W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON / DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

Asia Notes

2016-2017

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Benjamin Lee ('15, Chinese) and Christopher Diamond (PhD candidate, South Asian Languages and Literature) were awarded 2017 Fulbright research fellowships to pursue projects in Asia. For more student news and highlights, see page 5. Calligrapher Shizu Usami brushes the character 'sakura' at our second annual cherry blossom celebration, held at the East Asia Library on March 29th.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY CELEBRATES GRADUATING STUDENTS

Our annual convocation and awards ceremony marked the passing of another successful year for the department. Featured front and center were the accomplishments of our graduating students, including the conferral of the Bachelor of Arts degree upon 14 Chinese majors, 25 Japanese majors, 7 Korean majors, and 3 South Asian majors. In addition, a large group of graduate students earned their degrees in Japanese, Chinese, and South Asian languages and literature. The Master of Arts degree was conferred upon Ross Henderson, Harumi Maeda, Shuheng Zhang, Fei Zhao, and Xi Zhu. Candidate for Doctor of Philosophy status was granted to Christopher Diamond, Zhinan Chen, and Man Zhang. Genoveva Castro, Sarah Clayton, Joseph Marino III, Michael Skinner, and Yingying Sun all received the Doctor of Philosophy degree, marking the culmination of many years of hard work.

Headlining the event was the keynote address from Samuel Shepherd, Chair of the Board of Trustees for the Japan International Christian University Foundation. Mr. Shepherd has served in various capacities for the local organization Associates in Cultural Exchange, as the President of the National Association of Japan-America Societies, and as the executive director of the Japan-United States Educational Commission. Among his many honors, Mr. Shepherd was decorated by the Emperor of Japan in 2010 with the Order of the Rising Sun, in recognition of his work to strengthen US-Japan relations through educational exchanges and the internationalization of education in Japan. Mr. Shepherd's speech detailed his lifelong encounters with Korea and Japan, and encouraged students to maintain their language skills after leaving the department through practice, engagement, community, and constant reading. His speech served as a point of encouragement to the graduating students, as it showed the many opportunities afforded by a life lived in multiple languages.

Asia Notes

THOUGHTS FROM A DONOR

by Janet P. Heineck

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a new, occasional series in which donors to the department speak from the heart about their gifts and their reasons for giving. We begin with retired UW librarian, alumna, and donor Janet Heineck, who recently created the Catherine M. Heineck Endowment in honor of her mother.

A number of pleasant experiences brought me to the Department of Asian Languages and Literature. I have had several memorable visits to Japan, staying with friends from graduate school days, now long resident in Kyoto, and exploring the city, taking part in Walk Japan walking tours, and most recently joining a twoweek Japanese garden seminar offered by the Kyoto University of Art and Design. I have had unpressured time to develop admiration for the textile, wood craft, and garden traditions, as well as for the work of Japanese and émigré American and European photographers who take Kyoto and all of Japan as their subject. To keep

those impressions fresh, I have taken a number of Asian Languages and Literature courses in Japanese literature in translation as an Access student. I reflected for some time on the amount I might be able to give. Advisors assured me that it was within my means to donate \$80,000. Thus, an endowment named for my mother, to be used at the discretion of the chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, has come into being. I am very happy that this was possible.

I weighed aspects of giving a lump sum or of taking the step to establish an endowment. Given that an endowment would outlive me and be a genuine investment, meant to grow over time, to benefit the Department in ways yet unknown, an endowment was the more attractive choice. In contrast, a lump sum could be spent down and perhaps not enjoy the future growth of an endowment.

Further, by defining the endowment as a discretionary fund, I meant to provide the current and future department chairs some additional financial freedom to meet the Department's needs as they arise. A bonus to me as a donor will be the pleasure of reading about the various good purposes to which the chair will devote the funds each year.

