

# The Flyleaf

Friends of Fondren Library Vol. 35, No. 4

Summer 1985



RICE UNIVERSITY  
FONDREN LIBRARY

Founded under the charter of the university dated May 18, 1891, the library was established in 1913. Its present facility was dedicated November 4, 1949, and rededicated in 1969 after a substantial addition, both made possible by gifts of Ella F. Fondren, her children, and the Fondren Foundation and Trust as a tribute to Walter William Fondren. The library recorded its half-millionth volume in 1965; its one millionth volume was celebrated April 22, 1979.

THE FRIENDS OF  
FONDREN LIBRARY

The Friends of Fondren Library was founded in 1950 as an association of library supporters interested in increasing and making better known the resources of the Fondren Library at Rice University. The Friends, through members' dues and sponsorship of a memorial and honor gift program, secure gifts and bequests and provide funds for the purchase of rare books, manuscripts, and other materials which could not otherwise be acquired by the library.

THE FLYLEAF

Founded October 1950 and published quarterly by The Friends of Fondren Library, Rice University, P. O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, as a record of Fondren Library and Friends' activities, and of the generosity of the library's supporters.

Editor, Elizabeth Dabney; Editorial Committee, Samuel Carrington, Diana Hobby, Margaret Clegg, Ferne Hyman.

FRIENDS OF FONDREN LIBRARY

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COVER: *South Colonade Fondren Library*

Dear Friends:

As we turn the Kaleidoscope of Time, we see new patterns and reflections—a constantly changing scene, with each design unique and more interesting than the last. So it is with Fondren Library and the Friends!

A public library was an important part of the plan for William Marsh Rice Institute. No doubt Mr. Rice envisioned row upon row of books and reference materials. Certainly the Fondren Library has far exceeded his original expectations in its growth. Now it enters the Information Age complete with computerized catalog, electronic bar-code checkout, and security video monitors. With the extended network of affiliated libraries and express-mail services, the library user literally has overnight access to millions of books and journals across the country. The Fondren Library is *our friend* as we enter the Information Age and use its up-to-date sources and services.

As the kaleidoscope views the Friends of Fondren in its 36th year, there are images of established activities as well as some new patterns and events. Many changes in the Library have been possible because of the continued support of the Friends. The Sarah Lane Lounge with its spectacular view of Lovett Hall and the quadrangle is an improved area which is both useful and attractive. This past year, approximately \$6,000 from the Friends' operating funds was given to the Library for the purchase of books, journals, or microfiche. Almost \$15,000 was added from the casino-auction proceeds and \$40,000 gifts from the Gifts and Memorials Endowment complemented the Library's budget. In May, handsome books in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Norman Hackerman and Dr. and Mrs. William E. Gordon were purchased for the Fondren collection.

The Friends' Calendar for 1985-86 is included in this issue. The events have been planned with the enthusiasm of one viewing a kaleidoscope. This is destined to be an exciting year of colorful images, with the appearance of Halley's Comet, Rice University's fifth president, a City election, and the Texas and Houston sesquicentennials besides the usual literary, artistic, and musical events. If members desire, tours through the library facilities will be arranged, whereby one can get acquainted with microfiche, microfilm, and the devices which transform information sources into a readable page. We shall be happy to schedule workshops focusing on book mending, the home library, and other topics of interest. Just express your suggestions and wishes to our most able and efficient Executive Director, Betty Dabney, in our Friends office.

Each Friend's contribution leaves a lasting design on the Fondren kaleidoscope. We invite you to join in the fellowship, fun, and effort to expand our membership and to increase participation in our various activities, which all help establish the excellence of the Fondren Library. We look forward to seeing you at the first meeting on Wednesday, September 18.

Sincerely,

Mary Lou Margrave  
Vice President, Programs

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## FONDREN SATURDAY NIGHT

Thomas A. Hagemann

I was asked to write an article for *The Flyleaf* concerning why young(er) alumni come back to Rice and, more particularly, Fondren Library to serve as croupiers and waitresses at the annual Friends of Fondren Casino Party. Otherwise known as Monte Carlo Night. Otherwise known as You-Bet-Your-Life and, if you're lucky, find-a-croupier-or-waitress-who'll-slip-you-a-few-thousand-on-the-sly-so-you-can-buy-those-Rockets-tickets, or something like that.

