

The APHA History Update Project

The Utility of the APHA History Project for Education, Advocacy and Teaching

APHA and MPHI



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Images of Public Health History



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OLD STYLE



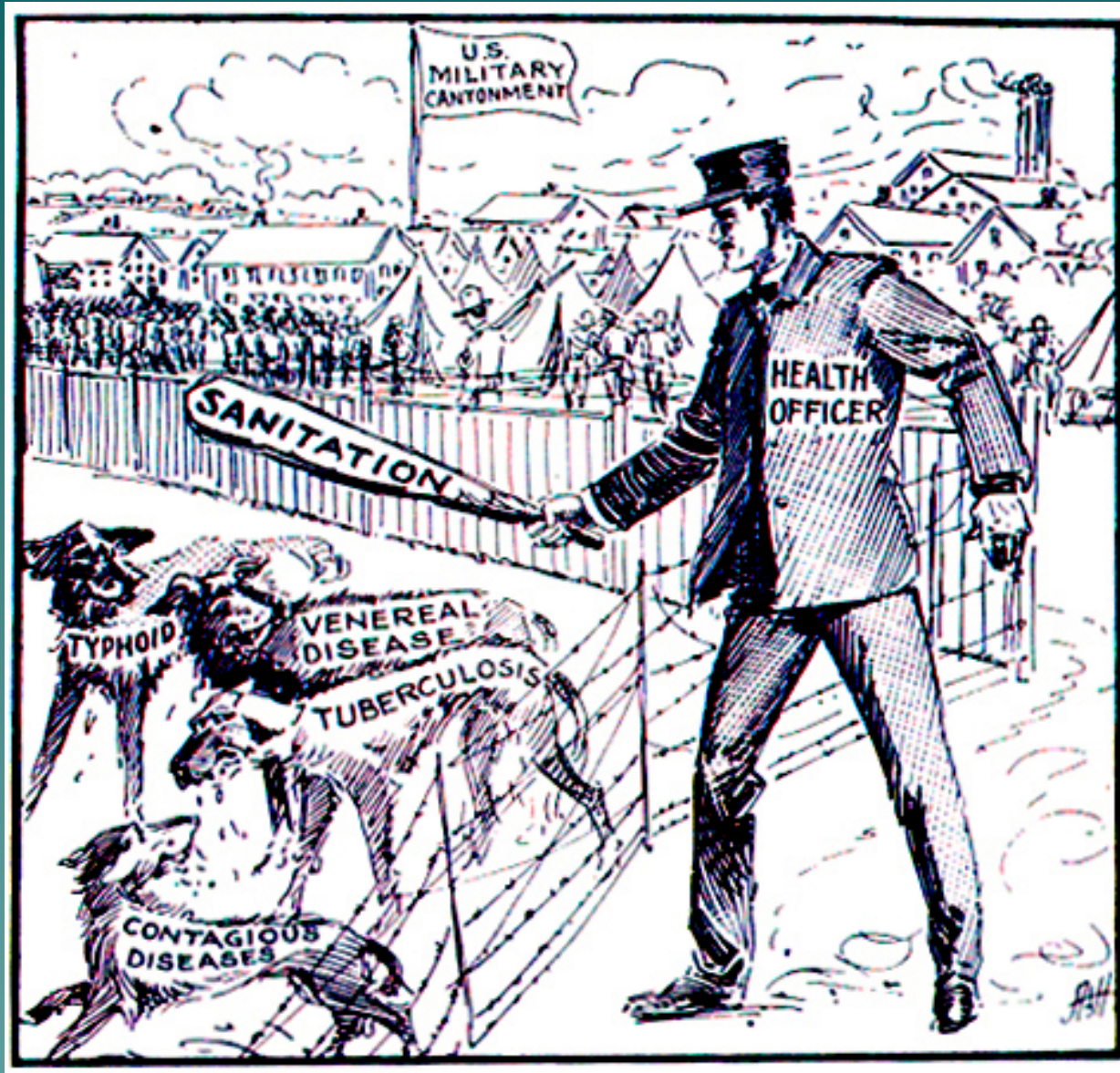
PANDEMICS



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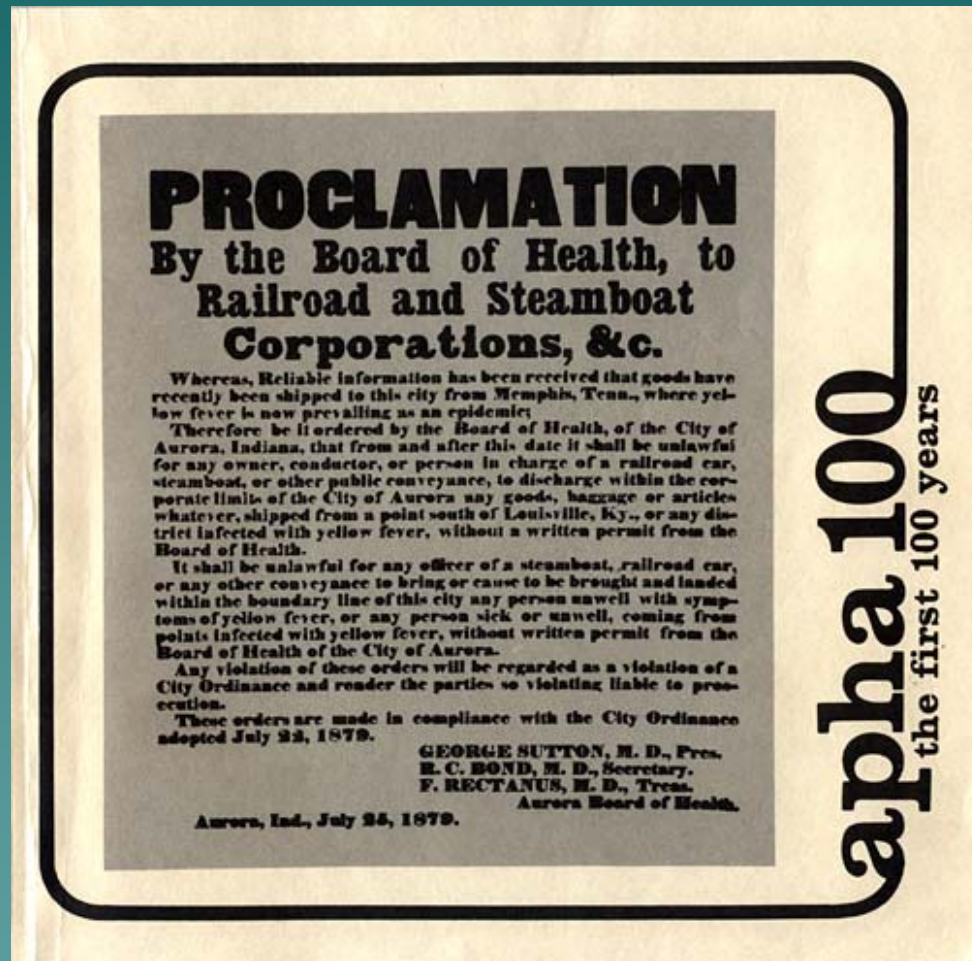
BACK TO THE FUTURE?



