

THE ATHENÆUM OF PHILADELPHIA



197™ ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR 2011/2012

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Design and layout by Michael J. Seneca Graphics by The Regional Digital Imaging Center at The Athenæum of Philadelphia

Front Cover: Lydia Leaming. Oil on canvas by Thomas Sully, 1806.

Gift of Lydia Smith Thomson

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that the Athenæum's Board of Directors has had a productive year. A generous grant from the William B. Dietrich Foundation has enabled us to restore the east balcony overlooking the garden, to begin renovations in the Busch Room, and to restore the Reading Room windows. Generous donations from the Athenæum Board and from the general membership have enabled us to restore the third floor windows, windows in the Busch Room, and work on the west balcony. Most of the work should be completed by Spring 2013--just in time

for the first events planned to celebrate the two-hundredth anniversary of the Athenæum's founding.

The Athenæum also welcomes Frank G. Cooper, a partner at the law firm of Duane Morris, who has been elected to the Board. Frank is a graduate of George Washington University and received his law degree from The University of Pennsylvania. His expertise in the field of estates and trusts has made him a valuable contributor to the Membership Committee, ably chaired by Joanne Denworth.



Frank G. Cooper

Many events have been planned to celebrate our bicentennial year, and the Board cordially invites its members and guests to participate in this important milestone in the Athenæum of Philadelphia's history.

Lea Carson Sherk
President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Part of every Athenæum Annual Report must acknowledge the work that is progressing on our National Historic Landmark Building. In Fiscal Year 2011/2012 the Athenæum fortunately received a generous grant from the William B. Dietrich Foundation for repair to windows and plaster in the Reading Room, for renovation of the east balcony, and for renovations and painting and plaster repair in the Busch Room. This work continues into Fiscal Year 2012/2013.



Scaffolding surrounding the East Balcony, July 2012.

Photo by Jim Carroll.

In May 2012, inspired by the generosity of the Dietrich Foundation grant, the Athenæum asked the membership to make a special contribution to the Building Fund for additional needed repairs, and the membership responded in May and through the summer with contributions totaling nearly \$100,000. Work on all of this continues, and our members have patiently suffered through loud noises, plastic shrouding windows, and more dust than we are accustomed to finding in our large rooms. All of these annoyances, however, mean progress; and this is a progress supported by foundations, Athenæum Board and Athenæum membership. The work, of course, is not yet finished; but we hope to have most of the repairs completed before the 2014 200th anniversary celebration.

Planning for the 200th anniversary has also sprung into action. In spring 2012 Athenæum Board member Penelope McCaskill Hunt gathered a small group of members to establish a committee to plan our 200th anniversary celebrations. This lively group has tours, a possible dinner, exhibitions, and speakers in mind to commemorate the role of the Athenæum in 1814 Philadelphia. We look forward to hearing more from them in future Annual Reports.

Throughout the fall and winter/spring the Athenæum continued with its energetic programming, launching Fall 2011 with an opening for *Philadelphia Places on Paper: Selections from the Eli P. Zebooker Collection*. Dr. Zebooker has been a stockholding member of the Athenæum since 1976, but his collection reflects years of gathering beyond his years of membership. The exhibition and the hand list, compiled by the Athenæum's Gladys Brooks Curator of Architecture Bruce Laverty and Athenæum intern Erin Kuykendall, were supported by a generous grant from the Beneficia Foundation, with conservation support for several items provided by the Beryl and Rosemond C. Price Conservation Fund at the Athenæum. This exhibition drew a number of visitors from the Philadelphia Map Society to see precious and rarely exhibited maps, prints, and guidebooks.



Philadelphia Places on Paper: Selections from the Eli P. Zebooker Collection exhibition. Photo by Jim Carroll.

Fall 2011 continued with a book launch from the architectural firm of KieranTimberlake, Marc Fumaroli's lecture on *When the World Spoke French*, Drexel University's Ken Lacovara on the "Giants at the End of the World: Recent Dinosaur Discoveries from Southernmost Patagonia, Argentina," which featured an animated PowerPoint which allowed the audience to actually see the dinosaur whose remains Dr. Lacovara and his team excavated. Finally Michael Kathrens updated us on his research into Horace Trumbauer, with a revised edition of *American Splendor*. Fall ended with the exhibition and symposium devoted to *The Decorated Book: Continuing a Tradition*, which highlighted designed book covers from the Athenæum collection along with responses to those covers from



The Decorated Book: Continuing a Tradition, The 2011 Roger W. Moss Symposium, supported by The Barra Foundation.