I believe that this donation was a matter of personal timing and good fortune. I realized that I have spent almost all my adult life associated with the University of Washington, as

a student, a graduate student, and later as a Libraries staff member, coming to work daily from July 1980 to December 2014 on this beautiful campus. As I approach my seventieth year, it seemed important to acknowledge what I have been given. Likewise, although I was never much of a scholar of Near Eastern languages, my college and graduate school years among them socialized me, you might say, in the world of philology and close work with texts. My more recent interest in Japan led me naturally to a wish to support this Department's instruction in Japanese and other Asian languages as part of strengthening the humanities in the University as well.

I would share with prospective donors the following thoughts. Be grateful for the opportunities that you have had. Be generous in acknowledging and supporting what the University has done and continues to do to inspire you, to help you recall happy memories, or more basically to have helped you learn a livelihood. Anyone can be part of the effort and can join this welcoming family of faculty, staff, and students.

If you wish to follow Janet's example and create an endowment, please contact department chair Paul Atkins at patkins@uw.edu.

Paul Atkins and Janet P. Heineck display a plaque with notes of thanks and appreciation, signed by the faculty, staff, and students of the department.

UW students and local community members competed in a game of tug-of-war at the first annual Vietnamese Tet (Vietnamese New Year) event held on UW's Seattle campus. Organized by lecturer Bich-Ngoc Turner, the event took place at the Waterfront Activities Center on Saturday, January 21st, 2017, in celebration of the Year of the Rooster.



ANDREW L. MARKUS MEMORIAL LECTURE:

JUNKO MORI ON TRANSLINGUAL COMPETENCE AND ASIAN LANGUAGE EDUCATION

by Amy Snyder Ohta, Associate Professor

For this year's Andrew L. Markus Memorial Lecture, Dr. Junko Mori, Professor of Japanese and Department Chair of Asian Languages and Cultures from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, skillfully guided all who attended on a thought-provoking tour through various ideas related to the construct of the "native speaker" in the context of Asian language education in our world of increasing migration and global mobility. Her lecture, entitled "On Native-Speaker-Hood, Translingual Competence, and Asian Language Education" was presented on May 8, 2017. The event drew an attendance of nearly one hundred students, faculty, and community members.

In her lecture, Dr. Mori considered how the term "native speaker," when simply contrasted with the term "non-native speaker," obscures a wide variety of factors that are essential if we are to help our students to become proficient in Asian languages. Dr. Mori drew upon a wide variety of examples from her own experience of developing multiple identities of "applied linguist," "department chair," "foreign-born native-speaking language instructor," and nearly thirty-year resident of Wisconsin, as well as research in applied linguistics and cultural studies. She guided listeners to consider notions of "authenticity" and "correctness," as related to what it means to learn an Asian language. Rather than the "authenticity" and "correctness" of

the native speaker as a model for Asian language teaching/learning, Dr. Mori recommended that we focus on the notion of "translingual competence." Translingual competence requires functional skills, but not perfection—Dr. Mori suggested that we should aim for "editable" language that communicates well, while still including errors. Translingual competence involves constructing one's identity in another language and having intercultural skills to navigate systems of meaning and various perspectives, in situated contexts, while using language, gesture, and other semiotic resources. Dr. Mori described traditional foreign language instruction as "defined by the idealized native speaker" with a "focus on linguistic accuracy and pragmatic appropriateness." Viewed through the lens of translingual competence, she explained how this is woefully inadequate for our students.

Dr. Mori challenged her audience to move beyond notions of correctness and appropriateness; she encouraged faculty to help our students to develop identities and express themselves in Asian languages, to move beyond textbooks, to embrace the variety of ways that people learn languages, and to open the doors of the classroom to creatively incorporate a wide range of cultural and semiotic resources.



The annual Andrew L. Markus Memorial Lectureship was created in memory of Professor Andrew L. Markus, who taught Japanese literature at the University of Washington from 1986 to 1995. Established through the generosity of family and friends, this annual lecture honors Professor Markus's contribution to the study of Asian languages and literatures.

