



# Communication No. 263

**FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE BOTH WITH THE SERVANTS AND WITH THE TRADESPEOPLE (FIVE), *PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA***

**ATTENTA!**

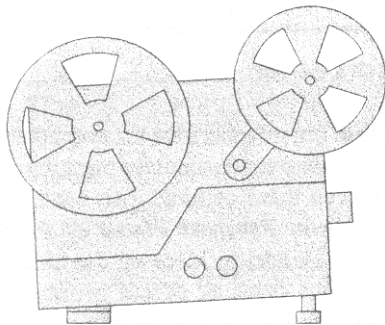
**ATTENTA! ATTENTA!**

**NOTE THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!!!**

**May 20, 2006: 31st Spring Gathering of the *Pleasant Places of Florida*; High English Tea** at the Garden View Restaurant in Disney's Grand Floridian Resort & Spa, Orlando. See article for details. Hurry! Limited attendance! Thanks to **Madlyn Sanford**. See page 2 for details.

**May 22, 2006:**

What better way to celebrate Arthur Conan Doyle's Birthday than a film festival in his honor. The event will take place at the Clearwater North Greenwood Branch Library (about a mile from the main branch) at 905 N. Martin Luther King Ave., Clearwater. Branch Manager David Stoner stated: "I was thinking of a 'party', probably a little talk about Doyle, show a Sherlock Holmes Rathbone movie, as well as scenes from the silent "Lost World" dinosaur film from 1925. It will be on May 22nd from 2pm - 4pm with (hopefully - depending on budget) popcorn, trivia, & prizes." Contact David for details by email at [stoner@verizon.net](mailto:stoner@verizon.net) or by calling 727-462-6895 at the Clearwater Library.



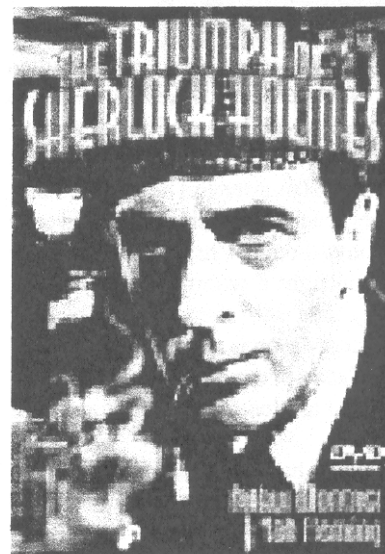
Watch this space for announcements of future events such as the **Florida Wessex Cup** being arranged by **David McCallister** for January/February 2007, and the 32nd Spring Gathering in beautiful Dunedin, in May/June, 2007, being organized by **Wanda and Jeff Dow**

## SHERLOCKIANS ENJOY CINEMATIC HOLMES

By Mike Bryan

Without question, Sherlock Holmes is one of the most recognized characters in cinema the world over. Eille Norwood, John Barrymore, Clive Brook, Arthur Wontner, Reginald Owen, Basil Rathbone, Ronald Howard, Peter Cushing, Douglas Wilmer, John Neville, Christopher Plummer, George C. Scott, Stewart Granger, Charleton Heston, Roger Moore, Tom Baker, Ian Richardson, and Jeremy Brett form a partial list of actors who have contributed to the presence of Holmes in English language film and television.

The Pleasant Places of Florida exhibited a few examples from this wealth of Sherlockian cinema at a Sherlock Holmes Film Festival on April 1, 2006 (no fooling!), at the Seminole Community Library. Attended by approximately 25 Holmes enthusiasts, the festival featured movies old and more recent in which the World's First Consulting Detective was the star of the show.



The festival started with the 1935 feature, *The Triumph of Sherlock Holmes*, starring Arthur Wontner as Holmes and Ian Fleming as Dr. Watson. In the judgment of David Stuart Davies, author of *Starring Sherlock Holmes*, this film is the most sophisticated and accomplished of the series of five films starring Wontner as Holmes. Watson visits Holmes, who has just retired to keep bees in Sussex, when the detective receives a note

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from an informant warning him that some dark deed is about to take place at Birlstone Manor. Wontner has been the first choice of many Sherlockian critics and film buffs for his splendid performances and remarkable resemblance to Holmes as pictured in the original drawings by illustrator Sidney Paget published in *The Strand* magazine.

