

BELGAPOST

THE JOURNAL OF THE BELGIAN STUDY CIRCLE

— relating to all aspects of Belgian Philately —

Volume 1. No. 1.

SPRING 1981

Edited & Produced by J. B. Horne

7 Elm Drive, Bradley, Stafford. ST18 9DS

It is some considerable time since the last edition of the News letter was produced and it has been felt for some time that the Circle must get back into print. This is the result, with a new name and perhaps slightly different format. I am not going to attempt to attempt to catch up with details of meetings etc. in the past, but I shall try where possible to obtain articles for you.

Any journal (magazine, call it what you will) is only able to continue if it has contributions - big and small. I would like to start a queries page and to start, have put one or two problems that may have been aired before, but answers have not been printed.

BUT -

I NEED YOUR HELP -

PLEASE

Let me have a note of anything to do with Belgian Philately - details of work or research, finds, problems, comments, only in this way can we continue to provide you with an offering.

Please do take time to complete the Literature List enclosed and return it as soon as possible. This project will perforce take some considerable time, but will be very worthwhile. The intention will be to publish in sections, possibly as an addition to the journal and certainly additions to the lists will appear in future editions of Belgapost. Besides producing the Literature List, there are one or two records on the stocks and hopefully they can be produced before too long.

The Belgian Study Circle has a proud record in the past for the amount of work done and the publication of many informative booklets and newsletters. Of late we have published little and with YOUR HELP, I would like to rectify this.

J. B. HORNE

THE 20c VALUE "MEDALLION"

by S. J. Andrews

This paper has been compiled in an attempt to illustrate the interest in this value.

Considerable work has been done in the plating of this issue, although comparatively little has been published in the English language. The "Philatelite Belge" has published articles mainly by Dandois and in 1938 the "London Philatelist" published a series of articles by Brig. M. A. Studd on this subject. It is chiefly from these that my information comes. Many articles have been published in the Belgium press and these are listed in the bibliography at the end.

Of the four values issued in the "Medallion" design, the 20 centime is probably the most interesting. This value was printed from six plates of 200 and lastly a single plate of 300, which are described as follows:

PLATE 1: This plate had no "millesime" or imprint showing the plate number and year of issue. The plate was used for the 1850 issue with the framed watermark. ALL framed watermark copies come from this plate. Detail on this plate is very complete and all the lines in the design are very finely executed. The plate was also used for the first 300,000 of the 1851 issue printed on paper with the unframed LL watermark. In later printings the plate shows a considerable amount of wear and can be confused with copies from Plate 2.

PLATE 2: bears the "millesime" "2 1851". It came into use in 1851 and was printed on paper with the LL unframed watermark only.

This plate was not so successful as Plate 1. The detail in the foliage is often very lacking owing to weak rocking in by the roller die on to the plate. In many cases a considerable amount of "touching up" was necessary before the plate was put into use. Stamps on the true type of "ribbed" paper generally came from this plate.

PLATE 3: came into use in 1854 and was also used for the "1851" issue with watermark unframed LL only. The plate bears the millisime "3 54" and "54 3".

This was a successful plate and detail was very complete, although much heavier than plate 1. Touching up of the foliage detail was generally of a minor character only. Most copies from this plate come on a much thicker paper than for any other 20 centime plates. The paper is generally thick or medium thick, soft and porous, rather like blotting paper.

PLATE 4: bears the millesime "4 1856" or "1856 4" and came into use in 1856. It was used with the unframed LL paper for the 1851 issue and also for the early printings of the 1858 issue with no watermark. This plate was also a very successful plate. Detail was again complete but somewhat heavier than Plate 3 and tends to be more "blurred". It is difficult to distinguish between "heavy" inked copies from Plate 3 and normal copies from Plate 4 with watermark. However, Plate 4 has a number of long scratches (mainly horizontal) and in fact so numerous are they that it is the exception to find a Plate 4 copy without a scratch variety of some sort. A high powered magnifier is essential to detect some of these scratches.

PLATE 5: was in use May 1859 to November 1860 and bore the millesime "1859"
It was used for the 1858 issue with no watermark only.

This plate had a fine impression but the foliage details are less complete than on any previous plate, except Plate 2. Its chief characteristic is a lack of any extensive plate variety. The varieties that do exist are generally short minor scratches, usually very fine. There is, however, strong touching up of the left foliage.

