



MELITENSIA

THE MALTA STUDY CENTER AT THE HILL MONASTIC MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY

WINTER AND SPRING 2004

The Latin word Melitensia denotes "things pertaining to Malta," and it is most frequently used in the world of rare books and manuscripts to describe written collections of the history and culture of the island of Malta.

This newsletter reports the activities of the Malta Study Center, and features information about the history of the Knights of Malta and the history and culture of the country of Malta itself.

We welcome your comments and your communication about others who might share an interest in this core program of the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library.

Saint John's Confers Honorary Degree Upon Grand Master

On October 12th, 2003, Saint John's University conferred a Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*, upon His Most Eminent Highness Frà Andrew Bertie, Grand Master of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. The Hill Monastic Manuscript Library and the Malta Study Center welcomed over two hundred distinguished guests, including over forty American Knights and Dames of the Order of Malta, and H. E. Mr. and Mrs. John Lowell, Ambassador of Malta to the United States. The day's activities began with a procession of robed knights and dames into Mass in the Abbey church. Frà Bertie and his entourage arrived after lunch, and attended a short program in the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library that described the Library's mission, the programs of the Malta Study Center, and a history of the Order's archives. The guests then toured an exhibit of the treasures of the Malta Study Center before Vespers, which was celebrated by Abbot John Klassen, O.S.B. Br. Dietrich Reinhart, O.S.B., President of Saint John's University, conferred the degree after a formal dinner in the Great Hall. The following day, which was the Feast of the Blessed Gerard, founder of the Order, Abbot John Klassen celebrated a private Mass for Frà Bertie.

In his remarks, Br. Dietrich Reinhart referred to the longstanding relationship between the Knights of Malta and the Benedictines, which can be traced back to the 12th century. That relationship continues today through Frà Bertie's Benedictine education at Ampleforth College in Yorkshire, and his twenty-three year teaching career at Worth School, a Benedictine high school in Sussex. More recently, through the work of the Malta Study Center of the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, the Benedictine monks of Saint John's Abbey have sponsored the preservation and filming of the archives of the Knights of Malta, housed in the National Library of Malta in Valletta. The conferring of the degree also commemorates the 30th anniversary of this Malta filming project.

The Grand Master is elected for life from the Professed Knights of the Order. The nations with which the Order has diplomatic relations recognize the Grand Master as the Supreme Head of the Order, with the prerogatives, immunities, privileges and honors reserved for heads of state. He is bestowed the title of Most Eminent Highness and the Roman Catholic Church confers him the rank of



Frà Andrew Bertie

Cardinal. Frà Bertie was admitted to the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in 1956. He took Perpetual Vows and in 1981 became a Religious member. In 1988, he was elected the 78th Grand Master.

The Malta Study Center has published a Commemorative brochure and a collection of the speeches. These are available upon request from the Center.



Fr. Columba Stewart, Director of the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, with visiting Knights and Dames of Malta

Malta Study Center Receives \$450,000 NEH Challenge Grant

In December, the National Endowment for the Humanities announced a challenge grant of \$450,000, awarded in support of the Malta Study Center. In accepting the challenge, HMML must raise an additional \$1.8 million, which will provide permanent funding for the educational programs of the Center, for the continued expansion of its collections, and for the Joseph S. Micallef Curatorship, held by Dr. Theresa Vann. HMML and the Center have until July 31, 2007 to raise the money. Father Eric Hollas, former Executive Director of HMML and currently Senior Associate for Arts and Cultural Affairs at Saint John's, says, "This grant validates the programs of the Malta Study Center and the work of its curator." Stephen Wolfe, Director of Development for the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, notes that thanks to the NEH, donors to the Center's endowment can be assured of "leveraging their investment in the preservation of history." Readers of *Melitensia* will receive regular reports on the progress of the endowment campaign, which is essential for the continuation of the Center's activities.

Joseph S. Micallef, Commander of the Order

On 5 February 2003, His Most Eminent Highness the Prince and Grand Master Frà Andrew Bertie and the Sovereign Council of the Order bestowed upon Joseph S. Micallef (Knight of Magistral Grace) the Cross of Commander of the Order "Pro Merito Melitensi." Mr. Micallef has a long association with the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library and is the Founder Emeritus of the Malta Study Center.

