GEPPO

the haiku study-work journal of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

Volume XIX:4

July-August, 1996

Members' Haiku for Study and Appreciation

1819	green days of summer; each one strung on dragon kite wire	1829	black preacher turning up the rap music writes his sermon
1820	clouds across the moon; when I am gone the iris will bloom alone	1830	wool gathering the sleepy weaver includes his beard
1821	incessant heat; one more day the spider spins	1831	hurrying along scent of white-clover stops me
1822	Sparkling in the pond koi swim above their shadows crossing sunlit spots	1832	around the pond a new barricadesea gull squawking! squawking!
1823	She loves me loves me not, oh how I'd love another petal	1833	dashing for cover - oops! I suspend my right foot caterpillar crawls
1824	Her frigid laughter when I ask her for a date so much more than "no"	1834	a deep gorge some of the silence is me
1825	skinkskitterstoshade so hot this Borrego sand and far from my car	1835	all those haiku about the moon in the trees, the moon in the trees
1826	approaching the pond stealthily with tour kids turtles slip in first	1836	deeply green summer from the one bare branch a crow
1827	butterfly or moth not found in any of my books released to mystery	1837	after a hot day the coolness of the full moon
1828	Throwing dirt on my pet's grave; her pink ribbon	1838	summer morning yellow of wild mustard streaks the green field

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************		ummanananananananananananan	
1839	sour cherry tree	1851	After the slaughter
	with the passing years its fruit		By the vanquished toes
	grows sweeter		Orange kitten naps
1840	one then another—	1852	housefly
	swallowtails drop from sight		tries an escape into
	in the coreopsis		a video serengeti
1841	bird count —	1853	coolness
	thirty-four crows rousting		the cedar boughs move
	two red-tailed hawks		with the wind
1842	carolina wren	1854	the boy
	its morning song larger		points and shouts an eagle
	than itself		an eagle
1843	In the forest,	1855	swimmers too far out
	a hidden cicada		sudden thunderstorm
	sings vital song.		lifeguard station empty
1844	Over the horizon,	1856	We race to reach home
	the far line of the world,		ahead of a summer storm.
	dark billowing clouds.		Door shut just in time.
1845	In a corner,	1857	Combers rolling in.
	captive fly is shaking		Horses' manes in the moonlight
	a spider's web.		in the crashing surf.
1846	nationality unknown	1858	In this intense cold
	consulting map again		chickadees feed from the hand
	summer vacation		watchful black-bead eyes.
1847	old stone monument	1859	Sparrows harvesting
	of chinese character		the last bit of ripe chickweed-
	deep tree shade		frost report tonight
1848	emeritus professor	1860	Fat little red squirrel
	old eye glasses slip		cracking thin brown ash wafers
	midday nap		autumn sun sets soon
1849	Bad dream	1861	Fresh sorrel green chives
	Warmth of her		in Indian summer sunshine-
	Trusting back		what? spring salad now?
1850	She sighs	1862	crumpled drafts
	In the dark		of the same poem -
2	Her teeth gleam		tossed to the playful cat

1863	stopping for the night - ah, dreams always outdistance the traveler	1875	her butterfly net catches the cornflower without the swallowtail
1864	mama asleep the bright bouquet of zinnias fills a mason jar	1876	tai chi practice - spring songbirds outside the window
1865	bedside atlas honeysuckle perfumes the midnight air	1877	now that he has gone more often than before a game of solitaire
1866	As twilight deepens the cruising fireflies turn on their headlights	1878	cinnamon cat stepping from the garage roof down to the fence
1867	A rare butterfly caught in the SWISH! of my net Already I'm sorry	1879	on the steel mill roof a preying mantis hatchling clutches my pant leg
1868	hot wind at my back from the railroad platform a long view	1880	fishing in a pond bordered by summer grasses: no bait and no hook
1869	Humid evening the juror's conscience attached to uneasy shoes	1881	Old hills fast asleep recumbent full-bellied gods snore on summer lake
1870	Dorm room: unloading her luggage girlfriend's kiss goodbye	1882	Billowing clouds float in clear Madonna blue sky shadows over hills
1871	In the summer's shade a terminal person waits for a green light	1883	Legions of cloud peaks march down metallic sky shadows threaten hills
1872	Giant sunflower bends under the weight of its high ambitions	1884	Five perfect blue eggs Nestled in my hanging plant I peek in there daily
1873	Humble Zinnias grew as if they were called to glorify heaven	1885	Silky locks of hair Auburn tendrils hit the floor Two years sweep by me
1874	White moth spies the ball hidden by the tall daisies, but it cannot tell	1886	Puppy behind bars Yearning of playful freedom Man says time is up

