



Twenty Years!

On October 1, 2011 we celebrate twenty years since the founding of the Polish Genealogical Society of Greater Cleveland. It was the idea of Edward Mendyka, who after realizing that other cities had Polish genealogy societies, decided to see if there was an interest in establishing such a group in Cleveland. With the permission of Father Ralph Bodziony, the pastor of Saint John Cantius Parish, Ed circulated fliers about establishing a Polish genealogy society at St. John Cantius' Polish Heritage Festival on Labor Day weekend, 1991. To Ed's amazement, twenty-five people expressed an interest in establishing a genealogy society. The details of the founding of the group can be found in the special fifteenth anniversary issue, published in October, 2006.

In twenty years there have been many changes. The people who came together to form the genealogy group have welcomed many new members, and sadly, have lost many former members. Cleveland, the home to so many Polish immigrants, has experienced many changes since 1991. Many of the beloved Polish churches have been closed, but we take pride in the beautifully restored Shrine Church of Saint Stanislaus in Slavic Village. Every May, the Polish of Cleveland can enjoy at least one Polish Constitution Day parade, and many of our members have attended ceremonies marking the restoration of the Polish Cultural Garden at East Boulevard and St. Clair Avenue. The John Paul II Cultural Center, which opened in 1998, gave everyone a new understanding of Polish history and culture. Together, we mourned the death of the first Polish Pope, John Paul II on April 2, 2005 and celebrated his beatification on May 1, 2011.

Genealogy research itself has changed considerably since October, 1991. Twenty years ago, it required a lot of footwork, as we traveled to libraries to consult genealogy books and microfilm. The Family History Centers of the Church of Latter Day Saints provided films from various areas of Poland. We visited churches and cemeteries, and interviewed older family members. Beginning in 2001, we were able to access ship manifests from Ellis Island as well as some records from Castle Garden by using a computer, and if the fees were too expensive, we were able to view the information at the local library, free-of-charge. Since 2002, the 1930 United States Census has been available, and in 2012 we will be able to view the 1940 Census. Records from Poland are also becoming more available, and Internet translation programs aid in translation of these communications. There are more genealogy classes available through the libraries and genealogy societies.

Although one might accomplish the research without joining a group such as ours, it might not be as enjoyable. Together, we share our family stories and help each other with translations and new sources of information. We cannot begin to name all the members whose contributions have made our genealogy society a success, but on this, the twentieth anniversary, we are thankful for all of our members, and glad that Ed Mendyka initiated the idea. As he would say, "Sto Lat!"

PGSGC FOUNDERS, current members underlined



Top row, left to right: Joe Hadbavny, Ben Kman, Richarda Jambrozy, Armela Hammes, Wanda Slusarski, Joe Evanko,
Sarah Evanko, Lottie Gembus

Middle row, left to right: Virginia Luty, Gloria Hadbavny, Eleanor Marszal, Roseanne Ewazen, Ed Jambrozy,
Dorothy Hudson, Patricia Kuczarski, John Szuch, Stanley Jackowicz, Max Gonet, Joan Uniatowski

Seated, left to right: Joyce Hillson, Frank Kowalski, Sister Loretta, Sister Rosette, Father Ralph Bodziony,
Edward Mendyka, Ralph Lysyk, Christina Mata

First and current PGSGC presidents Edward Mendyka and John F. Szuch with 5th anniversary cake in October 1996.



Museum of Divine Statues

The building that was once St. Hedwig Church, 12905 Madison Avenue in Lakewood, is now the location of the Museum of Divine Statues. Director Lou McClung is carefully restoring many church treasures and documenting the history of each piece. For details see www.museumofdivinestatues.com. Gallery Hours Sundays 12:PM - 5:00PM (216)228-9950.



