



The E-Gobrecht

The Electronic Newsletter of the LIBERTY SEATED COLLECTORS CLUB

Liberty Seated Collectors Club

2009 Volume 5, Issue 8
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Flurry of Seated Coinage Activities at the ANA!

If you need an additional incentive to attend the upcoming 2009 American Numismatic Association's World's Fair of Money next week in Los Angeles, here are some details about scheduled Liberty Seated coinage activities:

- **LSCC Annual meeting.** The 36th annual meeting of the LSCC will be held on Thursday, August 6th at 9 AM in Room 510 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Scheduled activities include a financial report for the current year, a vote to set the dues for the next club year, and a report on the new Collective Volume #5. The 2008 Ahwash Award plaque will be awarded to Bill Bugert for his article "Martin Luther Beistle - A Biography" that appeared in *Gobrecht Journal* issue #100. The *Gobrecht Journal* Award for the best article to appear in issue #76 - #100 will be presented to Dick Osburn for his article "An Analysis of Rarity and Population Estimates for Liberty Seated Dollars" that appeared in issue #76 of the *Gobrecht Journal*. A Hall of Fame ceremony will also be conducted when a LSCC member will be recognized for contributions to the LSCC and inducted into the Hall of Fame. Gerry Fortin will discuss new developments of his website www.seateddimevarieties.com. Other activities will include a report on the survey to identify the Ten Greatest Liberty Seated Half Dimes and a preliminary report on the Trade Dollar census. The meeting will close with a club auction of several important numismatic items. Please try to attend.
- **Gerry Fortin's Numismatic Theatre Presentation.** On Friday, August 7th at 2:00 PM in Room 507 of the Convention center, Gerry Fortin will present "Patience and Persistence: Building an Award Winning Liberty Seated Dime PCGS Registry Set." Gerry is the three time winner (2007, 2008, and 2009) of the PCGS Liberty Seated Dime. As quoted from the PCGS website, winner of the 2009 Best Classic Sets (1792-1964) of 2009 is **Gerry Fortin - Liberty Seated Dimes, Circulation Strikes (1837-1891)** in the following categories:
[Liberty Seated Dimes Date Set, Circulation Strikes \(1837-1891\)](#)
[Liberty Seated Dimes Basic Set, Circulation Strikes \(1837-1891\)](#)
[Liberty Seated Dimes with Varieties, Circulation Strikes \(1837-1891\)](#)
[Liberty Seated Dimes with Varieties and 1873-CC No Arrows, Circulation Strikes \(1837-1891\)](#)

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The *E-Gobrecht* is a twice award winning electronic publication of the Liberty Seated Collectors Club (LSCC). The LSCC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the attributions of the Liberty Seated Coin series. The LSCC provides the information contained in this email newsletter from various sources free of charge as a general service to the membership and others with this numismatic interest. You do not have to be a LSCC member to benefit from this newsletter; subscription to the *E-Gobrecht* is available to anyone. All disclaimers are in effect as the completeness and/or accuracy of the information contained herein cannot be completely verified. Contact information is included at the end.



Auction News by Jim Gray

The summer doldrums in the auction world continued in July with the Heritage Palm Beach Sale being the only sale of note.

An 1844 dime in AU53 with a decent appearance went for \$2,198. A lovely 1846 dime from my collection, in AU58, appeared for a second time and soared up to an amazing \$29,900, more than double the \$13,513 it realized at my sale in 2004.

An 1849-O quarter in XF40, with perfect album toning, hit a strong \$6,900, while a well toned

1852-O in VF30 went for \$1,495. An attractive 1854-O, huge O quarter, in VF30, with natural gray toning, realized \$3,738, and an 1864-S quarter in AU50, with nice toning and a good strike, was a bargain at \$4,025. An 1870-CC quarter in Fine, that was cleaned and retuned back in gray shades, went for \$7,475, while an 1872-CC, with XF details but whizzed and retuned, did not sell.

An 1878-CC half, that was a G4 original, hit \$978, while an 1872-S dollar in AU55, that was slabbed in spite of a prior cleaning and now retuned in a mottled fashion, eked out \$4,600.

