Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear Fellow-members of the IAHR,

A considerable time has passed since you received the last IAHR BULLETIN. In the meantime, in June of this year, a meeting of the International Committee took place, so that much IAHR communication took on an oral form. September seemed a good month to revive the written form. Please accept my apologies if the gap seemed to be too long, especially for those unable to make the arduous journey.

This bulletin includes provisional minutes of both committee meetings, the smaller Executive Committee and the larger International Committee. Both meetings were extremely well attended. It is hoped that the further proceedings of the conference not reflected in these minutes, especially the reports of the working groups on "Islamic regions" and on "East Asia, especially China", will be made available more widely soon.

Two things have become increasingly clear in recent discussions. First, the strength of the IAHR lies in its member associations, and especially in those which contribute freely to the exchange of information. Secondly, the future perspective of the IAHR is wider than the present cluster of member associations (cf. various places in the minutes below). As we approach the next meeting of the International Committee, to be held in the context of the quinquennial congress in Rome (1990), the preparatory work for the five years beyond that must be taken in hand. In particular things must be done to improve the world-wide balance of IAHR activities, a matter in which, paradoxically, the support of existing strong member associations is crucial. Support in these efforts will be greatly appreciated.

A practical point for the BULLETIN. Please remember that in January 1989 an up-dated list of the officers of the member associations will be included. If possible this should list a President, a Secretary and a Treasurer, to each of whom the bulletin will also be sent. Please make sure that all changes valid from January 1989 are reported by December 15th 1988.

With all best wishes for a busy autumn (north) and a busy spring (south) and continued good health for those in between.

(September 1988) Michael Pye
Italian Society for the History of Religions

Professor Alessandro Bausani

The executive council of the society announces the decease on March 12th 1988 of

Professor Alessandro Bausani

Professor of Islamic Studies at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", and president of the society for the past twenty years. A commemorative account of Bausani's work as a specialist in Iranian studies, Islamic studies and the history of religions will be included in "Studi e materiali di storia delle religioni" 1988. Professor Bausani's personality as a scholar will also be treated on the occasion of the Congress of the IAHR to be held at Rome in September (3-9) 1990.

Publications

Proceedings of Warsaw conference 1979

A few copies of this elusive volume, which contains contributions on methodological questions in the study of religion by a variety of authors, are available at DM 17,- (including postage) from the Secretary-General of IAHR.

Temenos

A limited number of back numbers of the Scandinavian journal for the study of religion, Temenos, is available. The editors would be happy to provide these free to institutions which place a new subscription to this leading journal. Please address inquiries to:

Prof. Lauri Honko
Temenos
Institute of Folklore and Comparative Religion
University of Turku
Henrikinkatu 3, Turku
SF-20500 FINLAND.
Executive Committee IAHR

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the IAHR 17.6.1988, New University Guest-house, Old Botanical Garden, Marburg.

Present: Professor Annemarie Schimmel (presiding), Professors Antes, Bianchi, Kim, Pye, Tamaru, Tyloch, Werblowsky, Wiebe and Mr. van Lier (Hon. Treasurer). Professor Awolalu sent his apologies.

1. Cooptions to International Committee (1988-90). It was agreed that Prof. Heerma van Voss, one of the two current editors of Numen, should be recommended for cooption to the International Committee (Constitution, Art. 4 B 3).

2. Constitutional adjustments. It was agreed, unanimously, that three minor constitutional amendments (c.f. previous IAHR Bulletins) should be put before the International Committee meeting on 18th June 1988.

3. Nominating Committee. It was agreed that the following should be asked to serve on the Nominating Committee, to submit nominations for the next Executive Committee: Prof. J.M. Kitagawa, Prof. Jean Leclant, Prof. Annemarie Schimmel.

N.B. The Nominating Committee is required to submit its proposals to the members of the International Committee within the period October-December 1989.

4. Numen arrangements. It was agreed (a) that the question of the structural relationship between the editors of Numen and the elected committees and officers of the IAHR should be further reviewed with a view to amended arrangements coming into force in 1990, and (b) that Prof. Hans Kippenberg (Groningen) should be invited to join the current editors (Profs. Heerma van Voss and Werblowsky) as an editor with a view to establishing forward continuity.

