
The Chanticleer

The Monthly Newsletter of the Barony Beyond the Mountain

www.bbm.eastkingdom.org

February, 2020

Anno Societatis 54

*“For this was on seynt Volantynys day, Whan euery bryd comyth there to chese his make.”
From “Parlement of Foules,” Geoffrey Chaucer, 1382*

There is some question about when Chaucer’s Valentine’s Day was, precisely. The skeptical rightly point out that mid-February is not the time of year we think of birds mating - especially in England. Some scholars have proposed that he was referring to May 3, the feast day of St. Valentine of Genoa. (There are, apparently, a plethora of Saints Valentine.) Additionally, on May 3, 1381, the engagement of Chaucer’s patron, Anne of Bohemia to Richard II was announced, so it seems likely he was discussing May, rather than February.

However here Beyond the Mountain, the cold winds of February blow around St. Valentine’s feast, and this year February will wear its face full of frost, of storm and cloudiness, one day longer than most. In these modern middle ages, we add a twenty-ninth day at the end of the month for leap year, but it used to be done differently. Every four years the Julian Calendar repeated the 24th of February, or, as the Romans referred to it, the sixth day before the start of March – which was therefore referred to as “double-sixth-day,” “dissextile” in French, “bisestile” in Italian, and “disektos” in Greek. In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII realized that the addition of days had gotten ahead of itself by a goodly bit, and declared that the October 4, 1582 would be followed by October 15 – thereby cutting out some of my favorite parts of October. He also instituted some mildly involved mathematics to prevent having to do it again. He did not, however, suggest any coping mechanisms for a New England February, and we have to create our own.

February 8 brings the fourth Artifacts of a Life event. Artifacts is a unique take on an Arts and Sciences competition, which emphasizes a body of work in a context rather than as unrelated objects. Mistress Elizabeth has announced that this will be her last year stewarding this event. If you have interest in picking up the reins to help continue this biennial arts gathering, there is still time to contact her about shadowing her that day, and discussing the future of the event in the barony. Even if you are not interested in learning to run the competition, it is well worth attending for the day to see the work of some of the Kingdom’s many talented artisans.

Should you not be able to attend the event, consider sending your words and good wishes in the form of an award recommendation to Their Excellencies. They are always eager to hear of the good works of their subjects, and more eager to reward them.

And when double-sixth-day comes, consider St. Matthias the Apostle. Until the practice of two 24ths faded away and was replaced by the 29th, every four years St. Matthias’ feast was celebrated twice.

May your February be as fulfilling.

Baronial Officers

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Baronial Champions

Heavy Weapons Champion:
Baron Angus Gove McKinnon

Fencing Champion:
Lady Agnes de Leon

Archery Champion:
Baron Dorian of Lewes

Thrown Weapons Champion:
Lord Gwilym of Flint

Baronial Meeting

The date and location for the February Baronial meeting is February 18, 7:00pm at the Welles-Turner Memorial Library, 2407 Main Street, Glastonbury, CT.

Ongoing Practices

Most Baronial practices are currently on hiatus due to winter. Please see the listings below for more information, and check the calendar and activities page on the Baronial website for up to the moment information: <https://bbm.eastkingdom.org/baronial-activities/>

Archery Practice

Burlington, CT

Archery practice is currently weather dependent. Please contact Dorian in advance to ascertain the state of the range. Archery Practice is every Tuesday night until we cannot see or it is too cold. Cancelled in the case of inclement weather, though we may still do repair work if enough people show up. Loaner gear is available upon request. Come out and join us! Practice is currently located at 17 Bittersweet Ln, Burlington, CT, use the side door next to the garage. You may contact Dorian at bob.schlain@gmail.com with any questions about the Burlington archery practice. Please see the calendar listing on the website for precise times, as they are subject to change dependent upon weather, school activities, illness, etc.



Heavy Fighting Practice

Norwich, CT

Our armored fighting practice is currently closed for the season, but should reopen in May. It occurs Saturdays at the Leffingwell House Museum at 348 Washington Street, Norwich, CT. Please see the calendar listing on the website for the dates and times. There is also a Facebook discussion page for armored combat in the Barony.

Thrown Weapons Practice

Ellington, CT

Thrown weapons practice is currently closed for the season.

