

Library

Modern Records Centre



Annual Report
2005/06

THE UNIVERSITY OF
WARWICK

Contents



Cover image: With kind permission of Cyclists Touring Club. (MSS.328/C/5/VAN). Photograph of Au Boi de Boulogne from Vanity Fair 1897.

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developing
knowledge



Welcome to the 2005/06 MRC Annual Report

Annual reports are a chance not only to reflect on the past year but also to assess some of the challenges and issues which lie ahead. This year the Centre has experienced some key changes in personnel and some interesting developments concerning its storage space.



Perhaps the most visible of changes has been to the Centre's staffing. MRC has seen the departure of several long standing members of the team and the arrival of some new faces. Throughout the year one of the main objectives has been to keep the Centre's operations on an even keel whilst staff have departed and arrived. Thanks are due to the staff who remained during all the comings and goings and provided continuity and familiarity to users of the service. Details of all staff changes are given within the report.

Alongside these changes but perhaps less noticeable to the readers, the Centre has faced the issue of rapidly decreasing storage capacity while the steady flow of archives into the building has continued. This has affected the operation of the Centre for a large part of the year and we are pleased to report that both short term and longer term solutions have been found.

In the meantime, the research needs of students and the wider public continue to grow. The collections within MRC are widely recognised for their unique research value and, as in the archive world generally, there is an ever increasing demand for archives to be made more accessible and for catalogues to be made available electronically.

The MRC has managed to rise to all of these challenges. We can look forward to the next academic year with a settled team and increased storage space. The challenge of improved access to collections and cataloguing will no doubt remain a constant feature of the work of the Centre but this too is an area where we have made good progress.

Once again our thanks go to all those organisations which have supported us during the year including the Confederation of British Industry, the Transport & General Workers Union, the Trades Union Congress, the British Association of Social Workers and the Cycle Touring and Countryside Trust.



MRC's searchroom in use



Training day for Library staff

Using the archives

Awareness of the Centre's distinctive collections continues to grow as can be seen in the increased use of the Centre overall. The total number of archive users has risen to 387 (365) and the number of visits made for archives has increased to 1011 (871).

The total number of visits (including those for theses, Special Collections etc) to the Centre was 2059. Evening usage has also increased with the majority of researchers being archive users. The Centre has produced a greater number of documents for readers throughout the year and there have been more visits to the MRC's web pages than in previous years. (See appendices for details).

The most heavily used collection is the TUC archive and some examples of its use this year include: the General Strike of 1926; the introduction of National Insurance and the Welfare State; and research on Caribbean workers and the integration of the 'Windrush' generation to the UK.

Enquiries received by email, letter and telephone are slightly lower than last year at 1075 (1130) due largely to the much higher number of University Archive enquiries for the anniversary celebrations in 2004. A rising number of genealogical enquiries reflects the general trend in this area resulting from television coverage and related internet use. Among the more unusual enquiries received this year we have been asked for information on the Female Cigar Makers Protection Union, industrial robotics development and the post war 'scrap drive' on Guernsey.

We have assisted over 600 students wishing to access theses or Special Collections material – often the first contact Warwick students have with MRC. We have also received a number of new student archive users to the Centre as a result of induction courses and talks given at the start of the academic year.

One of the key aspects to encouraging more internal student use of the Centre will be to raise awareness of MRC within the University – this means encouraging a wider range of academic staff to bring groups of students for induction sessions and ensuring that the archives we hold are made relevant to the courses and research being undertaken. Although a large number of talks were given to student groups this year we are hoping to build on this well established framework and extend this service even further. This year it was pleasing to receive new groups from the Visual Sociology course who discovered that the Centre holds a variety of interesting and useful photographs. They were able to use these resources to explore concepts such as identity and narrative.

Internally MRC has given talks and guided tours to several new members of the Library staff and groups of visitors including 40 Dutch librarians and others. A very successful MRC Training Day was held for Library staff in June with the aim of explaining the Centre's collections and focus. This proved popular and will be run again in the next academic year.



Awareness of the Centre's distinctive collections continues to grow as can be seen in the increased use of the Centre overall

Access to catalogues

With the increasing demand for remote access to catalogues and resources MRC is pleased to be able to provide more of its catalogues on the internet. This year an additional 31 catalogues were made available in this way. An increasing number of email enquiries are now resulting from this access with researchers able to cite specific references and collections they have found on the internet.