Photo by Jim Carroll.

contemporary book artists. The Roger W. Moss Symposium (supported by the Barra Foundation) continued that theme with speakers Richard Minsky, founder of the New York Center for the Book, Barbara Hebard, Conservator at Boston College and a graduate of Boston's North Bennet Street School bookbinding program, and Susan Isaacs, Professor of Art History at Towson University and Adjunct Curator for the Delaware Center for the Contemporary Arts, who had also acted a juror for the exhibition. This well-attended symposium included in the audience a class from the Charter High School for Architecture & Design.



The Decorated Book: Continuting a Tradition exhibition. Photo by Jim Carroll.

The Winter/Spring set of programs commenced with Witold Rybczynski's latest book, which concentrated on the Sainsbury Gallery designed by Norman Foster. He was followed by John Dixon Hunt and The World of In March the Athenæum Gardens. began its afternoon programs with an enlightening presentation by Lawrence M. Arrigale and Thomas H. Keels on Philadelphia's Golden Age of Retail, which brought together many previously Philadelphia unknown images of



Bruce Laverty (L) gives a gallery talk on

Elegant Things & Vile Uses: The Civil War and the United States Capitol Building, April 11, 2012

Photo by Jim Carroll.

department stores. March's annual Alvin Holm Lecture, co-sponsored with the Philadelphia Chapter of the Institute of Classical Architecture & Art, brought Francis Marrone to talk about his new title on the New York Public Library. In April 2012 we again welcomed a poetry reading from Saturnalia Books, and the Annual Meeting featured Athenæum member Dr. Elizabeth Milroy, who shared her latest research regarding the roles of Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux in the design of Fairmount Park. The Annual Meeting was also the occasion for the opening of Elegant Things and Vile Uses: The Civil War and the United States Capitol Building, which revealed the sometimes horrifying uses of the Capitol during the War, employing both Capitol research and the T. U. Walter Collection here at the Athenæum. One of the highlights of that exhibition was the comparison of the Athenæum's Brumidi sketch for the interior mural for the Capitol dome with a current digital image showing its final state.

In May the Athenæum continued its tradition of Literary May, a month devoted to programming inspired by the Athenæum Literary Award, which was initiated in 1950. This May we celebrated Robert Browning's birthday on May 7th with a workshop led by Dr. Ejner Jensen, "Robert Browning and William Shakespeare: *The Tempest* and Its After-life in Poetry." Other Literary May activities took on the theme of Writing History in all of its many variations and included the latest biography of Lillian Hellman, *A Difficult Woman* by Alice Kessler-Harris, Sam Watters on *Gardens for a Beautiful America*, 1895-1935, based upon the collections of photographer

Frances Benjamin Johnston at the Library of Congress, and Swarthmore Professor Jean-Vincent Blanchard's *Eminence: Cardinal Richelieu and the Rise of France*. Literary May finished with Lynmar Brock's *In This Hospitable Land*, a work of fiction based upon his wife's experiences in Belgium during World War II.

In June one more afternoon program revealed architect Robert Skaler's research on Society Hill and Old City, illustrated with the wealth of historic postcards that Skaler has gathered over his many years of collecting. We also launched June with a resoundingly successful Athenæum Book Sale, supported grandly by many volunteer hours from the Athenæum membership. Our members handled sorting, pricing, and selling, with work study students from Temple University also helping. This kind of event cannot go forward successfully without membership support, and we also thank the many Athenæum members who donated books specifically for the sale.



Bernard Resnick, Volunteer.



Margaret Ullman, Volunteer.

