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EDITORIAL

As this is the first Newsletter of 2011 we wish you all a Happy New Year. Subscriptions are now due; please could Members check that the correct subscription has been paid (see 'News from the Committee' below).

This issue contains information about the Spring and Autumn conferences in Cambridge (16th April) and Amsterdam (21st-22nd October). We are grateful to Andy Howard, Gill Campbell & Maaïke Groot for their report on the very successful Autumn Conference in Kyoto last year.

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

If you have not yet paid your AEA membership subscription for 2011, **your payment is now overdue** (payment was due on 1st January). A renewal form is printed at the back of this Newsletter or can be accessed at <http://www.envarch.net/membership/membership.html>. You do not need to complete this form if you have already arranged to pay your membership fee by standing order.

We are happy to confirm that there is no change in the membership fee for 2011, which remains at the 2004 rate of £38 for waged and £28 for students/unwaged. In addition, there is no postage charge for overseas members.

Please note the **system for members who do not pay by 1st March**. The publisher of *Environmental Archaeology* requires a list of members' addresses by 1st March each year in order to send out the first issue of the journal. **The journal is only sent out to fully paid-up members**. If you pay your membership subscription after this date, your membership will be registered and you will receive Newsletters, JISCmail etc. You will not,

however, receive Issue 1 of the journal until Issue 2 is published (around October), when both issues will be sent together. It is therefore in your own interest to pay your membership subscription on time.

Standing Order – The date for setting up a standing order has now passed (standing orders were due to be set up by 1st January 2011). Members can, however, pay by cheque for 2011 and set up a standing order at the end of the year for 2012 and beyond. For further information on setting up a standing order for 2012 please contact the AEA treasurer Jacqui Huntley (Jacqui.Huntley@english-heritage.org.uk). **Members who have already set up standing orders are asked to ensure that they are paying at the correct rate** (£38 for waged and £28 for students/unwaged). Members who continue to underpay their membership subscription will not receive the Journal.

Eurozone members – IBAN payment: If you are living in the Eurozone, you may be interested in paying AEA membership fees using the IBAN (International Bank Account Number) electronic transfer system. With this system, an AEA member can go to their local bank and transfer money into the AEA's Irish bank account for a small fee. Your bank's charge for payment will vary, depending on the bank and country, but the fee should be low (for example, some banks in the Republic of Ireland charge around €0.75 – check your local bank for their rates). AEA membership fees for IBAN transfers remain at: **€50 waged** and **€37 student/unwaged**. If you would like to use this method of payment, please contact the AEA Secretary, Fay Worley (Fay.Worley@english-heritage.org.uk) for further information. Members using the IBAN system are reminded that they **must include their name on the payment**. We have received a small number of payments where the name has not been recorded, and we cannot always ascertain who has made the payment.

Non-UK members – Payment by Visa can be made by non-UK members only. For reasons of security, the AEA do not hold members' Visa details. Members using this method of payment must therefore confirm payment each year, providing their payment details each time. Credit card details should not be sent via email. If you would like to use this method of payment, please complete the membership form at the end of the Newsletter.

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THE JOURNAL

Call for papers

The Journal's editor, Ingrid Mainland, would like to encourage AEA members to submit research papers, review articles or short contributions on any aspect of environmental archaeology. Full details regarding submission to the Journal can be found at the following website: <http://www.maney.co.uk/journals/env>, or contact Ingrid Mainland for further information.

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Online access to entire journal archive

Online access to the entire archive of *Environmental Archaeology* is now available to members. Volumes 1-10 can be accessed through the AEA website (<http://www.envarch.net/publications/envarch/index.html>) and online access to Volume 11 onwards is available to **all fully paid-up and registered AEA members**. If you would like to register for online access to Volumes 11 onwards, please email Rob Craigie, the AEA Webmaster (r.craigie@envarch.net) with your chosen username and a password. When your registration has been

accepted, access to the Journal will be available through a link on the AEA website (www.envarch.net). The AEA Committee is grateful to Maney, our publisher, for their work on this initiative.

