

THEATRE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

152 N. York St., 2nd Floor, Elmhurst, IL 60126
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Finding Aid for the ROBERT BRUBAKER COLLECTION

Acc No.: 08-050
Future Additions Expected: No
Finding Aid creation: Sept 01, 2013; Revised: July 08, 2015
Size: 6 linear ft.

Abstract

The Robert Brubaker Collection consists of approximately 6 linear feet of research on live theatre, movie theatres, architects, exhibition, and allied subjects. The materials focus on Chicago, Illinois, but also include a small amount of information on other cities. The files consist of research compiled by Brubaker in support of lectures on the history of theatre in Chicago from the 1830s to the 1980s and a potential book project on the same topic. The book was not published.

Background Information

Other background includes graduate study in history (M.A.) at the University of Wisconsin and in library science (M.A. and beyond) with a fellowship at the University of Chicago. I was an American history teacher at Elgin (IL) High School, Curator of Manuscripts at the Illinois State Historical Library, Chief Librarian and Curator at the Chicago Historical Society, and an Assistant Professor in the Graduate Library School at UCLA teaching the history of books, libraries, and reading. While Manager of Art, Music, and Exhibits at the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana, from 1989 to 1996 I mounted over 180 exhibits of photographs, paintings, and other materials. I was an Adult Services Reference Librarian at the Batavia Public Library from 2000 to 2012 responsible for collection development for art, music, photography, and nature studies and still substitute. I am a member of the Sierra Club, Wilderness Society, Audubon Society, and Morton Arboretum Photographic Society.

Scope and Contents Note

The Robert Brubaker Collection consists of 16 document boxes with 435 file folders. The collection has one series: print materials. The collection was organized by Robert Brubaker and the file division, titles, and order have been maintained. Some folder names and topics have been repeated and may not be consecutive. The folders contain clippings, photo copies, photographs, correspondence, and research notes.

Folders 1 through 37 contain notes, research, drafts and slides for Brubaker's slide presentations.

Folders 38 and 39 have information on Chicago style music.

Folders 40 through 66 and 69 through 81 contain information on people, including actors & actresses, architects, and theater owners.

Folders 67 and 68 contain general theater information.

Folders 82 through 87 contain information about streets in Chicago that theaters were located on.

Folders 88 through 95 contain bibliographies and research for Brubaker's slide presentations.

Folders 96 through 282 contain information on live theaters in Chicago and styles of live theater.

Folders 283 through 294 contain information on general entertainment and amusements in Chicago.

Folders 295 through 320 contain notes, slides, research, and bibliographies for Brubaker's movie exhibitions.

Folder 321 contains information about the Joseph Jefferson Awards.

Folder 322 contains information on people, specifically a variety of designers involved in theater productions.

Folders 323 through 435 contain information on motion picture theaters and motion picture theater companies in Chicago.

The material was compiled by Robert Brubaker between 1972 and 1988. Brubaker was conducting research for a book on the subject of the history of theatre in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Brubaker used to present slide illustrated presentations about the history of theater in Chicago from the 1830s to the 1980s. He intended to publish a book, but after 2004 no longer wished to pursue the project. The materials were donated to Theatre Historical Society of America by Mr. Brubaker in April 2008.

CONTENTS LISTING

Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
01	01	Theatre – Exhibition Script
01	02	Theatre – Slide Talk Text Copy 1
01	03	Theatre – Slide Talk Text Drafts
01	04	Theatre – Check at CHS
01	05	Theatre – Check
01	06	Theatre – Slide Talk Releases
01	07	Theatre – Slide Talk Comments
01	08	CHS Theatre Program Index
01	09	CHS Library Books Checked Out
01	10	Theatre – Chicago General
01	11	Theatre – Slide Talk 1837-1871 Theatres
01	12	Theatre, Chicago, 1837-1871
01	13	Theatre – Slide Talk 1837-1871 Productions
01	14	Theatre – Chicago 1837-1871 – Bloom “The Jefferson Company, 1830-1845”
01	15	Theatre – U.S. 1837-1871
01	16	Theatre – Slide Talk 1872-1899
01	17	Theatre – Chicago 1872-1899
01	18	Theatre – Slide Talk 1872-1899 Productions

Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
02	19	Theatre – U.S. 1872-1899
02	20	Theatre – Slide Talk 1900-1929 Theatres
02	21	Theatre – Slide Talk 1900-1929 Productions
02	22	Theatre – Chicago 1900-1929
02	23	Theatre – U.S. 1900-1929
02	24	Theatre – Slide Talk 1930-1959 Theatres
02	25	Theatre – Slide Talk 1930-1959 Productions
02	26	Theatre – Chicago 1930-1959
02	27	Theatre – U.S. 1930-1959
02	28	Theatre – Slide Talk 1960-1987 - Theaters
02	29	Theatre – Slide Talk 1960-1987 Productions
02	30	Theatre – Chicago 1960-Present
02	31	Theatre – U.S. 1960-Present
02	32	Theatre – Slide Talk 1960-1987 Slides
02	33	Theatre – Slide Talk 1837-1871 Slides
02	34	Theatre – Slide Talk Old Version Slides (Not Used in Revision)
02	35	Theatre – Slide Talk 1872-1899 Slides
02	36	Theatre – Slide Talk 1900-1929 Slides
02	37	Theatre – Slide Talk 1930-1959 Slides
02	38	Making Music Chicago Style, Review: Sun Times - Marsh
02	39	Making Music Chicago Style, Review: Tribune - Kart
02	40	People – Theatre
02	41	People – Architects
02	42	People – Actors & Actresses
02	43	People – Actors & Actresses Photographs
02	44	People – Playwrights
02	45	People – Playwrights
02	46	People – Theatre Owners
02	47	People – Ade, George
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
03	48	People – Barrymore, Ethel
03	49	People – Bayes, Nora
03	50	People – Bernhardt, Sarah
03	51	People – Booth, Edwin
03	52	People – Booth, John Wilkes
03	53	People – Browne, Maurice
03	54	People – Carter, Lincoln J.
03	55	People – Cook, George Cram & Susan Glaspell
03	56	People – Dekoven, Reginald
03	57	People – Foy, Eddie
03	58	People – Gerstenberg, Alice
03	59	People – Goodman, Kenneth Sawyer
03	60	People – Hansberry, Lorraine

03	61	People – Hect, Ben
03	62	People – Herrick, Robert
03	63	People – Ibsen, Henrik
03	64	People – Jefferson, Joseph
03	65	People – Johnson, Virgil
03	66	People – Mamet, David
03	67	Theatre – Check at Northwestern
03	68	Theatre – Check at Northwestern
03	69	People – McVickers, James
03	70	People – Malkovich, John
03	71	People – Maronek, James
03	72	People – Moody, William Vaughn
03	73	People – Mosher, Gregory
03	74	People – O’Neill, Eugene
03	75	People – O’Neill, James
03	76	People – Pastor, Tony
03	77	People – Rice, John B.
03	78	People – Shaw, George Bernard
03	79	People – Williams, Tennessee
03	80	People – Williams, Tennessee “Glass Menagerie”
03	81	People – Ziegfeld, Flo
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
04	82	Streets – Clark
04	83	Streets – Michigan
04	84	Streets – Randolph
04	85	Streets – Rush
04	86	Streets – State
04	87	Streets – Washington
04	88	Theatre – Awards
04	89	Theatre – Bibliography Sources Checked
04	90	Theatre – Exhibition – Artifacts in CHS
04	91	Theatre – Bibliography, Alphabetical
04	92	Theatre – Bibliography, CHS Prints & Photographs Dept.
04	93	Theatre – Bibliography
04	94	Theatre – Bibliography
04	95	Theatre – Bibliography, CHS BroadSides
04	96	Theatre – Burlesque
04	97	Theatre – Censorship
04	98	Theatre – Chicago Public Library – Chicago on Stage (1982)
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
05	99	Theatre – Collections – Chicago Public Library
05	100	Theatre – Dramatic League of Chicago
05	101	Theatre – Ethnic

