

WJVintage

March 2023 Newsletter



Welcome to the March 2023 edition of the WJVintage newsletter. Spring is now here and remains firmly my favourite time of year as the daylight extends and temperatures begin to rise. Sadly, for the second year running it has also brought challenges of a personal family nature. I'm afraid my mother has fallen again, and this time has broken her hip.

For the foreseeable future it looks as if my brother, sister and I will be spending extended time down in London as we try to help her to regain mobility and remain in her own home. I apologise in advance if this means I am unable to respond to queries and requests as quickly as I would like to. I will do my best. Thankfully, pre-mum's accident and in between hospital visits, I have managed to take in a meeting or two, and so the 'Out & About' section of the newsletter does cover some rather interesting events, despite having to miss out on others. Scroll down for full details.

Having previously worked for Corgi and Hornby, with involvement in the Bassett-Lowke range under their ownerships, I have always had a soft spot for the brand. I was therefore delighted to see the latest new item from Graham Lock. It is a lovely reproduction of the now very rare, Bassett-Lowke figure of Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke with his cine camera. Do scroll down to the 'What's New' feature below for full details of this lovely piece – surely a must-have addition to your platform figures?

**Stay Safe &
Keep enjoying your trains**

Out & About

Northants and Rutland O Gauge Group Gretton Village Hall, Tuesday Feb 21st

A really welcome return for the NAROGG meetings was attended by an enthusiastic group who had clearly missed this friendly social gathering over the winter months. There was no theme but nevertheless an impressive array of interesting locos as always.



It was great to have Bryan Lambert on board as my co-organiser and with his interest in US Railroads, it was a NAROGG first to have a 20volt AC layout, which Bryan used throughout the meeting running his impressive New York Central Systems 4-6-4 (Hudson) No.5205 with a matching rake of NYC coaches.



The main layout featured, as always, a wide array of interesting locos and other rolling stock. Andrew Spooner, having just read my February newsletter, made my day by bringing along his fantastic breakdown Crane. Of unknown manufacturer, he picked it up for a bargain price some years ago at an auction house in Lewes, Sussex. It may not be exactly prototypical, but it did look rather eye-catching behind his equally fantastic P2 'Cock O' The North', which is also of unknown manufacturer – but a particularly lovely model and great runner to-boot!



Our guest layout was once again courtesy of Dave Peasant, ably assisted by his uncle Pete Peasant. They set up a beautiful compact layout with the normal display of fantastic rarities , both locos and accessories.



We really are indebted to Dave and Pete for the support they give us and the quality and complexity of the layouts they provide, each one being different from meet to meet so there is always something new to see.



On the main layout, Kevin Payne had a real rarity on show. He put together a really nice SNCF diesel-hauled train using mainly ETS items

with one notable exception. The brake van was something I have never seen before.



It was of French manufacture by GMP Jouets Scientifique. Kevin tells me they are like the proverbial 'hens' teeth' to find so our thanks to him for bringing it along.

Thanks to everyone that came along to this NAROGG meeting, it was great to catch up again. Our catering is a little less sophisticated than it used to be following the loss of both Cathy and Angela in the kitchen. Nevertheless, there were some willing assistants and plenty of lovely cakes to go with the teas and coffees, so I think we kept everyone happy.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday April 11th and we do have a theme! It is 'Spring' or 'Springs'. I look forward to seeing how this might be interpreted. Full address and timing details are given in the '**See Us at Shows**' section towards the end of this newsletter.

Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day – Cowper Arms, Digswell, Saturday 11th March, 2023

It was hugely worrying to hear that Bassett-Lowke Chairman, Mike Green, has been in hospital following a nasty bout of Covid, but I am pleased to say he is now home and well on the mend, although not quite ready to attend this meet.



Fortunately, Mike did ensure there was a team on hand to put the layout together and after much head scratching, we did manage to construct a nice compact double circuit using the pub tables as our base boards.



Once the green baize cloths and track were in place, you would never have known what was supporting the layout.



These meetings always seem to unearth some really interesting models and this one was no exception – with the emphasis being on 'different' rather than necessarily 'rare' (but some both).