Also note that Institutional subscription to Environmental Archaeology is £154 (\$285 in North America) and includes online access to the full text. Online access only is available for a reduced rate. If your institution is not currently subscribing to the Journal, please encourage them to do so. Information on institutional subscriptions to the Journal is available at: <http://maney.co.uk/index.php/journals/env/>

PUBLICITY UPDATE : AEA SEMINAR SERIES

This semester the **AEA seminar series** includes the following presentations:

Speaker: Dr Kim Vickers,

Title: 'West across the ocean: insects and the archaeology of the North Atlantic Islands',

10th February (5pm), University of Sheffield

For further information contact Sarah Viner S.Viner@sheffield.ac.uk

Speaker: Dr Louise Martin, Institute of Archaeology, UCL.

Title: *Animals, Ideas and Exchange in the early Neolithic of the Southern Levant*

3rd March (5.10pm), Cardiff University, Room 4.45, Humanities Building, Colum Drive

For further information contact Richard Madgwick MadgwickRD@cardiff.ac.uk

Seminars are free and the AEA provides refreshments at each meeting. If you would like to propose a seminar for inclusion in the series, please contact Naomi Sykes (Publicity Officer) for further information (naomi.sykes@nottingham.ac.uk).

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

AEA SPRING MEETING

Saturday April 16th 2011. Venue: Old Music Room, St John's College, Cambridge, UK

Theme: The Archaeology of Hunger.

The conference will start at 9.30 for 10.00am.

Please would those wishing to present papers send titles and abstracts to Dr Preston Miracle (ptm21@cam.ac.uk) by 31 March, 2011. Presentations will be 20 minutes long with 10 minutes for discussion.

Conference fee: £33.00 to include morning and afternoon tea/coffee and a light lunch. Please email Preston Miracle (ptm21@cam.ac.uk) to reserve a place and arrange payment.

The Old Music Room, seats 40. There is easy public parking nearby at the Park Street garage.

AUTUMN MEETING ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

'Subsistence and surplus production'

VU University Amsterdam

21-22 October 2011

CALL FOR PAPERS

We are happy to announce that the autumn meeting of the Association for Environmental Archaeology will take place at the **VU University in Amsterdam, on Friday 21 October 2011 and Saturday 22 October 2011**. On Friday, the first two sessions will take place, followed by a welcome reception. On Saturday, the final two

sessions are scheduled, with a conference dinner in the evening. On Sunday, there is the option of taking part in one of two excursions (Hortus botanicus in Amsterdam or the nature reserve Oostvaardersplassen). Proposals for papers or posters can now be submitted, and registration is possible via our website www.acvu.nl/AEA2011.

THEME: Subsistence and surplus production

Everyone needs food. How people produced or acquired their food in the past is one of the main questions in archaeology. Since environmental archaeology focuses for a large extent on food remains and means of production, this research field of archaeology provides the best chances for studying food production.

The landscape with its relief, soil types, soil fertility and water levels forms the framework for the possibilities for food production. Man can adapt the landscape to a certain level in order to increase food production. It is clear that people in the past had an impact on the landscape in this way, for instance by digging ditches to drain marshes or by fertilizing fields with mineral, vegetable or animal manure. Not all food came from the immediate environment. Sometimes, this is due to an insufficient basis of the landscape for the production of a certain type of food, but more often, part of the population in a differentiated society does not produce (all) food themselves. In that case, food may have been transported over large distances.

In archaeological research, it is the task of environmental archaeologists to find out how food production was organised in the past, and to determine whether surplus production occurred. Careful research, in which both abiotic landscape factors as well as plant and animal remains are included, can show the potential of the landscape and the use that was made of it. Specific plant remains can tell us what plant foods were consumed and whether this food was of local origin or imported. Animal remains provide information on the livestock that was kept, and the meat that was consumed (butchery marks) and whether animal products were supplied from elsewhere. These environmental data placed in the archaeological context in which they were found make it possible to reconstruct food procurement in the past.

This conference addresses the topic of subsistence and surplus production. Terms such as subsistence societies and surplus production are easily used, but what do they actually say about the societies involved? How easy is it to determine whether a society did or did not produce more food than necessary to survive: a surplus? Which tools and what methods can we use to analyse surplus production in different kinds of societies? We invite papers from all fields in environmental archaeology, and all time periods, that address this theme.