ANNUAL CONVOCATION AND AWARDS CONTINUED FROM FRONT

A number of awards were granted to students who demonstrated exceptional learning, teaching, and achievement over the school year. Graduate students Nathaniel Bond and Zhinan Chen received Distinguished Teaching Assistant Awards for their skill and dedication in teaching language classes. The Scott Swaner Memorial Book Award was presented to undergraduates Natasha Humayun and Isa Thompson. The Henry S. Tatsumi Award was presented to Zeke Stanislaus Hill, Suyoung Kim, and Ching Yi Hayley Tung. Finally, the Turrell V. Wylie Memorial Scholarship Award was presented to Joseph Marino III in honor of his distinguished doctoral dissertation.

A lively reception filled with food, drink, and conversation followed the ceremony, wrapping up the 2016-2017 academic year.

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DEPARTMENT NEWS

FACULTY

The Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics (Brill Academic Publishers, Inc.), a groundbreaking five-volume work that will serve for years to come as the standard reference in the field of Chinese linguistics, was published. Zev Handel was one of five associate editors, while numerous other faculty, graduates, and current students associated with the department contributed articles (including William Boltz, Jerry Norman, Edith Aldridge, W. South Coblin, Ken-ichi Takashima, Stephen Wadley, Richard VanNess Simmons, Keith Dede, Andy Chin, Haeree Park, Marco Caboara, Ed Lien, Jung-Im Chang, Hongzhi Wang, and Yingying Sun). Professor and Divisional Dean of Humanities Michael C. Shapiro served on the advisory board for the project.

Paul Atkins published *Teika: The Life and Works of a Medieval Japanese Poet* (University of Hawai'i Press) in February.

Nyan-Ping Bi published the fourth edition of Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the *Integrated Chinese* textbook series that she co-authored. She also gave the keynote address at the spring meeting of the Chinese Language Teachers Association-Southern California in May, and served as the trainer for a teaching pedagogy workshop in instructional scaffolding in September.

Zev Handel was invited to participate in the thirteenth annual Oriental Institute Symposium, "Seen Not Heard: Composition, Iconicity, and the Classifier Systems of Logosyllabic Scripts," at the University of Chicago. He also organized the fourth Workshop on Sino-Tibetan Languages of Southwest China, which took place at the University of Washington in September 2016.

Chan Lü was invited to join a panel of reading researchers from US institutions in June and participated in week-long events in Beijing on Chinese literacy in education.

Izumi Matsuda-Kiami held a workshop on Japanese *tadoku* (extensive reading) in September, which focused on presentations by Yuka Kumagai from the University of Southern California and Noriko Hanabusa from the University of Notre Dame, followed by group discussions and workshops.

Pauli Sandjaja was featured in *KOMPAS*, a leading Indonesian newspaper, to commemorate the birth of Kartini, a national hero in Indonesia who fought for women's rights through education. She also organized a symposium titled "Approaches to religious violence, radicalization, and deradicalization: perspectives from US and Indonesia" in October.

Ping Wang received an award from the UW Royalty Research Fund to jumpstart a project on annotating medieval Chinese poetry in the fall quarter. With copious commentarial remarks, this project aims to serve scholars and the general reading public alike in their appreciation of classical Chinese literature and culture.



JAPANESE DIRECTOR HIROKAZU KOREEDA VISITS THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Critically acclaimed film director Hirokazu Koreeda and Davinder Bhowmik, professor of Japanese literature, spoke before an audience of nearly 100 in the Walker-Ames Room about his work to date and the US debut of his film, "After the Storm," which has screened to capacity crowds at the 2017 Seattle International Film Festival.

Koreeda, who had originally planned to become a novelist, began his career as an assistant director of television documentaries. He eventually went on to direct feature films in which his penchant for documentary style is evident. Known for films such as "Like Father, Like Son," "Maborosi," and "After Life," Koreeda now manages his own production company, Bun-Buku. He also teaches film at Waseda University.

Koreeda spoke for nearly an hour with Professor Bhowmik, who had prepared a series of film clips from her film course on Koreeda's works to provide a context for her questions. The director then took audience questions for half an hour with the assistance of interpreter Kasumi Yamashita.

