



DEAR MEMBER  
10,000...



# 10,051 and counting.

In June 2017 our membership grew to more than 10,000.

We invited authors to write a few words to welcome the new members who took us past this milestone. Here's what they said.

## **Philip Pullman** President of the SoA

Welcome! The Society of Authors is glad to greet you, and happy to add your name to the list of writers who have found in membership support, encouragement and advice over the years. Our profession is a solitary one; much of our time is spent slowly building something substantial (we hope) out of evanescent things like memory and language; but when we need fellowship or guidance through fields we may not be familiar with, such as matters legal or contractual or financial, it is a great thing to know that the Society is there, with knowledge and experience and willingness we can rely on.

The work we do is important as well as difficult; we need the Society of Authors to help us do it confidently and to claim a fair reward for doing it. I'm sure that, like your 9,999 fellow members, you will be very glad you joined.

## **Tan Twan Eng**

Welcome to the Society of Authors. Being a member of the SoA has made me feel part of a worldwide family of writers. I wish you every success in your writing.

## **Dawn Finch**

Welcome to the best club you'll ever join! My membership means so much more to me than all the extra services I get like contract vetting and multi-faceted career support from a union of like-minded people, it's also emotional support through the tough times, and friends to celebrate with through the good ones. The best membership fee I've ever spent.

## **Janie Hampton**

Welcome to the only society that an author ever need join, that is both professional, and friendly.

## **David Donachie** Chair of the SoA

I can't tell you the pleasure it gives me to welcome Member 10,000 to the Society of Authors. I hope they will, like all of my peers, enjoy the success as well as the pleasure of belonging to

an organisation that has played such a valuable role in protecting authors since 1884.

If I had something to ask of you it would be this. If you meet an author who is NOT a SoA member, ask them, as I do all the time, if they are being unwise. I tend to enquire if they insure their car and their house, to which the answer is always yes. Is it then foolish, I assert, not to insure your profession. That is what membership of the SoA brings.

### Zahra Hankir

I joined the Society of Authors shortly after listening to Nicola Solomon speak about writers' rights and industry developments at an "Always Take Notes" (alwaystakenotes.com) podcast event in Westminster in March this year. The fascinating discussion ranged from the macro to the micro of publishing, touching on everything from the craft of writing and author empowerment to the fine print in contracts, advances, royalties and privacy law. Becoming an SoA member for a small fee seemed like a no-brainer at the time; I'm so glad I joined.

### Richard Rathbone

Give someone a book; they'll read for a day. Teach someone how to write a book; they'll experience a lifetime of paralyzing self-doubt

### Jan Harvey

One of the best moves I made as an author was to become a member of the Society of Authors. Bryony Hall went through the contract from my publisher and gave me the confidence to sign on the dotted line. I recommend the Society to all my workshop students and during my various author talks.

## Joanne Harris

### Council and Management Committee

Dear Member 10,000 - congratulations! I've been with the

SoA for twenty years, and I'm still finding out about all the services they provide for us. Without them, I would have felt very lonely and disconnected from the writing community, but with them, I feel confident to deal with authority with publishers, agents and festival organizers. They're a great networking organization, too, providing connections with authors all over the country, and I really value the social opportunities they provide - I hope you will, too. We're all on a perpetual learning curve, and the SOA allows experienced writers to connect with and to help those who are just starting out. I hope that, wherever you are on the curve, you'll be a part of that, too. Welcome, and thank you. Joanne.

### Damien Lewis

It means being part of a family, in a profession that can often prove to be very lonely indeed!

### Michael G. Marsh

Dear 10,000th member, England Expects... and so does the SoA. Being an author is not something to be taken lightly. An author's words can make a difference, but with that comes responsibility. Responsible writing is at the very heart of Freedom itself. Belonging to the prestigious Society of Authors is not only an Honour, it provides a large measure of Credibility. With it comes an obligation to live up to its standards, and those set by our peers in the past. Welcome, 10,000th Member!

### Jackie Morris

Society of authors has been a great friend to me at times when I have needed a friend. They have stood beside me and helped me to face down problems with my publisher at a time when I was feeling lost and vulnerable. So glad to have discovered them. I would advise every author and illustrator to become a member.

### Alan Wilkinson

We work alone; this is our community.

