

Robert Moyer writes:

A spirited crowd attended the one hour reading held at Inter_Section Gallery featuring an art exhibit curated from the collection of Robert Moyer who hosted the event. In attendance was Dave Russo, Haiku Foundation board member. Included in the proceedings was a brief history of haiku and the Haiku Foundation and a reading of the HN and Touchstone winners.

Readers shared their own work or favorite selections; David Russo read from Montage.

And Cabernet Sauvignon was matched with White Castle sliders in the midst of art by Howard Finster and others.





(Winston-Salem)

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Bruce Ross reports:

Bangor, Maine National Haiku Poetry Day Report

The celebration of National Haiku Poetry Day was a success, with haiku poets from as far away at Eastport and Friendship to join those from the greater

Bangor area.

After greetings and introductions, Bruce Ross, founder of the Bangor Haiku Group which sponsored the event at the Bangor Public Library, gave a brief history of National Haiku Poetry Day, from a librarian choosing the winter solstice, the shortest day for the shortest poem, for the event, then changing it to the middle of National Poetry Month, on April 17, for the 17 "syllables" of traditional haiku and on to Jim Kacian and the Haiku Foundation. Bruce read haiku by the president of the EU, "Haiku Herman," and by the current Nobel Laureate in Literature, Thomas Tranströmer, then a short history of American haiku with examples, from Amy Lowell Jack Kerouac to Cor van den Heuvel and Anita Virgil to Lee Gurga, Virginia Brady Young, and Tom Tico to Stephen Addiss, Kathy Lippard Cobb, and Peggy Willis Lyles to examples from "scent of pine, A Maine Haiku Anthology" (Arizona Zipper, Anne LB Davidson, Norma Sheard, Lynda True, and Paul MacNeil) to a National Haiku Poetry Day haiku written that morning by Bruce Ross :

Haiku Poetry Day
all of it centered
in forsythia

We then formed a circle and read rounds of our own haiku, with frequent stops for comments and discussions. A highlight was translations of English haiku into Latvian (Liga Jahnke), Romanian (Astrid Andreescu) and French (Bob Seretny's haiku with Bruce Ross translating into French).

We discussed a Spring ginko at City Forest next month when the rhodora would still be in bloom, if we were lucky.

We all agreed we should do this again next year, but with a samovar of hot tea for refreshment.

(Bangor)

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Cliff Roberts wrote:

Local Haiku Day A Success!

(We plan on sending this to Poetry Society of Texas, HSA, HSA South West Region, Fort worth Star Telegram, Fort Worth Weekly, albeit probably without some of the details like who read from what etc...

We did have a photographer and videographer who said they could get me the photos and videos in a couple of weeks.

How was everyone else's event?)

Tuesday, April 17, 2012 was National Haiku Poetry Day, under the auspices of The Haiku Foundation. It is a coast to coast celebration of the haiku poetry form.

Cliff Roberts, president of the Fort Wort Haiku Society in conjunction with the Benbrook Library hosted the local haiku event which started at 7PM with a Mix and Mingle with snacks and drinks, Japanese music and a slide show of haiga and emblematic haiku on the 2 large screens.

There was also a packed book table offering haiku books for sale from Red Moon Press, sets of haiga (illustrated haiku) cards by Cliff Roberts for \$1 donation, A chapbook by Jan Benson also for \$1 donation.

Fort Worth Haiku Society also had Fort Worth National Haiku Poetry Day t-shirts, caps and buttons through Cafe Press.

Other things on the table were Haiku rules, haiku word finds, and FWHS membership brochures.

There were 14 in attendance.

Cliff and Brenda Roberts started the reading with a energetic Haiku Slam written by Cliff Roberts which was both informative and entertaining.

Mr. Roberts then welcomed everyone to the event and presented the Fort Worth Haiku Society members to read up to 5 haiku.

Cliff read a haiku that he had written that morning:

haiku day
a butterfly's shadow

flits through mine

Cliff not only read haiku, but a haiga and an emblematic (shaped) haiku.
Brenda Roberts read from the FWHS Anthology *Mimosa Blooms and the Moon: The Eighth Continent* anthology.

