

The International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) is a non-profit organisation which represents and international network of people from all over the world committed to bringing books and children together

NEWSLETTER No 13 May, 2012

President's Letter

Dear IBBY members and friends

What differentiates IBBY Australia from other similar organisations? It is our international interconnectedness. We do our utmost to tell the wider world about our outstanding authors and illustrators, especially by nominating them for the Hans Christian Andersen Award, for IBBY Honour lists and other international accolades. We inform our members about inspiring programs around the world, such as the Cambodian and Argentinian winners of the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award (see p 5). And we build bonds of friendship with enthusiasts for literacy and literature for children all over the world. A great way of doing this is by attending an IBBY Congress: there is still time to book for the London Congress this August (see www.ibbycongress2012.org). This newsletter also contains reports about the Bologna Book Fair, and the Reading is Healing conference in India, which dealt with topics linked to the theme of the January issue of *Bookbird*.

A practical way of showing our inter-connectedness is by supporting IBBY Children in Crisis programs for some of those children who need healing through reading. We are proud to have sent contributions to Haiti, Pakistan and Japan; and are sending another contribution to the JBBY program, to help fund minivans to take books to children in the areas devastated by last year's tsunami (thank you Bob Graham, Nadia Wheatley, and CBCA NSW).

Here in Australia one of our aims is to revive the custom of celebrating International Children's Book Day. Read accounts by Chloe Mauger and Wendy Blaxland of celebrations in Fremantle WA and Strathfield NSW, and perhaps you'll be inspired to celebrate in your state next year.

I look forward to visiting Adelaide in May for the CBCA national conference, Multi Storied, and hope to meet up with IBBY members and supporters there. And note in your diaries that the AGM of IBBY Australia will take place in Fremantle on 18th September.

Lastly, there are still a few limited edition Bob Graham prints available, a beautiful gift for a friend, a colleague or yourself. See:

ibbyaustralia.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/bob-graham-print-flyer.pdf

Robin Morrow

AN AFTERNOON WITH TWO LEGENDS

What a splendid idea it was for IBBY to celebrate International Children's Book Day this year by bringing Christobel Mattingley and Bob Graham, Australia's nominees for the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Award, to Sydney to talk about their work. Santa Maria del Monte School in Strathfield provided their Junior School Hall again as a welcoming venue, and over 70 people gathered in a buzz of anticipation.

IBBY Australia President Robin Morrow outlined the context of the event which connects children's book lovers worldwide on the birthday of Hans Christian Andersen, patron saint of children's literature. She explained that it was rare for Australia to make nominations for the Hans Christian Andersen Awards (the 'little Nobel Prize'), which are given biennially to one writer and one illustrator worldwide, for their whole body of work. Dr Robyn Sheahan-Bright had worked hard to produce dossiers on our speakers to support their nomination.

Then Dr Paul March from UTS introduced Christobel Mattingley, who had flown specially from Adelaide (as Bob had from Melbourne) to give us an overview of her work, wonderfully illustrated by images of her book covers. Many of these were kindly provided from the invaluable collection of the Aora Foundation.



Christobel has many awards for her writing in Australia and America; her books have been made into films and television programmes, and she has been awarded the Order of Australia. Wearing a striking Danish silver necklace in honour of the day to complement her beautiful silver hair, Christobel told us how her work had developed from her parents reading to her as a child. Christobel's prose was published by the time she was ten. Always comfortable with books, she became a librarian, but since 1974 Christobel has written full-time. Her topics are wide, taken from whatever has deeply moved her: a beloved family dog (*Windmill at Magpie Creek*), tales from friends like Astra Lacis who had endured World War II as a child, fantasy inspired by an European sojourn, her husband's story as a bomber pilot in World War II. Many stories have also been informed by her deep sense of social justice, as she described the effect of war on children with *No Guns for Asmir*,

wrote *Survival in Our Own Land* about the Aboriginal side of white settlement in South Australia, a picture book called *The Race*, exploring the world of a deaf child, and another book at the request of Aboriginals who had been removed from their land during the British atomic tests at Maralinga.

