

IAS

NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IAS

Every year, IAS has to report to the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) of which it is a member. It might also be of interest to the IAS members to know what we have accomplished in the past year, and what we plan to do in the near future. Here is the report as it was sent to IUGS:

1. Accomplishments in 1995

IAS has held its yearly Regional European Meeting in Aix-les-Bains, France, from April 24 to 26. This meeting was run jointly with the French Association of Sedimentologists (ASF) who did an excellent job in organizing the talks and poster sessions, and in putting together an attractive program of field excursions. 400 delegates from 25 different countries attended. Special sessions for IGCP and joint IAS-SEPM programs were held.

IAS has sponsored several meetings in 1995: Reefs and Carbonate Platforms (Sydney, Australia, July 10-14); Ancient and Modern Lacustrine Basins (Copenhagen, Denmark, August 21-25); Sandstone Provenance (Bucharest, Romania, September 4-9); Lacustrine Systems in Convergent Margins (Antofagasta, Chile, November 12-18).

IAS has published 6 issues of its journal *Sedimentology*, comprising about 1000 pages. Starting from 1995, the journal is presented in a

larger and more attractive sub-A4 format. Three special publications on Sedimentary Facies Analysis, on Carbonate Mudmounds, and on Tidal Signatures have been published, with a total of 1100 pages.

IAS continues to sponsor the journal *Basin Research*.

The journal *Sedimentology* is accompanied by a Newsletter where the IAS National Correspondents report on sedimentological activities in their country, where reports on past meetings are given, and where coming meetings are announced. The Newsletter also gives the opportunity to publish historical reports and announcements of the IAS Bureau.

The IAS friendship scheme has been reinforced: sedimentologists from less developed countries can apply for this scheme where a "godparent" pays half of the membership fee, and IAS the other half. In 1995, 141 people benefitted from it.

2. Goals for 1996

A regional African-European Meeting will be held in Sfax, Tunisia, from March 26 to 28, 1996. We expect an important participation from northern and other African countries. IAS also sponsors a meeting on Tidal Sedimentology to be held in Savannah, Georgia, U.S.A., from May 13 to 16, and a joint SEPM/IAS research conference on Carbonates and Global Change in Wildhaus, Switzerland (22-27 June).

We want to continue to publish top-level scientific work and to organize and sponsor top-level research conferences and meetings. However, we also want to encourage young sedimentologists from countries where research possibilities are less well established, and where funding is lacking. We do this by our friendship scheme and by paying travel expenses to international congresses, and we want to introduce a "second-hand scientific book shop" by which individuals and libraries can send their out-of-date editions and surplus books to individuals and libraries in need.

In 1996, Prof. E. Mutti will go on a lecture tour, talking about turbidite and fluvial sedimentary systems. The tour covers 17 institutes in 12 countries. IAS pays the travel expenses; the costs on site are paid for by the inviting institutes.

3. Cooperation with SEPM

On October 16 to 20, 1994, a joint SEPM/IAS Workshop was held in Snowbird, Utah, where Applications of Sedimentary Geology and Paleontology into the 21st Century were discussed. The result was a 78-page report in which the goals and objectives are outlined. As a concrete result of this meeting, we will organize a joint IAS/SEPM research conference on the Contribution of Sedimentary Geology to Environmental Issues. The conference will be held in Venice, Italy, and the Venice lagoon will serve as a case study. It is planned to integrate land and city planners, ecologists, and politicians, and to summarize the results not only in a scientific book, but also in the local media.

Furthermore, we plan to intensify the collaboration with SEPM by better exchange of information through the Newsletters, and by special sales of our publications.

4. Funding

IAS is funded by membership fees. All officers work for free, and there is no permanent staff or formal headquarters.

André Strasser
General Secretary

FINANCIAL REPORT

As from July 1, 1994, the IAS is registered in France. Presentation of the accounts is in French Francs and, for comparison, the accounts for 1993/1994 have been converted to French Francs at a rate of 3,127.