05	102	Theatre – Ethnic - Yiddish
05	103	Theatre – Exhibition
05	104	Theatre – Exhibition – Artifacts in Other Institutions
05	105	Theatre – Federal Theatre
05	106	Theatre – Exhibitions
05	107	Theatre – Field Work – Meeting on March 04, 1988 with Designers
05	108	Theatre – Guides, Theatre Chicago, A Comprehensive Reference Guide
05	109	Theatre – Guides
05	110	Theatre – Little Theatre
05	111	Theatre – Little Theatre
05	112	Theatre – Maps
05	113	Theatre – Melodrama
05	114	Theatre – Musical Comedy
05	115	Theatre – North Loop Theatre Study
05	116	Theatre – Plays
05	117	Theatre – Posters
05	118	Theatre – Research
05	119	Theatre – Researchers
05	120	Theatre – Schools
05	121a	Theatre – Schools – DePaul University
05	121b	Theatre – Sheet Music
05	122	Theatre – Theatre Guild
05	123	Theatre – Vaudeville
05	124	Theatre – Minstrel Shows
05	125	Theatre – New York
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
06	126	Theatre – Museums
06	127	Theatres – American Music Hall
06	128	Theatres – Absolute Theatre Company
06	129	Theatres – Academy Festival Theatre
06	130	Theatres – Academy of Music (22 S. Halsted)
06	131	Theatres – Academy of Music (1865)
06	132	Theatres – Actors Repertory Company
06	133	Theatres – Adelphi
06	134	Theatres – Aiken’s Theatre
06	135	Theatres –American Blues Theatres
06	136	Theatres – American
06	137	Theatres – Apollo Theatre Center
06	138	Theatres – Apollo Theatre – Pump Boys and Dinettes
06	139	Theatres – Apollo Theatre (United Artists)
06	140	Theatres – Apple Tree
06	141	Theatres – Arcade Theatre
06	142	Theatres – Arie Crown
06	143	Theatres – Arlington Park Theatre
06	144	Theatres –Auditorium Theatre

06	145	Theatres – Bailiwick Repertory
06	146	Theatres – Barry Street Loft Theatre
06	147	Theatres –Beehive
06	148	Theatres – Body Politic
06	149	Theatres – Blackstone
06	150	Theatres – Blackstone (notes used)
06	151	Theatres – Body Politic
06	152	Theatres – Briar Street Theatre
06	153	Theatres – Bryan’s Hall
06	154	Theatres – Candlelight
06	155	Theatres – Casino Theatre
06	156	Theatres – Central Music Hall
06	157	Theatres – Chicago Actors Ensemble
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
07	158	Theatres – Chicago City Theatre Company
07	159	Theatres – Chicago Little Theatre
07	160	Theatres – Chicago Museum and Theatre
07	161	Theatres – Chicago Opera House
07	162	Theatres – Chicago Premiere Society
07	163	Theatres – Chicago Theatre
07	164	Theatres – Chicago Theatre Society
07	165	Theatres – City Lit
07	166	Theatres – Civic Opera House
07	167	Theatres – Civic Theatre
07	168	Theatres – Clark Street Theatre
07	169	Theatres – Colonial Theatre
07	170	Theatres – Columbia Theatre (burlesque)
07	171	Theatres – Columbia Theatre (1881-1900)
07	172	Theatres – Commons Theatre Company
07	173	Theatres – Cort
07	174	Theatres – Court
07	175	Theatres – Crosby’s Opera House
07	176	Theatres – Dearborn
07	177	Theatres – Dinglefest Theatre Company
07	178	Theatres – Dramatic League of Chicago
07	179	Theatres – Eden Musee
07	180	Theatres – 8th Street Theatre
07	181	Theatres – Encore Theatre
07	182	Theatres – Engel’s Opera Pavilion
07	183	Theatres – Epstein’s Dime Museum
07	184	Theatres –Erlanger Theatre
07	185	Theatres – Experimental Black Actors Guild
07	186	Theatres – Fine Arts Theatre
07	187	Theatres – Folly Theatre
07	188	Theatres – Forum Theatre

