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Book Reviews

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occur to other readers as well as myself so perhaps Doctor Boslow could answer them for us without difficulty.

Sincerely yours,
James J. Graham
Attorney at Law
24 West 40th Stret
New York 18, New York

January 31, 1963

Dear Editor:

Mr. Graham's letter of January 28, 1963, raises an important area of discussion. He points out, quite correctly, that for the "so called" psychopath, the point of complete rehabilitation may be hazy in many cases. However, it does not necessarily follow that the unexpired portion of the patient's original sentence must, of necessity, be a large factor in the decision of the Board of Review to parole a patient, or to petition the Court for complete release. As a matter of practical fact, the Board of Review does take a patient's sentence into account as one of the many factors in considering him for some form of parole status or complete release. However, it can and does disregard this factor where it is deemed advisable.

The Board of Review, though, also takes into account the patient's behavior while in the institution, his psychiatric progress, and other factors which are considered to be of greater importance than the unexpired portion of the original sentence. Cases in point are the Board of Review paroling a patient in four years when he had an eighteen year sentence; placing another patient on leave status in five years despite sentences totaling thirty-two

years; requesting the Court to release from parole a man who had served six years (three years on parole) of an eight year sentence. In the last instance the Court did follow the Board's recommendation and released the patient.

I must hasten to add, however, that for each of the cases mentioned above, there are matching cases in which the men served longer than their original sentence, either in the Institution, or in a combination of Institution and parole time. An example of this is the case of a man sentenced to a one-year term who served two years before he was granted parole status. He then served four years on parole status before the Board of Review requested the Court to release him, which it did.

As Mr. Graham has acutely pointed out, rehabilitation is a difficult concept to define operationally. It must be evaluated on an individual basis, and for different patients, factors affecting their parole status, and eventual release, are weighed differently. The Board of Review evaluates the factors in the individual cases and then renders its decision. The Board of Review does have wide latitude in the exercise of the function, and in every case the Board acts in such a manner as to afford optimal opportunity for rehabilitation.

As to the question whether the Courts generally follow the Board's recommendation for release, I can only comment that to this point at no time have the courts failed to follow the Board's recommendations.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Graham for his continued interest in Patuxent Institution.

Sincerely yours,
Harold M. Boslow, M.D.

BOOK REVIEWS

Edited by
C. R. Jeffery*

HOW TO CATCH 5,000 THIEVES. By *Gerhard Luisi* and *Charles Samuels*. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1962. Pp. 285. \$5.95.

Gerhard Luisi, the leading author of this book,

* Associate Professor of Sociology, Arizona State University, Tempe, Arizona.

was a native of southern Italy. His parents brought him to New York in the 1880's—a part of the great flood of Italian immigration.

Mr. Samuels is a well known free lance writer who resides in New York City.

Luisi's father was formerly a member of the

Italian Secret Police, and later of the staff of Garibaldi. Still later, for many years, he was on the staff of King Humbert. "Other boys," said Luisi, "had their George Washington and Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders for heroes. I had my father." The senior Luisi received ample credit from his son for having taught him how to handle criminals; when to be "gentle" and when to be "tough." "What I learned from him saved my life many times." In the course of his 50 years as a practicing detective he was employed almost exclusively by insurance companies, e.g., by Lloyds of London and the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation, Ltd. For several years he was Superintendent of the Burglary and Fidelity Departments of the latter. As a detective he investigated all sorts of people—from domestic servants who were suspected of being involved in a syndicate of gem snatchers, to a Prince of Wall Street who stole his wife's valuable jewels one night when the household was asleep and for good measure seems to have grabbed thousands of dollars worth of jewels from his guests, Lord and Lady Mountbatten.