More, More Updates on the *Gobrecht Journal* Collective Volume #5

- A few copies will be available for display and sale at the LSCC meeting in Los Angeles at the 2009 ANA's World's Fair of Money.
- The next round of ordering this Collective Volume #5 will be in September. If you did not order a copy during the pre-order period in June, you may do so when the next announcement is made in a few months.

Gerry Fortin wins PCGS Best Registry Set - Again!

Congratulations to Gerry Fortin! For the past three years, he's won the PCGS Best Registry Set for **Liberty Seated Dimes, Circulation Strikes (1837-1891)** in the following categories:

[Liberty Seated Dimes Date Set, Circulation Strikes \(1837-1891\)](#)

[Liberty Seated Dimes Basic Set, Circulation Strikes \(1837-1891\)](#)

[Liberty Seated Dimes with Varieties, Circulation Strikes \(1837-1891\)](#)

[Liberty Seated Dimes with Varieties and 1873-CC No Arrows, Circulation Strikes \(1837-1891\)](#)

Great job, Gerry! He will provide his insight into collecting a Registry Set at the Numismatic Theatre at the upcoming ANA's World's Fair of Money in Los Angeles. See more information on page 1 of this newsletter.



Question of the Month

Topic for e-Discussion by Paul Kluth

Please share with *E-Gobrecht* readers your recent personal experience at the ANA Convention including Liberty Seated activities while it is still fresh in your head?

Those individuals who can't make it to the Convention and the LSCC Annual Meeting (and for that matter those who do make it) always like to hear about other's personal experiences, bourse pursuits, acquaintances made and all that good stuff.

If your going, have a Great Time! And jot down a few words for the *E-Gobrecht*!

All responses are welcome! Please consider taking a few moments and sending in your thoughts and opinions. Send your reply to the *E-Gobrecht* editor at wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Answers to last Month's Question

None!!

Scheduled LSCC Meeting

LSCC Annual meeting, Los Angeles, CA, 2009 ANA World's Fair of Money, Thursday, August 6, 2009, 9 AM, room 510. *This is the club's annual meeting with lots of planned activities; see page 1 of this newsletter for details. Please try to attend.*



Rich Uhrich sent in this note about a so-called 1878-S half dollar listing on eBay.

Here is a coin that was advertised on eBay as an 1878-S half which it is not:

http://cgi.ebay.com/1878-S-U-S-SILVER-SEATED-HALF-DOLLAR-XTREMELY-RARE_W0QQitemZ160349311735QQcmdZViewItemQQptZCoins_US_Individual?hash=item25559052f7&_trksid=p3286.c0.m14&_trkparms=65%3A10|66%3A2|39%3A1|293%3A1|294%3A50



Photos from eBay

The supposed second "8" doesn't have the correct shape, the mintmark is in the wrong position, and the lump inside the reverse shield isn't there. Note, this coin sold for \$555.

(Continued from page 1)

Gerry Fortin is an expert's expert and a deserving annual winner for this series. He has put together the finest collection of Liberty Seated Dimes ever assembled and is the foremost expert in die varieties for this lengthy series. He continually updates his collection and shares his knowledge of this series. His website at <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/> is the definitive reference work for this series. Please support and congratulate Gerry at this Numismatic Theater Presentation.

- **Bruce Morelan Trade Dollar Set on display.** Legend Numismatics will display the all time MS TRADE DOLLAR COLLECTION - THE LEGEND COLLECTION. Legend teamed with Bruce Morelan to display his incredible set. This set will forever be the all time finest. It is all PCGS and all coins are also CAC'd. Every coin is what you would expect from a #1 set. Legend Numismatics exclusively built this set with Bruce over a 12 year period. Only one or two pieces all the coins in this collection are monsters-nothing less would do! View this Trade Dollar set at

ANA tables 512 and 613.