Key catalogues of collections made available via the Centre's web site during the year include the publishing archive of Victor Gollancz Ltd. John Symington catalogued this collection and we are grateful to the Gladys Kreble Delmas Foundation for financial support which enabled us to make this business archive available.

The papers of former TUC General Secretary George Woodcock (MSS.292/6/GW) were also made available on the web site by Andrew Morrison. The archives of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers were added to the national archives gateway A2A (Access to Archives) as well as our own site. In addition many smaller collections of engineering records were added to the web by Andrew MacLeod as part of the Pay & Power project of MLA West Midlands. These included the Friendly Union of Mechanics, the National Union of Blastfurnacemen, Ore Miners, Coke Workers and Kindred Tradesmen, the Amalgamated Society of General Toolmakers, Engineers and Machinists and others.

The catalogue of the Transport & General Workers' Union archive continues to grow thanks to the work of James King and funding from the TGWU. The catalogue is now two thirds completed and includes papers relating to some of the union's most important areas of interest, including dockers, fishermen and road transport workers (passenger and commercial), as well as nearly 100 files relating to the General Strike of 1926. This is already a significant and valuable research collection and once complete may be as heavily used as the TUC archive.

More detailed access and easier remote searching will become available in the future as MRC has recently purchased a new collection management system. This will eventually enable subject and keyword searching to be done across all the collections and will make a wide range of archives even more accessible.



Launch of the TUC exhibition and catalogue. From left: Mike Whitby, Pro Vice-Chancellor of The University of Warwick, Robert Taylor, Brendan Barber, Rodney Bickerstaffe

Promotional activities

One of the highlights of the year was the launch of the final section of the TUC catalogue and exhibition in October 2005. This was a very successful event attended by many people from the trade union movement and the University. Robert Taylor, author of *The TUC*, gave a talk about the scope and depth of the archive and its value for research. This event was valuable in helping to raise the profile of the MRC.

Within the University the Centre has maintained good links with the Centre for the History of Medicine. It hosted a workshop in May 2006 'Courting Nature: Medicine, Natural Philosophy and Politics at Early Modern European Courts'.

In June, the 2006 Annual Conference of the Society for the Social History of Medicine was held at Warwick: 'Practices and Representations of Health: Historical Perspectives'. MRC contributed to this with an exhibition and a new guide to sources on the history of social work compiled by Martin Sanders. An additional guide to sources in MRC for the history of health and work was produced by Dr V. Long of the CMH.

The exhibition consisted of original documents which reflected some of the themes being considered at the conference, such as industrial health, disability and therapy, child health, mothers and children, cancer in the twentieth century and medical practice. It also featured a display of material from the archives of social workers' organisations. These charted the history of the various disciplines within the profession from the 1890s to the 1970s.

In October 2005 Monica Ory talked to the Berkswell Local History Society when they visited the Centre for an evening meeting and MRC hosted a meeting of the Dugdale Society in November. In June 2006, a conference to commemorate the 1926 General Strike was held at Keele University by the Society for the Study of Labour History. Helen Ford gave a brief presentation on the sources available at MRC.

Use of the material has resulted in articles for a number of journals including the *Journal of South African Studies* and *Historical Studies in Industrial Relations*.

Behind the scenes

The Centre had to monitor carefully the volume and quantity of the collections it accepted during the year as its storage space diminished. However, in July a store room on the ground floor was converted to mobile shelving and this has provided a valuable and timely addition to the storage areas of the Centre. This room will now be used to house new accessions and those awaiting cataloguing. It helps to alleviate the pressure on space while we plan for the re-shelving of the two main strongrooms projected to take place over the next four years.

The National Cycle Archive continues to attract additional deposits and researchers. Monica Ory has added a number of smaller deposits to the collections including a further 30 boxes from the Cyclists' Touring Club and, of particular interest, a large collection of historic CTC cycling photographs dating from 1878. A good deal of progress has been made on cataloguing the material by both Monica and Carole Jones. A total of 53 cycling related enquiries were received and 16 researchers have visited the Centre to use the collections.

A special note of thanks should go to Dr David Lambourn, a Cyclists Touring Club volunteer who has checked through the photographs and placed them in protective folders and boxes – the work of several months.