5. CIPSH. It was reported, with regret, that the subsidy for the Encyclopaedia of Buddhism had lapsed, due to the failure of planned fascicles to appear. It was noted with pleasure that the next meeting of CIPSH, to be held at Bern, Switzerland in September 1988, would be addressed by the president of the IAHR.

6. Financial statement. The Hon. Treasurer presented an interim financial statement for the period 1985-1987 (which was also circulated to the members of the International Committee and is therefore not reproduced here in detail). It was noted that the financial position of the IAHR remains stable, but that there is still some unevenness in the payment of contributions from the national associations.

M.P.

N.B. These minutes have not yet been formally approved.
International Committee IAHR

Minutes of a meeting of the International Committee of the IAHR 18.6.1988, Religionskundliche Sammlung, University of Marburg, Marburg.

Members present: (listed by surnames only): Schimmel (presiding), Antes, Bianchi, Kim, Pye, Tamaru, Tyloch, Werblowsky, Wiebe, van Lier (as members of Executive Committee); Heerma van Voss (coopted); Canada: Alton, Rousseau, Denmark: Geertz, Jensen, Finland: Ahlbäck, Honko, France: Monnot, Germany: von Stietencron, (Antes), Israel: (Werblowsky), Italy: (Bianchi), Casadio, Japan: Sonoda, (Tamaru), Korea: (Kim), Netherlands: (Heerma van Voss), Platvoet, Poland: (Tyloch), Sweden: Bergman, Switzerland: Stolz, United Kingdom: McKenzie, Thomas, U.S.A. (ASSR): Oxtoby, Streng. (Repeated names are in brackets.)

Several other conference participants were present (c.f. participants list) and were invited to speak on topics relevant to the agenda arising out of the conference. Professors Lawson and Martin (U.S.A.) were present as observers with respect to topic 9 (NAASR) and Prof. Holm (Finland) was present as organiser of the forthcoming conference of CISR (see below).

Agenda. Topics were dealt with as shown below, not in the order of the draft agenda circulated. Before the formal agenda began various announcements were made. In particular Dr. Ahlbäck announced the continuation of the series SCRIPTA INSTITUTI DONNERIANI ABOENSIS with the publication of Vol. XII entitled Saami Religion and the availability to interested members of a recently initiated current contents journal (details on request). A second important announcement was made by Prof. J. Paper (York Univ., Ontario) who gave details of the recently formed Society for the Study of Native American Religious Traditions (for further details see IAHR BULLETIN 9, where these minutes also appear).

1. Cooption. It was agreed that Prof. Heerma van Voss, as Numen editor, should be coopted to the International Committee, as recommended by the Executive Committee at its meeting of 17.6.1988.

2. Implications of the Marburg conference findings for the IAHR.
   Reports from each of the three working groups of the immediately preceding conference were presented orally: Working Group 1 (General) presented by (A) Prof. Wiebe and (B) Dr. Platvoet. Working Group 2 (Islamic countries) presented by Prof. Oxtoby, and Working Group 3 (East Asia, especially China) presented by Prof. Ching.

These reports, without commitment to all details, were accepted in principle by the International Committee. Both Working Group 2 (Islamic countries) and Working Group 3 (East Asia, esp. China) called for practical steps to be taken to bring about at least regional IAHR conferences in these areas as soon as possible, e.g. in 1991 or 1992, after the Rome Congress. (The reports of these groups will be made available in extended form in future.) The report of Group 1 (General, and de facto, Africa) was divided into two parts and included the following organisational proposals:
A General recommendations:

1. That the increased communication between the IAHRA Executive Committee/Secretariat and member associations be maintained and developed, both via the IAHRA Bulletin and by meetings such as the present one; that the Exec. Committee itself should meet more frequently (e.g. once annually); and that such meetings of either committee should be used to contribute to the development of more varied regional awareness within the IAHRA.

2. That regional conferences should be encouraged where several national associations are in close proximity with each other; and that similarly regional associations should be considered to assist such liaison - e.g. a "European Academy of Religion".