Have you ever wanted to learn how to throw an axe, knife or spear? Come to the BBM Thrown Weapons practice. We will teach you. We will also give you the chance to throw Royal Rounds, which is our way to compare throwers using a standard system of scoring. Please wear closed toe shoes. Thrown weapons practice is held every Wednesday and Thursday from 5:30pm until dark at 7 Jacobs Hill Road, Ellington, CT. We ask that you only participate one evening a week in order to preserve the targets as much as possible. In the event of cancellation, there will be a post on the Baronial Facebook page. You may contact Matteo for more information at matthewsoucy@gmail.com, 774-545-5733 or Matt Soucy on Facebook. There is also a Facebook discussion page for thrown weapons activities in the Barony.

Other Practices in the Area

Other groups in the local area hold indoor practices that are currently open. Please see the bottom of the activities page on the Baronial website: <https://bbm.eastkingdom.org/baronial-activities/>

Help Wanted

DAYBOARD COOK

Greetings! This year, instead of Summer Solstice Shoot, the Barony Beyond the Mountain will be holding May Martial Madness on May 16th.

The purpose of this announcement is that the event stewards are seeking someone to cook dayboard. We are anticipating cooking for 75 people, at \$3.00 per head, so the maximum budget would be \$225.

The kitchen has six gas burners, a gas oven, and sufficient pizza ovens and food warmers. There are sinks, a separate dish washing room, and prep areas. There is a walk-in refrigerator and freezer.

Please send your proposal to Ciara and Anarra at the e-mail addresses in the event announcement by 8:00 Sunday morning, February 16, 2020. The announcement may be found at www.eastkingdom.org/event-details/?eid=3631

The proposal must include:

- A draft menu, with sufficient dishes for vegetarians to have enough to eat, plus some gluten free dishes. Note that it is traditional at BBM outdoor events that food is served both indoors in the cafeteria and also taken outside to the Heavy fighting areas and the archery range. Food must be safe to be served in those environments.

- A preliminary budget.

- A list of staff who will be helping in the kitchen, and taking food outside on carts.

- A plan for clean-up staff.

- Plans to pick up and drop off the Baronial-owned kitchen and serving equipment--located in northern CT.

- Please tell the event stewards if you need access to the kitchen on Friday afternoon or evening for pre-cooking and if so, what hours.

Thank you!

Anarra and Ciara

YULE CEREMONIES COORDINATOR

Good people Beyond the Mountain – let's talk about Yule for next year.

I have coordinated the Yule Ceremonies for over ten years now – many of them with the able assistance of Baroness Gwennlian. Last year was the last year I will be running them. I will continue to provide the ring subtlety, but I need to hand the presentations off to someone else. Twelve years is long enough.

Therefore, if people would like the Yule presentations to continue, someone needs to step up. If they do, I will be more than willing to walk them through this coming year, or they can jump in cold if they prefer. It is their choice.

It is also possible that I am the only person left who loves them, and that their time has passed. That will make me sad, but is also okay.

Either way, I will not be in charge of them next year. Whether that is because someone else has taken over, or because they are not being done – time will tell.

I intend to put all the information I have onto the baronial website at www.bbm.eastkingdom.org for people to peruse. If you are interested in taking this on and taking it into its next evolution, please let me know. You may contact me via either chronicler@bbm.eastkingdom.org, or webminister@eastkingdom.org.

~Eloise



Museum News

(All exhibit descriptions from the museums' websites)

Current Exhibitions:

Metropolitan Museum of Art

www.metmuseum.org

Making Marvels: Science and Splendor at the Courts of Europe

Through March 1, 2020

Between 1550 and 1750, nearly every royal family in Europe assembled vast collections of valuable and entertaining objects. Such lavish public spending and display of precious metals was considered an expression of power. Many princes also believed that the possession of artistic and technological innovations conveyed status, and these objects were often prominently showcased in elaborate court entertainments, which were characteristic of the period.

Making Marvels explores the complex ways in which the wondrous items collected by early modern European princes, and the contexts in which they were displayed, expressed these rulers' ability to govern. Approximately 170 objects—including clocks, automata, furniture, musical instruments, jewelry, paintings, sculptures, print media, and more—from both The Met collection and over fifty lenders worldwide are featured. Visitors will discover marvelous innovations that engaged and delighted the senses of the past, much like twenty-first-century technology holds our attention today—through suspense, surprise, and dramatic transformations.