SESSIONS

Methodology

This session focuses on the methodology necessary for studying subsistence and surplus production. On what basis can we say whether a society was truly self-sufficient? What are indicators for surplus production, both of arable products and animal products? Is it possible to quantify the extent of surplus production?

For animal bones, an analysis of skeletal elements, age profiles and measurements is often used to investigate production strategies. However, the production of food for a market has consequences for our methodology, since transport of animals and animal parts has the potential to distort our slaughter profiles. For plant remains, the presence of exotic weeds suggests imports, but archaeological indicators can also be used, such as changes in storage capacity.

New methodological approaches of existing environmental materials may lead to new insights. New techniques such as isotope analysis and DNA research can shed light on the origin of food and provide insight into the way in which food production in past societies was organised. For this session, we welcome methodological contributions that can lead to better insight into the themes surrounding food procurement and surplus production.

Self-subsistent societies

A first question when studying so-called subsistence societies is whether these really exist. Are there not always contacts and exchanges between societies, albeit on a small scale? Evidence for this is formed by exotic items and materials sourced from outside the society's range. Or do we apply the term subsistence regardless of such small-scale exchange, especially if this does not concern food items? Even self-subsistent societies will have aimed at producing a surplus, whether for security reasons (if a crop failed or animals died from disease) or for feasting or cultic offerings. The main difference between subsistence societies and market-oriented societies is the absence of specialisation, both in agricultural production and crafts. There is some adaptation to the potential of the landscape, but basically everything is produced everywhere.

Possible topics for this session are surplus production for feasting, exchange or redistribution. Is there a relationship between the ability to produce surplus food and status? What is the role of elites in surplus production?

Emerging markets

With the emergence of markets and a non-food-producing population, there are opportunities for rural societies to produce more food than they need for themselves, and exchange or sell this. The Roman provinces form a

good example. We now see specialisation in production and crafts (spinning, weaving, cereal or bread production), although the degree of specialisation seems to be smaller than in a true market economy.

For this session, we invite case studies that demonstrate that an agrarian population produced a surplus, and case studies that investigate the relationship between town and country, as far as food supply is concerned. Studies of emerging specialisation in production are also welcome. A final question that can be addressed is to what extent inhabitants of small towns produced their own food.

Urban societies

With the rise of urban societies and a true monetary economy, complex long-distance networks can play a role in the supply of even staple foods, such as cereals. A large part of the population is dependent on others for their food. The level of specialisation in agricultural products and crafts is high. The landscape is often optimally utilised, with cereals grown in areas with suitable arable land, and livestock grazed on land less suitable for arable production. In the medieval Low Countries, for instance, there is a clear distinction in 'livestock zones', 'arable zones' and zones for horticulture and fruit trees.

Are all food producers specialized to some extent, or are there subsistence farmers in urban societies as well? What is the evidence for food production in towns?

Submission of proposals

Proposals for papers and posters can be submitted by sending your name and affiliation, a title and abstract (500 words maximum) to AEA2011@let.vu.nl, **before 30 April 2011**. Please indicate in your email whether you have a preference for a paper or poster. Notification of acceptance decisions will be sent by 31 May 2011.

Papers should be of interest not only to other environmental archaeologists, but also to mainstream archaeologists. If a selection has to be made, this will be based on achieving a representative range of papers with regard to time period, region and type of research.

Registration for the conference has now opened. Early registration will close on 30 June, after which date the rates will be higher. We aim to publish the programme on the conference website by 31 May.

For more information, visit our website www.acvu.nl/AEA2011.

With your help, we hope to have an excellent meeting in Amsterdam!

The organising committee:

Maaïke Groot (VU University Amsterdam)

Laura Kooistra (BIAX Consult)

Daphne Lentjes (VU University Amsterdam)

Jørn Zeiler (Archaeobone)

BASKETRY AND BEYOND: CONSTRUCTING CULTURES

14TH - 16TH APRIL 2011

University of East Anglia, Norwich

The AHRC funded research project Beyond the Basket began in 2009. Its aim is to investigate the place of basketry in human culture. It will culminate in a major exhibition Basketry: Making Human Nature at the Sainsbury Centre for Visual Arts and the University of East Anglia, Norwich, from 8th February - 22nd May 2011.