Jan Benson read from her chapbook *Poetic Rotations*.

Patricia Ferguson read from the *Moon: The Eighth Continent* anthology.

Catherine L'Harrison, President of the Poetry Society of Texas and Honorary FWHS member, read several of her earlier haiku.

After the Featured Readers the podium was opened to the general readers with some truly wonderful haiku being read by the attendees.

Several haiku books by Red Moon Press were awarded as Door Prizes throughout the festivities.

Cliff Roberts presented a *How To Haiku* program which included examples of haiku from masters Matsuo Basho and Kobayashi Issa as well as others.

The Fort Worth winners of the local Haiku Contest were: HM - Hilda Mendoza, HM - Ron Evans, 3rd - Catherine L'Harrison, 2nd - Carrie Mabry, 1st - Patricia Ferguson

The winners of the 2012 HaikuNow!

International Haiku Contests in the Traditional, Contemporary and Innovative Categories were then read along with The 2011 Touchstone Awards for Individual Poems and The 2011 Touchstone Distinguished Books Award

There was also a brief announcement about the The Haiku Foundation Video Archive Campaign

The evening ended with Thanks and Appreciation Certificates being given to various individuals for their assistance in making the Inaugural National Haiku Poetry Day event a success.

(Fort Worth)

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Patrick Gallagher wrote:

Our celebration was enjoyed by all, the post-event smiles and comments indicate. Jerry Cimino, manager of the Beat Museum where we met, gave a nice introduction to the history of the Beats and the Museum and read a small piece on haiku by Kerouac. It was a nice homey place to have the event. We started on time with an audience of 14 and half-way through were joined by an eighth-grade class studying haiku and that added interest and energy.

I spoke of NHPD and the Foundation, and gave a pitch for indiegogo.com sponsorship of the video project. Then I talked for a few minutes on the Beats and haiku, and played the Haiku Chronicles episode with Cor and a recording of Ginsberg lecturing on Blyth. Garry Gay told the short interesting story of how he and others went from informal readings to HPNC. Garry, Fay Aoyagi, and Carolyn Hall gave excellent readings. Carolyn gave heartfelt testimony on how much the art of haiku and the haiku community have meant to her. The up-to-five poems read by the audience were also of high standard. I read five of Claire's poems from *The Nether World*. We followed the program with informal conversations with the students.

All the visitors were new to the Museum which pleased the manager.

Thanks to you Jim for a great idea and follow-through to get NHPD on and moving down the tracks in great style.

(San Francisco)

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David G. Lanoue wrote:

In New Orleans we had a small, loyal turnout of only 9 local haiku poets--an intimate but fun reading, which I filmed and will send you once I can show it to the others to get my editing approved.

We advertised in the Library with the big poster and we were in the newspaper, including NOLA.com: the website for what's going on in the city. One drawback was the fact it was a Tuesday night. Two of our members

who live in Baton Rouge can come only on the weekend. A few other non-haiku club members might also show on a Saturday or Sunday--as was the case when Tadashi Kondo gave his workshop at the Library last month. But I realize 4/17 is a set date, so nothing can be done about that.

Our event was small but, as you'll see on the film, very good and entertaining! From small beginnings, great things...

(New Orleans)

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Deborah P. Kolodji wrote:

On April 17, 2012, [the Haiku Foundation](#) sponsored readings across the country in honor of [National Haiku Poetry Day](#). There were readings in Atlanta, Baltimore, Bangor, Boston, Dubuque & Mineral Point, Fort Worth, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, New Orleans, New York, Princeton, San Francisco, Seattle, Shreveport, State College, Washington, DC, Winston-Salem. The Los Angeles event took place in Sierra Madre at [Bean Town Coffee Bar](#), 45 N. Baldwin Ave, starting at 7:30 p.m. The Haiku Open Mic was also an event of the [San Gabriel Valley Poetry Festival](#).