Falling very definitely into the 'different' and 'rare' camp was a lovely live steam tender locomotive owned by Steve Webb. The engine is by Carette and dates from circa 1908 and it is paired (incorrectly) with a tender by Karl Bub. The locomotive, which was previously part of the Chris Middleton collection, was restored to working condition by Mike Swain,

with advice from Alan Boldero. It was then painted and lined by Steve Webb himself, with advice from Nicholas Oddy. The result. I think you will agree, is very pleasing, and as Steve is only aware of two of these in existence, it is certainly a true rarity.

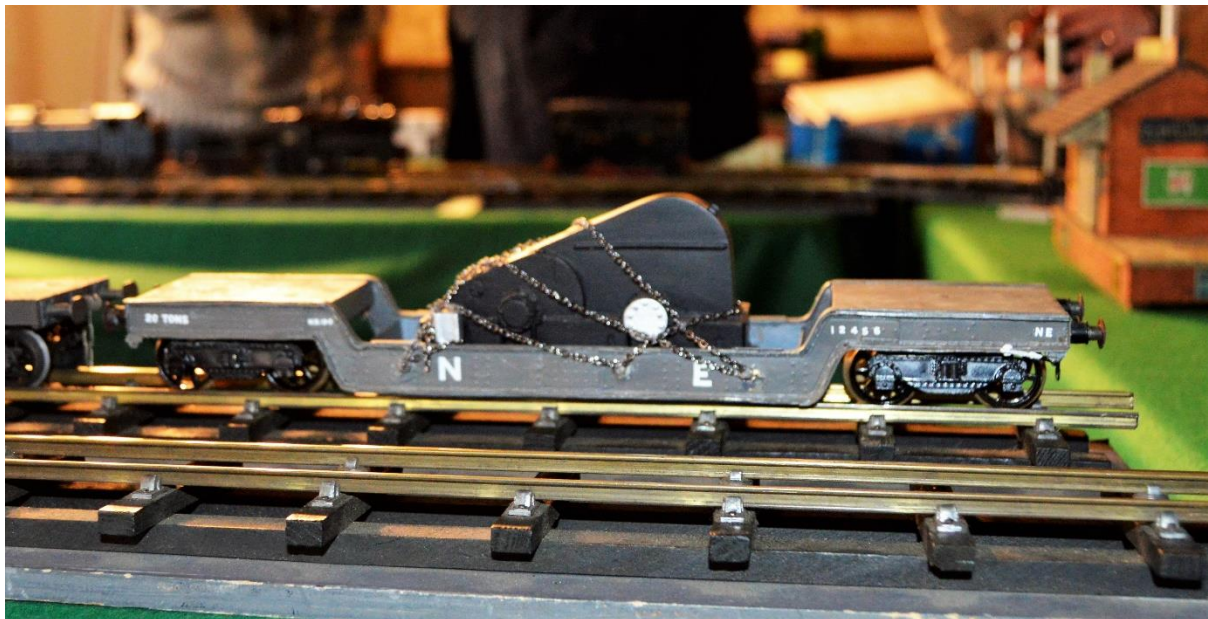
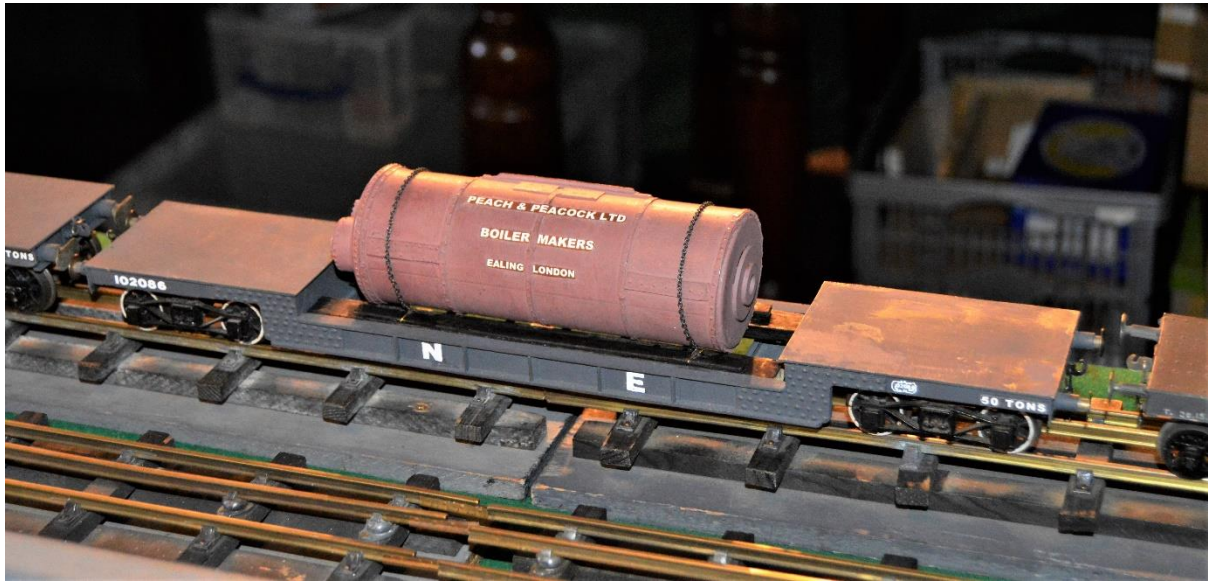