Relative Values: The Cost of Art in the Northern Renaissance

Through February 28, 2020

Bringing together sixty-two masterpieces of sixteenth-century northern European art from The Met collection and one important loan, this exhibition revolves around questions of historical worth, exploring relative value systems in the Renaissance era. Organized in six sections—raw materials, virtuosity, technological advances, fame, market, and paragone—tapestry, stained and vessel glass, sculpture, paintings, precious metal-work, and enamels are juxtaposed with pricing data from sixteenth-century documents. What did a tapestry cost in the sixteenth century? Goldsmiths' work? Stained glass? How did variables like raw materials, work hours, levels of expertise and artistry, geography, and rarity, affect this? Did production cost necessarily align with perceived market valuation in inventoried collections? Who assigned these values? By exploring different sixteenth-century yardsticks of gauging worth, by probing extrinsic versus intrinsic value, and by presenting works of different media and function side-by-side, the exhibition captures a sense of the splendor and excitement of this era.

The Pierpont Morgan Library

www.themorgan.org

The Book of Ruth: Medieval to Modern

February 14 through June 14, 2020

Famine and flight, emigration and immigration, foreignness: these are some of the societal issues touched upon by the anonymous author of the Bible's Book of Ruth, whose titular character was a great-grandmother of King David and, in the Christian tradition, an ancestor of Jesus Christ. This exhibition celebrates the 2018 gift by Joanna S. Rose of the Joanna S. Rose Illuminated Book of Ruth to the Morgan. The accordion-fold vellum manuscript,

measuring nine inches tall and an amazing eighteen feet long, was designed and illuminated by New York artist Barbara Wolff, who worked on the project for two years (2015–17). The complete biblical text of the Book of Ruth is written in Hebrew on one side and in English on the other, the work of calligrapher Izzy Pludwinski. The Hebrew side features twenty colored illustrations and a continuous landscape, with accents and lettering in silver, gold, and platinum; the English side has forty images executed in black ink.

The Rose Book of Ruth is presented in conversation with twelve manuscripts, drawn from the Morgan's holdings, that unfold the Christian traditions for illustrating the story of Ruth during the Middle Ages. Through the juxtaposition of the modern manuscript with these ancient works, which date from the twelfth to the fifteenth century and include three leaves from the Morgan's famed Crusader Bible, the exhibition brings into focus the techniques of medieval illumination that inspired Wolff, as well as her inventive approach to iconography.

Upcoming Exhibitions:

The Metropolitan Museum of Art

www.metmuseum.org

Art at the Tudor Courts

October 6, 2020 – January 10, 2021

England under the Tudors was a thriving and sophisticated home for the arts. Against the backdrop of England's shifting political relationship with mainland Europe, Tudor artistic patronage legitimized and glorified a series of tumultuous reigns, from Henry VII's seizure of the throne in 1485 to the death of his granddaughter Elizabeth I in 1603.

The Tudor courts were truly cosmopolitan, on par with any continental rivals, and boasted the work of Florentine sculptors, German painters, Flemish weavers, and the best European armorers, goldsmiths,

and printers. At the same time, they nurtured local talent and gave rise, by the end of the century, to a distinctly English style. While the extreme politics and personalities of the Tudor dynasty continue to grip the popular imagination, *Art at the Tudor Courts* will introduce new audiences to its astonishing legacy in the visual arts.

The Gosford Wellhead: An Ancient Roman Masterpiece

June 1, 2020–February 14, 2021

An ancient Roman marble wellhead (puteal) of the second century A.D. is the focus of an exhibition—along with some two dozen works, primarily from The Met collection—that will explore a wide range of topics, including virtuoso Roman sculpture; the Roman adaptation of Greek art and mythology; Greek and Latin literature; early excavations of Rome and its port; the restoration of antiquities in the late eighteenth century; the Grand Tour and the British collecting of antiquities in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; and the rediscovery of a masterpiece that was lost to scholars for centuries. Excavated in the Roman port of Ostia in 1797, the wellhead entered a private collection in the nineteenth century and was recently acquired by The Met. The acquisition is part of The Met's 2020 Collections Initiative in celebration of the Museum's 150th anniversary.