The reading was well attended, with about 24 people in the audience. Some additional Bean Town customers also stayed and listened for awhile. Musicians, Chris Wesley on guitar and Rick Wilson on xiao and shakuhachi, played during the entire reading, enhancing the audience's enjoyment of the haiku being read. Deborah P Kolodji was the emcee.

Since the event was sponsored by the Haiku Foundation, we were privileged to be able to announce the winners of the HaikuNow! haiku contest and the Touchstone Awards at the reading. Sharon Hawley announced the HaikuNow! winners and read the winning haiku in the Traditional Category, which was judged by Jane Hirshfield. Mary Torregrossa announced the HaikuNow! winners and read the winning haiku in the Contemporary Category, which was judged by Jim Kacian. Chris Wesley read and announced the winners in the Innovative Category, also judged by Jim Kacian. Samantha Henderson announced the Touchstone Awards and read the winning haiku. The contest

announcements and readings of winning haiku were interwoven between the open mic readers.

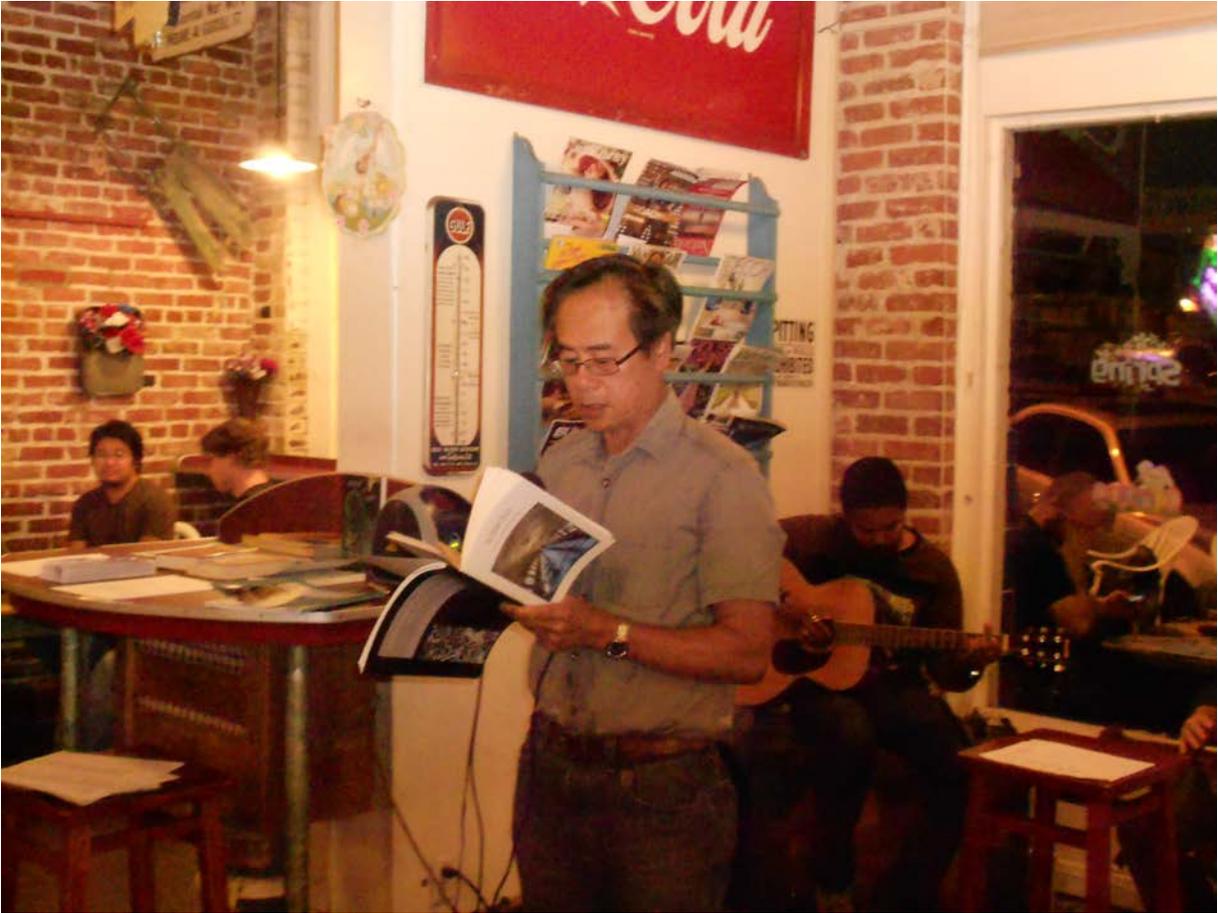
Open Mic readers included Deborah P Kolodji, Greg Longenecker, Peggy Castro, Kathabela Wilson, William Hart, Kimberly Esser, Amir Sapir, Kimberly Cobián, Lisa Verlo, Eric Lawson, Marie Lecrivain, James Won, Steve Hardy, and Mark. Mary Torregrossa and Jie Tian read haiku by Basho, Buson, and Issa, as translated by Robert Hass in *The Essential Haiku*. Christine also read a haiku from *The Essential Haiku*, in both Japanese and English. Kimberly Cobián read a haiku she had written in Romani, as well as its English translation. Deborah P Kolodji finished up the evening by reading some haiku by Haiku Foundation president, Jim Kacian, as well as a haiku by Jack Kerouac.