The archive of the British Association of Social Workers is beginning to attract interest from researchers and could become a significant source for the Centre. Sadly our attempt to seek funding for the cataloguing of this collection from the Wellcome Trust was unsuccessful, though the Association itself has made a donation towards boxes and conservation supplies.



One of the strongrooms at MRC



'Colyton' (Devon) from a collection of drawings by Frank Patterson. Reproduced with permission from the CTC



**More detailed access
and easier remote
searching will become
available in the future**



Meeting of the boot and shoe operatives, 1911

Significant new deposits The University archives

Accessions of archives are sometimes collected from some unusual places. In May Helen Ford and Martin Sanders found themselves in the squash court of Churchill College in Cambridge selecting items from the papers of the late Professor H A F 'Bert' Turner for deposit in the Centre. Professor Turner was a fellow of Churchill and the Emeritus Professor of Industrial Relations at Cambridge between 1963 and 1983. His papers reflect his key role in the development of this field as an academic discipline in Britain after 1945 and therefore form an important complement to the Centre's existing holdings.

Among the larger deposits made this year were the records of the National Union of Boot & Shoe Operatives (NUBSO), which date from its establishment in 1874. Over 100 boxes of archives were collected from Earls Barton near Wellingborough. The records cover the union's merger with the leather workers' and glovers' unions to form the National Union of Footwear, Leather and Allied Trades (NUFLAT) and eventually its absorption into 'Community'. Alongside the minutes and reports there are photographs, some branch records and membership registers.

Other key deposits were the papers of Frank Chapple of the EETPU, additional papers of NUPE, NALGO and COHSE and an additional 380 boxes of material from the CBI.

A complete list of deposits is provided in the appendices.

Lizzie Morrison and Andree Whittaker have made great inroads into the archives of the University during the year. They have started to process some of the uncatalogued material and made available several key deposits including the papers of the Singapore Office, publications of the Communications Office, the findings of an archaeological excavation of the campus and the ever growing collection of committee minutes and reports.

They have answered 55 enquiries and issued over 92 files on a range of topics from academic dress to student protests in the 1960s and 1970s. They have also supplied a large number of photographs for exhibitions at alumni events.



Staff consulting image from the University's archives

Facing page: National Union of Seamen, Strike of 1911 (MSS.175A/Box 182)

Staff

Richard Temple left the Centre in August 2005. Richard had been an Assistant Archivist, later Senior Assistant Archivist, in the Centre since October 1993. He was in charge of the Centre on a day-to-day basis from April 2005. He has joined the Senate House Library, University of London.

Helen Ford (Deputy Archivist) arrived in October from the British Geological Survey. She had previously worked as Archive Manager at the National Gas Archive for Transco/National Grid.

Andrew Morrison left in December 2005 having completed the catalogue of the TUC archive (1970 – 1990) and John Symington left in February 2006. Andrew MacLeod (Pay and Power Project) left to go to the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in March 2006.

Martin Sanders arrived as a Senior Assistant Archivist from Lichfield Record Office in April 2006.

Christine Woodland, Archivist, left the Centre for the second time at the end of June 2006. Although she formally retired in March 2005 she continued to support the Centre for over a year on a part time basis.

James King, Monica Ory, Carole Jones, Lizzie Morrison and Andree Whittaker have provided the core services and supported all the operations of the Centre throughout the year.

It is with great sadness that we record the death of John Symington only a short time after he had left the Centre. John was a recently qualified archivist who had worked at the MRC for 18 months and was largely responsible for the catalogue of the publishing archive of Victor Gollancz Ltd. He also played a major role in the production of the TUC catalogue and exhibition in October. He will be fondly remembered for his hard work, helpfulness and friendliness to everybody. He is a sad loss to the archive profession.

Staff of the MRC





Appendices

Publications using MRC sources

V. Long: "A Satisfactory Job is the Best Psychotherapist?": Employment and Mental Health, 1939–60", in P. Dale and J. Melling (eds), *Mental Illness and Learning Disability Since 1850: Finding a Place for Mental Disorder in the United Kingdom* (2006), pp. 179–99.

Deborah McDonald: *Clara Collet, an Educated Working Woman 1860–1948* (Woburn Press, London 2004).