A 30-minute television featurette, *Silver Blaze*, based on one of the most well known of the short stories, was the second entry on the program. Released in 1977 and starring Christopher Plummer as Holmes and Thorley Walters as Dr. Watson, *Silver Blaze* debuted in Great Britain. The storyline is particularly familiar to member of the PPofF: The favorite for the Wessex Cup turns up missing, and under strange and deadly circumstances. How can a sleek race horse be hidden in a sparsely inhabited district? Plummer "was not wholly satisfied" with his performance of Holmes, and had an opportunity to reprise the role two years later.



The third and final title, *Murder By Decree*, an Anglo-Canadian production released in 1979, is one of the "darkest" of Holmes movies. The Great Detective tangles with Jack the Ripper, and the London streets are never foggier nor gas lamps dimmer. Who committed the horrible White Chapel murders? Theories abound, but Holmes finds that the answer reaches in a direction few would have suspected. Though many have thought Christopher Plummer made an unlikely Holmes, he brought a warm humanity to his portrayal that functions side by side with the cool thinker and observer of facts and clues. James Mason is absolutely masterful as Dr. Watson. Plummer and Mason portray their alter egos not only as associates in detection, but as close and loyal friends.

Between the films, the cinema-goers had opportunity to test their knowledge of Sherlockian trivia, with prizes generously awarded, and an enjoyable day had by all.

Many thanks to **Carl Heifetz**, **Wanda Dow**, and **Jeff Dow** for helping to make the festival a success.

**31st ANNUAL SPRING GATHERING OF THE**

## **PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA**

**Saturday, May 20 at 2 PM .**

**Grand Floridian Resort in Orlando**

**RESPONSE DEADLINE MAY 13, 2006**

Thanks to **Madlyn Sanford**, we will be able to partake of a Victorian High Tea at the Grand Floridian Resort in Orlando.

We will enjoy a delicious High Tea, from an excellent selection, accompanied with delicious and nutritional accompaniments. Please note that there are many menu items from which to choose, a price and a selection for every palate. Excluding tip and tax. The High Tea cost is from \$24.50, \$20.00, \$17.50, and \$12.50 per adult, and \$8.50 per child. The price includes tea, scones, pastries, tea sandwiches, trifle. Wine is only included in the \$24.50 and \$20.00 packages. There are also many A La Carte items. A detailed menu is included in the back of *Communication* No. 259.

The story to be discussed is the "Six Napoleons." However, some of our members could probably eat more. According to Madlyn, "I have read the story selections, and since we are to be having High Tea with its wonderful yummy scones, trifles and such, I think an appropriate selection would be "Six Napoleons."

For details, do not hesitate to contact **Madlyn Sanford** by telephone at \_\_\_\_\_ or by email at \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Editors notes:**

Thanks to our members for some excellent literary contributions to this *Communication* and for planning past or upcoming events. Please keep them coming. This issue of your *Communication* will dwell on *Pleasant Places of Florida* aspects and some additional matters to spice up the mix. I welcome Sherlockian contributions from all of our members for future issues. We always welcome input from our members. If you have something of interest to report, or an item for publication, please send it to either Wanda Dow or Carl Heifetz. If you have any ideas for a meeting venue, please let us know. We are always looking for novel locales and topics.

I hate to bring up the subject of **money**, but there appears to be some confusion as to when memberships expire and dues need to be paid. Please note the mailing label on the back of your issue. Above your name is a date. That is the last month and year of your membership. Please see the box at the bottom of the back page for directions regarding membership renewal. We are also pleased to provide members with the opportunity to donate additional monies to the Marshall/Wood fund. The fund was established to purchase youth editions of Sherlock Holmes stories to be distributed to children's libraries to help "keep green the memory of the master." The fund is administered by **Mike Bryan**, Director of the Seminole Library.