Having already hurdled (or avoided) the nearly insurmountable question of why me, I figure there are a couple of ways to approach the question of why Fondren. One is the way of the running maple tree, as in sap, as in waxing philosophical cum poetic, as in "Gosh, Rice gave so much to me and I just, well, I . . . (tears welling up) just wanted to do my small part, in any way that I could, for (gulp) Rice." The problem with that, of course, is that dealing blackjack for two hours on a Saturday night, while being served all the drinks one can drink by fellow alumni of one's own generation yet opposite sex in scantily clad costumes (we'll return to those) and, afterwards, being allowed to eat all one can eat, is not partently an act of boundless altruism. There may be an element of generosity amidst the gin-and-tonics, I know the people who *organize* the event work very hard, and perhaps I will see my way clear to inject a bit of poetic wax into this essay before it's over, but gee-whizzing about Rice simply can't be the dominant theme.

A second tack, one that seemed reasonable enough at the time, was to take a survey. So I did. I asked a bunch of the croupiers and waitresses why they did what they did. Here are some randomly selected answers:

"I'll do anything as long as it involves free drinks and food." (This from a 1977 graduate making over \$55,000 a year.)

"I love coming home." (From a 1980 academ nerd who wrote all of his English and History papers in a carrel on the third floor of Fondren.)

"I like to watch people lose." (A 1979 graduate, now a practicing sadist.)

"I'll do anything as long as it involves free drinks and food." (Survey said: Most popular answer by a landslide.)

"My husband/wife (choose one) makes me."

"I like the waitresses' costumes." (We'll return to those.)

"Watching older alumni enjoying themselves, feeling the camaraderie calling them back through the

years, makes me feel a certain kind of spiritual bonding with those who have gone before, a sense that what was is, what is will be." (From a 1978 B.S. graduate who wrote 85% of his papers and exams without having done any of the required reading and who, in fact, has never been to a Friends of Fondren Casino Party. I just knew he'd have an answer.)

The problem with a survey, I soon realized, is that Rice people are not survey-oriented; they don't take them seriously. Rice people are people like my old roommate who, whenever he received a survey in the mail, would check "Other" wherever it was possible. "What is your race?" and there would be seven eminently reasonable choices, one of which was clearly applicable, and he would check "Other." "Please specify." "Wombat," he would write. And things got progressively worse when he could actually talk, whether by phone or in person, to the poor specimen taking the survey. "Sir, do I correctly understand you to say that you advocate the legalization even of the hallucinogenic LSD?" "Constantly, Mr. Dragon, constantly. Where's that bat?" Hunter S. Thompson would have been proud, but my old roommate, who was a dealer at the Casino Party, is hardly to be trusted in any kind of survey.





Poesy aside, surveys aside, we stop briefly at the costumes. Costumes are the one reason I know we do *not* serve as waitresses and croupiers. The croupiers, male in persuasion, wear vests made of leftover craps table felt, hats of the same material, and bow ties that *might*—and might is all I'm willing to concede—serve adequately as ribbons on Christmas presents to, say, your boss's nephew or niece. Meanwhile, the waitresses wear black leotards, black stockings, and short skirts made of the same material as the mens' bow ties. All of which sounds okay and looks tremendous to me, but I have not been in such garb, and I am not female, and I have been rather summarily informed by, among others, my girlfriend that the ladies of liberation fought a number of battles against being expected to wear outfits of this ilk in public places for show. Put another way, *Real Women Don't Wear Fishnets*. Let it be.

Maybe the best way—perhaps the only way—to explain why the croupiers and waitresses work at *Friends of Fondren Night* is to start with a basic fact and then see where it leads: we all know each other very well. Let's start with Frank. Frank is the head cajoler who talks his friends into dealing and waiting each year. Chris is a dealer. Chris was Frank's room-

mate for two years after college. Chris was my roommate for two years during college. Chip's a dealer. Chip was Frank's suitemate for two years in college, and my roommate for one year after college. (Chip, Frank, and I once drove to College Station and verbally abused the Aggie basketball team so fiercely that their center, Rudy Somebody, came over to where we were drinking Jack Daniels and shook his fist at us. We considered this show of interest a clear-cut victory for Rice.)

