



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear CSSS Members:

In this my first message as CSSS-president in the New Year, I have become acutely aware of the passage of time. I am sure that for all CSSS members it will be more than the usual mixed emotions of transition from an old to a new year as they read in this newsletter of the passing of two long serving soil scientists Wilber Daniel Holland and Justin Alexander McKeague. Even a casual reading of their obituaries, can not but impress the reader with their strength of character and dedication to soil science and civic responsibilities. As an example, Soil Science Society members are probably aware of the contributions of Alex McKeague to the Society as author of earlier versions of the 'methods manual' and service as CSSS-president in 1972 but less aware of his post retirement social activities which included participation in a foundation to redistribute wealth from the affluent to the poor of the world. An object lesson for us all that the time to participate and share our expertise is short and the moment is always now.

On the theme of participation I would like to congratulate Dan Pennock as he assumes his duties as the new President-Elect and Jim Miller who was elected Western Councillor. Both have already made the transition to the yoke of service on our behalf - Jim with responsibilities in updating our web site and Dan serving on the presidential subcommittee seeking to modernize the CSSS-image. Anne Naeth returns her full focus to academic life after her multiple years of presidential service to the Society. Our collective thanks also go to Xijing Hao who ably completed her term as Western Councillor. Continuing to provide Council with their expertise in 2007 are Frank Larney as Editor of the Canadian Journal of Soil Science, Sina Adl as Eastern Councillor and newsletter Editor, Newton Lupwayi as Secretary, Don Flaten as Treasurer and Dean Mackenzie as Graduate Student Representative. Steve Sheppard at ECOMatters, who manages the business office for CSSS, continues to provide sterling services exemplified by his comprehensive communication with members via E-mail. I would also personally like to thank Craig Drury for his leadership on Council over the past year. His longtime experience in Society affairs will be an asset as he moves into his new role as Past-President to concentrate on international issues and liaison with Denis Angers and L'Association Québécoise des spécialistes en service des sols (AQSSS) for this year's annual meeting.

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This year's annual meeting will be a joint CSSS/AQSS undertaking, located at La Station Touristique Duchesnay près de la ville de Québec. It will thus provide a unique opportunity to nourish the mind via scientific presentations and feed the soul in a relaxing setting surrounded by 'la culture française de l'Amérique du nord'. I look forward to seeing many of our members north of the St. Lawrence! Details concerning the conference venue and critical dates are already available on the CSSS website (www.aqsss.com).

I would also like to remind members of an initiative highlighted in the last newsletter, namely the presidential subcommittee comprising Don Pennock, Craig Drury and Gerry Neilsen who are seeking input and approaches to update the image of the CSSS. In a recent meeting, redesign of the web page in association with our service provider and updating and expanding photographic images to illustrate the range of activities in the 'new soil science' were seen as immediate priorities. I encourage members to provide additional suggestions and feedback to any of these individuals. After all as we all know the moment to act is now!

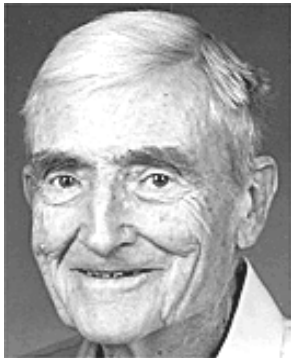
Looking forward to working with Council and members in 2007. A bientôt au Québec.

Best wishes,

*Gerry Neilsen
President CSSS*

CSSS Member News

Yash P. Kalra of the Canadian Forest Service, Edmonton, Alberta was awarded the Fellowship of the Indian Society of Agricultural Biochemists at an international conference held at the Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture and Technology, Kanpur, India.



In Memoriam

Justin Alexander McKEAGUE (November 7, 1924 - January 5, 2007) died peacefully at home surrounded by family members. Alex was born and grew up during the great depression on a farm near Sibbald, Alberta, in the dustbowl of the Paliser Triangle. He did a stint in the army in the Second World War and used his entitlement to attend university. He subsequently worked as a school teacher and in soil survey before discovering his true profession in soil research. In December 1961, after obtaining his doctorate at Cornell University, Alex and his family came to Ottawa. He had a productive career at Agriculture Canada for 35 years.