I want to note here also the long-term efforts of our able volunteers. When I arrived at the Athenæum at the end of 2007, I was approached by an Athenæum member who pressed for Saturday hours and who promised that he would faithfully volunteer on Saturdays if I could round up more volunteers and staff to help. Thus was launched the First Saturday program, ably supported by that Athenæum member, Bernard M. Resnick. He was joined on that very first First Saturday by Margaret Ullman, Athenæum Curator of Architecture Bruce Laverty and me. Our quartet made First Saturdays possible, and we would not have been able to manage these extra hours without the volunteer efforts of Bernie Resnick and Margaret Ullman. As we explore opening on more Saturdays, we need to pay tribute to the people who have faithfully served us since 2008 in that venture. Our hearty appreciation goes out to these two stalwart volunteers.

Another volunteer who needs to be recognized is John Fatula, whose role in conserving books and other materials, chiefly in making acid-free enclosures to preserve our precious collections, must also be applauded. Before retirement, John worked for PSFS as a staff architect, and he fortuitously saved several items from the dumpster when PSFS became Loews. The original PSFS sign that we display in our RDIC office represents his contribution. Also a talented book



John Fatula, Volunteer.

designer, he has participated in two of our book artist exhibitions, showing both his "Temple of Architecture" and Babar variations.

As you can see from this report, the Athenæum remains a vital organization even during its repair and renovation phase. Supplementing formal lecture activities, continuing membership gatherings, such as the Socrates Café and New Book Week, bring stockholders and subscribers together for informal meetings, with Librarian Jill Lee dispensing books and guiding Ancestry.com research. Now we are approaching the Athenæum's 200th anniversary in 2014, and the final push to finish renovations to the building again will rely on both the membership and interested foundations.

October 2012 will mark my fifth year as Executive Director of the Athenæum of Philadelphia, and I want to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated Athenæum Board and staff as well as the volunteers whose diligent efforts have brought the Athenæum to the brink of its 200th anniversary. As one of the few surviving Philadelphia historical organizations not founded by Benjamin Franklin, the Athenæum provides a continued and valuable legacy within the Philadelphia community through its outreach to other non-profits, its collaboration with likeminded organizations, and its service to its membership and researchers. In 2013 as our planning for the 200th anniversary accelerates, we will celebrate all of this and more.

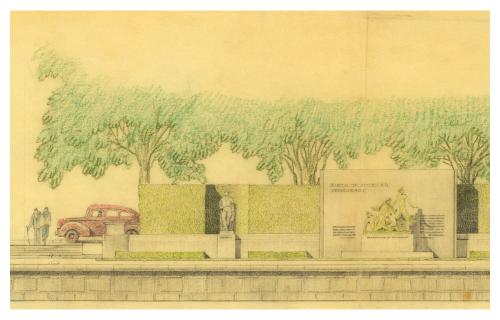
Sandra L. Tatman, Ph. D. Executive Director

RESEARCH COLLECTIONS REPORT

Items in a wide range of collection areas have been acquired in the past year. Some of the highlights are enumerated below.

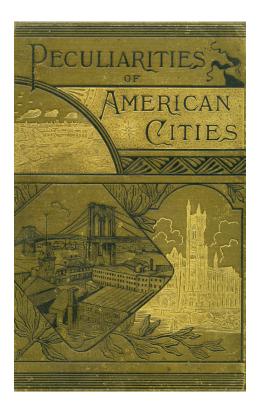
Architectural Drawings

This year's largest single accession came from architects Barry N. Eiswerth, Mykhaylo S. Kulynych, Thomas P. Piotrowski and Douglas Steele, who donated more than 240 cubic feet of drawings by Paul Philippe Cret and his successor firm, H2L2. This material documents scores of projects between 1926 and 1970 including Independence Mall, the Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. Capitol and the Philadelphia Zoo. But treasures arrived not only by the truckload as above, but also by the sheet, as demonstrated by the gift of Peter F. Arfaa, FAIA—a single exquisite rendering of the Ellen Phillips Samuel Memorial on East River Drive.



Detail of "Proposed Elevation for South Terrace, Ellen Phillips Samuel Memorial."

Paul Philippe Cret, Architect, 1940. Gift of Peter F. Arfaa, FAIA.



Cover of Peculiarities of American Cities (Philadelphia: Hubbard Brothers, 1885). Gift of Hyman and Sandra Myers.

