

NEWSLETTER

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ELEVENTH MEETING OF SWISS SEDIMENTOLOGISTS REPORT

n Saturday, 25 January 2003, 105 sedimentologists congregated in Fribourg, Switzerland, for the 11th SwissSed Meeting. Most came from Swiss universities, Swiss consulting offices, or Swiss administration, but also people from Germany, Holland, France, and Italy were present. The ages ranged from master students to retired professors, with a clear predominance of the young generation.

Eight out of the twelve oral presentations were given by master or PhD students, and the same ratio was seen in the 29 posters. Topics ranged from sediment phosphatised by Swiss cave-bear droppings to Pennsylvanian algal reefs in Kansas, from deep subsurface dolomite formation in an ODP hole at the Peru margin to arid landscape evolution in Chile, from tsunami deposits in Oman to X-ray microtomography of foraminifers. However, one clear focus was on Holocene lacustrine sedimentation. featuring examples from Swiss. Argentinean, and African lakes. A second focus concerned the Cenomanian-Turonian boundary and provoked a heated debate in the lecture hall and around the respective posters. It was clear from this wide palette of well presented and scientifically sound research results that Swiss sedimentology is alive and kicking.

In a keynote lecture, Adrian Immenhauser from Amsterdam addressed the balancing between science and business. He gave important clues on the job market in the oil industry, which of course was highly appreciated by the young sedimentologists about to finish their thesis.

One of the goals of SwissSed is to give graduate and postgraduate students the opportunity to present their research in a friendly environment and to prepare them for international meetings. All presentations are in English, which is good exercise for the normally German- or French-speaking community. There is only one plenary session, which makes us listen also to topics that are not necessarily our speciality, thus hopefully broadening our minds. There is ample time for coffee and cookies and posters, where we mingle. meet friends, and make new contacts. Lunch is in a crowded restaurant, which again gives the opportunity to talk about the past and the future. For this one-day meeting in the geographical centre of tiny Switzerland, logistics are very simple, and most people arrive by train or car in the morning and go back home in the evening.

In conclusion, the formula of a low-cost but high-impact meeting has proven to be very successful. So you better watch out for the young Swiss sedimentologists at your next international conference.

André Strasser Fribourg, Switzerland

Report on

INCISED VALLEYS: IMAGES AND PROCESSES

SEPM RESEARCH CONFERENCE

n SEPM-sponsored Research Conference devoted to the subject of incised valleys was held in Casper, Wyoming, from August 18-23, 2002. The meeting was organized by Rod Tillman, Bob Dalrymple, Dale Leckie, and Dag Nummedal, and was well attended, with a significant European presence. It was especially pleasing that nearly onequarter of the attendees were students: Nexen, Conoco, and Williams oil companies are especially thanked for their contributions to subsidize students. The small number of participants (50), all with a keen interest in the theme, coupled with the integration of oral and poster presentations and field trips, guaranteed lively discussion during the scheduled discussion periods. The following paragraphs provide an abridged summary of the conference; an extended review can be found on the SEPM Web site.

The incised-valley deposits described in the 45 oral and poster presentations ranged widely in age (Carboniferous to modern), tectonic setting (rift valleys, foreland basins, and passive continental margins), and deposit type (fluvial, estuarine, marine, glacial, and even eolian and carbonate sediments). Quaternary and modern examples predominated, but many subsurface, hydrocarbon-bearing deposits were also discussed.

Structural control on the location and geometry of valleys was a notable theme, with several authors showing that even very subtle faults and folds produce sufficient relief to localize incision. This provides a potentially valuable tool for the exploration for incised-valley deposits. Studies on the East China Sea, Gulf Coast, and eastern Australian shelves showed that depositional topography created by the preceding lowstand can also exert a strong influence on the location and offshore extent of valleys: the break-in-slope at the seaward edge of lowstand deltas controlled where incision occurred and limited the offshore extent of the valleys. The influence of climatically produced changes in water and sediment discharge on valley formation and filling was explored in only two presentations, but such effects should not be underestimated.