## SHERLOCKIAN SCHOLARSHIP BY MEMBERS OF THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA

### THE CASE OF THE MISSING MARQUESS

Reviewed by: Philip K. Jones, February, 2006

Type of material: Hard Cover book

Publisher: Philomel Books, Division of Penguin Young Readers Group

Year: 2006

Author: Nancy Springer

**Review:** This is published as a juvenile book about Enola Holmes, sister to Mycroft and Sherlock Holmes. It takes place in 1888, beginning on her 14<sup>th</sup> birthday when her mother, Lady(?) Eudoria Vernet Holmes, disappears from Fernell Park, the Holmes family manor. In the course of this adventure, Enola is introduced to some realities of the Victorian age, including Boarding Schools for Young Ladies, Patent Dress Improvers, East End Slums and the language of flowers.

The book seems quite authentic, with few or none of the usual 20<sup>th</sup> Century anachronisms and Americanisms so common to Sherlockian pastiches. The portraits of Mycroft and Sherlock are also convincing but the depiction of the villain is less than compelling, with too many contradictory elements. The "child's eye view" is well-maintained and convincing. The reader's sympathies are invoked and strongly reinforced as the tale proceeds.

While this book is aimed at young adults, it will also be attractive to adults. It is well-written, interesting and firmly fixed in the Sherlockian environment. It is, apparently, written as the prospective first in a series of books about the heroine and is a fascinating introduction to some previously ignored aspects of Holmes's world. It is certainly worth reading and I look forward to additional adventures in the series.

The missing Marquess(sic!) of the title turns out to be the first restoration of Enola Holmes, Perditorian.

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### THE BOTANICAL HOLMES

Sherlockian Humor from Philip Jones

After our brush with "The Devil's Foot" Holmes gave himself over to increased study of exotic plants and their medicinal qualities. He made frequent trips to the Royal Botanical gardens and was often in correspondence with plant hunters from all over the world. His objective, of course, was to become acquainted with as many of the poisons in use by humans as was possible. It had galled him that he did not immediately recognize the source of the Tregannis poisonings.

Our rooms were cluttered with strange plants from time to time and Holmes would concoct noxious brews from the oddest ingredients. I often found my appetite disappearing after he completed yet

another distillation or reduction and Mrs. Hudson's complaints were loud and frequent. The six months or so that Holmes devoted to this phase of his chemical education were among the most uncomfortable of our association, but by the time autumn arrived, we were having fewer such incidents.

It was late in September when Holmes brought home some ferns reputed to be from the Amazon jungle that native "doctors" used as a purgative. At a time when physicians were prescribing "high colonics" and such for every digestive problem they encountered, I felt that Holmes new plaything was somewhat passe, and I said so.

He replied: "Watson, with fronds like these, who needs enemas?"

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### WATSON'S FINEST MOMENT

by Carl L. Heifetz

Prepared for *The Formulary*, The Journal of the Friends of Dr. Watson, April 17, 2006

The "sacred" Canon reveals many excellent instances that may fulfil the object of this essay - to describe the finest moment in the life and career of John H. Watson, M.D. Could it be the time that he stood bravely on the deck of the *Aurora*, revolver in hand, facing down the dangerous Tonga and his poisoned dart in *The Sign of Four*, or, in the same adventure, when he walked, alone and unprotected, late at night through a dangerous part of London seeking Toby? How about the time that he steadfastly acted as a British jury in "The Adventure of the Abbey Grange?" The list is virtually endless.

Although many other episodes could be cited as exemplifying the subject of this discourse, I maintain that the best exemplar was the occasion in which Dr. Watson agreed to share Baker Street quarters with Mr. Sherlock Holmes.

Look at the circumstances that would have mitigated against this decision. Watson was weak and weary from his horrible experiences. His leg and shoulder ached constantly, forcing him towards excessive drink. His constitution had been weakened by a case of enteric fever. He was probably also suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. And, no doubt, his nerves were very highly susceptible to anxiety, admitting later to "keeping a bull pup." Yet, he agreed to share a suite with a man described as a very sinister companion; a man who greeted him with a mysterious statement concerning the fact that he had been in Afghanistan, a statement which could put most men's nerve on edge, and then ran around yelling about some test for blood.