INCOME

	June 30 1995 FF	June 30 1994 FF
Membership fees	323 474	365 990
Sale of books	902 311	1 019 377
Page charges	8 092	22 170
Sedimentology (net result)	551 229	348 410
	1 785 106	1 755 947

EXPENSES

	June 30 1995 FF	June 30 1994 FF
Grants	66 622	7 570
General secretary	13 660	7 080
Cost of postage	18 596	25 451
Office expenses	14 964	30 495
Auditor's costs	48 240	21 889
Seed money	66 707	
IAS Lecture Tour	47 661	32 505
Bureau expenses	168 623	146 053
Bank expenses	51 622	58 525
Depreciation fixed assets	31 178	14 250
Miscellaneous	8 937	3 127
Cost of books	626 348	837 407
Newsletter	73 057	27 837
	1 236 215	1 212 189

NET RESULT

548 891

543 758

A detailed account may be requested from the Treasurer's office for those members who wish to do so.

Isabelle Cojan
Treasurer

10TH BATHURST MEETING OF CARBONATE SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

Robin Bathurst's history of the first nine of these meetings appeared in the December Newsletter, and is typically inclusive of his fellow workers and modest of his own achievement. As well it supplies the opportunity to report on the 10th Bathurst Meeting, held in early July 1995 in the Victorian "grandeur" of the Royal Holloway College, University of London.

The convenor, Dan Bosence, and the very able conference organizer, Susanna van Rose, created a most "user friendly" meeting. The building, its grand public rooms, more intimate Lecture Hall, and slightly spartan accommodations proved an attractive venue for the wide range of carbonate workers typical of Bathurst Meetings. This 10th Meeting attracted 143 participants from 23 nations.

The talks were in a single session, chaired in turn by Dan Bosence, Robin Bathurst, Jim Marshall, and John Hudson. The Bathurst formula was continued, with 30 minutes divided between talk and discussion.

On the first evening Noel James began with a discussion of oceanic current control on Cenozoic sediments, southern Australia.

Slope sequence stratigraphy was described by Matthew Watkinson, Dierk Blomeier, and Nigel Cross. Jon Ineson, Peter Jackson, and Marco Avanzini evolved lowstand systems, with or without dinosaur tracks. Tectonic controls on sedimentation patterns were shown by Moyra Wilson, Martyn Pedley, and Ondrej Babek. A common theme of "microbial" origin of carbonates was explored by Julian Andrews, Joseph Kazmierczak, Ian Goodacre, and Martine Merz-Preiss. "Chemosynthetic" carbonates at gas vents were described by Denis Lavoie, and Pierangelo Clari. Cold-water carbonate precipitation was shown in talks by Jaque Killawee, André Freiwald, and Debbie Walker. Carbonate events atop or within Mesozoic platforms were shown by Stephen Kenyon-Roberts, Paul Wilson, and Kepa Fernandez-Mendiola. Descriptions of a variety of ages and types of bioherms were given by Jobst Wendt, Rachel Wood, Marek Jasionowski, Enzo Insalaco, Gerda Schirrmeyer, Tristram Hardman, and Peter Skelton. Ocean chemistry and aragonite concerned Tim Palmer, Michael Gruszczynski, and Tony Dickson. Pressure dissolution features were considered by Yulia Gruzman, and Alan Kendall, and cave diagenesis by Silvia Frisia. Reservoir-scale diagenesis was described by Eric Mountjoy, Hans Machel, Wayne Ahr, Clyde Moore,

Nigel Clegg, Fiona Whitaker, and Lorie Cooper, (the last author's Devonian bioherm exhibits similar features found by the writer in Silurian examples).

A nearly equal number of posters were presented, incorporating an amazing range of topics. Tropical to glacial waters, serpulids to popular microbes, rocky shores to deeper ramps, thermal to shallow-marine to karstic diagenesis, and sequence stratigraphy showed a vital and expanding discipline. The writer's only negative comment on the meeting concerns the far too little time that was scheduled for poster study and discussion.

John Hudson's closing remarks contrasted the constant and the changing features that influence carbonates, and raised some questions concerning matters "microbial" and of organic geochemistry. The writer also noted a certain reaction against "sequence stratigraphy", although André Strasser advised reconsideration.