Stained Glass Windows

by Cindy Spikowski

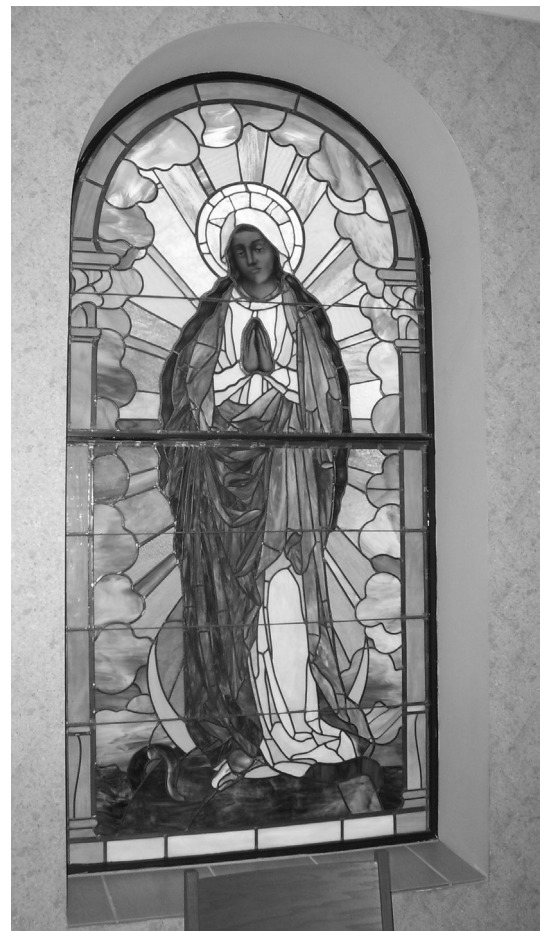
Previous issues of Our Polish Ancestors have featured articles about the many Roman Catholic Polish Churches in the Cleveland Catholic Diocese that have closed. Some of the sacred artifacts of these beloved churches, however, can be enjoyed in their new homes.

St. Josaphat Church, 1435 East 33rd Street in Cleveland, closed on July 19, 1998. The opalescent stained glass windows from that church are now in a new location, St. Joseph Church, 32929 Lake Road in Avon Lake, Ohio. According to Reverend Timothy O'Connor, Pastor, the new St. Joseph Church, which was dedicated June 25, 2000, was designed so that the windows would enhance the interior of the new church. Each window was carefully restored and re-framed, and they are now hung on the inside of regular glass windows with artificial lighting behind the stained glass panels. These beautiful windows can now be enjoyed at night, as well as in full daylight. Ten windows line the sides of the main church, depicting scenes from the life of Christ, Pentecost, and the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The two smaller windows, which once were on either side of the main altar at St. Josaphat's, are also beautifully restored. The Sacred Heart of Jesus window is in the Sacred Heart Chapel at the Lake Road entrance, and the Blessed Mother window can be found in the Sacristy. The windows are closer to the floor and therefore each detail can be easily seen. They bring to this modern new church some of the beauty of the old churches as new generations can appreciate these beautiful sacred artifacts so generously donated by the early immigrants to Cleveland.



Sacred Heart
of Jesus
window
at left



Blessed Mother
window
at right

Paderewski Returns to the Polish Cultural Garden

by Cindy Spikowski

On Saturday, July 16, 2011 there was another gathering in the Polish Cultural Garden – the third in as many years, to dedicate another bronze bust. This time it was a replacement sculpted by Cleveland native Michael Deming of the monument to Ignacy Jan Paderewski. The Garden was returning to its former glory, thanks to the efforts of so many members of the Polish-American community and others interested in the Cultural Gardens. You can view parts of the program online at <http://www.poloniamusic.com/PoloniaCleveland.html>.

The bust was unveiled to a fanfare of speeches and proclamations, and those who attended the ceremony were treated to musical selections composed by Paderewski, which were played and sung by accomplished young musicians. The monument had originally been presented to the Garden on June 23, 1947 (Plain Dealer, 6-23-1947, page 4). At the end of the ceremony, those who attended could not help but feel the pride and joy which was captured by the joyful dance performed by the Piast Dance Ensemble in their authentic Zakopane costumes. It was a great day for the Polish! See pages 6-7 for reprinted program.

Library Additions

One of the speakers at the rededication of the restored monument of Ignacy Paderewski in Cleveland's Polish Cultural Garden was Rita Cosby, author of the recent best seller, *Quiet Hero: Secrets From My Father's Past*. A copy of this book was generously donated by Jim and Bernie O'Malley to the PGSGC Library.