It has not always been easy for Christobel's work to find publication. She quoted a publisher saying in frustration 'The trouble with you, Christobel, is that no-one knows what you are going to write next.' Amen to that; we await another heartfelt, beautifully written book from Christobel Mattingley, as she said, from seeds sown in her childhood, nourished by the compost of a rich life.

Then it was time to enjoy Bob Graham's story of how his wonderful work originates, introduced by Dr Sharyn Jameson from ACU. She spoke for many in the audience when declaring she loved all 25 of Bob's books. Bob, too, used many images, from his own deceptively simple, always heart-warming and gently humorous illustrations to those sent him in response to his books, particularly by children just beginning to work with written

language. The letter by young Bray: 'Daer Bob Graham, I have raed hips of you books' accompanied by a joyous Graham-esque bird, was my favourite. Bob recounted how his association with the French magazine Les Belles Histoires came about, reading letters from



an editor who had seen and loved his other work. At a time when Bob and his family had just taken on a hefty mortgage, this offer magically took Bob and his wife to Paris and resulted in a 12 page adventure in *Les Belles Histoires* every month about Charlotte and Henry, two children who became part of many French children's childhoods, as well as Bob's working life, for 17 years.

Bob emphasised that he doesn't like to analyse what he is doing too far, since he has a great respect for instinct, but did let us hear his response to a reader who found *Let's Get a Pup* morally unacceptable. She was angry that the book was marketed for children, since she vehemently objected to a mother sporting a nose-ring and tattoos, and a father with an earring. Bob wrote

quietly back to her that books could be windows into other people's souls to bring about harmony and tolerance, and that he believed it important not to judge people by their appearances.

However, as Bob said, he was asked to make certain changes to *How to Heal a Broken Wing* so that it would be released in Iran, since it showed Western women in contemporary dress and deemed unacceptable in that country. At first reluctant to change his work, Bob talked to his son, Peter, who pointed out that if the book was not released, no Iranians would be able to judge its worth.



After the talks some wonderful raffle prizes delighted the winners and raised a little more money for IBBY projects. Then we all celebrated Hans Christian Andersen's birthday with a visually and gastronomically magnificent traditional Danish celebratory Kransekake, as well as other delicious afternoon tea treats. Happy birthday, Hans, from all of us in the children's book community, and thank you Christobel and Bob.

Wendy Blaxland.

ANOTHER VIEWPOINT

IBBY Workshop with Christobel Mattingley and Bob Graham. I was very fortunate to be able to attend this amazing presentation on Saturday afternoon in celebration of International Children's Book Day 2012. I have to admit it was one of the best author presentations I have ever attended. Both Bob Graham and Christobel Mattingley were nominees for the prestigious Hans Christian Andersen Award and spoke of their writing journeys. Bob Graham's new book *A Bus Called Heaven* has just been shortlisted for the 2012 Children's Book of the Year Awards. Christobel has to be one of the most amazing women I have ever met. Her talk was truly inspirational. Her stories always have a message promoting such themes as human rights, social justice and conservation. If you are doing any work on any of these themes or on Aboriginal studies, I would highly recommend you use some of her stories. Our delightful Anna catered and so, of course, the catering was magnificent.

Christine Higgins. Teacher Librarian, Santa Maria del Monte.

ICBD DINNER in WA

Under the canopy of the grape arbour, thirty-nine enthusiastic book-lovers, comprising IBBY members and friends and a stellar cast of 13 authors and illustrators, attended the Villa Roma Restaurant in Fremantle for a delicious Italian dinner. There were plenty of events to celebrate: Hans Christian Andersen's birthday, and the associated IBBY Awards; the winners of the IBBY ASAHI Awards (Argentina's Grandmother Storytelling Project and Cambodia's SIPAR); and the announcement of the Ena Noel Award to Amy Barker (Queensland) for her novel Omega Park.

Later, we applauded the launch by Leslie Reece, Director of

Lesley Reece launching Shy the Platypus. Photo: Jan Nicholls

The Literature Centre, of a sparkling new re-print edition from the National Library, of Leslie Rees's Shy the Platypus.

The raffle of a beautiful painting, "Summertime" by Matt Ottley, with framing donated by Leslie Reece, won bγ а delighted was Partridge, a colleague of Jenni's from their Department of Library Studies days at Curtin University.