Warm and substantial regard for two associates was manifest in the abundantly autographed card sent to Gill Harwood, and in the tribute extended to Doug Shearman during the special Shearman Seminar chaired by Bruce Purser. Doug showed that he will continue to lead in new directions, with a talk on ice-water carbonate minerals.

Four field trips were run. Before the meeting Tim Palmer lead a visit to the Portland sections, and Andy Gale and David Wray took us over the sea to the Isle of Wight chalk and Tertiary sediments. After, Stephen Kenyon-Roberts and Paul Wright showed the hardgrounds and sequences of the Cotswolds, while Andrew Horbury and Andrew Thurlow lead the trip through the late Dinantian of the Lake District. The writer went on two trips, both of which were excellent in every particular, and knowing the leaders and outcrops of the other areas (and hearing reports) is certain those trips were equally rewarding.

One further indication of the worth of these meetings was the presence of two members of the Greenpeace Research Laboratories, University of Exeter, who had come to gain insights into present and paleoecologic factors and to learn of the scope of research on carbonates.

The final dinner was held in the grand Picture Gallery of the College and was an opportunity of pay suitable tribute to Robin Bathurst - the "Founder of the Feast".

There was also general delight in the knowledge that the 11th Bathurst Meeting would be hosted by Tony Dickson at Cambridge University.

*Leigh Smith,
Dept. of Geological Sciences,
Queen's Univ., Kingston, Ontario.*

IAS NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

A year ago, the list of the National Correspondents was published in Newsletter No. 136. In the meantime, some changes have taken place. The updated list below will allow IAS members to contact his or her National Correspondent.

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SECOND-HAND BOOK-SHOP

In order to promote sedimentology in Hungary, we would greatly appreciate receiving books concerning carbonate sedimentology, siliciclastic deposits, or the interactions between sedimentology and tectonics.

In particular, we are in need of the IAS Special Publications 17 (Alluvial sedimentation), 18 (Sequence stratigraphy and facies associations), 19 (Orbital forcing and cyclic sequences), 20 (Tectonic controls), 21 (Dolomites), 22 (Sedimentary facies analysis), and 24 (Tidal signatures).

The following SEPM publications would also be extremely useful: Special Publications 25 (Deep-water carbonates), 36 (Carbonate cements) and 44

(Controls on carbonate platform and basin development), Reprint Series 8 (Silica in sediments) and 11 (Approaches to interpretation of sedimentary environments), and Short Course Note 25 (Luminescence microscopy and spectroscopy).

If you or your library have such books in double, or you don't use them any more, could you please send them to the address below.

Thank you very much.

*Felicitász Velledits,
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SEDPLETT - SEDIMENTOLOGY FIELD SCHOOL

COMPARING MODERN TO CRETACEOUS TIDALITE AND OTHER COASTAL DEPOSITS

The planned SedPlett field school is being run for the 6th time and is well known in South Africa. Its attraction lies in excellent exposures, little time spent travelling between stops and the scenic views of Plettenberg Bay, a prime South African resort town. The field school is a collaboration between myself at the Geological Survey and Professor Izak Rust at the Department of Geology at our local university.

Delegates travel about 230 km by bus to Plettenberg Bay on the first day and register at the hotel used during the field school. Introductory lectures precede each day in the field, and delegates receive a comprehensive field guide. The first day in the field we visit the local back-barrier estuary with associated Holocene terraces, local marine gravel terraces and fluvial terraces. The two-and-a-half days afterwards

are spent observing outcrops of the Cretaceous, post-Gondwana Robberg Formation. Well-defined sequence boundaries separate excellent exposures of mass-flow deposits, marine conglomerate and tidal sandstone units.

Local geologists have benefitted from, and enjoyed, the SedPlett experience, and we want to open it to an international audience. Unfortunately the first notices have already gone out locally, so that it may be booked out before it appears in the IAS Newsletter, but let's see what happens! The possibility also exists that SedPlett will be repeated as part of the International Fluvial Congress to be held in Cape Town in 1997 (see also Calendar).

