BOOK REVIEWS AND BOOK NOTES

EDITED BY NORMAN B. WILKINSON

The Bay and River Delaware, A Pictorial History. By David B. Tyler.

Pictorial history has too long been regarded by professional historians as a waste of time and talent. Consequently, collected drawings and photographs of places, faces, and things have been put together in the name of history by almost anyone with sufficient interest, time, and funds for publication. More recently, however, several scholars have combined historical judgment with good taste to bring us a number of valuable pictorial histories. Following the pattern so ably set by Marion V. Brewington's Chesapeake Bay: A Pictorial Maritime History, David B. Tyler and the Cornell Maritime Press present The Bay and River Delaware, A Pictorial History.

Covering three and one-half centuries of a river's past in less than two hundred and fifty pages of text and pictures is a difficult undertaking. The strength of Mr. Tyler's book lies in his choice of drawings and photographs. He has achieved an especially fine accomplishment in uncovering a number of rare pictures from private collections. The captions accompanying each item are particularly good, answering most of those questions which inevitably come to one's mind when studying an interesting picture.

Virtually every aspect of Delaware River life is represented by at least one selection. Vessels of every size and description naturally play an important role in the history of bay and river. Here Mr. Tyler exercises his intimate knowledge of maritime matters by including a fine selection of vessels, from Half Moon to a modern lightship on the Overfalls station. All lovers of the "up-and-downer" walking-beam sidewheeler will be especially pleased by the several representatives of this fascinating type of steamer.

Nor is life along the river bank ignored by the author. Maritime activities in the major cities—Philadelphia, Trenton, and Wilmington—receive good coverage. Shipbuilding is presented with complete thoroughness; and the many bridges and ferries which have crossed the river are not overlooked. Forts, naval installations, and battles are given prominent notice. Numerous views of the river above Trenton display the attractiveness of this area as well.

For this reviewer, however, Mr. Tyler's definition of river and bay is too restricted. Nowhere does one get a satisfactory glimpse of the whole—neither in picture nor in words. Though the text introducing each chapter to some extent fulfills this need for the rather brief period concerned in each case, the overall view is still missing. If one of the causes of a river's greatness is its importance to the total area served, then this relationship should be fully presented. But this part of the story goes untold except for those
canal systems which connect river and interior. The final picture, a photograph of a large display at the Commercial Museum in Philadelphia, does show the Delaware River Basin. Though not presenting the Basin in sufficient detail itself, this photograph would have been a fine springboard for such a chapter. The definition of river and bay, as it stands, however, omits any mention for instance of the Du Pont family's major contribution to the economic life of the area.

The colonial historian once more has cause to bemoan the paucity of graphic materials representing the period of his interest. Only one-fifth of the pictures included in the present study illustrate the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, while nearly one-half are devoted to the period after 1890. This imbalance, though understandable in terms of what is available, nevertheless results in over-emphasis of things comparatively familiar.

These are the only important shortcomings in a work which makes a valuable contribution to American maritime history. Mr. Tyler has done well to combine in one volume both popular appeal and scholarly authority. The Bay and the River Delaware is at once good browsing and good history.

Harvard University

Benjamin W. Labarrie


Readers will find The Province of West New Jersey, 1609-1702 a valuable contribution to the literature of early American history. With great skill Dr. Pomfret has unraveled the complicated and often enigmatic web of the Proprietary period of West New Jersey. This required an unusual amount of painstaking research, coupled with a penetrating analysis of the sources. The resulting study has given meaning and life to documents and manuscripts, the contents of which have been ambiguous or only partly understandable. Dr. Pomfret, furthermore, has succeeded in the difficult task of presenting a story such as this in a lucid, concise, and interesting style.

In the first three chapters, the author develops (largely from secondary sources) the history of the Dutch and Swedish occupation and trading on the Delaware. Proprietary history for West New Jersey under the English dates from 1664, when the Dutch surrendered their claims and the Duke of York, the new proprietor, bestowed it upon his friends, Lords Berkeley and Carteret.