- **Carson City Coin Collectors of America Symposium.** The C4OA will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, August 6th from 1 to 3 PM in room 512 at the Los Angeles Convention Center. Included in this meeting is a very special Carson City Coin Symposium highlighted with presentations by LSCC members John McCloskey, Bill Bugert, Darrell Low, and Rusty Goe. Many LSCC members also belong to the C4OA for the coinage commonality between Liberty Seated coinage and Carson City coinage. This event has been well advertised, should be well attended, and will be of interest to all LSCC members. Visitors are welcome, please try to attend.
- **Seated Dealer Tables.** Your favorite dealers will have tables including (that I know of):
 - Dr. Eugene Bruder, Numismatist
 - Julian Leidman
 - New Orleans Rare Coins (Lynn Ourso)
 - Dick Osburn Rare Coins
 - Rich Uhrich Coinsand many others with Liberty Seated coinage.



First Dividend

By Dennis Fortier



Photos from eBay

I just received my first dividend from Bill Bugert's new book "A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Varieties, Volume I, San Francisco Branch Mint." Over the July 4th vacation week, the coin pictured, an 1862-S WB-2, was up for auction on eBay. The WB-2 die marriage is one of two tail dies used in 1862 that were punched with a defective (broken) mintmark punch.

Of the two tail dies, the WB-2 is the scarcer of the two being an R-5 die marriage. This die marriage is identified not only by the mintmark but by several distinctive die cracks on both the obverse and reverse die. On the obverse there is a bisecting die crack through the 1 in the date, and on the reverse there are cracks at several points, most notably from U(NITED) through the olive branches and down through HALF DOL.

The coin grades a pleasing and original XF-45. Thanks in to the holiday vacation week and the limited distribution thus far of Bill's new register I won the coin for \$162.49. I feel certain had circumstances been different the price could have easily gone over \$200 for this scarce die marriage.

New Half Dollar Book

A Register of Liberty Seated Half Dollar Die Varieties

Volume I

San Francisco Branch Mint

By Bill Bugert

- With Special Edits by and Consultations with Randy Wiley
- Details all known San Francisco Branch Mint LS Half Dollar die marriages (228) with narratives, photos of diagnostics, rarity ratings, background information, etc.
- Available in 3-hole punched format (ready for your binder) or plastic comb binding format
- \$45 plus \$5 postage (Specify which format you desire)
- Available now directly from the author at:

Bill Bugert, 1230 Red Rock Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-6927 (717) 337-0229



Telephone Messages, Tony Turnover, and the "Gold Brick" Gobrecht Biography

By Len Augsburger

In the *Gobrecht Journal* issue #101, I related the story of Charles Gobrecht Darrach (a grandson of Christian Gobrecht) and his research into his grandfather's work. Darrach published, in 1906, a biography of his grandfather, in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. Another version of this biography appeared in the *Numismatist*, in 1911, and was unsigned. I speculated that Darrach was the author of both pieces, as there was some similarity between the two. A cryptic voicemail message has now served to unravel the puzzle.

On July 27th, my wife left me a note regarding a voice mail received from "Tony Turnover" regarding a "Gold Brick Archimedes." After much thought, I concluded that the message was from Tony Terranova, a well known dealer in early Americana, medals, and anything that he finds "interesting." As for the "gold brick Archimedes," I felt that this might be a specimen of Gobrecht's Archimedes medal (Julian AM-55) in gold. The Archimedes medal engraved by Gobrecht and issued by the New England Society for Promotion of Manufacturers and Mechanics in 1828, was unknown to me in gold. Now, Mr. Terranova tends to know the full history on anything in his inventory, so it is good to do one's research before doing any negotiating. I jumped onto the Internet to find out what I could about this gold medal. Nothing was to be found, nor in any of the usual sources such as Robert Julian's book on mint medals, nor in the Stack's Ford sales which featured two Archimedes medals. My personal research file on Gobrecht was similarly silent on the subject.

Along the way, I stumbled onto "Google" books and looked over "The Lives of Eminent Philadelphians" by Henry Simpson. The 1859 book contains a character sketch not only of Christian Go-

brecht, but of many individuals connected with the early days of the Philadelphia Mint, including David Rittenhouse, Elias Boudinot, Robert Patterson, and others.