Raffle winner Jan Partridge with Matt

Between courses, eleven audience members shared memories of their favourite picture books. This was an eclectic list, from Lewis Carroll's Lobster Quadrille to titles of the 40s (Leslie Rees's Digit Dick on the Great Barrier Reef; Dorothy Wall's Blinky Bill (memorably the first encounter with death of a character for its reader) and some garish Old Time Fairytales, which included Little Black Sambo (printed on very inferior wartime paper); modern classics such as the Ahlbergs' Each Peach, Pear Plum (the audience chanting bits of the familiar refrain during the reading); Raymond Briggs's *The Snowman*



Joanna Andrew with Four To Get Ready and Mr Rabbit and the Lovely Present.

poignant Owl (difficult to read aloud!); Babies by Martin Waddell; Swedish The Wild Baby by Barbo Lindgren and Eva Erickson, and Neil Gaiman's Crazy Hair. The hit of the evening, however, was a

pop-up book of *The Royal Family*, circa 1980, featuring the wedding kiss of Charles and Diana - wonderful kitsch!

Katy Watson-Kell with Crazy Hair

As the evening cooled, all those attending went home emotionally warm and happy after celebrating shared stories with friends, old and new. Organised by Jenni Woodroffe and the IBBY Committee, this entertaining event and the raffle raised \$860 for IBBY Australia coffers.

Ena Noël Award 2012: IBBY Australia Encouragement Award for Children's Literature

OM E G A

P AR K

WHERE EVERY CHOICE YOU MARE
WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE

A my Barker

Omega Park by Amy Barker, published by University of Queensland Press

The judges were unanimous in choosing Amy Barker's debut novel, the engaging story of two boys growing up in Omega Park, a housing commission estate where lives are impoverished in every sense of the word. For kids like Jacob and Dingo every day is a battle for survival, not made any easier by the fact that this estate is on on the edge of the glitzy and prosperous Gold Coast.



The story is told from two points of view—that of Jacob, who lies dying after a car accident, and the younger Dingo, who has witnessed the accident and knows Jacob mostly by reputation. As simmering tensions between police and Parkees rise, the writer uses filmic 'then and now' scenes to reveal the truth of lives endured in this place of absent or addictive parents. The two boys are on a path which might go either way for Dingo, but which for Jacob only ever had one possible ending. The power of this narrative lies in the fact that as we mourn for one boy, we feel a mixture of fear and hope for the other. Dingo has had some advantages: parents who care for him, a talent for surfing . . . Will they be enough to rescue him from a similar fate?

The judges found this book to be not only a moving exposition of a credibly evoked world, but a true tragedy; despite the reader's knowledge from the start of the eventual outcome (for Jacob), the layers of despair are built up throughout. The note of optimism at the end provides both a balance and some relief for the reader, who has come to care deeply about these characters.

The Ena Noël Award is given biennially as an encouragement award for young, emerging Australian authors/illustrators of children's and YA books. It honours Ena Noël, founding president of IBBY Australia. Previous winners are listed at: http://ibbyaustralia.wordpress.com/ena-noel-award/

ICBD News - Tasmania

A small event was held at Prospect Plaza Market Place with the following feedback: We had a small but lovely time today in the market place. 7 children from 3 to 5 (I guess) joined us with their respective Mums. We read 2 stories and gave away some goodies.

Australian Children's Literature Conferences and Events

17-19th **May** Multistoried: National CBCA Conference, Adelaide Convention Centre SA See http://www.plevin.com.au/cbca2012

22-25th July Curtis Coast Literary Carnivale, Gladstone, Old

See http://www.gladstonerc.qld.gov.au/carnivale

18th **September** *London Calling:* AGM of IBBY Australia Inc at The Literature Centre, Fremantle WA.

26th-27th October Celebrate READING: Insights into quality Australian literature. The Literature Centre,

Fremantle, WA. See www.thelitcentre.org.su

2012 HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN AWARD

The Hans Christian Andersen Award Jury of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) has announced that María Teresa Andruetto from Argentina is the winner of the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Author Award and Peter Sís from the Czech Republic is the winner of the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Illustrator Award. The announcement was made on 19th March at the Bologna International Children's Book Fair and the Andersen medals and diplomas will be presented to the winners at the international IBBY congress in London, United Kingdom, on Saturday, 25 August 2012.