Bhowmik said: "My interest in Koreeda-san's work lies in his documentary style and the blurring of documentary and feature. This stems from my primary field of Japanese literature in which the line between fiction and nonfiction is not so clear."

Koreeda's films work with the intangible, and center on existential questions and emotional relationships between people. The director explained how he often used everyday kitchen scenes with the sounds of knives hitting chopping boards and crackling oil to evoke a strong sense of smell and taste and which, he added, anyone can imagine.

The director recalled the creative process behind "After Life," and how he used this process to connect his audiences to the history of Japan. "After Life" is a film in which people experience "heaven" after dying by reliving a happy memory they select to take with them for eternity. Actors and nonactors appear in the film. "We interviewed six hundred elderly people in Japan," Koreeda said. "If they could bring one memory with them to the afterlife, what would it be?"

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

Sean Bradley gave a series of lectures this year on traditional Chinese medicine and other topics at Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine, the Huntington Library in Southern California, and at the Annual Meeting for the International Society for the History of Medicine in Beijing.

Christopher Diamond was awarded the Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship to India, which will allow him to conduct research for his dissertation on the 14th/15th century poet Vidyāpati in India. His project seeks to track down manuscript and performance traditions of the early modern period to figure out how these divergent trajectories formed and competed with each other and to investigate what this reveals about the formation of more recent religious and language-based identities in North and East India as expressed through literary traditions.

Koreeda also addressed the relationships between children and their non-biological parents in his films, particularly moments of connection between mothers and daughters. In several of his films, a mother or maternal figure brushes the hair of a young girl. "I like hair-brushing scenes because they give me the rare opportunity for actors to speak to each other while facing the same direction."

After the conversation ended, Koreeda answered more questions and smiled for countless pictures. The next morning, in a repeat performance, Koreeda joined Professor Bhowmik's film class. "I had planned to give Koreeda-san a tour of campus and take him to lunch after class but students were so enamored by the director they wouldn't let us leave the classroom," she said.

AL&L CAREER PANEL HELPS STUDENTS PUT LANGUAGE SKILLS TO WORK

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature and the East Asian Library hosted a career panel for majors on January 19, 2017. Speakers included Joel Petersen, assistant manager in the language services department of Nintendo of America, Koh Shimizu, a freelance Japanese-English interpreter and translator, and Michael Joyce, an entrepreneur and owner of Nature Nuts Adventure Travel, a company aimed at providing outdoor adventures and tours to Chinese-speaking tourists visiting the Pacific Northwest. The event, moderated by department chair Paul S. Atkins, drew more than fifty students.

Speakers focused on the practical application of Asian languages in a variety of careers. Koh Shimizu shared her experience as a translator and interpreter, provided advice to fledgling interpreters for developing their skills, and gave concrete steps to students wanting to start building a portfolio of work. Michael Joyce emphasized that knowing a foreign language in the modern world opens new opportunities, and described his journey from learning Mandarin and Japanese in college to getting business experience in China and, finally, about monetizing language skills in private business ventures. Joel Petersen, representing Nintendo of America, described what he looks for when hiring language service personnel for experience of working at Nintendo in great detail, and took questions from would take to land a job at the video game giant.

The event was followed by an enthusiastic question and answer session and a mixer, during which students and the speakers spoke at great length about career opportunities and ways to harness language skills in the job market. The event was the first in a series of upcoming events sponsored by the Department of Asian Languages and Literature aimed at providing career-centered knowledge and skills for tackling the job market for Asian language majors.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

Andy Chin (PhD, '09) was appointed in December as associate dean (research and postgraduate studies) of the Faculty of Humanities at the Education University of Hong Kong.

Fusae Ekida (PhD, '09) accepted a position as assistant professor of Japanese at Middle Tennessee State University.

Sean Lin Halbert ('17) began his graduate studies at Seoul National University. He is pursuing a master's degree in Korean literature.

Benjamin Lee ('15) was awarded a Fulbright Research Fellowship to study Chinese language in Beijing and conduct research in Nanjing on how the Taiwanese business community facilitated cross-Strait relations between 1987 and 1992.