## Sylvie Nickels

I'm very glad to welcome our 10,000th member. The SoA has given me the security of knowing I have somewhere to go when I need advice on any aspect of my publishing, as well as having nudged me into joining the ALCS from which I receive an annual amount for overseas rights.

## Fay Weldon Council

In 1917 my grandfather Edgar Jepson represented the SOA before the National Council of Public Morals, arguing the case that what writers wrote could not 'corrupt society'. It has always seemed as natural to me as it was for him to put my shoulder to the Society's wheel – it's a great privilege to be on its Council. The SOA provides an essential service to writers with practical advice, not least about avoiding or winning arguments with other parties such as publishers and agents. What's more, it provides essential fellowship. If you're a writer and haven't yet – join! It is in effect your trade union.

## Huw Powell

Welcome! In the wild world of writing, many of us work alone, but thanks to the SoA, we do not have to stand alone.

## Hilary Robinson

Congratulations on becoming the 10,000th member of an organisation that will help you 10,000 times and more!

## Steffie Shields

I would never have had the courage to sign a publisher's contract without the advice of SoA experts. I have also much enjoyed reading on-message, pertinent and informative articles in Newsletters ever since joining. Many thanks to SoA staff and all who volunteer their time. Long live the SoA!

## Beryl Beare

Writing can be a lonely business, but as a member of the SoA you are never alone.

## Simon Brett Council

Writers are, by their nature, paranoid. They need to know there's someone on their side. The Society of Authors provides that reassurance.

## Julia Suzuki

As a newbie children's author, I have found navigating the maze (and minefield) of publishing so much easier with the SoA. Concrete advice is topped off with such warmth from the organisation. Here with a huge thank you, and congratulations on the 10,000th member milestone!

## Michael Thomas

To our 10,000th member, I'd say, a warm welcome, enjoy your writing and don't be disheartened if people don't seem to understand what you're trying to do. Keep doing the best you can with what you have; and what you have will increase as time goes by.

## Nicola Morgan Chair of the Children's Writers and Illustrators Group

I am thrilled to welcome you to the wonderful community of the Society of Authors as its 10,000th member! I've been a member for more years than I can count and I've benefited so much, from advice, events, fellowship and the campaigning on behalf of all authors. I've been proud to serve some years ago as Chair of the Scottish group and now as Chair of the Children's Writers and Illustrators Group. You are extremely welcome and I hope you get as much out of your membership as I have. Do come and introduce yourself to me or any other member at our next event.

## Julia Thum

My membership of the SoA has given me confidence and advice from of submitting my first novel through to the publisher's contract and beyond. And I love the magazine too!

## A.J. Waines

Joining the SoA was one of the smartest moves I made as a professional writer. No matter how many agents or publishers authors are involved with, SoA is the backbone that consistently has authors' interests at heart. For me, getting support and advice on tricky legal and procedural matters has been invaluable. And knowing the SoA is always there grants me that ongoing peace of mind.

## Malorie Blackman Council

Joining the SoA at the start of my writing career was one of the best decisions I ever made. Before I found an agent, the SoA provided me with professional and invaluable contract and industry advice, services which are still readily available. It also provides regular opportunities to meet and learn from others in the industry. My advice to any author, illustrator or translator - new or established - who is not yet a member? Join!

## Angela Young

When I received my first publishing contract the Society of Authors made invaluable suggestions and kept me calm. When my publisher went bust the advice from the Society was wise, kind and useful. It's a wonderful thing that the Society is about to admit its 10,000th member. Publishing processes can be complex: the Society demystifies them. Who else would (or could) do that for little more than the price of a monthly utility bill each year?

## Amanda Craig

The SoA is the Authors' union - and it helped to save my third novel *A Vicious Circle*, when my then publisher claimed it was "unpublishable" after receiving an accusation of libel. It's now in its 20th year... and I have never looked back.

## Anne Fraser Sim

As a new, wet behind the ears author I had no idea about contracts or where to start. My book, written with my husband, included working with four artists. The

SoA was wonderful in sourcing someone who could comment on our draft contract with our publisher. The advice and friendly support was invaluable at what was a stressful time for us.