For a decade after Berkeley and Carteret became the joint owners of New Jersey, no Englishman settled in West New Jersey. In 1674, Berkeley sold his interest, now established as West New Jersey, to John Fenwick and his associate, Edward Byllynge. The bankruptcy of these men caused the dispersal of West New Jersey stock among many holders, most of whom were Quakers. This dispersal left in its wake an extremely complicated struggle for control of the government of West New Jersey. By and large the controversy was one between the local stockholders and Byllynge, then
Cox, and finally the New Jersey Society, who followed one another as principal proprietors.

When West New Jersey became a Royal province in 1702, it had about thirty-five hundred inhabitants, mostly Quakers. Nearly one-half of this number lived in the villages of Burlington, Gloucester, and Salem which, though small, played an important role in the history of colonial America. West New Jersey's slow growth can not be attributed to lack of good land or other resources with which it was handsomely endowed. It was rather due to the greater attraction of Pennsylvania where settlers did not run the risk of imperfect land titles and the uncertainties arising from the squabbles of contending proprietors.

Dr. Pomfret dwells at some length upon the freedom, rights, and liberties guaranteed the inhabitants of West New Jersey by the Concessions of 1676, which remained the spirit of the law throughout the colonial period. "All that was initiated after 1702," writes Dr. Pomfret, "was set forth in the Concessions." The Concessions, he concludes, "embody concepts and ideals that must by any test be regarded as an integral part of the American heritage."

Land tenure in West New Jersey, under Quaker laws, was freed from the feudal usages which survived in England. A competitive market forced quitrents to remain inconsequential. Regulations upon the sale of land kept down the size of holdings in the province, making West New Jersey largely a land of the yeoman farmer, socially equal.

Much social and economic, as well as political history, finds a place in this history of West New Jersey. The development of the Monthly, Quarterly, and Yearly meetings of the Quakers is traced in detail. The evolution of the Quaker way of life during this formative period is likewise well covered. A chapter is devoted to the Keithian controversy which failed to convert many West Jerseyans to Anglicanism. Until the Revolution, in fact, the cohesive force in West New Jersey remained Quaker. For example, the generation before the Revolution, West New Jersey produced John Woolman who epitomized the ideals and the way of life in this first "Holy Experiment" of the Society of Friends.

Newark College, Rutgers University

THEODORE THAYER


From many angles this is a very unusual story, and Mr. and Mrs. Gray are to be congratulated for having put it together from various sources, particularly from the printed and archival material of the Moravian Church, and from the diaries or published lives of the missionary pioneers.

Unlike most missionary enterprises this proved very ambulatory, for the communities of Indians which were the object of the endeavor were subject to harassment from many sources and frequently had to move. As they moved, their white pastors and teachers moved with them. Quite apart from
the vicissitudes of other groups, the Christian Delawares because of their unwillingness to fight on either side were pressured by both.

The longest sojourn in the history of the Moravian Indian missions was from 1792 to 1813 at Fairfield on the Thames in Upper Canada, not many miles from Detroit. Nearly forty years before that work had begun near Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, which long remained the home base of the enterprise. Missionaries and converts had later moved to Western Pennsylvania, to Ohio (on the Muskingum), and to Michigan. After the destruction of Fairfield during the War of 1812 the missionaries and their flocks were temporarily established again on the Muskingum and again on the Thames, as well as at places in Indiana to the west and further eastward near Lake Ontario in Upper Canada.

There are many honored names of the workers in this heart-breaking enterprise. Earliest, longest and most distinguished is that of David Zeisberger (1720-1808), but other notable names figure in the early story, like John Ettwein and John Heckewelder, Abraham Luckenbach, Gottlob Sensemann, John Schnall and Christian Frederick Deucke. None of the Indian converts rose to a place of distinction.

The story is told with evident pietas, and indeed it does honor to the perseverance of the Moravian Church. There is a wealth of detail, sometimes confusing to the ignorant first reader, but an effort is made to clarify the relation to wider historical events and to the more familiar modern geography. For many readers the most interesting sections will probably be those which, with good knowledge of the ancient lore, describe, as in chapters 9 and 17 and 29, the life and customs of the communities with their frontier problems and their German traditions.

The problem of the American Indians is still with us. This detailed study of a small segment of their past history can give us little insight or comfort for the present. But the story was worth preserving with all its tragedy and heroism.

Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pa. Henry J. Cadbury

Mr. Franklin: A Selection From His Personal Letters. Edited by Leonard W. Labaree and Whitfield J. Bell, Jr. (New Haven, Yale University Press, 1956. Pp. 61. $3.75.)

One of the most impressive characteristics of Benjamin Franklin was his capacity for extracting from life every full measure of enjoyment. His zest for living and his rich humor were evident in almost every one of his manifold activities. In just that sense, this little book is worthy of the great man to whom it does honor, for it speaks throughout of the enjoyment its editors and publishers took in preparing it. With almost antiquarian zeal, they have adapted the cover paper from the pattern used in one of his almanacs, titled the cover with a set of his stencils, garnished the title page with his own calling card, supplied the book with six well-chosen color plates, and printed it beautifully. More important, they have chosen the letters that comprise the book with the design of seeking to reach the heart
of Franklin the man, and they have introduced each selection deftly and with high good humor.

Appropriately, letters have been presented which are very well known besides others which have never before been published—all chosen for their content rather than their rarity. Except for the wish to illuminate different aspects of Franklin's personality, and possibly to include letters from all of the leading repositories of Franklin material, there has been little restraint upon the selection of letters. They have been chosen because they were enjoyable. The result is a delightful introduction to Benjamin Franklin. The letters do not provide grist for the mill of the scholar, and yet there is no one, scholar or layman, who can read them without being led to new reflections upon the great Philadelphian.

This collection of letters easily dispels the vision of Franklin as a lengthened shadow of the prudential Poor Richard at the same time that it reveals something of the depth and universality of his appeal. Franklin, who became not only an American hero in his own lifetime, but also the epitome of the learned philosopher—the eighteenth century ideal—emerges here as a human being. His science, his politics, his diplomacy, and his literary craftsmanship are but hinted at. Yet some concept of the successful approach he brought to all of these fields is gained in perusing these few words upon a variety of subjects, trivial and weighty.

This book is but the smallest by-product of the monumental project for the publication of "The Papers of Benjamin Franklin" in twenty-five or more volumes, but it awakens a thirst to drink more deeply of the full cup. It gives some indication of the finesse with which the exhaustive publication of his papers will be carried through and just the faintest idea of the riches it will contain. This selection, by its concentration upon the personality of the man, inadvertently reduces his complexity and depth, but it does suggest that the publication of the full collection of his writings and correspondence may permit us to understand him in a way that has never yet been achieved. Perhaps it may even be possible to erase the calumny of his brilliant biographer, Carl Van Doren, who conceded that he seemed "a harmonious human multitude." Certainly if it is ever possible for lesser men to comprehend the dimensions if not the anatomy of genius, it will be in the case of Benjamin Franklin, the most human of all geniuses.

New York University

Brooke Hindle


On July 30, 1784, Thomas Jefferson landed at Le Havre to begin his mission as minister to France. Five years later he returned to the United States and was appointed the first Secretary of State in President Washington's new government. Much happened, both in America and Europe during this half decade, and Jefferson's correspondence reveals an awareness
of events and developments that explains much of his subsequent political career.

Happily, the two latest volumes of Princeton's magnificent edition of *The Papers of Thomas Jefferson* are now available to both extend and deepen our knowledge of Jefferson's thought and action in the critical years of 1787 and 1788. These newest volumes include Jefferson's "Notes of a Tour," recording his travels in Southern France and Northern Italy; and an extensive and fascinating treatment of the melancholy tale of Thomas Barclay, a Philadelphian who very nearly entered a French debtor's prison due to the failure of the Congress to meet his consular expenses. There are continued exchanges between Jefferson and his friends and colleagues, such as James Madison, John Adams, and John Jay, and further correspondence between Jefferson and the much-admired Maria Cosway. More mundane are the persistent efforts to maintain and strengthen America's credit and trade in Europe. A major editorial coup is the publication, for the first time, of young Thomas Lee Shippen's description of Jefferson in diplomatic and ceremonial action at Versailles: this letter, found in the Shippen Papers in the Library of Congress, supplies an eye-witness account of a Jefferson whose plain dress was more than compensated for by his evident fame and popularity.