The Polish American Encyclopedia

Dr. James S. Pula, Professor of History at Purdue University and editor of the eagerly awaited *The Polish American Encyclopedia*, spoke at the rededication ceremony in the Polish Cultural Garden. Hopefully, a copy of the encyclopedia will soon be available at local libraries, as it will be invaluable for anyone studying Polish History.



Rededication of the Restored Monument
of
Ignacy Jan Paderewski
(1860-1941)
in the
Polish Cultural Garden
of the
Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation



Saturday, July 16, 2011
2 PM

Pedestal Inscriptions
Restored in July, 2011

The Hon. Thomas & Deborah Perciak, Mayor of Strongsville,
In Memory of rev. Joseph C. Rutkowski, Pastor of St. Hyacinth

The Pilch Family
In Tribute to John S. Pilch
Who took great pride in his heritage & served the community as
Cleveland Councilman, Mayoral Advisor
& City Commissioner

Daniel & Geraldine Stys & Family
Stys, Inc. since 1902

Richard G. Sheridan (Szczotka),
Respected New Era State of Ohio
Legislative Budget Director, 1973-1983
by his Loving Mother, Lottie Lewek Szczotka Siek

Teresa M. DeChant, Curator and Consultant to this Garden

Holden Trust
Eugene & Barbara Trela
In admiration of my Parents
Walenty & MaryAnn Trela's determination to come to America
which gave us the opportunity to be successful.

Bernard & Delores Kobak & Family
Rev. David, Franciscan OFM
James & Donna
Deputy Police Chief, Strongsville
Dianne & Jon, Mark S. & Donna
Donald & Nancy Hodoski Junglas & Family
In Memory of Irene & Edward Hodoski

In Tribute to Jeanette & Edward Witkowski
Founders, Paderewski Foundation
Laura Junglas, Concluding President

George S. Sobieraj
In Memory of My Father, Bernard A. "Brownie" Sobieraj
A Man of Wisdom and Kindness
whose legacy lives on in the many lives he has touched

The Hon. Raymond L. Pianka
Nationally Recognized Cleveland Housing Court Judge

Eugene Bak
Founder of the Polish American Museum
* * * * *

*Program by David Krakowski, Director of Music and Liturgy
The Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus*

Above: Outside of program

Next page: Inside of program

Reprinted with permission of author David Krakowski

PROGRAM

Greeting Host.....Syrena Dance Ensemble

Polish and American National Anthems....Eugenia Stolarczyk

Invocation.....Rev. Placyd Koń, O.F.M.
Associate Pastor of the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus

**History of the Garden
and Paderewski Sculpture,
Recognition of
Michael Deming, Sculptor**.....Ben S. Stefanski II

Introductions:

— Delegates of the Polish Cultural Garden to the Cleveland
Cultural Garden Federation:
Gary Kotlarsic, Irene Morrow

7 — Cleveland Cultural Garden Federation Representatives

— Restoration Donors (please refer to back cover)

— Hon. Frank Jackson, Mayor of the City of Cleveland
and Public Officials and Guests

Remarks.....Ewa Junczyk-Ziomecka
Consul General of the Republic of Poland in New York

Unveiling of the Sculpture

Guest Speaker.....Rita Crosby
News Personality,

Author of "Quiet Hero: Secrets from My Father's Past"

Keynote Speaker.....Dr. James S. Pula
Professor of History at Purdue University
Editor, "The Polish American Encyclopedia"

Musical Tribute to Ignacy Jan Paderewski

Cracovienne Fantastique, Op. 14, Nr. 6
Elegia, Op. 4

Krakowiak, Op.5, Nr. 1

Menuet, Op. 14, Nr. 1.....Konrad Binienda, *Piano*

“Piosnka Dudarza” Op. 18, Nr. 2.....Dongning Yang, *Piano*
Julie-Anne Hamula, *Soprano*

Sonata for Violin and Piano, Op. 13.....Dongning Yang, *Piano*
Eugeniu Ceremus, *Violin*

Allegro con Fantasia

Intermezzo

Finale, Allegro molto quasi Presto

(STEINWAY piano selected from Steinway Hall—Akron)

Concluding Remarks

Postlude.....Piast Dance Ensemble

The Artists

Konrad Binienda—A former student of CIM’s Gerardo Teissonniere and Sergei Babayan, Mr. Binienda currently studies piano performance with Mrs. Wha Kyung Byun at the New England Conservatory of Music. He was appointed Artist in Residence at Harvard University’s Phorzheimer House for 2011-2012.

