



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

Internet Website: www.sifd.org

EDITOR: Lily Avery (Mrs.), 16 Willow Drive, Little Common, Bexhill-on-Sea,
East Sussex TN39 4PX. Tel: 01424 845866.

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The typing is done by Lily Avery. The printing, packaging and posting
is done by Dalila Heath.

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This month's cover was drawn by Lesley Boorer.

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CHAIRMAN: Mike Gilbert, 2 Clarendon Road,, Cambridge CB2 2BH. Tel: 01223
700718. e-mail: MikeG1@btinternet.com

TREASURER: Judith Payling (Mrs.), Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & GROUPS LIAISON OFFICER: Alan Morton, 26 Durham Road, Harrow, Middx. HA1 4PG.
Tel: 020 8427 8042.

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A NOTE OF THANKS

As we come up to the A.G.M. and the end of the year, I should like to take this opportunity of thanking most sincerely those people who help me to ensure that the SIFD NEWS is produced and reaches members regularly throughout the year.

Dalila Heath does an excellent job of getting the NEWS printed and then taking on the task of folding, packaging, stamping and posting it, even though she has a family to look after and also is a teacher of Armenian dances. I am sure you will all wish to join me in thanking Dalila for giving the time each month to do this job so reliably.

Also to be thanked are Alan Morton and Edwina and Michael Holdup. Alan prepares the address labels and keeps them up to date, and sees that Edwina and Michael have them in time to do their job of sticking them on to the envelopes. Alan does this in addition to the time-consuming job of Membership Secretary and Groups Liaison Officer. So, thank you Alan. Thank you, too, Edwina and Michael who have been doing this job of putting on the labels for many years now and have always been so reliable, managing to fit it in around other things in their busy lives.

Thanks are also due to those people who have helped by sending in cover designs, articles, letters, and also to Heather Edwards who is willing to stand in as Editor when necessary.

A happy Christmas to you all, and thank you very much for your support. I compile and edit the NEWS but the rest is done by you.

LILY AVERY

TATRY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

This was a happy occasion, with a hall packed almost entirely full of Poles plus just a few others including ex Jacy Tacy dancers and S.I.F.D. friends.

There were three other groups helping out with the programme: Zywiec from Ealing, Orleta from Balham and Klosy from Cambridge. Together they made a varied and lively evening of dancing, and much hard work must have gone into preparing it.

The opening number - dances from Opoczno - was especially good, with Tatry showing great ability in communicating to, and incorporating, the audience right away in the joy of the dance. I will not attempt to go through the whole programme but must mention Orleta's dances from Lwow. This extremely handsome and young group "brought the house down" with their vivacious and humorous street dances. The girls' satin "flapper" dresses plus cheeky accessories were complemented by the boys' sharp jackets and caps or trilbies at just the right angles. Apparently this item was much acclaimed at the summer festival in Rzeszow.

The costumes throughout the evening were very good, with Tatry showing, amongst others, those recently acquired from the Sacz area which has, perhaps, the most beautiful and richly embroidered of all the male costumes.

The "train" of Tatry dancers chugging along into the future made a lighthearted and original finale, but it would have been nice to see the other visiting groups come on for a last bow as well. Perhaps they were in a hurry to get changed and homeward!

BETTY HARVEY



DOINA Foundation of Romanian ethnography and folklore announce the following:-

Cultural Folklore Dance Tours to Romania, 2003

26th April to 3rd May	Piatra Neamt, Central Moldavia	EUR 568
26th July to 7th August	Poiana Stampei, Bucovina	EUR 892

Balkan Festival, 2003

3rd-6th July at Cultural Centre, "De Wanmolen", Schweitzerpark 2, Zetten (near Arnhem), The Netherlands.

Dance: Greek (Dick van der Zwan); Bulgarian (Eddy Tijssen); Turkish (Ersin Seyhan); Macedonian (Martin Ihns); Yugoslavian (Paja Milic); Romanian (Silviu Ciuciumis); Balkanball (Helen van Bochove).

Singing: Hedwig Schoots.

Musical accompaniment: Collective orchestra, Orchestra Trediki.

Romanian Folklore Costumes and Dancing-boots

Complete or partial outfits for men and women. Special offer: girls' and women's costumes from Oltenia.