1887	lonely, lonely	COOLNESS
	at the dusk meadow and yet	Haiku with the challenge kigo "coolness"
	mosquitoes	
1888	sore feet	leaves of the maple somehow expanding into
	on the taken off shoes	morning coolness Alice Benedict
	traffic of ants	
1889	morning commute	lingering goodbye; the coolness of melon
	negotiating the curve	fresh on my tongue Gloria Procsal
	around the cemetery	
1890	a dragonfly	my friend's last weather raging fires of fever and
	hovers over the lawn chair	coolness in damp dirt George Knox
	its fresh painted daisies	George Knox
1891	filling the field with summer light	Hot summer day Jumping dad's lawn sprinkler The splendid coolness
	wild mustard blooms	Laura Bell
1892	summer drought the willow by the water	time out for walk by the lake: lapsplash and oh! coolness!
	still holds its cool canopy	Sheila Hyland
1893	darkness falls no street lamps - only	coolness after a sudden storm still sweltering car John Stevenson
	the summer moon	orranina acalmasa
1894	in the kitchen the flutter of candlelight reflected in the sink	evening coolness — from the corner of my eye the Seven Sisters Yvonne Hardenbrook
1895	voice in the next room after a dream of water as if from a well	Freshness of the early summer in the young leaves and the coldness of stream. Ertore José Palmero
1896	at the hillcrest the fresh odor of ocean still hidden in fog	Morning rain The coolness as the Drought breaks D.L. Bachelor
		coolness of hands with soothing lotion on my sunburned skin Louise Beaven
		Clear summer's morning before the heat of the day. Savoring the cool. Robert Major

Challenge Kigo: COOLNESS (continued)

opening the door to let the coolness in the evening stars

Ebba Story

under the oak, the brief coolness of a sip of lemonade

Alex Benedict

The rising sun arrives
The night's coolness fades away
Reveille of the birds

Richard Bruckart

summer's-end party across the swaying dance floor her coolness

George Ralph

Coolness

in his sea-blue eyes chills the summer air

Mary E. Ferryman

coolness
wind chime's sound
in the breeze

Naomi Y. Brown

above the river a bat among chimney swifts . . . evening coolness

Timothy Russell

Like drops of water each breath of meditation Coolness bathes sore soul

Christine Dorian Michaels

August heat plunging into the shower its first shock. . .then its coolness

Mary Fran Meer

over a town no cars lingering coolness

Robin Chancefellow

SEASON WORDS

for autumn

selected from the lists in the 1994 Members' Anthology.

Season: autumn months*: September, October, November; autumn equinox, beginning of autumn, chilly night, long night, lingering summer heat

Sky and Elements: autumn rain, ~ sky, ~wind, long night, moon (the full moon), night of stars, sardine cloud.

Landscape: autumn moor, leaves turning, reaped or harvested fields, vineyards.

Human Affairs: autumn loneliness, end of summer vacation, gleaning, harvest, mushroom gathering, scarecrow, school begins, Tanabata (Star Festival), Obon Festival/dance, Labor Day, Rosh Hashanah, Halloween (jack o' lantern, trick or treating, witch, black cat, ghost, haunted house), Thanksgiving.

Animals: autumn mackerel, bagworm, bird of passage, cleartoned cicada, cricket, deer, dragonfly, red dragonfly, grasshopper or locust, ground beetle, insects' cry, katydid, monarch butterfly, migrating geese/cranes/storks, praying mantis, quail, salmon, shrike (butcher bird), siskin, snipe, wild geese, woodpecker.

Plants: apple, wild aster, autumn leaves, banana plant, buckwheat, bush clover, chamomile, chestnut, chrysanthemum, corn, cranberry, dried grass or plants, fallen or falling leaves (e.g. fallen willow leaves), gourds, grapes (except green grapes), huckleberry, maiden flower, morning glory, mushrooms, nuts, orchid, pampas grass plumes, pear, persimmon, pomegranate, pumpkin, reeds, reed flowers/tassels, rose of sharon, squash, vines, weed flowers.