Nicole is a waitress. She's Frank's wife. Mia is a waitress. She's Nicole's sister. Bess is a waitress. She's Chip's younger sister and one of Nicole's best friends. Someone else is the best friend of the sister of someone's husband. Or the brother of the woman who used to be engaged to JT, who is Bart's and Chris's one-time housemate, Mark's, Frank's, and Jeff's former roommate, and somebody I can still beat in tennis with one hand tied behind my back. (I point this out to JT whenever possible.) And so on, and so on.

So we all know each other, so what? Two things, really. The first is that everybody loves a reunion, which does explain a great deal about why essentially the same core of people have worked at *Friends of*

Fondren for the past three years. The second (and I feel things getting just the slightest bit waxy here) is that all of us recognize that, without Rice, something in the air at Friends of Fondren would be missing. (Let's see—without Rice, Fondren Library itself would be missing.) Gee whiz.

Let me try to get at it like this: I have a number of friends in this world. I have a number of close friends in this world. But, never before or since Rice have I had or seen a *group* of close friends like those I made at Rice. It's a group in which every combination works, in which A likes B through H, and B likes A and C through H, and . . . you get the picture. Time has changed a million things about us, but not the friendships themselves, and those friendships have, in turn, led to new friendships. One way or another, we've got Rice to thank for those friendships. For the admissions policies, for the college system, for the open environment, for hard work but time to play—I'm really not sure for what, but, to be sure, for something.

By and large, these friends don't just go to Friends of Fondren. They serve on committees at Rice. They ride in the alumni beer-bike race. They go see plays at Rice. They cheer, in thirsty but hollow sounds, for the sports teams. They attend alumni lectures. They (gasp) give money to Rice—even the 1977 graduate making \$55,000 a year who's too cheap to buy his own food and drink. Basically, they—we—like Rice, not for social or political efficacy, not for memory's crutch, but because it is a good place, a place that brought us together, and we want to have a continuing role in the life of this good place.



So, all kidding aside, is that why we come back to Friends of Fondren night each year? As a small token of appreciation for what Rice did for us? As a way of putting back some of what we took out? To reconsecrate the bonds of friendship? To say "I'm okay, you're okay?" Nah, the truth is we *will* do anything as long as it involves free drinks and food. Personally, I just love to watch the older alums lose at blackjack.

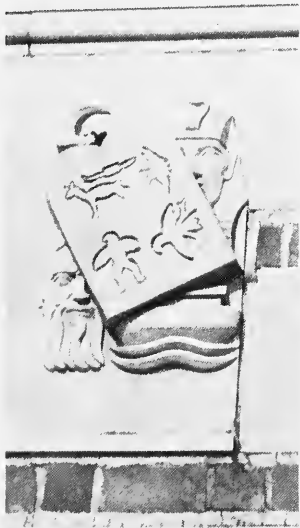


## SYMBOLIC MEDALLIONS

Lee Headington

As one approaches the Fondren Library from the direction of Willy's statue, one cannot help but notice the five panels that grace the archway leading to the library steps. Designed by architects Staub and Rather, the five panels depict the story of the evolution of the book from the beginning of civilization to the beginning of the atomic age. The motif of each panel is the book in one of its evolutionary stages of development, and the background reliefs depict the historical epoch that produced each type of book.

The first panel, looking left to right, depicts a stone tablet with pictographic writing, a type of writing art that began with the dawn of civilization. The era of neolithic man can be seen by the stone rake and sickle which symbolize the beginning of the march to civilization. That particular epoch is also indicated by the relief of Noah's Ark in the bottom right hand corner. This legend locates us in the Tigriss-Eucrates Valley where the deluge is said to have occurred, as our oldest account of this legend was found in digs at Sumer. The depictions of Moses and Egyptian pharaoh also help place the story past the beginning of history with civilization already in full bloom.



