

HEATHER BELL

NEWSLETTER OF THE CALEDONIAN & ST. ANDREWS SOCIETY OF SEATTLE

Volume 107, Issue 8

www.caledonians.com

November 2009

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment at our October Gathering will be **Andrew Anderson** and **Michael Graham** playing lively Irish, Scottish and Celtic songs and dance music. They will play one set in our normal pre-tea entertainment time-slot and a second set after the tea for everyone's listening and dancing pleasure. Don't miss it.



MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The annual award was presented at the October meeting, to **Allan Patten** and **Chris Castro**. It was decided to give it jointly to these two outstanding members who concurrently worked so hard the last few years on the raffle.

A Letter from our President Bill McFadden

Our first gathering of the year was a great success. It was good to see everyone after the summer lay-off. Thanks to everyone who brought dishes for the potluck. We had some really tasty items and I don't believe anyone went hungry! It was a wonderful way to kick off the year. Thank you to everyone who helped in the kitchen and thanks, especially, too, to those who stayed after to help clean up. We really appreciate the help putting everything away and leaving it tidy for the next group.

Our new board members are taking on their jobs seriously. You might be approached by one of them to help out with something. As a volunteer-run society, we like to encourage all members to participate. If you have thoughts or would like to pitch in, please talk to our board members.

I hope everyone enjoyed the Heather Tartan Ball. It is always a fun night that helps to support the Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association, i.e. the Highland Games held in Enumclaw every summer. It is their biggest fundraiser of the year.

The Caledonians will be having our own Burns Night this year as part of the February gathering. Plans are now being discussed for entertainment; if anyone has any input, please let me know. We always welcome new ideas. We are also planning our fabulous Gung Haggis event in mid-February (details to be announced later).

I look forward to seeing you all on November 13.

Yours, aye
Bill

NEXT GATHERING NOVEMBER 13TH

SET-UP - 6:30 PM, MEETING - 7:30 PM, ENTERTAINMENT 8:00 PM



Our pipers – **Don Scobie** and **Paul Vegors**



Our potluck table at the October Gathering

GAMES DVD OFFER

“Scotland Comes to the Pacific Northwest” - Now on DVD! The 63rd Annual Pacific Northwest Scottish Highland Games was a great success. North Woods Productions has partnered with the Seattle Scottish Highland Games Association to produce a first rate, widescreen DV: the bands, athletes, dancers, clans, featured performers, dog and cattle exhibitors, vendors, volunteers and valued guests. This 40 minute DVD may be the finest of it's kind anywhere, thanks to the outstanding production that is the Pacific Northwest Highland Games. Shot with multiple cameras, you'll enjoy the panorama of the mass bands, the up close interaction with individual participants and the resonant “goose bumps” audio. If you participated in the event, chances are you'll see someone you know or even see yourself in action.

These limited edition DVD's are only \$25 ea, plus shipping and handling; 50% of the sale price goes to benefit the non-profit SSHGA. See highlights on YouTube and learn how you can order your copy online, or send a check for \$29.90 with your shipping address clearly defined to: North Woods Productions, 3252 SE Nelson Road, Olalla, WA 98359

A Letter from the Editor Diana Smith

I was so pleased to see such a large turnout at our October gathering. We had some new members there, and a couple of guests. The potluck was a great success, with quite a variety of food and some terrific desserts. (I think I ate too much!)

About the Heatherbell – I always welcome suggestions and contributions. I can't always use everything due to a space limitation, but if you have anything you want to submit, just let me know. Especially any member news that you feel others would find interesting.

See you at the next gathering!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would also like to acknowledge some other members who have tirelessly contributed to the success of our society: Kudos to Annette Mentzer, who made & sold her stylish tams in order to raise money to buy the bagpipe for Paul Vegors. Shelley Butchart, who always contributes to the tea, & who bakes some of those luscious goodies we all enjoy so much. Shelley also voluntarily maintains our website & designs programs for our events. Don Scobie & Paul Vegors, who greet us all as we come to the monthly gatherings with their bagpipe music. Phil Junkins, who always brings a cake for tea, whether he's signed up or not. Tom Laurenson, who has given many fascinating presentations on Scottish history, gratis. Fraser MacLeod, who runs the Scottish Country Dancing on Monday nights at the Phinney Neighborhood Center. Harry & Diane McAlister, who have coordinated several of our wonderful Scottish musical evenings. The Rev. Bob Nicholson, our former chaplain, who has contributed in many ways to the society. Walter & Margaret Russell for their organizational skills, short-bread baking, and singing. Jim VanZee, for taking some great photos of our events over the past several years. And to all our board members who work very hard to keep this society running smoothly!