Father Eric Hollas Preservation and Book Fund

A group of donors, led by members of the Hill Library's Board of Overseers, have established the *Eric Hollas Preservation and Book Fund* at the Malta Study Center, commemorating his years of service as director of HMML and his continuing support of the Malta Study Center. The purpose of the fund is to purchase rare books and finance preservation projects for the Malta Study Center. The fund is part of the Center's endowment, so contributions will be eligible for matching grants.



19th-century view of Valletta, engraved by H. Bibby.
From the collection of the Malta Study Center

The Malta Study Center contains over 13,000 microfilms of archival material from the island of Malta. Every issue of Melitensia will briefly highlight one collection from the archives.

Archives of the Order and on the Order in Malta

John Azzopardi

[Excerpts from a talk given at the Malta Study Center, November 20, 2002]

The island of Malta is particularly rich in archival materials from and about the Order of Malta. Monsignor John Azzopardi, curator emeritus of the Cathedral Museum and currently in charge of the Wignacourt collection in Mdina, outlined the types of documents that relate the history of the order and described which depositories on Malta contain them, excluding the National Library of Valletta.

The oldest document in the Order's archives dates from 1113, which predate the arrival of the Knights on Malta in 1530. When the knights first came to Malta, they kept their archives in their convent in Vittoriosa. After the Great Siege of Malta of 1565, the Order constructed the city of Valletta where, in 1588 the Chapter General built a house for the chancery in front of the Grand Master's palace. The Cancellaria was completed in 1608 and remained the home of the archives until 1938, when they were moved to the Biblioteca (now the National Library), which was built in 1797.

Other entities of the Order kept their own archives, separate from the main archives and probably housed in their own residences. These are the Veneranda Assemblea dei Cappellani Conventuali in Valletta and the Wignacourt Foundation of Chaplains for St. Paul's Grotto at Rabat.

The Veneranda Assemblea (Assemblea dei Cappellani Conventuali) was the ecclesiastical branch of the Order. They were either conventual chaplains or chaplains of obedience who served in the Order's churches, galleys, and the hospital. They were under the jurisdiction of the Grand Prior and their archives, originally housed in the conventual church in

Valletta, consisted of the decrees of the Assemblea, the *cabrei* of their property, the administration of the *procure*, and the registration of the daily celebration of masses in the altars of the conventual church.

Grand Master Aloph de Wignacourt founded the Wignacourt Foundation in 1619 to officiate in St. Paul's Grotto in Rabat, Malta. Their archives record the chaplains' property, income and expenditure, inventories, liturgical calendars, and the celebration of mass legacies.

Other archives on the island also offer information about the Order and its members. There were two independent ecclesiastical authorities on the island in addition to the Grand Master. The bishop of Malta was always a high member of the order, but was responsible for the laity of Malta and Gozo. The Inquisitor was initially under the power of the Bishop of Malta, but after 1574 the Inquisitor reported directly to the Pope. The Grand Master, the Bishop, and the Inquisitor had frequent disputes regarding jurisdiction. Both laity and clergy on Malta had involvements with each of the three authorities. Lay patentees – individuals under the protection of the Bishop or the Inquisitor, and thus exempt from the Order's taxes and dues – caused particular problems.

After the order left Malta in 1798, the archives were moved around, and during the 19th century the archives of the Knights were lost; it was widely believed that Napoleon had brought them with him to France. As a result of these movements, the materials became intermingled. Some were dispersed. The archives of the Inquisition were transferred to the Bishop's curia after the French did away with the Inquisition. The archives of the Assemblea were also transferred to the Bishop's curia, and not the archives of the Order.

The archives of the Bishop are now located partly in Floriana and partly in Mdina. These archives contain many references to disputes and dealings with the Grand Master. The Minutes of the Chapter and the *Giornale della chiesa Cattedrale di Malta* documented matters connected to the Malta, such as the ceremonies of installation, visits of the Grand Master, funerals and donations.