He loved his job and was always grateful to the Canadian government for giving him the education that enabled him to find his niche. His career included a posting to Tanzania to work with the Canadian International Development Agency from 1986 to 1989. After retirement, he devoted his energies to environmental sanity, social justice, refugees and tennis. Alex was part of a group who established a foundation to redistribute wealth from the affluent to the poor of the world. He was always frank about his dislikes, chief of which was wearing a suit and tie.

Alex leaves behind his wife Jane McKeague, with whom he spent 54 loving and eventful years of marriage. He is also mourned by his son Paul McKeague and his daughters Elly McKeague, Martha Hall, Shirley Stanton and Ruth McKeague. Alex was the delighted and devoted grandfather of 14 very active young people. He faced death with grace and courage. "I'm ready for the road," he said, following three years of battling cancer and chemotherapy. The Memorial Service for Alex on January 10 was extremely well-attended, indicating how much and how extensive was his commitment to family, church and community.

In his soil science career Alex was viewed with a range of emotions: revered colleague, wonderful mentor, inspiring leader, scientific sage, obstructive contrarian and more. Alex strove incessantly through his research and collaboration to improve quantification in soil characterization. Although his specialty was in soil chemistry which can be seen from the published record, he collaborated widely with other disciplines. Alex's had a unique gift of working with others. He had a unique ability to enable and elevate his colleagues to a position of esteem even though he often brought the greater ability to the effort. He was always self-deprecating. At the same time, he would never compromise on accuracy, precision and integrity. Work place politics and convenient compromise were among his greatest abhorrences, a trait that led some science managers and colleagues to see him as a contrarian to efficient decision making. Principles remained uppermost for Alex, including the importance of soil research being applicable to field processes. He could always dig a soil pit faster and more precisely than most of his colleagues! Colleagues around the world held him in the highest regard and a number of these colleagues and others have expressed to me how fortunate I was to be a fellow-worker with such a wise and articulate person as Alex. Indeed, Alex was a mentor to me in many ways and I owe much to my association with him.

Alex considered the CSSS to be extremely important to the growth and health of soil science in Canada. From his experience as CSSS President in 1972, he recognized early that his beloved CSSS was on the threshold of a "growth" experience, consistent with its teenage phase of existence, to develop its own identity. If one looks through the 25th Anniversary edition of the CSSS History one can see some of his vision coming to be and often under his guidance. At that time CSSS had begun to reach out to a broader soil science to include forestry and environmentally motivated scientists with those with agricultural orientation. Alex initiated and edited the first (internally published) "Soil Sampling and Methods of Analysis" from which we have progressed to the 2nd edition of the CRC published manual of the same title which has been a great success. Alex has left an enduring legacy.

Tenth Anniversary of Holmesville Soil Series: the Provincial Soil of New Brunswick

On February 13, 1997 Holmesville Soil Series was officially proclaimed by Lieutenant Governor, Margaret Norrie McCain, as the Provincial Soil of New Brunswick. At that time, the Holmesville Soil Series joined the ranks of Provincial flower (purple violet), bird (black-capped chickadee), and tree (balsam fir) as one of the symbols of heritage of New Brunswick. Plans are underway to celebrate the tenth anniversary of this historic event. Since the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of our Provincial Soil falls on 13th February 2007 we would like to celebrate this event to increase the awareness of the importance of soil for our very existence and the need for its protection and conservation.

Soil is the most precious resource that is essential for our survival. The origins of everything we eat, drink, wear, and use for construction of shelters can be traced back to the soil. Thus "soil is the basis of life on earth" and the importance of soil can not be overstated.

In their deliberations to choose our Provincial Soil soils professionals in New Brunswick considered the fertility levels and the distribution and distribution of soil types for different uses including agriculture and forestry within the province. As a result, the Holmesville Soil Series was selected because it occurs on approximately 170 thousand hectares (4200 thousand acres) of the land base of the province. It is well suited for growing agricultural crops, as well as, trees. The biggest softwood and hardwood trees in our province can be found in Madawaska County where Holmesville Soil Series is the major soil type

A Soils Committee in New Brunswick (Committee) has been formed to organize and promote activities to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of Holmesville Soil Series as the Provincial Soil of New Brunswick. The committee would appreciate receiving suggestions on ways to spread the message about the importance of soil. The Committee has made and continues to make presentations to various organizations and to New Brunswick government. The objectives of the presentations are to familiarize the general populace and government officials about the concept of Provincial Soil and the importance of soils in general.