The full text of Simpson's book is available on "Google" books at:
<http://books.google.com/books?id=eHkFAAAQA-AJ&printsec=frontcover&dq=the+lives+of+eminent+philadelphians>

The Gobrecht biography looked familiar, and a quick glance at the 1911 *Numismatist* revealed that the two pieces were identical. Thus, we can now credit Henry Simpson with the earliest Gobrecht biography, written 15 years after Gobrecht's death in 1844. The full biography is excerpted below. It also seems that Darrach used the Simpson 1859 biography as a guide to write his 1906 biography - various portions of the 1906 biography closely echo what was written in 1859. (To be completely fair to Darrach, substantial detail was added in portions of his 1906 version.) So, we now have the "root" biography, until something earlier appears!

As for the Archimedes medal, I finally gave up on the "gold" specimen, which of course turned out to be a reference to "Gobrecht" and not "gold brick." Tony had a good laugh and reminded me that there was no such thing as a gold Archimedes medal. However, he happened to have a silver one and I was grateful that he remembered I was interested in such things.

Text of Henry Simpson's 1859 biography

Christian Gobrecht was born December 23d, 1785, in Hanover, a town in York County, Pennsylvania.

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He was the sixth son of John Christopher Gobrecht, a native of the village of Augerstein, near Gottingen, Landgraviate of Hesse, who emigrated to America in 1753, and afterwards became a distinguished clergyman of the German Reformed Church in Pennsylvania.

At an early age, Mr. Christian Gobrecht exhibited great mechanical ability, and evinced a taste for drawing and design; he was consequently apprenticed to a clockmaker living at Manheira, Lancaster County. His master, however, dying a short time after, he was released from his indenture, and, removing to Baltimore, pursued the course evidently marked out for him, guided by no other teacher but himself. The ornamental work, name of maker, &c., in the inside of clocks and watches, probably induced him to cultivate engraving; and, after passing several years in the making of clock-faces, that business was entirely abandoned for the more congenial occupation of an engraver. His progress in this art was gradual; and, commencing with the simple work of cutting headings for newspapers and punches for type foundries, he became, in time, a writing and seal engraver, and finally a die-sinker.

About the year 1811, Mr. Gobrecht removed permanently to Philadelphia, where his principal pursuit was that of a bank note writing engraver; he, however, as opportunities offered, engraved seals, calico printers' rolls, bookbinders' dies for embossing morocco, dies for striking brass ornaments for military equipments, and also executed several medals. In 1836, in consequence of the contemplated change in the devices on the American coin, he was appointed Die-sinker in the United States Mint, which office he filled until his death, which event occurred July 23d, 1844, he having attained the age of fifty-eight years and seven months.

Of his labors as an artist and a mechanic, the following are the principal results:—The Medal-ruling Machine.—This is a machine so arranged, that while one point is tracing a line across the face of a

medal, rising and falling according to the elevations and depressions over which it passes, another point draws on a flat surface, a profile of this line. If now the tracer be made to move successively in a series of parallel and equidistant planes over the whole surface of the medal, there will be thus drawn a series of profiles corresponding to the sections of these planes with the surface, and these lines will together form a drawing or engraving of the medal itself.

Such an instrument was invented and executed, in 1817, by Mr. Gobrecht. In this instrument the "tracing point" moved across the medal in parallel lines, perpendicular to the flat surface or table of the medal, and the profile lines were drawn on an etching-ground, laid on copper or steel by the "etching point." The first engraving made was of a head of the Emperor Alexander I, of Russia, and the effect was very striking, and excited great attention. Mr. Gobrecht did not, however, present any other specimens ruled by his machine, as he became discouraged, in consequence of an apparently irremediable defect in his instrument: the ruled engraving exhibiting a distortion of the features, not indeed very perceptible in copies from medals in low relief, but from those in high relief quite offensive. He consequently abandoned his invention. But the machine, after being improved by others, and the distortion obviated, by a most ingenious device, founded on the mathematical principles of projection, has been used with eminent success, and has proved a valuable assistant to the fine arts.

Medals.—Head of Charles Wilson Peale, one and one-quarter inches in diameter.

Medal of New England Society for Promotion of Manufactures, &c., two and one-half inches diameter. Obverse.—Head of Archimedes. Reverse.—Steamboat, cotton-gin, and nail-making machine, in three small ovals.