To coincide with this event we are organising an international conference, entitled Basketry and Beyond: Constructing Cultures and scheduled for **14th - 16th April 2011** also at UEA.

Guest speakers include

Prof. David Guss (Tufts University)

Mary Butcher (Basketmaker)

Prof. Tim Ingold (University of Aberdeen)

Dr J M Adovasio (Mercyhurst Archaeological Institute)

Dr Willeke Wendrich (University of California, Los Angeles)

Prof. Mike H Hansell (University of Glasgow)

Dr Penny Dransart (University of Wales, Lampeter)

Fabíola Andréa Silva (Museu de Arqueologia e Etnologia, Universidade de São Paulo)

Dr Mark Nesbitt (Kew)

Please find details of the conference, registration form and conference programme at:

<http://www.uea.ac.uk/art/events-news/events/basketryandbeyond>

**Radiocarbon and Archaeology
International Symposium
Pafos, Cyprus,
April 10-15 2011.**

Please note: Dendrochronology and Botanical remains Session.
Information at:
<http://www.14c.cyi.ac.cy/>

34TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY OF ETHNOBIOLOGY

"Historical and Archaeological Perspectives in Ethnobiology"

May 4- May 7, 2011, Columbus, Ohio.

We welcome all papers that touch on relationships between humans and other organisms, both past and present. In keeping with the conference theme, we are particularly interested in soliciting presentations that address the following topics and approaches:

- History and evolutionary significance of important ethnobiological patterns, such as plant and animal domestication, food processing, hunting, environmental management, and the use of animals and plants in ceremony, crafts, and traditional medicine
- Application and integration of multiple lines of archaeological and paleoenvironmental evidence
- Incorporation of ethnographic and documentary information into studies of past relationships between humans and culturally important animals and plants
- Human paleoecology, including human impact on past environments

Our annual conference banquet will be held on Friday evening, May 6th, at 6:00pm at the conference venue (the Hyatt Regency). This is a great opportunity to visit with friends (or make new ones) and reflect upon the conference while enjoying a meal with fellow conference-goers.

Participate in incredible field trips to Magee Marsh Wildlife Area on Lake Erie, Larksong Farm in Fredricksburg, Ohio, or Hopewell Culture National Historic Park.

Deadline for abstracts is **February 15, 2011**.

For information, see <http://ethnobiology.org/conference/upcoming>

**WORKSHOP OF THE WORKING GROUP ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOIL MICROMORPHOLOGY
Pisa, Italy, 18-22 May, 2011
1st Circular**

We are happy to announce that the next Workshop of the Working Group on Archaeological Soil Micromorphology will be held in Pisa from **18th to 22nd May, 2011**.

Like the previous Pisa 1998 and 2003 editions, the Workshop is organised by the Department of Archaeological Sciences, with the support of the Department of Earth Sciences, where the microscope sessions will be kindly hosted.

This Workshop is open to all interested in Archaeological Soil Micromorphology, with the only limitation that the microscopy room of the Department of Earth Sciences is equipped with 20 microscopes. All participants are invited to bring their own thin sections for discussion and exchange with colleagues.

The microscopy room of the Department of Earth Sciences (Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra) is situated in via Santa Maria, 53, first floor.

DEADLINES

Closing date for registration and abstracts: **February 28, 2011**.

Notification of presentation acceptance: **March 15, 2011**.

Payment: **March 31, 2011**.

Remember that **early booking of accommodation is strongly recommended**, because the Workshop will be held during a season of major tourist activity. Hotels and bed & breakfast accommodation in Pisa for this period tends to become fully booked early in the year.

We are looking forward to see you in Pisa; if you need more information, please do not hesitate to contact

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UK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SCIENCES 2011

Reading, 15-18 September 2011

The Department of Archaeology is proud to host the UK Archaeological Sciences 2011 meeting. UKAS is a bi-annual international conference which aims to bring together archaeological scientists from all areas of the field.

[Study the programme](#)

Please email UKAS2011@reading.ac.uk to be added to our mailing list and receive updates on the conference.