Boston Museum of Fine Art

www.mfa.org

***Strong Women in Renaissance Italy* (working title)**

October 28, 2020 – February 21, 2021

This exhibition explores female power and agency in Renaissance Italy, bringing together approximately 50 works of art—mostly from the MFA's own collection but including several key loans—that illustrate women's roles in various aspects of society, from the domestic and civic spheres to

religious and devotional practice. While women did not have overt political and financial standing, their influence was more widespread than is generally recognized today. They were artists, patrons, writers and active members of the workforce—particularly in convents, where they participated in textile and manuscript production, education, medicine and botany. The exhibition highlights individual women such as Sofonisba Anguissola, who became a court painter to King Phillip II of Spain and the creator of more self-portraits than any other Italian Renaissance artist, male or female; and Isabella d’Este, the greatest female patron of the time. Representations of women in biblical and mythological contexts are explored as well, including images of the biblical heroine Judith, the saint Mary Magdalene and the sorceress Medea. Grouped in thematic sections, the objects on view include sculpture, paintings, maiolica vessels and plates, prints, manuscripts, printed books and textiles.

Boston Museum of Science

www.mos.org

King Tut: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh
June 13, 2020 – January 3, 2021

Don’t miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness King Tut’s stunning treasures before they return to Egypt forever! Museum of Science members will receive a 20% discount on tickets, available before sales open to the general public.

Nearly 100 years after the discovery that captivated the world, KING TUT: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh—the largest collection of Tutankhamun’s treasures ever to travel out of Egypt—will open at The Saunders Castle at Park Plaza in Boston for a limited engagement beginning Saturday, June 13.

The Museum of Science is the official museum partner for this immersive exhibition, which features treasures that were last in Boston in 1963, along with many new

pieces that are on their first journey out of the country. Through over 150 original artifacts, KING TUT: Treasures of the Golden Pharaoh explores the meaning of the items in the royal tomb and the dual storyline of its discovery against all odds. The pharaohs who succeeded King Tut nearly managed to erase him from history. Had British archaeologist Howard Carter not persisted in his quest nearly 100 years ago, the boy king’s legacy and treasures could have been forever lost to the sands of Egypt.

Nine galleries incorporate digital content, contextual material, and audio and custom soundscapes, allowing you to follow King Tut’s passage into everlasting life, discovering how his funerary objects were used on the perilous journey.

Amherst Early Music Festival

www.amherstearlymusic.org

July 5-12, 12-19, 2020

The Amherst Early Music Festival is a workshop offering the largest program of classes for early music enthusiasts, from amateur to professional, in the US. But it is more than a workshop. The Festival Concert Series presents 8 highly-acclaimed evening concerts, including a fully-staged Baroque Opera, which are open to the public and free for participants. There are also Salon concerts in the late evenings and several other performances of vocal music, instrumental music, and dance on the weekends. The Music and Instrument Exhibition hosts instrument makers, music shops, experimental projects, and more over the middle weekend. Lectures, English Country Dances, madrigal singing, and other events provide a wealth of choices for participants and outside guests.

Classes are on a wide range Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and Traditional music topics. You can take an easy ride, just for the fun of it, or you can improve your playing, singing, or dancing; expand your knowledge; and enjoy being part of the friendly and stimulating Festival community.

Archaeology News

<http://www.archaeology.org/news/>

Vitrified Brain Tissue Discovered in Victim from Herculaneum

NAPLES, ITALY—According to a report in The Guardian, a team of researchers including forensic anthropologist Pier Paolo Petrone of the University of Naples Federico II found unique material inside the skull of a 25-year-old man whose charred, exploded bones were recovered in the 1960s from Herculaneum, an ancient city in southern Italy destroyed by pyroclastic flows during the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in A.D. 79. The young man's remains were found under a pile of volcanic ash, lying facedown on a wooden bed in a small room in the Collegium Augustalium, where an imperial cult worshiped the emperor Augustus. The man is thought to have been the caretaker of the building, and asleep at the time of the disaster. Petrone said analysis of the glassy black material, which was found only in the man's skull, revealed proteins typically found in brain tissue, and fatty acids found in human hair, while analysis of charred wood at the site indicates the temperature had reached 968 degrees Fahrenheit. Petrone and his colleagues suggest the glassy material could be human brain tissue transformed by the heat of the eruption into glass.

