

Onondaga historical association's

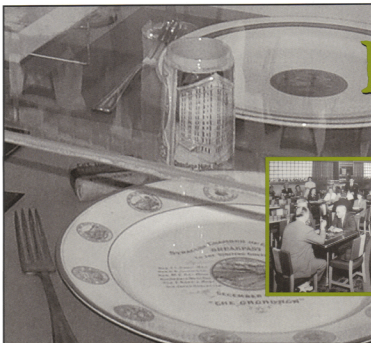
HISTORY

OHA

highlights

winter • spring 2005

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HISTORY OF DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE

Hotels

OHA has a raft of new exhibits for young and old. First is "An Accommodating Legacy, The History of Hotels in Downtown Syracuse."



This provides a chronological overview of the development of "hotels" in Syracuse's downtown, from the community's origins in 1806 with the opening of Bogardus' Tavern to the most recent

proposal for a new convention center hotel. The exhibit explores the various forces and trends that have shaped the changing nature of downtown hotels. It consists of interpretive text panels, enlargements of historic photographs from the OHA collections, original documents and artifacts. It includes a video with stories of interesting personalities associated with local hotels, provided courtesy of WCNY.

Examples of some items displayed include: the c1900 metal registration "desk" from the Vanderbilt House, 19th century menus from hotel banquets, a dinner plate from the Hotel Onondaga's Roof Garden, a painting that once hung over the famous Yates Hotel bar, original architectural drawings of the Onondaga Hotel, a c1960 photograph of the Mohawk Manor, the genesis of today's Genesee Grande, a registration card signed by silent movie era child star Jackie Coogan,

-cont'd on back cover



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

We all know that OHA aspires to be "the leading regional destination for inspiration" as articulated in the Mission Statement adopted in 2004. There is mounting evidence that this is not just an aspiration. Offering testimony to the quality of OHA's efforts, we have been the recipient of six prestigious awards at the national, state, peer and local community levels citing our archives and collection, our exhibit interpretations, our programming and our educational outreach into the community.

We began in April 2004 with our Underground Railroad exhibit, "Freedom Bound" being honored for excellence by the Upstate History Alliance. They presented us with a 2004 Upstate History Award Of Merit! Congratulations to Dennis Connors and all the rest of the staff for a job well done. This is an important award that was announced in April at the UHA/MANY Annual Meeting in NYC. OHA was in the spotlight for superior professional practice as well as a truly innovative production. The award cited "the institution's progressive mission, clear goals, significant topic and attractive exhibit." Our community involvement was also noticed. This is significant peer recognition.

Lightning strikes twice! Our Cataloging Project was also honored for excellence by the Upstate History Alliance. They awarded us a second 2004 Upstate History Award of Merit! The project and work by former Archivist and Research Center Manager, Phil McCray as well as Mike Martin and Sara H. Kozma who assisted Phil were cited for superior professional practice. This was the second Award of Merit won by OHA out of five annual Awards of Merit given out by UHA! This again represents peer recognition.

In November OHA was awarded the 2004 Annual Archives Award for Program Excellence in a Historical Records Repository by the NYS Education Department. This award is presented by the Board of Regents and the State Archives annually to an organization that "exemplifies excellence in an archival program". This is extremely prestigious statewide recognition. We were commended for processing our entire collection of archival records and making them available via online catalogues of the NYS Library (Excelsior) and the Library of Congress. It was also noted that OHA has more accessible records than any other repository in the state. The award made note of OHA's commitment to outreach as demonstrated in our exhibitions, workshops and children's activities. The citation concludes by citing OHA as a "model and inspiration for other repositories in the state."

OHA was awarded designation by the National Park Service as an official site on the Federal agency's Underground Railroad Network to Freedom system.

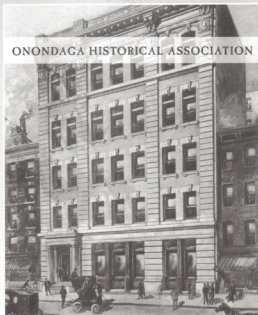
We were cited as "making a significant contribution to the understanding of the Underground Railroad in American History". We can now display the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom logo and are listed on the NPS Network to Freedom website. This is national recognition of the quality of our efforts.