This brief outline of contents might lead to the mistaken impression that these latest volumes compare favorably with the rather fabulous treasures found in the first of this projected fifty-two volume edition. While there are many Jeffersonian gems, there are also many pages of dull and dreary diplomatic documents which may enchant the devoted specialist in that field, but probably few others. And there is that lamentable tendency of Jefferson to repeat himself almost ad nauseam in a series of letters to different people: he practiced a certain economy in his felicitous phrasing by using the same words, as well as the same ideas and information, in perhaps six or seven letters penned about the same time. But this is the obvious penalty of completeness in compiling an edition of a great man's papers, and it is really a modest price to pay for the rewarding insight and detail that is now so available and conveniently collected.

Perhaps an appropriate indication of the delights of Jefferson's phrasing and commentary is supplied in his remark to Madame de Tessé: "Here I am, Madam," wrote Jefferson the tourist, "gazing whole hours at the Maison quarrée, like a lover at his mistress" [XI, 226]. And there was Jefferson's fortunate resort to code to describe John Adams to James Madison:

He is vain, irritable and a bad calculator of the force and probably effect of the motives which govern man . . . he is profound in his views: and accurate in his judgement except where knowledge of the world is necessary to form a judgement [XI, 94].

The advantages of codes for such personal comments are clear enough, although Jefferson sometimes confused both his correspondents and his modern editors by switching codes without any warning.

However, some of the more rewarding portions of this latest offering of
Jefferson material are found in his comments on foreign affairs generally, and American domestic developments specifically. It is easy to understand the progress of Jefferson's thought on the merits of neutrality as he writes to William Carmichael: "Neutrality should be our plan because no nation should without urgent necessity begin a second war while the debts of the former remain unpaid." With unconscious irony, Jefferson (who died desperately debt-ridden) added: "The accumulation of debts is a most fearful evil" [XII, 174]. And with foresight, Jefferson predicted English policy: acting contrary to ordinary commonsense, "they will stop our ships, visit and harass them, seise them on the most frivolous pretexts and oblige us to take from them Canada and Nova Scotia . . ." [XII, 174]. This, of course, was written just twenty-five years before the 1812 War. Jefferson did not precisely warm to England during this European residence: "They [the English] require," he noted vigorously, "to be kicked into common good manners" [XII, 193].

In the field of American politics, the most interesting contributions included in these two volumes are Jefferson's comments on the import of Shay's rebellion, and the nature of the new Constitution that was a partial consequence. In one justly famous phrase, Jefferson told Madison that "a little rebellion now and then is a good thing, and as necessary in the political world as storms in the physical" [XI, 93]. And to the doubting Abigail Adams, he noted, "The spirit of resistance to government is so valuable on certain occasions, that I wish it to be always kept alive" [XI, 174]. The same thread of thought is apparent in Jefferson's subsequent criticism of the new Constitution, when he concluded that "experience shews that the only way to prevent disorder[s] is to render them uninteresting by frequent changes" [XII, 441].

If Europe merely tended to make Jefferson more patriotically American, it did offer one major advantage of which he readily availed himself: namely an unparalleled opportunity to add to his library. As Jefferson wrote to the editor of the Journal de Paris, "When young, I was passionately fond of reading books of history," and this fondness continued to be demonstrated by interest in such items as Tacitus—in the whig translation of Thomas Gordon, of course—Coke, Blackstone, Dalrymple, Kames, and David Houard's Costumes Anglo-Normands [XI, 547]. The latter work is significant for clarifying Jefferson's thinking on the separation of church and state.

The clues to the true intellectual origins of Jeffersonian democracy continue to abound, and this may well constitute the most enduring contribution of this distinguished edition of The Papers of Thomas Jefferson.

The Pennsylvania State University

H. TREVOR COBURN


In the early years of this century English collectors derived great benefit from a series of works on the decorative arts entitled Chats on Old Furniture, Chats on English China, Chats on Old Pewter, etc. These books, written by able collectors, were what the titles indicated, containing a great deal of
valuable information without any pretense at being the definitive works in their fields.