*J.S.V. Reddering,
PO Box 1774,
Port Elizabeth, 6000,
South Africa.*

THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FLUVIAL SEDIMENTOLOGY

Cape Town, South Africa, 22-27 September, 1997

This conference, held every 4 years, aims to stimulate the exchange of ideas between scientists and engineers with a common interest in understanding rivers and their deposits in modern environments and in the geological record. The scope of this meeting includes all aspects of geomorphology, facies models, sequence stratigraphy, alluvial basin analysis, sediment transport and deposition, and river management. As a departure from previous ICFS meetings "Special Interest Group Convenors" are invited to contact the organisers with a view to arranging half-day sessions comprising at least ten papers which can be presented in parallel to other sessions. The technical sessions will run over 5 days, with one day in the middle of the week devoted to local field trips, workshops, and recreational activities. Poster presentations are encouraged and will be formally presented by the authors.

A selection of pre- and post-conference field excursions will be

offered, covering a wide variety of modern and ancient fluvial systems in South Africa, Namibia and Botswana. They include Namibian flash-flood rivers, Orange River alluvial diamonds, the unique meandering system in the Okavango "delta", the popular estuarine "SedPlett" field school, Palaeozoic to Mesozoic Cape and Karoo systems and underground exposures of Archaean placers. The conference venue will be the Breakwater Lodge, an hotel run by the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business, which is ideally situated in Cape Town's Victoria and Alfred Waterfront. Programmes will be arranged for accompanying members.

The first circular will be distributed in February 1996, and the closing date for abstracts is 15 March, 1997.

*Lawrie Minter,
Department of Geological Sciences,
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South Africa.*

FOURTH IAS SPECIAL LECTURE TOUR (1997)

After the very successful Special Lecture Tours of Robin Bathurst (1992) and John Crowell (1993, 1994), and after Emiliano Mutti who will tour in 1996, we are now happy to announce the fourth Special Lecturer, Prof. Dr. Gerhard Einsele.

Gerhard Einsele teaches at the Institute of Geology, University of Tübingen, Germany. He is known through his many publications on a multitude of subjects, but mostly through his excellent and richly illustrated textbook "Sedimentary Basins: Evolution, Facies, and Sediment Budget" (Springer 1992), and as co-editor of "Cycles and Events in Stratigraphy" (Springer 1991).

For his Lecture Tour in 1997, Gerhard Einsele proposes the following themes:

1. Denudation-accumulation systems: examples of modern lakes and longer-term, larger systems

Modern lakes and their drainage areas represent well defined dynamic systems in which mean denudation rates (depending on relief, climate, etc.) and sediment accumulation rates are directly related. In contrast to closed systems, open lake systems lose by outflow part of the dissolved river input derived from chemical

denudation. Mass balances for larger systems (including marine sediments) and longer time periods have to take into account substantial environmental changes. All these examples provide basic quantitative data for the exogenic geological cycle and basin modelling.

2. Quantitative aspects about sediment supply and marine depositional events

This topic is to some extent related to theme 1. Marine depositional events, such as storm waves, gravity mass flows, and turbidity currents, and their recurrence intervals are largely controlled by intermittent sediment accumulations (or sediment supply) of both terrigenous or bioclastic material in shallow water. Furthermore, the various factors controlling the triggering of depositional events will be discussed.

3. New and/or neglected topics in sequence stratigraphy

The effects of high- vs. low-frequency sea-level changes of varying amplitude; Sensitive and little sensitive environments; Various types of asymmetric sequences in basin cross-sections; The record of sea-level changes in regions of coastal uplift.

4. The transition from forearc to remnant and foreland basins

Preserved and lost sedimentary records, theory and field examples (e.g., the Himalayas).

Furthermore, and underlining Gerhard Einsele's wide approach to sedimentology, the following themes can be offered:

- Black shales and phosphorites in regions of coastal upwelling;
- Various types of rhythmic sequences;
- The interplay of mechanical and chemical diagenesis.

Prof. Einsele can give his talks in English or German. The lectures can be completed by round-table discussions and local fieldtrips.