Alex Mold, "The Welfare Branch of the Alternative Society?" The work of drug voluntary organisation Release, 1967–1978', *Twentieth Century British History* vol. 17, No. 1, 2006, pp. 50–73

Alistair Mutch: "Strategic and Organisational Change – from production to retailing in UK Brewing 1950–1990".

A. Mutch: "Allied Breweries and the Development of the Area Manager in British Brewing, 1950–1984" (*Enterprise and Society*, Feb 2006).

John Major: "The TUC and Apartheid, 1948–1970" (*Journal of Southern African Studies*, Vol. 31, No 3. Sept 2005).

Jon Murden: "Demands for fair wages and pay parity in the British Motor Industry in the 1960s and 1970s". (*Historical Studies in Industrial Relations* HSIR.20. Autumn 2005).

Peter Thorsheim "Inventing Pollution: Coal, Smoke, and Culture in Britain since 1800".

Additions to Deposits August 2005 – July 2006

MSS.005 Coventry Trades Council: Additional file of papers and minute book of Trades Hall Fund (1919–1935)

MSS.016 J Howard League for Penal Reform: Correspondence, printed material.

MSS.020 NALGO: Publicity Department files.

MSS.021/3579 George Redding papers.

MSS.036 Iron and Steel Trades Confederation: Additional deposit of minute books.

MSS.039NGA National Graphical Association/GPMU: NGA minutes, subject files and papers of Tony Dubbins. (22 boxes).

MSS.039NAT NATSOPA: London Clerical Branch: Correspondence and minutes (41 vols).

MSS.056 National Union of Bank Employees: Minutes and BIFU reports.

MSS.126 Transport and General Workers' Union: Additional files and Health & Safety posters and publications.

MSS.48 Union of Post Office Workers: Additional correspondence files.

MSS.159 International Transport Workers Federation: additional minutes, conference papers and correspondence. (2 boxes).

MSS.179 National Union of Teachers: Annual Reports and journal *The Schoolmaster*.

MSS.200C/2003 Confederation of British Industry: Records from 2003–2004 (388 boxes).

MSS.226X/AE/10 R. A. Fryars: Some impressions of Leyland Motors from 1948–1982. Part 3: 1974 to 1982.

MSS.229/CO Confederation of Health Service Employees (COHSE): Administrative and financial records, publications and publicity material (c.50 boxes).

MSS.268 British Educational Research Association: Minutes, Research Assessment Exercises and publications.

MSS.320A Higher Education material: Files and papers on Higher Education enquiries 1987–2006.

MSS.328/C Cyclists' Touring Club: Minutes, printed material, drawings and photographs, 1878–2006.

MSS.328/N National Cycle Archive: Records from 30 individuals and cycling journals. Also photographs of Evelyn Hamilton, and papers of A. W. Kempson.

MSS.328N025/8 National Cycle Archive: Collection of cycling photographs.

MSS.335BR Operational Research Society: Papers of British Rail Operational Research Unit: copies of programs and reports on earlier work, 1960–1963.

MSS.346/4 *Firefighter* magazine, Sept 2004–Jan 2006 (11 issues).

MSS.387/6/Chapple Electrical Trades Union: Frank Chapple's papers (23 boxes).

MSS.389/6/B UNISON/RodneyBickerstaffe: Official and personal papers, correspondence and subject files.

MSS.409/ Institute of Professional Civil Servants: James McLauchlan papers.

MSS.414/6 Institue of Management Services: Papers of R.M Currie on Work Study. Includes publications, pamphlets and files of notes.

MSS.415 CPISA: *The Civilian*, 1970s (Journal of the Ministry of Defence Section).

MSS.415 Council of Civil Service Unions: Correspondence (29 boxes).

MSS.415 Association of Magisterial Officers: Correspondence.

MSS.432 Social Workers' Benevolent Trust: Minutes, application forms and correspondence, 2004.

MSS.467 Amalgamated Association of Operative Cotton Spinners of Lancashire and Cheshire: Additional annual reports 1902–1969; some minutes 1888–1893; printed material (1895–1976).

MSS.529/5 *Militant*.

MSS.538 Alan Swinden papers: Correspondence and personal papers.

New Deposits

MSS 540 National and Provincial Staff Association.