Such a book is *Pennsylvania Clocks and Clockmakers*. The text contains much background on the development of devices for measuring time. The earliest sundials and water clocks, mechanical clocks of the fourteenth to seventeenth centuries, and the pendulum-controlled clock invented by Huygens in 1656, together with its later refinements, are all set forth with clarity by the author. A translation of Huygens' *Horologium* and sections of William Molyneux' *Concerning the Astronomical Equation of Time* are also included in the text, as are many helpful explanations of the intricacies of measuring time and the workings of clocks.

Along with these general developments, the history of the Pennsylvania clockmaker is briefly traced. Biographical sketches are included on the more important makers, such as David Rittenhouse and Thomas Stretch, together with descriptions of their more important works. The position of the clockmaker was high indeed in the artisan class, many of these craftsmen having achieved eminence in the fields of science and natural philosophy. The fascinating story of the clocks and bells of the State House is told, as are histories of some of the more important timepieces brought to and made in Pennsylvania. Isaac Norris' marvelous statement in 1753 about a Philadelphia-made clock rather than a London one for the State House is given:

> We expect it will prove better than any they would send us from England, where, once they have put it out of their hands, they have done with it, but here the workman would be very uneasy if he did not exert his utmost skill, as we do not stint him in the price of his labor.

The reader learns of the evolution of clockmaking in Pennsylvania, the flowering of the art in the Chippendale (1750-1775) and classical (1780-1820) periods, and the eventual demise of the craft in the second quarter of the nineteenth century because of the inexpensive almost mass-produced New England shelf clocks. Chapters are also included on the restoration of these instruments, their worth, the rural productions of the Pennsylvania Germans, and on watches and watchpapers, the former of which were rarely completely produced in this country.

A thirty-page section of photographs is included as are two long lists of clockmakers and watchmakers of Philadelphia and rural Pennsylvania. The volume is well indexed, but contains no bibliography. It seems unfortunate that the price will keep this work from the general public for which it was intended.

It is a good book and will serve as an excellent point of departure for a final well-documented work devoted to Pennsylvania clocks and their makers. Primary sources will have to be carefully checked for names and dates, important examples in outstanding collections must be utilized, and the placing of the craftsman in his society needs to be done. That, however, is the ultimate. This work is the immediate, and it is an able appreciation of a vast and enjoyable field. This reviewer will not quickly forget the medley
of tunes that Mr. Groppengieser put in the Rittenhouse clock of the Pennsylvania Hospital!

Winterthur Museum, Greenville, Del.  

DEAN A. FALES, JR.


In the foreword to The Pennsylvania and New York Frontier, the author declares that his work was undertaken because "no connected and complete history of the Pennsylvania and New York frontier has been published." Unfortunately this book, based primarily upon older secondary sources and local accounts, does not fill this readily recognizable gap in historical analysis.

A history of the Pennsylvania-New York frontier in the period from 1720 to 1785 should revolve around the interlocking and conflicting aims, policies, and activities of five major groups: the French, the Iroquois, the British, the American colonial governments, and the individual colonists who lived in the area. Except for scanty accounts of negotiations and treaties involving Indian land cessions, the author has hardly touched upon any of the fundamental issues involved in the Pennsylvania-New York frontier situation.

His work is essentially a collection of sketches of well-known frontier characters such as Conrad Weiser, George Croghan, Sir William Johnson, Shikellamy, Canassatego, King Hendrick, and John Papunhank; of well-known events such as the Great Lancaster Council, Washington's mission to Venango, the Albany Congress, the Conestoga murders, the Gnadenhuetten massacre, the Pennamite Wars, and the abduction of Frances Slocum; and of the major battles fought between 1740 and 1783. The author makes no attempt to evaluate frontier events: he gives as much attention to the abduction of Frances Slocum as he gives to the significant battles of the French and Indian War and the Revolution. In addition, his prejudices are more than apparent. He does not like New York or its inhabitants; he has no respect for William Johnson, Governor Shirley, Benjamin Franklin, or the Pennsylvania Quakers. In short the author's work lacks both unity and balance.

His writing leaves much to be desired. Transitions between chapters, paragraphs, and sentences are missing; almost every sentence is either simple or compound; subordination is conspicuously absent. The punctuation conforms to no recognized rules. Printer's errors are frequent. And many controversial statements are left undocumented. Typical of sentence structure, punctuation, and lack of documentation is a statement picked at random (p. 84): "Shirley's cherished dream was the capture of Fort Niagara, but he, never, got farther, than a little boy on a hobby horse."