Medal of Franklin Institute, two inches diameter. Head of Franklin. Of this head, Mr. John Neagle, in a letter to the engraver, speaks as follows: "I am delighted with it, and as a specimen of art, am proud to acknowledge it from the hands of a friend. I

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had an opportunity of giving it a severe test by comparing it in one hand, with the same head by the celebrated Dupre in the other, and it gives me great pleasure to say that, in my opinion, it surpasses the other very far in merit. Yours has more of the genuine character of our great philosopher and statesman. I could point out many great beauties over the other, and many more truths in yours, but I forbear till I have the pleasure of seeing you."

Head of Charles Carroll, of Carrollton, two inches diameter. Of this medal, Mr. Carroll's grandson writes as follows: " The impressions of the dies you sent me were very much admired by every one at a dinner given on the birthday of my grandfather, and pronounced excellent. Mr. R. Gilmore says the execution of it is superior to the one he had executed in Europe."

Medal Massachusetts Mechanics' Charitable Association, one and one-half inches diameter. Device: Female figure sitting and instructing a youth, scattered around screw, lever, wheel, and axle, &c.

Seal of Pennsylvania Hospital, steel, two inches in diameter. Device: The Good Samaritan. In the centre, the wounded man seated on the ass, with his right arm over the Samaritan's shoulder and supported by him; in front of the ass the innkeeper with his arms extended and holding the sick man's left arm. The face of the die is engraved to represent the front of the inn.

Mr. Gobrecht executed in brass the dies for embossing the morocco covers for the Boston Token from 1831 to 1836, and a die of Trinity Church, Boston, for the cover of a Paragraph Bible. Also a large eagle with expanded wings for a Philadelphia Token, and a fanciful design first used by himself for a card, and afterwards, with the lettering taken out, for a book cover. Of the many seals in brass none are of general interest except a seal with the heads of Drs. Physick, Wistar, and Rush, in profile, and a seal with an engraving of St. Andrew's Church upon it. Of Mr. Gobrecht's services in effecting the change of device on the coin, too high an estimate can hardly

be made. When it is taken into consideration that, in the position of engraver under Government, the judgment and experience of the artist is controlled and frequently overruled by suggestions almost amounting to commands; that devices are contemplated appropriate for medals, but inappropriate for coins, and impracticable from the mechanical difficulties arising from the necessary rapidity of coining; that the opinions of a large number of persons must be consulted, and the various tastes of the public satisfied, the mere fact that a new coinage has been received with general commendation, is ample proof of the patient industry and skilful genius of him who under all these restraints has presented a creditable specimen of his art. In the history of the coinage of this country, the period during which Mr. Gobrecht was engraver, will not readily be forgotten.

In addition to his skill as engraver, Mr. Gobrecht was no less ingenious in other branches. Although no performer on any instrument he was a scientific musician, and constructed two musical instruments on the principle of the melodeon, but long before that instrument was thought of. He also devised a speaking doll, about the time MaelzeFs puppets were exciting attention. A camera-lucida with steel mirrors, by which one part of the eye received, by reflection, the impression of the object, and another part the direct impression of the pencil and paper beneath, without the interposition of any foreign medium, was constructed by him, and is a neat and useful instrument.





Subscriber Correspondence

From **Mel Hatfield, LSCC #3**: I enjoyed the article, "The Elusive VF: Making The Case For Split Grading" by Joe Brame. I am one of the 'ol timers of Seated Collecting and remember dealing with grading questions such as Joe explores in his article. These issues are always with us and I wish to add just a few thoughts.

I always grade a coin by designation of grade for obverse and reverse separately, when it is required to accurately describe a coin. Some coins don't require split grading because both sides are the same grade, but for consistency reasons probably should be split graded as well. Of course any other distractions in a coins appearance should be noted.

I had a good friend who was an old time dealer, Paul Stoner from Pendleton, IN, who never graded any coins in his case. He would only list date, mint and price on the holder. Someone would pass by at a show and ask Paul what the grade was on a certain coin. He would tell them, "That's a \$50

grade on that one...we may argue on price, but not on grade. You grade it for yourself." I always admired that reasoning, though it doesn't answer all needs in today's market.