In awarding the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Medal for writing to María Teresa Andruetto the Jury recognises her mastery in writing important and original works that are strongly focussed on aesthetics. She creates sensitive books, which are deep and poetic with a clear literary base. Her books relate to a great variety of topics, such as migration, inner worlds, injustice, love, poverty, violence or political affairs.

In awarding the 2012 Hans Christian Andersen Medal for illustration to Peter Sís the Jury recognizes his extraordinary originality and deep creative power to relate highly complex stories that can be interpreted on many different levels. The jury particularly appreciates his use of different design and artistic techniques, as well as his innovative approach using a subtle balance to depict welldocumented and historical events and fantastic elements.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award, considered the most prestigious in international children's literature, is given biennially by the International Board on Books for Young People to a living author and illustrator whose complete works are judged to have made lasting contributions to children's literature. A history of the award and the full list of candidates can be read at www.ibby.org

THE 2012 IBBY-ASAHI READING PROMOTION AWARD

Initiated by the International Board on Books for Young People and sponsored by the Japanese newspaper company the Asahi Shimbun, this award is given every two years and is presented to projects run by groups or institutions that are judged to be making a lasting contribution to reading promotion for children and young people. The jury announced the 2012 IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Awards go to Abuelas Cuentacuentos - The Grandmother Storytelling Programme, Argentina and SIPAR, Cambodia. The prize money of US \$10,000 for each winning project will be presented at the 33rd IBBY Congress in London, UK, at a special festive occasion on Thursday, 23 August 2012 at Imperial College London.

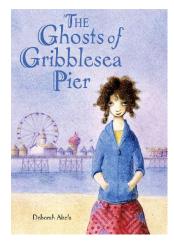
Abuelas Cuentacuentos engages older persons who like to read stories to children. Specialized personnel at the Mempo Giardinelli Foundation train volunteers and organize programmes in many schools in the metropolitan area of the city of Resistencia, the capital of Chaco in northeastern Argentina. This programme promotes reading, while at the same time it takes literature to thousands of the poorest children, many of them living in marginal communities. It created opportunities for exchanges across generations and is not only beneficial for children, but has an important impact on the self-esteem of the grandmothers.

SIPAR began as a Franco/Cambodian association in 1982 to help Cambodian refugees living on the Cambodian/Thai border during the Khmer Rouge regime. Later SIPAR helped to rebuild the educational network and by 1993 was focusing its activities on reading and trained more than 1,000 librarians in their workshops. By 2000 it was noticed there were no Cambodian children's books in the libraries and no publishing houses left in the country. In 2000 SIPAR started training workshops for publishing, writing and illustration, mostly for children's books. They have now published 70 titles and printed 130,000 free copies for the 200 SIPAR libraries and the students at the teacher training colleges for primary schools. The jury were impressed by the long-term training aspect of SIPAR that will build a book culture and answer a big need for literacy in Cambodia.

See www.ibby.org for more details.

USBBY 2012 OUTSTANDING INTERNATIONAL BOOKS

USBBY is the United States national section of the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY), a nonprofit organization that facilitates the international exchange of information about books and reading. Since 2006, when the Outstanding International Books list was first launched, their mission has been to select titles of high literary and artistic merit that introduce American children to artists and writers from other countries, help US students see the world from other points of view, and provide a fresh perspective or address a topic otherwise missing from U.S. children's literature, while often presenting a distinct cultural flavor. Australians in the list include:



Grades 3-5: Deborah Abela *The Ghosts of Gribblesea Pier* and Gabrielle Wang *The Garden of the Empress Cassia*.

Grades 6-8: Sonia Hartnett *The Midnight Zoo* and Shaun Tan *Lost and Found* – includes *The Rabbits, The Lost Thing and The Red Tree.*

Grades 9-12 Lucy Christopher (currently living overseas) Flyaway.

