University of Nebraska at Omaha
21st Annual Batchelder Conference
on
Archaeology and Biblical Studies
November 14-16, 2019
Thompson Center
6705 Dodge Street
Omaha, Nebraska 68182

Photo: Hanan Shafir
Moon God Stele - Bethsaida, Summer 2019
Greetings…

Welcome to the 21st Annual Batchelder Conference on Archaeology and Biblical Studies!

We have an exciting variety of presentations from scholars in North America and abroad, including our plenary speakers – Dr. Shimon Gibson (UNC Charlotte), Dr. Menahem Mor (Haifa University), and Dr. Eric Cline (George Washington University).

On behalf of the UNO Religious Studies department, we are honored to organize and host the Batchelder Conference annually. This year, we are particularly pleased and grateful to have two co-sponsoring units: the Natan and Hannah Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies, and the Ancient Mediterranean Studies Minor program.

We hope that you enjoy a stimulating and productive exchange of ideas about archaeology and biblical studies!

Feel free to contact me at pwilliams@unomaha.edu for more information concerning Religious Studies at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Welcome to the 21st Annual Batchelder Conference for Archaeology and Biblical Studies. As usual, the conference entwines presentations on a variety of topics related to biblical studies, archaeological finds, and archaeological hard science methods. This year we continue reporting on the new field of archaeology, named Holocaust Archaeology. Saturday morning will be dedicated to profound discussion on the archaeology of the relating to the 1st century surrounding Bethsaida and the area relating to the Galilee.

The Batchelder Conference welcomes Dr. Eric Cline, Chair and Director of the George Washington University Capitol Archaeological Institute. In addition, we welcome Dr. Shimon Gibson, the Professor of Practice in the History Department from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he serves as Co-Director of the world renown Mount Zion Excavation in Jerusalem. This year Batchelder is adding a luncheon just prior to the lecture by Dr. Menahem Mor, a distinguished scholar from Haifa University, will bring clarity and insight to the Bar Kokhba Revolt.

Thank you for coming and for being a part of this visionary conference. Feel free to contact me at rarav@unomaha.edu or Staci Geis at sgeis@unomaha.edu for further Batchelder Conference information.
Mission Statement and Brief History of the Batchelder Conference

Anne Batchelder established the fund for the Annual Batchelder Conference on Archaeology and Biblical Studies in memory of her late husband Clifton B. Batchelder. Mr. Batchelder, known as “Batch,” was a Silver Star decorated officer for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action while serving with the 2d Armored Division during World War II. In addition, he was a longtime supporter of the Bethsaida Excavation Project and the conference in its initial stages.

The conference facilitates a group of about 15 international scholars to gather each year and dedicate a two and one-half days of discussion on current issues in archaeology and biblical studies. Over the past 21 years, thousands of students, community members, and guests from around the world have attended.

Pottery in situ at Bethsaida. Photo: Hanan Shafir

Batchelder Archaeology and Biblical Studies Conference Committee

Dr. Paul Williams, Chair University of Nebraska at Omaha Religious Studies
Dr. Rami Arav University of Nebraska at Omaha Religious Studies
Dr. Gloria J. Epps University of Nebraska at Omaha Religious Studies
Dr. Jeannette Gabriel University of Nebraska at Omaha Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies
Dr. Jeanne Reames University of Nebraska at Omaha History and Ancient Mediterranean Studies

Photo: Hanan Shafir
# Conference Schedule

**Thursday, November 14, 2019**

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<td>5:00 pm</td>
<td>Opening Registration</td>
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<td>5:45–7:15 pm</td>
<td>Buffet Dinner (RSVP only)</td>
<td>Severa Parlor</td>
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<td>6:15 pm</td>
<td>Greetings</td>
<td>Dr. Rami Arav</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 – 8:50 pm</td>
<td>Opening Plenary Session</td>
<td>Bootstrapper Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Welcome</td>
<td>Dr. Paul Williams</td>
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<td>Introduction of Speaker</td>
<td>Dr. Curtis Hutt, Religious Studies</td>
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**Dr. Shimon Gibson** *(University of North Carolina at Charlotte)*