Materials of the Order in the Three Church Archives

Inquisition

- 72+5 volumes of *spogli*.
- 33 volumes of *Lettere Consolari*. The consuls of the Levant sent all correspondence re commerce and maritime

affairs to the Ambassador of France in Malta. In 1753, at the start of the Seven Years' War, it was feared that the English would intercept the letters.

- 37 volumes on the Jesuits.

Cathedral Archives

Nos. 95-164 of *Miscellanea* – 70 volumes that once belonged to the Order.

- Deals with jurisdiction between the Grand Master, the Bishop, and the Inquisitor, royal visits, coinage, and taxes on fortifications.
- Misc. 137 is the last chapter of the Order of 1776.
- Misc. 150 is the inventory of plate in churches.

Archives of the Assembly of the Conventual Chaplains (776 volumes)

BOOK REVIEW

Min kien Callus? Analizi storika taz-żminijiet li fihom għex Ġużeppi Mattew Callus. [Who was Callus? Historical analysis of the times in which lived Ġużeppi Mattew Callus] Malta: Klabb Kotba Maltin, 2003, pp. 92.

The study of early modern Malta, for long overshadowed by research on the history and structure of the Order of St. John, has made some important strides in recent years with path-breaking insights into the islands' economy, society and culture between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. This publication is the result of a conference held at Mdina, Malta in 2002, which discussed Maltese society during the time of Ġużeppi Mattew Callus, a Maltese physician who opposed the Order's rule and as a result was executed by orders of Grand Master La Vallette in 1561. The book includes the four historical studies that were read at the conference, as well as two supplementary articles (which will not be

reviewed here) on the figure of Callus in Maltese literature.

Godfrey Wettinger's paper on Maltese attitudes toward the Order focuses on the impact that the arrival of the Knights had on the political structure of Malta. In the late middle ages, the upper elements of Maltese society enjoyed substantial autonomy in local affairs, particularly through their control of the municipal administration (*universitas*) of Mdina. After 1530, the Order took swift measures to reduce the authority of the *universitas* and, as the case of Callus demonstrates, also acted forcefully to repress any challenge to its rule. Several leading families left Malta to settle in Sicily while those that remained were rendered politically irrelevant. The only element within Maltese society that could oppose the Order were the clergy, protected as they were by ecclesiastical privileges that the grand masters were unable to curtail.

This change had profound repercussions for Maltese society, for it was the church that henceforth emerged as the sole channel through which the Maltese could express their dissent.

The life of Callus, as reconstructed by Stanley Fiorini, is indicative of the increasingly complex structure of Maltese society during this period. Callus, who was a medical practitioner in the Order's service for many years, was also a lay cleric, served on the council of the *universitas* of Mdina, and owned several fields in Malta. Such divergent interests must have been often difficult to reconcile. Under the Hospitallers' regime, Maltese elites were no longer able to protect their private or sectional interests under the veil of public responsibility, although for those Maltese (such as Callus) who enjoyed the protection of the Church, it was still possible to remain outside the jurisdiction of the Order to some degree. The misfortune of Callus, as Fiorini points out, may have been due to the fact that he attempted to wear too many hats at the same time.

Carmel Cassar's paper looks at the decision taken by Grand Master La Valette to execute Callus in 1561, four years before the siege of Malta. Cassar argues that La Valette's "autocratic and despotic" rule should be viewed in the context of internal and external dangers facing the Order. These included its precarious financial situation (which induced La Valette to take control of much of the income of the *universitas* of Mdina) and the heightened sense of impending attack

by Ottoman forces following a number of destructive raids against Malta and Gozo (1547, 1548, 1550, 1551), against Licata and Pantelleria in 1553, and the loss of the north African outpost of Bougie (1555) and Oran (1559).

Lastly, Yosanne Vella addresses an important gap in Maltese historiography, asking "where are the women in Maltese history?" Based on her own research, Vella identifies one area of research that merits detailed investigation, namely the role of women in the economy of early modern Malta. An eighteenth-century register, containing the names of individuals employed on agricultural land belonging to the Order, reveals that husbands and wives were hired to work together as a family unit. Clearly, as the author notes, much remains to be done in this area of study particularly when one considers the important strides that have been made elsewhere in women's history and gender studies.