It is difficult to distinguish between Plate 5 and worn copies of Plate 4 - they both come in the same shade of blue on thin machine made paper. Generally, stamps with short scratches or lacking in variety are more likely to belong to Plate 5 and those with long scratches to Plate 4. Most of the foliage retouches belong to Plate 5.

PLATE 6: in use from November, 1860 to May 1861, bears the millesime 1860. This plate has a much less successful impression than Plate 5. It is heavier but at the same time it suffers from weak rocking in.

A feature of this plate is the number of long scratches in a horizontal plane, similar to Plate 4. They are, however, generally less clear and more blurred. Probably the most distinguishing feature of this plate is the heavily dotted appearance over many parts of each stamp. It appears that the plate suffered considerably from some form of erosion.

The above six plates are those used for the 200 sheets. The 300 sheets were printed from one plate only PLATE "UNIQUE" and bearing the millesime "1861 3". In this case the "3" indicates March and not the plate number. Printings were all on machine made paper and from April 1861 - 1863 they were imperforate issues. From 1863 to 1865 the perforated stamps were in use.

All the foliage ornaments are full of details though the impression tends to be a trifle heavy.

In his articles, Brig. Studd records that he was able to identify a considerable number of varieties as belonging to the various plates and he was able to position many of these within their respective plates. However, all, or practically all of this study appears to have been lost to us and today without the help of multiples one suspects that it will not be possible to do much work in the future.

I have said little about the papers in use and nothing on colour, although the latter can be of help in establishing the various plates. I am somewhat reluctant to place too much emphasis on colour when one is largely relying upon used copies as the heavy postmarking does have an affect upon one's classification of colour.

However, these details are incorporated within the schedule which accompanies this paper/display.

Roger Mennevee in his book "Timbres de Belgique" published in 1912 states, under a Royal Decree of 25th September, 1865, that stocks of the Medallion issue would be withdrawn on 1st July, 1866, and further that these stocks were destroyed by incineration at Malines on 19th March, 1867. It is further stated that 684, 862 of the 20 Centimes were destroyed.

PLATING OF 20 CENTIMES MEDALLIONS (200 PLATES)

Based on Brig. Studd's Article in the London Philatelist & F. Dandois in Balasse Magazine No. 92

PLATE No	DATES OF USE	MILLESIME	IMPRESSION OF PLATE	VARIETIES	WATERMARK	PAPER	SHADES	POSTMARK
1.	Aug 1850 -May 52	NONE	A successful plate. Detail very complete, all lines in design finely executed. Lack of design in S.W. Corner of some stamps due to weak "Rock in". Later printings show signs of wear and can be confused with Plate 2. If horizontal lines of background very fine, probably Plate 1.	Circle No. 100 & 182. Stamps No. 150 & 160 slight touching up of Rt foliage No. 173 Short horizontal scratch above N.W. '20' Late plate Scratch over 3 stamps (see L.P.) Balasse 4 V1-8 7 V1-8	LL Framed LL (Earliest date 4.V1.51)	Thick (1)	Blue, deep blue, Dull blue, Pale or deep	
2.	June 52- Aug. 54	2,1851 2,1851	Not as successful as Plate 1. Detail lacking in foliage due to weak Rock in. This gives rise to numberous "Touchings up"	143 Proved varieties 83 placed varieties Balasse 7V9 - 18	LL	Parchment (2) (Up to end of Oct. 52) Thin opaque Nov. 52 Med. thick Dec. 53 Ribbed	DULL BLUE DULL BLUE Blue, dull blue Cobalt Blue & Deep blue	