"Recent Archaeological Discoveries on Mount Zion, Jerusalem"

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**Dr. Shimon Gibson**

**Mount Zion Archaeological Project**

University of North Carolina Charlotte

**Biblical Reference Map of Jerusalem**
Conference Schedule

Friday, November 15, 2019

8:30-9:00 am Gathering in Centennial Hall

Session I Presider, Dr. Rami Arav, University of Nebraska at Omaha

9:00-10:15 am
Dr. Harry Jol, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
“Looking into Bethsaida over the Years: A Subsurface Ground Penetrating Radar Perspective”

Ethan Sailer-Haugland
“Subsurface Imaging at the Usha Archaeological Excavation” (Israel) Preliminary Results

Logan Bergevin
“Locating an Anchorage at Tel Akko (Israel) Using Subsurface Imaging” 2019 Results

10:15-11:00 am
Dr. James Tabor, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
“The Cenacle on Mt. Zion: An Update on New Research and Recent Archaeological Surveys”

11:00-11:45 am
Dr. Richard Freud, Christopher Newport University
“Holocaust Archaeology of Synagogues and Mikvaot”

11:45-12:00 Break

12:00-12:50 pm Lunch–Centennial Hall (All attending conference are welcome)

1:00-2:00 pm

Dr. Menahem Mor (Haifa University)
“History vs. Archaeology: The Bar Kokhba Revolt as a Case Study”

Menahem Mor

Jewish Virtual Library

133-134 C.E.
## Conference Schedule

### Session II  
**Presider, Dr. Paul A. Williams (University of Nebraska at Omaha)**

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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| 2:00-2:45 pm | Dr. Elizabeth McNamer, Rocky Mountain College  
“The Case for Bethsaida in Understanding the Historical Jesus”  |
| 2:45-3:00 pm | Break                                                                |
| 3:00-4:45 pm | **A Festschrift in Honor of Dr. Rami Arav**  
(University of Nebraska at Omaha)  
Dr. Richard Freund, Christopher Newport University  
Dr. Fred Strickert, Wartburg College  
“Bethsaida Excavations and Beyond:  
32 Years of Geo-science and Archaeology”  |
| 4:45-5:00 pm | Break                                                                |
| 5:15-6:45 pm | Dinner Break, Centennial Hall *(All attending conference are welcome.)* |
| 7:00-8:30 pm | **Plenary Speaker, Bootstrapper Hall**  
Dr. Eric Cline, George Washington University  
“Digging Up Armageddon: Chicago’s Search for Solomon’s City at Biblical Megiddo, 1925-1939” |

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**Dr. Eric Cline**

**Haas and Schwartz Megiddo Gallery**  
Human-headed Winged Bull  
Oriental Institute, Excavated 1928-1935.  
Public Domain
Conference Schedule

Saturday, November 15, 2019

8:30-9:00 am  Gathering in Centennial Hall

Session III

Presider, Dr. Gloria J. Epps (University of Nebraska at Omaha)

9:00-9:45 am  Dr. Fred Strickert, Wartburg College
“The Misuse of the Name Herod Philip”

9:45-10:30 am  Dr. Mark Appold, Truman State University
“Acceptance or Rejection: Bethsaida and the Birth of the Jesus Movement”

10:30-11:15 am  Dr. Carl Savage, Drew University
“The Herodian Oil Lamps of Magdala”

11:15-12:00  Dr. Emmit Wilson, Bethsaida Long Time Volunteer
“The Saga of the Wall: Three Seasons in Area C-29”

12:00-1:00 pm  Lunch - Centennial Hall
(All attending the Conference are welcome!)