## Antonia Lloyd-Jones Co-chair - the Translators Association

Congratulations on becoming the 10,000th member of the Society of Authors! Whether you are a novelist, a translator, an illustrator or a poet, whether you write for children, for broadcast, or for educational purposes, you're a welcome member for whom the Society will be a source of support, encouragement and advice within a friendly community of your peers. We look forward to seeing you at future events.

## Natali Simmonds

As a new author signed, to a small independent UK publisher, The Society of Authors has been an invaluable resource for me. They helped me with my contract, they are always on hand to provide advice and support, and their forum is a real education. The world of publishing can be a scary one...but being part of the SOA has given me peace of mind. Next on my Writer's To Do List is making time in my schedule to attend more of their fantastic get-togethers!

## Charles Palliser Management Committee

The Society of Authors is our trade-union and the best hope we writers have of getting a fair deal from agents and publishers.

## Tom Bryan

Many authors work alone, with little outside support so I wish a warm welcome to our house of many rooms---here you will not be alone; here you will find both practical and moral support. Again, welcome.

# Meet Member 10,000...

Welcome the ten members who helped us reach five figures.



## Tony de Saullles

I have been illustrating children's books for much longer than I've been writing them having spent the past 21 years illustrating Scholastic's Horrible

Science series. But with my recent writer/illustrator deal with Oxford University Press I thought it was time to mix with authors as well as artists! I write highly-illustrated fiction and non-fiction for children aged 6 - 12 and I'd describe my style as quirky, humorous, informative and sometimes a little bit rude. I was amazed to discover that I'm one of the Member 10,000s and honoured to be invited to the Summer party as a guest.

[www.tonydesaullles.co.uk](http://www.tonydesaullles.co.uk)

@TonyDeSaullles



I've been writing professionally for a decade now, working as a journalist while writing fiction in the evenings. My debut novel, Johnny Ruin, is out in April next year with Unbound.

With my debut being published, and with the changing landscape of publishing presenting new opportunities and challenges for authors, I felt it important to have the backing of a union dedicated to helping navigate those opportunities and challenges, and who I can trust to continue to protect my rights. It's an honour to be member 10,000, but even more so to be part of the SoA.

[www.dandalton.me](http://www.dandalton.me)

@wordsbydan



## Hilary Bell

I am pulling together an essay collection about millennials, featuring other acclaimed writers and focussing on themes such as mental health, sexuality and

the housing crisis (if you'd like to pledge towards the book and get your name in it and a first edition hardback, you can pledge via the link below). I joined the SoA initially because of the help they give with contracts, but all of the support they offer is amazing. It feels really magical to be member 10,000 — especially finding out about this while going through the crowdfunding process!

[unbound.com/books/no-filter](http://unbound.com/books/no-filter)

@Hilary\_Alison



## Kimberley Mok

I am a writer and illustrator, now living near Montreal, Canada. I have been writing professionally for online publications for the last decade,

and currently working with a publisher on a non-fiction book, telling the (often surprising) stories of people who are choosing to build and live full-time in their own modern homes-on-wheels. Joining the SoA has helped to ease and enlighten the often convoluted and tricky process behind getting a book published: so far, I've gained valuable advice on choosing agents, understanding contracts and more. As one of the new 10,000th members, I'm proud to be part of a growing union that works hard on behalf of authors all around the world..

[www.collectivepsyche.com](http://www.collectivepsyche.com)

@kimberleymok

## Dan Dalton

I'm a writer and freelance journalist, originally from West Yorkshire, currently based in North London. I studied Creative Writing at the University of Leeds, and

## Cora Greenhill

Having had my 5th collection of poetry published, I felt I perhaps should take myself seriously as an author. We all know



that poetry doesn't make money, but that shouldn't mean that publishing contracts should be vague or non-existent, as it seems they often are. I decided it would be grown up to join

the Society and see if I could make more sense of my place in this shakiest of sectors. I haven't done yet...but maybe this honourable mention will spur me on! Thanks for the opportunity! My three recent books are *The Point of Waking* (Oversteps Books 2013), *Far from Kind* (Pindrop Press 2016) and verse drama, *Artemis, The People's Priestess*, (Three Drops Press, 2017)

[coragreenhillpoems.blogspot.com](http://coragreenhillpoems.blogspot.com)



**Tina Tamsho-Thomas**

Tina is a Manchester based writer, poet, spoken word performance artist, playwright, director, Black Writing

Development Pioneer, producer and the founder of Theatre of Colour. Her autobiographical play *Dancin in Sepia Dreams* was performed at the Manchester Royal Exchange and her memoir *No Blue Memories* will be published this year.