3. That the IAHRA should promote studies of the history of the discipline and also of questions of method and theory.

4. That ways should be found to encourage the participation of scholars who do not belong to national associations but contribute significantly to the subject.

5. That some investigation into "the extent of the domain of the academic study of religion" be undertaken, both in areas where it flourishes and in areas where it is weak or declining.

6. That an investigation of "pragmatics" should be undertaken: critical and systematic reflection on the influence of studies of religion, or the use to which they are put, outside the academic realm.

B Recommendations related to Africa South of the Sahara:

1. It is recommended:
   
   (a) that attempts be made to improve communications between IAHRA and the presently existing affiliates in Africa;
   
   (b) that the possibility of personal membership be made known to scholars of religions in those African nations where they are too few to form a national affiliate;
   
   (c) that such members be encouraged to form regionally based affiliates;
   
   (d) that a team be recruited and commissioned to do follow-up studies on the institutional contexts of the study of religions in Africa as suggested by Platvoet (see pp. 17-18 of the Conference Guide).

2. It is also recommended that the IAHRA promote the exchange of African and Euro-American scholars of religions by

   (a) identifying those who might be involved in such exchanges;
   
   (b) promoting actual exchanges by recommendations and other, esp. financial, support.
3. It is recommended that IAHR conferences be held in Africa, either study conferences, e.g. on 'The Study of Religions in Africa', or an International Conference.

Since the detailed implications of the working groups (including the Africa-related aspects of Working Group 1) were a matter for further work, it was agreed that informal working groups should be coordinated on a correspondence basis by Prof. Antes (Islamic countries), Dr. Platvoet (Africa South of the Sahara) and Prof. Seiwerth (China).

3. Relations with C.I.S.R. (Conférence Internationale de Sociologie des Religions). After hearing a brief account of the activities of the CISR (also known as ICSR: International Conference for the Study of Religion) it was agreed that liaison between CISR and IAHR should be encouraged, especially with regard to the location and timing of conferences. It was noted that, since the CISR conferences follow a two-year cycle, the next coincidence with a major IAHR Congress would occur in 1995, and it was agreed that a joint venue should be considered either for 1993 (IAHR regional conference?) or 1995.

4. Nordic Commission on Research in the History of Religions (NORREL). The formation of a regional association to promote cooperation between the IAHR-affiliated societies of the Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden, on October 10th 1987 in Lund, was welcomed. The official title of the organisation is Swedish: Nordiska Samarbetskommittén för Religionshistorisk Forskning, hence the abbreviation NORREL. Founding members were (almost identical with the current presidents and secretaries of the relevant IAHR-affiliated bodies): A.W. Geertz (Århus), J.P. Sørensen (Copenhagen), L. Honko (Åbo), T. Ahlbäck (Åbo), S. Bjerke (Oslo), R.B. Finnestad (Bergen), J. Bergman (Uppsala) and A. Ström (Lund). (Detailed information is carried in IAHR BULLETIN 9, where these minutes also appear.)

5. Coordination of conference arrangement in Europe.

Dr. Platvoet (Netherlands) reported as follows:

BAHR Secretary Terry Thomas, DAHR Secretary Jeppe Sinding Jensen, DVRG representative Peter Antes, F.S.S.C. Secretary Tore Ahlbäck and NGG Secretary J.G. Platvoet met during the conference to inform each other about the views of their respective boards about the Dutch proposal to promote academic communication between the 7 NW European affiliates by means of exchange of bulletins and a rotational scheme of regional conferences for NW Europe.

From these reports, it became apparent that all in principle wish to promote increased communication, but that some fear the extra strain which a regional conference will impose upon their often severely limited manpower resources.

It was agreed

(a) to begin to exchange bulletins and all other pertinent information

(b) to continue consultations about the rotational scheme and to aim to achieve a consensus about its desirability and feasibility by 1990.
6. Future conference locations.
It was agreed that, in accordance with the tenor of the reports, efforts should be made to locate future IAHR conferences outside Europe and North America. The following perspective was considered realistic for the period beyond the Rome Congress in 1990.
1991 China
1992 An Islamic country (?)
1993 S. America (?) (N.B. CISR connection)
1994 open (an Islamic country? Africa?)
1995 Congress: S. America (?) Poland (Warsaw) (?) (N.B. CISR connection) or South-East Asia.