HEATHER BELL BY EMAIL

A little reminder that beginning January 2010, all newsletters will be sent by email to those who have email. If you don't have email, you will continue to receive them by the regular post. The Heatherbell is also available on our website (www.caledonians.com/).

Glow-in-the-Dark Tartan – a student at Heriot-Watt has designed a fabric that will glow in the dark developed to increase safety at night. The fabric has minute glass beads twisted in with the wool; it looks like traditional tartan but is highly reflective.

TEA AND LIBRARY

by Carol Garman

Thank you to all the people who helped: Susan for setting up, Shelly, Bonnie, Diane, & Francis, for not letting me fall flat on my face, and anyone I may have missed – thanks to you all. The dishes were splendid. I particularly enjoyed the fish, salmon, homemade tartar, meatballs, Turkish delight, and so many desserts. I also want to thank the upcoming volunteers, for the November meeting: Susan Walker, Cathy Osborn, Stephanie Sprinkle, and any other people who want to sign up. Also, if we have a coffee grinder or someone has one they want to donate, that would be good. Thanks to everyone for their assistance, especially our usual crew of volunteers, and I will look forward to seeing everyone soon.

I want to also say a great thanks to the loaners and donors of books to the library. We now have a nicely growing loaning library. I hear that many people are getting enjoyment from the books.

I am wondering also if people would be interested in a friendly cook-off to see who makes the best lamb or Highland stew? I would love to have some fresh recipes and to taste what everyone likes about Highland cooking.

A question for the members: Would we be interested in tea companies coming in and showing us a bit about tea? Several companies do a roving informative demonstration on teas; I thought we might contact a few to discuss this subject we so often discuss. .

Another idea – would we like to do a bit of a best recipe list? Wouldn't it be nice to have a compiled list of the favorites? Just some thoughts from the kitchen, all these ladies have so much experience perfecting recipes; it might be nice to compile some for new members? [Talk to Carol if you're interested in any of these ideas.]

TARTAN DAY PETITION

National Tartan Day not signed into perpetuity, please sign petition – Apparently when National Tartan Day was signed, it was a temporary bill. If we want it made permanent, we need to petition the government. This is easy to do – just go to the website, enter your name & email address (which will be kept private). If you do not have email, you can write to your legislators. <http://www.petitiononline.com/Sep2009/petition.html>

“Every line of strength in American history is a line colored with Scottish blood.” (President Woodrow Wilson, praising the contribution of the Scottish Nation to the history of the USA)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov. 13 – Caledonian-St. Andrew's gathering; 7:30; entertainment: Lake City Presbyterian Church, 3841 NE 123rd St, Seattle, WA., 98125.

Dec. 5 – Enumclaw Christmas parade; www.sshga.org

Dec. 20 – “A Celtic Christmas”, Columbia Theatre Rose Center for the Performing Arts, Lower Columbia College, Longview, WA; 3:00 pm; www.columbiatheatre.com/index.html

Jan. 14 – Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, Triple Door, Seattle; www.tripledoor.net

Jan. 15-18 – Scottish Musical workshop & concert; Alasdair Fraser, Natalie Haas, Calum MacKinnon, & Josephine Hunner; Camp Casey, Coupeville, WA; www.nwscottishfiddlers.com

Jan. 23 – Robert Burns Scottish Evening, Hillcrest Lodge, Mt. Vernon, WA; www.celticarts.org

Feb. 5 – Mastery of Scottish Arts concert, Benaroya Hall, Seattle; www.celticarts.org

March 20 – Clan Gordon 47th Annual Tartan Ball, Puyallup Fairgrounds Pavilion, www.clangordonpipeband.org

March 25,26,27 – Keith Highlanders Pipe Band concert, Kirkland Performance Center, www.kpcenter.org, www.khpb.org

