

Delpex 2025

*Stamp Show & Bourse
Program*



*Celebrating the 200th Anniversary
of the Erie Canal*

Saturday, March 29, 2025

10 AM - 5 PM

Nur Shrine Center

*198 South DuPont Highway (U.S. Routes 13 & 40)
New Castle, Delaware 19720*

*Sponsored by the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club
Wilmington, Delaware*

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Welcome to DELPEX 2025

For 2025 our annual DELPEX stamp show celebrates the 200th anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal. Conceived by Governor DeWitt Clinton in order to facilitate trade in an era when transportation was limited to horse and wagon, it opened a pathway from the Atlantic Ocean to the Great Lakes using mule-drawn barges. It is 351 miles long, 12 feet deep and 40 feet wide, increased from the original 4 foot depth. At the time it was the world's second longest canal and the "nation's first superhighway." The termini are at the Niagara River near Buffalo and near Albany on the Hudson River. The tolls charged paid off the construction cost in the first year of operation, and it remained competitive with railroads until about 1902. Trucking and the St. Lawrence Seaway have reduced its use in recent years largely to recreational boating.

A warm welcome is extended to our previous DELPEX visitors and newcomers alike. Enjoy examining the exhibits and shopping at our dealers' tables, but don't forget to fill out the ballot for your favorite exhibit, as the winner gets a special award. We are repeating our "Members' Showcase" this year, a selection of pages showing our club members' range of interests. The dealers in our bourse area trade in a wide range of philatelic material at very attractive prices. In the back of the room, the Postal Service station has on hand a full selection of recent issues plus many older issues. The staff will be happy to service your show covers with a special cancel. Prepared souvenir covers are available at a special table, both canceled and unserviced. Many philatelic publications are available at our lobby reception table as well at no cost.

Over the years, one of our show's most popular features has been the bid board auction, which closes at 3:30 PM. The lots are displayed all day at the side of the room. Also, don't forget to sign in at the reception desk so we can send an invitation next year. Above all, relax, and spend the day involved in your favorite hobby.

John Graper,
Chairman, DELPEX 2025

DELPEX 2025 EVENTS

Join the Auction Action!

Check Our Twenty-sixth Annual Bid Board.

SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025

10:00	SHOW OPENS
10:30	JUDGING OF EXHIBITS
3:30	EXHIBITS MAY BE REMOVED FROM FRAMES
3:30	BID BOARD CLOSES. BIDDERS PAY FOR LOTS
5:00	SHOW CLOSES

BID BOARD

The bid board auction is open to all attendees. Successful bidders must be present or lot will revert to next-highest bidder. A 15% commission is charged on all lots.

AWARDS

All of the exhibits will be judged independently according to DELPEX exhibition rules. First, Second and Third Place ribbons will be awarded, if merited. There will be a "Best in Show" award as well.

ROBERT & DOROTHY BRANDEBERRY AWARD

The exhibit receiving the most ballots cast by the public will be awarded the Robert and Dorothy Brandeberry Memorial Award. Vote by filling out the ballot available by the exhibits and place it in the box located there.

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DELPEX 2025 Show Cover



The 2025 DELPEX show cover will be franked with the stamp issued in 1967 for the Erie Canal sesquicentennial. The canal was started in 1817, as shown on the stamp, but was not completed and opened until 1825. An additional 68¢ is added to make up the current first class rate. The cachet includes an illustration of one of the canal boats, which carried both goods and passengers, and were drawn by mules on a path at the side. Prepared and unstamped covers for those who wish to prepare their own are available at a table in the hall's lobby.

The personnel at the USPS sub-station at the rear of the hall will gladly apply a special show cancel for you.

Prepared covers are also available by mail from:

Mr. John Howker
513 Ridgeview Dr.
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All mail orders for covers must include a #10 size self-addressed envelope and a check or money order in the amount of \$2.00 per cover payable to BVSC. Please do not mail either cash or postage stamps in payment.