Based on our receipt of these awards and our growing impact in the community, OHA was named an Economic Champion by the Greater Syracuse Chamber of Commerce. This provides good evidence of local community recognition of our value.

And finally, OHA has been named a Heritage New York Underground Railroad Regional Interpretive Center which includes the award of a \$36,000 grant. This will allow us to broaden the scope of our exhibits and programming and create brochures. We will also be the recipient of NYS tourism promotion.

2004 and 2005 have been banner years for OHA and we can truly call ourselves "An Award Winning Institution!"


Paul H. Pfanz



Right: Tara Ross hard at work. Below: Planning strategy meeting. Bottom: Volunteer Kate Hennigan and OHA Board member Lou Steigerswald working the phones.



HISTORICAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE LAUNCHED

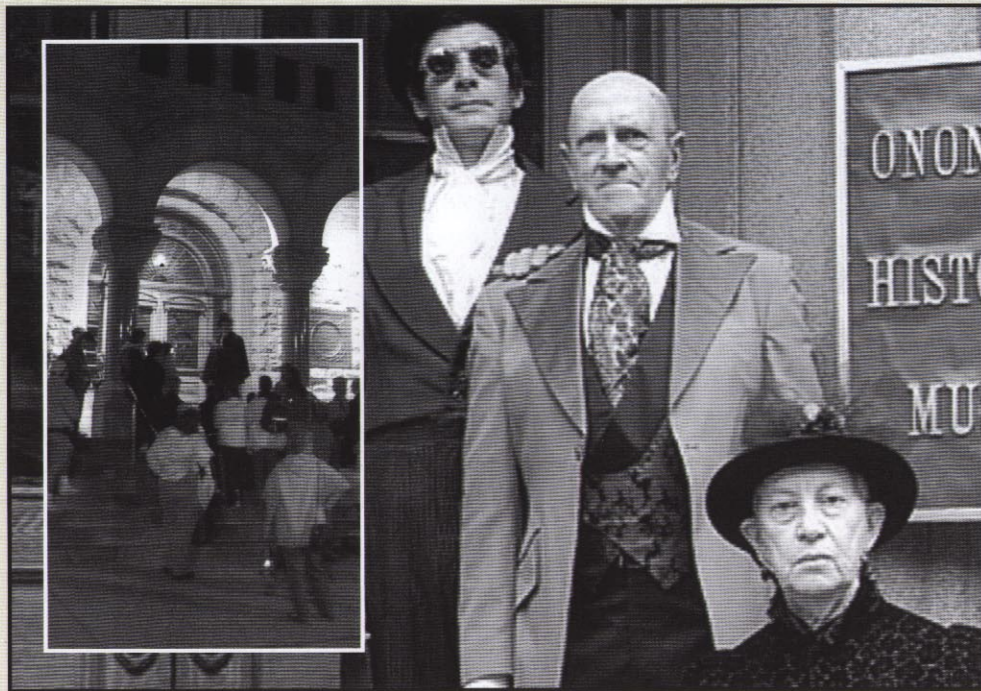
OHA is launching the largest membership campaign in its history! OHA needs to make more people aware of its importance to the Central New York community and to convince more people to become dues-paying members to expand its individual membership base. We have acquired a list of over 15,000 households who fit the profile of a prime prospect for OHA Membership (people just like you) with the donation of volunteer Wendy Corbda of Catenate. Board Member Robin Moore of Mark Russell & Associates and her staff have helped us create an innovative (and pro bono)

mailing campaign consisting of three introductory postcards each mailed two weeks apart ("You can try your best to remember history, or you can do your best to preserve it") followed by a very distinctive membership solicitation mailer. We expect very positive results from this most ambitious campaign!

We will follow up the mailing with a series of phone-a-thons to close on some of those who do not respond by mail. We have had excellent results with these in the past. In fact, we conducted an event January 31, 2005 at CXtec using OHA Board, staff, and volunteers as well as CXtec volunteers to contact former members whose memberships had expired. The event was chaired by Nancy Bottar and was a huge success. We will need help with these phone-a-thons starting in late May. If you are interested please call Gary Melchiorre our Development Director at 428-1864. OHA would also like to thank Hal Silverman Studio and Ansun Graphics Inc. for their support in production/printing.