Joy Maa ('14) earned her MA in linguistics from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and will begin studying for her PhD in applied linguistics at Carnegie Mellon University in the fall.

Harumi Maeda (MA, '17) began a doctorate program in Japanese linguistics at the University of Hawai'i-Manoa.

Joe Marino (PhD, '17) is a Robert H. N. Ho Family Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Postdoctoral Fellow at Cornell University in the Department of Asian Studies. He will be developing his dissertation into a book and teaching a class on Buddhist literature in Sanskrit.

Michael Skinner (PhD, '17) was appointed assistant professor of history at the University of Hawai'i-Hilo. He is teaching world history, U.S. history, and a historical methods course.

Cindi Textor (PhD, '16) was appointed assistant professor of world languages and cultures at the University of Utah, teaching Japanese literature and culture.

Silver Yui ('16) received her Master of studies in Japanese studies from Oxford University, and will begin a course of study at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo this fall.

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MEET OUR INCOMING GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature welcomes ten new graduate students this year.

Benjamin Burton, Japanese

MA, Japanese, Portland State University BA, Japanese, Honors College at Portland State University

INTERESTS: Comparative Literature, Critical Theory, Proletarian Literature, Left-wing Literature, Manga and Comics Theory

2 John Carlyle, Chinese

BA, Linguistics and East Asian Languages and Literature, UC Berkeley **INTERESTS:** Comparative Linguistics, Philology, Writing Systems, Chinese Dialects, Chinese Historical Phonology

B Julia Chatterjee, South Asian

BA, South Asian Studies, Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations, University of Pennsylvania

INTERESTS: Philology, Writing Systems, Indo-Iranian Languages, Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, Ancient and Early Historical Periods, Epigraphy

4 Gyeol Han, Chinese

BA, Classical Chinese, Korea University INTERESTS: Chinese, Comparative Linguistics, Historical Linguistics, Linguistics, Philology, Writing Systems, Etymology, Sino-Xenic Readings

S Nobuko Horikawa, Japanese

MA, Japanese Literature, Portland State University; MA, Philosophy, University of Cincinnati; BA, History and Philosophy of Science, University of Pittsburgh INTERESTS: Children's Literature, Pre-War Japanese Literature, Left-wing Literature

6 Bo Jiang, Chinese

MA, Chinese Language and Literature, Tsinghua University BA, Journalism, Shandong University **INTERESTS:** Chinese Dialectology, Chinese Historical Phonology

Sravani Kanamarlapudi, South Asian (NOT PICTURED)

MS, Chemical Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology MS, Chemical Engineering, National University of Singapore BS, Chemical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee **INTERESTS:** Sanskrit, Indian Philosophy, Religion, Advaita Vedanta, Devotional Literature

8 Kisaki Takeuchi, Japanese

BA, TESOL, Murray State University INTERESTS: Comparative Literature, Film/ Cinema, Poetry and Poetics, Popular Culture, Translation and Interpretation, Japanese Literature

Arden Taylor, Japanese

BA, Japanese and Linguistics, Western Washington University INTERESTS: Linguistics, Japanese Literature, Heian-Edo Period Language and Linguistics

Rie Tsujihara, Japanese

MA, Japanese, University of Wisconsin-Madison INTERESTS: Applied Linguistics, Second Language Acquisition, Second Language Teaching



FROM KANJI TO CARDIOLOGY: A STUDENT'S JOURNEY

As an undergraduate, Bang Zheng spent his nights doing what most future medical students do: running through flashcards, memorizing unfamiliar terms, and learning to diagnose and navigate complex systems.

Only Bang wasn't learning anatomical terminology. Bang was studying Japanese *kanji*, the logographic characters that form part of the Japanese writing system.

Now a student at the UW School of Medicine, Bang joins a growing number of department alumni who pursued an Asian language major while preparing for a career in health sciences.

Many assume that medical students need to complete scientific undergraduate degrees to be competitive for medical school, but this isn't necessarily the case. And if a new faculty-led initiative is approved, students may soon have an option to enroll in official tracks to complete humanities majors with health-sciences prerequisites. Classics Professor James Clauss is one faculty member working toward this vision.