**Kathryn Phillips-Miles & Simon Deefholts**

We are translators of literary fiction

from Spanish into English. Together we have recently translated two novels and a collection of short stories which form the "Spanish Spring" season, part of Peter Owen Publishers' World Literature series. The three titles (published in May 2017) are *Wolf Moon* by Julio Llamazares *Inventing Love* by José Ovejero, and *Nona's Room* by Cristina Fernández Cubas. We joined the Society of Authors immediately after the books were published because we value the role the Society performs on behalf of authors and, in particular, the fact that the Society gives due recognition to the

work of translators. It goes without saying that we are delighted to be members of the Translators' Association as well! We'd both like to congratulate the Society on achieving the landmark number of 10,000 members.

[www.peterowen.com/author-spotlight](http://www.peterowen.com/author-spotlight)



**Robin Jarossi**

A lifelong London-based journalist and editor, I finally got my first book – *The Hunt for the 60s' Ripper* – published at the age of 58. I decided to join the Society of Authors

on the recommendation of my wife, Heidi Rice, who is a romance author. As for being amid the 10,000 membership landmark, I am delighted, and feel it might be a good omen for future book projects.

[robinjarossi.com](http://robinjarossi.com)

[@robinjarossi](https://twitter.com/robinjarossi)



**John McGhie**

As a journalist I have been writing all my life but the compulsion to write fiction has been growing stronger. On one level *White Highlands* is my answer to that, but on another it is my

fictional response to what I discovered as a journalist in Kenya when I made a BBC film there about the (then) little known brutality of the British in defence of colony. I joined the Society of Authors as I strongly believe writers, although often working alone, need the fellowship of others and a voice for their profession. The practical help on offer was also an added inducement. And of course it has to be admitted, being a member of such an august sounding body is bound to give a bit of a kick... Being (one of the) ten thousandth members is a great honour, giving the sense of riding a huge wave of writers before one. Look, one thinks, they are all proper authors - perhaps I am too!

[johnmcghieauthor.wordpress.com](http://johnmcghieauthor.wordpress.com)

[@Odinsman](https://twitter.com/Odinsman)

## Sara Pascoe

Welcome! You have joined a truly helpful professional organization rich with resources, guidance, and help at the drop of an email or at the end of the phone! I have always been delighted, satisfied and moved at the excellent and quick advice and help offered every time I've contacted the SoA. You will also meet kindred spirits at the various training and education opportunities. Engage, enjoy and indulge. Welcome, it's lovely to have you here!

## Wendy Cope

The Society of Authors is a wonderful organisation. It's good to know they are always there fighting for us. I have been glad of advice and support from the staff on many occasions over the years.

## Jane Harvey-Berrick

It's a tough life being a writer. So few of us make a really good living at it, but the SoA are on our side. Having a professional look at my contracts (thank you Bryony Hall) and advice on them has been incredibly helpful and reassuring. Having a team campaign on behalf of PLR which brings in some extra income each year has been fantastic. The newsletter is a useful forum for an exchange of views. And your cheap public liability insurance is something I'd encourage every author who does events to buy. I don't go to meetings or make the trek to London, but that doesn't mean I don't value SoA in dozens of different ways. Welcome number 10,000 - you've joined a great organisation, and are part of a great team.

## Deborah Moggach Council

Welcome, 10,000th member, to this hugely helpful - indeed essential - organisation. We truly would be lost without it, especially in these turbulent and challenging times for writers.

## Chris Bradford

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then the Society of Authors is worth ten thousand members. We can say more, do more and achieve more together.

## John Rice

Welcome Author 10,000! Yes, I know no-one wants to be known by a number (try telling the tax folk that!) but I'm afraid don't know your name. However and whoever you are, please accept my hopes that you will gain much value and support from the Society of Authors. It's a true family of writers (brothers and sisters) who support, value and admire each other's literary work. And the wonderful staff (our aunts and uncles!) work hard to keep us motivated and rewarded. Write on...and earn your golden fortune in copyrights (as Flann O'Brien would say!)