Several authors explored the limits of what is, or isn't, an incised valley. For example, if a river is constrained to flow in a structurally produced depression, with limited erosion, is it a non-incised valley? Two authors suggested that many subsurface features that have been called valleys are, in fact, deltaic distributaries. Yet another author presented a modern example in India where discharge is highly variable, with rare, very large floods which inundate the overbank areas infrequently. At what point are the channels in such

systems valleys? From such examples, it is clear that a complete gradation is possible between incised and non-incised systems.

The facies, architectural, and geometric complexity of incised-valley deposits was highlighted by many of the presentations. Several studies emphasized the importance of tidal deposits within incised-valley estuarine systems, and the resulting complexity of the channel-bar deposits was evident from studies of both modern and ancient deposits. The interaction (temporal and spatial) between tidal and wave processes was discussed by other workers. While most presentations focussed on the valley-filling deposits, a small number drew attention to the complex paleo-geomorphology of the erosional surface/landscape that is the "container" for these deposits. The presence and importance of tributary systems was discussed by a number of workers. Two points stood out: the junctions of tributaries with the trunk valley are sites of localized deep scour and the deposition of coarser sediment (i.e., higher net-to-gross values); and the deposits within tributaries may differ dramatically from those of the adjacent trunk valley because of different source areas.

Two one-day field trips were interspersed with the formal presentations. The first, lead by Brian Willis, Janok Bhattacharya, and Rod Tillman, examined

the Frewens Castle Sandstone, a succession of tidally influenced deltaic deposits that occupies an elongate depression between two pre-existing deltaic bodies. The second trip (Rod Tillman, leader) examined the valley-filling deposits of the Newcastle Sandstone. Spectacular examines of tidal point-bar deposits (inclined heterolithic stratification) were the outstanding feature of this unit. After the meeting, Rod Tillman led an optional trip to examine the Shannon Sandstone. The incised-valley interpretation of this unit that has been proposed by some workers received little support from those present on the trip.

The conference was regarded as a complete success: the quality of the presentations was high; the built-in discussion periods sparked lively give-and-take between the audienceand speakers, with vocal debate on several issues (e.g., were specific deposits incised valleys or not?; are estuarine deposits found only within incised valleys?); and the field trips were enjoyed thoroughly. The organizers thank SEPM staff for their superb organizational job, with specific thanks going to Howard Harper, SEPM Executive Director, for his invaluable assistance throughout the conference.

R.W. Dalrymple P. Geo. Professor Queen's University Kingston, Ontario Canada

THE OCEAN MARGIN RESEARCH CONFERENCE

Paris 15th - 17th September 2003

The Ocean Margin Conference is aimed to increase our knowledge about the functioning of ocean margin systems. It will also promote the wise use of the seafloor and sub seafloor of the Earth's ocean margin system as a source of natural marine resources.

The conference addresses topics that are of fundamental interest to most if not all ocean margin research communities around the globe. It is therefore the goal of the Ocean Margin Research Consortium (OMARC) to bring together scientists in an European Commission and UNESCO sponsored conference, which provides one of the best forums to present, to discuss and enhance our knowledge about ocean margin systems, and to create more public awareness. This is to be achieved through six major sessions and themes:

Session 1 - Ocean Margin Emissions

Although there is a wide range of evidence indicating that fluid flow is a significant process within ocean margins, the flow and gas emission at the seabed system that operate within them is not understood, even at the most fundamental level. Fluid flow is potentially an important influence on the local distribution of benthic biota on continental margins and on biota in the sediments beneath them. It also plays an important part in the diagenesis of the sedimentary rocks deposited on continental margins and in

the migration of gas and the development of gas hydrates within them. The purpose of the conference is to bring together a wide range of expertise and information to stimulate a program of research that would reveal, describe and quantify the ocean margin gas and fluid flow emissions in the context of global change. Participants in the working group will include scientists who have observational evidence for fluid seeps, engineers developing instruments for measuring fluid flow into and out of the sea bed, fluidflow modellers, those with interests in sedimentary architecture of continental margins, and those concerned with the migration and escape of hydrocarbons.