The Committee requests that any inquiries about Provincial Soil be directed to Taumey Mahendrapa, the Chairman of the Committee, (506 452 3549 or by email at tmahendr@nrca.gc.ca) or Sherif Fahmy (506 452 4598, email fahmys@agr.gc.ca) or Chris Pitt (506 453 3138, email pittc@nrca.gc.ca) or Gordon Fairchild (506 475 4040, email gordnf@umce.ca)

A 'wish list' included in various presentations are:

The Soils Committee would like to request various ministers within the present government to support and participate in the celebrations to commemorate the historic and exciting event of the 10th anniversary of the proclamation of our Provincial Soil. The Committee would like to request the government (sitting Legislative Council) to (a) Proclaim February 13th as "a SOIL DAY in New Brunswick"; (b) The minister to instruct the persons responsible within the government to restore the flower bed in front of the Legislative Building to its original state (established in 1998) in time for the growing season of year 2007, (c) Proclaimed it as a 'provincial monument'; (d) The Committee suggests that NB government set up a scholarship to encourage each year a student from New Brunswick to specialize in soils studies either in UNB or in Nova Scotia Agricultural College; (e) the Committee requests the

government to issue 'lapel pins' in honor of our Provincial Soil similar to those issued in honor of our provincial bird, flower and tree; and (f) to honor our symbols of heritage by assigning the names of our provincial soil, bird, flower, and tree to the exits from the new section of Trans Canada Highway (for example an exit near Grand Falls could be named Holmesville Exit -the home of our Provincial Soil) - this could be a good to promote tourism in New Brunswick. Here are some facts about soils in general and justifications for the need to promote the concept of Provincial Soil to increase the awareness of the importance of soil for better life:

1. Did you know that starting from rocks and boulders it takes more than a million years to form one centimeter of soil? Thus it is our moral responsibility to conserve soil and to take proper care of it. Once we lose soil particles we do not get a second chance to replace them.
2. According to Professor Amundson of the University of Berkley, California, 37 soils within USA became extinct during the 20th century.
3. Did you know that soils have names like we do? A soil is given the name of the place where it is first described as distinctly different from other soils already recognized. The Holmesville Soil Series was first described in 1935 in Holmesville which is about 45 km south of Grand Falls.
4. There are many kinds of soils in the world each with distinct characteristics. While some of the soil characteristics are attributable to various natural forces that cause weathering of rocks and develop into soil, some characteristics are direct manifestations of chemical composition of soils.
5. Different agricultural crops and forest trees prefer different soils to grow well.

The Official Linkage Between the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) and the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)

I am pleased to report that the official linkage between IUPAC and IUSS has recently been established. I have been appointed as IUPAC Representative to IUSS. IUPAC is a learned international organization, is a full Union Member of the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU), and advances the worldwide leading role of chemical sciences for the benefit of mankind.

Therefore, establishment of the long-term official linkage between IUPAC and IUSS is considered vital in promoting and facilitating the communication and cooperation of pure and applied chemists with soil scientists in ensuring food security, quality and safety and protecting the environment and ecosystem health including human health on the global scale.

The IUPAC has recently approved the creation of a new IUPAC-sponsored Wiley book series entitled *Biophysico-Chemical Processes in Environmental Systems*. This series addresses the fundamentals of physical-chemical-biological interfacial interactions in the environment and the impacts on: (1) the transformation, transport, and fate of essential nutrients, inorganic and organic pollutants and pathogens, (2) food chain contamination and food quality and safety, and (3) ecosystem health including human health. In contrast to the classical books which largely focus on separate physical, chemical and biological processes, this book series is unique in integrating the frontiers of knowledge on interfacial interactions of physical, chemical and biological processes in nature. For your information, attached please find a one-page brochure on this series.