Greek God Silenus on Oil Lamp, Second Century BCE
Photo: Hanan Shafir

Moon God Stele
Bethsaida, Summer 2019
Photo: Hanan Shafir

Dr. Elizabeth McNamer
Supervisor Area C
Photo: Hanan Shafir
Conference Schedule

Session IV

Presider, Dr. Carl Savage (Drew University)

1:00-1:45 pm  Dr. Curtis Hutt, University of Nebraska at Omaha
“On the Study of Ancient Subaltern religious Practices”

1:45-2:15 pm  Dr. Jeanne Reames, University of Nebraska at Omaha
“Mapping Identity in Greece and Magna Graecia: The Case of Hephaisiton”

2:15-3:00 pm  Dr. Phillip Reeder, Duquesne University
“Using Air Photos, Satellite Images, and Map Overlays to Locate Sites of Archaeological Significance in Lithuania”

3:00-3:45 pm  Dr. Stefania Peluso, Zinman Institute of Archaeology, Haifa University
“A Rare Symposium and Kottabos at Bethsaida”

3:45-4:30 pm  Ann Haverkost, University of Nebraska at Omaha
“A New Iconic Stele and High Place at Bethsaida”

4:15-5:00 pm  Dr. Rami Arav, University of Nebraska at Omaha
“The Maneuvers of Josephus in the Bethsaida Plain”
Remarks and Closing of Conference

Marble Portrait of Hephaisiton
J. Paul Getty Museum
About 320 B.C.E.

Fresco from the Tomb of Diver, 475 BCE
Kottabos Players, Center
Paestum National Museum, Italy.

The Galilean Campaign, 67 CE
According to Josephus - Josephus.org
Dr. Mark Appold-Truman State University

“Acceptance or Rejection: Bethsaida and the Birth of the Jesus Movement”
Unique to the Fourth Gospel is the connection made between Bethsaida, the small fishing village on the northeast corner of the Sea of Galilee and five of the first followers of Jesus who lived and worked there and who, though illiterate and untrained, played extraordinary roles in the emergence of the early Church. Archaeological work at the Bethsaida site, whose illustrious yet impoverished past had slipped from historical view for almost two millennia, has now helped to contextualize this part of the Jesus Movement. Two earlier textual traditions, Q and Mark, contain harsh judgement against Bethsaida for its rejection of the deeds of power done in its midst. The aim of this paper is to clarify the tension between the acceptance and rejection motifs associated with Bethsaida as well as to trace the movement of the “Bethsaida Five” who abandoned their homes and work places in their move from Bethsaida to Jerusalem. There the experience of Jesus’ crucifixion and resurrection events became central to their witness and interaction with Hellenistic and traditionalist Jews. Those pivotal experiences were cut short by renewed persecution under the two Agrippas which led to yet another decisive move into the Diaspora where in new environments they reversed the earlier signs of Bethsaida’s judgement and left indelible marks in the creation and spread of the Jesus Movement and its new kerygma.

Dr. Rami Arav-University of Nebraska at Omaha, Professor of Religious Studies

“Josephus’ Military Maneuvers in the Bethsaida Plain.”
In the middle of the first century, there was a severe climate change; several years of extreme drought caused the level of the Sea of Galilee and the Dead Sea to drop to an unprecedented level of about 9 feet from its former level. It took nature 150 years to restore the old level of the lakes. This drop of the Sea of Galilee coincided with the First Jewish Revolt against Agrippa II the last Herodian king and his patrons, the Roman Empire. At the onset of the revolt, Agrippa II sent a unit of mercenaries headed by a Roman officer named Sylla to blockade the routes to rebellious Gamla and Seleucia. The unit built up a fortified camp in the plain of Bethsaida on the exposed sea shore where the roads to the two cities divert from the main route coming from Galilee. Wishing to remove the blockade, Josephus together with his comrade, Jeremiah, challenged the Romans, but a mishap during the charge caused Josephus horse to collapse in the swamp near the camp. Josephus fell and broke his arm. His comrades lost the spirit of the war and retreated.