These four papers provide a useful indication of the diverse archival material available for the history of early modern Malta and the possibilities for further research. The microfilming of most of the archives of the Order by the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library has made these sources available to a wider audience. This can only benefit the study of Maltese history, which has hitherto been generally written by Maltese for Maltese.

Mark A. Aloisio
University of Minnesota

Malta Study Center Lectures

On November 20th, 2002, Monsignor John Azzopardi delivered the Malta Study Center Lecture, entitled "Archives of the Order and on the Order in Malta." Monsignor Azzopardi came to the Center to spend part of his sabbatical, working on the history of the conventual chaplains of the Order of Malta. Excerpts from his talk are published elsewhere in this issue of *Melitensia*.

On May 6th, 2003, Helen Nicholson of Cardiff University delivered the Malta Study Center Lecture, entitled "The motivations of the Hospitallers and Templars in the involvement in the Fourth Crusade." The talk was a longer version of the paper she delivered at the International Medieval Congress. It has been published on the Malta Study Center web site at <http://www.hmml.org/centers/malta/publications/lecture3.html>.

Visitors

Myra Struckmeyer, a doctoral candidate at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, won a Hill Monastic Manuscript Library Heckman Fellowship to research female Hospitallers in the Archives of the Knights of Malta.

Panels at Kalamazoo

The Malta Study Center sponsored a panel entitled "The Fourth Crusade and the Military Orders" at the 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, May 11, 2003. During the panel Helen Nicholson delivered "The Motivations of the Hospitallers and Templars in Their Involvement in the Fourth Crusade and Its Aftermath," and Myra Struckmeyer from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill delivered "From *Hospital to Hospital*: Female Hospitallers in Quercy."

Curator's Activities

Theresa Vann, the Joseph S. Micallef Curator of the Malta Study Center, published "Reconstructing a 'Society Organized for War.'" in *Crusaders, Condottieri, and Cannon. Medieval Warfare in Societies Around the Mediterranean*, edited by Donald J. Kagay and L. J. Andrew Villalon (E. J. Brill, 2003), pp. 389-416. In April, 2003, she delivered a paper entitled "Descriptions of the Christian-Muslim Frontier in the Mediterranean World, 1100-1350" at the meeting of the Medieval Academy of America, held at the University of Minnesota. In May, 2003, she presented "The Language of Crusade in Papal Bulls to Spain: Barbastro to Las Navas de Tolosa" at the 38th International Congress on Medieval Studies, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo. In December, 2003, she taught a class at the University of Malta entitled "Introduction to the Malta Archives." The web site of the class is posted at <http://www.hmml.org/centers/malta/class/index.htm>.

In November, 2002, she conducted a week-long seminar entitled "The Almohad Collapse and the Christian Reconquest of Spain" at the American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.



The Center at Kalamazoo. From left to right: Theresa Vann, Myra Struckmeyer, and Helen Nicholson.

Although the Malta Study Center contains the archives of the Knights of Malta from the National Library in Valletta, the Order has other archives and research centers located throughout Europe. Melitensia welcomes the opportunity to inform its readers about these other research centers and collections.

Hospitaller Sources Project

Karl Borchardt (Würzburg) and Jürgen Sarnowsky (Hamburg) have begun an online project, *Hospitaller Sources*, which aims to provide calendars and editions of sources relating to the history of the Hospitallers on Rhodes (1310-1522), with some later documents. The project, inspired by the 900th anniversary celebrations of the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes, and of Malta, seeks to make up for the lack of published archival material for the period after 1310. Publications celebrating the anniversary also demonstrated that many periods of the Order's history still await intensive research. This is strongly connected with the lack of printed resources. Materials dating before 1310 have been published in the *Cartulaire général de l'Ordre des Hospitaliers de S. Jean de Jérusalem (1100-1310)*, ed. Joseph Delaville Le Roulx, 4 Vols. (Paris 1894-1905). Most of the material for the later period remains unpublished. Early collections such as Sebastiano Paoli, *Codice diplomatico dell'Ordine Gerosolimitano*, Vol. 2, Lucca 1737, offer relatively few documents of those which have survived. Many documents have also been published in articles and collections which may not generally have been noticed.