Marcus Peacock had some interesting pieces on display. The LMS were well known for their early use of diesels and one of Marcus's engines was a very unusual LMS diesel.



This was actually scatch built, not by Marcus himself, but by a friend. It didn't run on the day as it is just a little too low to run on the raised centre third track used at Digswell. A very impressive and different model though.

Marcus also had some lovely looking Well Wagons (almost as nice as the **WJVintage** tinplate ones – still some available 😊). These were, however quite remarkable in that they were entirely scatch built from cardboard.



You will see another version in the header photo above which shows a well wagon with Mamod wheels as the load. The detail really is remarkable and there is no way you would think that card was the medium used, even from fairly close up. Excellent work by whoever made them.

The header photo to this newsletter shows a really beautiful engine owned by Alan Boldero. Alan is a very skilled (model) engineer and built his

lovely Midland Spinner from a kit. It really has been made to a fantastic standard and stands up well to close scrutiny. I do love single wheelers and have always fancied producing something like a Sterling Single. Sadly, I don't think it will ever happen as it just isn't commercially viable – shame!



Finally, just one other interesting loco was a repaint and livery on an old clockwork Prince Charles locomotive. It certainly falls into the 'different' category as it carries an entirely fictitious railway company livery; the DBHC Railway.



It was very nicely painted and liveried by the father of one of the members (whose name I forgot to note – sorry), who created the DBHC Railway – I wonder what it stands for? If I find out later, I'll let you know.

All in all another excellent Digswell meet and let's hope that Mike Green is back fighting fit for the next one!

Customer Corner

More on Breakdown Cranes

As a follow-up to last month's submission from Ron McCaskie, you may recall the wonderful Alan Middleton Breakdown Crane that Ron photographed on a friend's layout in New Zealand.



Apparently, this crane was originally destined for a customer in Tasmania, Australia but the order was cancelled. I wondered whether the crane was a one-off or one of a production batch. Well, it seems there was, at the very least, a small batch made.

Richard Linton has been in touch from Tasmania and he has confirmed that he knows of at least two that are owned by enthusiasts in Tasmania. He has one, and another HRCAA member has the other. However, neither has any idea about the third crane that was destined for the island but then cancelled. I wonder just how many of these Alan Middleton did in fact produce and did any ever find their way to the UK.

Has anyone ever seen another?

Please let me know if you have.

Brighton Toy Museum Vintage Train Running Day

As mentioned last month, the next big vintage running day for the Brighton Toy Museum is coming up this coming weekend. If you have visited before, you will already know what a fantastic day this will be. If you haven't been before then I can only say you are in for a real treat if there is any chance you can get there. It really comes highly recommended.