Dongning (July) Yang—This is pianist July Yang’s second engagement at the Cleveland Cultural Gardens since the Chopin monument dedication last October. Ms. Yang has recently given a recital at the Metropolitan Museum in New York. Currently she studies at CIM with concert pianist Antonio Pompa-Baldi.

Julie-Anne Hamula—American Council for Polish Culture 2011 Marcella Sembrich Vocal Competition Winner, Ms. Hamula, soprano, was the featured soloist at the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus this past Thursday evening where she performed from an extensive repertoire of operatic and art song literature.

Eugeniu Ceremus—A fellow of the Aspen Music Festival and School, Mr. Ceremus also participated and took prizes in various youth violin competitions in Eastern Europe.

Metrical Records from the Polish State Archives

by Ken Spikowski

See <http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/pradziad.php> for a virtual directory to Polish metrical (birth, marriage, death, etc.) records, and click the British flag for the English version. For translation help on the province, religion, and type of event, click “Searching guidelines”.

After I took the April-June 2011 issue of *Our Polish Ancestors* to the printer, the doorbell rang and I signed for another envelope from Poland. Their response to my additional request for the Permanent Population Register of Andrzej Spikowski and Eleonora Ciolkowska at their previous residence, hopefully with my grandfather's sister Eleonora before she was married, was translated as:

The State archive in Boats (Łódź is Polish for boat or canoe) indicates that the search was carried out in the book of the Old Village of permanent population 1864, (5). 9917 No 11 page 132 and 133 and found entries for persons with the surname Spikowski. This book contains the same information as that obtained on the basis of the previous search. You in the book the population continued in the years 1903-1931. An entry is the saving of the resettlement of widawa in 1868 and of the place of previous residence in Krokocicach. On the basis of research carried out in the acts gmina Krokocice were not found entries about people with the surname Szpikowski a.k.a. Spikowski.

I was disappointed that my grandfather's other sister was not listed or not noticed, but researcher Monika Chojnacka took the initiative to pursue other leads and the translation continued:

In addition, the search was carried out in the acts of civil status in the Catholic parish of Szadek and found Andrew's marriage with Eleanor Spikowskiego Ciołkowska included in 1865. In the file Kwiatkowicach found in the Catholic parish of birth of Andrzej Spikowskiego, the son of John and Anna from Markiewiczów born in 1845, in the file in the parish from the years 1817-1825, 1838-1845 not found acts of birth and marriage parents Andrew Spikowskiego. Spikowskiego is masculine genitive case for Spikowski, and Kwiatkowicach is locative case for Kwiatkowice, and a photocopy of his birth record (in Polish) was included. The ages of his parents mentioned in it suggested that they were born about 1819 and 1822, but their birthplaces were not listed.

The translation continued further:

In the file of the parish Catholic Drużbin found birth Eleanor Ciołkowskiej daughter of Wojciech and Scholastyki Ryturskiej born. The *iej* ending is feminine genitive case, replacing *a*. In 1841, in the file in the parish from the years 1824-1841 not found act of marriage for parents of Elonory Ciołkowskiej. This birth certificate mentioned ages of her parents that suggested they were born about 1806 or 1808, before the conquest by Napoleon Bonaparte required that civil records be kept, so it may be difficult to learn anything more about them. The birthplace of Eleanor Ciołkowska was listed as Rzechta (Sieradz), for which there is a listing in *Słownik Geograficzny Króleska Polskiego 1880-1902* with a Drużbin parish.

In the file of the parish of the Roman Catholic St. Cross in Boats found death Elonory Spikowskiej from 1908. The records cost an additional \$34 out of the \$42 balance from my previous payment, and once again I thanked them for “information beyond my greatest expectations”.