The maneuvers of Josephus help us to understand the settlement pattern of the plain, and to suggest that the Roman camp was recently discovered by the expeditions of Moti Aviam and Steven Notley.
Dr. Eric Cline-George Washington University, Professor of Classics, Anthropology and History

“Digging Up Armageddon: Chicago’s Search for Solomon’s City at Biblical Megiddo, 1925-1939”

The numerous publications produced by the Chicago excavators who dug at Megiddo from 1925-1939 are still held in high regard – both used and debated -- by archaeologists working in the region today. However, these provide virtually no insight into the daily activities of the team members or the stories behind their discoveries, including what are still commonly called “Solomon’s Stables.” Fortunately, they also left behind more than three decades worth of letters, cablegrams, cards, and notes, as well as their diaries, that are now in the archives of the Oriental Institute. Based on the forthcoming book entitled Digging Up Armageddon by the speaker, some of the more interesting details will be shared in this lecture, including the fact that the excavations almost ended just one week after they began; that they paid rent for the excavated land to the wrong people for the first three years; that team members included a high school dropout and a possible spy for the Haganah; and that they were the first, or among the first, to use a Munsell color chart and balloon photography on an excavation in the Near East.

Dr. Richard Freund-Christopher Newport University, Bertram and Gladys Professor Aaron Endowed Professorship in Jewish Studies

“Holocaust Archaeology of Synagogues and Mikvaot”

During the past five years I have been working in the Great Synagogue of Vilna and the Great Synagogue of Rhodes and I have been comparing synagogue types of other synagogues in the regions and the attached mikvaot. In this paper, I will explore both.

Dr. Shimon Gibson-University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Professor of Practice in the History Department

“Recent Archaeological Discoveries on Mount Zion, Jerusalem (Israel)”

With over 100 research articles and several books published, Dr. Gibson is Professor of Practice in the Department of History at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Trained at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, where he earned his PhD, he has conducted excavations in Israel for over twenty years. Currently, he co-directs the Mt. Zion Archaeological Project (Jerusalem) with Dr. James Tabor. Discoveries range from coins to private homes and government structures. “The Mount Zion Project advances research and teaching in the humanities by bringing together students, scholars, and a diverse range of professionals in the study and practice of cultural transformation. Using the two thousand-year window opened by our Mount Zion archaeological excavation as a reference point, we examine the global significance of questions raised by the past, present, and future of this contested sacred city.”(https://digmountzion.com/)
Ann Haverkost-University of Nebraska at Omaha

“A New Iconic Stele and High Place at Bethsaida.”
The 2019 season at Bethsaida focused on exposing more of the Area A Stratum VI city gate complex dating to the 11th to the 10th centuries BCE where a new iconic stele and high place were discovered. The iconic stele and high place were located on the corner of the southeast tower in the courtyard “between the two gates.” It is the sixth and oldest stele ever found of this image and the second at Bethsaida. The icon has been identified as the moon-god of Haran, but, according to some scholars, it has similarities to the storm god Haddad of Damascus. The moon god was a major cult for the Aramaeans and it seems that the Kingdom of Geshur and Bethsaida, its capital city, adhered to the Aramean north until its destruction. This major find adds further evidence for the ancient site’s links to the north. It clearly shows that despite the differences and gaps in occupation between Stratum VI and V (~850 BCE-732 BCE), the population of Bethsaida still remained the same.

Dr. Curtis Hutt-University of Nebraska at Omaha,

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, in her 1988 publication, “Can the Subaltern Speak?” famously challenges the ability of scholars – educated and operating within the dominating power structures of oftentimes European colonizing transnational political and religious movements to ever grasp subaltern religion. This cynicism logically extends to the work of ancient historians investigating the obscured religious traditions of past cultures that have been overlooked, overwhelmed, and suppressed. In this paper, I lay out a restrained strategy inspired largely by the French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu for circumventing deceptive social imaginaries. Specifically targeted are instances of “historical blindness” that conceal subaltern pasts.

Dr. Harry Jol-University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire, Professor of Geography and Anthropology

“Putting Archaeological Sites into Context: How Geomorphology and Subsurface Imaging Can Aid in Better Understanding Sites in Israel and Lithuania.” A proponent for years of GPR, Dr. Jol discusses the benefits of subsurface imaging, particularly in archaeology, and how it has made a difference in recent research in both Israel and Lithuania. His handbook highlights its usage for both scholars and the newcomer.