Challenge Kigo for September/October

APPLE

by Alex Benedict

All year we find apples of varying shapes and colors in the store. But in September and October, the abundant fruit fills the trees and falls on the ground. The freshness of autumn permeates the air and seems captured by the sweet crispness of a just-picked apple.

abandoned orchard beside a steel water trough a fallen apple

Alex Benedict

Kiyoshi Tokutomi Memorial Haiku Contest

1996 Contest Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the 1996 Contest! 300 poems were received from poets all over the world. Ms. Yoko Senda was the judge. Her comments, which were translated by Mrs. Tokutomi, are included with the winning poems. Heartfelt thanks to everyone who entered for your participation!

First Prize

spring evening stillness from the nunnery garden an old cradle song

H. F. Noyes Politia Attikis, Greece

I like the word "old" for the cradle song. The first line is in cooperation with the second line. It gives a gentle feeling of warmth. This reminds me of a lullaby I heard in my childhood.

Second Prize

Our teenage daughter swishing in skimpy black silk – this early summer

D. Claire Gallagher Sunnyvale, California

The second line's expression, "swishing in skimpy black silk" is interesting. When an adult sees the teenager's youthful glow, it can seem to make a person dizzy. Akiko Yosano's composition of tanka relays this feeling. The "early summer" is also a season for teens.

Third Prize

spring evening darkens reluctantly my mother says no to more tea

Marian Olson Arlington, Virginia

A long spring day is ending; the togetherness and talking is also coming to an end. Without saying "it was fun," the good feeling among mother and daughter is apparent. This haiku gives a photograph of the scene. It is as vivid as if I was present. It also gives the effect of spring melancholy.

Honorable Mention (alphabetical)

huddled together the street cats in the doorway escape winter rain

Dennis Davidson Hoboken, New Jersey Undesirable street cats look very appealing.

a woman's laughter interrupting the silence of the spring evening

Dennis Davidson Hoboken, New Jersey
Putting the focus on "laughter" gives the impression
of the real thing. It feels alike one is peeking into a scene
in a play where something might happen soon.

This remaining snow the toddler lying in it to make an angel

D. Claire Gallagher Sunnyvale, California This haiku gives the feeling toward the infant, but it does not dote upon the feeling.

> Spring evening walk only we two hand in hand past the weathered fence

D. Claire Gallagher Sunnyvale, California This couple came through the wind and rain of life hand in hand.

by the autumn lake two young climbers pass without a word of greeting

Pat Gallagher Sunnyvale, California Because there is usually a greeting between climbers, I can feel strain in the quietness of the autumn lake like an overly taut string.

My teapot whistles ... winter rain beats the window through a cloud of steam

Constance Mele Davidson, North Carolina I feel as though I can see this scene. Heart-warming steam of the tea-pot and cold rain are distinctly separated by the window. I wished to pick this as the winning haiku also. Continued on the back page...

Submission Guidelines for GEPPO

Deadline for the next issue is August 15!

- Print your name, address and all poems and votes on a single, full size sheet of paper. You can include:
- Haiku send up to three haiku appropriate to the season.
 Poems must be in three lines; they will be printed as submitted.
- Challenge Kigo Haiku send one 3-line haiku with the current issue's Challenge Kigo. Try to use just the one season word. This poem will be printed with your name.
- Votes Write the numbers of up to ten poems from the currrent issue you especially appreciate. Circle or otherwise indicate up to three poems to receive 5 points each; the others will receive 1 point each. Poems with the top number of votes are reprinted with the author's name in the subsequent issue.

Send to:

Jean Hale

Challenge Kigo Challenge! Members are encouraged to submit candidate Challenge Kigo essays, to include a season word for your area, a 1-paragraph description, and 1 to 3 haiku (at least one of which should be your own) using the word. Send your Challenge Kigo essay to:

Alex Benedict

The Art of Haiku, edited by Christopher Herold, is an invited series of articles on haiku writing and awareness.

