



# The Rockhounder

February 2022

The purpose of the Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD, Inc. is "to increase knowledge and popular interest in earth sciences, geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary arts, and related subjects."

**NOTE:** Please send any submissions for the March issue of The Rockhounder to Editor Olivia Luzier at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com) by Saturday, March 5, 2022.

## Regular Meeting Announcements

Pat Repik-Byrne, Vice President

## February Speaker Information

**Speaker:** Chris Luzier

**Title of Talk:** "The Beauty of Franklin/Sterling Hill Willemite in Daylight— It's Not Just a Green Fluorescing Mineral"

For the February meeting, we shall have our own Chris Luzier with a new presentation on "The Beauty of Franklin/Sterling Hill Willemite in Daylight— It's Not Just a Green Fluorescing Mineral." This is an in-depth, photographic essay that shows the incredibly diverse habits, daylight colors, and types of willemite varieties that are present in this world-famous zinc deposit. The Franklin and Sterling Hill Mining District in New Jersey has always been well known for the rare and unique mineral species, fluorescent minerals, and incredible crystallized classics of franklinite; rhodonite; and, of course, willemite. But this is just the tip of the iceberg with willemite. The diversity of forms, styles, habits, and many nicknames that have developed in the miner and collector vernacular will be covered, with a liberal dosing of photographs! Whether you collect minerals from the Franklin/Sterling Hill District or not, this program shows why we all collect minerals and is

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## Next Regular Meeting:

**Date:** February 28, 2022

**Time:** 7:30 PM

**Place:** Rockville Senior Center,  
1150 Carnation Drive Rockville MD

*We will not be meeting on Monday, February 14th! Please do not come to the Senior Center on Monday! The regular meeting will be on 2/28.*

## Next Board of Directors Meeting:

**Date:** February 21, 2022

**Time:** 8 PM

**Place:** Virtual (online Zoom meeting)

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## **February Speaker (Cont'd)**

Pat Repik-Byrne, Chris Luzier

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meant to showcase their incredible beauty and diversity. It also happens to be just one mineral species from one dynamic locality!

This program is also a compilation project with photographs and specimens provided by Steve Stevenson and our own past President and VP, Ken Reynolds. Thanks to them both for their assistance and photographic contributions to the project.

Chris Luzier is a long time member of the GLMSMC and has served as both President and Vice President. He is the current Downstairs Showchair for the upcoming annual gem and mineral show (March 19th & 20th, 2022). He is also a member of the Friends of Mineralogy Chapter of Virginia (FMVA) and also Pennsylvania (FMVA), as well as The Mineralogical Society of District of Columbia (MSDC), the Northern Virginia Mineral Club (NVMC), Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineral Society (FOMS), and the Natural History Society of Maryland.

He recently authored a large article that is published in the bi-annual, current issue of the *Picking Table Journal* from the Franklin-Ogdensburg Mineral Society (Vol.62, no.2, Fall 2021). His article, entitled "Green Fluorescing Sphalerite— A Franklin-Sterling Hill Rarity," is also an in-depth photographic essay of a number of rare specimens about a type of sphalerite that has never had any published work prior to this. There are many photographs of this scarce variety of sphalerite, under all three waves of UV illumination, including the cover photo for the publication.

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## **President's Message**

Jonathan Harris

Hello fellow rockhounds and lapidary artists. Enjoy the presence of an oxide mineral that is currently abundant in this area and will be gone in a few months. (Note that I am using the fact that a substance must have a crystalline structure to qualify as being a mineral). Many of us who enjoyed Kathy Hrechka's wonderful presentation on diamonds were also treated to her prior presentation of short-lived micro mounts of this important mineral.

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### President's Message

Jonathan Harris

*Continued from page 2*

In January, we lost a long-time member Donald Turner. He passed away at the age of 91, leaving our community along with his siblings, children, grandchildren, and a great grandfather. For many years, Don was a dedicated volunteer, teaching and running the lapidary shop at our annual show. This spring, our annual show will resume after the 2-year pandemic-induced hiatus.