Information on all the above from Silviu Ciuciumis, Aarhuispad 22, 3067 PR, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. Tel: +31-10-421 86 22.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Lily,

The photograph of Joseph Chu on the cover of the November SIFD NEWS, and Jill Bransby's remarks about the different types of Chinese fiddle, set me off on an investigation. I quote first from a fascinating book, "Spectrum of Chinese Culture" by Lee Siow Mong (Malaysia 1988). "All Chinese fiddles are of non-Chinese origin. They are called hu, a name which denotes their origin - the Northern Tartars were called hu by the Chinese. All of them have a hollow cylindrical or box-like body made of bamboo or wood, one end of which is covered with snake-skin or tung wood to provide the sound box. The bow passes between the two strings. The hu is called by different names by adding a prefix to hu depending on the shape and the material that goes to make the fiddle".

I then sent a hasty e-mail to a Chinese barrister friend in Hong Kong. (He used to dance Hopak and Kreuz Konig and various Scottish highland dances in Cardiff 25 years ago, but I don't know whether he has ever played the Chinese fiddle). From his reply, and from my dictionary, I gleaned more facts. Er-hu is the most popular Chinese fiddle, and its name simply means "two-stringed fiddle", even though all hu have two strings. It is also called nan-hu because of its popularity in the South, and its soundbox of hide produces a rather deep, melancholic sound when compared with the higher-pitched jing-hu (so called because of its use in Beijing opera, "jing" being short for "Beijing". Ban-hu looks similar to er-hu but its brighter sound is produced by its thin wooden soundboard ("ban" means a slice of wood); it is often used to play the rowdier sort of music and is also used in Beijing opera and other regional operas in the North. The zhong-hu relates to the er-hu as the viola to the violin; the gao-hu is a high-pitched version of the er-hu ("zhong"=middle, "gao"=high). The 'cello of the hu family is, however, named ge-hu ("ge"=hide or animal skin).

An interesting feature of the Chinese language is that many different written characters may have the same sound; my dictionary lists 53 characters (with 53 different meanings) all pronounced "hu" in one of the four tones. But the hu character meaning "fiddle" (not one of the other 52) also means "moustache, beard or whiskers" which, to the Chinese, must have been a distinguishing feature of the male Tartars.

JOHN RIGBY
Flat 5 Cathedral Court,
Cathedral Green, Llandaff,
Cardiff CF5 2EB

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Dear Lily,

I should like to thank Cathy Meunier, Silviu Ciuciumis and all M.C.s for making a very enjoyable weekend of 25th/27th October. Also, to thank everybody who contributed to Macmillan/Marie Curie Nurses Fund. I will pass on the amazing total of £75 to them. Dave would have been thrilled.

Yours sincerely,

STELLIA CARTER
14 High Mead, Hockley,
Essex SS5 4QG

Dear Lily,

In the tradition of this SIFD newsletter, I wanted to write a letter to say how much I enjoyed the September weekend workshop given by Ventzi Sotirov in Northleach (even though I was the one who organized it!).

Ventzi was his usual effervescent self, on great form, and taught some really fun dances in his inimitable style - such a joy to watch! Some of the dances had a distinctly contemporary feel, some were pure Pirin magic and some were decidedly fast-paced and tricky! Our Oxford groups seems to have been rejuvenated since his visit as we practise the dances and try to emulate his styling and remember what fun we had with him.

Of course we were blessed with perfect weather that weekend and were able to have all our breaks outside in the warm Cotswold sunshine. Lunch on the Sunday was especially enjoyable when, in true Balkan style, we had one long table and ate all the moussaka, stifado and Greek salad left over from the party on Saturday night. All in all, an outstanding weekend in a lovely venue.

How sad then that so few people came. I have tried to understand why. Is it that Ventzi is not as well known as other teachers? Or was it that it was held out of London? I would welcome any feedback as to how to increase attendance, otherwise it probably won't be financially viable to bring Ventzi back to the U.K., despite those who were there asking when he will be coming again.

In closing, I should just like to thank all the "usual suspects" for coming to support Ventzi and, hopefully, enjoying every minute of the weekend as much as I did.

Yours sincerely,

STEPHIE CLARK
9 Farmington, near Northleach,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire
GL54 3NQ

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Dear Lily,

Re George Sweetland's report on the Eisteddfod at Llangollen; no doubt I am "splitting hairs" but I thought I'd fill in a gap for him in his report. He stated that the first dance performed by the group from Brittany was not named but according to my copy of the programme it was "Avant Deux du Coglais". Whether this was the actual dance performed I don't know as George states that it was a foursome, whereas "deux" is two. (Ed.note: I think the "deux" in this case refers to the step itself, not the number of dancers). Unfortunately, we didn't see the group from Brittany as we had to leave early, but I enjoyed reading the results of the performances and comparing them with my own rough notes.