07	189	Theatres – Free Street Theatre
07	190	Theatres – Garrick Theatre
07	191	Theatres – Gayety Theatre
07	192	Theatres – Globe Theatre
07	193	Theatres – Goodman Theatre
07	194	Theatres – Grand Opera House
07	195	Theatres – Great Northern Hippodrome
07	196	Theatres – Great Northern Theatre
07	197	Theatres – Happy Medium
07	198	Theatres – Harris Theatre
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
08	199	Theatres – Haverly’s
08	200	Theatres – Haymarket Theatre
08	201	Theatres – Hooley’s Theatre
08	202	Theatres – Hull House Players
08	203	Theatres – Hyde-Behman’s Theatre
08	204	Theatres – Illinois Theatre
08	205	Theatres – Illinois Theatre Center
08	206	Theatres – Immediate Theatre Company
08	207	Theatres – Immediate Theatre Company
08	208	Theatres – Iroquois
08	209	Theatres – Ivanhoe
08	210	Theatres – Jack’s (Sam T.) Theatre
08	211	Theatres – Kingsbury Hall
08	212	Theatres – Kingston Mines
08	213	Theatres – Kuumba Theatre
08	214	Theatres – Kuumba Workshop
08	215	Theatres – LaSalle Opera House
08	216	Theatres – McClurg Court Theatre
08	217	Theatres – McVicker’s Theatre
08	218	Theatres – Majestic Theatre
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
09	219	Theatres –Marriott’s Lincolnshire
09	220	Theatres – Metropolitan Hall
09	221	Theatres – Misc.
09	222	Theatres – Misc. Burlesque
09	223	Theatres – Misc.
09	224	Museum and Theatre, 314 State (Old)
09	225	Theatres – National Theatre
09	226	Theatres – New Age Repertory Theatre
09	227	Theatres – New Haven Playhouse
09	228	Theatres – New Regal
09	229	Theatres – New Theatre Company

09	230	Theatres – Next Theatre Company
09	231	Theatres – Northlight Theatre
09	232	Theatres – Northlight
09	233	Theatres – North Park Village
09	234	Theatres – North’s Amphitheatre
09	235	Theatres – Old Town Players
09	236	Theatres – Olympic Theatre
09	237	Theatres – Palace Theatre, Randolph Street
09	238	Theatres – Orchestra Hall
09	239	Theatres – Organic Theatre Company
09	240	Theatres – Orphans Theatre
09	241	Theatres – Orpheum Theatre
09	242	Theatres – Palace Theatre, Clark Street
09	243	Theatres – Pastime Theatre
09	244	Theatres – Pegasus Theatre
09	245	Theatres – Pary Production Company
09	246	Theatres – Phelps Opera House
09	247	Theatres – Powers
09	248	Theatres – Practical Theatre Company
09	249	Theatres – Princess Theatre
09	250	Theatres – New Regal Theatre (Formerly Avalon)
09	251	Theatres – Remains
09	252	Theatres – Rialto
09	253	Theatres – Rice’s Theatre ca. 33 W. Randolph (new)
09	254	Theatres – St. Nicholas
09	255	Theatres – Sauganash Hotel
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
10	256	Theatres – SCT Productions
10	257	Theatres – Schiller Theatre
10	258	Theatres – Second City
10	259	Theatres – Selwyn Theatre/Cinestage 186 N. Dearborn
10	260	Theatres – Shubert
10	261	Theatres – Shubert Organization
10	262	Theatres – Smith & Nixon’s Hall
10	263	Theatres – Staats Theatre
10	264	Theatres – Star and Garter
10	265	Theatres – Steppenwolf
10	266	Theatres – Stormfield Theatre
10	267	Theatres – Studebaker
10	268	Theatres – Summer Comedy Theatre
10	269	Theatres – Theatre Buildings- Performance Community/ New Tuners Theatre
10	270	Theatres – Theatre Row
10	271	Theatres – 3 Penny Cinema Motion Picture
10	272	Theatres – Travel Light Theatre Company
10	273	Theatres – Trocadero