Session 2 – Ocean Margin Ecosystems

Deeper-water Ocean Margin Ecosystems thrive along a steep bathymetric gradient thereby inhabiting a broad range of seabed settings such as slopes, canyon systems and slide areas and are being exposed to contrasting regimes of oceanic circulation patterns. The significance of geosphere-biosphere coupling in margin sediments is becoming increasingly important for the assessment of ocean margin life and ecosystems. In marine sediments the subsurface biomass has been estimated to be equivalent to approximately 10% of all surface life, possibly even higher. Thus a major component of life on Earth exists far away from sunlight and from plants that trap this energy, and it is difficult to understand

what energy sources are available in such deep and ancient deposits (millions of years). In addition, as some bacteria and archaea can live at very high temperatures (up to ~110°C and possibly higher) and pressures (>1,000 atm), conditions that are reached only several kilometres below seafloor

To co-ordinate research on these new habitats, make the technological developments for their study, start to integrate this knowledge into our understanding of ocean margin ecosystems and function, and to disseminate this information for sustainable use of ocean margin ecosystems a conference on this topic is necessary and timely. This conference will offer a platform for a dialogue between academia, industry, environmental stakeholders and the public.

Session 3 - Ocean Margin Shaping

The morphology of ocean margins has many variations depending on climate and active sedimentary processes and attributes involved. Most of the events that shape the margin surface leave a record of their impacts in recent and past sediment sequences. However, as stated in the US Margin science plan "Despite decades intensely studying sedimentary systems, it remains unclear exactly how the stratigraphic record is constructed or, how to decipher the record so we can isolate the various climatic, tectonic, and eustatic processes that interacted to form it." From around world's margins more and more 3D- seismic data are becoming available to academia through industry, while coring systems to obtain pristine cores from extreme environments have been developed. However, there is a large gap

between industry and academia in highresolution seismic and sea floor imaging techniques. This conference can contribute to close this gap to a significant degree.

Session 4 - Ocean Margin Acoustic Imaging

At a range of resolutions is essential to understand the architecture of sedimentary units beneath the seabed, and to study the migration of fluids between the geosphere and the ocean. This involves imaging of the seabed, sub-seabed and fluid migration pathways. We recognize a substantial gap in techniques and practices between industry and academia in acoustic imaging. An example for the use of modern acoustic imaging technology is the EuroSTRATAFORM project which will provide a stratigraphic framework for the Atlantic European glaciated and Mediterranean European nonglaciated margin as well as a model for its development. The conference will highlight the importance of state-of-theart methods for understanding of Ocean Margin processes. It emphasizes the requirement for improved groundtruthing to control the interpretations made, and it is forming a basis for the development of further drilling proposals on Ocean Margins.

Session 5 – Ocean Margin Long-term Observatories

Ocean margins link deep-sea environments and shelf settings. They mediate between both and are characterised by a process driven seasonality. It is mandatory for understanding the margin controlling processes to observe a wide range of parameters such as bottom water temperature, water salinity, nutrient content, etcetera, over extended time spans. Seismicity is important for slope stability. Observation of these parameters requires long-term observatories. Due to the variable water depth of ocean margins from a few hundred to a couple of thousand meters, many technological challenges need to be addressed such as real time data transfer, and protection of the instruments against fishing activities. The conference is to combine experiences that are made in various projects, and result in a set of recommendations for the development of future multi-sensor, longterm observatories. This will be a significant advantage for future research programs.

Session 6 – Ocean Margin Educational Networks

European Deep Ocean Margins (EURODOM) provides a major framework in Europe for training young researchers in a fascinating field, at the interface of Earth and Life Sciences, and at the crossroads between Academia and Industry. This network is open for advanced training and educational

opportunities for pre- and post-doctoral researchers to meet the linkage between Marine Geosciences, Environment, and the hydrocarbon industry as far as they relate to deep-ocean margins. The conference provides a forum to increase educational network activities across the Atlantic and countries interested in the implementation of an Educational Cyberlink Network that reaches out to our young generation interested and involved in ocean sciences. Ocean Margin Educational Networks and their potential for hundreds of young scientists has been demonstrated successfully through the IOC-UNESCO (TTR) Training Through Research Program, which has introduced education at sea as one of the research concepts in Europe.