(Los Angeles)

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Tom Painting wrote:

Junior high school students in classes at the Paideia School in Atlanta have recently read *Haiku Guy* by David G. Lanoue as part of a unit on English Language haiku. A “haiku a day” bulletin board features a student each day at the school as a way to recognize student work and further interest at in the form. In addition to composing haiku of their own for both the Nick Virgilio Student Haiku Contest and the United Nations International Haiku Competitions, students wrote to David with their thoughts about the book and questions for the author. Student reviews are posted on David Lanoue’s *Haiku Guy* [web site](#). Students Skyped with David on Friday, Feb 24. At that time they presented a haiku reading of their haiku and furthered the discussion with David.

(Atlanta)

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Lee Giesecke wrote:

The DC area nhpd hosted seven people from Towpath Haiku Society and three others. All of the Towpath members read two rounds of poems. What with lots of comments the program took a little over an hour.

It was good to hear from the readers those poems that they particularly valued.

(Washington DC)

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Carlos Colón wrote:

National Haiku Poetry Day 2012 in Shreveport, Louisiana

Seventeen people attended the National Haiku Poetry Day 2012 celebration, which was held at the Shreve Memorial Library Broadmoor Branch on April 17. First, there were greetings from the Wanda Cook and the Haiku Poets' Society of Western Massachusetts and from Cliff Roberts of the Fort Worth [Texas] Haiku Society. Carlos Colón read a haiku that Cliff sent with his greetings:

haiku day
a butterfly's shadow
flits through mine

Cliff T. Roberts

Then, Carlos announced the 2012 HaikuNow! International Haiku Contest award winners with special emphasis on a Commended poem in the Traditional Category by one of the attendees:

the moment between
waking and remembering
a widow's first morn

June Rose Dowis

Next, there was a reading by members of the Northwest Louisiana Haiku Society: Carlos, June, Nan Dozier, and Theresa Mormino. Nan read "Family Traditions," a haiku sequence, and "November Sun," a haibun. Then, Carlos read two 5/7/5 haiku by Robert Major from The Haiku Foundation website:

in the summer heat
the jar of freight cars bumping
down and up the line

silent Friends meeting
the sound of chairs being moved
to enlarge the circle

After a short coffee and snack break and the announcement of the 2011 Touchstone Awards, there was an open reading, which included two poems from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council's "Highway Haiku" project:

wake to rain
cratering road dust
last night stars

Nadine Charity

Salt-rimed sea
Moonrise a Margarita
Bottoms-up

Ashley Mace Havird

Laura Flett talked about her creation of 35 haiku cookies, which are haiku burned into three-inch slices of tree trunk. She brought along a sample

cookie, which had the poem:

bird sanctuary
for those
wishing to sing

Laura Flett

Laura also displayed her cookies on "Artist Sunday" at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church.