Ethan Sailer-Haugland, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

“Subsurface Imaging at the Usha Archaeological Excavations (Israel): Preliminary Results”
Logan Bergevin, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

“Locating an Anchorage at Tel Akko (Israel) using Subsurface Imaging: 2019 Results”

Dr. Menahem Mor-Haifa University, Dean of the Faculty of the Humanities

“History versus Archaeology: The Bar Kokhba Revolt (132-135) as a Case Study”
The lack of detailed historical sources describing the Bar Kokhba Revolt, created many scholarly disagreements, in regard to the territorial extension of the Second Revolt. In center of the disputes, is the northern region, the Galilee. Can archaeological findings support and help to solve the historical disputes? During the 1970s, archaeological testimony was discovered of the existence of a Roman military camp in the area of Tel Shalem, south of Beth Shean (Scythopolis). Main attention was given to the bronze sculpture of the Roman Emperor Hadrian and to the fragments of a huge inscription written in Latin. Researchers dated the find to the year 136 CE and made use of it to describe the final stages of the Bar Kokhba revolt which, in their opinion, had spread also to the region of the Galilee. In 2014, near the Shechem Gate in Jerusalem, a new Latin inscription was exposed, a dedication by the Tenth Legion in honor of the visit to Jerusalem of the Roman Emperor Hadrian in the year 130. The lecture deals with the contribution made by both of the above-mentioned inscriptions, which complement each other, to the understanding the chronology of the events associated with the antecedents of the Bar Kokhba revolt.

Dr. Elizabeth McNamer-Rocky Mountain College, Zerek Chair Religious Studies

“The Case for Bethsaida in Understanding the Historical Jesus”
Saint Jerome, ensconced in his cell in Bethlehem, translating the Bible into Latin in the 4th century writes:

Just as one can understand Greek historians better when one has seen Athens, so one can understand Scripture better when one has seen Judea and discover what still remains of ancient towns. That is why I myself take care to travel through this land.

Bethsaida must be taken into account in understanding the historical Jesus and early Christianity.

Dr. Stefania Peluso-Haifa University

“First Comparison of Kottabos Game in Israel”
The objective of the article is the investigating of the sherds belonging to the vase with the scene of a kottabos and symposium couching in light the connection between the kottabos game and the symposium culture. The aim is to understand the real meaning of the presence of the symposium on the pottery and investigate the connection with the local culture of the city of Bethsaida. The symposium pattern has, in fact, connected with a different meaning: changing the pattern and the cultural area from which it is expressed, and changing the message and the purpose of the scene.
Dr. Jeanne Reames - University of Nebraska at Omaha, Director Ancient Mediterranean Studies

“Mapping Identity in Greece and Magna Graecia: The Case of Hephaistian”
An epigraphical survey (with digital mapping component) of Greece and Magna Graecia reveals a pattern as to where Hephaist-based names appear, up through the second century BCE. Furthermore, cult for the god Hephaistos—long recognized as a non-Greek borrowing—was popular primarily in Attic-Ionian and “Pelasgian” regions, precisely the same areas where we find Hephaist-root names. This epigraphic (and religious) record calls into question the assumed Macedonian ethnicity of the king’s best friend and alter-ego, Hephaestion, as Macedonian naming patterns followed distinctively non-Attic patterns, and cult for the god Hephaistos is absent in Macedonia (outside Samothrace).