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- 1 & 2 - 10¢ RYAN
10¢ STAMPS WORLDWIDE
24 IROQUOIS RD.
LEVITTOWN, PA 19057
- 3 - GEEZERS TWEEZERS
COUNTRY COLLECTIONS, U.S.A., FDCs
1726 REISTERSTOWN ROAD, #215
PIKESVILLE, MD 21208 (ad on page 18)
- 4 - RICK'S STAMP STORE
U.S. AND WORLDWIDE STAMPS AND COVERS
46 TIMBER LANE
MILFORD, DE 19963-5276
RICKSTAMPS.COM TEL. 315-396-6796
- 5 - PAPANDREOU PHILATELICS
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GPAPAND@AOL.COM (ad on page 15)
- 6 - DUTCH COUNTRY AUCTIONS - THE STAMP CENTER
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WWW.DUTCHCOUNTRYAUCTIONS.COM (ad on page 2)
- 7 - DOUG IAMS
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CARDS, BOB, POSSESSIONS
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- 9 - R.J. MAROLDA
FIRST DAY COVERS
142 REGINA AVENUE
TRENTON, NJ 08619
- 10 - EASTERN SHORE STAMP COMPANY
TOPICAL! BIRDS, BUTTERFLIES, MARINE LIFE, ANIMALS
P.O. Box 204
MIDDLETOWN, DE 19709
- 11 - ROBERT C. SWED
U.S. POSTAL HISTORY AND PRE-1900 U.S. STAMPS
1204 ELDERON DRIVE
WILMINGTON, DE 19808-1910 (ad on page 14)

THE DELPEX DEALERS

- 12 - WARD WILCOX
WORLDWIDE COLLECTIONS AND BOX LOTS
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WARDW911@GMAIL.COM
- 13 - MATALAVAGE STAMPS
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US/WORLDWIDE COVERS
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WILMINGTON, DE 19806
MATALAV@COMCAST.NET
- 14 - HUGH CLARK RARE STAMPS
U.S.A., BRITISH, WORLD-WIDE
1130 LOXFORD TERRACE
SILVER SPRING, MD 20901
MATALAV@COMCAST.NET
- 15 - L & R STAMPS
CANADA, U.S. AND WORLDWIDE
7 LYNDA DRIVE
DENVER, PA 17517 (AD ON PAGE 8)
- 16 - BOB HEATON
U.S., REVENUES
19 EAST TURNBULL AVENUE
HAVERTOWN, PA 19083-2416
- 17 - BROCADE STAMPS
U.S.A., WORLD-WIDE, MNH STAMPS AND COVERS
1819 POTTER AVE.
LANCASTER, PA 17602
TONYC@COMCAST.NET
- 18 - KEVIN CUSTIS
P.O. Box 76
BELLE MEAD, NJ 08502
MYPHILATELICS@GMAIL.COM
- 19 - ROBERT J. LOLLER
UNITED STATES USED STAMPS
619 BIDDLE ST.
CHESAPEAKE CITY, MD 21915
- 20 - DAVID LENGUEL
P.O. Box 302
FOLLANSBEE, WV 26037
- 21 - K2 COLLECTIBLES (LOCATED IN TRUCK OUTSIDE SHOW ENTRANCE)
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EXHIBIT JUDGE

Tom Pesikay: Born and raised in Memphis, TN, Tom holds degrees from both Penn State and Memphis State Universities. After serving in the U.S. Air Force, Tom was employed for ten years at Boeing Vertol and twenty-two at ICI/Astra-Zeneca. He's married, with five children.

His collecting interests include mint and used United States stamps, mint Bermuda and automobile topicals. Some of his other interests are his church choir, classic sports cars, pistol and target shooting and also those Disney comics which have been illustrated by Carl Barks.

EXHIBITS

Frame No.

Title

ALL EXHIBITS ARE NON-COMPETITIVE
DUE TO LIMITED NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTORS

- 1 - 5 THE PROMINENT AMERICANS SERIES
A series of definitive stamps depicting well-known persons from all walks of life including many varieties due to the introduction of automation and improvements in postal handling.
JOHN GRAPER, WILMINGTON, DE (BVSC)
- 6 SWITZERLAND-RED CROSS POSTAGE EXEMPTION (1870-1910) & RED CROSS FRANCHISE STAMPS (1911-1945)
During the Franco-Prussian War, Switzerland granted postage exemption to the Relief Society for Swiss Soldiers (Red Cross Organization.) The exhibit explains the use of seals to identify the exemption. Franchise stamps for various organizations were introduced in 1911.
KARL AUTENRIETH, HOCKESSIN, DE (BVSC)
- 7 - 8 CANADA'S FIRST THREE DEFINITIVE STAMP SERIES OF THE QUEEN EZIZABETH II ERA, 1952 - 1956
The Karsh, Wilding and Cameo series not only ushered in a new reign but also began the introduction of automation of mail handling and the experimentation to determine its most practical application.
ANONYMOUS (non-competitive)
- 9 - 13 U.S. SPACE-RELATED ISSUES OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY
The United States postage issues related to space exploration from 1948 through 2000. (non-competitive)
ANONYMOUS