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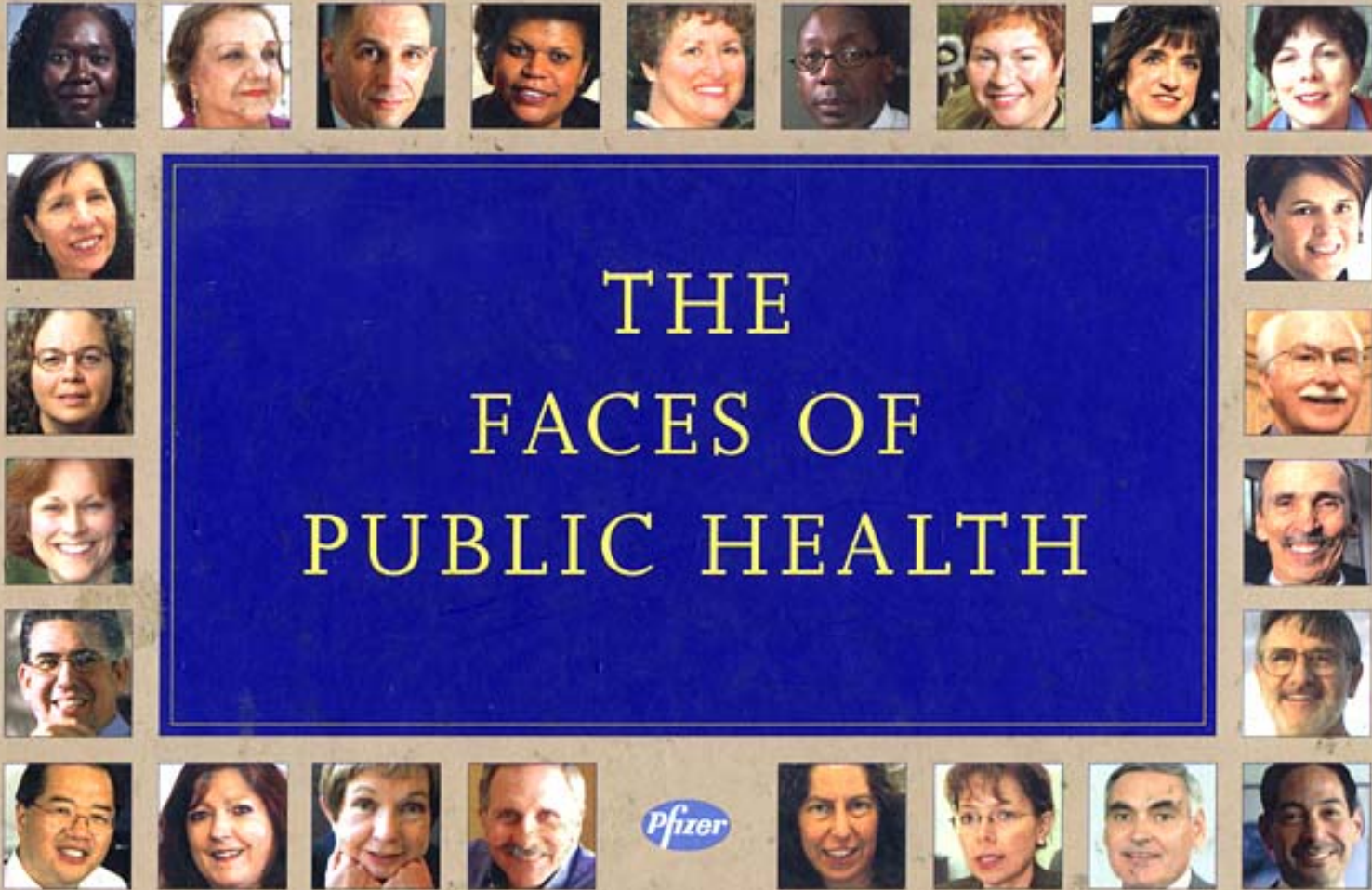
BOOKS



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THE
FACES OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