For additional information contact: http://www.ig.uit.no/konferanser/omarc/index.htm

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YVONNE GUBLER - OBITUARY BY HAROLD READING

L. Montadert and J. Dubyser in the December 2002 Newsletter recounts her remarkable career as a geologist, both as researcher and teacher, and in the development of sedimentology in France, most of her life being spent within that unique institution, where academia and industry meet, I.F.P. (Institut Français du Petrole).

What the obituary omits, is her contribution, as President, to the I.A.S. from 1971-1975. Without her the I.A.S. would never have evolved the way it did.

At the 8th I.A.S. Congress held at Heidelberg (F.R.G.) in 1971, the Council's recommendation to hold the next Congress in Troy, New York was rejected by members at the General Assembly in favour of a hastily announced proposal to hold it in Nice. Sensible French sedimentologists realized that such a venue could be a financial and scientific disaster unless someone of authority was in charge and proposed that Yvonne Gubler should be elected President, which she was, although she herself was not at the meeting.

At that time, the President was essentially an honorary post, the sole task being to act as Chairman at the 4 yearly Congress and was automatically chosen from the country where the next Congress was to be held. Between times the affairs of the Association were in the hands of the all powerful Secretary General, as he had been entitled, and the Treasurer who

for many years had been housed in the same building. The editor was appointed by the publisher who had complete control over size, cost, subscription and quality of papers published, with the result that costs escalated and science deteriorated.

During her Presidency the most fundamental changes in the history of the I.A.S. were made. Not only was the publisher changed but meetings were held outside the 4 yearly Congresses (Zurich 1973), low priced special publications introduced (1974), national correspondents appointed, and a regular newsletter written. Membership doubled, annual dues were reduced and the Nice Congress, in spite of being a financial disaster for its citizens, was an enormous scientific and social success.

Change of publisher led to complete editorial freedom for the I.A.S. and a financial arrangement that has ensured a strong financial position ever since. The President became Chairman of a handson bureau consisting of General Secretary, Treasurer, Editors and Vice President who met at regular 6 monthly intervals for 2 days at a time to thrash out problems, initiate ideas and take decisions.

There were certainly international problems. An Israeli proposal, eventually accepted at the Nice Congress, to hold the next Congress in Israel was not happily received in the Arab world and incomprehension of the nature of each other's society led to confrontation between sedimentologists of the Soviet Union and the United States.

Through all the changes and problems, Yvonne Gubler guided a Bureau that included Bodenhauser, Friedman, Füchtbauer, Hsü, Middleton and myself at our meetings at Bochum, Leiden, Oxford, Montreal, Zürich, and at her flat in Paris and, most memorable of all, at her holiday

farmhouse at Chamonix amongst her delightful grandchildren.

Her brilliant mind, breadth of knowledge, energy, directness and simplicity will be remembered by all of us who served under her.

> Harold Reading University of Oxford, UK

IAS NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS

National Correspondents establish the link between the sedimentological community in their country (and maybe surrounding countries) and the IAS Bureau. They play an important role in promoting sedimentology especially in countries that are off the mainstream. If you want to organize a national sedimentological meeting, exchange information within your country, stock up your library, or simply talk to a fellow sedimentologist, please contact your nearest National Correspondent.

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CALENDAR

COASTAL SEDIMENTS '03 The 5th International Symposium on Coastal Engineering and Science of Coastal Sediment Processes

May 18 -23, 2003, U.S.A. (Clearwater Beach, Florida)

Contact: Darlene K. Gregory Conference Secretariat Tel: +1 361 939 90 04 Fax: +1 361 939 93 55

E-mail: dgregory@coastalsediments.net Web-page: www.CoastalSediments.net

FIRST AUSTRIAN REEF WORKSHOP

May 30-31, 2003 Vienna, Austria

Contact: Martin Zuschin

E-mail: martin.zuschin@univie.ac.at Web-page: http://geopal.uibk.ac.at

3RD LATINAMERICAN CONGRESS OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

June 8-11, 2003, BRAZIL (Belém, Pará) Contact: Dilce de Fátima Rossetti Museu Paraense Emilio Goeldi CP 399, Belém, Pará 66040-170