More than a destination.

It's an inspiration!



OHA Ghost Walker actors from left: Scott Peal (Harvey Baldwin), John Murray, a concerned abolitionist and Dorothy DeAngelo as Sarah Sumner Teall. Inset: Mayor Baldwin on Syracuse City Hall steps.

OHA's THREE "G"s... GHOST WALK

OHA's first ever Haunted History Happening ghost walk was a fabulous success selling out both of the inaugural weekend dates of October 8 and 9, 2004. As you can see, everyone had a fabulous time seeing Syracuse's first mayor, Harvey Baldwin, Cora Tanner from the Leland Hotel fire, General Sumner and a séance! We had over 600 visitors, most of whom had never seen OHA before, and an additional 100 children and adults from Dunbar Center. A letter to the editor published in The Post-Standard told the public what a fantastic event it was and pleaded with us to make it an annual event. You can rest assured we will! It was described as "just the type of event that downtown Syracuse needs". We agree! We raised \$3,200 to support operations. This year, we will expand the event to TWO weekends (9/30-10/1 and 10/7-8) and provide even more excitement and entertainment! This means that we will need your help as volunteers to act as tour guides for the dozen or so tour groups that we will have each night. Please call 428-1864 to purchase tickets or to volunteer and spread the word.



GAMBRINUS...

OHA also revived our annual Under the Eye of Gambrinus brewfest on October 15. Although Gambrinus had taken a year hiatus due to staffing constraints, he came back bigger and better than ever. There were nearly 200 guests, the silent auction was the largest ever, underwriting was strong and OHA raised over \$15,000 profit. Gambrinus will be held this year on October 14. It is a fun time with lots of good food and drink. Please come and bring your friends. Volunteers are also needed for this event.

More than a destination.
It's an inspiration!



Above: Glorious event Chairman, Pat Edwards unveils the 2005 setting. Inset right: Master of ceremonies Stephen A. Rogers. Other photos: Glorious guests enjoying the gala event and ambiance of Clinton Exchange.

GLORIOUS WORKPLACES

OHA presented the eighth annual celebration of Our Glorious Workplaces at the Clinton Exchange Building on November 13, 2004. 140 revelers marveled at the magnificent setting, were fascinated by a tour of the building including the old federal courtroom now a conference room, and enjoyed a tempting repast. A good time was had by all. The Post-Standard publisher and OHA Board First Vice President Stephen A. Rogers was our featured speaker. Our guests were treated to one of OHA Curator of History Dennis Connors' wonderfully entertaining talks on the history of Clinton Square as the commercial hub of Syracuse, complete with a slide show of historic images from our collection. Event chair Pat Edwards and her committee did a fabulous job as always. Our 2005 event will be at Lockheed Martin on Saturday, November 5th so please mark that date. We want to make this the biggest Glorious yet and hope that you will support us.

A special thanks to Klineberg Photography for the "glorious" event photos.

OHA VISION & MISSION STATEMENT

Continuing our institutional development process, a Board Retreat was conducted on September 21, 2004 by former Board President, Board Member and Chair of the Capital Committee Chris Lozner at OHA. A wide range of topics were covered resulting in adoption of a Vision Statement for OHA and an updating of our Mission Statement as is now required every five years by the NYS chartering organization for OHA. A set of Core Beliefs were also adopted. The event was a resounding success. Congratulations to Chris and all who helped her on an excellent job.



Onondaga Historical Association Vision Statement:

OHA is the leading regional destination for inspiration where people find meaning, value and delight from personal encounters with authentic objects, documents, stories and ideas from the past.

OHA is a gathering place where engaging activities connect the past, present and future in ways that promote reflection and discussion on issues that matter to people.

OHA is an expression of our community where unique programs and exhibits give people a sense of individual and shared identity and empower us to move ahead together with hope, confidence and pride.

OHA is recognized for extending its exhibits, knowledge and treasures into our diverse community.

OHA is deeply embedded in the communities we serve where history is cherished and strong public awareness of the usefulness of history demands a secure future for OHA.