We depend on our volunteers to make the show a success. Please sign up for time slots by emailing Chris Luzier. The slots we need to fill are below:

#### **Setup:**

Friday: 9 AM

**During the show:** Volunteers for admissions, hospitality, raffle, kids' zone at these time slots:

Saturday: 10 AM-12 PM, 12-2 PM, 2-4 PM, 4-6 PM

Sunday: 11 AM-1 PM, 1-3 PM, 3-5 PM

#### **Takedown:**

Sunday: 5 PM

Also, please sign up to contribute an exhibit. You can use the forms that Chris has provided in his email. February is a great month to start gathering and arranging your specimens for the displays.

While many are familiar with Willemite's green glow under shortwave UV; we see less of the beautiful daylight specimens. Chris Luzier hopes to change that with his February presentation on "The Beauty of Franklin/Sterling Hill Willemite in Daylight— It's Not Just a Green Fluorescing Mineral."

We are hoping that can be an in-person meeting. We will make a final decision soon, as we get a better sense of the public health situation. If we need to switch to Zoom because of either COVID or weather, we will send all members an email announcement and provide the Zoom link. We will also update our website and Facebook page.

Cheers, Jonathan



### GLSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from January 10th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

Meeting began at 7:30 via Zoom. At least 34 people were electronically present. There were no December meeting minutes, due to the holiday party.

Our annual membership follows the calendar year. It is now time to renew your membership. Please send in your dues for this year. (Please see page 9 in this issue of the Rockhounder for more information.)

Our show will be held March 19th and 20th at the Gaithersburg, MD Fairgrounds. There will be some dealer turnover this year, but all our dealer spaces are booked. Volunteers can sign up now to help. (See Chris Luzier's email or Jonathan's President's Message on pages 2 and 3 for more information.)

We are seeking volunteer help for the 2022 Super Diggg at Sterling Hill, NJ.

### Speaker Presentation

Kathy Hrechka presented a program titled, "My Global Collection of Micro Mineral Diamonds." Kathy began collecting minerals when she was a child. She reminded us that she won a door prize mineral at our 1985 annual show.

Kathy collects naturally occurring diamonds, which are brought to the surface in Kimberlite, an igneous rock. Kimberlite occurs in the Earth's crust in vertical structures known as kimberlite pipes. Naturally occurring diamonds are not faceted, but they often occur in an octahedral shape and can be any color, depending on the types of impurities that contaminate them. About 80% of diamonds are found in alluvial sites (deposited by running water).

Premier Diamond Mine in South Africa is known for large diamonds, including the Cullinan Diamond. At 3,106.75 carats, it was the largest diamond ever found. It was cut into 9 major and 96 smaller gems and now belongs to the British Royal Crown. Premier Mine is also well known for its blue diamonds. Although South Africa is the most-known source of diamonds, the three largest Diamond-producing countries are Russia, Botswana, and Canada. Australia, China, and various other African countries also mine large quantities of diamonds. Many more diamonds are used for industrial purposes than for gemstones.

Kathy showed photos of several mining operations, which were stunningly huge.

Kathy told us that photographing polished diamonds is difficult due to their highly reflective nature. It's similar to attempting to photograph snowflakes or ice cubes. Closeups of microminerals show

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### GLMSMC Regular Meeting Minutes from January 10th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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the shapes of the crystal structures' triangular faces. Inclusions should not be considered flaws—rather, they add to the beauty and mystery of these gems.

Kathy then discussed her own micro-mount collection, including her innovative use of display materials. She uses individual bristles from plastic hairbrushes— the ones whose bristles are translucent, with slightly rounded heads. One of her display case sources is Godiva chocolate boxes!