Here is an advertisement for the day:



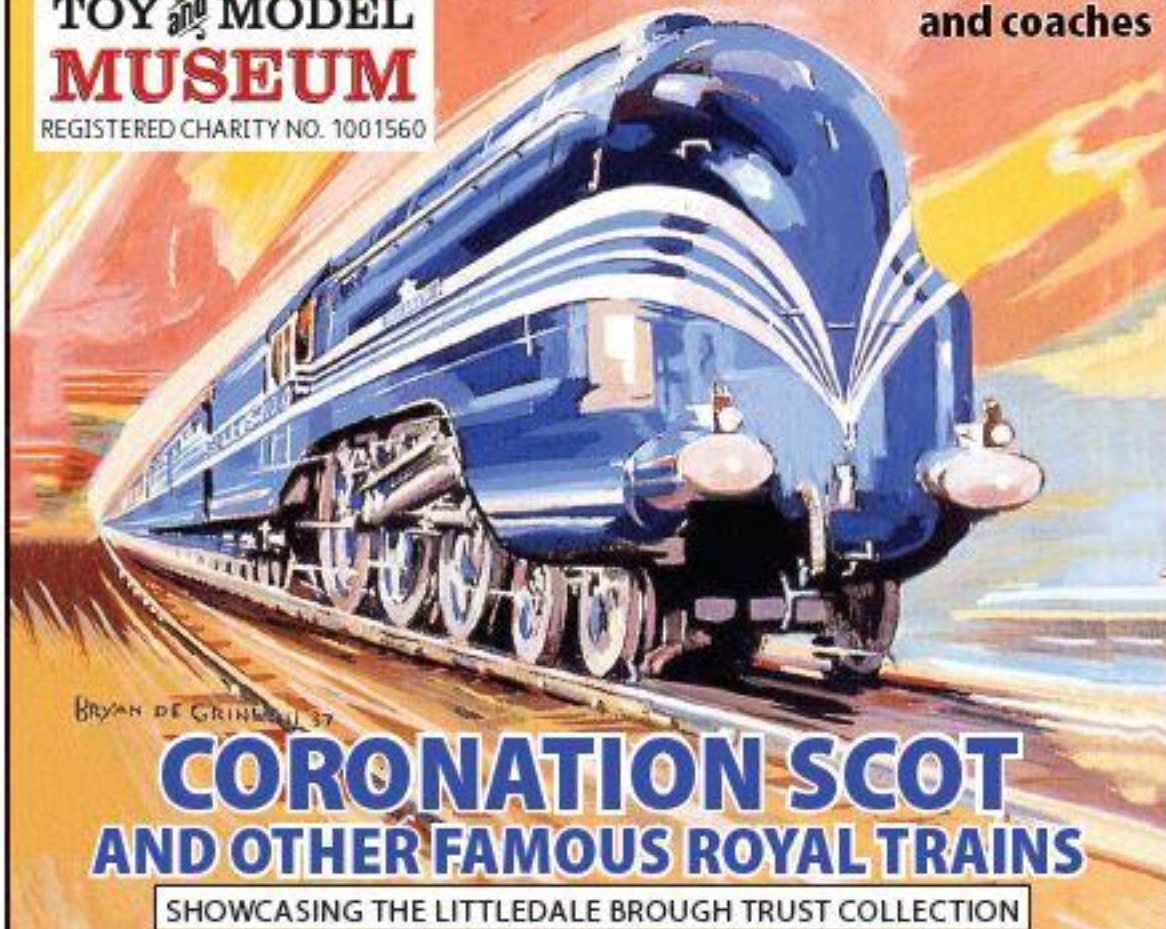
THE GREAT VINTAGE MODEL RAILWAY SHOW



**BRIGHTON
TOY and MODEL
MUSEUM**

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1001560

Featuring the unique Bassett Lowke
Coronation Locomotive
and coaches



CORONATION SCOT AND OTHER FAMOUS ROYAL TRAINS

SHOWCASING THE LITLEDAL BROUGH TRUST COLLECTION

SATURDAY MARCH 25th 2023

Museum and collector's shop open: 10.30am – 5.00pm

Train running: 11.00am – 1.00pm and 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Special event admission: Adult £10, Child £5, Family (2+3) £20

Beneath Brighton main line station, 52/55 Trafalgar St, Brighton BN1 4EB
Tel: 01273 749494 www.brightontoymuseum.co.uk

What's New

Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke Figurine

Graham Lock has further extended his figure range with something a little special. He has just announced a brand new reproduction figurine of Wenman Joseph Bassett-Lowke with his cine camera



Cast in white metal, then beautifully hand painted in a traditional style gloss finish, this lovely, collectable piece is also supplied in superb period style Bassett-Lowke repro box. Overall height of this O gauge figure is 47mm



Priced at just **£11.00** each plus P&P, Graham will make these to order so please let me know if you would like one and I will get him working on them. I would anticipate a lead time of around 2 weeks given the labour-intensive nature of these pieces.