The second panel from the left locates us in Egypt with the development of the papyrus scroll. Although the Egyptians continued to use pictographic writing, the scroll was a definite step away from the stone tablets in the evolution of the book. The scroll was used by the Greeks and Romans until the dawn of the Christian era, but by this time the alphabet had begun to evolve from the cuneiform characters (characters made by pressing into soft clay with a wedge-like stylus).

The third panel is located in Sumer/Mesopotamia. Stone was very scarce at that time but great sources of soft clay were available, which brought about clay tablets inscribed with cuneiform characters. Over time the drawings became more and more simplified, until they bore little resemblance to the object they stood for and became a mere symbol. The alphabet as we know it today evolved gradually from these symbols. Sumer is indicated by a ziggurat in the upper left corner, which is a temple tower with a pyramidal structure built in successive stages with outside staircases and a shrine at the top. Assyria is shown by the human-headed bull, and the column capital symbolizes the architecture of Persia.



The fourth panel indicates the book as we know it today. The invention of printing in Europe occurred with, and was an important factor in, the Renaissance Era, a general revival of classical learning and art. The period of transition from the Middle Ages to modern times is indicated by the globe (Columbus discovered the earth was round), the model cannon (widespread use of gunpowder in warfare), and the turning cogs (the wheels of progress). The printed book came through the Industrial Revolution to the present day, as machines took over the work of man to produce books.

The fifth and final panel tells of the appearance of the bound manuscript. After the beginning of the Christian Era the scroll rapidly fell into disuse and was replaced by the manuscript, which was used throughout the Dark and Middle Ages. One can recognize the epoch by the monk and the knight with their emblems of faith; i.e., the cross and the mace and lance.

Thus, by careful study of the five panels gracing the entrance of Fondren Library one is able to trace quite accurately the evolution of the printed book. From pictorial art to the invention of printing one can follow the path of the book as we know it today, both in developments of the time and the details of the epoch in which these developments occurred.





## COMMUNITY SERVICES: KEEPING IN TOUCH ELECTRONICALLY

Barbara Stump

For the past 28 years, interlibrary loan at Fondren Library has served two complementary sectors of the Houston community. Since Rice University was founded in 1908, we have provided typical interlibrary loan services for faculty and staff of the University. Then in 1967 the "new service," the Regional Information & Communication Exchange (R.I.C.E.), was opened to handle requests from business and industry on a cost recovery basis. While some university libraries assign interlibrary loan functions to the Reference Department or to Circulation, at Rice both these specialized public services are very much alive and focused in one unit, the Community Services Division, which was created in 1984.

Each year brings new technologies and new communication methods to enhance our ability to serve our diverse community. Other public, private, and academic libraries constantly seek new and better ways to contact us directly for services. And, in a recent survey, clients of R.I.C.E. said they wanted us to provide "electronic ordering." What is electronic ordering and how are we going to do it? How does it fit into our overall plans? The rest of this article shows we are well on our way to meeting this current library challenge.

### Electronic Ordering: Background

The past 10 years have seen the development of large data bases spanning the nation and providing information on many topics to researchers and libraries. One of the earliest, the Ohio Online Computer Library Center, Inc. (OCLC), revolutionized interlibrary loan procedures. If the book requested is listed in this national database of more than 12 million unique bibliographical records, we can place an electronic order for it, using a standard work form provided by OCLC, simply stating that Rice University wants it. These orders are made by computer terminal and can, in fact, include queries to up to five other institutions across the country. If the first or second library cannot supply the book or photocopy of the article, the third, fourth, and fifth in the list subsequently receive our request and respond if they can supply it. We use this kind of electronic ordering over OCLC for almost 80 percent of our interlibrary loan requests. We use it both for lending books or photocopies of Fondren Library materials to other institutions and for borrowing materials for Rice faculty, graduate students, and staff.

We still rely on the "old fashioned" American Association Interlibrary Loan form when a book is not listed in the OCLC database. Since these ALA forms have to be mailed to likely suppliers one at a time and are answered one at a time, this method is obviously slower than the electronic one. However, an automated ALA form ordering system, developed by a hospital in Illinois, is now available for use on IBM personal computers and promises to remove this obstacle as well.