While working on my “Permanent Population Register Breakthrough” article, assuming that Kwiatkowice (Łask) was the birthplace of my great grandfather, I had ordered FHL INTL Film 2157804 through the LDS Family History Library in Westlake. When the microfilm that I had ordered arrived, I first found the baptismal record for Andrzej Spikowski, but it contained less information than the copy of the civil record that was included with his marriage, and also the baptismal record for his sister Maryanna born in 1849. A week later I looked at the other items on the film,

which also included the civil birth record from which the manual copy received from Poland was made, and that of his sister Maryanna. I unsuccessfully searched for the death records of his parents, hoping to learn their birthplaces, but on that film the death records only went through 1885.

The ancestor tree for my father was filling out, but I only knew the names of my grandmother's parents. With the help of www.microsofttranslator.com I composed another request for the marriage record of my grandparents that was suggested in the note for her Permanent Population Register entry, and for the birth record of my grandmother. Eighteen days later I received a response that was translated as:

The State archive in Łódź, Poland indicates that in the acts of civil status of Roman Catholic Parish Cross in Boats (found marriage of John Szpikowski of Franciszką of 1908 Hetmanek with an act that shows that Francis was born in Buczku.

In this connection, the search was carried out in the acts of civil status of Roman Catholic Parish in Buczku and looked up her birth from 1889, according to this metric, the father of Franciszka - Paweł Hetmanek - was born in 1852, and her mother - Józefa Bordowicz - in 1856. Was therefore sought in the file the parish from the years 1851-1853 and 1855-1857, however, are not looked up birth of Paul Hetmanka and Józefa Bordowicz.

Fortunately 1852 was the birth year of one of the three Paweł Hetmaneks born in the Roman Catholic parish in Zelów, whose parents were Jan Hetmanek and Marya Jersak from a January 19, 1852 birth listed in the International Genealogical Index. I had incorrectly translated Bordowicz as Dordowicz in my newsletter article. The research and additional documents would cost \$7 more than my \$8 balance for scans transmitted electronically, \$10 for mailed photocopies, or \$12 for mailed scans (probably on CD).

I went to the bank and wired another \$50 minimum, and eager to get these long-sought records, I replied: Today I made another transfer minimum 50 USD from my Bank for 843-121/11. Please use 7 USD for sending electronically scans and apply the balance to these and future requests:

In the Roman Catholic Church in Buczku, please search for Victoria and Bronisława Hetmanek (sisters of Francis Hetmanek born 12/24 Nov 1889) birth certificates.

In the Roman Catholic Parish in Kwiatkowice please search death certificates of:

Jan Spikowski born circa 1819

Anna Spikowska née Markewicz, born circa 1822

In the book of the Old Village of permanent population 1864 (5) 9917 No 11, page 132 and 133, I want to know the date of birth for Eleonora Spikowska, born about 1877.

Eighteen days later the birth certificates for Wiktoria and Bronisława Hetmanek arrived, along with the death certificate for my great-great-great grandfather Jan Spikowski. He died on July 16, 1850, less than a year after the birth of his daughter Maryanna, leaving his widowed wife Anna also to raise Andrzej, age four. My grandfather's sister Eleonora was not listed in the earlier Permanent Population Registers, so I requested those for her husband Józef Rusin and their children.

The information from the Permanent Population Registers and Metrical records was used to construct an ancestor tree that includes six of my father's eight great-grandparents. Civil birth records for my father's maternal maternal great-grandparents may exist, and I will comb the Cyrillic script in the birth certificates of my grandmother and her sisters in hopes of finding a clue about the birthplace of her mother, since no such record was found in the same parish where my grandmother was baptized. The LDS microfilms may make extending that branch possible, but it will be complicated by the fact that Polish birth records were not required to list the birthplace of either parent.

In Memory

We sadly report the death of member Bernard “Bud” Brady, husband of Rita (Sroka) Brady. His was the author of the article on Easter customs that appeared in the previous issue of this newsletter. His obituary can be seen at:

<http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=bernard-p-brady&pid=152037182>. Bernard and Rita had joined other parishoners from St. Clement’s to purchase the statue of St. Hedwig from the now-closed St. Hedwig’s Church in Lakewood. It is pictured at the right and may now be seen at St. Clement Parish, 2022 Lincoln Ave., Lakewood, OH 44107.