## Jonathan Downs

Other than isolation, authors also tend to work in virtual penury, as I did. I had no idea patronage or financial support existed for writers until the SoA once again came to the rescue, and pointed me in the direction of related charitable funds. This kept my head above water until I weathered the storm and found my next commission - and for that I will be forever grateful. The Society of Authors is not a nebulous academic body, but a vital source of practical support and advice: and that's all any lone author needs.

## Elizabeth Drayson

Many congratulations on becoming the 10,000 member of the Society of Authors. I hope that it makes you feel you truly belong to the great community of writers that exists in our country. It is a wonderful and venerable institution, of which I am proud to be a member. May you sell many 10,000s of your books!

## Linda Strachan Chair of the SoA in Scotland

Being a member of the Society of Authors has been like having a knowledgeable friend; always there to ask if there are professional problems, opening the door to opportunities and introducing a host of like-minded people, many of whom have become new friends and colleagues. Essential for writers since ours is, in essence, a solitary profession.

## Celeste Agbo

As a 'young' author negotiating his way through the dense rain forest of publication, my strides are bold in the knowledge that The Society of Authors has my back.

## Alan Temperley

I cannot come all the way from Scotland to meet you, but the Society of Authors is a wonderful organisation, a rock-solid mooring post in a fickle and unreliable literary world. Thank you for forty years of help and support.

## Clare Dudman

Always there for me with friendly words and advice. With the Society of Authors I never feel alone.

## Philip Ziegler Council

A 'society' of authors is almost a contradiction in terms - authors are solitary beasts. They have common interests however, and face common threats: it is in promoting the first and combating the second that the Society of Authors is triumphantly successful.

## Brian McAvera

Writers, even playwrights, tend to lead a solitary existence. Unless they have unusually good management and financial skills, they are easy targets when it comes to negotiation. The advantage of The Society of Authors is that the single, adrift author is no longer alone. As with the core of an onion he or she now has many protective layers of insulation!

## Anne Spokes Symonds

If one wants advice about matters like copyrights the staff of the Society will always give it in a useful and friendly way. Welcome to the 10,000th member.

## Patricia Mullin

The SoA has been a great support. Always available for advice when it's needed and a great campaigning organisation protecting copyright and fighting for fair remuneration for writers in a world that increasingly expects something for nothing.

## Hazel Stevens

Being a member of SOA brings support, advice, encouragement in my writing venture.

## Joanna Trollope Council

I am thrilled to see the 10,000th member of the SoA and extend her or him a very warm welcome. Writing is such a deeply solitary pursuit that it is all too easy to become vulnerable as well as isolated, which makes having a keen eyed professional body like the SoA to watch our backs for us as valuable as it is important.

## Jodes Houghton

The Society of Authors is worth their weight in books (rare first editions obviously).

## Judith M Okely

The publishers of my latest book outsourced the text to some bizarre company which mutilated almost every page. Fortunately the Society of Authors gave me excellent legal advice and the original text was restored.

## Vanessa Harbour

I have been a member for a couple of years now. I was able to join because of some chapters I had published.

Oh, the joy of being a member. It was such a thrill. I did enjoy going into a bookshop and presenting my card to get my discount. But a few weeks ago I realised how amazing the organisation is and how grateful I am that I became a member. I have been lucky enough to have been signed up by a publisher for my children's book. However, I have not got an agent. The publisher sent me a contract and I had been doing some negotiating with the help of a friend but I was beginning to feel quite daunted and unsure whether I was making the right decisions about some of the terms being offered. I contacted the SoA, who immediately said send it over, let us have a look. The advice I got was friendly, professional and invaluable. I was able to

go back into my negotiations feeling fully informed and, therefore, confident in my position. The negotiations went really well and everyone went away very happy.

I will always be truly grateful to the SoA for that. It was worth every bit of my annual fee. Thank you.

## Nicholas Faith Council

Over the thirty years of being a member I've always felt that the SoA was something between a club and a trades union, offering all the advantages of both without any of their faults.

## Reginald Massey

I am immensely elated by this great news. The Society of Authors has over the years been extremely helpful to me and to other writers that I know. For all writers membership is a must.

## Stacey Hofberg

Welcome 10,000! I hope you find your membership as precious and rewarding as I do. I love the SoA not only for the illustrious company it allows me to keep but for the support, guidance and family it provides. Whatever you need personally or professionally, this is your first port of call and your safe harbour. Enjoy!