How To Catch 5,000 Thieves is not a technical manual, as the title may suggest, nor is it a detective story, nor a series of such stories. It is more: autobiography. With the help of his wife, who from time to time had assisted him as a practical detective, Luisi brought together the almost infinite details which served as the background of this volume. Writing the book was his "nearest possible approach to reliving my life." It is a purposeful biography. He wanted to induce people in general to double the care that they already devote to the protection of their valuable objects; he wanted to convince the wayward that, scientific detection being as it is, "they can't get away with it"; and he was eager to promote a certain reform of insurance company policy. Time and time again he had observed that insurance companies often pay fraudulent claims and thus enable the perpetrator to be relieved of financial pressure. Such payments are "cheaper in the long run." The companies, however, only multiply their difficulties by this practice. Incidentally, it may be remarked here that, notwithstanding the relentless and all-but-fool-proof techniques of modern detectives, the crook will "take a chance." Detection and punishment certainly do not succeed as invariably as the seasons come and go. Possibly the situation would be improved by more wholehearted cooperation by

the companies with their professional detectives. That's one result Luisi wanted to see.

His 35,000 investigations took him to nearly all parts of the world: into the hovels of the poor, the palaces of the rich, and into the offices of powerfully placed public—not servants, but parasites. One of his 35,000 investigations was into the death of the first victim of Murder Inc.; the Black Hand in America received his professional attention, also. His body sufficed to stop many a bullet and stiletto. But he gave better than he got, for he was an expert with the pistol, the rifle, and the silent stiletto. His father was thoroughly acquainted with these tools of death, and he had seen to his son's expertness.

The more immediate fruit of the author's skilled labor over fifty years was his uncovering of 5,000 crooks, pimps, thieves, embezzlers, and their sort who had not been always "smart enough to get away with it." However "smart," each of them made at least one mistake—and a never-sleeping detective was looking.

Gerhard Luisi was deeply interested in eliminating delinquency and crime. In the "little" Italys of New York when he was a boy conditions were highly favorable to the development of youthful and adult criminals, from the viewpoint of professional "welfare" folk. But even in the most unpromising circumstances some Italian urchins of his time grew up to carry their share of responsibility for honorable community life; they carried it as business men and women, as lawyers, judges, doctors, and teachers. How did they manage to do it? Some of them saw their brothers, sisters, cousins, with whom they had shared board and roof and family life, carried off to a little space within prison walls—even to the gallows. Variant products, apparently, from the same soil. Why? Luisi puts the question to the sociologists. They have not given answer, he says,—not with a convincing voice.

Again and again in this book the author alludes to "my father." Indeed, the final chapter here is entitled, "How did I do, Pop?" It is worth saying that the father was not just a "good" man. He "knew how to do it" and he "did it"; he taught his son the tricks of the trade; he entered into the young fellow's life. Once when desperate criminals were bent on escape from a prison where he was visiting, Luisi, Sr., grasped a saber from the wall, blocked the only road of escape, and laid on with it; when the carnage was over and help had come,

the rioters who remained alive and whole re-treated, and Luisi left the scene as if nothing had happened—and had his wounds dressed.

This reviewer ventures to say that it was not just the “good” father, but the hero—strong, skilled, competent, accomplishing—who stirred the boy’s pride and admiration. Boys and girls are like that. They demand heroes and will have them: strong men and women who make things come out on their side.

Have our teachers forgotten? They must foster youths’ respect for their own muscle, bone, and sinew; and here is where the good teachers come in: they must make this respect for strength pass over and attach itself to *honesty, frankness, sportsmanship, industry, thriftiness*, and each other desirable character trait. Each of these, in its own way, is strength, skill, and competence, as truly as muscle is, even more so. Boys and girls can take pride in the strength of honesty and sportsmanship as surely as they take pride in lifting and jumping. A certain transition is called for here. It is accomplished in large measure by the careful selection of materials used in the teaching curricula and in *very large* measure by language as a tool of instruction. All this, the author implies.

ROBERT H. GAULT*

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* Dr. Gault is Editor Emeritus of this *Journal*.

FAMILY ENVIRONMENT AND DELINQUENCY.* By Sheldon and Eleanor Glueck. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co.; London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1962. Pp. 328. Price, \$6.50; 35/-net.

This book is another milestone in the long and laborious process of evaluating the wealth of basic case material collected for *Unraveling Juvenile Delinquency*, published twelve years ago. The first step in this process was the publication of *Physique and Delinquency* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1956). As the present reviewer pointed out at the time, any criticism of the authors for concentrating on the physical side of their case material would have been misplaced. It was not due to any one-sided interest in the biological problems of delinquency, but to the simple necessity of having to begin somewhere, that they had turned their labours to the relations between

delinquency and the various somato-types. Now, in the second stage of evaluating their material, they have performed the analogous task for certain environmental, especially family, factors. In all, 44 social factors were selected to analyse their role “in the formation of traits and in the dynamics of delinquency”.