BVSC Members' Showcase Exhibitors

Karl Autenrieth	Greg Ajamian	Bud Barker
Chuck Buboltz	Rich Carter	Kevin Dawson
Fred Ferst	John Graper	John Howker
Stan Jones	Jeff Neville	Bob Rufe
	Ron Majors	

THE DELPEX 2025 COMMITTEE

GENERAL CHAIRMAN	JOHN GRAPER
TREASURER	JOHN HOWKER
BOURSE	BILL MATALAVAGE
BID BOARD AUCTION	BOB RUFÉ
CANCEL & CACHET DESIGN	JOHN GRAPER
SHOW COVER SALES	BILL MATALAVAGE
JUDGES	BOB RUFÉ
PUBLICITY	BOB RUFÉ, JOHN GRAPER
AWARDS & EXHIBITS	KARL AUTENRIETH
MEMBERS' SHOWCASE	GREG AJAMIAN
PUBLICATIONS	JOHN GRAPER
FRAMES	TOM PESIKEY
USPS LIAISON	RENEE MONEY
VENUE LIAISON & SIGNS	BOB SWED
SET-UP & BREAK-DOWN	FULL COMMITTEE & VOLUNTEERS
RECEPTION TABLES	RICH & JOAN CARTER, KEVIN DAWSON, CHUCK BUBOLTZ, CHRIS BARON, RON MAJORS & OTHER VOLUNTEERS.

The Committee wishes to express its appreciation to *The Summit Retirement Community*, which has made its facility available to the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club and the DELPEX committee for their meetings.

The Erie Canal

The Erie Canal is a historic canal in upstate New York which runs east to west between the Hudson River and Lake Erie. Proposed first in the 1780s, construction was not authorized until 1817 and it was completed in 1825. This was the first navigable waterway between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes, vastly reducing costs of transportation of people and goods across the Appalachians. It greatly accelerated the settlement of the Great Lakes region, the economy of New York state and the westward expansion of the United States as a nation. It has been called “The Nation’s First Superhighway,” as no comparable long distance route previously existed for wheeled vehicles or boats. Before railroads, water transport was the most cost-effective way to ship goods. A mule could only carry about 250 pounds, but that same mule could pull a barge loaded with up to 60,000 pounds of goods, a 95% reduction in transportation costs.

Opponents of its main supporter, Governor DeWitt Clinton denigrated the canal as “Clinton’s Folly” and “Clinton’s Big Ditch.” The expense would be very costly even today, and President Thomas Jefferson called it “little short of madness”, however the income from tolls more than covered the cost of its construction by the end of its first year of operation. The westward route gave New York City a great economic advantage over other East Coast ports, as well as the other cities on the route, Albany, Utica, Syracuse, Rochester and Buffalo.

The canal was the major engineering achievement of the period, and originally was 40 feet wide, 4 feet deep and 363 miles long. The mode of travel was in mule-drawn barges. From 1905 to 1918, major changes in the canal were made and much of the original route was abandoned. Its current dimensions are 120 feet wide, 12 feet in depth and 351 miles long. There are 34 locks on the canal, plus two more to reach Lake Erie or at Troy on the Hudson River.

