



Challenges of the Rijksmuseum Research Library

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CHALLENGES

- Research Services ?
- Relation Library x Museum Collection



Role of information services in museums

RIKS MUSEUM

VISION OF CUYPERS

1875 – Design by architect P.J.H.Cuypers

National Museum of Art (and History)

Addition – unasked – of a research library

1885 – Opening of the museum with a library

Close link between Print Room and Library

Shared collection, staff, space, stacks, services

Designed as a 'Gesamtkunstwerk'

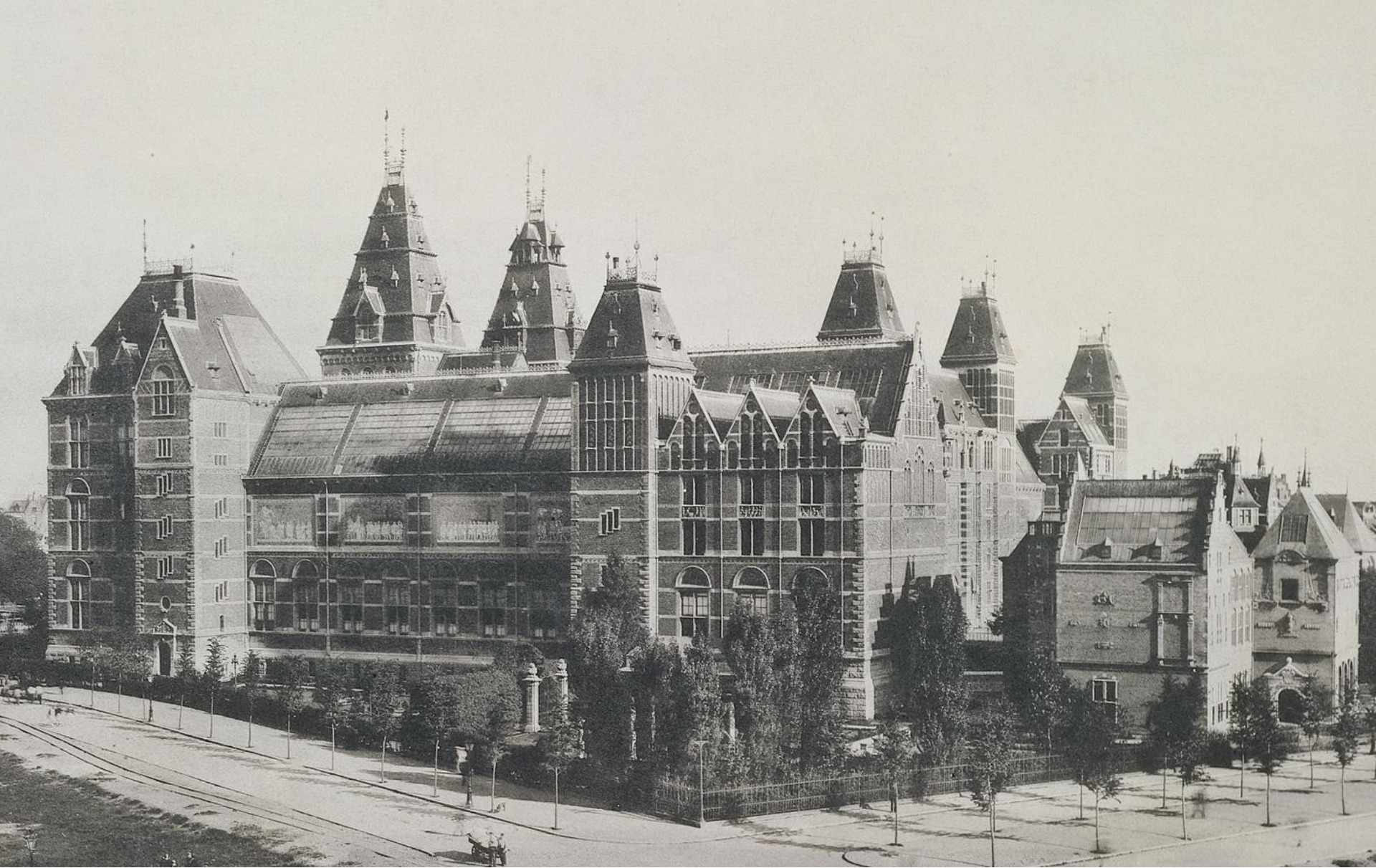


Sijn Wetenschap en Kunst vaak met
elkaar in strijd
Hier is de Wetenschap der Kunst een zaal gewijd