10	274	Theatres – United Artists
10	275	Theatres – Uptown Players
10	276	Theatres – Varieties
10	277	Theatres – Vic Theatre 3143 N. Sheffield
10	278	Theatres – Victory Gardens
10	279	Theatres – Victory Gardens
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
11	280	Theatres – Wisdom Bridge
11	281	Col. Woods Museum
11	282	Theatres – Woods Theatre 50 W. Randolph
11	283	Entertainment– Chicago
11	284	Entertainment– Chicago 1850s
11	285	Entertainment– Chicago 1860s
11	286	Entertainment– Chicago 1870s
11	287	Entertainment - Chicago 1880s
11	288	Entertainment– Chicago 1940s
11	289	Entertainment– Chicago 1950s
11	290	Entertainment– Chicago 1960s
11	291	Entertainment– Chicago 1970s
11	292	Entertainment– Chicago 1980s
11	293	Amusements
11	294	Entertainment– U.S.
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
12	295	[Notes for Presentation, Part One]
12	296	Text (Individual Sheets)
12	297	Slides- Taken (hold photocopies until slides arrive)
12	298	Talk 2-Maps
12	299	Talk 3-Museums
12	300	Performers- Misc. Illustrations
12	301	Bibliography
12	302	Theatres- (General) Info
12	303	Locate
12	304	Slides To Be Taken
12	305	Vaudeville- General
12	306	Performers, etc. Info
12	307	Theatres- Lists
12	308	Maps
12	309	Theatres- (Specific) Info
12	310	Burlesque- General Info
12	311	Theatres- Misc. Illustrations
12	312	Booking Agencies
12	313	Vaudeville- Misc.
12	314	Talk 12- Burlesque, Misc

12	315	Outlines, etc.
12	316	Correspondence
12	317	Text
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
13	318	Night Life- Sources Checked
13	319	[Notes for Presenttion, Part Two]
13	320	Lyon I. Heal. Gifts
13	321	Theatre- Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee
13	322	Theatre- People- Designers A-Z
13	323	Theatres- Motion Picture- Articles in Progress
13	324	Theatres- Motion Picture- Bibliography
13	325	Theatres- Motion Picture- Exhibition Labels
13	326	Theatres- Motion Picture- Sound
13	327	Theatre- Chicago International Film Festival Movies
13	328	Theatres- Motion Picture Theatres (Misc.)
13	329	Theatres- Adelphi Theatre 7074 N. Clark
13	330	Theatres- Alamo Theatre, Chicago 3639 W. Chicago
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
14	331	Theatres- Ambassador Theatre, St. Louis
14	332	Theatres- Amo Theatre 440 E. 61st
14	333	Theatres- Arcada, St. Charles
14	334	Theatres- Armitage Theatre 3553 W. Armitage
14	335	Theatres- Art Theatre, Hobart, IND
14	336	Theatres- Atlantic Theatre 3948 W. 26th
14	337	Theatres- Avalon Theatre
14	338	Balaban and Katz
14	339	Theatres- Motion Picture- Belmont Theatre 1635 W. Belmont
14	340	Theatres- Motion Picture- Belpark Theatre 3231 N. Clark
14	341	Theatres- Motion Picture- Biltmore Theatre 2046 W. Division
14	342	Theatres- Motion Picture- Biograph Theatre 2433 N. Lincoln
14	343	Theatres- Burnside Theatre
14	344	Theatres- Motion Picture- Calo Theatre 5406 N. Clark
14	345	Theatres- Motion Picture- Capitol Theatre 7941 S. Halsted
14	346	Theatres- Motion Picture- Century Theatre, Chicago 2820 N. Clark
14	347	Theatres- Chestnut Station
14	348	Theatres- Motion Picture- Chicago Theatre 175 N. State
14	349	Theatres- Motion Picture- Chicago Theatre- List of Publicity Photographs (CHS POP)
14	350	Theatres- Chicago Ridge Mall
14	351	Theatres- Motion Picture- Cinema 151 E. Chicago
14	352	Theatres- Cineplex- Odeon
14	353	Theatres- Circle Theatre, Indianapolis
14	354	Theatres- Motion Picture- Colony Theatre 3208 W. 59th