This perspective was not intended to inhibit the increasing coordination between the affiliated associations of European countries (c.f. points 4 and 5 above).

7. Constitutional adjustments. The three constitutional adjustments recommended by the Executive Committee (17.6.1988), to the need of which attention had been drawn in IAHR BULLETIN 2 and 5, were discussed and unanimously approved for recommendation to the General Assembly to be held in the context of the Rome Congress in 1990. The recommendations are:

(i) To remove the word "CONSTITUTION" from heading.
(ii) To remove the words "for endorsement" from the final sentence of the first paragraph of article 4 c.
(iii) To add to article 5: "A meeting of the Executive Committee requires a minimum attendance of five of its members." To add to article 6: "A meeting of the International Committee requires a minimum attendance of ten members from a minimum of seven national associations."

8. Executive committee items. The following further items from the agenda of the Executive Committee were reported, briefly discussed, and where relevant approved: Nominating Committee, Numen arrangements, CIPSH meetings and support programmes, Financial statement. (For details see minutes of Executive Committee.) (The financial statement, which is printed separately, will be made available to officers of national associations not present at the meeting.)

9. NAASR. The request of the North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR) for affiliation to IAHR was considered in detail. Professor Luther Martin, current president of NAASR, and in attendance at the meeting, presented the request via the Secretary-General in the following terms.

"The North American Association for the study of Religion requests affiliation with the International Association of the History of Religions as a representative body for scholars from the United States of America.

The North American Association for the Study of Religion is incorporated in the state of Vermont, U.S.A. as a non-profit corporation
and has received tax exempt status under section 501 of the United States Internal Revenue Code."

In view of the fact that the AASR is not open to a wide membership it was proposed that affiliation of NAASR should entail representation of the two bodies on the International Committee by one representative for each organisation. It was agreed unanimously (with one abstention) that affiliation, with the above-mentioned implication, should be recommended to the next General Assembly (1990) for approval.

10. Rome Congress 1990. Professor Bianchi gave a short report on the organisation now in progress and the favourable number of initial registrations. There was some discussion about the range of subject areas planned, and Professor Bianchi explained the relationship of the overall theme to the particular subject areas.

11. Any other business. The Secretary-General reported on a letter from a group of students of Religious Studies organised in Germany which queried the appropriateness of a South African association being affiliated to the IAHR in view of current U.N. policy. While the humanitarian concern of the authors of the letter was welcomed it was pointed out by members, in support of continued affiliation, that (a) the association in question bears the name "Association for the Study of Religion (Southern Africa)" and hence is not identifiable with the state of South Africa and (b) that the de facto membership of the association was such that affiliation and consequent contacts were extremely worthwhile from many points of view.

M.P.

N.B. These minutes have not yet been formally approved.
Nordic Commission on Research in the History of Religions (NORREL)

On the initiative of the Finnish and Danish associations for the History of Religions, two meetings were held by representatives from Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden in the fall of 1987. In the mutual interests of creative interchange, the Nordic Commission on Research in the History of Religions, bearing the Swedish title of "Nordiska Samarbetskommittén för Religionshistorisk Forskning" and the initials NORREL, was established in Lund on October 10, 1987.

The object of the Commission is to stimulate research in the History of Religions in the Nordic countries. The Commission consists of two representatives from each country. These representatives are the chairmen and secretaries of each national association for the History of Religions which are members of the International Association for the History of Religions, as well as those consultant members which the Commission deems necessary for each two-year mandate period.

The post of chairman and secretary of NORREL rotates between the Nordic countries in alphabetical order for periods of two years.

The primary function of NORREL is to develop a communication network for the Nordic countries through the publication of a news-bulletin called NORREL-Bulletinen. The bulletin will be published in cooperation with and as part of Contenta Religionum put out five times annually by the Donner Institute of Research in Religious and Cultural History in Åbo, Finland. The first numbers will contain introductions to NORREL and its member organizations. Follow-up numbers will present other organizations and those university departments and institutes which concern themselves with the humanistic study of religion. Current information on seminars, conferences, lectures, research projects, exchange programs, and so on will appear in each number as well.