We sadly report the death of Sophie (Dubaniewicz) Barto, the mother of PGSGC member Constance Murphy. Sophie shared her remembrances of her brother, the famous Cleveland Polish-American painter, Peter Paul Dubaniewicz, in the April/June 2009 issue of *Our Polish Ancestors*. Although Sophie was 94, we will always remember her as she appeared in the photo taken in 1930 when her brother left to study art in France. Her obituary can be seen at:

<http://obits.cleveland.com/obituaries/cleveland/obituary.aspx?n=sophie-barto-dubaniewicz&pid=152508593>



1940 Census Location Search Tools

We are all awaiting anxiously the opening of the 1940 Census. The name index will of course take some time. If you want to get a jump on your 1940 Census research, try Steve Morse’s “How to Access the 1940 Census in One Step” tool. Steve Morse created this tool in the form of a quiz that will help genealogists search by location. Have fun trying the new tool at <http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php>.

When researching by location remember to visit the Fairview Park Branch Library. The genealogy collection at Fairview Park has many city directories available. City directories prior to 1861 are available on microfiche, directories from 1861 – 1960 are available on microfilm. Cleveland City directories in print are available for the following years: 1920, 1924, 1936 – 1942, 1946, 1951, 1953 – 1961, 1963 – 1974, 1976, 1980, and 1997 – 1998. You can also find a scattering of city directories for cities other than Cleveland on microfiche, microfilm and in print. City directories for cities all over the United States including directories for Cleveland can also be found on Footnote which you can use through www.cuyahogalibrary.org from home or any branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library.

Joni Mihelich

**Subject Specialist - Genealogy
Cuyahoga County Public Library**

Please follow me on Twitter for genealogy website recommendations, research hints & helps and up-to-date genealogy news at <http://twitter.com/genealogylib>.

Schedule of Speakers for Upcoming Meetings

Sep: Bill Barrow, Special Collections Librarian, Michael Schwartz Library, Cleveland State University, Special Collections and the Cleveland Memory Project – History Resources available through Cleveland State University

Oct: Christmas Party

Nov: John Szuch, Member, Reasons to be Proud of Your Polish Heritage

Letter from the President

by John F. Szuch

By the time you read this, summer will be over, and for most of us it will be a memorable one for its hot temperatures and heavy rains. As you know, we are moving our Christmas party up to the October 4th meeting to coincide with the PGSGC' 20th anniversary and to avoid the bad traveling weather we sometimes have threatening us in December.

As a consequence, we only have the September meeting to sign people up for the party and to get volunteers to bring dishes and help for the party. If you miss the September meeting and plan on attending the party or cooking etc., please contact John or Ben with your reservations and cooking plans.

We plan to take a 20th Anniversary photo on October 4th so wear your best red and white clothing! Let's make this our best party yet.

PGSGC 20th ANNIVERSARY & CHRISTMAS PARTY

October 4, 2011

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Reservations: (330) 769-4603 (John)
or (216) 469-9670 (Ben)

Location: St. Mary's PNC Church,
1901 Wexford, Parma, OH

Times: Brief business meeting at 7:00 PM
& dinner at approx. 7:30

Come join your fellow members for an evening
of Polish foods and treats.

Bring family to share in our celebration.

ENJOY CHRISTMAS & OUR 20TH
ANNIVERSARY PARTY

MEMBER HELEN PALSHOOK CELEBRATES 90TH BIRTHDAY!

Helen, seated left, and daughter Gayle Palshook Lopez standing behind, were joined by PGSGC President John F. Szuch and his wife Marlene. The party was held on July 29th which happened to be Helen's actual 90th birthday!



THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER CLEVELAND
C/O ST. MARY'S PNC CHURCH
1901 WEXFORD AVE.
PARMA, OHIO 44134

VISIT US ON THE WEB AT: <http://www.freewebs.com/pgsgc>

FIRST CLASS MAIL

OUR POLISH ANCESTORS
is published by
THE POLISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF GREATER CLEVELAND



Everyone who is interested in Genealogy, and more specifically Polish Genealogy, is welcome to join our group. We meet the first Tuesday of the month from September thru June at St. Mary's PNC Church; 5375 Broadview Rd. (corner of Broadview & Wexford); Parma, Ohio. Parking is available in the parish lot, the entrance of which is on Marietta Ave. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM and usually end at 9:30-10:00 PM. Membership dues are \$25.00 a year.

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