March 27 – 11th Annual Tartan Day Scottish Festival, 10:00-5:00, Puyallup Fairgrounds Expo Hall, www.tartanday-wa.org

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SCOTTISH NEWS

England sinking, Scotland rising - There have been many ups and downs in the history of the relationship between Scotland and England. Now new research reveals that whereas Scotland is rising up, much of England is literally sinking down into the sea. Researchers at Durham University have put together a map that reveals in more detail than ever before the way land around the UK is rising and subsiding. It predicts how the UK will continue to respond to the effects of the last Ice Age, which ended 20,000 years ago. The release of the enormous weight as the ice melted resulted in the land slowly tilting up in the north and down in the south. The new map suggests areas of land around the Firth of Forth, Moray Firth and Solway Firth are rising by at least 10cm a century. In contrast, it predicts the south coast of England will sink by up to 5cm over the same time.

Little Cumbrae purchased by Indian yoga guru Baba Ramdev – Two million devotees have bought the Scottish island of Little Cumbrae and plan to convert it into an international yoga camp. The guru's daily television show attracts more than 20 million viewers. Little Cumbrae will soon be renamed Peace Island. Little Cumbrae is in the Firth of Clyde.

Exhibit to honor Charles Darwin - He dropped out of Edinburgh University yet went on to become one of the most influential scientists in the world. Charles Darwin may not have finished his medical degree, but his theory of evolution dazzled professors and students alike. Now, to honor his time in the city between 1825 and 1827, the great scientific mastermind is being celebrated at the University's Talbot Rice Gallery with a new exhibition - a display of Darwin-related artifacts, including a handwritten manuscript for the *Origin of Species*, a signed class ticket and a death mask. The exhibit is set to run until December 12.

Old Course 'Road Hole' to be lengthened for The Open - The 17th hole of the Old Course will be lengthened ahead of the 150th anniversary of the Open Championship at St Andrews. The 'Road Hole', which has remained the same length for more than 100 years, will increase in length by some 35 yards to 490 yards. A new championship tee will be constructed on the practice range of St Andrews Links Trust. It has long been suggested that the 17th hole would benefit from additional length to restore the original challenge of the hole.

Macdonalds of Glencoe search for clan chief - The Macdonalds of Glencoe are better known for the blood they shed at the hands of the Campbells than the Indian blood coursing through their veins. But that could change now that the search is under way for a long-lost line of Glencoe clan chieftains, who stem from an illicit love affair that produced a noble family of Macdonalds who were as Indian as they were Scottish. Since the death of the last clan chief,

Major Duncan Macdonald, in London in 1907, the clan that was slaughtered at the infamous Glencoe Massacre of 1692 has been leaderless. A century later, Scotland's heraldic authority, the Lord Lyon, has been asked to investigate a formal claim for the chieftainship which, in turn, has led to research unearthing the clan's strong links to the subcontinent.

The Indian pedigree has come to light with the emergence of an octogenarian New Zealander claiming to be a direct descendant of the 17th-century leader of the 38 people killed in one of the most treacherous episodes in Scottish history. Colin MacDonald, 83, a retired farmer from Christchurch, has proved that six generations ago his forebear was Alasdair Macdonald (or MacIain) of Glencoe, a huge man with a white flowing beard who was among those callously murdered in 1692. But genealogists investigating Colin MacDonald's claim have discovered that there is a line of descent that has a superior claim to the title.

The rival line springs from MacIain's great-great-great grandson's romantic liaison with a mysterious woman reputed to be an Indian princess. Before Colin MacDonald can be anointed clan chief, genealogists must first prove there are no surviving male descendants of Ewen Macdonald of Glencoe (1788-1840) and his lover, whom he seduced in India where he worked as a surgeon with the Honourable East India Company.

Their relationship might have raised eyebrows in 19th-century Glencoe, but now its existence delights Indian representatives in Scotland, who say it underlines Scotland's strong historical bond with India. "This is a fascinating story," said Anil Anand, the Indian Consul General in Edinburgh. "These links go right back to colonial times. The Scottish people not only played an important part in the development of Indian industry and administration, but there was a friendly and cooperative atmosphere that exists to this day." MacDonald family lore suggests that the woman – known as Bunnoo – was the daughter of a maharajah.