PLATE No	Dates of Use	MILLESIME	IMPRESSION OF PLATE	VARIETIES	WATERMARK	PAPER	SHADES	POSTMARK
3.	Sept 54 June 56	54.3 354	A successful plate. Detail very complete but heavier than Plate 1. Only minor touchings up of foliage	Slight "Touching" to lower foliage. Doubling of lower inner frame line	LL	Medium or Thick Possibly ribbed	Blue, Deep Blue, usually a deeper blue than Plate 2	Rusty Mar.56 Bruxelles 17 bars 2.2.56 Bruges 17.1V.56 Gand 19.VI.56
4.	June 56 May 59	1856-4 4-1856	On the whole a good plate it was used for 3 years Long scratches on many stamps. Detail is all there but the appearance is heavier than Plate 3 and less distinct.	Balasse 7V22 (No LL 1) 7V 23. 11A VL - 2. Slight touchings up of foliage (six of them)		Thin Thick, (thicker than Plate 3)	Blue Deep Blue	Bruxelles 14 or 18 bars Gand 14 bars
			Difficult to distinguish stamps on unmarked paper from those of Plate 5. Only safe test if same variety occurs on both papers	Doubling of inner lower frame line. Scratches (Stamps No. 111, 121, & 122)		Machine Made thin and satiny	A paler blue than other unmarked stamps Deep Blue (The Commoner)	8 bars (from 1.7.57- 1.1.58)
5.	May 59 Nov 60	1859- 1859	A good clear plate has touchings up to lower foliage. Also short scratches & burin cuts	Balasse 11A V 3-6	NONE	Machine made thin & satiny	Blue Deep Blue	Bruxelles 18 bars. Bruges 17 bars Liege 17 bars Gand 14 bars
6.	Nov 60 May 61	1860	A poor plate. Unworn copies show dots and scratches inked margins	Balasse 11A V 7-8	NONE	Machine made thin & satiny	Blue Deep Blue	Bruxelles 8 bars Liege 18 Gand 14

NOTES: Paper 1. Plate I M. Dandois does not list thick paper but Brig. Studd does
2. Plate 2 Brig. Studd says parchment paper was not used for Plate 2 but that a thin opaque paper was.

ARTICLES ON THE 20C MEDALLIONS

L'ETUDE DES PLANCHES DE 200 TIMBRES DU 20C MEDAILLON	Fernan Dandois	Feb 54 BM 92/21
LA PLANCHE I DU 20C MEDAILLON	Robt. Delapierre	Sept 26 PB No. 60 P 262/271
LA PLANCHE I DU 20C MEDAILLON	F. Dandois	Nov/Dec 51 PB 56 P143/146
LA PLANCHE II	Robt. Dealapierre	May 27 PB68 P142/9
LA PLANCHE II	F. Dandois	Jan/Feb 52. PB57 3/6
LA PLANCHE III	Robt. Delapierre	Mar 28 PB78 P66/68
LA PLANCHE III	F. Dandois	Mar/Apr 52 PB58 P33/5
LA PLANCHE IV	R. Delapierre	July 28 PB82 P168/171
LA PLANCHE IV	F. Dandois	May/June 52 PB59 P61/65
RECONSTRUCTION DEL LA PLANCH IV 20C MEDAILLON	Ed. Coucke	Dec 41 BM 24 P29/31
LA PLANCHE V	R. Delapierre	Jan 29 PB88 P3/6
LA PLANCHE V	F. Dandois	Nov/Dec 52 PB 62 P121/3
LE 20C MEDAILLON DU TIRAGE DE 1858 (PL IV, V, & VI)	Brig. M.A.Studd	May 38 PB 196 123/125
LE 20C MEDAILLON DENTELE DE 1863 Translation in English	R. Delapierre	July/Aug 33 PB 142 P.128/132 SCF Oct. 14 1933 262/4 & 270
LE 20C MEDAILLON NON DENTELE DE 1861	E.C.DE MEAULSART	Mar 38 PB 194 P.84
LE 20C MEDAILLON NON DENTELE DE 1861	E. DeCoucke	April 38 PB195 P.103
LA RECONSTRUCTION DE LA PLANCHE DU 20C DENTELLE DE 1863	J. Crustin	Sept/Oct 53 PB.67 P.83
Le 20 CENTIME AU TYPE MEDAILLON DE LA PLANCHE DE 300 DE 1861/63	J. Crustin	Nov/Dec 55 PB 80 P.106 - Nov/Dec 56 PB.86 (This has been issued in book form)