Others participating in the open reading were: Dave Hicks, "Dark," Deborah Hoffman, and David Luurtsema. David improvised a rhymed haiku.

Laura Flett won the door prize, a copy of *Nothing Inside*, a mini-chapbook renku by Alexis Rotella and Colón (proof press, 1996). In addition, there was a table with chapbooks for sale by Nan Dozier and Carlos Colón.

(Shreveport)

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Gayle Bull writes:

A small (14) group of haiku poets from Dubuque, Iowa, Mineral Point, Madison and Platteville, Wisconsin got together at the Foundry Books in Mineral Point to read and discuss haiku. One person new to haiku came and read some of her haiku which were amazingly good for a first-timer.

Francine Banwarth read from the new book of Nick Virgilio's haiku published by Turtle Light Press and we spent some time talking about his work, both in the new book and some of his haiku from the days of AMERICAN HAIKU MAGAZINE. We are all looking forward to NHPD next year.

Thanks to the HAIKU FOUNDATION for sponsoring the day and giving us the opportunity and excuse to have a fun evening.

(Dubuque/Mineral Point)

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Brenda Gannam writes:

First Annual National Haiku Poetry Day -- New York
Tuesday, April 17, 2012, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.

New York's first annual National Haiku Poetry Day was celebrated in
springtime style at Tenri Cultural Institute on 13th Street in Manhattan, with
haiku poets Brenda J. Gannam and William F. Cullen Jr. hosting.

The celebration was attended by 14 haiku poets and guests, including Scott
Mason, Mary Ellen Rooney, Karen Neuberg, Tony Pupello, Miriam Borne,
Rita Gray, Albert Solomon,
Jay Friedenber, Miriam Chaikin, Popo Tsukino, RaNae Merrill, Dan Kaslow,
and Philip Foster.

Our evening began with a 45-minute cocktail, during which guests chatted
with each other and enjoyed the spread of delicious food and drink.

The highlight of the evening was a special presentation entitled Haiku and the
City or From Leaves of Grass to the Blab of the Pave by our “mystery guest,”
Scott Mason. Invoking Walt Whitman to launch his haiku retrospective,
Scott took us on a 19-stop peregrination of New York City, showcasing haiku
at each stopping point along the way. The featured haiku were written in large
part by well-known haiku poets from New York and the surrounding area, a
number of whom are no longer in New York or who have passed on to happier
haiku hunting grounds.

Following Scott's presentation, guests submitted haiku to a contest judged by
Bill Cullen. Third, second, and first prizes were awarded to Miriam Borne,
Tony Pupello,
and Popo Tsukino, respectively, for their haiku:

midnight
in a window across the way
the cat vanishes

-- Miriam Borne

another day sober
the fog's slow burn
off the river

-- Tony Pupello

wondering
where you end
and where cherry blossoms begin
-- Popo Tsukino

Following the contest, guests voted Miriam Borne as the winner of “best costume reflecting a haiku theme”. Miriam was dressed as a beautiful cherry blossom in full bloom – which added its own “haiku moment” to the festivities.

To close the evening, guests were invited to read a handful of their own haiku, after which each guest entered one haiku on a handmade paper scroll embedded with rose petals – to be displayed at future haiku events. Guests also received haiku journals as takeaways and one lucky guest was awarded a door prize.

Our special thanks go out to Scott Mason for so graciously accepting to prepare and present Haiku and the City and for providing free copies of Sharing the Sun, the anthology that he edited in 2010 for the HSA. Our thanks also go to Rita Grey for assisting with publicity, to Jay Friedenberg and Popo Tsukino for their photos (which accompany this report), to Miriam Borne for assistance with several crucial planning tasks, and to Tenri Cultural Institute for arranging the time and space for us to hold this event.

In haiku friendship,

Brenda & Bill



National
Haiku
Poetry Day
April 11
2012











(New York)

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Marjorie Buettner writes:

April 17th at Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts in Minneapolis, MN.