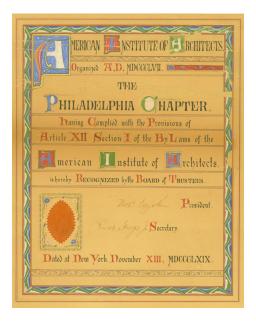
Books

Recognizing the Athenæum's role as the primary reference library for Philadelphia's preservation community, the Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia donated а copy Moorland Studios' 2011 Condition Survey of the William Penn Statue, City Hall Tower, the sixth such periodic survey to be added to the collection since the Philadelphia icon restored in 1989. Also added to the book collection this year was an 1885 travel book, Peculiarities of American Cities. Beside the typical descriptions of geography and landmarks, the author described the mores of our citizenry. "Its people do not rush hither and thither as though but one day remained to accomplish a life's work. They are a steady, plodding people, accumulating handsome fortunes in solid, legitimate ways."

Manuscripts

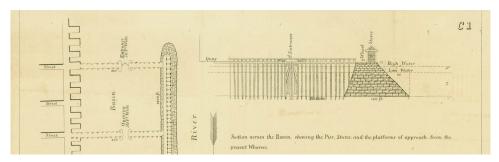
The Philadelphia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects has had a long relationship with the Athenæum, from the 1870s when its offices were located on our third floor, to the 1980s when it transferred 120 years of archival material to us. This year the chapter donated its founding documents, including the beautifully illuminated manuscript charter, signed by AIA national president Richard Upjohn in 1869.

Charter of The Philadelphia Chapter of The American Institute of Architects, 1869. Gift of Philadelphia Chapter AIA.



Prints

While William Strickland is primarily known as an architect he was also an engineer of some note. The Athenæum was fortunate enough to acquire a rare print that documents this part of Strickland's career. Building on the success of his 1828 breakwater on Delaware Bay, Strickland submitted this design for a milelong pier on the North (Hudson) River in lower Manhattan in 1836. This item was purchased with support from the Architectural Acquisitions Fund.

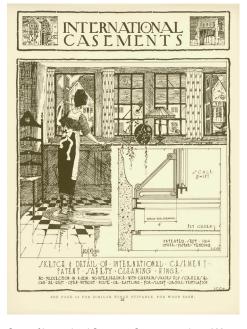


Detail of a print of the North River Pier, William Strickland, Architect, 1836.

Athenæum Purchase.

Trade Materials

The Athenæum's collection of trade catalogs is the third largest in America, and it provides architects, designers and students an invaluable resource. Among the items of note to be added this year is the 1922 illustrated catalog of the International Casement Company of Jamestown New York, the gift of Paul T. Bockenhauer.



Cover of International Casement Company catalog, 1922. Gift of Paul T. Bockenhauer.

Photographs

While trade catalogs often show commercial products, this year the Athenæum was pleased to acquire a unique set of photographs that document the design of retail space. Gareth Jones donated a leather-bound presentation portfolio of photographs of design drawings for the John Wanamaker Department Store, c.1935.



Court of William the Conqueror Dining Garden, John Wanamaker Department Store.

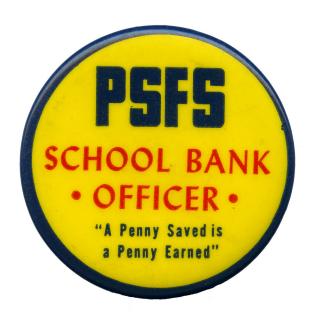
George W. Smith & Co., Designers, c.1935.

Gift of Gareth Jones

In 2011 the Radnor Historical Society made a substantial addition to the long-term loan of drawings made in 1990. Among the items added to the collection here were 310 large-format glass plate negatives, which document the work of Wendell & Smith, builders of planned communities in Overbrook, Pelham, Wayne and St. Davids between 1890 and 1920. The fragile, yet incredibly detailed, negatives have been digitized for accessibility and safely rehoused in archival boxes and stored in our climate-controlled vault.



Photo of 88 and 90 Sherwood Rd., Overbrook. c.1899. (Now 6335 and 6339 Sherwood Rd.)
On long term loan from the Radnor Historical Society.



PSFS School Bank Officer Button. Gift of Hyman and Sandra Myers.