OHA Mission Statement:

Onondaga Historical Association exists to inspire people's understanding that the history we share as a community is the foundation for our future together. Our purpose is to encourage a diverse audience from the neighborhoods of Syracuse and the communities of Onondaga County to explore, appreciate and utilize their past. To do so, we offer engaging exhibits and programs, pursue partnerships with other cultural organizations and community groups, and develop and care for a definitive collection related to local history. We operate a museum and research center in Syracuse, New York and are committed to ensuring the vitality of our historic urban location.

OHA CORE BELIEFS

Onondaga Historical Association Core Beliefs:

OHA's Core Beliefs inform all decisions and actions of our organization as we advance our Mission and pursue our Vision for the future.

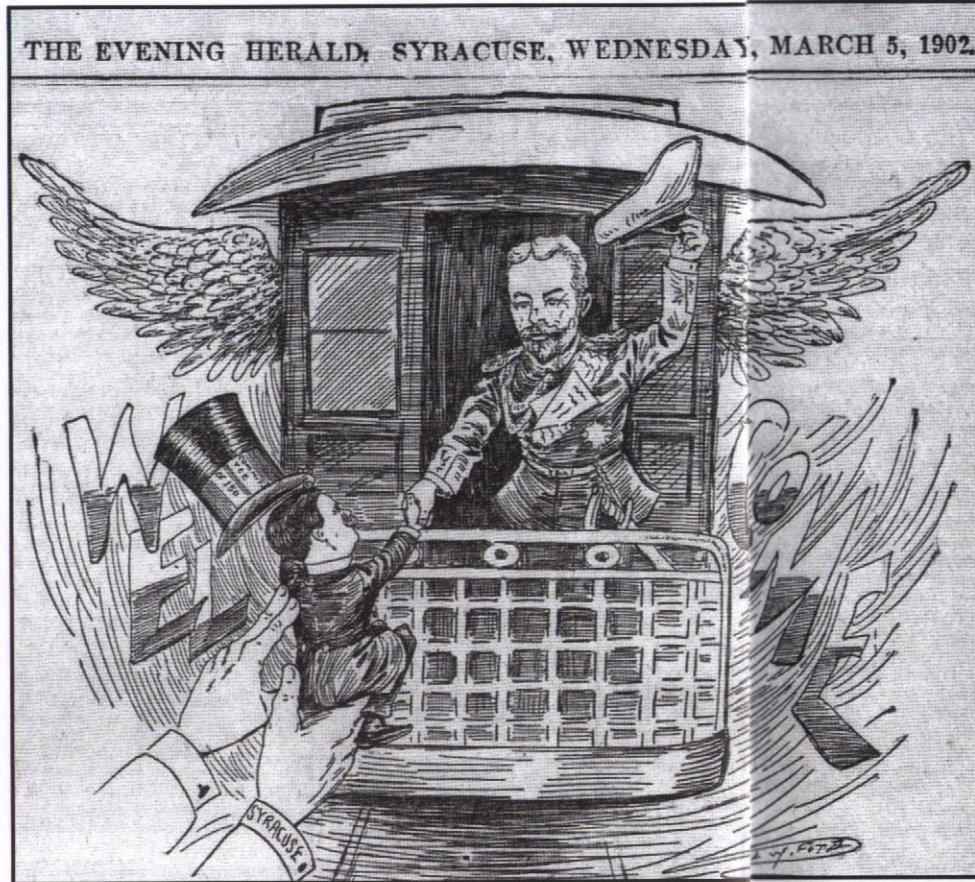
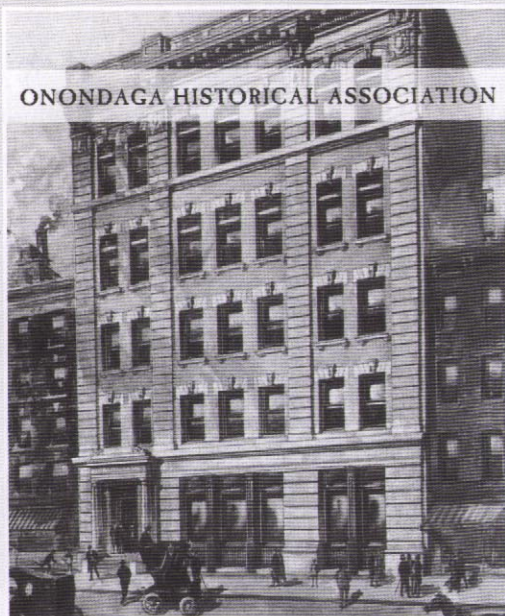
COMMUNITY: History is a cumulative process made up of the individual and collective decisions of people in their neighborhoods, cities and towns, states and the nation. Step-by-step, as choices are made, every local citizen shares in forging our communal identity. Our ongoing collaborations within the community facilitate dialogue about things that matter most to people.