At the end of her slide and lecture presentation, Kathy answered questions and comments from club members. Crater of Diamonds State Park, Arkansas, allows collecting. Aside from that, there are no opportunities to personally collect diamonds in the U.S. (“Herkimer Diamonds” are quartz, not diamonds.)

A club member had a tour of a diamond mine in Botswana. No collecting was permitted and security, including “bio-screening” – was intense.

A club member remarked that some diamonds fluoresce under shortwave light. Another commented that his wife’s diamond ring is purple under longwave light.

### Show Table

Jeff Cessna— Sphalerite from Horn Silver Mine-Beaver Dam Mountains, Utah

Gary & Diane Leaman— Carbonado Diamond from Central African Republic

Chris Luzier— Yellow Willemite from Franklin, New Jersey

Jonathan Harris— Corundum, var. Ruby in Gneiss from Mysore, India

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Cronin

Follow us on Facebook at

<https://www.facebook.com/>

[groups/984241208329511/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/984241208329511/)



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**GLSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from January 17th, 2022**

Patricia Cronin

Meeting commenced at 8:00 PM via Zoom. **Attending:** Patricia Cronin, Andy Celmer, Jonathan Harris, Gary and Diane Leaman, Holly Heighes, Dan Kohn, Chris Luzier, Dave Tiktinsky, Pat Repik-Byrne, and Jeff Cessna.

**Board Reports**

Sam Linton will notify the Board about upcoming trips when the weather is appropriate.

**Membership**

The new cycle has started and payment notices have been sent. Some membership renewal payments have been received.

**EFMLS**

No changes reported.

**Shows**

Chris will start working on regional promotion with other mineral groups for our show. There was some discussion about shows and events held by other organizations.

**Show Publicity**

Doug and Dave will send information about our show– fliers, local signage, etc. Electronic fliers will be sent to Board members.

There is still a possibility that the show may be cancelled by Montgomery County, depending on the COVID case numbers in the next few weeks.

Chris will get our club added to the Virginia Minerals Directory and also contact various other types of groups and editors about our show.

The show publicity budget has been reduced as we send very few notifications via postal service mail. Discussion about email costs and service was held. Most of our mailing list is electronic. Chris remarked that we get only about 30 visitors with discount postcards each year while our email list is about 1,900. Facebook has also been a good source of providing information about the club and the show to the public. We need to be diligent about culling failed emails, as it affects our costs. Approximately 25% of our emails are not current.

The lists of visitors and that of members cannot be easily electronically reconciled, as they are in Word documents, not Excel. Club members are informed about the show via club emails. Some spam

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## GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from January 17th, 2022

Patricia Cronin

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filters may put club emails into spam files.

### **Show Set-Up**

Discussion about setting up for the show was held. We still have most of the disposables that were purchased for the 2020/2021 show. Since items had been bought for the cancelled 2020/2021 shows, there may be some unspent money for the 2022 budget. Chris and Dave will verify with our table rental company. Chris may have some money left in his budget as our 2021 table contract payment was rolled over to 2022.

### **Show Details**

There will be a physics demo and the gold panning group will present a demo, even though they are not meeting due to COVID. FMVA will have a demo and a display. Chris is still verifying with other potential demonstrators. We will not have a lapidary shop this year. We may do a lapidary demo.

Holly noted that the kids' area is always very crowded. She suggests that the kids' area be moved to the area usually used by the lapidary shop. Chris and Dave will consider this.

Dave announced that there has been some dealer turnover, so we will have a few new ones.

There was some discussion about the use of the computer to register entrants for our mailing list and the possibility of using it to determine door prize winners. Chris will talk with Reed about the computers.

### **Budget**

There was continued discussion of offering an honorarium, a one-year club membership, and admission to the show to those who present programs at the monthly meeting. Some presenters are not eligible, due to their jobs or because they are GLMSMC members. Some refuse payment. We may have some money for these payments from the unused postal mailing budget.

Diane discussed recent income, such as checks from dealers.