Let us first try to clarify the major problems of the present study as defined by the authors. They start from the reasonable assumption that “the respective degrees of participation of hereditary and environmental influences in the laying down of a trait can be ordered along a bipolar biosocial continuum” (p. 9 and often). The major questions of the present inquiry are: (a) Which traits are largely environmentally conditioned and by what social factors? (b) How do factors (reflecting family environment) and traits, in combination, bear on delinquency? (p. 16.) The attempt to answer these questions for 66 traits and 44 environmental factors, even in a tentative and preliminary way, required the working out of as many as 2,904 correlations. Notwithstanding the utmost care in presenting their findings as clearly as possible, the resulting masses of detail are, inevitably, sometimes confusing, but a few major results stand out quite unmistakably. First, social factors act selectively on the delinquency of boys possessing certain traits (p. 105); in other words, the same environment may exert a different influence according to the physical type or psychological traits of the boy. It is never the social factor alone or the trait alone that matters but their combined impact, the “concatenation” that determines “whether, at a certain point of pressure, resistance to anti-social self-expression will break down” (p. 155). The details presented in this volume and the two preceding ones constitute in a way the answer given by the Gluecks in defense of the eclectic multi-factor view of crime causation, also held by Sir Cyril Burt, the present writer and many others, as opposed to the one-sided theory of “differential association” as favoured by the late Edwin H. Sutherland and his followers (on this controversy see in particular Sheldon Glueck’s article “Theory and Fact in Criminology”, *British Journal of Delinquency*, 1956, Vol. VII, pp. 92 ff.). It is the main criticism of the Sutherland School, against the multi-factor theory, that the latter presents nothing but a “potpourri of unrelated theoretical notions”, a “catalogue of disparate and uncoordinated ‘causes’ ” (*The Sutherland Papers*, edited

* This review originally appeared in the *International Journal of Social Psychiatry* (Vol. 8, No. 4, Autumn, 1962), and is reprinted here with permission of the Editors of that *Journal*.—EDITOR.

by Albert Cohen, Alfred Lindesmith and Karl Schuessler, Indiana University Press, 1956, p. 6). It is certainly true that the eclecticism of the theory of multiple causation can easily degenerate into such a mixed bag of unrelated "causes", but the Gluecks have at last made a determined and not entirely unsuccessful attempt to bring some order into it. As yet, their system is neither complete nor final. We are still confronted with masses of unrelated or at least inadequately related findings which require some further testing and are still waiting for satisfactory explanations. Here, as in their previous publications, the authors show a cautious attitude which can serve as a model to other research workers. There is in the present volume an abundance of such sentences as these: "The implications of these findings are not clear to us" (p. 109); or: even if no variation in trait-incidence is discovered among body-types "we can not be certain that absence of variation means that the trait is largely attributable to socio-cultural conditioning, because there may well be traits which are essentially hereditary although not varying among the body-types" (p. 11). Or: "Our conclusion about the essential biologic orientation of the traits discussed in this chapter can not, of course, be absolutely definite. Nor does it involve a denial of some tangible socio-cultural influences. . . . The most that can be ventured in the light of the evidence in the present inquiry is that such traits are closer to the innate than to the environmental zone of the biosocial continuum" (p. 33). Or: "These are, perforce, crude quantitative distinctions. We recognize that there is also a qualitative difference in the influence of various socio-cultural factors. It may well be, for example, that a factor such as *affection of mother for boy* is so powerful and permeative in its influence that the impact of this single environmental circumstance is equivalent to, or even surpasses, the influence of several other factors. But we know of no way to measure this with any exactness, and we are therefore forced to the not unreasonable assumption that, ordinarily and generally, a valid distinction can be made that is based on the *number* of environmental factors found to influence a trait We welcome efforts by other investigators, with richer and more varied experience, to add to the clarification of the generating forces of these traits" (pp. 91-93). And, lastly: "We are fully aware that by such fragmentation something vital in the total organized pattern may be lost; but we