MSS 541 *Workers Vanguard* (44 items).

MSS.542 Coventry Workshop files.

MSS.543 Catherine Hoskyns papers (49files).

MSS.544 Correspondence of Henry Yorke (Green), novelist (23 letters).

MSS.546 British Nuclear Tests Veterans Association: Correspondence and legal papers. (42 boxes).

MSS.547 National Union of Boot and Shoe Operatives: Minutes, annual and monthly reports, membership registers and branch records of NUBSO and successors. 1850s–1970s. (150 boxes).

MSS.548 Broadsheet and Sesheta Press: Records of small poetry press. Includes correspondence and some publication records; business papers. 1960s–1970s.

MSS.549 TASS: Tube Investments Conveners' Files, c.1973-1986 (4boxes).

MSS.550 Papers of Professor H A F Turner: personal research files, correspondence, publications. (55 box files).

MSS.551 Make Poverty History: Press cuttings, films and background files. (15 boxes).

MSS.552 Dianne Hayter papers: Collection of political material, papers on St Ermins Group and material received from John Spellar, Frank Chapple and others. EETPU Political Bulletin 1980–1994; NUR Reports to AGM 1979–1986.

Statistics

Archive readers

Total researchers for archives: 387 (includes University of Warwick Archive, external users and BP readers)

Internal readers: 97 (69 using all archives, 28 using the UWA)

External readers: 117 (other Higher Education institutions)

BP archive readers: 66

Theses readers

Total readers: 632 (theses, Special Collections and pamphlets).

Theses produced: 1507

SPC /pamphlets produced: 70

Evening visits

Total: 307

Archive readers: 175

Theses readers: 104

BP readers: 28

Visits

Number of visits for archives: 1011 (made by 387 people)

Number of visits for theses/SPC: 1048 (made by 632 people)

Total number of visits: 2059

Student groups

13 groups (visited between October 2005 and February 2006)

Total student numbers: 216 (224)