### **Membership**

Pat Repik-Byrne would like to have a few gratis admission tickets in her possession to give to speakers. She would like to offer a one-year membership to our January speaker, as well as the financial honorarium.

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**GLMSMC BOD Meeting Minutes from January 17th, 2022**

Patricia Cronin

*Continued from page 7*

Suggestion was made to put a membership application on our website. Some wondered if this form could be completed online or if it would be a PDF only.

A motion was made to reduce the postage/publicity/printing budget item by \$400 and add \$150 to membership for potential future speakers' honorarium. Motion seconded, voted and approved.

Membership dues checks currently go to Doug's home. A few go to the P.O. Box. There was some discussion about the necessity of keeping a P.O. Box. It was determined that it is needed as a permanent mailing address for the club.

**Upcoming Speakers**

February: Chris Luzier

March: Jeff Post

Motion to adjourn made, seconded, and passed at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patricia Cronin

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**Super Diggg Field Trip and Volunteers**

Chris Luzier

The Super Diggg will once again be happening on April 23rd at the Sterling Hill Mining Museum in Ogdensburg, New Jersey, in conjunction with the Spring Mineral Show in Franklin, NJ. This is an action-packed weekend of minerals and collecting! As part of your membership with the GLMSMC, we have the Super Diggg as a club-sanctioned field trip! This means that you are covered for the field trip under our insurance and do not have to add the cost of insurance for the day to your Super Diggg admission fee. That means more money in your pocket to be able to spend on minerals!

We are also looking to get volunteers to help with the Super Diggg event and we will have more information soon about signing up for this wonderful dig and volunteering as well!!! This is always an awesome weekend and show that is well worth the drive.





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## **Future Rockhounds of America (The MOCKS) Ages 10-15**

Mark Dahlman

**Next Meeting Date:** February 28th

**Meeting Time:** 7:45-9:00 PM

**Meeting Location:** Sunroom Cafeteria at the Rockville Senior Center

### **January 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

The January FRA meeting was cancelled due to COVID.

### **February 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

At our February meeting we'll start working on the Showmanship badge by going over how create an exhibit for our club show in March. All individual junior exhibits are eligible for the very generous Lillian Turner Award prizes, so think about what you'd like to title your exhibit. (The title in required on the exhibit entry form due at the meeting.) See you soon!

For more information on the Future Rockhounds of America program, please contact Mark Dahlman at <fra\_advisor@glmsmc.com> or 301-428-0455.

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## **2022 Membership Dues**

Doug Baum

Please send a check for \$20 family or \$15 individual membership made out to the GLMSMC to the address below. If you send a self addressed envelope, I will mail back your membership cards. If you have any questions, email [dbaum18@aol.com](mailto:dbaum18@aol.com).

Doug Baum  
11205 Golden Meadow Court  
Germantown, MD 20876



## Member Sharon Lyon Announces Launch of Her Novel

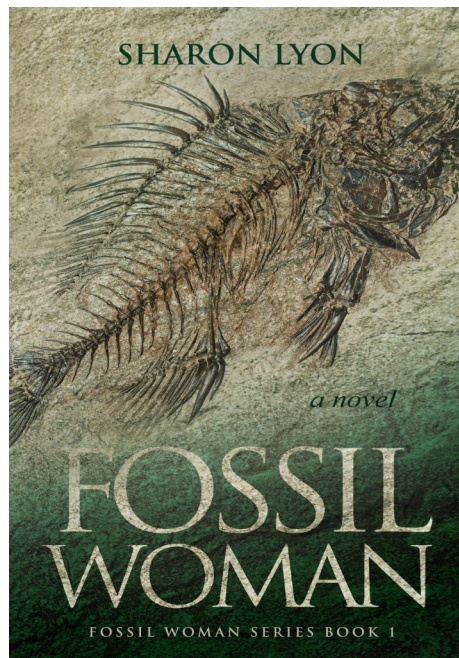
Sharon Lyon

GLSMC member Sharon Lyon announces the upcoming launch of her novel *Fossil Woman*. The Kindle version of the book will be FREE on Amazon from Wednesday, March 2–Sunday, March 6. Please mark your calendars to download your copy of the eBook. You can check her website for updates at [www.sharonlyon.net](http://www.sharonlyon.net).