Therefore, the Hospitaller Sources Project intends to offer editions and transcriptions as well as calendar summaries of documents, ending in the period of the 1530s. The project offers a kind of preliminary guide to the sources, transcribing some and calendaring others. The two collaborators call it a "work in progress," and invite anyone who is interested to comment or contribute. The documents are arranged chronologically, and the name of each contributor is entered at the end of each entry.

The URL of the site is: <http://www.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/hospitallers/index.html>.

For more information about the project, contact:

Prof. Dr. Jürgen Sarnowsky, University of Hamburg / Department of History, Von-Melle-Park 6, D-20146 Hamburg / Germany
e-mail: Juergen.Sarnowsky@uni-hamburg.de

The *Stabilimenta Rhodiorum militum* (The Statutes of the Order of the Hospital of St. John) is a related project that presents an online version of the text of the *Stabilimentum* found in the National Library of Malta, ms. Libr. 244, transcribed by Steffen Patzold in 1997 and revised by Jürgen Sarnowsky in 1999-2000.

Though Delaville has edited many of the rules, statutes and customs of the Order of the Hospital of St. John up to 1310, there is still no modern edition of the *stabilimenta* of the Order. The medieval manuscripts up to 1489 are quite confusing, adding the statutes by chapters general, and early modern (printed) collections of the statutes are not easily available.

In 1489, the chapter general created a modified - systematic - version of the statutes which was revised by the vice-chancellor, Guillaume Caoursin, and others. This version was then confirmed by the Pope, Innocent VIII, and by the chapter general of 1493. Though there are printed versions of the text (in Latin and French), there is also a good and early (Latin) manuscript in the National Library of Malta in Valletta (NLM Libr. 244).

A final modern edition would have to present the modifications introduced into the original statutes and to illustrate the process of revision which led to the statutes of 1489. Since this is not easily achieved (and will take much time and efforts), the site presents a preliminary version of the text in NLM Libr. 244. A more detailed version will be prepared step-by-step.

The URL of the site is:

<http://www.rrz.uni-hamburg.de/hospitallers/statutes/statutes.html>.

[Note: The online catalogue of the Malta Study Center also provides direct links between archival records of the Order of Malta and pertinent citations or transcriptions in the online *Hospitaller Sources*. We appreciate your help in keeping these links up-to-date.]

Information about these two projects is taken from the web sites of the *Hospitaller Sources Project* and the *Stabilimentum*, with permission of Prof. Dr. Jürgen Sarnowsky.

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Recent Acquisitions

Books

Giovanni Francisco Abela, *Della descrizione di Malta isola nel mare Siciliano*. Malta (Valletta): Paolo Bonacola, 1648.

This is one of the earliest histories of Malta and one of the first books printed on the island of Malta, under license from the Knights. The copy, acquired by the Malta Study Center, contains the original illustrations and engravings.

Aristophanes, *The Acharnians*. [*The Knights. The Birds*]. Translated by John Hookham Frere. Malta: Printed at the Government Press, 1839. John Hookham Frere, the English diplomat and author, retired to Malta where he published this translation of Aristophanes. This is a presentation copy, inscribed to Hudson Gurney, a Norfolk antiquary. This particular copy was one of the first books printed about Malta after Ordinance No. IV, 1839, established liberty of the press on the island.