This past year we invested in a personal computer for the division which is also compatible with the OCLC network programs. As the public becomes more comfortable with using PC's, more and more vendors are finding they have new markets and are designing software which affords users more control and flexibility in the way they do work like interlibrary loan. We can already update orders in selected batches. We also load copies or orders for items borrowed for Rice faculty and graduate students to a diskette so that the Reference/Collection Development staff can consider them in acquisition decisions. Other business software can be run on the PC, although it is already fully utilized with interlibrary loan requests, for both academic and R.I.C.E. clients.

Our division is also fortunate in having the only readily available TELEX machine on campus. This machine has been used for years to communicate directly over phone lines in order to place requests for loans from sites as close at hand as the Medical Center Library and as far away as Argentina. The machine is fed by paper tape and operates much like its predecessor, the teletype. Messages from it look like telegrams and we treat them with similar urgency. This method speeds up our communication with foreign countries by as much as two weeks.

### Online Bibliographic Databases

Another innovation in the past decade has been the development, usually by private enterprise, of large online databases for bibliographic searching. Online systems that can be scanned at a computer terminal significantly reduce the time and effort required to develop subject-specific bibliographies. Once the commands are learned, it is much quicker to scan thousands of citations and abstracts in a database than it is to page manually through hard copy indexes and abstracting journals. The most well known is DIALOG, developed and maintained by DIALOG Information Services, Inc., in California. Each month they add more databases to their list of almost 300, and often add greater depth to the years covered by those databases. For example, the DISSERTATION ABSTRACTS file goes back to 1861 and is updated monthly. MEDIA GENERAL DATABANK, one of the newest, indexes comprehensive current stock market information for 4,300 publicly traded companies and is updated weekly.

When we need to access more technical or scientific data, we use databases maintained by System Development Corporation in cooperation with professional organizations such as the American Petroleum Institute's APILIT or APITAT databases or the University of Tulsa's "Petroleum Abstracts."

The book publishers are also beginning to follow this trend as an auxiliary to their hard copy sales. The theory is that librarians and some interested end-users will use the online version, while there is still a need for some patrons to have the familiarity and comfort of hard-copy bound indexes and abstracting journals also available to them for browsing. H.W. Wilson, for example, just made online versions of their indexes, such as Applied Science and Technology Index and the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, available this past winter. With other divisions at Fondren, we evaluate each new system, both for potential use in interlibrary loan or at the public service Reference Desk.

#### Newest Electronic Links

Last year we added a telefacsimile machine to our arsenal of communications equipment. This Group 3 machine enables automatic receipt of priority documents from suppliers or requests from clients. We can also send documents to clients or other libraries. The copy quality is not as fine as a typical photocopy, but it can be less expensive than sending a document by special courier across Houston, when they charge by the mile and speed is of the essence. Again, results of our survey showed that 25 percent of the respondents would like to communicate with us by telefax.

The same terminal we use for bibliographic searches can also be used to read electronic mail. We are an MCI-mail subscriber and are one of the first area libraries to be a receiver for Western Union's new "Easylink" service. MCI mail can be used by other subscribers to leave messages about accounts, requests, and special orders without having to fill in our special forms. F.I.L.L.S., a software-driven system that generates ALA-type forms for interlibrary loan, is gaining national usage. One of our clients has it and we will begin testing of this system this month, first as a receiving library only.

We also use electronic ordering ourselves to secure materials not readily available in the Fondren collection. DIALOG provides a Dialorder service whereby articles found in a computer search can be ordered from the vendor of the database and mailed directly to us. We even order from the British Lending Library this way, again really speeding up our response time.

Our newest R.I.C.E. advertising lists these electronic options, so we anticipate increased usage in the near future. At our first meeting of the newly organized Advisory Council for R.I.C.E., we enlisted several of the members in testing of this new technology aimed at simplifying and streamlining the way clients contact us. Response has been definitely positive. Similarly, the Houston Area Library Information Consortium (HARLIC) and the American Council of Research Libraries (ACRL) are both investigating use of alternative communication methods such as telefax and electronic mail. We are listed in a directory compiled by ACRL and are in contact with major suppliers who also use the new methods.