P.Ming Huang
IUPAC Representative to IUSS



New IUPAC-sponsored Wiley Series

Biophysico-Chemical Processes in Environmental Systems

Series Editors: P.M. Huang and N. Senesi

Scientific progress is based ultimately on unification rather than fragmentation of knowledge. Environmental science is the fusion of physical and life sciences. Physical, chemical and biological processes in the environment are not independent but rather interactive processes. Therefore, it is essential to address physical, chemical and biological interfacial interactions in order to understand the composition, complexity, and dynamics of ecosystems. Keeping these domains separate, no matter how fruitful, cannot hope to deliver on the full promise of modern environmental science. The time is upon us to recognize that the new frontier in environmental science is the interface, wherever it remains unexplored.

The Division of Chemistry and the Environment of the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) has recently approved the creation of an IUPAC-sponsored book series entitled *Biophysico-Chemical Processes in Environmental Systems* which will be published by John Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, NJ. This series addresses the fundamentals of physical-chemical-biological interfacial interactions in the environment and the impacts on: (1) the transformation, transport, and fate of essential nutrients, inorganic and organic pollutants and pathogens, (2) food chain contamination and food quality and safety, and (3) ecosystem health including human health. In contrast to the classical books which largely focus on separate physical, chemical and biological processes, this book series is unique in integrating the frontiers of knowledge on interfacial interactions of physical, chemical and biological processes in nature.

With rapid developments in environmental physics, chemistry and biology, it is becoming much harder, if not impossible, for scientists to follow new developments outside their immediate area of research by reading the primary research literature. This book series will capture pertinent research topics of significant current interest and present to the environmental science community a distilled and integrated version of new developments in biophysico-chemical processes in environmental systems.

This book series can be used as an advanced reference on biophysico-chemical processes in environmental systems for senior undergraduate and graduate students in Environmental Science and Engineering, Water Science, Atmospheric Science, Soil Science, and Ecological Science. It is an essential reference for chemists and biologists studying environmental systems as well as for geochemists, environmental engineers, and soil, water and environmental scientists. It will serve as a useful resource book series for professors, research scientists, professional consultants, etc. working on environmental and ecological systems.

Sponsor

International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry
P.O. Box 13757
Raleigh, NC 27709
USA

Publisher

John Wiley & Sons
111 River Street
Hoboken, NJ 07030
USA

The Official Name of the Newly Created IUSS Commission 2.5

I am pleased to report that, at the last Council meeting at the 18th World Congress of Soil Science in Philadelphia, the International Union of Soil Sciences (IUSS) has approved the official name of the newly created IUSS Commission 2.5 as “Soil Physical/Chemical/ Biological Interfacial Reactions”. The Mandate and major research thrusts of this new Commission 2.5 are as follows:

The Commission deals with abiotic and biotic interactive processes occurring in soil with the goal of advancing the understanding on physical/chemical/biological interfacial systems at the molecular to field/landscape levels. Major research thrusts include: (1) mineral and biological catalysis and enzyme-mineral interactions leading to humus and organo-mineral complex formation, (2) surface reactions of micro- and macro-biota and biomolecules with soil particles, (3) the effect of soil abiotic and biotic interactive processes on the structure, dynamics, and activities of microbial communities, and (4) ecological impacts of soil abiotic and biotic interactive processes on (a) porosity formation by structure or organization development and on (b) biogeochemical transformation and transport of chemical and biological components at different spatial and temporal scales.

It is hoped that this integration of knowledge on soil processes and properties and the impact on ecosystem integrity and human welfare would lead to “Quantum Leaps” in Soil Sciences for years to come.

P. Ming Huang
Past Chair
IUSS Commission 2.5

Student Travel to the CSSS Annual Meeting

The student travel award was established in 1991 to promote student attendance at the CSSS Annual Meetings and is available to any CSSS member graduate student. The award is \$500 and a maximum of 12 travel grants will be awarded.

The guidelines for these awards and the application forms are available on the CSSS website at <http://www.csss.ca>.

Students must be CSSS members to apply.