E-mail: latinoamericano@museu-goeldi.br Web-page: www.ufpa.br/latinomerican

ALLUVIAL FANS

June 8-13, 2003, SE SPAIN (Sorbas, Almeria)

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SEDIMENT 2003 18TH MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY 1" Regional Meeting of the SEPM Central European Section

June 10-13, 2003 Germany (Wilhelmshaven) Contact: Sediment 2003

Forchungszentrum TERRAMARE

Schleusenstrasse 1

D-26382 Wilhelmshaven, Germany E-mail: heike.scheele@terramare.de Web-page; www.terramare.de/sediment2003

12TH BATHURST MEETING OF CARBONATE SEDIMENTOLOGISTS

8-10 July 2003, U.K. (Durham)

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Tel: +44 191 374 25 24 / 25 01 E-mail: M.E.Tucker@durham.ac.uk

E-mail: Moyra. Wilson@durham.ac.uk Web-page: http://www.dur.ac.uk/bathurst,2003/

MESOZOIC PALAEOCEANOGRAPHY IN RESPONSE TO PALAEOGEOGRAPHIC & PALAEOCLIMATIC FORCINGS

July 10-11, 2003, FRANCE (Paris)

Contact: François Baudin, UPMC-PARIS VI. E-

mail: frbaudin@ccr.jussieu.fr. Taniel Danelian, UPMC-PARIS VI Helmut Weissert, ETH Zürich Monique Troy (Secretary) University P. & M. Curie

16TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR QUATERNARY RESEARCH (INQUA)

July 23 - 31, 2003, U.S.A. (Reno, Nevada)

Contact: M. Jones

Division of Hydrologic Sciences Desert Research Institute 2215 Raggio Parkway, Reno NV 89512, U.S.A.

E-mail: inqua03@dri.edu

Web-page: http://inqua2003.dri.edu

IGCP#463 UPPER CRETACEOUS OCEANIC RED BEDS: RESPONSE TO OCEAN/CLIMATE GLOBAL CHANGE -WORKSHOP AND FIELD EXCURSION

August 25-31, 2003 Lhasa, Tibet

Contact: Wang Chengshan

Chengdu University of Technology

Chengdu 610059 Sichuan, China

E-mail: wcs@cdut.edu.cn

Web-page: www.igcp463.cdut.edu.cn

PRESENT STATE AND FUTURE EVOLUTION OF PALEOGENE STRATIGRAPHY

A Symposium of the International Subcommission on Paleogene Stratigraphy

August 26-30, 2003, BELGIUM (Leuven)

Contact: Noël Vandenberghe Dept. Geografie-Geologie Afd. Historische Geologie

KU Leuven, Redingestraat 16

B-3000 Leuven, Belgium E-mail: noel.vandenberghe@geo.kuleuven.be

Web-page: www.unituebingen.de/geo/isps/news

TRIASSIC GEOCHRONOLOGY AND CYCLOSTRATIGRAPHY - A FIELD

SYMPOSIUM

September 11-15, 2003 Sta Christina, Val Gardena, Dolomites, Italy

Contact: Peter Brack

Department of Earth Sciences ETH Zentrum, CH-8042 Zurich

Switzerland E-mail: peter.brack@erdw.ethz.ch

Fax nr.: +41 1632 1088

THE OCEAN MARGIN RESEARCH CONFERENCE

September 15-17, 2003

Paris, France

Contact: Juergen Mienert Scripps Inst. of Oceanography

Geoscience Research Division 0220

La Jolla, California 92093

USA

E-mail: jmienert@ucsd.edu

Web-page: http://www.ig.uit.no/konferanser/

omarc/index.htm

22nd IAS MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

September 17-19, 2003 CROATIA (Opatija)

Contact: Davor Pavelic

IAS-2003, Institute of Geology, HR-10000

Zagreb, Sachsova 2, Croatia Fax: +385 1 6144718 E-mail: dpavelic@yahoo.com

Web-page: http://www.igi.hr/ias2003

8TH INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON FOSSIL ALGAE

September 18-20, 2003, SPAIN (Granada) Contact: Juan C. Braga or Julio Aguirre Departamento de Estratigrafia y Paleontologia Facultad de Ciencias