GEPPO

is the bimonthly study-work journal of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society. Haiku are published as submitted, and members may cast votes for haiku from the preceding issue. In this way we learn by studying the work of others, and by the response to our own work. Subscription is \$15.00 per year, which includes membership in the Society.

Editor • Jean Hale
Design • Alice Benedict

Yuki Teikei Haiku Society

1995-96 Officers

Alex Benedict, President • Patricia Machmiller, Vice President Kiyoko Tokutomi, Treasurer • Alice Benedict, Secretary

News and Notes

Tanabata Celebration

Tanabata, or the Star Festival, is a traditional Japanese summer event. Celebrated on July 7, it is based on a tale of two young celestial lovers coming together once a year. She, the star Vega, is a weaver. He, the star Altair, is a shepherd or herd-boy. They must be kept apart, on opposite sides of the Milky Way, for when they are together, they do not get their work done. But once a year, when the stars appear to be closest, it is as if they have been given permission to meet for a brief period.

This year, we celebrated Tanabata on Sunday, July 7, at Kiyoko Tokutomi's house among redwood trees in the Santa Cruz Mountains. In the twilight a high fog obscured the stars: we had to use memory and imagination to write of the night sky. The kigo (season words) for Tanabata are Milky Way and river of stars. The group was small, but feelings were warm and discussion went late into the night. As a gesture toward the tradition, we brushed some of the evening's haiku onto slips of paper, and tied them to a bamboo branch - there they would flutter and convey our thoughts of the evening.

Can you hear them spilling from pool to pool? river of stars

Christopher Herold

the stars met tonight crossing river in the sky Where is my lover?

Kiyoko Tokutomi

together tonight beneath the bridge reflections the Milky Way

Alex Benedict

river of stars in my hair, on my pillow the smell of wood smoke

Alice Benedict

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting after the Asilomar Retreat will be a moon viewing party at Mary Hill's house on October 26th at 6 p.m. Please note that this is NOT the second Saturday(but is the day after a full moon). The November meeting will be November 9 at the Saratoga Library. The Holiday Party, will be at the Benedicts' on Saturday, December 14th.

Haiku Archive Inauguration

The California State Library's inauguration of the American Haiku Archive was a delightful and inspiring gathering of haiku folk. State Librarian Kevin Starr's enthusiasm for haiku history came across in his opening remarks. Michael Welch, the program's organizer, introduced haiku reading and congratulatory remarks from many passionate haiku poets, including Kay Anderson, Dee Evetts, Garry Gay, James Hackett, Elizabeth Lamb, Barbara Ressler, Lee Gurga, Kiyoko Tokutomi, and himself. A letter of congratulation and commendation to Dr. Starr from Alex Benedict, on behalf of the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society was delivered. A festive feeling prevailed among the audience of haiku poets and friends of haiku throughout the program. After lunch in Dr. Starr's spacious office, we were led on a tour of the State Library. Our guide, Gary Kurutz, principal librarian of the special collections branch, led a tour that was a fascinating look behind the scenes at this major modern library. In addition to books of all shapes and sizes, the library's special collections include such items as old photographic plates and prints, newspaper files, posters and programs for music and dance performances. After cataloging, materials sent to the Archive will be accessible for viewing in special research rooms at the Library. The Yuki Teikei Society's archives, now in the posession of various people, will eventually be sent there for preservation and public access.

1995 Members' Anthology Done!

A Shadowed Path, the 1995 Members' Anthology is now completed: this collection of poems from members, was edited by Patricia Machmiller, and features elegant ink drawings by Pat Shelley. It also includes a a thoughtful essay on season words by Pat Machmiller, and comprehensive season word lists compiled by various society members over the years. Those who submitted poems will be receiving their copies shortly. Other members can order copies for \$5 each plus \$1 postage. Send requests and payment to Alice Benedict,

Please make check or M.O. payable to the Yuki Teikei Haiku Society.

New Book by Jerry Ball

Congratulations to Jerry Ball on publication of his new book of longer poems, *world between mirrors*. Jerry will be reading and signing the book at Good Enough Books in Livermore on Saturday, September 14 in the evening.

Calendar of Events

- Oct. 26 Moon Viewing Party
 Mary Hill's garden, 6:00p.m.
 PLEASE NOTE CHANGED DATE
- Nov. 9 Regular Meeting Saratoga Public Library 1:30 p.m.
- **Dec. 14** Holiday Potluck and Party Alex and Alice Benedict's, 6:00 p.m.