Cartouche in the library

Motto by J. Verdam about the relation between art & research

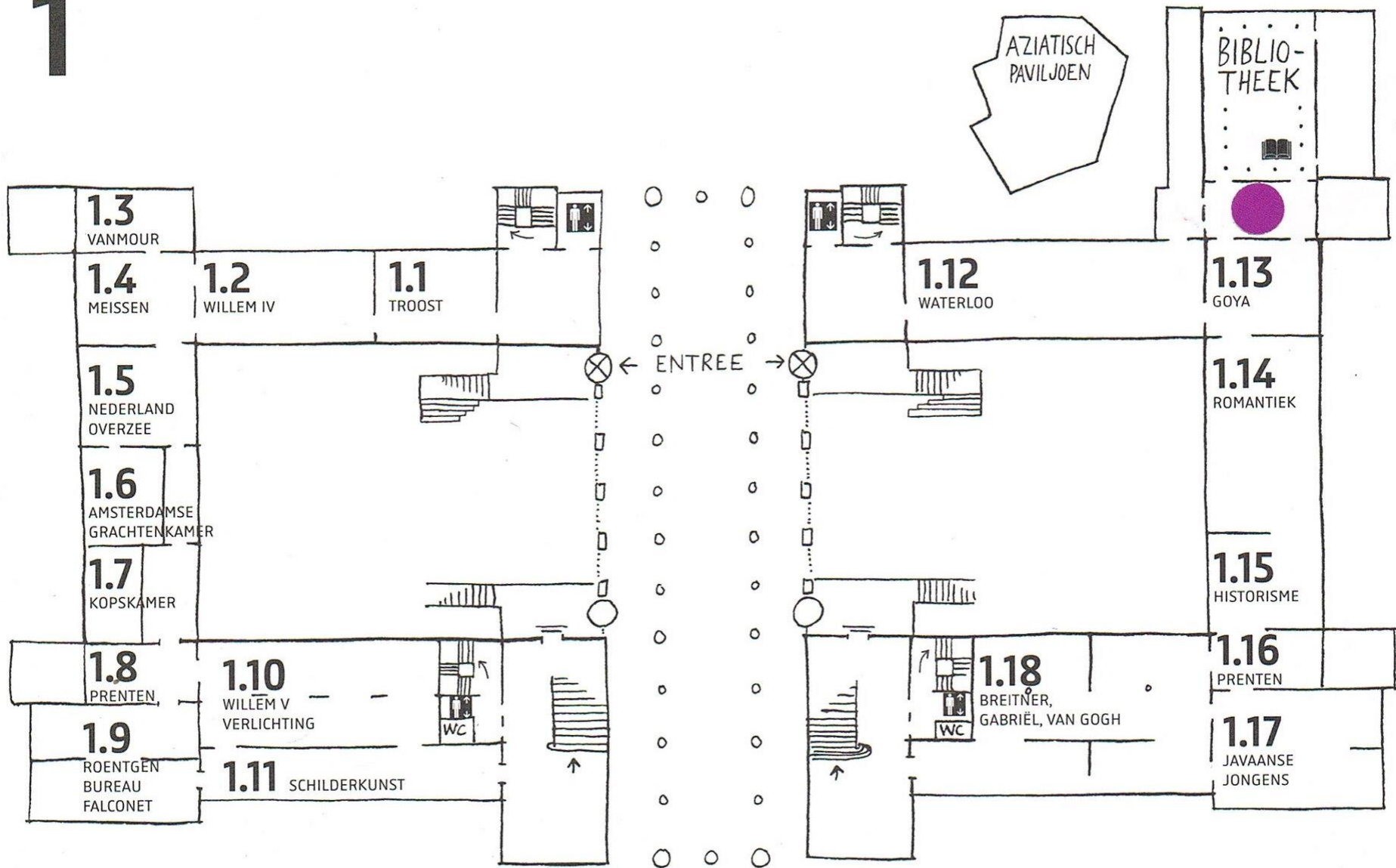
RIJKS MUSEUM



West-wing with in the middle the library & print room

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Ground plan of the museum indicating the location of the library

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Reading Room (Cuypers Library Hall), 1928