## James Sale

Being the ten thousandth member remember, doesn't end there; it's just the start - you were a star but now a constellation - how far you'll go, who knows? But this much is true:  
the S of A will shine with you!

## Philip Coogan

Delighted to be a member of The Society of Authors, don't know what I would do without it.

## Margaret Drabble Council

Joining the Society of Authors many

decades ago was one of the most important moments in my writing life. It does a wonderful job, caring for its members and for the profession as a whole, and I am proud to be part of it.

## Philip Heselton

Welcome to the Society of Authors. I have found it an immensely valuable organisation, not just for the helpful guidance and individual advice on contracts, etc. But also for the way in which it organises gatherings where one can meet other members of what is sometimes a solitary profession. I hope you find it as valuable as I have done!

## Susan Cooper Cronyn

Welcome to the family - it'll always support and inform and comfort you, in this solitary profession, even if you live 3,000 miles away.

## Peter Groves Management Committee

The beauty of the Society of Authors is its diversity: the numbers of its members are its strength. To know that I am one of 10,000 reassures me that, lonely as a writer's life may often be, I am very far from being alone. Whatever we write, the act of writing unites us and we all benefit from being part of the union.

## Hilary Townsend

Welcome to the Society of Authors. It is an excellent trade union for writers and I have always found it extremely helpful in vetting contracts and getting the best out of them for the members. And The Author is a very good read too!

## Carol Purves

The Society of Authors was invaluable to me when I needed the contract for my books to be checked. Thank you.

## Berenice Dunbar

New members are welcome to our very important Society of Authors. I am in Brazil even though I can share culture, literature,

leisure and entertainment with everybody through this institution. I would love to be with you all.

## Laurence Anholt

I've been a member of the Society of Authors for more than 20 years. It's like having a calm, steady, reassuring friend who's always there when you need them. The Society fights your corner and patiently unravels the mysteries of contracts and publishing. I reckon the Society has helped me negotiate more than 100 children's book contracts, and in addition I received a generous award to complete my first novel, *The Hypnotist*. What's not to like? If you're an author and not a member, you have a hole in your professional life which needs filling right away.

## Nicky Harman Co-chair - the Translators Association

Congratulations on becoming the 10,000th member of the Society of Authors. The SoA and its many member-groups is a vibrant and rewarding community to belong to. The Translators Association, of which I am Co-Chair, is an active SoA group, offering expert advice for individual literary translators and much, much more. For instance, the group was instrumental in the introduction of Public Lending Right for translators and is involved in organizing the Literary Translation Centre at the London Book Fair and the annual International Translation Day event at the British Library. Most excitingly, the TA recently announced a new prize for debut literary translation, funded by translator Daniel Hahn, with backing from The British Council. Welcome on board!

## DR

A special welcome to a five figure member.

## Gwynneth Ashby

Am I one of your oldest members? I joined

the Society in 07.06.1948. I had chickenpox at college and for three weeks was incarcerated in the sickbay. I was so bored with nothing to do that I removed all the shelf paper from drawers and cupboards and wrote a children's book with a blunt pencil. I then persuaded my parents to give me an advance 21st birthday present. This was a heavy old typewriter and I had lessons at the same time as typing the book. I then sent the MS (the *Mystery of Coveside House*) to Hodder & Stoughton and to my amazement it was accepted with a contract for two further books. At the time I was teaching in the East End and the headmistress who was the novelist Margaret Iles, told me about the Society of Authors. Over the years I have been very grateful to the Society for advice and for reading my contracts.

## Amanda Brookfield

In the increasingly vast, baffling and cut-throat world of writing, the Society of Authors remains a beacon of wisdom and support.

## Simon Fellowes

Just write. And then re-write.

## Ian Rankin Council

Writing can be a lonely business. Slow and painful at times, too. The Society of Authors is a heartening hub where ideas are shared, help offered, and friendships made.

**Welcome. Make yourself at home.**



**#SoA10K**

# SoA members are...

*ACADEMIC WRITERS BIOGRAPHERS  
BROADCAST WRITERS CHILDREN'S  
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**...and more**

**Join us today**  
**[societyofauthors.org/join](https://societyofauthors.org/join)**

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