Although the index is adequate, a detailed map of the Pennsylvania-New York frontier would have been helpful.

The Pennsylvania State University  

JOSEPH G. RAYBACK

For many years county historical societies have been rendering a valuable service to the study of local history through their varied activities. The preservation of early records, artifacts, pictures, maps, charts and other similar materials has made historical society headquarters a veritable gold mine of original sources. The Lehigh County Historical Society has not only been a pioneer in this respect, but one of the most active in collecting, preserving, and interpreting historical records. Materials in the Society's headquarters have been made available to teachers of local, state and national history. Mr. Melville J. Boyer, one of its most active members, has served as secretary and editor of the Proceedings for the past several years. Mr. Boyer is head of the history department in one of the large local high schools, which has given him an unusual opportunity to share with his pupils some of the most significant developments in the history of Lehigh County.

This program of the Proceedings includes a variety of subjects such as bridges, apple whisky, unrecorded deeds, historical restoration and preservation in Lehigh County, and the usual membership lists and other matters pertaining to the Society's activities. The articles are well illustrated with pictures, maps, and drawings. They are sufficiently detailed to give the reader a clearer understanding of the subject covered in the article.

Of the four major articles in the volume Mr. Boyer is the author of two. Teachers of local history will find sections of this publication very useful as a reference. Mr. Boyer has done a commendable work in bringing together the various subjects treated and one which it is hoped will be useful to scholars.

Langhorne, Pa.

OLIVER S. HECKMAN


This 14½ by 18-inch portfolio of maps and illustrations represents the result of about ten years of "assembling a collection of maps of additions to the Town . . ." of Bloomsburg, and was prepared as a contribution toward the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the laying out of the Town. This notable achievement attempts to show the growth "from the original settlement in an Indian forest . . . to the present agricultural and manufacturing center of today." Bloomsburg may well be proud of this compilation. As noted in the "Prologue," "This volume is the first of a series of reference books being prepared primarily for the purpose of being helpful and instructive to the present and future students in the Town schools."

With them in mind, the author wisely arranges his first map to show the regional relationship of their Town to surrounding counties and to the State. The looseleaf nature of the volume allows for individual map study and display. The inclusion of a local biographical index and of the genealogical
map of the Commonwealth is another feature not common to atlases. The many plats of town sections are historically valuable for tracing the evolution of the Town.

The reproduction and printing of the many early maps must have presented quite a problem. As would be expected the offset printing from early originals left very indistinct results in some instances. Publishers and author are, however, to be complimented for the excellent workmanship. It is a matter of regret that the "Prologue," which definitely it is not, was carelessly edited. Then, too, names of Indian tribes should be spelled to correspond with spellings in the Pennsylvania history books which pupils might consult. Apart from these few defects, the Bloomsburg Atlas might well serve as a pattern for other communities to preserve the geography of their growth.

Lehigh County Historical Society
Allentown, Pa.

Melville J. Boyer
Pennsylvania History

For All the People . . . and for Study and Research

Publications of

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

Pennsylvania History in Outline, by S. K. Stevens, stresses the basic trends and suggests topics for further study. (38 pages, 15 cents)

Conserving Pennsylvania’s Historical Heritage, by S. K. Stevens and Donald H. Kent, is a pictorial account of the Commission’s historical properties and activities. (64 pages, 25 cents)

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Historic Pennsylvania Leaflets deal with various topics and personalities of Pennsylvania history. (Single copies free on request)

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Remember William Penn, 1644-1944 is a beautifully illustrated volume on Penn’s life and achievements. (251 pages, cloth, $2.00)

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The Nanticoke Indians, A Refugee Tribal Group of Pennsylvania, by C. A. Weslager, relates history of a little-known tribe. (159 pages, $1.50)

Archaeological Studies of the Susquehannock Indians, by Donald A. Cadzow, is the second report on archaeological research near Safe Harbor. (217 pages, $1.50)
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A Checklist of Pennsylvania Newspapers, Philadelphia County, lists all known holdings of newspapers published in Philadelphia. (325 pages, $1.50, cloth, $2.00)

AND MORE, BESIDES . . .

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