'End of the Line' Clearance Items

One of my favourite locomotive releases of recent years has been the beautiful Adams Radial. But like all good things, it has now just about reached the 'end of the line' and I have just four pieces left to sell. There are 2 x Southern Maunsell Green and 2 x Southern Railways unlined Black.



These are brand new items with zero running time other than the quick test I do on my rolling road to ensure they are all in perfect running order. However, as they have also done some mileage over the years in the back of my van to shows, club nights and toy fairs, some of the boxes are a little worn on the edges.

For this reason, I am prepared to offer them at a discounted price of just **£420.00** each, plus P&P, a discount of **£30.00** over the normal price in order to clear them.

If you are interested, please get in touch quickly to secure one of these most elegant of Victorian locomotives. Once they are gone, they are gone!

Mineral Wagons Special 'Newsletter Exclusive' Deal

I think it is fair to say that I possibly over-ordered when I developed the mineral wagons. Sadly it was the only way I could get a cost price to make the project economically viable. They have actually sold very well by normal standards but my order was virtually double what I would normally commit to.



So, just to try to move a few more of these I am offering them at a discount **only to newsletter subscribers** and for a limited time only.

I have both Bauxite and Grey available (more grey than Bauxite) and I still have four running numbers for each schemes.

They are available now at the discounted price of **£120.00** for a set of four, plus P&P in any colour mix (were previously £150.00 for four).

Singles are also available at **£32.00** each plus P&P (were previously £39.95 each).

To recap, these feature an all metal chassis and wheels, coupled to a resin body produced in the UK by Skytrex. They have sufficient weight to hold the rails beautifully, but are considerably lighter than previously available cast metal bodied wagons, making hauling a long rake considerably easier.

These are available on a first come, first served basis, so do get in touch asap if you would like some.

...and Finally

There are also still one or two items left from my recent more general 'end of line sale'

I am offering these at some bargain prices on a first come, first served basis as always.



WJV Bass PO Wagon
2 available
£25.00 plus P&P



WJV High-Capacity Bogie Wagon
– LMS
2 x High flange wheels
£65.00 each plus P&P



DAN Toys Guy Van –
Slumberland
2 x Dinky repro box
£26.00 each plus
P&P



DAN Toys Guy Flatbeds
 236 Red/Green
 238 Dk Red/Green
 239 Dk Green/Green
£20.00 each plus P&P

Remember all items are on a first come, first served basis so please don't delay – call or email asap.

See us at Shows

This month I have tried to give a more comprehensive schedule of events going forward as far as June 2023. With rising fuel costs and a general decline in spending with cost-of-living rises, I have reduced my travelling to some of the general Toy Fairs and I am focussing instead on the Model Railway club meets and shows. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming months as we head through winter towards a hopefully brighter spring! **Do check back on these dates with each newsletter as I have already had to add, subtract or alter some events and may continue to do so as necessary.**

Tuesday Mar 28th – HRCA Cambridge Group

Fulbourn Village Library, The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn CB21 5HD
 5:30pm to 9:00pm

Sat April 1st – Beckenham Vintage Toy Train Show

St John's Church, Eden Park Avenue, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 3JN

Monday Apr 10th – HRCA Cotswolds Group

Northend Village Hall, Top Street, Northend, Warks CV47 2TN 3:30pm to 8:00pm **NOTE – This meeting has returned to its old venue**

Tuesday April 11th – Northants and Rutland O Gauge Group

Gretton Village Hall, 61 Kirby Rd, Gretton, Corby NN17 3DB
 1:00pm to 5:00pm – entry £3.00 **NOTE – another clash with HRCA Merseyside at Whitley which is a real shame but I'm afraid unavoidable. I will be at NAROGG**

Tuesday Apr 11th – HRCA Merseyside Group

Whitley Village Hall, Village Lane, Higher Whitley, Warrington, Cheshire WA4 4EJ - 2:00pm to 5:30pm **NOTE – this is a new venue (was formerly held at Preston Brook)**