There were 12 readers from various parts of Minnesota, 6 of which were HSA members: (Marsh Muirhead (Bemidji), Lucas Stensland (New York, NY), Christina Nguyen (Hugo), PMF Johnson (St. Paul), Donald Skrivseth (Minneapolis) and Marjorie Buettner (Chisago City). We had music from Gary Lee Joyner (St. Paul) and refreshments served by Marjorie Buettner's daughters. Banfill-Locke is a wonderful center for all arts: photography, painting, and poetry. They were very open to the possibility of establishing a meeting place for potential HSA members to gather once a month; the group is working on that. Marjorie Buettner displayed new photo-haiga cards in the BLCA gift shop. She and Michael Wetteland (photographer) have collaborated for a year now. The other readers were: Timothy Young (St. Paul), Larry Gavin (Faribault), Edward Dallas (Deerwood), John Thornberg (Chisago City), Diana Xia (Mounds View) and Sandra Rector (St. Paul).

(Minneapolis)

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Tracy Koretsky writes:

In Seattle, twenty-two participants ranging from complete newcomers to well-accepted experts gathered to celebrate the first annual Haiku Poetry Day with an “Instant Sketch Session.”

The three-hour program, held at the Capitol Hill Branch of the Seattle Public Library, was arranged into a series of nine exercises pertaining to the following aspects of haiku: theme, tone, focus, voice, season, and juxtaposition. After each concept was introduced, participants were challenged to make sketches

based on haiku presented live by their authors.

These sketches were called “instant” because only two to four minutes were allowed for each piece. This forced participants to respond spontaneously, uncritically and, on occasion, from their subconscious. The atmosphere was highly experimental and all agreed this was a new way to engage with haiku.

The readers for this event were: Dianne Garcia, Christopher Herold, Connie Hutchison, Dejah Léger, Carole Macrury, Tanya McDonald, Carmi Soifer, Angela Terry, Richard Tice, and Ruth Yarrow. Michael Dylan Welch was not able to attend due to illness, but his poems were read in his absence. There was also a brief open mic section.

Special recognition was given to those readers whose years of service have made Seattle one of the most vital haiku communities in our nation. Acknowledgment was made too, of the several readers whose scholarship and expertise have manifested in journals, monographs and anthologies. The Haiku Foundation was also repeatedly mentioned, and its recent award recipients publicly displayed.

Based on responses to feedback forms emailed to participants the next day, people new to haiku got the most out of the exercise on “season,” while the more experienced poets found the section on “voice” to be the most intriguing. There was strong consensus that the exploration of “specificity vs. universality” (part of the “theme” exercise) was the quite productive, perhaps because it related closely to drawing. Several participants remarked that the program would influence the way they write and think about haiku in the future.

The program was conceived and conducted by Tracy Koretsky. Co-coordinator Dianne was crucial to its success.

(Seattle)

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Raffael de Gruttola writes:

Members of the Boston Haiku Society, students, and faculty from the Boston Conservatory met on April 17 in the new Dance Studio of the Conservatory to celebrate nhpd. All the participants introduced themselves to each other by reading one of their haiku and discussions proceeded among experienced, student and faculty poets. The discussions focused on the short form of poetry called haiku and the immediate initial experience that occurs as the haiku is read. BHS members introduced the idea of reading the haiku twice as they do in Japan and the reasons why this is important. Since among the students there were many who were majoring in music and dance discussion ensued on how the haiku could be used in an interdisciplinary way with these other art forms. Many of the students were already experimenting with this idea since many of the liberal arts course syllabi already use this interdisciplinary approach. It's well understood that music, dance, and poetry have been used in artistic compositions throughout the ages to develop narratives and meaning. Isolation of art forms do have their place in the concert hall; however, in popular dance and music theatre this is not necessarily the case. Raffael explained that in the Japanese arts from ancient times this has been the case as well with both classical forms of Noh and Gagaku ensembles as well as with the more popular kabuki and opera groups. There was some discussion among the group with respect to modern haiga and how the photographic arts has encompassed this approach not only in Japan, but throughout the world. The two hour meeting ended with each of the participants reading five or six of their haiku. We all agree that this was a worthwhile exchange and should be repeated in other meetings throughout the year.

(Boston)

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