Objects

The Athenæum acquired several portraits of women, including the Thomas Sully of Lydia Leaming, 1806 (shown on the cover of this report) the gift of Lydia Smith Thomson. Another was the gift of Katherine Vaux McCauley, a 1924 portrait of her mother, Anne Hawks, by artist Marie Danforth Page. Anne Hawks would become the wife of George Vaux, former President of the Athenæum. Not all of the objects acquired fall into the "fine arts" category. The Philadelphia Saving Fund Society, known for its landmark buildings, was the first bank to open branch offices and the first to offer "school banking" to encourage regular habits of thrift in grade school students, and to advertise the bank and its brand. The original owner of this school banking officer button is now on the Athenæum board of directors.

Bruce LavertyGladys Brooks Curator of Architecture

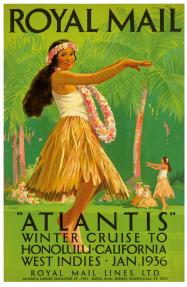
REGIONAL DIGITAL IMAGING CENTER REPORT

The mission of the Regional Digital Imaging Center is:

- To support the preservation and access of the Athenæum's historic collections.
- To enhance Athenæum online projects, including *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings* and the *Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network*.
- To produce graphic design and content for Athenæum publications and exhibitions.
- To support the local museum, library and archival community by providing digital services in a museum setting.
- To provide the local independent arts community with safe, reasonably-priced digitization and printing services in a museum setting.
- To educate students and the public at large through its on-site work-study, and internship programs as well as participation in national and international conferences.

The Regional Digital Imaging Center (RDIC) has had a very busy year. Digitization work increased 50% over the previous fiscal year. This is primarily the result of work for outside clients, but also includes orders for reproductions from the Athenæum's collections.

This year also demonstrated that the reach of the RDIC has expanded well beyond its "regional" moniker. A new client, Pacifica Island Art, Inc. (www.IslandArtStore.com), is based in Haiku, Hawaii. Pacifica publishes fine art, photographs and vintage images in the form of greeting cards, postcards, prints, magnets and other gift items. They are also an ecological publishing company, abiding by environmentally friendly methods of production by using chlorine-free paper and non-toxic inks.



Royal Mail "Atlantis" c. 1936 by Percy Padden Courtesy Pacifica Island Art, Inc.

The RDIC has scanned several hundred vintage travel posters for Pacifica. They will use those scans to produce the reproduction prints that are sold through their website

On the other side of the globe, the exhibition *Louis Kahn: The Power of Architecture* recently opened at The Netherlands Architecture Institute and will soon travel to The Vitra Design Museum in Weilam Rhein, Germany. The Architectural Archives of The University of Pennsylvania chose the RDIC to scan more than 450 of Kahn's architectural drawings for use in this exhibition and the accompanying catalog.

Among the high-profile items scanned this year was the Schuyler Patent, owned by Bergen County, NJ and scanned for the New Jersey State Archives, which has been a regular RDIC client since the scanning of New Jersey's copy of the Bill of Rights in 2006. The Schuyler Patent was drawn by William Bond in 1710 and is one of the oldest maps of Bergen County. It shows the proximity of the trading post, Hackensack Indian long houses, and the Indian trail running from the houses to the Paramus area. Such land purchases between early colonists and the local indigenous peoples prepared the way for the dislocation westward of the various Lenape groups and for decades of bitter land disputes between early colonists and the New Jersey Proprietors over rightful title to the land.

The RDIC also fulfilled major map scanning projects for The Philadelphia Water Department and The Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia, and continued a slide scanning project for Robert A. M. Stern, Architects which has resulted in the digitization of over 30,000 slides since the project started in 2007.



The RDIC table at the April MARAC Conference. Congress Hall, Cape May, NJ.

Most customers of the RDIC have found our services by referral from existing clients and through our website but this year the RDIC appeared at two conventions of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, first at their October 2011 meeting in Bethlehem, PA and then at the April 2012 meeting in Cape May, NJ. It is hoped that appearances at such conventions will attract more customers from outside the Greater Philadelphia area.