We managed to get to Llangollen by coach from Bangor but unfortunately in order to get the coach back we had to leave the afternoon dancing performance before the end, but it was better than not being there at all. For once, we didn't run into any of the members from the London area of the S.I.F.D. as we were sitting further forward than we have done in the past. The only person we did meet up with was the lady who ran the sequence dancing class we used to go to when we lived in Corfe Mullen. She hadn't seen us for fifteen years yet recognized us "from the backs of our heads" - she was used to seeing us in that position on the dance floor!

I do enjoy reading the SIFD NEWS each month; it makes me feel a bit closer

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to International Folk Dancing. We haven't done much sequence dancing this past year - one of the groups closed through a drop in members attending. We have, however, continued with our Scottish Country Dancing classes and in fact go to two groups, the Clynnog Thistle Group which meets on a Monday and the Caernarfon & Anglesey Caledonian Society which meets on a Thursday. This year we have been on three Scottish dancing holidays, the first with our Caledonian Society when we celebrated Burns Night in Scotland staying at the Angus Hotel in Blairgowrie, Perthshire, for a week and dancing each night. In May we went with the Clynnog Group to Bude where we danced in the hotel ballroom each evening, and then lastly we had a week on Arran with the Clynnog Group dancing each evening at the village hall in Corrie. On these holidays, special days out are included in the programme using the coach in which we have travelled from Bangor. We no longer have a car so these holidays are ideal for us.

Best wishes to you and to anyone else who remembers us.

PETER and JESSIE DAVEY
30 Uxbridge Court, Holyhead Rd.,
Bangor LL57 2HW

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BALKANPLUS, 14th December at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London N.W.1
7.00-10.30 p.m. £4.00.

I shall be M.C. at this dance and I hope to "rush through" a lot of the dances to make it user-friendly. At the moment there isn't an official live band booked but who knows who/what may turn up.

As this is the nearest Balkanplus to Christmas, I should like to give it a slightly festive tweak. The message is "Tinsel Up A Bit" to brighten the gloom as we near the Winter Solstice. Why not give it a try? We had a huge crowd at the Weekend of Traditional Dance, and newcomers from the "I-only-do-couple-dances" lobby are most welcome (I will even include some couple dances under the "plus" umbrella.

The next Balkanplus dance will be on 12th January 2003.

FIONA HOWARTH

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TURKISH TRIP

Ersin Seyhan is organizing a holiday in Turkey from 17th to 26th April 2003. There will be a dance course, excursions and a Turkish dance festival. If you think this would interest you, contact Ersin at :IJ svogel 29, 3602 X K, Maarssen, Netherlands.

Incidentally, during Ersin's weekend in Bognor Regis my red scarves seem to have disappeared! They were rather precious (made from my bridesmaid's dress and hemmed laboriously into the small hours by the light of a guttering candle), so if you find one in your folk bag please bring it back on 15th February at Paja's weekend.

JANET DOUGLAS

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan.12th BALKANPLUS.

Jan.17th/19th ISRAELI & INTERNATIONAL DANCE COURSE with Fiona Howarth at Elm Park Hotel, Eastbourne. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board and accommodation £73.00, course including social dancing on both evenings £10.00. For full details and booking form, send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

Jan.18th CROXLEY GREEN I.F.D.G. NEW YEAR PARTY 7.30-10.30 p.m. at St.Oswald's Church Hall, Malvern Way, Croxley Green, near Watford, Herts. Come in costume if you have one. £3.00 including refreshments, payable at the door. Contact: Joyce Sharp, 01923 228080.

S.I. Jan.21st PEMBROKESHIRE I.F.D.G. NEW YEAR (non-dancing) DINNER. Venue (central to our area) t.b.c. Also time and cost t.b.c. All welcome to what is traditionally a very happy evening. For details contact Eve Brennan on 01239 831404 or Sue Clark on 01437 710261.

S.I. Jan.23rd THE PHILHELLENES GREEK DANCERS will be holding an open evening at the basement hall, Regent's Square United Reformed Church, London N.W.1. 8.00-10.00 p.m. No charge; light refreshments provided. Anyone interested in Greek dancing, at whatever level, is welcome to come and join in. More information from Ariana Johnson on 020 8441 7029.

S.I. Jan.25th OXFORD BALKANSKO DRO NEW YEAR PARTY, 7.00-10.45 p.m. £5.00 at the door. Live music from "Vuhpros", and refreshments.

Feb.2nd DAY OF ARMENIAN DANCE with Shakeh Avanesian at Bergh Apton Village Hall, (9 miles S.E. of Norwich). For further information and booking, ring B.Campbell-Johnston on 01508 480195. No price given.