are also aware that correlations and analyses of broad and poorly defined 'patterns' or 'groups' or 'subcultures' entail perhaps a greater risk. It is relatively simple to speak in broad generalizations about patterns and cultures; but such discussions hardly meet the basic scientific test of at least reasonable precision of concept and fact. This does not, of course, mean that we do not recognize the value of efforts to find common denominators and a patterning or *Gestalt* in the multiple single traits and factors embraced in a study such as this. But patterning must begin with the building stones, inductively arrived at, and only then proceed to a structure of interrelated elements. In a study now in contemplation, we will lend ourselves to the task of integrating individual traits into inductively arrived-at patterns" (p. 93).

There is yet another doubt which the reader of this book may not be entirely able to suppress. For the sake of simplicity we may illustrate this by referring to the "Preview" published by Mrs. Glueck in the *International Journal of Social Psychiatry* (Spring 1962), rather than to the book itself: Here a distinction is made between traits which, "though not varying in incidence between the body-types, are nevertheless determined genetically" and traits "more clearly chargeable to environmental conditioning". Among the first group, we find, e.g., "defiance", among the second group, e.g., "the feeling of resentment". However, when we consult the definitions of these traits given in the book (pp. 208-9) we find that there is very little difference between these two, and it is not easy to accept the statement that the one is genetically determined and the other more due to environmental conditioning. Similar doubts may occur with regard to other traits.

One or two illustrations may now be given to show how far the concatenation of the various traits and factors in delinquency causation has been made more specific through the work of the authors:

1. *Hostility*: (a) In *Unraveling* it was found that the delinquents were more hostile than the non-delinquents (p. 228);
- (b) Hostility did not differ among the delinquents according to somatotype (*Physique and Delinquency*, p. 98); therefore it was regarded as more environmentally conditioned; but *how*?
- (c) Now we find (*Family Environment*, p. 107) that, e.g., alcoholism of the father

and also his serious physical illness are factors which contribute to a hostile attitude of the son.

2. *Poverty*: Here we find (a) that there was more of it among the delinquents than among the non-delinquents (*Unraveling*, p. 250), but the difference was small as both groups had been selected from poor homes;
- (b) No contribution could be made to the problem in *Physique*, but
- (c) Now it was found that children with low verbal intelligence were more likely to become delinquents if reared in poor homes than if growing up in slightly more comfortable ones (pp. 115-6 of present book), which had of course to be expected.

Finally, a word about the practical conclusions emerging from this book. As in the case of the previous studies, they are not yet spectacular, but in some modest way the claim of the authors may be justified that "a greater specificity of interest and action becomes possible on the evidence in the present study" (p. 154). If it becomes clearer at which particular point of the biosocial continuum a certain individual has to be placed it becomes easier to decide how and how far his criminogenic tendencies can be changed through remedial action, always bearing in mind that constitutional defects can hardly ever be remedied, while the whole arsenal—inadequate as it may be—at the disposal of the social agencies can be used to eliminate or mitigate environmental difficulties. However, "it must be recognized that a wide-ranging, permeative network of forces is involved which can be managed only by society as a whole, and through a general economic, social and political policy, the aims and the methods of which are by no means clear" (p. 156).

It may also be added that in Appendix A of the book a detailed case history of one of the boys of the delinquent sample in *Unraveling* is presented which shows the great care devoted to the assembly of the original material.

HERMANN MANNHEIM

Kent, England

EDITOR'S NOTE. With respect to Dr. Mannheim's discussion of the similarity between the traits "defiance" and "resentment" in the above review, Professor and Mrs. Glueck have suggested that a statement of Dr. Ernest G. Schachtel appear

with this review. Dr. Schachtel and Dr. Anna Hartoch (now deceased) were the Rorschach experts who worked with the Gluecks in their studies. The following statement is reprinted from a letter of Dr. Schachtel to Mrs. Glueck, December 9, 1962:

"While the dynamic roots of defiance and resentment may often be similar, the feelings or attitudes themselves are quite different. The main difference is that defiance is an aggressive self-assertion against a (real or imagined) demand or expectation of (parental or similar, real or imagined) authority, while resentment is not assertive or aggressive. Resentment may or may not lead to defiance."