If one reviews some 19th century coin catalogs, you will sometimes see coins graded as either "new" or "used." Now that is a simple grading system! Today, we require much more information, to better establish value in the modern market. Bottom line is...we all should learn to grade the coin ourselves. It's part of the fun of putting together a fine coin collection. *[Editor's note: I was delighted to see this note from Mel. For those of you who don't know him, check out his LSCC member number - 3, yes, 3!]*





Information Wanted on Half Dime Errors

I'm currently working on the large task of cataloging the known seated half dime errors known to collectors by date/mintmark. If you own any seated half dime errors, please send me an e-mail at the address below and provide the following information to make this survey as accurate as possible:

- Date and Mintmark of coin
- Type of error
- Grade
- Certification service if graded
- Photographs of both sides of the coin (if possible)

Information about any known errors including blank planchets is welcomed. The results will be published in an article at the end of this year. Dennis Hengeveld, Hengeveld.dennis@gmail.com

Notice: Availability of past issues of the E-Gobrecht

Through the generosity of Gerry Fortin, the previous issues of the *E-Gobrecht* are readily accessible on his seated dime web-site at <http://www.seateddimevarieties.com/LSCC.htm>

Advertisements

Rare Coins for Sale: Since 1979, David Lawrence Rare Coins has specialized in Seated and Barber coinage for collectors. Please visit our web site for 6,000+ offerings of U.S. & World coins, currency, and stamps for sale and auction. We are also interested in buying or selling your coins at auction. <http://www.davidlawrence.com> or phone 1-800-776-0560, members: PNG, ANA (life), FUN, CSNS

Liberty Seated Quarter Cuds & Rotated Dies

Wanted: Other U.S. series of interest as well. Please reply directly to Paul Kluth @ pcmdmp@msn.com or to the e-mail address of the *E-Gobrecht* newsletter.

Rotated Reverse Seated Dimes Wanted: I am

looking for rotated reverse Liberty Seated dimes. Any interested parties can email Jason Feldman at jason@seated.org

Wanted to Buy: Nice, problem-free bust and seated material. We specialize in affordable collector coins. Puro's Coins and Jewelry, web: www.vtcoins.com, email: puro@vtcoins.com, phone: 1-800-655-1327.

Seated Dime Die Varieties Wanted: I am paying high prices for Seated Dimes with major cuds, die cracks, and rotated reverses. Contact David Thomas at davethomas333@hotmail.com or 1-949-929-2830.



Liberty Seated Collectors Club

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LSCC Pledge

To encourage, promote, and dispense numismatic knowledge of the Liberty Seated coins; to cultivate fraternal relations among its members and all those interested in the science of numismatics.

LSCC Membership Information. Dues are \$20 per year and include three issues of the *Gobrecht Journal*, an award winning numismatic publication. To join the Liberty Seated Collectors Club, for *Gobrecht Journal* mailing address changes, or for other membership questions, correspond with the LSCC Secretary.

Articles, comments, or advertisements for publication in the *Gobrecht Journal* may be addressed to the LSCC President.

Information, input, comments, or suggestions for improvements to this *E-Gobrecht* are actively solicited from anyone and may be sent to the Editor, *E-Gobrecht*.

To be added or removed from the *E-Gobrecht* mailing list, send an email message with the words "Subscribe/Unsubscribe" in the subject line of the message to: wb8cpy@arrl.net.

Mark your calendar !

- **LSCC Annual meeting, 2009**
ANA Convention, Los Angeles, CA, August 6, 2009, 9 AM, room 510.
- **Numismatic Theatre presentation "Patience and Persistence: Building an Award Winning Liberty Seated Dime PCGS Registry Set,"** by Gerry Fortin, Friday, August 7th, 2:00 PM in Room 507 of the LA Convention Center.
- **Carson City Coinage Symposium, Thursday, August 6th** from 1 to 3 PM in Room 512 of the Los Angeles Convention Center.

Wanted: Material for this newsletter!

Please consider submitting something for print. It need not be elaborate; it can be something as simple as a short note on your favorite variety, neat find, nice cherry pick, happenings at a coin show, rare Liberty Seated coinage coming up for auction, etc. If you are interested in it, rest assured, others will be too! Sharing information is a goal of this newsletter and you need not be an experienced or famous writer to submit something. This is a continuing plea.

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