Title page of Giovanni Francisco Abela, *Della descrizione di Malta isola nel mare Siciliano*

Publications Received

Monographs

Cabrevatio Bonorum. Priorati, Baliaggi e Commende dell'Ordine di Malta. Perugia: Benucci Editore, 1997. [Gift of Frà Elie de Comminges on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta]

Lung oil cammino della filerrosa. Monete, Medaglie, Decorazioni, Memorie Melitensi (Coins, Medals, Decorations, Memorias Melitensi). Fondazione Melitense, 2001. [Gift of Frà Elie de Comminges on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta]

Belgian Association of the Order of Malta, *Codex Rhodensis de La Rochechinard.* Trier, 1983. [Gift of Frà Elie de Comminges on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta]

Carmel Cassar, *Society, Culture and Identity in Early Modern Malta.* Msida, Malta: Mireva Publications, 2000. [Gift of the author]

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Paolo Caucci von Saucken, *L'Ordine di Malta e il Cammino di Santiago.* Perugia: Benucci Editore, 1994. [Gift of Frà Elie de Comminges on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta]

Robert M. Clark, Jr. *The Evangelical Knights of Saint John. A History of the Bailiwick of Brandenburg of the Knightly Order of St. John of the Hospital at Jerusalem, Known as the Johanniter Order.* Dallas, 2003. [Gift of the author]

Ottorino Gurrieri, *Il castello del Sovrano Militare Ordine di Malta a Magione.* Perugia: Benucci, 1981. [Gift of Frà Elie de Comminges on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta]

Orazio Puletti, *I Cavalieri di Malta e la Maddonna della Quercia.* Viterbo, [1969]. [Gift of Frà Elie de Comminges on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta]

Vajay Szabolcs, *A Máltai Rend Magyar Lovagjai, 1530-2000.* 2 volumes. Budapest, 2002. [Gift of Margit Serenyi, D.M.]

Guido Tommasi Aliotti, *Il Gran Maestro Tommasi e l'Ordine di Malta a Cortona.* Perugia: Benucci Editore, 1995. [Gift of Frà Elie de Comminges on behalf of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta]

Offprints Bulletins and Newsletters

Offprints

Carlos Barquero Goñi, "Catálogo de la documentación medieval de la encomienda hospitalaria de Ambel conservada en el Archivo Histórico Nacional," *Cuadernos de Estudios Borjanas* 45 (Borja, 2002): 189-233. [Gift of the author]

Idem, "Los hospitalarios en la diócesis de Palencia durante los siglos XII y XIII," *Actas del III Congreso de Historia de Palencia*, vol. 2 (Palencia, 1990): 681-691. [Gift of the author]

Idem, "La Orden Militar del Hospital y la Monarquía castellana durante la baja edad media," *Meridies*, 5-6 (2002): 141-154. [Gift of the author]

Idem, "Los hospitalarios en la Frontera de Granada entre los siglos XII y XV," *Estudios de Frontera: Alcalá de Real* 3 (n.d.) 119-131. [Gift of the author]

Idem, "Los castillos de la Orden Militar de Hospital en la corona de Castilla durante la Edad Media (Siglos XII-XV)," *Mil anos de fortificações na Península Ibérica e no*

Magreb (500-1500): Actas do Simpósio Internacional sobre Castelos (Lisboa, 2001), pp. 899-907. [Gift of the author]

Carmel Cassar, "1564-1696: The Inquisition Index of Knights Hospitallers of the Order of St. John," *Melita Historica* 11 (1993): 157-196. [Gift of the author]

Idem, "Latins versus Uniates in Sixteenth Century Malta," *Studi sull'Oriente Cristiano* 6 (Rome, 2002): 203-218. [Gift of the author]

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Idem, "Concepts of Health and Illness in Early Modern Malta," *Quaderns de l'Institut Català d'Antropologia* 17/18 (2002): 45-63. [Gift of the author]

Idem, "The Reformation and Sixteenth-Century Malta," *Melita Historica* 10 (1988): 51-68.

Idem, "Nutrition in a central Mediterranean island community: Malta in Medieval and early modern times," *Rivista di Antropologia*, Suppl. Vol. 76 (Rome, 1998): 153-162. [Gift of the author]

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Newsletters

Federal Malta Review. Federal Association, Washington, D.C. *Newsletter.* Bank of Valletta p.l.c. (Canada Representative Office)

Gifts in Kind

Oliver Nicholson, Badge of the Most Venerable Order

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