Universidad de Granada Campus Fuentenueva s/n 18002 Granada, Spain

E-mail: jbraga@ugr.es or jaguirre@ugr.es

THIRD REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON ATLANTIC NEOGENE STRATIGRAPHY CONGRESS

September 19-25, 2003

Asilah, Morocco Contact: Abdelkhalak ben Moussa

E-mail: b.moussa@fst.ac.ma Web-page: www.fst.ac.ma/rcans03

FIFTH CONGRESS OF THE SPANISH TERTIARY GROUP

September 23-25, 2003

Granada, Spain Contact: Fernando García

Departamento de Geología

Facultad de Ciencias Experimentales

Universidad de Jaén E-23071 Jaén, Spain

E-mail: fegarcia@ujaen.es Web-page: www.ugr.es/~estratig

ANALOGUE AND NUMERICAL FORWARD MODELLING OF SEDIMENTARY SYSTEMS: FROM UNDERSTANDING TO PREDICTION

October 9-11, 2003

Utrecht, The Netherlands Contact: Poppe de Boer

Institute of Earth Sciences

Utrecht University P.O. Box 80.021

3508 TA Utrecht

The Netherlands

E-mail: basinmodelling@geo.uu.nl

Web-page: http://basinmodelling.geo.uu.nl

9TH FRENCH CONGRESS OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

October 14-16, 2003, FRANCE (Bordeaux)

Contact: Thierry Mulder,

Université Bordeaux 1, DGO, Avenue des

Facultés, 33405 Talence cedex, France

Tel: + 33-556 84 88 47 Fax: +33-556 84 08 48

Philippe Razin, EGID, Université Bordeaux 3, 1, Allée F.DAGUIN, 33607 PESSAC cedex,

France

Tel: +33-556 84 80 67

Fax: +33-556 84 80 73

E-mail: cgrsasf@pop.epoc.u-bordeaux.fr Web-page: http://www.epoc.u-bordeaux.fr/

ASF/asf.html

FIFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ASIAN MARINE GEOLOGY

January 14-16, 2004, THAILAND (Bangkok)

Contact:Thanawat Jarupongsakul

Department of Geology, Faculty of Science,

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok 10330, Thailand Fax: (662) 2185464-5

E-mail: thanawat@sc.chula.ac.th

ICHNIA 2004: THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ICHNOLOGY

April 9-13, 2004

Trelew (Patagonia), Argentina

Contact: Luis Buatois

E-mail: ichnolog@infovia.com.ar

LE 2ème COLLOQUE SUR LE JURASSIQUE MAROCAIN

April 21-22, 2004, MOROCCO (Marrakech)

Contact: Prof. A. Ait Addi Département de Géologie (FST) B.P.: 549-Guéliz, Marrakech-Maroc

Tel: (212) 44 43 34 04 Fax: (212) 44 43 31 70

E-mail: aitaddi@fstg-marrakech.ac.ma Web-page: http://www.ucam.ac.ma/fssm/cjm2

32nd INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGICAL CONGRESS

August 20-28, 2004 Florence, Italy

Contact: Chiara Manetti

Dipartimento di Scienze della Terra

Via La Pira, 4 50121 Firenze, Italy

e-mail: casaitalia@geo.unifi.it Phone/Fax: + 39 055 2382146 Web-page: www.32igc.org

23rd IAS MEETING OF SEDIMENTOLOGY

September 15-17, 2004 PORTUGAL (Coimbra) Contact: Rui Pena dos Reis

Universidade de Coimbra, Dpto. Ciências da

Тетта

Largo Marquês de Pombal, 3014 Coimbra (PORTUGAL)

E-mail: penareis@ci.uc.pt

17TH INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENTOLOGICAL CONGRESS

August 27 - September 1, 2006

Fukuoka, Japan

Contact: Rvo Matsumoto

Department of Earth & Planetary Sciences

University of Tokyo Hongo

Tokyo 113, Japan

E-mail: ryo@eps.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp Web-page: http://sediment.jp/

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