Sedimentology groups and institutes interested in receiving Prof. Einsele should apply as soon as

possible, but not later than July 1st, 1996, mentioning the preferred time for the visit, and the preferred themes. A travel plan will then be established. Priority is given to institutions in countries which normally don't have the means to invite foreign lecturers.

IAS finances travel expenses to and from the visited country, but local expenses for food and lodging as well as for local field trips must be paid by the host institutions.

For applications, please write to:

*André Strasser,
General Secretary IAS,
Institut de Géologie,
Pérolles,
CH-1700 Fribourg,
Switzerland.*

*Fax: +41 37 29 97 42
E-mail: andreas.strasser@unifr.ch*

CALENDAR

GEOLOGY OF THE ARAB WORLD

Third International Conference

February 27 - March 1, 1996

EGYPT (Cairo)

Contact: Prof. S. Abdel Wahab (GAW),

Geology Department, Faculty of Science,
Cairo University, Giza, Egypt.

Fax: 202 5727556

E-mail: GAW@FRCU.EUN.EG

13ÈME COLLOQUE DES BASSINS SÉDIMENTAIRES MAROCAINS

March 19-22, 1996

MOROCCO (Marrakech)

Contact: Dr. E. H. Chellai or Dr. B.

Igmoulan, Université Cadi Ayyad,

Département de Géologie, B.P. S15,

Marrakech, Morocco.

Tel.: 212 4 434649

Fax: 212 4 437411 or 436769 or 434494

17TH IAS REGIONAL AFRICAN- EUROPEAN MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

March 26-28, 1996

TUNISIA (Sfax)

Contact: Dr. Mohamed Soussi, Ecole

Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Sfax (ENIS),

B.P.W. 3038, Sfax, Tunisia.

Tel: 216 4 274088 / 4418

Fax: 216 4 275595

6TH SPANISH CONGRESS AND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL GEOLOGY AND LAND-USE PLANNING

April 24-27, 1996

SPAIN (Granada)

Contact: Technical Secretariat, VI

CNGAOT, Dpto. de Congresos de Viajes

Sacromonte, C/ Angel Ganivet 6, 18009

Granada, Spain.

Tel: 34-58-225598/9; Fax: 224617

Telex: 78484

SEDPLETT - Sedimentology Field School, comparing Modern to Cretaceous Tidalite and other Coastal Deposits

May 3-7, 1996

SOUTH AFRICA (Plettenberg Bay)

Contact: Shelagh Matthews,

Geol. Dept., Univ. of Port Elizabeth, PO

Box 1600, Port Elizabeth, 6000, South

Africa.

Fax: +27 41 5042 369

SEDIMENT '96

11. Sedimentologentreffen

May 9-15, 1996

AUSTRIA (Vienna)

Contact: Dr. M. Wagneich, Institut für

Geologie, Geo-Zentrum, Althanstr. 14,

A-1090 Vienna.

Tel: +43 1-31336-1965

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TIDALITES '96

International Tidal Sedimentology Conference

May 13-16, 1996

U.S.A. (Savannah, Georgia)

General Chair: V.J. Henry, Jr., Coastal

Research Laboratory, Georgia Southern

University, 10 Ocean Science Circle,

Savannah, GA 31411, U.S.A.

Fax +1 912 598 22366

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Field Trip Chair: Clark Alexander,

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CONGRESS "PALEOGENE OF SOUTH AMERICA"

May 14-18, 1996

ARGENTINA (Santa Rosa, La Pampa)

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6TH ARGENTINIAN SEDIMENTOLOGICAL MEETING**"La Sedimentología, el medio Ambiente y la Productividad"**

May 17-23, 1996

ARGENTINA (Bahia Blanca)

Contact: G. M. E. Perillo, Presidente de la VI Reunion Argentina de Sedimentología, Instituto Argentino de Oceanografía, Avda. Alem 53, 8000-Bahia Blanca, Argentina.