Medieval Priest's Remains Unearthed in England

LINCOLNSHIRE, ENGLAND—The Lincolnite reports that archaeological investigations conducted by Allen Archaeology ahead of the installation of improved drainage works and landscaping in the area surrounding Lincoln Cathedral uncovered the grave of a medieval priest in a cemetery at the cathedral's west front end. The priest was buried with a pewter chalice and a paten, which were used to serve bread and wine during the Christian communion service. The plain style of the artifacts suggests they date to the twelfth or thirteenth

centuries. The renovation work has also uncovered a hand from a statue, a coin bearing the face of Edward the Confessor that was minted sometime between 1053 and 1056, and traces of Roman buildings, including highly decorative painted wall plaster, an incense burner, a perfume jar, and a spoon.

Pre-Columbian Ritual Steam Bath Discovered in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY, MEXICO—BBC News reports that archaeologists from Mexico's Directorate of Archaeological Rescue and National Institute of Anthropology and History uncovered a fourteenth-century temazcal, or ritual steam bath, measuring about 16 feet long by nine feet wide. The discovery of the temazcal, which had been marked on historic maps, has allowed the researchers to pinpoint the location of Temazcaltitlán, one of the oldest neighborhoods of Tenochtitlan, the Aztec capital. This area of the city was known as a place where female deities such as Tlazolteotl, the goddess of childbirth and purification, and Coatlicue, Toci, Chalchiuhtlicue, and Mayahuel, who are linked to land, fertility, water, and the fermented beverage pulque, were venerated. A house thought to have been inhabited by Mexica nobility shortly after the Spanish conquest, and a tannery built in the eighteenth century, were also found on the site.

Study Analyzes Warriors' Remains in Medieval Tombs in Poland

GDAŃSK, POLAND—Science in Poland reports that the isotope and genetic analysis of samples collected from the remains of four men uncovered in an eleventh-century A.D. cemetery in northwestern Poland indicates they came from Scandinavia. The men, who were buried in four wood-lined chamber graves surrounded by a fence or palisade, were probably warriors from Denmark, according to Sławomir Wadył of the Archaeological Museum in Gdańsk. The

graves are thought to be the oldest of the more than 60 burials in the cemetery, which dates to the reign of Boleslaw the Brave, who was Duke of Poland from A.D. 992 to 1025, when he became the first King of Poland and ruled until his death later that year. The four men were buried with richly decorated spurs, stirrups, bits, buckles, coins, metal and wooden utensils, scales, weights, a comb, knives, animal remains, and grains. Many of the artifacts are thought to have been made in Western Europe or Scandinavia. Wadyl thinks the elite men may have used the scales and weights found in the graves to collect taxes from the local population for the Polish ruler.

Japan's Oldest-Known Sake Brewery Unearthed

KYOTO, JAPAN—According to a report in The Asahi Shimbun, a sake brewery thought to date to the fifteenth century A.D. has been discovered on the grounds of the Tenryuji Temple, which is located in the south-central region of Japan's main island of Honshu. Researchers working ahead of a construction project discovered 180 holes that held storage jars, and traces of a wooden apparatus used to extract liquid from fermented rice held in cloth bags. Historical documents record that the temple sold sake between 1336 and 1573 and loaned out the profits at high interest rates, but this is the first physical evidence of sake production found at the site. Traces of a fourteenth-century brewery were also found about six feet away.

Roman-Era Trade Center Mapped Off Africa's Northern Coast

MUNICH, GERMANY—A magnetometer survey in Djerba, an island off the coast of Tunisia, has mapped the site of the ancient commercial center of Meninx, according to a statement released by Ludwig Maximilian University. The city was founded in the fourth century B.C., and became a trade power between the first and third centuries A.D. Archaeologist Stefan Ritter and his colleagues investigated the city's well-

protected port, which had a wide, deep channel in its shallow bay, wooden and stone quays, and warehouses for storing goods. The survey also revealed that the city's streets ran parallel to the island's coastline. Ritter said he and his colleagues carried out some excavations, and uncovered a private bathhouse with mosaic floors, wall paintings, and statuary. New evidence suggests that the purple dye produced by the city's residents from the sea snail *Murex trunculus* was not exported as a raw material, but rather used at Meninx to dye textiles for export.