LE MEDAILLON 20 CENT ETUDE DE LA PLANCHE II
No.s. 1 - 100

Major Henri Martin
& Georges Weidar

May 67, July 69 PB No. 6 - 15

THE EPAULETTE AND MEDAILLON ISSUES OF
BELGIUM

Brig. M.A. Studd

LP Vol. 47 Octo 38 P256

LES FILIGRANES DES PREMIERES EMISSIONS
DE BELGIQUE

R. Delapierre

Dec. 25 PB51 P44/50

LES RETOUCHES DES MEDAILLONS NON
DENTELES LE BELGIQUE

R. DELAPIERRE

FEB 26 PB 53 P89/96

(TRANSLATION GIBBONS MONTHLY JOURNAL

SEPT 26 Oct 26 P.269/272 7/10

LES MILLESIMES DES 10C & 20C MEDAILLONS
DE BELGIQUE

R. DELAPIERRE

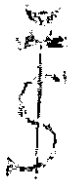
OCT. 25 PB 49 P5/6

EXTRACT FROM B.S.C. NEWSLETTER 75/157

PLATES FOR THE MEDALLIONS

In his articles on the 1c Medallion, Mr. Corbisier de Meaultsort says that the Plate V bears the inscription "Sheffield and John S". With the help of George Warnant and a friend, John Gent, it has been possible to tie the mark down to "John Sellers and Sons, 151 Arundel Street, Sheffield 1".

This firm specialised in steels for stamp dies. A 20c plate of 300 in the Musee Postale bears the inscription:



John SEL..

Street - Sheffield

Does anyone else know of Steel Plates provided by this firm for printing stamps?

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A member or members to review and comment on New Books and articles for the benefit of all members.

All members to drop a line to me with details of new books, new discoveries etc.

Members to let me know how the journal can be improved - let me have your ideas, comments, brickbats, suggestions, what you will!

What do you want to see in the journal?

It is being produced by members for members. PLEASE HELP, put pen to paper today.

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LITERATURE LIST

Regardless of the subject announced for the afternoon meeting on December, 13th, Oliver Loader in fact, discussed generally the need for all of us to know what had in fact been published, where we could obtain the loan of a copy of any particular publication and how much one could rely on information in certain publications. As he said, the average collector would spend pounds on a stamp, but would begrudge a penny on a book about stamps.

Thanks to Geoffrey Wood's recent contracts, many members are able to acquire copies of current publications, but we are all somewhat in the dark as to what may already be in print. Thirty years ago Oliver Loader produced for the Circle a "Literature List" of which a very few copies remain in existence. This was, however, essentially a list of books and pamphlets then in existence and of which copies were owned by the then members of the Circle or were in the library of the Royal.

Discussion ensued as to whether what was now wanted was an updated literature list or a complete Bibliography and it was decided that the Circle should aim to form in card index form, as complete a bibliography as possible including magazines, articles, but should also publish for the immediate benefit of members, a Literature List showing who owned copies of booklets available for borrowing, even though this list might, to begin with, come out in sections in the News Letter.

The pre-requisite for anything is for all members to let us know what they have - only then can we start making up our card index and start preparing section lists.

It was agreed that Jack Gibbs and Barry Horne shall between them work out the shape, size and content of the Card Index Card and it is hoped that Jack may ultimately accept the responsibility for running the Card Index.

In the meantime, it is important that we should gather the information as to what books and pamphlets each member holds. Everyone is, therefore, asked urgently to list their library and to send such lists in to Oliver Loader. At this stage, please do not detail too much - just list the title, author and date of publication - or in the case of magazine articles the magazine concerned and the issue numbers and year date. If the Librarian Collaters of information have any queries they can always come back to you.

In the past, Circle publications have always been of high standard, please help to ensure that our future literature list will be equally good.

EDITORS NOTE:- FORMS ARE ENCLOSED - PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