Deadlines

Oct.15 Submissions to September-October GEPPO

Members' Votes: May-June 1996 Issue

Sydney Bougy- 1738-1 1739-14 1740-13 Margaret Elliott- 1741-1 1742-2 1743-0 Deborah Beachboard- 1744-7 1745-1 1746-2 Gloria Procsal- 1747-1 1748-17 1749-12 Joan Edwards- 1750-01751-0 1752-7 Echo Goodmansen- 1753-22 1754-19 1755-5 Robert Gibson- 1756-8 1757-11 1758-8 Edward Grastorf- 1759-1 1760-1 1761-0 Richard Bruckart- 1762-0 1763-0 1764-2 Yvonne Hardenbrook- 1765-3 1766-9 1767-8 Ertore José Palmero- 1768-0 1769-0 1770-6 Margaret Watts- 1771-0 1772-5 1773-10 Louise Beaven- 1774-10 Iohn Tabberrah - 1775-4 1776-1 1777-5 Robin Chancefellow- 1778-0 1779-1 1780-1 Joan Zimmerman- 1781-4 1782-0 1783-6 Zinovy Wayman- 1784-7 1785-0 1786-1 Marian Blum- 1787-1 Naum Vaiman- 1788-0 **Dorothy Greenlee-** 1789-8 1790-2 1791-1 Mary Ferryman- 1792-0 1793-0 1794-1 Michael D. Welch- 1795-2 1796-1 1797-11 Naomi Y. Brown- 1798-2 1799-6 1800-0 Elizabeth Allbright- 1801-3 1802-1 1803-0 Laura Bell- 1804-2 1805-19 1806-24 Timothy Russell- 1807-1 1808-5 1809-10 Ebba Story- 1810-2 1811-2 George Ralph- 1812-15 George Knox- 1813-11 1814-0 1815-0 Pat Shelley- 1816-1 1817-15 1818-8

May-June Haiku Voted as Best by the readers of Geppo

doctor's office

leaf shadows lengthening

on the wall

Laura Bell

Laura De

toward evening

green leaves sink into darkness

white lilacs

Echo Goodmansen

tail straight up

little cat follows

little girl

Echo Goodmansen

redwoods

through the tourists

a glimpse of the stream

Laura Bell

tossing a stone

into the pond. . .

scattering stars

Gloria Procsal

spider's perfect web

I water the hanging plant

from the other side

George Ralph

oh, ant

carrying away your dead friend

you have stayed my hand

Pat Shelley

Plaza at dusk -

women drawing their shawls

about their shoulders.

Sydney Bougy

Telephone ringing

in the neighbor's empty house

off and on all day.

Sydney Bougy

warm courtyard mist thinning the curve

of a Buddha's belly

Gloria Procsal

the crows

in the shopping mall seem

perfectly at home

Robert Gibson

distant conversation-

a pile of daisies

beside the back porch

Michael Dylan Welch

summer shower stops ..

sparrows' a cappella din

in the jasmine hedge

George Knox

O'Keefe calendar -

her Oriental Poppies —

brighter each June day.

Margaret Watts

drenched with rain I wait

for you at the library

with two stone lions

Louise Beaven

seventh inning stretch:

swallows feeding in the dusk

high above the lights

Timothy Russell

The Art of Haiku

Skinning the Fish

by Jim Kacian

It is the process of haiku which matters, the growth of the spirit and the realization of our lives, moment by moment. But the actual product of this process, the haiku themselves, can be helpful in gauging one's progress. I offer this string of fish by way of illustration.

In the infancy of my encounter with haiku, I wrote

the silver carp leaps for its dragonfly supper, disturbing the moon¹

I was delighted with it at the time—it met all my criteria for excellence: it was 5-7-5 without seeming to strain; it was a single moment in time and yet time seemed to stand still within that moment despite the seeming action; it interrelated two disparate objects with some cohesion; and it was a pretty picture to boot.

Since then I have come to realize some of its flaws—offering as it does a rather polished and pictorial surface, but not a particularly great depth of insight—but admit to an affection for it nonetheless. There is the fish; there is the moon; they are both portrayed simply as themselves. There is a connection which unites them. So far, so good, but there is a problem, and the problem is not in this connection, nor in the subjects themselves, but in the writer: he has not enough insight into the being of these creatures. The subjects remain objects—the poet witnesses, and that is all.