Call for papers

We invite podium and poster presentations from all areas of archaeological science but particularly around the themes:

- Palaeoclimate
- Humans and Environmental Change
- Diet and Mobility
- Human and Animal Populations
- Ancient Materials
- Dating
- New Directions

Abstract Submission Deadline: 1 May 2011

[Download the UKAS2011 abstract submission guidelines \(PDF 68 KB\)](#)

[Abstract template \(Word 97KB\)](#)

[Abstract template \(RTF 68KB\)](#)

CONFERENCE REPORT

AEA Annual Meeting 2010, Kyoto, Japan

Andy Howard, Gill Campbell & Maaïke Groot

The annual meeting of the Association held in December 2010 was hosted by the International Center for Japanese Studies (IRCJS), Kyoto, Japan. The two-day meeting, entitled '*The Environment and Civilisation: Past, Present and Future*', attracted over 70 delegates from countries including Egypt, Australia, the UK, Ireland, India, the Philippines and the USA to name but a few, as well as a strong Japanese contingent celebrating (as an aside) over 30 years of environmental archaeology in Japan. It was particularly pleasing to meet environmental specialists new to the AEA as well as other members who cannot always make our northern European meetings, but who do great work flying the flag for environmental archaeology around the world. In total, thirty-eight oral papers were presented with around a dozen high quality posters for delegates to peruse during the breaks.

On Day 1, following the welcome of Professor Yoshinori Yasuda (IRCJS) who co-ordinated the meeting and was instrumental in getting the AEA to Japan, Andy Howard provided an additional welcome on behalf of the AEA. With introductions and welcomes over, participants were treated to a deluge of interesting papers. Session 1, chaired by Roger Flower (University College London) and after coffee by Timo Saarinen (University of Turku, Finland), focused on environment and civilisation in Europe and the Middle East. Papers ranged from the landscape scale such as farming and vegetation dynamics in Ireland ([O'Connell](#)), Roman occupation of a Dutch river delta ([Groot](#)) to site specific studies of varying scale, from the construction of Silbury Hill ([Campbell](#)),

to the environmental analysis of urban features from Pompeii (Murphy), to the contents of a medieval ship wreck off the coast of Ireland (Davis). Away from the temperate environments of the north, we were introduced to the topic of inland saline lakes in Turkey, Syria and Egypt (Kashima) and technological innovation associated with agriculture in the Western Desert (Thanheiser).

Session 2, chaired by Sunil Gupta (Allahabad Museum, India) and Xun Li (Inst. Geological & Nuclear Sciences, New Zealand) transported the delegates to Central and East Asia with an opening paper on the insights that animal bone analysis is providing in the study of the Xiongnu Society of the East Asian steppe (Broderick). The following three papers, presented by Chinese colleagues (Jiang; Shu; and Hosoya) provided fascinating insights into the development of Neolithic cultures, agricultural economies and the associated effects on the natural landscape. After coffee, the ambitious paper of Makohonienko sought to assess the Holocene development of vegetation and culture of northern China and the linkages between east and west Eurasia. The importance of fire and its identification from charcoal records was demonstrated subsequently by a paper focused on the Soni Plateau of central Japan (Inoue). The final paper of this session by Uozu took the audience back to the topic of large monuments in the landscape with a presentation on keyhole shaped tumuli in Japan; this introduced some of us to the concept of shakkei (or borrowed scenery) and generated much discussion about how environmental archaeology could help to unravel the environment in which they were constructed as well as their function.

The final session of Day 1 was chaired by Yoko Nojima (IRCJS) and considered insular southeast Asia and Oceania. Six papers from this session (Hung; Faylona; Fukumoto; Kelly; Carson; and Chester) focused on a number of Pacific Islands from those which can be considered relatively small such as Taiwan to those slightly larger (Australia and New Zealand). Much attention was focused on the environmental evidence for the timing and impact of people migrating from the Asian continent across the Pacific, though attention was also paid to more recent European colonisation and its impacts. Although in a session on Day 2, Takamiya's paper (delivered by Hudson) on the Okinawa Islands would have fitted nicely here with its theme of resource over exploitation. Several of the speakers highlighted the opportunities for environmental research on a number of these islands and with pictures of aquamarine seas and golden beaches, a number of the audience were clearly swayed. Tired but relaxed, we enjoyed a wonderful reception at the IRCJS where the Europeans had an opportunity to practice chopstick skills on the colourful and tasty Japanese cuisine.