It is indeed a tribute to Dr. Watson that he must have seen some very positive outcomes associated with a future relationship with the "mad scientist" whom he had just met.

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Let us consider the serious consequences had Dr. Watson not decided that it would be in his best interests to share rooms with this eccentric gentleman. Just imagine, we might never have heard of Sherlock Holmes. His personal reticence would have dimmed whatever other records there were of his accomplishment. Think of it: The world would never have been the same; we would all have been deprived of the main focus of our scholarly pursuits.

Let us all sing the praises of Dr. Watson, and his finest moment - the beginning of an adventurous life for Dr. Watson and all of us who relish Dr. Watson's accounts.



### HAPPY VICTORIA DAY

Thanks to member **Donna Vaurio** for sending me the email card celebrating Victoria Day, in honor of "a certain gracious lady" who presented Sherlock Holmes with "a remarkably fine emerald tie pin." Victoria Day, the official birthday of the queen who ruled during much of Sherlock Holmes' life, is celebrated on May 24. Details may be found at: [http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccs/p/jfa-ha/victoria\\_e.cfm](http://www.pch.gc.ca/progs/cpsc-ccs/p/jfa-ha/victoria_e.cfm).

The card is located at the following URL:

<http://www.bluemountain.com/view.pd?i=142357278&m=4695&rr=y&source=bma999>

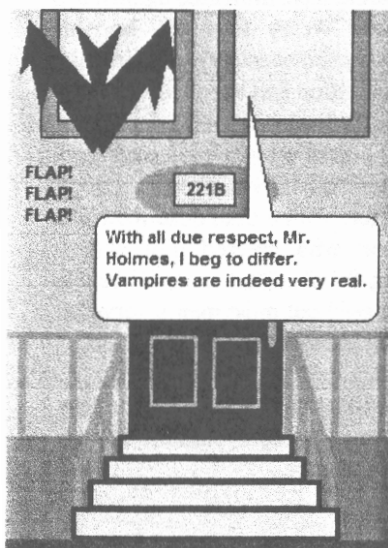
### THE JEANSTER HAS BEEN AT IT AGAIN

A sample of her new, charming cartoon is shown on the left.

According to her note on WelcomeHolmes for March 31, 2006, "Months ago I made my own Sherlock Holmes comic strip series. I haven't worked on it in some time, but today I received the vampire Playmobil Klickie, so I worked it into the strip. Take a look. The last two panels of this strip are Playmobil pics I took." Go to

<http://www.angelfire.com/tv2/jeanster/SHBakerSt/strip.html>.

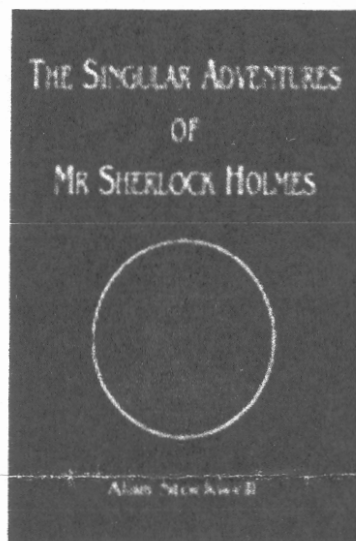
While you're at it, explore her very interesting web site. It's loads of fun.



### NOTEWORTHY BOOKS TO CONSIDER

Sherlockian books run a broad gamut of style and quality. There are pastiches, treatises, and many other forms of literature. The quality and creativity of Sherlockians are unbounded. So is the vast number of offerings. Unfortunately, not all are up to expectations. Those of us who need to stay within a budget, both in terms of money and shelf space, soon came to realize that we must be very careful in our selection of purchases of our favorite genre. With this in mind, I would like to take the opportunity to

recommend three books that I believe are worthy books for your consideration.



*The Singular Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* is, in my opinion, an excellent source of Sherlockian pastiche. Written by Alan Stockwell and published in April 2003, the 15 stories in this collection are singularly well constructed and the voice of Dr. Watson well represented. The inventive problems present to the attention are well conceived, as are the solutions. The publisher is UPSO Ltd. Check out their web site for details and

availability: <http://www.upso.co.uk>.