#### Benefits

Why should we concern ourselves about electronic ordering? Because it helps us solve several problems in the near term and will add to our knowledge of electronic systems when we try to solve other longer range problems. Already we know that ordering interlibrary loans over the OCLC network and purchasing documents through Dialorder save us time and money. They allow us to handle more transactions a week than we could manually, with fewer part-time or student help.

In the future we look to even heavier reliance on online databases as more information vendors and suppliers add files to the existing networks or develop their own systems. The trend will be to more use of personal computers driven by software that simplifies the language used to scan large bibliographic and statistical databases. As more individuals in client organizations learn to use their own PC's for searching, we will know how to use the same tools and will be able to communicate with them from an informed perspective. As the online card catalog at Fondren becomes a reality, we will have our own terminal with which to search the database for Rice holdings, and clients will be active users of it as well through dial-up access. Finally, we expect to use business systems and database or records management software on a PC to manage and keep track of the heavy flow of requests we handle every month. While we will never be a completely "paperless" office, the day of electronic data access and management of interlibrary loans has definitely come to the Fondren Library.

# **R. I. C. E.**

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# SCHUBERTIAD





# STUDENT ART SHOW



## GIFTS TO THE FONDREN LIBRARY

March 1, 1985 to  
May 31, 1985

The Friends sponsor a gifts and memorials program for the Fondren Library which provides their members and the community at large a way to remember or honor friends and relatives. It also provides the Fondren the means to acquire books and collections beyond the reach of its regular budget. All gifts to the Fondren through the Friends' gift program complement the library's university subsidy.

Funds donated through the Friends are acknowledged by the library to the donor and to whomever the donor indicates. Gifts can be designated in honor or memory of someone or on the occasion of some signal event such as birthdays, graduation or promotion. Bookplates are placed in volumes before they become part of the library's permanent collection.

For more information about the Friend's gift program, you may call Gifts and Memorials or the Friends' office (527-4022). Gifts may be sent to Friends of Fondren, Rice University, P.O. Box 1892, Houston, Texas 77251, and qualify as charitable donations.

The Friends and the Fondren Library are grateful to acknowledge the following gifts, donations to the Friends' fund and donations of books, periodicals, and other materials to the Fondren. All gifts enhance the quality of the library's collections and enable the Fondren Library to serve more fully an ever-expanding university and Houston community.

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CALENDAR  
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**Wednesday, September 18** THE GREAT COMET CALLED HALLEY, presented by Dr. Carolyn Sumners, Director of Astronomy, Houston Museum of Natural Science. Kyle Morrow Room, 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, October 9** THE '85 ELECTIONS—THE PROGRESSIVE TRADITIONS IN HOUSTON, George C. Greanias, Associate Professor of Administrative Science, Jones Graduate School, and City Councilman, Dist. C, Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library, 7:30 p.m.

**Saturday, November 2** ANNUAL HOMECOMING BRUNCH jointly sponsored by the Friends and Rice Engineering Alumni. Fondren Library, 9:00 a.m. Awards Ceremony, 9:30 a.m.

**Sunday, November 17** THE PERILS OF PUBLISHING, panel of Rice authors, moderated by Samuel M. Carrington, Professor and University Librarian, followed by an informal reception. Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library, 3:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, December 11** COMMITMENT IN A PLURALISTIC WORLD, Dr. George E. Rupp, fifth President of Rice University and Professor of Religious Studies. Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library, 7:30 p.m.

**Sunday, January 26** SCHUBERTIAD IV, a nineteenth-century musical event featuring performances by students of the Shepherd School. Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library, 3:30 p.m.

**Saturday, March 8** FONDREN SATURDAY NIGHT VI. Casino party, dance, and auction to benefit Fondren Library. RMC, 7:00 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 22** PREVIEW OF STUDENT ART EXHIBITION sponsored by the Friends and the Arts Committee of the Association of Rice Alumni. Sewall Gallery, Rice University, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 7** LASERS IN OUR WORLD TODAY, Professors John L. Margrave, Michael J. Berry, F. Barry Dunning, and Frank K. Tittel. Kyle Morrow Room, Fondren Library, 7:30 p.m., followed by annual meeting and reception.



## MEMBERSHIP

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