Saturday April 15th - Yorkshire, Vintage Toy, Tinsplate and Live Steam Railways Fair 2023

Eccleshill Mechanics Institute, 93B Stone Hall Rd, Bradford BD2 2EW –
10:00am to 3:30pm

Monday May 8th – HRCA Cotswolds Group

Northend Village Hall, Top Street, Northend, Warks CV47 2TN 3:30pm to 8:00pm **NOTE – This meeting has returned to its old venue**

Saturday May 20th – Sandown Park (Barry Potter Fairs)

Sandown Exhibition Centre, Sandown Park Racecourse, Portsmouth Road, Esher, Surrey, KT10 9AJ - 10:30am to 3:00pm

Tuesday May 23rd – HRCA Cambridge Group

Fulbourn Village Library, The Swifts, Haggis Gap, Fulbourn CB21 5HD
5:30pm to 9:00pm

Saturday June 3rd – Bassett-Lowke Society/TCS/Trix Twin Society Combined Vintage Model Railway Show

British Motor Museum, Banbury Road, Gaydon, Warwickshire, CV35 0BJ
10:00am to 4:00pm

Monday June 12th – HRCA Cotswolds Group

Northend Village Hall, Top Street, Northend, Warks CV47 2TN 3:30pm to 8:00pm **NOTE – This meeting has returned to its old venue**

Saturday June 17th – 29th Alresford Festival of Toy Trains

Perins School, Pound Hill, Alresford, Hants, SO24 9BS
10:30am to 4:30pm

Saturday June 17th - Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day, Digswell

The Cowper Arms, 31 Station Road, Digswell, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 0EA –
10:30am to 3:30pm

Please note The Cowper Arms is next to Welwyn North Station

NOTE: this is an unfortunate clash with Alresford (see above). I have already booked and paid for the Alresford show so sadly I will not be at Digswell on this occasion.

Saturday September 16th - Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day, Digswell

The Cowper Arms, 31 Station Road, Digswell, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 0EA –
10:30am to 3:30pm

Please note The Cowper Arms is next to Welwyn North Station

Saturday December 16th - Bassett-Lowke Society Running Day, Digswell

The Cowper Arms, 31 Station Road, Digswell, Welwyn, Herts, AL6 0EA –
10:30am to 3:30pm

Please note The Cowper Arms is next to Welwyn North Station



Don't forget to like our WJVintage Facebook Page

With well over 500 Facebook 'likes', the WJVintage page is almost as popular as this newsletter! That said, many subscribers on Facebook are associates, friends and family with a passing interest in what I get up to – so not my key target audience. 😊 However, it keeps growing and all the latest news is often seen on Facebook before it appears in the newsletter as updates can be done instantly rather than monthly. If you are a member of Facebook, why not look us up and give us a 'like'?



Plus, we also now have a 'YouTube' Channel!

I have to confess, after a good start, the channel has been quiet for a while but I am pleased to say that a new video of the Atlantic running has now been posted.

I am hoping that this will be the first of many and that the videos will be able to recommence on a more regular basis in future.

Ordering from WJVintage is Easy

Online

Please use the **WJVintage** website as a shop window and then place your order by using the dropdown menu on each product page to select and submit the item you wish to purchase. This automatically sends me your details and I will be in touch to confirm your requirements and take payment. Alternatively select what you want and then give me a call or email me. Whichever method you use I will get back to you asap and I can confirm stock, particularly for highly limited items, and postage options. Please see below for full contact details.

Credit Card

We have a credit/debit card facility, so you can telephone and place your order with us by calling **07711 092497** – please have your card to hand when calling.

Cheque

If you would prefer to pay by cheque, that is no problem either. Just download the order form from our website and complete your

requirements. Then make a cheque out for the total and post both order form and cheque to us at the address shown. Please make cheques payable to **WJVintage**.

Email

Alternatively, you can place your order by email and payment can then be made either by card, PayPal, direct bank transfer or cheque. Please note our email address is: wjvintage@outlook.com

BACS

A growing number of customers are now choosing to send money direct to my account by BACS transfer. If you would like to use this method, please contact me and I will send you my bank account details.

Stay Safe Everyone!

Paul

WJVintage

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