In addition to work for outside clients, RDIC staff worked on three Athenæum exhibitions in this fiscal year, providing reproductions of exhibit items and design of exhibition graphics. In the case of *Philadelphia Places on Paper: Selections From the Eli P. Zebooker Collection*, all of the items in the exhibit were scanned for inclusion in

the published catalog, which was also designed by the RDIC.

In May, The Athenæum was awarded the Public Service Award at the Preservation Alliance's annual Preservation Achievement Awards. This award is testimony to the vital role the Athenæum plays in the preservation movement in Philadelphia. The Preservation Alliance particularly noted the Athenæum's online services *Philadelphia Architects and Buildings* (www.philadelphiabuildings. org) and the *Greater Philadelphia GeoHistory Network* (www.philageohistory.org) which continue to grow in part due to the work of the RDIC.



Athenæum staff at the Preservation Achievement Awards.

(L-R) Michael Seneca, Bruce Laverty, Denise Fox, Jim Carroll, Sandra Tatman, Walter Rice.

Photo courtesy of The Preservation Alliance of Greater Philadelphia.

More information regarding The Regional Digital Imaging Center can be found at www.PhilaAthenaeum.org/RDIC

Michael J. Seneca Director, RDIC

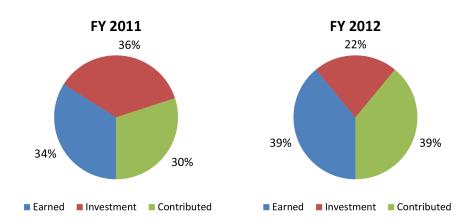
FINANCIAL REPORT

Statements of Operating Revenues and Expenses

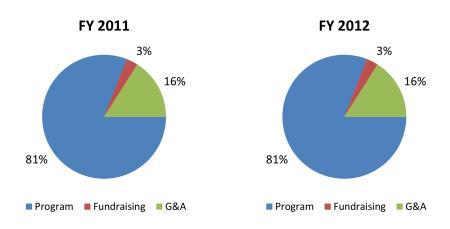
Years ended June 30, 2012 and 2011

Decree and Other Control	2012	<u>2011</u>
Revenues and Other Support	¢470.005	#450.040
Member dues	\$170,925	\$159,048
New memberships	18,788	22,800
Endowment income designated for current operations	306,282	284,127
Other investment income	743	14,518
Income from dedicated trust	264,089	145,958
Programs	C 474	0.404
Members	6,471	8,124
Contributions	295,001	241,431
Outside services	77,468	51,051
Miscellaneous income	21,614	45,287
Sales of publications	8,065	3,962
	1,169,446	976,306
Transfers from designated net assets	(45,000)	45,000
Net assets released from restrictions	92,780	113,571
Total revenues and other support	1,217,226	1,134,877
Expenses		
Programs-exhibitions and lectures	63,138	81,837
Salaries	472,953	477,071
Payroll taxes	38,537	38,982
Employees' medical insurance	107,195	103,339
Staff retirement	27,956	28,637
Collection and acquisition	38,916	42,017
Research fellowships and awards	39,721	32,690
Printing	8,390	5,859
Outside services	32,638	36,066
Utilities	55,047	59,364
Building maintenance and service contracts	60,476	48,668
Insurance	32,168	33,569
Legal and accounting	16,484	13,468
Office	34,020	30,638
Collection storage off-site	48,314	49,721
Professional society dues	4,115	2,440
Miscellaneous	18,959	18,517
Conservation of collections	31,843	22,102
Total expenses	1,130,870	1,124,985
Total expenses	1,100,070	1,121,000
Excess of operating revenue over expenses before depreciation	86,356	9,892
Non-Cash Charges/Other Charges		
Depreciation expense	(79,127)	(125,664)
Excess (deficit) of operating revenue over expenses	\$ 7,229	\$ (115,772)
, , ,		

Revenue



Expenses



NAMED BOOK FUNDS AND ENDOWMENTS

Roland Taylor Addis Book Fund Edward Lee Altemus Book Fund Architectural Advisory Committee Endowment Architecture Acquisitions Fund Arronson Foundation Conservation Fund Thomas G. Ashiean III Book Fund Graham Gaylord Ashmead Book Fund Clare Austin Baird Book Fund Barra Foundation Symposium Fund

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