MAN, CRIME, AND SOCIETY: THE FORMS OF CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR. By *Herbert A. Bloch* and *Gilbert Geis*. New York: Random House, 1962. Pp. xxii, 642.

The following reviews of *Man, Crime, and Society: The Forms of Criminal Behavior* present conflicting opinions with respect to the merits of criminal typologies based upon legal definitions of crime. Because this question is of considerable interest to criminologists concerned with the construction of useful typologies, the reviews appear here together.—EDITOR.

Criminology needs an introductory text that integrates and systematizes the available information concerning the development of criminal careers. Relevant concepts, principles, and theories have been developed in the various social sciences. Much work has been done on social organization, disorganization, conformity, deviance, interaction, communication, learning, socialization, cognitive perception, values, identification, alienation, consensus, and conflict. Theories have been formulated on differential association, opportunity structures, conflict resolution, information, games, and decisions, among other relevant social phenomena. On this basis it would seem that the field of criminology is ready for integrative effort.

Integration and systematization are apparent keynotes in the work of Bloch and Geis. The focus is on crime causation. Except for a few brief chapters on the police, courts, and correctional institutions, the book is devoted to an analysis of personal, social, and cultural factors in criminality. Separate chapters are presented on eight major types of crime, namely, professional crime, organized crime, homicide and assault, sex offenses, property offenses, misdemeanors, and juvenile

delinquency. It is in these chapters, unfortunately, that the authors' efforts seem misdirected. In the first place, the typology is by no means exhaustive or comprised of mutually exclusive categories. Second, the detailed comparison of persons convicted of a specific legal offense provides little basis for generalization or theory construction. In assigning a chapter to each of the major criminal types listed, the authors find it necessary to provide detailed descriptions of numerous sub-types. Thus, the chapter on sex offenses discusses forcible rape, statutory rape, voyeurism, exhibitionism, sodomy, etc. As a consequence, there is little integration even within the given offense category.

Explanatory concepts do not lend themselves to an analysis of a legalistic typology. Gamblers and shoplifters, for example, are discussed under the professional criminal type. This treatment tends to obscure the sociologically important characteristics of these offenders, distorts the evidence of widespread public and nonprofessional support for gambling, and implies that shoplifting is primarily an instrumental and pecuniary activity. The lack of conceptual consistency is noted in other chapters. In the discussion of homicide, motivation plays an important role. But the question of motives gets little attention elsewhere. It seems clear that the legal typology is of little value in the development of scientific generalizations and theories. It is basically a descriptive device, and seems to discourage rather than to encourage the process of generalization.

Bloch and Geis are aware of the importance of theories and conceptual schemes. Chapter 4 provides a discussion of the role of theory in the accumulation of knowledge. Unfortunately, the discussion is elementary even for beginning students and does not come to grips with technical issues. The following chapter gives a good review of the works of Sutherland and Abrahamsen with a cursory treatment of Cohen, Miller, Cloward-Ohlin and others. These theories are not reduced to common terms, however, and they seem to have little relevance to the discussion of legal criminal types.

Because of the focus on legal typology, several important problems in the development of criminal careers receive inadequate attention. Thus, culture conflicts and criminal subcultures in disadvantaged social and ethnic classes are largely disregarded, and variations in opportunity structures are mentioned only theoretically. In fact, the senior author used typological analyses more effectively in his

earlier book, *Delinquency* (with Frank T. Flynn). Had social types been employed instead of legal types, much of the literature cited could have been utilized more effectively.

Our conclusion is that the book is somewhat of a failure in its attempt to integrate and systematize criminological knowledge. But its demerits should not detract from its very considerable merits. If the reader wants a quick survey of descriptive information on various legal categories of offenders, he can find no better source of information. Again, the history of crime and crime control strategies in Parts I and II is good. The same holds for the discussion of crime trends and statistics in Part III. Finally, the book is well written, easy to read, and styled nicely for beginning students. Despite its obvious inadequacies, it compares very favorably with textbooks in the field. The lack of effective conceptualization is characteristic of criminology today and is by no means unique to the text under review.