MANY THANKS

PUBLIBEL. POSTCARDS

PRE-PAID

2F. VALUE ON LION 1962

by L. G. Watson

50 Cards Numbered 1921 - 1970 inclusive

Carte Postale Foremost Publicity in French

Postkaart Foremost Publicity in Flemish

Publibel card numbers printed in predominant colour Red or Blue

Card Number "1968" in small type

There are 3 constant varieties

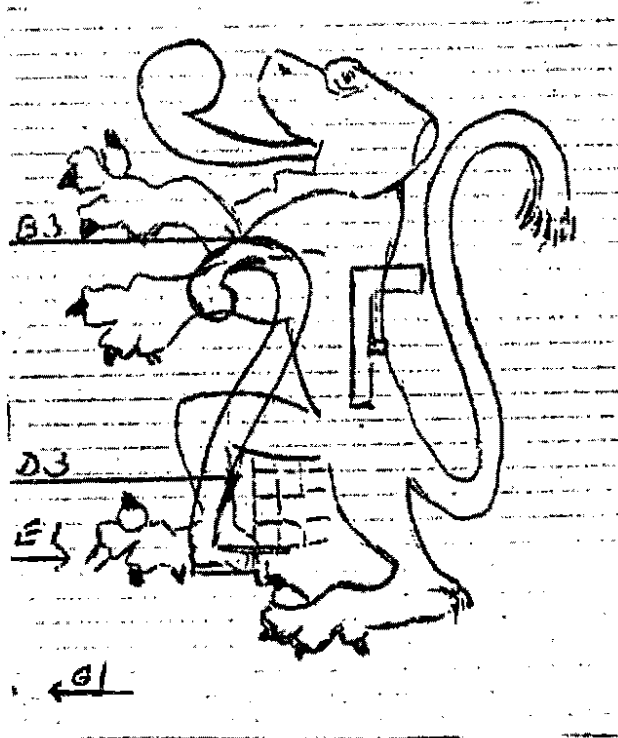
Thirkell position numbers

B3. The 2F is moved upwards on Belgie-Belgique cards

D3. The net background is missing behind right hind leg

E1. White spot in claw front of right hind paw.

E1. Claw is split, front of right hind paw.



<u>Card No.</u>	<u>Publicite</u>	<u>Texte</u>	
1921	ZEMIR	CARTE POSTALE	
1922	ZEMIR	POSTKAART	E.1. Split Claw
1923	LOTERIE	CARTE POSTALE	
1924	LOTERIJ	POSTKAART	E.1. Split Claw
1925	STELATEX	CARTE POSTALE	
1926	STELATEX	POSTKAART	E1 Split Claw
1927	LA ROTISSERIE	CARTE POSTALE	
1928	WESTKUST	CARTE POSTALE	BELGIQUE.BELGIE.BELGIUM BELGIEM. D3
1929	DUBONNET	CARTE POSTALE	
1930	"	POSTKAART	E1 Spot in claw
1931	CALTEX	CARTE POSTALE	D3. Net background missing
1932	MIRAGENT	CARTE POSTALE	D3
1933	"	POSTKAART	E1 Spot
1934	AEROXON	CARTE POSTALE	
1935	"	POSTKAART	E1 Split
1936	BERGENBIER	CARTE POSTALE	D3
1937	"	POSTKAART	E1. Spot
1938	YOGHOURT	POSTKAART	E1. Split
1939	CAFE FORT	CARTE POSTALE	
1940	KOFFIE-FORT	POSTKAART	E1. Split
1941	KOFFIE CLE D'OR	POSTKAART	E1 Split
1942	MATERNE	CARTE POSTALE	
1943	OSTENDE-DOUVRES	CARTE POSTALE	D3
1944	OOSTENDE-DOVER	POSTKAART	E1 Spot
1945	FEIST	CARTE POSTALE	
1946	FEIST	POSTKAART	
1947	LIONOL	CARTE POSTALE	D3
1948	LIONOL	POSTKAART	E1 Spot
1949	UNIC	CARTE POSTALE	
1950	UNIC	POSTKAART	E1 Spot
1951	BREDENE	CARTE POSTALE	D3
1952	BREDENE	POSTKAART	E1. Split
1953	COTE BELGE	CARTE POSTALE	E1. Spot
1954	BELGISHE KUST	POSTKAART	E1. Spot

10 Cards Nos. 1955-1964 TOURISM PROVENCIE NAMEN IN FLEMISH

1955	NISMES	Spot		
1956	DINANT			
1957	NAAMSE SEMOIS	Spot		
1958	VAN MONT FAT	ALL POSTKAART.	ALL EL.	Spot
1959	COUVIN			
1960	GROTTEN VAN HAN	Split		
1961	LAVAUS STE ANNE	Spot		
1962	HAUTE MEUSE	Split		
1963	VAN VIROIN	"		
1964	HAN-S/LESSE	"		
1965	HAN-S/LESSE	POSTKAART	EL.	Spot
1966	MOUTARDE	CARTE POSTALE	D3	
1967	MOUTARDE	POSTKAART	EL.	Spot
1968	LUYCKS	POSTKAART	PUBLIBEL 1968	SMALL TYPE
1969	SPA	CARTE POSTALE	D3	
1970	ZIG-ZAG	CARTE POSTALE	D3.	