The book description is below:

### ***Fossil Woman: A Novel***

*A million years ago, humans walked the earth in tribes,  
their lives precariously short, their stories mostly untold.  
Ifa was such a woman.  
And her story is at the beginning of all things.*



As a woman raised in the 1950s, Henrietta Ballantine has always had to prove herself. Homeschooled to challenge her intellectually, Henrietta spent her childhood with a strict Russian tutor and an overbearing mother for whom she could do nothing right. It's her science-driven father who finally manages to give Henrietta refuge within the Smithsonian's glorious walls. There she learns a love of ancient things, of secrets hidden in the ground. Of fossils.

Deciding to attend college and study paleontology, hoping knowledge will finally fill the emptiness inside her, Henrietta faces an uphill battle against those who refuse to see her as their equal in a male-dominated field. This, she expects. But as her studies bring her to dig sites across the country, Henrietta's adventures unearth something she never imagined: a romance with fellow geologist Frank Bailey, a man of few words, strong opinions, and an evolving belief in Henrietta's capabilities. Still, it isn't Frank who haunts her dreams: the relationship she can't seem to define is the one she has with a "guardian angel" whose voice Henrietta hears in her loneliest moments. A voice that calls to her across the ages. A voice that suddenly becomes very loud once Henrietta's excursions bring her to Africa.

How could Henrietta and Ifa, two women born thousands of millennia apart, forge a connection, one that may ultimately fulfill Henrietta's greatest desire? The answer will be found deep beneath the sediment, in fossils that tell a wondrous story of endurance, of resilience...of women.



### Upcoming Shows

*Please check the websites to verify that the shows will be held and what mask requirements there may be.*

#### March 2022

- 3/5- 3/6—Wilmington, DE: Delaware Mineralogical Society 4727 Concord Pike, Doubletree by Hilton, Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 11:00-5:00 <http://www.dmsrocks.org/>
- **GSA Northeastern Section Meeting**  
3/20-3/22, Lancaster, PA: GSA Northeastern Section Meeting, 25 Queen St, Lancaster Marriott, <http://msnepa.org/>
- **3/11-3/12—RICHBORO, PENNSYLVANIA:** Annual show; Leidy Microscopic Society; Advent Lutheran Church, 45 Worthington Mill Rd, 916 Senator Rd; Fri. 12-6, Sat. 9-6 Website:  
• <http://leidymicroscopical.com/>
- **\*\*19-20 -GAITHERSBURG, MD: GLMSCMC, Gaithersburg Fairgrounds. Sat 10-6, Sun 11-5**  
**Our club show! Please volunteer to help!\*\***
- **3/20-3/21 - Lancaster, PA: Geological Society of America, NE Section Annual Meeting,**  
Lancaster Marriott, 25 S. Queen St.  
[https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section\\_Meetings/GSA/Sections/ne/2022mtg/home.aspx](https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section_Meetings/GSA/Sections/ne/2022mtg/home.aspx)
- **Franklin County Rock and Mineral Club Show**  
3/26 - 3/27 Chambersburg, PA: Franklin Co. Rock and Mineral Club Show, 235 South 3rd St Eugene C. Clarke Jr Community Center  
<https://www.facebook.com/Franklin-County-Rock-and-Mineral-Club-1601767103396099/>
- **Philadelphia Mineral Treasures & Fossil Fair**  
3/26 - 3/27, Plymouth Meeting, PA: Philadelphia Mineral Treasures and & Fossil Fair  
Lu Lu Temple 5140 Butler Pike, Sat 10:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00 <http://www.phillyrocks.org/>
- **Che-Hanna Rock and Mineral Show**  
3/26 - 3/27 Wysox, PA: 1 Wysox Volunteer Firehall, 11 Lake Road  
Sat 9:00-5:00 Sun 10:00-4:00 <http://chehannarocks.com/>