Update on Efforts to Restore Notre Dame Cathedral

PARIS, FRANCE—Science News reports that archaeologists are among the more than 200 researchers in the Association of Scientists in Service of the Restoration of Notre Dame of Paris, France's National Center of Scientific Research (CNRS), and the French Ministry of Culture who will examine the twelfth-century cathedral damaged by fire last spring. They will be able to begin analysis of the structure's wood, stone, lead, and iron components once toxic dust has been removed from the site and all the materials have been sorted and cataloged. Such study could help determine how the cathedral was built, how much heat the fire produced, and how the heat and the water used to extinguish the flames may have weakened the surviving structure. In addition, tree ring analysis of the roof's burnt oak timbers could offer clues to where the trees grew and what the medieval climate was like.

New Thoughts on Translation of Viking Runestone

GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN—According to a statement released by the University of Gothenburg, an interdisciplinary team of researchers from several universities has produced a new translation of the Rök monument, a stone which was carved with runes and erected in southern Sweden around A.D. 800. Scholars had previously thought

that the inscription described a series of battles, but the new interpretation suggests the text consists of nine riddles featuring the sun and Odin, king of Asgard, and his warriors. Recent archaeological research indicates that cooler temperatures in Scandinavia brought about crop failures, hunger, and extinctions during the Viking era. Archaeologist Bo Gräslund of Uppsala University said a solar storm and a solar eclipse also occurred before the runestone was erected. Scholars now say the riddles describe the conflict between light and darkness, warmth and cold, and life and death.

Roman-Era Cemetery Discovered in Southwest England

SOMERSET, ENGLAND—According to a report in The Guardian, a Roman-era cemetery containing the remains of some 50 adults and children has been discovered in southwest England. Most of the 2,000-year-old graves were lined and capped with slabs of local stone in a manner resembling local roof construction of the time. In one grave, the slabs were positioned to create a tent-like structure. The position of one woman's skull in another grave suggests her head had been laid to rest on a pillow. Tiny nails recovered at the foot of many of the graves indicate that the occupants had been buried wearing hobnail boots. Jewelry, a coin minted during the first-century A.D. reign of the emperor Vespasian, a carved bone knife handle, and pottery were also recovered at the site. One of the pots contained a chicken wing bone. Steve Membery of the South West Heritage Trust said those who died during the Roman period may have lived and worked at a nearby villa. Older graves at the site, however, offer clues to the burial customs of local Britons before the Roman invasion. Analysis of DNA samples could reveal if Roman-era Britons adopted Roman burial customs, or if those buried in the Roman graves originated somewhere else.

Rot hastens Viking ship's excavation

Samples from the so-called "Gjellestad-ship's" keel found last year have revealed signs of mildew or dry rot, indicating that the vessel could rapidly deteriorate if left in the ground. The overall condition of the ship was described as poor.

"When it's no longer an alternative to take care of the vessel by letting it remain in the ground, this is no longer about how much of the ship should be dug out, but about when, how and to what degree it should be done," Elvestuen added. He fears, along with the experts, that much of the vessel may rot away unless a major excavation gets underway "in the course of quite a short time."

Read the full article at <https://www.newsinenglish.no/2020/01/20/rot-hastens-viking-ships-excavation/>



The Chanticleer is always looking for articles, art, and photography! If you would like to contribute, please contact Mistress Eloise at chronicler@bbm.eastkingdom.org. We would love to showcase your work.

Photographs courtesy of Kristina Schlain

Manuscript art courtesy of the Metropolitan Museum of Art

Page 2: Book of Hours, 1530-35, Simon Bening, Netherlandish, Ghent

Page 3: The Belles Heures of Jean de France, duc de Berry, 1405-1408/09, the Limbourg Brothers, Franco-Netherlandish

Page 4: January and February from The Peasants' Feast or the Twelve Months, 1546, Sebald Beham, German

Page 5: Book of Hours, 1530-35, Simon Bening, Netherlandish, Ghent



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