INCLUSIVENESS: Interpretation of history must be inclusive of all peoples and must respect and reflect the contributions and perspectives of diverse individuals and groups in our community. Our effectiveness begins with a staff, board and other volunteers who reflect the community we serve and are valued for their many endeavors.

INTEGRITY: Maintaining the public's trust as caretaker of the county's history is of utmost importance and demands sound fiscal management and openness, fairness, creativity and excellence in all that we do.

STEWARDSHIP: Artifacts and archival records from our past offer an unparalleled opportunity to examine and understand history. Our role as custodians of irreplaceable collections demands the highest professional standards in their care and accuracy in their interpretation.

ACCESSIBILITY: Our policies must afford all citizens equal and broad access to our remarkable resources, both physical and intellectual, for the advancement of knowledge and nourishment of the human spirit.



PRINCE HENRY OF PRUSSIA

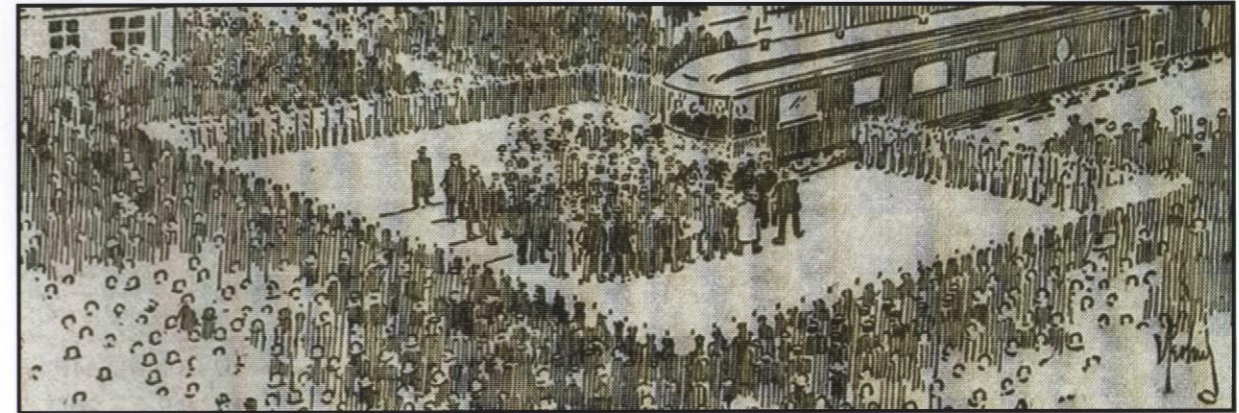
The city was waiting, eagerly anticipating the arrival of Henry, crown prince of Prussia, and his wife Princess Alice, who were touring the USA. They were to arrive in Syracuse on Wednesday evening, 5 March 1902 and spend about 10 minutes in the city. Mayor Jay B. Kline named 125 notable Syracusans and local businessmen, several with German surnames, to a committee to plan and receive Henry and Alice.

The Committee of Arrangements met on Monday, 3 March to discuss the details of the program. The die for the handsome gold medallion to be presented to Prince Henry had been obtained from NYC. The medallion was enclosed in a silver case bearing the coats of arms of the United States and Germany. The Committee of Souvenir also struck facsimiles of the gold medallion in bronze and aluminum to be sold to help defray the cost of the medallion and reception. Only 125 bronze medallions would be struck; these were reserved exclusively for members of the Committee of Reception at a cost of \$5.00 each.