## Upcoming Shows



### 56th Annual Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show

Date/Time: March 19-20, 2022 Saturday 10-6, Sunday 11-5

Location: Montgomery County Fairgrounds; Building #6  
16 Chestnut St. Gaithersburg MD 20877

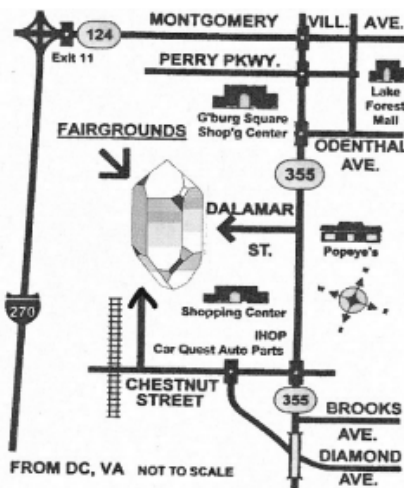
#### Featuring:

Hourly Door Prizes  
Gold Panning  
Fluorescent Minerals  
Raffle Prizes  
Free Parking

20+ Vendors of minerals, beads, fossils, gems & jewelry  
40+ Exhibits by club members - including junior exhibits  
Learn to make a gemstone in the shop  
Mini Mine, Free minerals & activities for children  
Demonstrations of Faceting, Beading, Jewelry Making, Physics

Children (11 and under) Free! Ages 12 and over \$6  
Scouts in Uniform Free! 4H youth with 4H identification Free!  
More info at: [www.glmsmc.com](http://www.glmsmc.com)

Show this flyer for  
**\$1 off admission price**  
(applies to each member in your group)



## 31st Annual Chesapeake Gem, Mineral, Jewelry & Fossil Show

Saturday, April 23, 2022 10 AM – 4 PM

**New Location**  
**Howard County Fairgrounds**  
2210 Fairgrounds Rd. West Friendship, Md 21794

Minerals, Original Jewelry, Fossils, Rough & Cut Gemstones  
Silent Auctions, Door Prizes  
Free minerals for kids

[www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org](http://www.chesapeakegemandmineral.org)

**Directions:** From Baltimore take I-70 to Rt. 32 south; Turn right on Rt. 144 west Fairgrounds Road is half a mile on the right.

From Washington area – Routes 29 or 95 North to Rt. 32 west/north; turn left on Rt. 144 west-Fairgrounds road is a half of a mile on the right.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President** – Jonathan Harris

**Vice President** – Pat Repik-Byrne

**Secretary** – Patricia Cronin

**Treasurer** – Diane Leaman

**Membership Chairman** – Doug Baum

**Downstairs Showchair** – Chris Luzier

**Upstairs Showchair** – Dave Tiktinsky

**Property Manager** – Joel Rosen

**EFMLS Liaison** – Andy Celmer

**At Large Board Members** – Ken Reynolds, Karen Lottes, Gary Leaman, Dan Kohn

### NON-BOARD POSITIONS

**Field Trip Chairman** – Sam Linton

**Immediate Past President** – Holly Heighes

**Bulletin Editor** – Olivia Luzier

**Life Members:** Larry Harrison, Juan Proaño, and George Durland

**Society Address:** Gem, Lapidary, and Mineral Society of Montgomery County MD., Inc.

P. O. Box 444, Gaithersburg MD 20884-0444

**Website:** <http://www.glmsmc.com/>

All Society correspondence is to be sent to this address except that which is intended for *The Rockhounder* and its editor. Such items are to be sent to the editor's email address at [editor@glmsmc.com](mailto:editor@glmsmc.com).

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Award Winning Bulletin

EFMLS, AFMS



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