The baptismal certificate of the couple's only child – a daughter Ellen born in Numuch, Calcutta in 1830 – simply describes Bunnoo as a "native Indian woman". There are also doubts over whether the couple were actually married – a factor that can be important when deciding the fate of aristocratic lineages given the need for a legitimate heir. According to Hugh Peskett, the Scottish editor of *Burke's Peerage*, there is a rumour that Ewen Macdonald and Bunnoo secretly married after he brought her back to Scotland. In any case, Peskett, who has researched the family tree, believes Ellen was "legitimated" by her parents claiming marriage "by co-habitation and repute". More importantly, Peskett has found out that Ewen Macdonald created an entail – or legal document similar to a title deed – that ensured that the couple's daughter Ellen would succeed her father as chief, provided she mar-

ried someone who was prepared to change his name to Macdonald of Glencoe. Ellen's husband, Archibald Burns, added Macdonald to his name when they married in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in 1888. They had seven children, including Major Duncan Macdonald, the last man recognised as a Glencoe chief.

Under the rules that govern the descent of hereditary clan titles, the claim from New Zealand has resulted in Peskett having to find out if Major Duncan Macdonald's two brothers had any children who would have a stronger claim to the title. Records show that the elder of the two brothers, Ewen Burns Macdonald, was in Queensland, Australia, in 1877 and, according to the *Oban Times*, was resident in New Zealand in 1907.

The younger brother, Stuart Burns Macdonald, was last heard of in St Louis, Missouri, in 1877. "We need to trace these two men to ensure that they left no descendants before a new chief is appointed," Peskett said. "Because if they exist they would be in line for the chiefship." On the other side of the world, Colin MacDonal is waiting patiently in Christchurch. Years of painstaking family research have revealed that his ancestors fought with the Jacobites and Culloden before fleeing to France. One of those was his great-great-great grandfather Donald MacDonal (1730-1802), who was a great-grandson of the chief killed at Glencoe. His son, also Donald (1791-1849), emigrated to New Zealand after running into serious financial trouble when the wool trade failed. He owed £35,000 and was sequestered, a move that led to him joining the Scottish Diaspora and sailing to the Antipodes.

The family settled in New Zealand, from where Colin MacDonal has submitted his claim for the chiefship. "So far we haven't found anyone to dispute the claim," he said. "To the best of my knowledge no one has yet made a serious claim. It is my wish that this should be sorted out before I die and I'm in my 80s so they'd better be quick."

Mystery stone found near church linked to Knights Templar - A mysterious carved stone has been uncovered alongside a 12th-century church associated with the Knights Templar. What appears to be the carved top of a sarcophagus was unearthed when builders were excavating and reinforcing a wall alongside the old ruined church in Temple, Midlothian. But the inscriptions, which include symbols similar to those found in Viking monuments, in medieval graves and in West Highland Celtic carvings, have baffled archaeologists.

Historian and author John Ritchie said the stone raised many questions. "It is a crude carving, quite primitive, but I have never seen anything like it in my life," he said. "It has a whole series of symbols on it and the symbols are very interesting. The symbols at the bottom look like Viking sun compasses, while the dials at the top look a little bit like a Celtic cross but with notches carved on them."

Expert David Connolly, of Connolly Heritage Consultancy, said he believed the stone was from the 13th

or 14th century. "It is a significant site because it was the Templar Preceptory for Scotland," he said. "I think from the condition, it may once have been set inside the church – which was once much bigger," he added. "He could be a Templar, he could be a Hospitaller, he could just be a knight who wanted to be buried there – but the heraldry is like nothing anyone has seen before."

The village of Temple in Midlothian takes its name from the Knights Templar, who once had their Scottish Preceptory – their headquarters – there. The ruined chapel, which nestles in the valley at the foot of the village, is all that remains of what was once an abbey founded by the Templars on lands gifted by David I of Scotland in 1127. Founded during the Crusades, the Templars was a religious order of knights whose mission was to protect Christians in the Holy Land. Some say they invented international banking, with a system of credit letters used to pass funds to people fighting in the Crusades. The Templars certainly grew rich and powerful. According to some accounts they were the holders of treasures from Jerusalem. But the organization came under suspicion from the royalty of Europe and the Catholic Church. Templars were hunted down and burned at the stake. Legend has it some of those fleeing persecution hid in this Midlothian village – bringing their treasure with them. According to local legend some of this treasure still lies buried in Temple: "Twixt the oak and the elm tree/You will find buried the millions free."