For further details see http://www.schoollibraryjournal.com/slj/articles/collectiondevelopment/893227-343/all_together_now_usbbys_outstanding.html.csp

IBBY and THE BOLOGNA CHILDREN'S BOOK FAIR



Sydney illustrators Lesley Vamos and Serena Geddes with writer Deborah Abela

On an unusually balmy Bologna March day, I squeezed my way through a crowded Bologna Book Fair to the IBBY stand. There was an excited hubbub following the announcement of the winners of the Hans Christian Anderson and IBBY-Asahi awards, that recognise excellence in writing, illustrating and putting books into the hands of the world's needy. With breadstick and parmesan in hand, I

was also glowing with the news that a book I had written in chaos a few years earlier, that my then-agent hated, had just been awarded a 2012 USBBY Outstanding International Book Award, alongside other Australian luminaries like Shaun Tan and Sonya Hartnett. As the swirl of chatter and clink of glasses twinkled around me, it was lovely to be surrounded by people who know the value of books, who know that when you bring books to a child you help change them; you stimulate their minds, their hearts and gift them with more options in life than they would otherwise have had.

Indian IBBY

International Conference on Book Therapy – Reading is Healing New Delhi, India 9-11 February 2012

Reflection by Ken Spillman

Just over two years ago I became aware of a book therapy project, launched by Indian IBBY under Dr Ira Saxena, a children's author and child psychologist. I was in Delhi at the time to present a paper at a conference on children's libraries. It is a credit to Dr Saxena and the tireless team at Indian IBBY that this year the project spawned "International Conference on Book Therapy – Reading is Healing", sponsored by UNICEF, among others. This was the most affecting and inspirational conference I've attended.

My own paper argued that engagement with books is comparable to preventative medicine – that in times of rapid change, social fracture and increasing mobility, stories equip young people with levels of perception that can help them cope with both day-to-day stressors and unforeseen traumas. I sat on a panel that included Etsuko Nozaka of Japan, who spoke of the use of stories by JBBY in the wake of disaster at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Japan provided a strong presence at the conference, with resilience and story powerfully linked since Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. A haunting Hiroshima exhibition and a speech from a man who was inside his mother's womb when the bomb dropped underlined the connection.

Speakers from India included several whose experience of books, pictures and storytelling as integral parts of disaster management and relief paralleled that of the Japanese. It was heart-rending to hear of schoolchildren in Bhopal who represent a third generation affected by the gas tragedy of 1984 – if not physically then by the trauma of cancers, deformities and a high rate of spontaneous abortion within their realm. Library activities have been devised to provide psychosocial support.

The traumas caused by disasters of various kinds were not, by any means, the only traumas discussed in relation to books and bibliotherapy. An outstanding paper from Greece probed the use of stories in situations that involve bullying. A school librarian from Slovenia spoke of a "biblio prevention" project using books to sensitise kids to situations in their own realities, construct dialogue on taboos – and simply relieve pressures (including educational pressures) on today's children. Author Paro Anand spoke of her work with children affected by terrorist activity in Kashmir – some of whom are taught that stories are no more than lies, having no place in a good family.

Special needs children, gender issues, child abuse and many other issues were addressed by speakers with a wide range of experience, drawing not only on research but hands-on project experience working with kids. I have attended many larger conferences, but none that came close to the level of passion and commitment uniting delegates at this one.



In connection with the conference, Indian IBBY launched a collection of children's stories titled *Lighthouse in the Storm* (Ponytale Books). The 24 stories deal with such issues as family breakup, the death of a parent, suicide, terminal illness, AIDS and disability. My own story (the only inclusion from a non-Indian author) deals with sexual abuse. Chief Editor Nita Berry points out: "All the stories offer a sense of hope and recovery as new dimensions open up, opportunities come by, and the threads of life are picked up. When it is dark enough, you can see the stars... It is our hope that the young victims of different traumatic situations may be able to identify with some of the characters in this book." [Photograph of launch of *Lighthouse in the Storm* courtesy of Ken Spillman]

Bookbird

Trauma is the theme of the January 2012 issue. Articles include one by Kimiko Matsui about her response to the earthquake, tsunami and Fukushima disaster; Kate Norbury (Macquarie Uni) on teen trauma fiction in North America and Australia; and a survey of 'comfort women' in Korean literature. Postcard reviews include *Playground* by Nadia Wheatley and Ken Searle.