The criteria used to judge the applications are:

1. Will the student be presenting an oral paper or poster? (Preference will be given to students who will be giving either an oral or a poster presentation over students who are just planning to attend the conference without giving a presentation).
2. Is the research summary reasonable (rationale, hypothesis, objective) and clearly written?
3. Has the student received a previous travel award from CSSS? (Preference will be given to students who have not previously received a travel award).
4. Has the student informed his/her supervisor or department chair and had their application form signed?

Please send applications by April 6, 2007 to:

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CSSS Fellow Award

This is awarded to CSSS members with a distinguished record of accomplishment in Soil Science and service to the Society. The regulations covering the nomination procedure and documentation, and evaluation of nominees, are given below.

A. Regulations

1. Nominees must be members in good standing at the time of their nomination and must have been a CSSS member of at least a total of 10 (not necessarily continuous) years.
2. Up to two CSSS members can be awarded a Fellowship in any year. Persons wishing to nominate someone who was previously unsuccessful as a nominee may do so by submitting new, original nomination documentation.
3. Each nominee must have one nominator and three supporting sponsors.
4. Members of CSSS Council and the Awards Committee cannot serve as a nominator or sponsor.
5. Approval of this award shall be a unanimous decision by the Award Committee members.

B. Nomination Documentation (maximum 8 pages, 2-3 cm margins, 12 pt. type)

1. A one page introductory letter submitted by the nominator and three sponsors including:
 - Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
 - Name, address, telephone number, email address of the nominator and three sponsors.
 - One page summary by nominator outlining achievements of the nominee.
2. Nomination documents must include:
 - Personal achievements (e.g., degrees, memberships, service to CSSS)
 - Professional achievement (e.g., research, teaching, service to Soil Science)
 - Professional publications (number of books, papers, patents, products, etc.)
 - A list of the 10 most significant publications, products, achievements, etc.

C. Nomination Evaluation

Nominations are evaluated by the CSSS Awards Committee. A minimum of 60 points is required to consider the nominee for this award. The criteria for evaluating the nomination is (out of 100 points):

- Personal achievements (maximum of 20 points)
- Professional achievement (maximum of 35 points)
- Professional publications - both numbers and impact as indicated by the nominator (maximum of 15 points)
- Achievements as shown in sponsors or other letters of support (maximum of 10 points for each of the three letters).

All nominations must be submitted by surface mail or as e-mail attachments to Dan Pennock, chair of the Awards Committee at dan.pennock@usask.ca by April 6, 2007.

CSSS Awards for Distinguished Soil Scientists

A. CSSS Soil Science for Society Award

This is awarded to a member or non-member who has made a contribution towards promoting soil science to the public. This is a non-monetary award consisting of a plaque or certificate recognizing the person's contribution.

All nominations, which are evaluated by the CSSS Awards Committee, must have the following documentation:

- Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
- One page letter briefly outlining the reasons for the nomination.
- A brief résumé (< 3 pages) of the candidate indicating their contribution(s) to promoting soil science to the public.
- One page letter from each of three individuals supporting the nomination.

All nominations must be submitted as surface mail or as e-mail attachments to Dan Pennock, chair of the Awards Committee at dan.pennock@usask.ca by **March 28, 2006**.

Approval of this award must be a unanimous decision by the Awards Committee members.

B. CSSS Honorary Membership Award

This is awarded to non-members who have rendered valuable or special service to soil science. All nominations, which are evaluated by the Awards Committee, must have the following documentation:

- Name, address, telephone number, email address of the candidate.
- One page letter briefly outlining the reasons for the nomination.
- A brief résumé (< 3 pages) of the candidate indicating their service to soil science.
- One page letter from each of three individuals supporting the nomination.

All nominations must be submitted as e-mail attachments to Dan Pennock, chair of the Awards Committee at dan.pennock@usask.ca by **April 7, 2007**.

Approval of this award must be a unanimous decision by the Awards Committee members.