"As you know, students can presently take the necessary courses for applying to post-graduate degrees in the health sciences," Clauss said, "but there is no official record of this. Together with Prof. Patricia Kramer, chair of Anthropology, we are working toward creating pre-health tracks, the successful completion of which will show up on students' transcripts, formally acknowledging their preparation for a career in the health industry."

In the ultra-competitive environment of medical school, Bang Zheng thinks a degree in an Asian language can help students distinguish themselves.

"Having a diverse background will help you get into medical school," Bang said. "There are so many applicants with science degrees that having a humanities degree will help you stand out."

The most important lesson Bang learned from his time in the department was the importance of pursuing a passion.

"Something I would tell any undergraduate student is to pursue what you want to study. School can get really rough and burn-out will happen. However, studying something you are passionate about will help you get over that hump."

POSTHUMOUS PUBLICATION OF CAROL SALOMON'S CITY OF MIRRORS

At the time of her passing in March 2009, former Asian Languages and Literature faculty member Carol Goldberg Salomon had been working for many years on an annotated translation of the songs of Lalan Sai, the renowned Baul poet who lived in what is now Bangladesh in the late nineteenth century. The Bauls are the modern inheritors of the centuries-old syncretic tradition of Bengali mysticism, incorporating and combining elements of tantric spiritual practice from Buddhist, Hindu, and Islamic traditions. Carol's work involved examining the surviving manuscripts of the songs, attending and transcribing performances of them by members of the Baul tradition in Bangladesh and West Bengal (India), and discussing their meaning with members of Lalan's spiritual lineage. With her fluent colloquial Bengali and her sincere interest in and sympathy for Baul beliefs, she was able to win the confidence of the Bauls, who revealed to her rare insights into their esoteric doctrines.

After her untimely death, Carol's research notes lay untouched for several years, until the Bangladeshi scholar Saymon Zakaria visited her home in Seattle in order to excavate and organize her dozens of boxes of notes and hundreds of computer files and recordings. Then, working in collaboration with former UW student Keith Cantú, he organized and edited the materials into an anthology of the 137 songs which Carol judged to be the authentic creations of Lālan. The volume of over 600 pages has now been published by Oxford University Press in its South Asia Research Series, under the title *City of Mirrors: Songs of Lālan Sai*.

Thanks to the labors of the editors and the many other persons involved in this project, Carol's decades of research have at last emerged from their long hibernation in the attic of her house and into the light of day, for all to see.

That man is in this man.

Yet for ages, countless seers and sages have roamed in search of him.

The unseen man always sits in an unseen place beyond their grasp.

Who can reach out and catch the reflection of the moon in water?

(CITY OF MIRRORS, P. 149)

Carol Salomon interviewing a Baul guru in Bangladesh



RECOGNITION OF OUR DONORS

The faculty, students, and staff of the department are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their belief in and support of our mission to teach and study Asian languages, literature, and cultures.

Mark Asselin and Son Vuong Paul S. Atkins Elizabeth Becker and Bill Nash Pamela Bruton Rebecca Carlson Andy and Chi On Chin Courtney De Rouen Dhammachai International **Research Institute** Dhammakaya International Meditation Center Santosh Divvala Patrick Firestone and Koeun Choi Andrew Glass Zev Handel and Ju Namkung Janet Heineck Nathaniel Henrickson Ed Yeung-Chung Lien

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SAVE THE DATE

DRAMATIC RECITATION FROM THE TALE OF THE HEIKE KIMA HOTTA

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. GOWEN HALL

THE TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL ANDREW L. MARKUS MEMORIAL LECTURE

RONALD EGAN, PhD Department Chair, Confucius Institute Professor of Sinology, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, Stanford University

Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. KANE HALL

2018 CONVOCATION AND AWARDS CEREMONY Friday, June 8, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. KANE HALL *Reception to follow.* *Asia Notes* is the annual newsletter of the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington.

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