After a little practice I wrote the following:

autumn twilight the shadow of a fish stops at the weir ²

Following the first flush of infatuation, I found this poem to be similar to the previous example, but with this difference: it possesses the beginnings of sympathy, a cognition of the circumstances of the other, regarded in the poem. There is kinship here, in the poet's mind and being, between the failing of the light and the staying of the fish's course; and the even deeper resonance that as the remaining light attenuates, so too will the fish's shadow diminish. Moreover, there is an integration of the emotion of the circumstances, a constriction binding the fish, the day, the poet, the reader. The poet witnesses, and shares. But there can be more, of course—yet a little later:

hooked trout feeling the life on the line³

This is in many ways much the same, but again in an important way it is quite different. Once again, the level of connection with the subject has deepened, beyond sympathy this time, to

empathy. The difference as stated seems slight, but makes a world of difference in the experiencing: empathy is more than the recognition of circumstances, and a commiseration in kind—empathy is identification with the other, and an actual taking on of the intellectual and emotional reality of the situation. How like a fish can a human be? And how human a fish? Here the poet partakes of the struggle—actually feeling the "life" of the fish, and its play, through the connecting medium of the fishing line. He knows the trout's contortions and thrashings, thus coming to know fish-fear and fish-rage, and so gains insight into how they are like our own fear and rage. We are directly linked, by the monofilament, yes, but also by our capacity to empathize: the poet witnesses, shares, identifies.

But there is yet a ways to go. In all of the examples above, the poet is manifest—he is observing, approaching, identifying with the other, but there is yet a chasm between them—the chasm of the self. As long as the self is present, we can get only so near to the other.

We are approaching interpenetration. Interpenetration goes as far beyond empathy as empathy moves beyond sympathy. Interpenetration is total identification with the other, outside of one's sense of self. One so totally identifies with the other that one loses one's self, and in so doing takes on a oneness with all else. While this state may have a religious correlative, I am here only concerned with its application to haiku. Consider the following:

some of the sun glinting off the sea is dolphins⁴

Here there is an absolute identification: sun and dolphin and poet (though he is nowhere to be found) are of the same stuff, intertwined and indistinguishable. We are all children of the sun, but only occasionally do we bear witness to this inheritance, manifesting ourselves as we do in our many disguises. But here there is no barrier to distort the oneness—sun and dolphin and poet interpenetrate—identification supersedes witness.

Of course, it is not simply a matter of using a transitive verb, or describing one thing in terms of another in order to realize such an identification. Interpenetration is rarely expressed, even in a medium such as haiku, which seeks and honors such states, because it is not easily achieved, nor easily stated. There are many ways to skin a fish, but only at a certain angle, in the proper light, will we see it shine—and then again, only by a refinement of that angle, and a focusing of that light, will we find that the scales glow from within. While it is up to us to find the fish, and the light, and the angle, haiku can help us discover how successful the fishing has been.

¹Bear Creek Haiku, August, 1992

² unpublished, © 1996 by the author

³ Six Directions (La Alameda Press, Albuquerque, NM, 1996)

⁴ Frogpond, Summer, 1996

Tokutomi Haiku Contest

1996 Winners (continued from page 6)

Honorable Mention (continued)

early spring evening pausing on a street corner for the crescent moon

Susan Rudnick New York, New York

This scene was caught with sharp observation. The moon was not full or half, but crescent. It matches the tone of this haiku.

After the earthquake A red autumn butterfly Settles beside me

Lorraine Ward Mount Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand

My mind is given relief from the quietness of the autumn butterfly.

This New Year morning My father pours the coffee Talks of his boyhood

Lorraine Ward Mount Victoria, Wellington, New Zealand

Quiet morning of New Years - Steam from the coffee symbolizes the warm ties of family.

across the dark sea a winter rain is blowing – the bell buoy tolls

Mark Arvid White Palmer, Alaska

This scene is vivid because of the concrete expression in the third line.

C	a	le	n	di	ar	•	of]	E١	1e	n	ts	,
٠	۰	*	~				*			~	~		

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