In cooperation with Temenos, Studies in Comparative Religion Presented by Scholars in Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden (Helsinki, Finland), the section on institutional personnel which Temenos normally publishes will become an integrated part of NORREL-Bulletinen. An English edition of the introductory numbers is also under consideration for publication in the near future.

The NORREL-Bulletinen will be sent to each individual member of the Nordic associations for the History of Religions as well as to universities, libraries, and other relevant organisations and individuals. In this manner, it is hoped that NORREL will effectively stimulate interest, research, and cooperation between historians of religions, colleagues in neighboring fields, and the general public.

The Commission will act as a coordinating body and will support and strengthen existing initiatives such as Temenos, the Donner Institute's Nordic Conference tradition, and the activities of regional and national societies.

The Commission will also serve as a coordinating body outside the Nordic area. The Commission is not a parliamentary body, it is rather a forum for an effective exchange of mutual information.
STATUTES
OF THE
NORDISKA SAMARBETSKOMMITTEN FÖR RELIGIONSHISTORISK FORSKNING
NORDIC COMMISSION ON RESEARCH IN THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

Adopted in Lund
on October 10, 1987
(Translated from the original Swedish version)

ARTICLE 1
The object of the Nordic Commission on Research in the History of Religions (NORREL) is to stimulate research in the History of Religions in the Nordic countries.

ARTICLE 2
The Commission is comprised of 2 representatives from each country. These are normally the chairman and secretary of the societies for the History of Religions which are members of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR). In case these are detained from functioning as board members of NORREL, substitutes are to be appointed by the board of the national society. Consultant members may also be appointed. Consultant members are chosen by the ordinary members of the Commission. Consultant members receive a two-year period of mandate.

ARTICLE 3
The post of chairman and secretary of NORREL rotates between the Nordic countries for periods of two years. The Commission appoints a treasurer and two auditors internally. The chairman and secretary function as editors for the NORREL-Bulletinen mentioned in article 5. At their suggestion, the editorial board may be supplemented as needed.

ARTICLE 4
The Commission meets at least once a year.

ARTICLE 5
The Commission publishes the news-bulletin NORREL-Bulletinen, normally biannually, as well as to stimulate the exchange of ideas and information between Nordic historians of religion.

ARTICLE 6
The Commission is to apply for funds for the activities in articles 1 and 5 from national and Nordic foundations as well as from other institutions.

ARTICLE 7
Amendments to the statutes are to be approved after two consecutive Commission meetings.
Society for the Study of Native American Religious Traditions

The above society has recently come into existence and leading members will be active both at forthcoming annual meetings of the AAR (American Academy of Religion) (Chicago 19-22 November 1988, and Anaheim, Calif. 1989) and at the XVI Congress of the IAHR (Rome 3-9 September 1990), where there will be relevant panels and sections. An extract from the first newsletter follows:

"In September of 1987, many members of the incipient society were gathered in St. Andrew's, Scotland, for a conference on Native American Cosmology. At that time we had our initial organizational meeting where we agreed on a "Statement of Purpose" and an initial slate of officers:

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE
The purpose of our association is to promote the study of the religious traditions of the native peoples of North America from interdisciplinary perspectives. These systems of belief, knowledge, myths and rituals have both a long history and a diversity of contemporary manifestations. Society activities will include panels at appropriate scholarly meetings, special symposiums, a newsletter and future periodical publication. We invite participation from all interested scholars and students.