*Holmes on the Range*, by Steve Hockensmith, is a horse of a different color, indeed. It is not about Sherlock Holmes per se, but about an illiterate cowboy called "old red" who uses the methods of Mr. Holmes to solve murders and mysterious goings on in the old west. Intrigued? The main characters are two itinerant cowboys: the 30-year-old "old red" Alingmeyer and his younger brother "big red," so called because he is almost as big as a house. Having had the opportunity to acquire some book learning, the younger brother reads to his elder sibling the articles and stories from magazines. The very intelligent "big red" sets out to emulate his hero Sherlock Holmes and, working through a series of clues and unnerving events, unravels the mysterious activities and criminal events taking place in the ranch at which they are currently employed. The book is published by St. Martins Minataur. For information, look up their web site: [www.stevéhockensmith](http://www.stevéhockensmith)

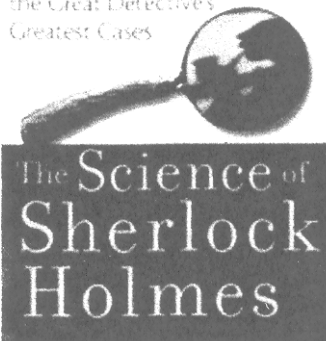


And finally, for the scientists and *CSI* fans in the crowd, I would like to suggest *The Science of Sherlock Holmes*. by E. J. Wagner.

(Continued on page 5)



From Baskerville Hall  
to the Valley of Fear,  
the Real Forensics Behind  
the Great Detective's  
Greatest Cases



E. J. WAGNER

from the sacred Sherlockian Canon, and goes on to supply examples of how our favorite detective applies his knowledge of forensic science to extricating the true solution of a puzzle. Based on the specific example provided in each chapter, Ms. Wagner narrates, in a very interesting manner, the developmental history of the method from initial observations to current utilization. There is an extensive Glossary of terms, a Bibliography, and a very useful index. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. published this 244- page volume.

This item will serve three purposes: educate and enlighten the reader, enhance our enjoyment of the Watsonian accounts, and provide an excellent reference text for Sherlockian scholarship. It will also permit us to evaluate how Mr. Holmes' methods fit into the forensic technology available during his active career. According to the title page, the book covers "From Baskerville Hall to the Valley of Fear, the Real Forensics Behind the Great Detective's Greatest Cases." And it does this in a very interesting manner. Ms. Wagner begins each of the 13 chapters with a quotation

## INTERNET SOURCES OF SHERLOCKIANA

There are many ways to learn about Sherlockian matters and to participate in discussions on such topics. These include personal conversations; attendance at Sherlockian events, such as the Gatherings of the Pleasant Places of Florida; and publishing in and reading scholarly journals such as *The Baker Street Journal* and *Baker Street West 1*. The introduction of the Internet has led to numerous Sherlockian discussion groups and web sites.

Two discussion groups have emerged as the most useful and interesting to pursue. Both of these discussion groups focus on stories from the Canon, usually changing monthly. To get things going, a discussion leader poses a list of items to discuss, at the beginning of the cycle. Other topics often arise, either as off shoots from the analyses themselves or as a result of something that appeared in the newspapers, or a new book or motion picture on the scene. Thus, one may learn about Victorian firearms, customs, train schedules, alcoholic beverages, choices in dogs, fashion, Petri Wine, or any other topic that piques the interest of the various correspondents. To join the discussion, just call up the URL or find it by the Internet search engine of your choice and follow the directions.

By far the most scholarly is the "Hounds of the Internet." According to information posted on Les Moskowitz's website, <http://www.bcpl.net/~lmoskowi/holmes.html> "Although anything relating to the world of Sherlock Holmes may be brought up for discussion on the Hounds of the Internet mailing list, since its inception in 1992, the group has focused on a discussion of the 60 original stories written by Holmes's creator, Arthur Conan Doyle."