The guidelines for these awards are also listed on the CSSS website at <http://www.csss.ca>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

March 8–9, 2007

Western Nutrient Management Conference. Salt Lake City, UT http://isnap.oregonstate.edu/WERA_103/ or richk@wsu.edu

April 15–21, 2007

17th International Conference on Phosphorus Chemistry, Xiamen, China. Prof. Yufen Zhao Department of Chemistry, Xiamen University, Xiamen, China 361005 Fax: +86 5922186292 E-mail: yfz-hao@xmu.edu.cn

May 24–26, 2007

Zinc Crops 2007—Improving Crop Production and Human Health. Istanbul, Turkey; www.zinc-crops.org

June 3–7, 2007

Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting joint meeting with L'Association québécoise des spécialistes en sciences du sol. Auberge Duchesnay, a resort 30–40 km from Quebec city, Quebec www.aqsss.com

June 18–20, 2007

2nd International Symposium on Trace Elements and Health Helsinki, Finland <http://viikki.helsinki.fi/>

tracel2007/welcome.htm

June 25–30, 2007

5th International Congress of the European Society for Soil Conservation. Palermo, Italy. dazzi@unipa.it

July 9–13, 2007

Information Agriculture Conference (InfoAg 2007), Springfield, IL www.infoag.org

July 15–19, 2007

The Third International Conference on Enzymes in the Environment: Activity, Ecology, and Applications. Viterbo, Italy www.unitus.it or Richard.Dick@snr.osu.edu

July 15–19, 2007

9th International Conference on the Biogeochemistry of Trace Elements Beijing, China <http://www.conference.ac.cn/icobte.htm>

July 16–20, 2007

30th International Conference on Solution Chemistry, Perth, Australia. Prof. Glenn Hefter School of Mathematical and Physical Sciences Murdoch University Murdoch, WA 6150 Australia Tel.: +61 8 9360

2226, Fax: +61 8 9360 1711 E-mail: g.hefter@murdoch.edu.au

August 19–23, 2007

International Symposium on Forest Soils and Ecosystem Health: Linking Local Management to Global Change Challenges. Sunshine Coast, Queensland, Australia www.griffith.edu.au/conference/isfs2007/ or t.blumfield@griffith.edu.au

Sep 15–19, 2007

International Symposium on Air Quality and Waste Management for Agriculture Omni Interlocken Resort, Broomfield, CO <http://www.asabe.org/meetings/airwaste2007/index.htm>

November 4–8, 2007

ASA–CSSA–SSSA Annual Meetings New Orleans, LA; New Orleans <http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/news/calendar.pdf>

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES

June 29 – July 5, 2008

XXI International Grassland Congress/
VIII International Rangeland Congress
Huhhot, Inner Mongolia, China
www.igc-irc2008.org
or secretariat2008@hotmail.com

July 6-9, 2008.

2007 Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting
Prince George, BC

September 18–22, 2008

5th International Conference on Land Degradation
Valenzano, Bari, Italy
www.iamb.it/5ICLD
or pandi@iamb.it

October 5–9, 2008

ASA–CSSA–SSSA Annual Meetings
(Joint Meeting with the Geological Society of America
Houston, TX
<http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/news/calendar.pdf>

June 22 –26, 2008

11th North American Forest Soils Conference
Blacksburg, Virginia

June 29 – July 5, 2008

XXI International Grassland Congress/
VIII International Rangeland Congress
Huhhot, Inner Mongolia, China
www.igc-irc2008.org
or secretariat2008@hotmail.com

July 6-9, 2008.

2007 Canadian Society of Soil Science Annual Meeting
Prince George, BC

September 18–22, 2008

5th International Conference on Land Degradation
Valenzano, Bari, Italy
www.iamb.it/5ICLD
or pandi@iamb.it

October 5–9, 2008

ASA–CSSA–SSSA Annual Meetings
(Joint Meeting with

the Geological Society of America
Houston, TX
<http://www.asa-cssa-sssa.org/news/calendar.pdf>

The 5th ISMOM and 2nd Interconference Commission 2.5 IUSS - 2008 organized by the Working Group MO “Interactions of Soil Minerals with Organic Components and Microorganisms” of the International Union of Soil Sciences, now Commission 2.5: Soil Physical/Chemical/Biological Interfacial Interactions, Pucón, Chile, November 26-30, 2008. Further Information: www.ismom2008ufro.cl

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