CLARENCE SCHRAG

University of Washington

* * *

The format of this book is rather typical of sociologically oriented texts on criminology. After a general critique of theories of criminal behavior and a consideration of the volume, scope, and trends of crime, the focus is upon the threefold process utilized by E. H. Sutherland: the prohibition of certain conduct by criminal sanctions, the violation of these rules, and the "reactive institutional mechanisms of society." The book ends with a consideration of "emergent research and its implications."

Readers of the *Journal* will be interested to know that the authors, both sociologists, develop a good case for the proposition that "the study of criminology should proceed from the formulations of criminal law, and should restrict itself to those formulations" (p. 15). The authors consider that the possibility (or probability) of legal sanctions being invoked gives criminal conduct a special meaning. And it is held to be so even though the social scientist, when using convicted subjects, must reclassify their criminal conduct according to its strict criminal properties and not merely accept classifications according to the charge under which a conviction was obtained—thus following the pattern of Cressey's "criminal violation of financial trust." They await the day when "all forms of crime" will be seen as "separable and

self-enclosed systems of behavior" whose minimal sociological unity will reside in the fact that "crime constitutes special forms of adaptation to the social structure." (p. x)

From this standpoint they treat a number of "behavior systems in crime." These include: the crimes of the professional criminal (confidence game, forgery, etc.), organized crime (gambling, narcotics, etc.), murder and assault, sex offenses (forcible rape, homosexuality, etc.), property offenses (embezzlement, auto theft, arson, etc.), petty offenses (drunkenness, addiction, vagrancy, prostitution, etc.), white-collar offenses (income tax evasion, anti-trust violations, etc.), and delinquency.

This explicit treatment of particular acts or "behavioral systems" is the strongest point of the book. It is to be commended even though it demonstrates again in a most dramatic fashion that research up to the present time provides a most limited basis for the systematic, comparative treatment of the diverse classes of criminal conduct. This limitation is only aggravated, however, by the fact that the authors' general presentation of "components of behavioral systems" appears as an appendix in the last ten pages of the book, and no effort is made to apply the scheme systematically to each of the classes of conduct termed "behavioral systems in crime" in the body of the book. These systems are simply treated in an eclectic fashion upon the basis of the published research. While such treatment may be a necessity for textbooks, it does limit the book as a contribution to criminology, especially since even the authors' criticisms of the literature are not systematic outgrowths of careful projection against their "components of behavioral systems."

The book contains a good discussion of the usefulness of criminological research to practitioners concerned with programs of prevention and rehabilitation. And the presentation of the administration of criminal justice is quite up to date.

Nevertheless, upon occasion one finds an unbalanced treatment of a subject. One example is the discussion of sexual psychopath laws. (pp. 308-9) There no counter is presented to the already

widely quoted statements of Ploscowe, Sutherland, and Tappan, even though some of these programs, such as Wisconsin's, have become generally accepted. Nor is any attention given to the need for more research on the effects of sex crimes upon the victims (especially small children), as well as on the causes of the offenders' conduct. Finally, that a substantial portion of the public believes that certain sex offenders should be "hospitalized" rather than treated as "criminals" should not be asserted in a manner implying that these same citizens are opposed to "putting them away until you are sure they are 'cured.'"

However, such faults are relatively rare, the bulk of the book is well-written for undergraduates, and the bibliographic research is of a high standard. The book is a worthy addition to the texts in criminology.

HARRY V. BALL

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CRIMINOLOGY. By *Ruth Shonle Cavan*. New York; Thomas Y. Crowell, 3d ed. 1962. Pp. xvi, 735. \$6.75.

The review of a textbook usually follows a different type of treatment than that of a monograph or specialized work. As a textbook in criminology this work has stood the "test of time" to good advantage, having gone through three editions and eleven printings since 1948. Very few textbooks have survived a decade at the most.

The general topical outline, subject matter content, and type-page format makes the book readable for the beginning student. The volume follows the traditional procedure with good coverage on the *milieu* of crime and the treatment of the offender. The photographs help to hold the interest and lend graphic interpretation to the material. In presenting new material on "Offenders in the Armed Forces" and "European Offenders and Prisons" the author has advanced into a much needed field which will be helpful to American students of criminology.

WALTER A. LUNDEN

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