Study Room (Prints & Drawings), 1928

The world of connoisseurs

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PROFESSIONALISATION

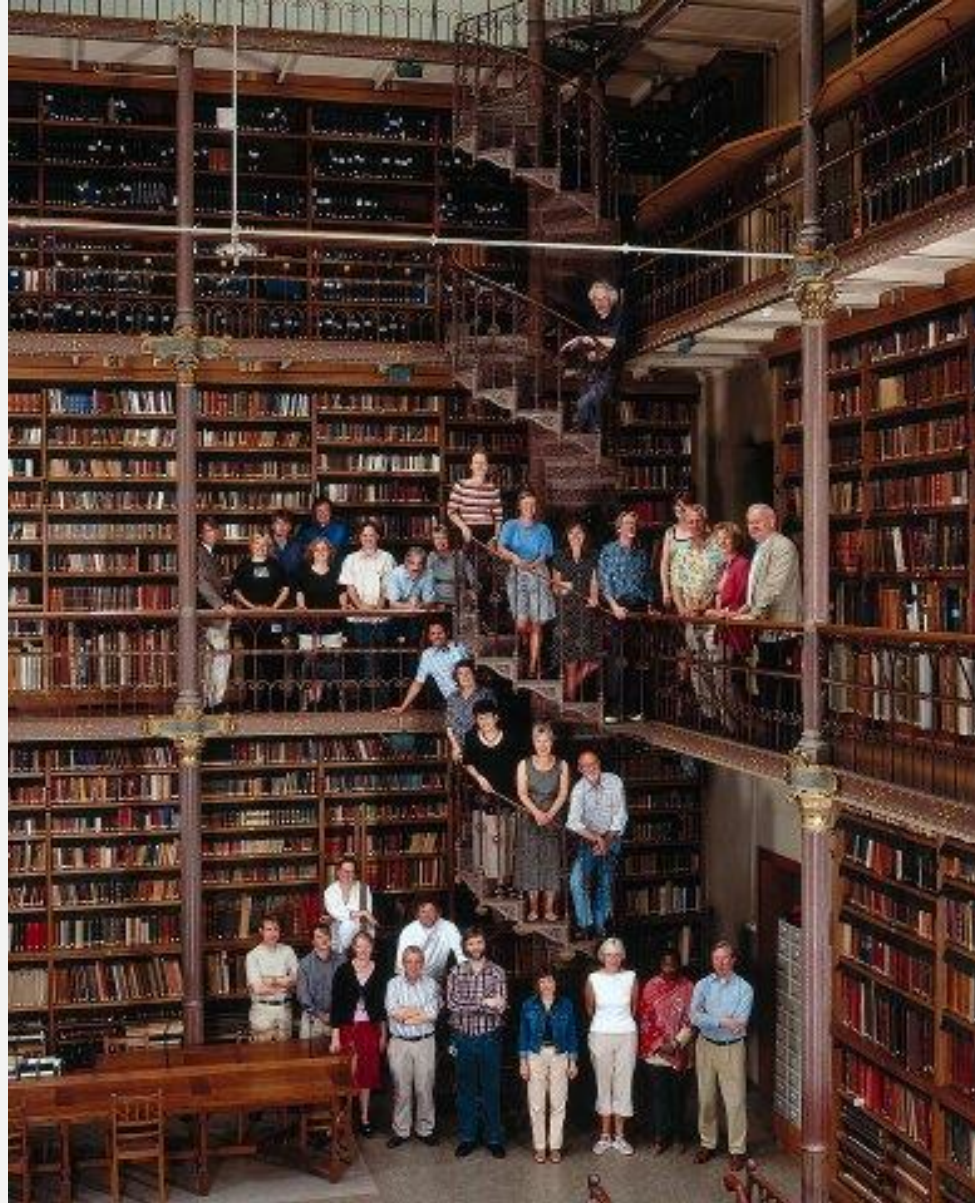
1962- Split Library & Print Room

- *Library becomes an independent but supporting department (collection, acquisition, staff, automation)*
- *Up and till 2004 co-habitation Library x Print Room (space, stacks, services)*



Else van der Vossen-Delbrück,
first head of the library (1961)

Staff of the Print Room
and the Library (1990)





Renovated study room, designed by Dick Elffers (1966)

FOCUS ON COLLECTIONS

Broadening and deepening of collection policies
(Library/Fine Arts/History/Prints & Drawings)

- *1977 – First ever collection profile of the library*
- *1981 - Standardized library cataloging (ISBD)*
- *Implementation of MARDOC rules (collection registration)*

AUTOMATION & REGISTRATION

1989 – Library is first department with a modem & terminal, first automated library system (TinLib)

1990 - Collection registration in automated collection management systems (Quixis – 1990; Adlib 1998-)



Geert-Jan Koot with first modem & terminal Rijksmuseum (1989)