On Day 2, the morning session, chaired by Hitoshi Yonenobu (Narutu University, Japan) and latterly by Kazuo Aoyama (Ibaraki University, Japan) moved the delegates to the Pan Pacific region. The opening paper by Aoyama, complete with family photos, provided an overview of Pan Pacific cultures and civilisations. This was followed by case studies focused on the Maya centre at Ceibal (Inomata), the cultural reaction of the Aztecs to cyclical drought (Izeki), and agricultural sedentism in south-eastern Mesoamerica (Arroyo). Uzawa's paper reminded us of the importance of zooarchaeological evidence for early Holocene hunting to herding debates and the paper by Drennan emphasized the importance of a theoretical framework to contextualize empirical evidence. Vulnerability, decline and resilience, topics as relevant to our modern global society as well as those of Mesoamerican cultures, were explored by Sabloff and Sheets.

After an extended lunch, which allowed time for the conference photo in the bright sunshine and close scrutiny of the posters, we entered the final afternoon session chaired by a combination of Geoffrey Hope (Australia National University), Mohamed Hamdan (Cairo University) and Vasant Shinde (Deccan College, India). With the theme of 'recent progress and future prospect', a variety of methodological papers were presented ranging from multi-proxy landscape studies (Davis) to archaeological chemistry (Madgwick; Miyata; Horiuchi), geoarchaeology (Howard) and palaeoentomology (Mori; Okuno). With the ability of environmental archaeology to generate large datasets, Stuijts demonstrated the approach taken by the WODAN project to data sharing and the long term archiving of information relating to archaeological wood and charcoal. The final paper by Hudson reminded us of the central role that environmental archaeology should play in debates centred around contemporary and future global climate change. The day ended with a conference dinner, in a traditional Kyoto restaurant with its wonderful 16th century garden, with many speeches, toasts and much Sake. On Friday, about 15 people joined an excursion that took in some of the sights of Kyoto, such as Nijojo Castle and Kinkakuji Temple. For those able to spend extra time as guests of the IRCJS, the organizers laid on a three day field excursion, which was well received by those who attended.

In summary, this was a truly memorable, well organized meeting and as well as Professor Yasuda, our thanks must go to his team, particularly Junko Kitagawa and Yoko Nojima, but also the many others who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure the computers worked and kept us speakers so admirably to time by the use of a simple bell! The location of the IRCJS and its facilities were outstanding and the warmth and generosity of our Japanese colleagues, as well as the Japanese people more generally, must be applauded.

PLEA FOR INTERESTING SITES AND MATERIALS

InterArChive is a multidisciplinary project spanning the Archaeology and Chemistry Departments at York University and the Biological and Environmental Sciences Department at Stirling University. The main aim of the project is to investigate the hidden archive contained within the grave fill of archaeological burials. To achieve we are utilising the complimentary techniques of micromorphology, organic chemistry and inorganic geochemistry to understand the role of soil in preservation and the deposition of biomarkers within grave soils.

We are specifically looking for residues of clothing, general grave goods, decomposition, and remains from the body itself such as hair and skin cells, which are no longer visible on a macroscale. We are hoping in the long run that we will be able to use these techniques to identify grave goods and bodies when there is very little left of the materials themselves.

We are currently looking for additional sites to sample in the hope of increasing our sample size to include different types of soils, time periods and climatic conditions. We would be extremely grateful for any information on sites which are currently being excavated or which are going to be excavated in future.

When sampling sites we are interested in retrieving the grave fill soil and would not need to sample the body itself. For more information please follow this link <http://www.york.ac.uk/archaeology/research/current-projects/interarchive/> or please contact Helen Stokes at York (hrs513@york.ac.uk).

AEA BIBLIOGRAPHY

We are very grateful to James Greig for gathering the following information: James writes; “Many thanks to Manfred Rösch and Mariana Mondini, for references.” Please send information to James at jimi.gee@virgin.net

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