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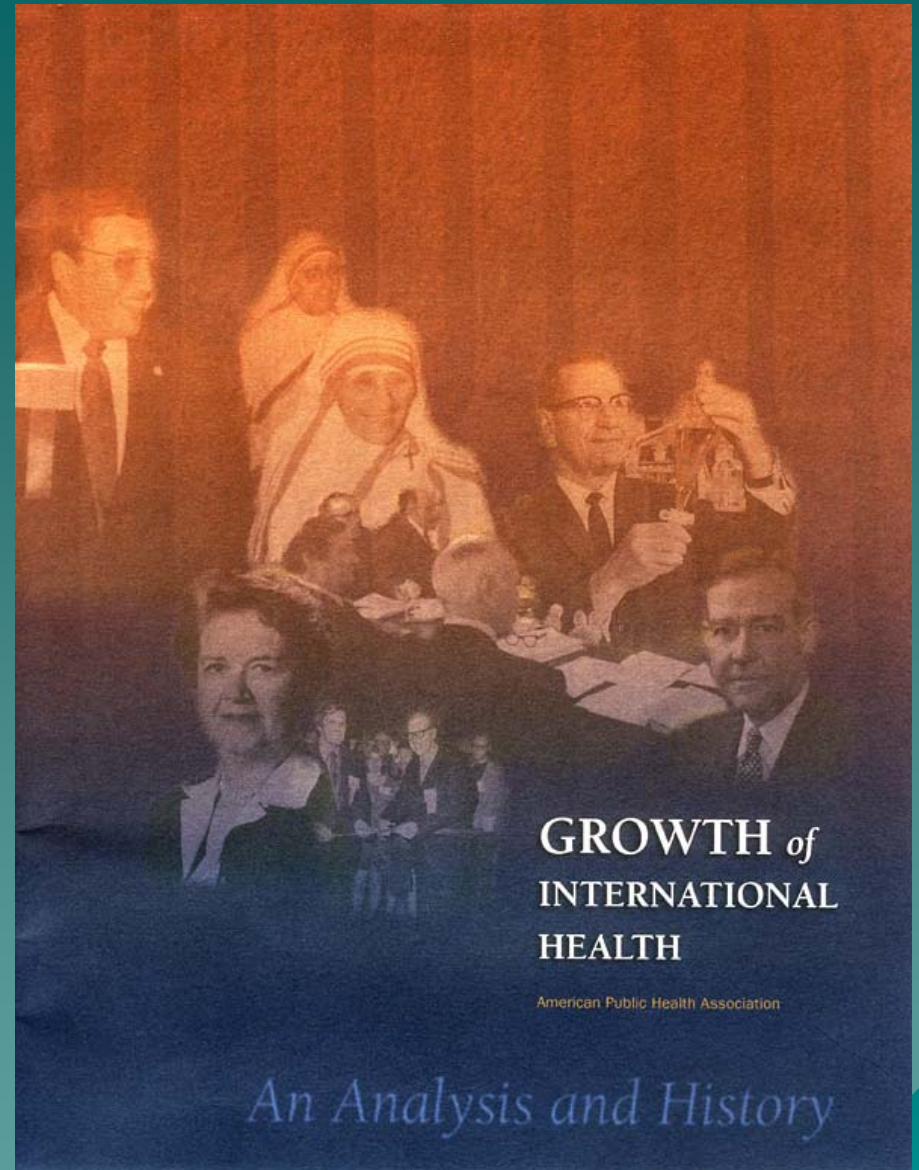
ASPH
ASSOCIATION OF
SCHOOLS OF
PUBLIC HEALTH



A History of ASPH 1941-2001



By
Michael K. Gemmell



GROWTH of
INTERNATIONAL
HEALTH

American Public Health Association

An Analysis and History

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WEB

Cholera Online: A Modern Pandemic in Texts and Images

Introduction
Read the Books
View the Images

Contact Information
Copyright Information

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History is a Personal Story: Telling our Story is Our Foundation to Create Our Future

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- ◆ But organizing the rich set of resources, most widely dispersed, is at the heart of our Project
- ◆ It is a story of “Facts” but as Herodotus reminds us it is an Ethical Quest as encapsulated in the Public Health mission of seeking “Health for All”

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- ◆ It is a fabric woven of diverse strands in keeping with the diversity of the people and events of public health history
- ◆ It is our history so it is critical to engage our membership and public health colleagues

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**“There is nothing new
under the sun
other than the history you
have not read yet.”**

– *Harry S. Truman*

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OBJECTIVES of THIS TALK

- The plans to identify and synthesize the sources
- Updating our history
- The collateral utility of the history update project
- How APHA membership and affiliates can participate

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What are Examples of the Diversity and Outreach?

- ◆ Written histories: APHA membership groups and affiliates, related health associations
- ◆ Invite contributions: fill in the missing pieces, or update
- ◆ Multimedia: recordings, photos, physical exhibits and video

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What are Examples of the Diversity and Outreach? (cont.)

- ◆ Links to sources: academic and government centers
- ◆ Museums and collections
- ◆ Plans to add and update with living histories

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Images from the History of The Public Health Service

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services • Public Health Service



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The Public Health Museum in Massachusetts

Linking the past with the present and promoting the future of Public Health through preservation and education



United States
National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health



Partners
in Information Access for
the Public Health Workforce



The Public Health Museum of Texas
Celebrating the living legacy of Public Health in Texas



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First Step: Organize

- ◆ Nancy Bernstein in her preface wrote to APHA 100, the first 100 years wrote:

“The strength of the Association...has been its members...it is unfortunate that so few of the people that shaped the character of APHA have been mentioned”.