It is of interest to note that when this type of card was first issued, the first 200 cards were not numbered. Commencing with number 201, the cards were numbered as if the first 200 had been numbered 1 to 200.

The 2F. stamp value on Lion was not on sale until 2nd February, 1968 in Green.

At what date did it become obligatory to ~~offer~~ adhesive stamps to letters - was it later than 1858?

This question was originally raised in N/L 33 (12/53) and N/L 43 (11/54). The following extract from an article by J. B. Leavy in the "Philatelic Record" of February, 1911 throws some light on the question, although not fully solving the problem.

'New postal conventions between Belgium and France were concluded on 27th February and 25th September, 1865, which necessitated the creation of stamps of the values of 30c and 1 fr. The extracts from the articles of the conventions bearing upon these stamps were as follows:

'After 1 Jan. 1866, the postage on single letters of 10 grammes between Belgium and France, including Algeria, shall be reduced from 40c. to 30c. Letters circulating within a limited radius of 30 kilometres shall be subject to a tax of 20 or 30c., according to whether they are prepaid or unprepaid.'

'Registered letters sent from Belgium to France and Algeria shall be subject to the progressive tax of ordinary letters (20c or 30c.) augmented by a fixed tax of 50c.

The Post Offices of France agree to transmit letters intended for the French Colonies and the various foreign countries, to which letters can be forwarded ~~thru~~ its mails. The postage on such letters shall be 1 fr. for each $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes or fraction thereof to Brazil, U.S.A., Western Australia, New Zealand, New South Wales Queensland, British Guiana, New Caledonia, and all the other English and French possessions, except South Australia, Tasmania and the Sandwich Islands. (The prepayment of postage shall not be mandatory)

Letters sent from Belgium to Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Equador, Central America, Mexico (via Panama) and Cuba (via U.S.A.) shall be taxed at the rate of 1 fr. 30c. for each $7\frac{1}{2}$ grammes or fraction thereof, and must be prepaid.

So in 1866, we assume that prepayment, presumably then by the fixing of adhesive stamps, was only compulsory on mail to the Americas.

When did it become compulsory on mail to other countries?

NEW ISSUES

The Details from the Post Office

PROJET DE CALENDRIER**1. des émissions de timbres-poste spéciaux**

Date	Désignation des émissions	Compositions et valeurs
9.2.1981	Handicapés	2 timbres-poste avec surtaxe : 10 F + 5 F 25 F + 10 F
16.3.1981	Historique	3 timbres-poste aux valeurs de 5 F, 9 F et 10 F
6.4.1981	Croix-Rouge de Belgique	2 timbres-poste avec surtaxe : 10 F + 5 F 25 F + 10 F
4.5.1981	Europa	2 timbres-poste aux valeurs de 9 F et 14 F
18.5.1981	Journées du Timbre	1 timbre-poste de 9 F
1.6.1981	Dr. Ovide Decroly	1 timbre-poste avec surtaxe : 35 F + 15 F
21.9.1981	Bois du Cazier	1 feuillet avec surtaxe : 20 F + 10 F
12.10.1981	Mausolées à Bruges	1 timbre-poste de 35 F
26.10.1981	Philatélie de la Jeunesse	1 timbre-poste de 5 F
9.11.1981	Culturelle	5 timbres-poste aux valeurs de 5 F, 6,50 F, 9 F, 10 F et 14 F
23.11.1981	Noël	1 timbre-poste de 6,50 F
7.12.1981	Solidarité	3 timbres-poste avec surtaxe : 9 F + 4 F 20 F + 7 F 40 F + 20 F

2. de l'émission des timbres-poste ordinaires avec motif à caractère touristique

Date	Désignation	Compositions et valeurs
15.6.1981	Touristiques	2 timbres-poste de 5 F 2 timbres-poste de 6,50 F

1st Issue of 1981. 9.2.81
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