The April issue contains brief biographies of the HCAndersen Award winners and all nominees, including Australians Christobel Mattingley and Bob Graham.

Under the new editorship of Roxanne Harde and Lydia Kokkola, *Bookbird* is rich with thought-provoking articles.

Outstanding Books For Children With Disabilities

The 2011 selection of two sets of these special books is currently travelling around the world and will also be on display at the Congress in London. It is now time to choose 50 titles for the 2013 project. The selection and preparation of the exhibition and booklist will be carried out under the auspices of the IBBY Documentation Centre of Books for Disabled Young People at the Haug School and Resource Centre, Norway. **The closing date is 15th October, 2012.** Books that fulfil the following criteria can be nominated through IBBY Australia:

- 1.Books produced specifically for young people with special needs published in 2008 or later
- 2. Picture books from the regular production selected according to special guidelines, published in 2008 or later
- 3. Picture books and novels from the regular children's book production that portray persons with special needs, published in 2008 or later.

See http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=271.

Welcome to Azerbaijan

We welcome IBBY Azerbaijan on becoming the latest section to join the worldwide family of IBBY. Check out their website at http://www.ibby.org/index.php?id=1219 and learn more about the Book Caravan that passed through six regions of Azerbaijan on the historic Silk Road. In each region a collection of 900 new children's books were presented. Children had an opportunity to participate in book presentations, book contests, meetings with favourite writers, editors of children's magazines and newspapers. About 7,000 children have participated in this project.

2012 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award

Writer Guus Kuijer of the Netherlands was announced as this year's recipient on 20th March. This is the 10th year of the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) and 184 candidates from 66 countries were nominated.

The jury's citation reads as follows:

With an unprejudiced gaze and a sharp intellect, Guus Kuijer portrays both the problems facing contemporary society and life's big questions. Respect for children is as self-evident in his works as his rejection of intolerance and oppression. Kuijer combines serious subject matter and razorsharp realism with warmth, subtle humour and visionary flights of fancy. His simple, clear and precise style accommodates both deep philosophical insight and graceful poetic expression.

One of his best-known books to English language readers is *The Book of Everything*.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award will be presented at a ceremony at the Stockholm Concert Hall on 28 May 2012. See www.alma.se/en

UNISA Conference

Children¹s Reading Conference and Storytelling Festival Department of Information Science, UNISA Announcement and Call for papers 4th Unisa Children¹s Reading Conference: 11-12 September 2012

Venue: Sunnyside Campus of the University of South Africa, Pretoria

Theme: Social media and children

The changes brought about by technology and social media in particular, in the lives of children should not be denied but embraced. The purpose of the Conference is to provide a forum for librarians, teachers, parents, caregivers, authors, publishers, researchers and other interested parties to share ideas and knowledge on the broad topic of children and social media.

You are invited to submit an abstract of 150-300 words as an email attachment to Prof Thomas van der Walt (vdwaltb@unisa.ac.za) Please include full contact details, institutional affiliation and a brief cv in paragraph format of not more than 100 words.

Deadline for abstract submission 15th June 2012

Deadline for acceptance 13th July 2012 Deadline for text submission 15th August 2012

A CHANCE TO WIN A VALUABLE ART PRINT

WHEN YOU JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

One of the beautiful limited edition prints by Bob Graham will be awarded to a member renewing or joining before 30th June.

All names will be put into a hat and one lucky name drawn out. See ibbyaustralia.files.wordpress.com/2011/09/bob-graham-print-flyer

IBBY Australia members will soon receive an invitation to renew their membership

For the financial year 2012-2013 Individual Membership will be \$25.00 and Institutional Membership will be \$100.00

If each member could persuade one other person to become a member, this would greatly assist in building our strength.

We are proud of our achievements in the past year, we could contribute even more with a wider membership base. Our annual levy to IBBY International is CHF 6,000 (AUD \$6,659.94).

Please join us and help us continue as an independent body to assist in introducing Australian authors and illustrators for young people to the world stage.

RSVP to Dr Robin Morrow, PO Box 329, Beecroft, NSW 2119 or Email Robin.Morrow@wordsandphrases.com.au

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