially hazardous. An optimistic guess would be that these scholarships may place \$100,000 in the hands of our students next year and more subsequently. Compared to our present undergraduate aid level of approximately \$3,500,000, this is not an overwhelming sum, but it is certainly not insignificant.

The Economic Opportunity Grants, like the City Scholarships, are intended for students from seriously deprived backgrounds. We have averaged two City Scholarships per class. We may average as many as twenty EOG students per class. Since they will come from backgrounds that can provide minimal support, the expenditure of \$800 in EOG

## The Dunn Report on General Honors



Dr. Richard S. Dunn

funds will commit the University to the expenditure of at least \$1,200 of its own scholarship funds for each student; this may prove to be a financial liability rather than an asset.

In dollar volume, the National Defense Loan program is presently the most significant. It illustrates well both the values and the pitfalls involved in governmental support. This year roughly half of the University-administered loans, and two-thirds of those to undergraduates, come from NDE funds. The more than one million dollars thus provided to our students represents a cornerstone of our financial aid program. But during the past two months there have been disquieting indications that the federal government intends to phase out the NDE loan program. Washington does not operate on an academic year, so it may be many weeks before we know with certainty what the situation will be in September. Yet in the meantime our students must make their plans for next fall. And Washington does not operate on the basis of four-year commitments to colleges; we do commit ourselves to our students, and they to us, for a four-year period.

### AUTHORS:

Dr. Norman D. Palmer, professor of political science and chairman of the International Relations Group Committee, is the author of *South Asia and United States Policy* (Houghton Mifflin).

(Continued from page 1)

Scholastic Aptitude Test (800 = perfect), about 100 points higher than the average Pennsylvania freshman. While college board scores must be weighed with some skepticism, our experience shows that students who score under 700 are unlikely to do well in General Honors. Experience has also demonstrated that intellectually lopsided students, who may be geniuses in one field but have small interest in any other, are ill suited to our Program.

Like most educational experiments, General Honors has its share of problems. Some of our courses, particularly the interdisciplinary ones, have failed to jell. Instructors who anticipate a classroom filled with superlative students are bound to be disappointed. Students who anticipate continuously superlative instruction are bound to be disappointed.

Generally we lose 20 of our 60 freshmen by the second year, in most cases because the work is too difficult for them, but in some cases because they prefer the greater flexibility and variety of the standard distributional courses. Our top students turn out to be chiefly scientists, and this creates an unfortunate imbalance.

Certainly General Honors has not yet evolved into a genuine intellectual community, nor has it had much apparent impact upon the student body or the faculty at large. But even our most rebellious students seldom charge that the Program has bored or stunted them. The majority greatly appreciate the unique opportunity they have to work with first rate teachers in small classes. The University can be proud of those students who complete the General Honors Program, for they have generally done very well in their junior and senior years.

The General Honors Class of '65 graduated with a collective grade point average of 3.5, and more than half of them earned Phi Beta Kappa. Personally, I find the best justification for General Honors is the fun of teaching such intelligent, articulate, imaginative and irreverent young people. Would that we had a whole university full of them!

(Editor's Note: Dr. Dunn, author of the above report, is an associate professor of history, and has just been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship.)

## *Among other things...*

### HONORS:

**Dr. Willis J. Winn**, dean of the Wharton School, was recently appointed chairman of the board of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia. **Dean Winn**, who also serves as vice-provost, is vice president of the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business, and is serving as program chairman of its annual meeting to be held in San Diego in April.

McGill University has conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science upon **Dr. Luther L. Terry**, vice president for medical affairs.

**Guy Anselmo, Jr.**, assistant dean of men, has been appointed commanding officer of a Naval Reserve Public Affairs Company stationed in Philadelphia.

**Dr. Herbert R. Northrup**, chairman and professor of industry, has been awarded an \$11,000 grant in connection with a "Management Development Institute for Executives of Child Welfare."

### ALMANAC ITEMS:

A great deal of mail intended for the *Almanac* is still addressed to **Mr. Hyde** (Ph.D.), the former editor who is now a professor at Bucks County Community College. Please direct *Almanac* items to the present editor, **Dr. Jekyll**, in W-147 Dietrich Hall. (See masthead for complete address.)

### FACULTY GRANTS:

Announcements of Fulbright-Hays awards for faculty members for research and lecturing in Europe, Africa, the Near East, South and East Asia, the Pacific, the Far East, and Latin America during the 1967-68 academic year are now available for reference at the office of the Faculty Fulbright Adviser, **James B. Yarnall**, Office of Fellowship Information and Study Programs Abroad, 226 South 38th St.

Important changes have recently been made in the administration of awards for faculty members. The majority are being announced almost three months earlier than last year, and they are listed in two booklets, one on research awards, the other on lectureships. The closing date for applying for research awards is June 1, considerably in advance of the date last year. Applications will be accepted for lectureships so long as they are available. While there is no fixed closing date for filing applications for lectureships, persons interested in them are advised to apply before May 1, after which date regular screening procedures will be put into effect and available appointments will begin to decrease in number. The schedule for nominating and selecting both research and lecturing grantees is being accelerated.

## 13 Fellowships

Thirteen University faculty members, the third largest number of any American institution, received Guggenheim Fellowships after copy for this *Almanac* went to the printer. A detailed article will appear next month.

### GRANTS:

The Harrison Department of Surgical Research in the School of Medicine has just received three grants: to **Dr. Robert G. Ravdin**, associate professor of surgery, \$32,876 for "Cooperative Study of Breast Cancer Hormone Therapy"; \$17,440 to **Dr. Harry W. Schoenberg**, associate professor of urology, to continue an investigation of "Neuromuscular Dysfunction of Urinary Bladder"; and for the study of "Cytochemical Substrates and Anti-Cancer Agents," \$72,865 to **Dr. K. C. Tsou**, assistant professor of chemistry in surgical research. All three grants are sponsored by the U.S. Public Health Service.

*The Almanac* is published monthly during the academic year by the University for the information of its faculty and staff.

Suggested news items should be sent to the Editor.

**Dr. Herbert S. Denenberg**, Editor  
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