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Fax: 54 91-553933

E-mail: Perillo@CRIBA.edu.ar

TAPHOS '96 - "El análisis tafonómico y su proyección sobre las disciplinas geológicas y arqueológicas"

June 13-15, 1996

SPAIN (Zaragoza)

Contact: Guillermo Meléndez, Secretaría de la II Reunión de Tafonomía y Fossilización, Departamento de Geología (Paleontología), Univ. de Zaragoza, 50009 Zaragoza, Spain. Tel: 976 351209; Fax: 976 565852

BASIN ANALYSIS AND MODERN SEDIMENTOLOGY**5th Annual Meeting of Polish Sedimentologists**

June 17-21, 1996

POLAND (Warsaw)

Contact: Dr Pawel Karnkowski, Instytut Geologii Podstawowej, Uniwersytet Warszawski, al. Zwirki i Wigury 93, 02-089 Warszawa, Poland.

Tel: 48(22) 223051 / ext. 70;

Fax: 48(22) 220248

CARBONATES AND GLOBAL CHANGE: A MULTIDISCIPLINARY APPROACH SEPM / IAS Research Conference

June 22-27, 1996

SWITZERLAND (Wildhaus)

Contact: Maria Mutti, Geological Institute, ETH-Zentrum, CH-8092 Zurich, Switzerland

Tel.: +41 1 632 3673

Fax: +41 1 632 1080

E-mail: maria@erdw.ethz.ch

CORAL REEFS AND CARBONATE PLATFORMS WITHIN SILICICLASTIC SETTINGS - MODERN AND ANCIENT**Sub-symposium on the occasion of the 8th International Coral Reef Symposium**

June 24-29, 1996

PANAMA (Panama City)

Contact: Prof. Reinhold Leinfelder, Institut für Geologie und Paläontologie, Universität Stuttgart, Herdweg 51, D-70174 Stuttgart, Germany.

Tel: +49 711 121 1339 (or -1340)

Fax: +49 711 121 1341

or: Prof. Robert Ginsburg, University of Miami, RSMAS, 4600 Rickenbacker Causeway, Miami, Florida 33149-1098, U.S.A.

Fax: +1 305 361 4094

**CARBONATE RAMPS :
OCEANOGRAPHIC AND
BIOLOGICAL CONTROLS,
MODELLING AND PLAY
CHARACTERISTICS
BSRG RESEARCH CONFERENCE**

July 2-3, 1996

ENGLAND (London)

Contact: Dr. V.P. Wright, P.R.I.S., The
University of Reading, PO Box 227,
Whiteknights, Reading, RG6 6AB, U.K.

Tel: +44 (0)1734 318946

Fax: +44 (0) 1734 310279

E-mail: slsdepo@reading.ac.uk

**FOSSIL AND RECENT
DEPOSITIONAL ENVIRONMENTS
BETWEEN NORTH SEA AND
LAKE CONSTANCE**

**11th Annual Meeting of the Aachen
Sedimentology Group**

September 12-14, 1996

GERMANY (Aachen)

Contact: Prof. A. Muller, RWTH Aachen,
Germany.

Tel: 241-80 5726; Fax: 241-88 88 151

E-mail: A.Muller@RWTH-Aachen.de

**COMPARTMENTALIZED
RESERVOIRS: their Detection,
Characterization and Management**

October 20-26, 1996

U.S.A. (Houston)

Contact: Dr. Susan Longacre, Texaco
EPTD, 3901 Briarpark, Houston TX
77042,

U.S.A.

Tel: +1 713 954 6068

Fax: +1 713 954 6113

GEOFLUIDS II

March 10-14, 1997

U. K. (Belfast)

Contact: Dr. J. Parnell, School of
Geosciences, The Queen's University of
Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN, U. K.

Tel: +44 1232 335148

Fax: +44 1232 321280

E-mail: J.Parnell@qub.ac.uk

**6th INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE ON FLUVIAL
SEDIMENTOLOGY**

September 22-27, 1997

SOUTH AFRICA (Cape Town)

Contact: Mrs Sally Elliott

The Conference Organiser, 6 ICFS,

Postgraduate Conference Division,

UCT Medical School, Observatory 7925,
South Africa.

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