The program was grandiose and impressive for the short time allowed for the reception. A New York Central train carrying the royal couple and their entourage would stop

in front of City Hall at 10:50pm. It would depart no later than 11pm. The great citizenry of Syracuse would greet the train with a 21-gun salute, followed by Goettel's band playing a lively German tune. Mayor Kline and Committee Chairman Charles Andrews would board the rear platform and greet Henry and Alice with a brief proclamation. These gentlemen would then present the gold medallion to Henry who would acknowledge the gift. After the speechifying the Liederkrantz Society choir would sing. At the conclusion of the presentations, and as the train departed from downtown, the Saengerbund would sing *Heute Scheide Ich*, a patriotic composition.

The Committee expected large crowds. To prevent the throng from getting too close to the train, city police officers and militia were to cordon off an area they called the "hollow square." They would create a space large enough for the train's rear platform to be inside the center. Only a select few participating in the program would be allowed inside the hollow square and no one else. Nor would



officials allow the crowds to gather close to the train at any point during its brief stay in Syracuse. Jacob Amos, former mayor, had spoken to his connections with the NYC railroad and thought he could secure a few additional moments for the reception.

The Evening Herald anticipated the event with a description of the royal party's itinerary, the text of speeches and a statement from US Ambassador to Germany, Andrew White: "Never Was a Noble Purpose More Nobly Accomplished Than By Prince Henry's Mission." The committee was ready for the arrival of Prince Henry and Princess Alice, or so they thought!

Fifteen thousand people poured into downtown Syracuse looking for an opportunity to behold Henry and Alice. The area was illuminated with extra lights. An electric sign attached to City Hall glared "Syracuse Bids You Welcome." The police and militia units formed the hollow square, determined to keep the peace. At 10:51pm a whistle blasted, signifying the couple's arrival. Ecstatic citizens wanting to get a closer look of the royal couple ran from hotels, business blocks, and side streets. Police and soldiers began to grapple with people trying to penetrate the area. They tried to stave off the crowd, to no avail. As the train pulled into position in the hollow square at 10:59pm, passengers on the royal train watched as security forces battled with the assembled swarm.

The prince emerged from the train car, observed the chaotic melee before him, smiled at the brawling crowd, and immediately retreated back inside the train, followed by Mayor Kline and other city officials. The mayor presented the gold medallion to Prince Henry and made his short proclamation. Prince Henry said, "I have noticed the great demonstration and it touches me deeply that there should be such a gathering to do me welcome. I wish you would convey to the people of Syracuse my appreciation." Mayor Kline, Charles Andrews and Prince Henry emerged from the rear of the train car. The crowd burst forth in massive cheers as they saw the prince. Henry remained on the rear platform, saluting the crowd as the train left Syracuse.

The legacy of this story lives on at OHA's museum. The museum now owns one of these bronze medallions, recently donated by Robert Hudson of Palatka, Florida. Mr. Hudson is a descendent of a few notable CNY families. We gratefully accepted the medallion and added it to the treasury of other significant material culture that helps us interpret our abundant community history.



More than a destination.
It's an inspiration!



Students being judged at OHA History Day event.

HISTORY DAY AT OHA

On March 5, 2005, OHA was again inundated with students participating in the local competition for History Day. We had 64 students from Liverpool Middle and Senior High schools, Chestnut Hill Junior High and Living Word Academy presenting exhibits, papers, Documentaries and performances for formal judging. Winners went on to the state regional competition in Cooperstown. As you can see, the creativity, energy and just plain hard work that these students put into their projects is phenomenal. Every year we are amazed at the quality of their efforts. OHA is proud to be the local sponsor of this competition.



DOWNTOWN SYRACUSE HOTELS

the Hotel Syracuse's first official guest. The exhibit is located in the Board Room Gallery on the first floor. OHA's thanks to Michael Falcone of The Pioneer Companies and the Hawthorn Suites for exhibit underwriting.

We have four new interactive children's exhibits created by our SU Master in Museum Studies intern Alanda Bolden and Assistant Director Tom Hunter. These include a City of Syracuse Firefighters uniform try-on station, an old time police and sheriff's uniform try-on box, a Victorian ladies dress try-on trunk with a Victorian Wedding Dress display and a build your own building clocks and playmat display. Additionally, Mark Rotundo has completed an attractive renovation of our Gift Shop, complete with fresh stock. Come on down

History Highlights

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Subscription is available as a benefit of membership

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J. Warren Young, President

Paul H. Pflanz, Executive Director

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