INITIAL EXECUTIVE:
President - Åke Hultkrantz, Professor Emeritus, History of Religions Institute, University of Stockholm
1st Vice President - Joseph Epes Brown, Dept. of Religion, University of Montana
2nd Vice President - Inez Talamantez, Dept. of Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
Secretary (AAR Correspondent) - Jordan Paper, Religious Studies Programme, York University, Canada
Director (European Correspondent) - Armin Geertz, Dept. of the History of Religions, Aarhus University, Denmark
Director (AAA Correspondent) - Robin Ridington, Dept. of Anthropology, University of British Columbia
Director (Publications) - Christopher Vecsey, Dept. of Philosophy and Religion, Colgate University
Newsletter Editor - Daniel Merkur, Dept. of Religion, Syracuse University
Other Correspondents - England: Guy Cooper, Dept. of Religion, University of Leicester
- Belgium: Rix Pinxt, Gent
- France: Gilles Colin"

The full address of the society’s secretary is:
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Canada
Italo-Finnish Collaboration

Attention is drawn to the recent publications of papers by Finnish and Italian religious studies specialists under the title:

MYTHOLOGY AND COSMIC ORDER

representing a sequel to the proceedings of a joint Finnish-Swedish-Italian seminar announced in IAHR Bulletin 4.

Details are as follows:

Editors: René Gothóni, Juha Pentikäinen
Title: Mythology and Cosmic Order
Series: Studia Fennica 32
Place and date: Helsinki 1987
Publisher: Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura (Finnish Literature Society) (SKS, Hallituskatu 1, PL 259, SF-00171 Helsinki)

Printing costs were supported by the Finnish Society for the Study of Comparative Religion.

The editors write:

The seminarial collaboration between Finnish and Italian scholars of comparative religion stems from 1973, when a study conference of the IAHR entitled "Methodology of the Science of Religion" was held in Turku, Finland. Ever since there has been fruitful, inspiring and productive cooperation between scholars in the respective countries (see TEMENOS 10, Helsinki 1984, 131ff). In March 1984 a seminar also attended by Swedish scholars was held in Rome, Italy, on the topic "Transition Rites: Cosmic, Social and Individual Order", the papers for which were published last year under the editorship of Professor Ugo Bianchi ("L’ERMA di BRETSCHNEIDER - ROMA 1986).

The symposium on "Mythology and Cosmic Order" held in Savonlinna, Finland, on May 27-30, 1985 was an elaboration on the questions dealt with in Rome and was the fourth symposium for Finnish and Italian scholars in comparative religion. The aim of the symposium was to discuss the cosmic order as it appears in various mythologies and to see how conceptions of cosmic order are actualised in various cultural and social settings and in the life situations and life stories of individuals. Some of the scholars dealt with methodological aspects of the study of mythology.

The symposium was made possible thanks to financial support from the Ministries of Education both in Finland and Italy. Funds from the Academy of Finland and the Finnish Society for the Study of Comparative Religion permitted the publication of the papers read at the symposium and revised for this book.

Needless to say, collaboration continues both between individual scholars and in the planning of colloquia.

R.G. and J.P.
(Italo-Finnish collaboration, cont.)

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SIXTH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

of the

NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION

for the

STUDY OF RELIGIONS

PROPOSAL FOR SEMINARS/COLOQUIA

Conference on Religious Studies

1 The Rise of Fundamentalisms in the Late 20th century. Aspects of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and other World Religions.

2 Religions in the Pacific. Primal Religions, Nativistic Cults, Missionary Churches, Post-Missionary Christianity. Cargo Cults, Non-Christian Religions (Baha'i, Islam, Hinduism), etc.

3 Judaism and Jewish Studies in the Non-Jewish World.


5 Women in Religion, Women's Religions, and the Phenomenology of the Female in Religion. With the rise of the new feminism, the role of women within the structures and institutions of religious organizations becomes a sensitive political point. At the same time question of sexism in the vocabulary, iconography and ritual performances of religious practice comes to the fore, as well as claims for a unique form of women's spirituality.

6 Religions in New Zealand. Ecumenism and the Possibilities of Pluralism, Creative Syncretism, and New Beginnings.

UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO CONFERENCE CENTRE

21-25 AUGUST 1989

FIRST CALL FOR PAPERS

All scholars interested in the study of religions are invited to submit proposals for topics of papers and seminars by 15 February 1989.

250 word resumés must be submitted by 15 May 1989.

Further details on registration fees, accommodation costs, and other business matters will be made early in 1989.

Proposals and Enquiries

NZASR Conference Convenor
Dr Norman Simms
English Department
University of Waikato
Hamilton
New Zealand
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INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS

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