RAFFLE

Thanks to Phil & Cora Howard for taking over the raffle. We tried a new idea at the October gathering, drawing raffle tickets sporadically throughout the evening instead of just at the end. I think this went over well & we will continue with this practice for the immediate future. If anyone has anything to donate to the raffle, please contact Phil & Cora. We ask that the item(s) be something Scottish. Thank you!

BOOK REVIEW

HOW THE SCOTS INVENTED THE MODERN WORLD

by Arthur Herman, Three Rivers Press, NY

I have just finished reading this thoughtful and insightful book about Scotland and Scottish thought and inventions. It discusses the Scots who influenced the philosophies of America's founding fathers, as well as those of Canada and Australia, beginning with the 16th century and tracing the evolution of thoughts and ideas through the Scottish enlightenment in the 18th century, up to the present day. It's been said that Scotland's most important export was its people. Even before the clearances, Scots were traveling to other countries and influencing cultures wherever they went, taking their ideas and values with them. The basic notion of individual liberty was a Scottish idea, as was an egalitarian, democratic spirit. A respect for education, even amongst the poorest people, was a Scottish focus, going back centuries. When only a fraction of the English was literate, a larger proportion of Scots (both boys and girls) could read and write. In 1750, for example, male literacy was approx. 75 percent as compared to 53 percent in England. Scotland was Europe's first modern literate society.

The book traces political history, discussing inter-related ideas and movements, including the conflicts and agreements with England. Herman talks about the typical Scottish work ethic and the Scots' canny ability to take ideas that may have been touched on by others and turn them into inventions that helped mankind progress – the steam engine, being one example.

Just a few notes that I found particularly interesting: The Scottish enlightenment, during the 18th century, was characterized by an outpouring of intellectual and scientific accomplishments. The thinkers of the Scottish Enlightenment asserted the fundamental importance of human reason combined with a rejection of any authority which could not be justified by reason. They held to an optimistic belief in the ability of man to affect changes for the better in society and nature, guided only by reason. The Scottish Enlightenment had effects far beyond Scotland itself, not only because of the esteem in which Scottish achievements were held in Europe and elsewhere, but also because its ideas and attitudes were carried across the Atlantic as part of the Scottish diaspora which had its beginnings in that same era.

The study of man is ultimately a scientific study. The Scots are the true inventors of what we today call the social sciences.

On liberty – human beings are meant to be free and equal (this idea from the early 1730s), that it is a natural right, and that this right is universal; it applies

to all human beings everywhere, regardless of origin or status. Freedom of speech and religion were endorsed, and any form of oppression was viewed negatively, especially the subjection of women and slaves.

How people earn their living will influence their laws, their government and their culture. But because human communities are in a constant state of flux, they will evolve towards a higher stage of civil evolution, the process of which was called civilization. The word civilization was borrowed by Scottish philosopher, Lord Kames, from a French word meaning a transformation of society from primitive barbarism to a civilized, polite state.

Some Scottish innovations: Englishman Edward Jenner is given credit for inventing medical inoculations, but it was a Scottish London physician, Charles Maitland, who first borrowed the technique from the Middle East and used it to protect his patients from smallpox outbreaks in the 1720s. John McAdam, in the 1790s, devised a cheap and efficient way to build roads, consequently shortening travel times from London to Edinburgh from 10 days to two. By 1830 the journey from Edinburgh to Glasgow, which previously had taken a day and a half, was reduced to four and a half hours. The civil engineer, Thomas Telford opened up Scotland for trade by building canals for transportation of goods. He, in effect, created the shape of the modern landscape in Scotland. He designed the famous Ellesmere Canal and the Pontcysyllte Canal, as well as the Caledonian Canal. The famous doctor and explorer, David Livingston (often thought to have been English) was a Scot who explored Africa at a time when no white man had ever penetrated it. He was against racial prejudice and believed all men to be equal in God's eyes. Sandford Fleming, Scottish-born Canadian, managed to organize time world wide. He realized that there were many different times throughout the world with no agreement between countries and no real organization. He drew up a map and somehow persuaded all the countries to agree; it took him five years but his one-man crusade succeeded and they all adopted the new time zones and set their clocks accordingly. This was in 1883 (for perspective, the Suez Canal had been built in 1869).