Dr. Phillip Reeder-Duquesne University, Dean and Professor of Bayer School of Natural and Environmental Sciences

“Using Air Photos, Satellite Images, and Map Overlays to Locate Sites of Archaeological Significance in Lithuania”
As part of any project that collects and analyzes data related to physical features in an archaeological context, at and near the surface of the Earth, it is important to not only collect this data, but to depict it as well. Since 2015 I have been part of a multidisciplinary research team consisting of geoscientists, geophysicists, archaeologists, and historians that have been researching the holocaust in Lithuania. One of the main components of the research designs for the various projects is how science can be used to write and/or rewrite history. By analyzing and/or combining data collected via Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), Electrical Resistivity Tomography (ERT), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), land surface surveying and mapping, and spatial and archival analysis, new information can be added to the base of knowledge related to holocaust sites in Lithuania. Based on this body of research, and the maps, diagrams and reports that have been generated, new, important details have emerged that has added substantial information to the base of knowledge on the holocaust in Lithuania.

Dr. Emmet Wilson - Volunteer

“The Saga of the Wall: Three Seasons in Area C-29”
Emmet Wilson has been a dedicated volunteer for a number of dig seasons. Digging predominately in Area C, Emmet gained an insight into the types of artifacts emerging and a knowledge of the inherent value of some of those artifacts. Emmet, along with others, was recognized in 2012 for his long time support and participation in the Bethsaida Excavations Project.
Presenters and Abstracts

Dr. Carl Savage - Drew University
“The Herodian Lamps of Magdala”
This paper is an examination of a sample of the corpus of oil lamps found at Magdala. These all derive from a single first century CE strata. The overwhelming number of the lamps surveyed were clearly of the “Herodian” type, identified easily by the bow spouted nozzle that is characteristic of these lamps. Almost all the lamps found at Magdala in the first century CE stratum were determined to be Herodian oil lamps. This high occurrence of Herodian lamps is a clear indicator the Jewish ethnicity of the population since it compares most closely to other attested Jewish sites in the Galilee. With that background, a multi-element analysis was performed using Inductively Coupled Plasma-Optical Emission Spectrometry (ICP-OES). Herodian lamps of the Magdala are indeed indicative of a Jewish community that held tightly to a connection with Jerusalem and shared this with the other Jewish communities in the Galilee.

Dr. Fred Strickert - Professor Emeritus, Wartburg College
“The Misuse of the Name Herod Philip”
It is not unusual today to find a Family Tree of Herod's Family that mentions the name "Herod Philip," not just once, but twice—once for the son of Mariamme 2, the other for the son of Cleopatra of Jerusalem. The origin of this theory of two "Herod Philips" comes not from ancient sources, but from a mistranslation of Josephus by William Whiston in the 18th century. The primary focus of this presentation will focus on Philip the Tetrarch, especially in his use of his name "Philip" on coins—in contrast to Archelaus and Antipas. Coin evidence for the latter two brothers suggests that "Herod" was not used as a name but as a title, first for Archelaus, then for Antipas, but not for Philip. The single instance in Josephus where "Antipas" and "Herod" occurs in the same sentence is carefully worded to indicate that "Herod" was more than just a simple name.

Dr. James Tabor - University of North Carolina at Charlotte
“The Cenacle on Mt. Zion: An Update on New Research and Recent Archaeological Surveys.” A survey and overview of old and new archaeological work in and around the Cenacle/Tomb of David on Mt Zion in Jerusalem in correlation with historical sources and interpretive scenarios. Special attention to the recent IAA sponsored probes conducted by Amit Reem as well as subterranean surveys under the Dormitian Abby. The recent publication by David Christian Clausen, The Upper Room and Tomb of David: The History, Art and Archaeology of the Cenacle on Mt Zion (McFarland: 2016) will be reviewed as a point of reference as well as Bargil Pixner’s work from the 1990s.
Thank You! to each conference attendee, to the UNO staff and to the conference speakers. A special Thank You! to the Batchelder Foundation, the Schwalb Center for Israel and Jewish Studies, and to the Ancient Mediterranean Studies Minor Program for your support, your compassion, your creativity, and your commitment. This conference would not have been possible without you.

להתראות!

Dr. Rami Arav – UNO Religious Studies
Dr. Gloria J. Epps – UNO Religious Studies
Dr. Jeannette Gabriel – UNO Religious Studies

Dr. Jeanne Reames – UNO History Department
Dr. Paul A. Williams – Chair, UNO Religious Studies

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