Enquiries made by email, post and telephone: 1075

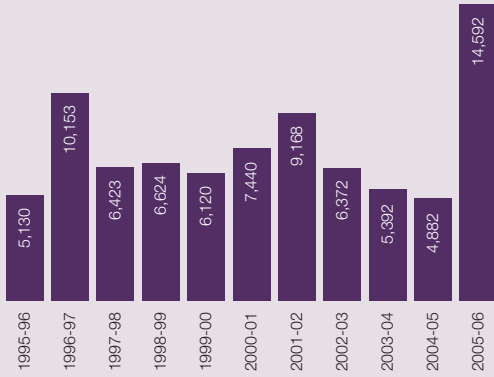
Documents produced: 43,638

Photocopies produced: 14,592

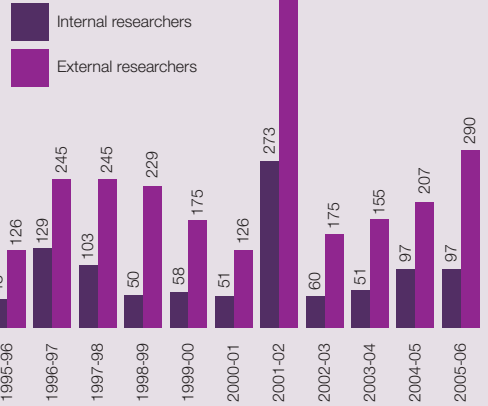
Web visits: 242,360

Statistics diagrams

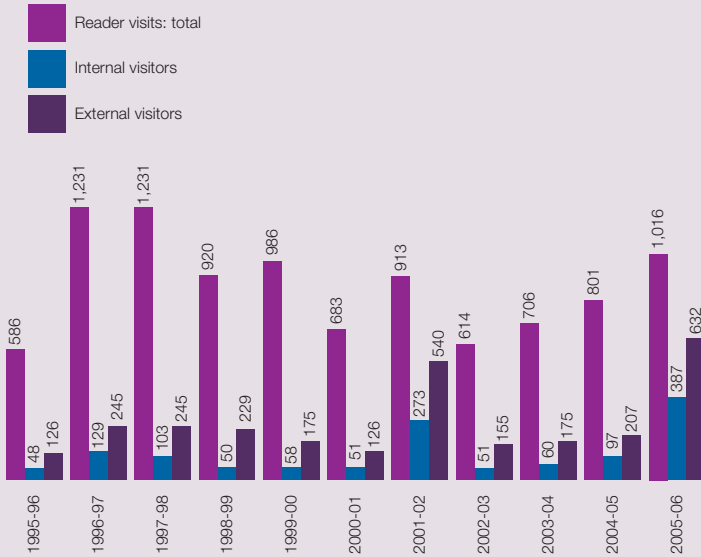
Photocopies produced for readers



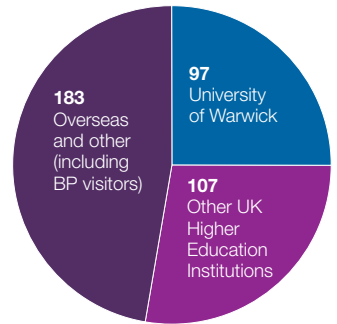
Number of researchers



Visits to the Centre



Breakdown of archive readers in 2005/06



Further information

Advisory Board Members

Mr R Bickerstaffe (Chairman)
Ms A Bell* (University Librarian and Secretary)
Professor P Burnham*
Professor W Grant*
Professor D Howell
Professor R Hyman
Mr M Jones (TUC)
Professor M Luddy*
Professor H Marland*
Dr J Melling
The Lord Morris of Handsworth
Mr J Mortimer
Mr S Newens
Ms C Smith (CBI)
Professor C Steedman
Professor M Terry*
Professor P Thane
Dr M.Thomson*
Dr S Todd*

*Members of the Academic Committee

Modern Records Centre Staff:

Ms Anne Bell, *B.A., M.A.*, University Librarian,
Director
Helen Ford, *B.A., D.A.A.*, Deputy Archivist
Carole Jones, Records Assistant
James King, *B.A., D.A.A.*, Senior Assistant
Archivist
Elizabeth Morrison, *B.A.*, Records Assistant
(part-time)
Monica Ory, *B.A., D.A.A.*, Senior Assistant
Archivist (part-time)
Martin Sanders, *B.A., MPhil., D.A.A.*, Senior
Assistant Archivist
Andree Whittaker, Records Assistant (part-time)

Publications

The Centre's *Annual Reports* from 1981 and *Information Bulletins* from 1974 are available on request. *Annual Reports* from 1996-1997 and *Information Bulletins* from 1998 are also available on the Centre's website.

The Taff Vale case: a guide to the ASRS records, 1978, £2.00

The Osborne case papers and other records of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants, 1979, £2.50

The Confederation of British Industry & predecessor archives, 1997, £5.00

The International Transport Workers' Federation archive, 1985, £2.25

Women at work and in society, 2nd, enlarged, edition, 1991, £4.00

A postman's round (extracts from the diary of a Victorian letter-carrier in E. London), reprint, 1991, £3.50.

The Trades Union Congress archive 1920-60, 1992, £4.00

The Trades Union Congress archive 1960-70, 1998, £3.00

Employers' & trade associations' history, 1992, £3.70

Tom Mann: a bibliography, 1993, £3.00

Automotive history sources in Coventry archives, 1996, £4.00

The personal papers of Sir Victor Gollancz, 1997, £3.00

Rubery Owen Holdings Ltd Archive, 1997, £3.50

Register of business records of Coventry & related areas, pub. Lanchester Polytechnic, 1977, £3.00

Professor Sir George Bain and Jack Jones CH, *The Bullock Committee and the Low Pay Commission: some reflections*, Advisory Board Lecture, 29 November 2001 (free).

Information Leaflet series include:

- No. 1 Notes for Researchers, free
- No. 2 Pacifist history, 10p
- No. 3 Taff Vale Case additional papers, 10p
- No. 4 CBI predecessor archive, free
- No. 5 Bevin TGWU papers, 10p
- No. 6 Notes on local labour records, 20p
- No. 7 Engineering Employers' Federation records, 10p
- No. 8 Papers of R.A. (Dick) Etheridge, 20p
- No. 9 Trades Union Congress deposited records, 75p
- No. 10 Cinema history sources, 40p
- No. 11 Road haulage history sources, £1.00
- No. 12 Sources for the history of cycling, free
- No. 13 Sources for the history of social work
- No. 14 Sources for the history of health and work

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