14	355	Theatres- Congress Theatre (Mexico Theatre)
14	356	Theatres- Coronado Theatre, Rockford
14	357	Theatres- Motion Picture- Devon Theatre 6225 N. Broadway
14	358	Theatres- Motion Picture- Drive In
14	359	Theatres- DuPage Theatre, Lombard
14	360	Theatres- Motion Picture- Article in Progress
14	361	Theatres – Earle Theatre, Philadelphia
14	362	Theatres – Edens Theatre, Northbrook
14	363	Theatres – Egyptian Theatre, DeKalb
14	364	Theatres – Esquire Theatre
14	365	Essaness Theatres
14	366	Essanay
14	367	Theatres – Evergreen Theatre
14	368	Theatres – Fine Arts Theatres (Studebaker & World Playhouse)
14	369	Theatres – Ford City Cinema
14	370	Theatres – Gaiety Theatre
14	371	Theatres – Gateway Theatre
14	372	Theatres – General Cinema Corporation
14	373	Theatres – Genesee Theatre, Waukegan
14	374	Theatres – Golf Glen Theatres, Niles
14	375	Theatres – Golf Mill Theatre, Niles
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
15	376	Theatres – Granada Theatre
15	377	Theatres – Hillside Mall
15	378	Theatres – Hinsdale Theatre, Hinsdale
15	379	Theatres – Howard
15	380	Theatres – Lake Theatre, Oak Park
15	381	Liebenberg, Jack - Architects
15	382	Theatres – Lincoln Village Theatre
15	383	M&R Amusement Company
15	384	Theatres – Majestic Theatre, Dubuque, Iowa
15	385	Theatres – Marbro Theatre, 4110 W. Madison
15	386	Theatres – Midway Theatre, Rockford, IL
15	387	Moving Picture Industry – Balio, American Film Industry
15	388	Moving Picture Industry – Kindem, American Film Industry
15	389	Moving Picture Industry – Chicago
15	390	Moving Picture Theatres – Chicago
15	391	Theatres – Music Box Theatre
15	392	Theatres – Norshore Theatre
15	393	Theatres – Nortown Theatre
15	394	Theatres – Old Orchard Theatre, Skokie
15	395	Theatres – Oriental Theatre, Chicago
15	396	Theatres – Oriental Theatre, Milwaukee
15	397	Theatres – Palace Theatre
15	398	Theatres – Pantheon Theatre

15	399	Theatres – Paradise Theatre
15	400	Theatres – Paramount Theatre, Aurora
15	401	Theatres – Paramount Theatre, New York
15	402	Theatres – Parkway Theatre
15	403	Theatres – Patio Theatre
15	404	Theatres – Piccadilly Theatre, 1443 E. Hyde Park Blvd.
Box No.	Folder No.	Folder Name
16	405	Theatres – Pickwick Theatre, Park Ridge
16	406	Plitt Theatres
16	407	Projectors (Moving Picture Theatres)
16	408	Theatres – Randhurst Cinema, Mount Prospect
16	409	Rapp, C.W. & George L., Book (THS)
16	410	Rapp, C.W. & George L.
16	411	Rapp, C.W. & George L., Job Book (Copy 1)
16	412	Rapp, C.W. & George L., Research Form (Blanks)
16	413	Theatres – Rhodes Theatre
16	414	Theatres – Rialto Square Theatre, Joliet
16	415	Theatres – Ringling (Al) Theatre, Baraboo, WI
16	416	Theatres – Riviera Theatre
16	417	Theatres – Roosevelt Theatre
16	418	Theatres – Sheridan Theatre (Palaccio Theatre)
16	419	Theatres – Southtown Theatre
16	420	Theatres – State Lake Theatre
16	421	Statistics (Moving Picture Theatres)
16	422	Theatres – Studebaker Theatre
16	423	Theatres – Tivoli Theatre, Chicago
16	424	Theatres – Tivoli Theatre, Downers Grove
16	425	Theatre Historical Society, Index of Archives
16	426	Theatres – Today Theatre, 66 W. Madison
16	427	Theatres – Uptown Theatre
16	428	Theatres – Varsity Theatre, Evanston
16	429	Theatres – Victoria Theatre
16	430	Theatres – Water Tower Theatres
16	431	Theatres – Will Rogers Theatre
16	432	Theatres – Wilson Avenue Theatre
16	433	Theatres – World Playhouse
16	434	Theatres – World Theatre, St. Paul, MN
16	435	Theatres – Yorktown Cinema, Lombard

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