A somewhat more rambunctious discussion may be found on WelcomeHolmes, which advertises itself as the "world's largest Sherlockian internet group. It is located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WelcomeHolmes/>.

Then there is the newsgroup alt.fan.holmes. The discussions on this list are relatively sparse, and often not as courteous as those on the lists indicated above. Really heated arguments often emerge. However, sometimes the discussions reveal interesting inside information about items such as the people responsible for the Jeremy Brett TV shows, the classic BBC radio programs, and the Sherlock Holmes Museum in London.

Then there are the very many web sites devoted to Sherlock Holmes and Arthur Conan Doyle. For example, an anonymous source on the newsgroup alt.fan.holmes queries "Are you folks aware of this website - <http://mrmoon.com/moonfind/holmes/> ?" I checked it out, and it is easy to use and very worthwhile adding to your favorites or bookmarks for Sherlockian reference/. Another excellent source of Sherlockian material is organized in the "Camden House" at <http://camdenhouse.ignisart.com/main.htm>. Among the many useful items is the complete Sherlockian Canon including original art work.

Check it out! The "Sherlockian Etimes," by the folks at Classic Specialties <<http://www.sherlock-holmes.com>> is another excellent source of information and a great place to acquire that rare Sherlockian item to present to friends on special occasions

\*\*\*\* TIMES ■ MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 2006 5E

## BRIDGE

By FRANK STEWART

"It was a case of the dog that didn't bark, Watson."

Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson sat in Holmes' study, reviewing the day's match against Professor Moriarty. They had won, narrowly, despite a reverse in today's deal.

"Moriarty's leap to six hearts was risky," Watson observed. "Dummy might have had only low diamonds."

"True," Holmes nodded, "and the slam should have failed. When I led the deuce of clubs, Moriarty won, led a trump to dummy and returned a diamond — and you took the ace. He won your spade return, drew trumps and threw his low spade on the king of diamonds."

"If I duck the first diamond, we have a chance," Watson mused, "but I feared he had the singleton queen."

"My opening lead barked that I had four clubs," Holmes sighed, "but the dog that didn't bark was the key. If Moriarty had the bare queen of diamonds, I had J-10-9-7. Then I'd surely have led a diamond, not a club from a broken suit."

"Amazing, Holmes."

"Elementary."

Question: You hold: ♠ J 9 3 2 ♥ 9 ♦ A 8 6 2 ♣ J 9 7 4. Your partner opens one heart, you bid

one spade and he jumps to three clubs. The opponents pass. What do you say?

Answer: You'd have passed if partner had bid two clubs, but his jump creates a game-force. Partner says he expects to make game now that he knows you have enough values to respond to his opening bid. Bid four clubs. Your partner can expect no more strength than you actually have.

South dealer  
N-S vulnerable

North  
♠ Q 7 4  
♥ J 10 8 2  
♦ K 5 4 3  
♣ 8 3

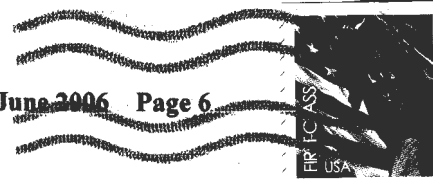
West East  
♠ K 10 8 5 ♠ J 9 3 2  
♥ 7 4 ♥ 9  
♦ J 8 7 ♦ A 8 6 2  
♣ Q 10 6 2 ♣ J 9 7 4

South  
♠ A 6  
♥ A K Q 8 5 3  
♦ Q 10  
♣ A K 5

South	West	North	East
2 ♣	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
2 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
6 ♥	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♠ 2

09 MAY 2006 PM 5 T



*The Pleasant Places of  
Florida*  
c/o Carl L. Heifetz

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***THE PLEASANT PLACES OF FLORIDA***  
**THE LAST COURT OF APPEALS**

**CARL L. HEIFETZ**

**REPRESENTATIVE BOTH WITH THE SERVANTS AND WITH THE TRADESPEOPLE**

Correspondent and Communication

**JEFF & WANDA DOW**

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Communications, Bookkeeping

**DAVID MCCALLISTER**

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