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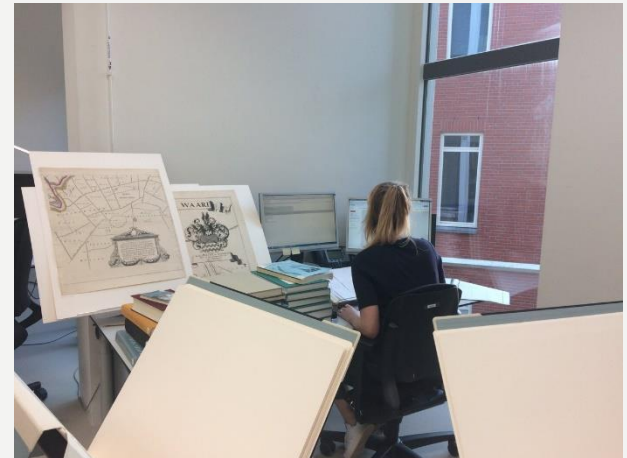
Museum renovation, closed between 2003-2013

RJKS MUSEUM

REGISTRATION & DIGITIZATION

2007 – (Print Room) Online Project

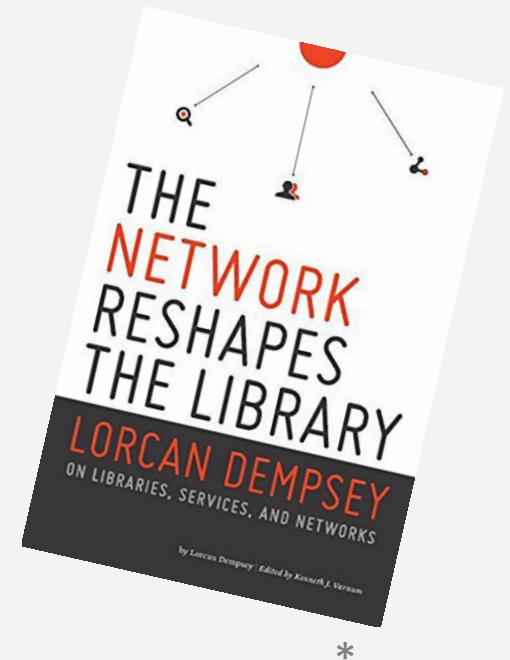
Mass digitization complete RMA collection



SCALING UP - NETWORK POWER

1999 - First Rijksmuseum website

2002 - First online Library OPAC



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Re-opening of the museum (2013)

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> SCALING UP - NETWORK POWER

Open collection data (CC-BY 2011 / CC0 2013)

- Collection:

Open API's -> Europeana (2013), ...

- Library:

SRU -> AdamNet (2003); VKK (2004);
WORLDCAT (2012); ADGC (2014)

Rijksmuseum API

The Rijksmuseum API (Application Programming Interface) is a new, state-of-the-art service for application developers. The Rijksmuseum offers the API to make its collection (as well as other content and high resolution images) available for use in apps or web applications, for example.

API

The live website API (which has a live link to the website platform) makes the full power of the award-winning Rijksmuseum website directly accessible to a large group of developers. Searching the collection is one activity that offers a wide range of interesting options. The same is true of the “explore the collection” pages, the Rijksstudio users’ collections, and the tiled images used to zoom in to tight close-ups of works of art. Calendar information is also available, for example.

The JSON-based service is so simple that, in no time at all, you can build something that makes use of Rijksmuseum’s rich and attractive content.

Access to the API

You will first need to request an API key, to access the data and images. You can do this via the advanced settings of your Rijksstudio account (www.rijksmuseum.nl/rijksstudio). You will then immediately be provided with an API key. You will need this code to use the APIs.

Please mail any questions and comments to: website@rijksmuseum.nl

[Further details about the API on Github](#)



RIJKSMUSEUM

REORGANISATION: RESEARCH SERVICES

- Centralisation of 5 subdepartments :
Library administration / Collection IT /
Collection Archives & Documentation / Front
Offices Library & Print Room / Stacks
- Additional responsibility for research data &
open data policy Rijksmuseum
- Focus on research support for the user



A shift in research output and methodologies

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RESEARCH SERVICES CHALLENGES

- Overcome 'death by silo'
- Interdisciplinary co-operation
- New additional information services
- Renewed data architecture
- Interoperable, networked (semantic), open

RESEARCH SERVICES OPPORTUNITIES

- Changed status of the library collection

Now recognized as a curatorial special collection

No longer only a reference collection



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QUESTIONS?

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