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PROCLAMATION

By the Board of Health, to Railroad and Steamboat Corporations, &c.

Whereas, Reliable information has been received that goods have recently been shipped to this city from Memphis, Tenn., where yellow fever is now prevailing as an epidemic;

Therefore be it ordered by the Board of Health, of the City of Aurora, Indiana, that from and after this date it shall be unlawful for any owner, conductor, or person in charge of a railroad car, steamboat, or other public conveyance, to discharge within the corporate limits of the City of Aurora any goods, baggage or articles whatever, shipped from a point south of Louisville, Ky., or any district infected with yellow fever, without a written permit from the Board of Health.

It shall be unlawful for any officer of a steamboat, railroad car, or any other conveyance to bring or cause to be brought and landed within the boundary line of this city any person unwell with symptoms of yellow fever, or any person sick or unwell, coming from points infected with yellow fever, without written permit from the Board of Health of the City of Aurora.

Any violation of these orders will be regarded as a violation of a City Ordinance and render the parties so violating liable to prosecution.

These orders are made in compliance with the City Ordinance adopted July 23, 1879.

GEORGE SUTTON, M. D., Pres.
E. C. BOND, M. D., Secretary.
F. RECTANUS, M. D., Treas.
Aurora Board of Health.

Aurora, Ind., July 24, 1879.

alpha 100
the first 100 years

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First Step: Organize (cont.)

- ◆ When traveling on behalf of APHA I found that so much of our past was not known...yet within each state or locale there were often many sources of public health history and efforts to transmit this

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First Step: Organize (cont.)

- ◆ And we know The Association's resources for example our Journal on Public Health Then and Now
- ◆ **Conclusion:** the first task is to organize and synthesize the diversity of experience, institutional, personal and collateral public health fields and affinity organizations

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Step 2: Synthesize

- ◆ Update chronology and events
- ◆ Identify themes that will add to understanding
- ◆ In the cyber age create a living-dynamic repository

Conclusion: guiding committee, develop the collection and identification plan

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Step 3: Products and Diffusion Plans

- ◆ Update events to the present for our “second 100 years”
- ◆ Create a dynamic site to add material
- ◆ Provide platform for synthesis of multi media

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Step 3: Products and Diffusion Plans (cont.)

- ◆ Open portal for comment and professional engagement
- ◆ Disseminate! Disseminate! Disseminate!

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Beyond the Update: **Collateral Utility of the History Update Project**

Public need for talks, sources,
education or advocacy opportunities

Produce packages of materials on
specific topics or access links

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Beyond the Update: (cont.)

Collateral Utility of the History Update Project

- Facilitate and build connections for communications and support for APHA and the Public Health Field more generally

- MPHI History of Public Health Open courseware project

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MPHI HISTORY PROJECT and UNDERGRADUATE K-12 COURSE WARE DEVELOPMENT

- ◆ Identified need for updatable course content on aspects of public health, community, family and individual
- ◆ Use the basis of the APHA History project to derive and build on the synthesis of APHA and Public Health Field events

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MPHI HISTORY PROJECT and UNDERGRADUATE K-12 COURSE WARE DEVELOPMENT (cont.)

- ◆ Updatable, authoritative public health “news you can use” educational materials undergraduate, K-12
- ◆ “Public health literacy” is an identified need
- ◆ Informal “market testing” indicates the support and utility

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What can you do?

- ◆ This session is to describe our first steps and engage our members, please bring the word forward
- ◆ Suggest who else may participate
- ◆ Identify sources of materials
- ◆ Ideas for opportunities and funding

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What can you do?

" We cannot change history but we must study it to inform our future; we cannot assure our future but we must seek to influence it". —unknown

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It is Our History and One to Be Shared

- ◆ Making the “invisible” public health visible
- ◆ The Role of public health professionals and APHA in the local, national and global world
- ◆ Reflect the turbulent odyssey of public health as a field of science and practice, as a value, right and basic foundation of civic security and well being

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Stephen Smith in 1921 at age 98, addressing APHA members on the 50th Anniversary of APHA

“So let us on this most auspicious anniversary look backward and learn the lessons of experience which it teaches before we take a step into the uncharted future.”



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