S.I. Feb.2nd ISRAELI DANCE WORKSHOP with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. £12.00 (concessions £7.00). Shared vegetarian lunch. For bookings/information/map 'phone Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

Feb.15th/16th YUGOCLAVIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Paja and Madelon Milic in Bognor Regis. £32.00. Optional meal on Saturday evening £10.00 extra. Further details from Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010.

S.I. Mar.15th/16th RUSSIAN FOLKDANCE COURSE with Hennie Konings at Chorlton, Manchester, and Calver, Derbyshire. Further information from Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Road, Aspull, Nr.Wigan WN2 1EF. Tel: 01942 831141. No price given.

Mar.21st/23rd 10TH SPRING DANCE CELEBRATION with Bob Neal at Freshwater Bay, Isle of Wight. Cost of weekend £112, or en-suite £122. For full details and booking form send s.a.e. to Pamela Le Goaziou, 55 Mitchell Road, Bedhampton, Hants. PO9 3QA. Tel: 023 9264 1028.

Apr.11th/13th RESIDENTIAL BULGARIAN COURSE with Nina Kavardjikova (recommended by Yves Moreau) in the HF guest house at Brecon - an excellent base for walking and sightseeing. Comfortable en-suite accommodation, full board, heated indoor pool. Choice of General or Advanced course, or both courses. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. Full board and accommodation £107.00. Each course £15.00. For full details and booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 115 Chetwynd Road, London NW5 1DA.

May 2nd/5th EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL DANCE FESTIVAL.

A VISIT TO CROATIA

After certain travel problems, the less said about the better, here we are in the centre of Split, Croatia, listening to the delightful sounds of "The Dances from Split". Little did we think all those years ago when Nenad and his wife Jasna taught us Yugoslav dances at one of Jack Richardson's weekends that in September 2002 Vic and I would be hearing them played live on a warm summer evening. I asked the musicians if they were local and, when they said Yes, did they know "The Dances From Split". Without doubt they were pleased to be asked and played them for us. The following day a wrong turn found us again in the Cathedral Square and the same musicians were there. They insisted we sat down whilst they played the music again.

Some of you may remember a few years ago when the "troubles" there reared up as a Croatian team from Split were on their way to the Eisteddfod at Llangollen. The B.B.C. featured their group and especially their music, and "The Dances From Split" was played each evening on their review.

Whilst in Split, a shop called "Nostalgia" caught my eye and we went in. The owner was a dress designer of some note and featured the traditional Croatian materials and embroidery, and in some cases the style in her design. The result was stunning. She also had available for purchase "replica" original costumes from various regions. Sadly, we didn't have £400 to spare! On the advice of the designer, we went to the local ethnological museum, where we enjoyed a feast of costumes, some original, some replicas. Thank Goodness they survived.

A week later and a local 'bus has delivered us to Dubrovnik. Two days became four, became six. We were enchanted and had several opportunities to enjoy local culture, music and dance especially. At a "tourist" performance, the group showed dances from all Croatian regions (and one from Slovenia) including Krici Krici Ticek and "The Dances From Split".

One day a tour took us South of Dubrovnik through all the torched villages struggling valiantly to recover. Even the trees and vineyards had fallen to fire. In the province of Konavliat, a village called Cilipi, the buildings were largely restored and here they brought all the villagers together, in costume, and set out stalls and exhibitions for the tourists. Local craft, including a great deal of embroidery and several costumes, were there for our pleasure and of course the inevitable and much enjoyed folkdance display. Some dances felt familiar, some did not. There was one dance however (sorry, no name) that had a "Frances Horrocks" feel about it. A hora with small subtle footwork. Vic and I both agreed that if Frances were dancing with the group no-one would know she wasn't local. We have purchased the music and it's a joy to listen to. It was only after leaving Croatia that it dawned on me that every dance but two had been couple dances, Krici Krici Ticek being one of the two.

SUE CLARK



* All material for the January issue of SIFD NEWS *
* must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 14th December. *
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* Please note earlier date than usual. *
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S.I. S.I.F.D. SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOPS at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Rd., N.W.1

Dec.1st M.C. Anne Leach

Jan.5th

7.00 to 10.00 p.m. Admission £4.00 for S.I.F.D. members, £5.00 non-members.

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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Dec.1st S.I.F.D. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 4 p.m. at Cecil Sharp House.

S.I. Dec.1st ISRAELI DANCE PARTY and REVISION DAY with Anat at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, near Eastbourne. 10.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. £12 (concessions £7). Shared vegetarian lunch. Enquiries: Rowena Martin, 01323 503991.