Herman has an easy to read writing style, his discussions of the subject easy to follow and quite enjoyable. I recommend this very readable book for all Scots (and non-Scots). It'll make ya' proud to be Scottish!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Tommy and Judy Laing, 15505 - 4th Pl. W. Lynwood 98087, 425-742-7424 tommy@cmservice.us

SCOTTISH HISTORY



How did relics of St. Andrew end up in St. Andrew's in Fife? St. Rule, also known as St. Regulus, was a Greek monk, who was told in a vision to take some of the relics of Andrew from Patras and to sail to the ends of the earth with them for their safe keeping. Legend has it that around AD 390, St. Rule arrived in St. Andrews Bay (from Constantinople) after a storm-tossed voyage, and was welcomed by the Pictish king Angus, who gave them a large tract of land near where they landed. In St. Andrew's you can see (and climb) St. Rule's tower. The tower is part of the church, built (c 1127) to hold the relics of St. Andrew. St. Rule's Tower, sometimes referred to as the Square Tower, is 108 feet high, and affords a wonderful panoramic view over the town and harbor and of the surrounding countryside. The relics are no longer in the tower, however, having long since vanished, quite possibly as a result of the ravages of the Reformation.

SUNSHINE COMMITTEE REPORT

Bonnie has sent get well cards to Nancy Wallace, who has been battling bronchitis, to Art Henderson, who has had surgery on his right leg for a tumor, and a sympathy card to Shelley & Bart Butchart, whose step-mother passed away last month.

MEMBER NEWS

May Heltsley, update from Jim: The surgery went well and now all we can do is wait and pray for Mays vision to return. The doctor was very positive on the outcome and so far all is as it should be. Jim writes: Everything is healing as it is supposed to but the return of her vision will be slow due to the large amount of blood that was left in the back of the eye from the surgery. Doctors want it to dissipate naturally. [It] could take a couple of months. Her vision is getting better but very slowly.

Jim Mentzer has a new email address: james.mentzer@zipcon.com

Allen Mosley has a new address: 4287 S. 137th St., Tukwila, WA 98168 (same phone and email: 415-377-7394, allenmosle@aol.com)

Bill McFadden went back to North Carolina for his AGM in Laurenburg, Scotland County. This is a brand new games, the inaugural games for Laurenburg to replace the Flora MacDonald Games that had been there for some years previously. Clan McLaren was the honored clan. They had over 7000 paid attendees so it was quite successful. It was a nice games, in a lovely venue reminiscent of Ferndale. Laurenburg is the home of St. Andrews Presbyterian College where there is a large Scottish cultural & heritage center & genealogy archives.

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Mary Thorsland, who had been a member since 1973.

Art Henderson and Carolyn Harris visited Scotland in early October, where they saw the Queen and also the first snowfall of the season.



Our own **Shelley Butchart** making final adjustments to the table at our annual October potluck.



A fellowship founded in Seattle in 1902 to foster a love of Scotland, her people and her heritage.

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 27278
Seattle WA 98165-1778

Dancing:

Mondays, 7 p.m. at The Phinney Ridge Community Center. For information call Fraser 206-784-5943

Gatherings:

When - Second Friday of each month except July, August and September.

Where - Lake City Presbyterian Church
3841 N.E. 123rd St. Seattle WA.

Directions - From Lake City Way proceed east on 123rd to 40th. Park in the Church parking lot.

Time - Set-up at 6.30 p.m.
Social Hour at 7:00 p.m.
Business meeting at 7:30 p.m.
Entertainment and raffle at 8:00 p.m.

Visit us on the Web: www.caledonians.com

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Dates of the Caledonian gatherings for 2009-2010:

November 13	March 12
December 11	April 9
January 8	May 14
February 12	June 11

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