S.I. Dec.7th DAY COURSE IN BROMLEY at Widmore Centre, Nightingale Lane. 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. "No Partners Required", a Sample of International Folk Dance. Tutor: Fiona Howarth. For details/enrolment ring Bromley Adult Education, 020 8460 0020.

Dec.7th ZIVKO FIRFOV FOLKLORE GROUP PARTY at Moorfields Primary School, London E.C.1. 7.00-10.30 p.m. Nearest Underground Station: Old Street. Dances from Croatia, Serbia and Macedonia; also Bulgaria, Greece, Romania. £6.00 including refreshments. ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY available from Irene Keywood, Tel: 020 8592 4427.

Dec.7th S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS PARTY, 7.30-10.30 p.m. at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road (B4102), Solihull (corner of Station Approach). M.C.: Maggie Kaye. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper.

S.I. Dec.10th PEMBROKESHIRE I.F.D.G. CHRISTMAS PARTY at Woodstock Community Hall, 8.00-10.30-ish. All welcome. FREE. Bring a friend, bring some food and drink. Further details from Sue Clark, 01437 710261, or Eve Brennan, 01239 831404.

S.I. Dec.13th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY. In brazen disregard of the date (Friday, the 13th), the club throws another party with the now familiar ingredients of dancing, cabaret, food and bonhomie. Guest appearance of Dunav Balkan Group with Dessi. £5.00. 8.00 p.m. at Church House, Wood St., Barnet, Herts. Further information from Brian Dowsett, 01992 582717.

S.I. Dec.13th to 15th S.I.F.D. DANCING/WALKING WEEKEND at Dunford, Midhurst, West Sussex. Dancing, walks, carols, Christmas fare. All rooms en-suite. About £113. Contact Jack Richardson, 01792 295194 (work), 403153 (home). At time of writing there are two vacancies.

S.I. Dec.14th BALKANPLUS. See p.6.

Dec.16th SKANDIA. Come and join our Scandinavian Dance Group for a Christmas celebration. 7.00 p.m. at the Swedish Church, 6 Harcourt Street, London W.1, near Edgware Road Underground Station. Some light refreshments provided. Everyone is welcome. We normally meet at the church on the 2nd and 4th Mondays every month but have had to change in December due to other activities at the church. CASPAR CRONK

Dec.31st S.I.F.D. WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY, 8.00 p.m. - 2003 at Downing Hall, Knowle. M.C.: Grace Pittman. £2.00. Bring-and-share supper.

MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Linksmu sventu Kaledu ir Laimingu Mauju Metu
(Lithuanian)

Felic Nadal i Any Nuo
(Catalan)

Buon Natale e felice Capo d'Anno
(Italian)

Il-Milied it-Tajjeb Is-Sena it-Tajba
(Maltese)

Zalig Kerstfeest en een Gelukkig Nieuwjaar
(Dutch)

Glad Jul och ett Gott Nytt Ar
(Norwegian)

Tchestito Rojdestvo Hristovo. Tchestita Nova Godina
(Bulgarian)

Kobotama Na Yesu
(Lingala-Congo)

Shenoraavor Nor Dari yev Pari Gaghand
(Armenian)

Gledileg Jol og Nyar
(Icelandic)

Shinnen Omedeto, Kurisumasu Omedeto
(Japanese)

Ya't'hey Kheshemish, Ya't'hey Na-Hi
(Navajo)

Yeni Yilinizi Kutlar, saadetler dilerim
(Turkish)

Joyeux Noel et Heureuse Annee
(French)

Glad Jul och ett Gott Nytt Ar
(Swedish)

Maligayang Pasko, Masaganang Bagong Taon
(Tagalog)

Veselykh Svyat i scaslivocho Novoho Roku
(Ukrainian)

Betarin arozo baray salnow
(Afgan)

Sarbatori Fericite. La Multi Ani
(Romanian)

Gojan Kristnaskon kaj Felican Novjaron
(Esperanto)

Boldog Karacsonyi es Ujevi Unnepekot
(Hungarian)

Roomsaid Joulu Puhi Ja Uut Aastat
(Estonian)

Wesolych Swiat Bozego Narodzenia i szczesliwego Nowego Roku
(Polish)

Priecigus Ziemas Svetkus un Laimigu Jauno Gadu
(Latvian)

Gun Tso Sun Tan' Gung Haw Sun
(Cantonese)

Srelcem Bozik. Srelkna Nova Godina
(Macedonian)

Hyvaa Joula. Onnellista Uutta Vuotta
(Finnish)

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