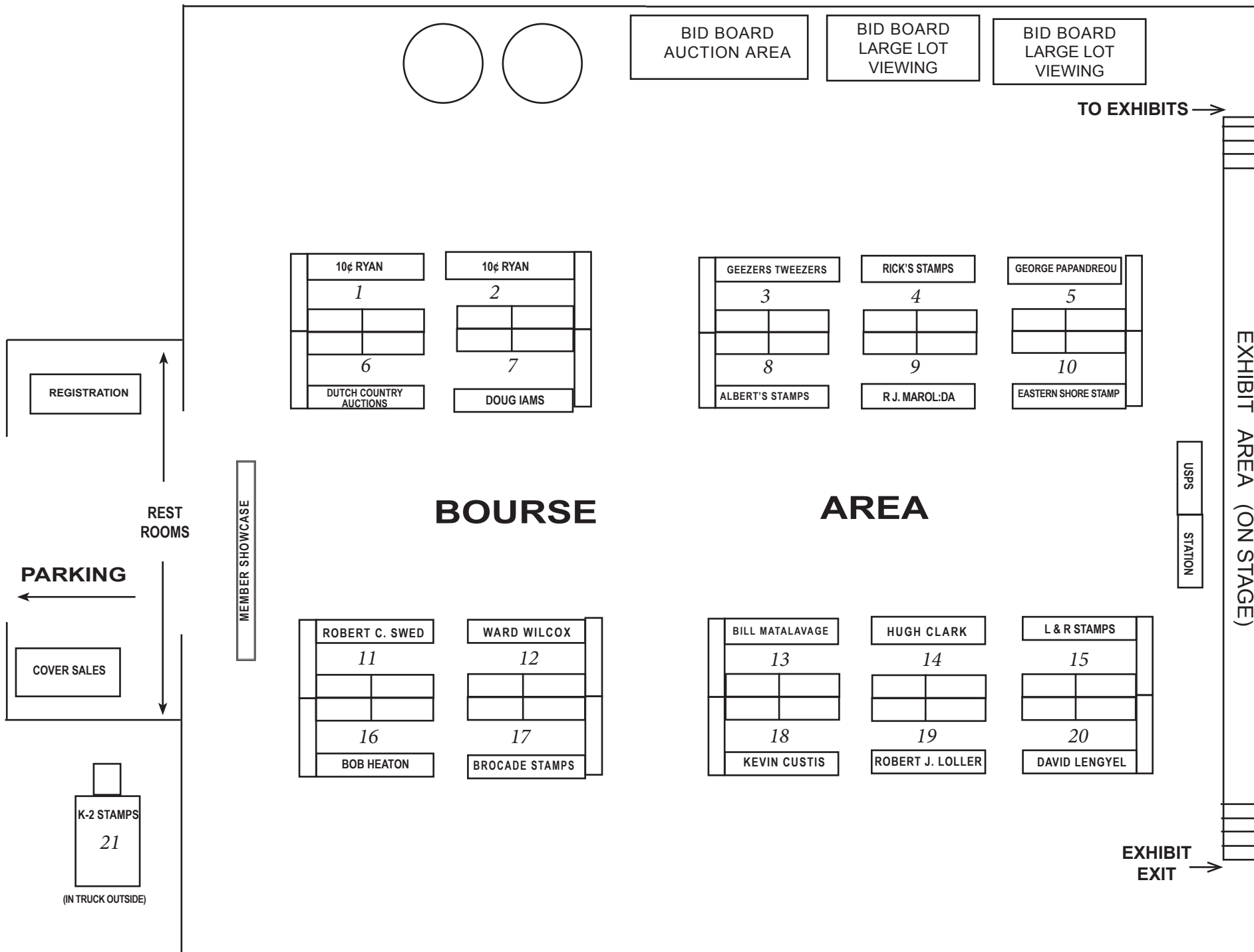
The peak year of use was 1855, when over 33,000 transits took place. The canal was competitive with railroads until about 1902, but commercial traffic suffered greatly in the latter half of the 20th century due to the rise of long-distance trucking and the opening in 1959 of the St. Lawrence Seaway, which offered seagoing ships direct access to the Great Lakes via the St. Lawrence River. The last regularly scheduled commercial service on the canal was in 1994, and today the major use is recreational boating. Sight-seeing tours on the canal are offered by a number of companies. The Erie Canal connects three other canals and is a tourist attraction in its own right, with several parks and museums dedicated to its history. A popular bicycling path follows the course of the canal across the state today.



Route of the Erie Canal



Canal, Towpath, Mules Hauling Barge & Bridge



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Delaware Postal History

Robert C. Swed

In 1683, William Penn authorized the establishment of a weekly post to New Castle, Delaware. New Castle remained the only post town within what are now the boundaries of the state of Delaware until 1775. As late as 1790, there were only three post offices in Delaware: Wilmington, Dover and Duck Creek (now Smyrna). By 1798 the number of offices had grown to twelve.

While Delaware became a state on December 7, 1787, the statehood postal system officially started on September 2, 1788. Before this date, the British postal system was still largely in use.

The Delaware population expanded from 59,000 in 1790 to 73,000 in 1820, but the number of towns with post offices increased at an even greater rate, from the first three formed in 1788 to twenty-six by 1820. In 1850 there were 72 towns with post offices. In all, 268 different town or location-named post offices have existed. The maximum number in existence at any one point in time was about 200, due to closed and combined post offices. Today only about 65 towns in Delaware have town-named post offices, and that number is likely to decrease in the future.

The study of Delaware stampless cover cancellations as well as stamp usages until about 1920 are subjects which continue to be examined by a few Delaware postal history collectors. New cancellations continue to be discovered, as well as earlier dates of first known use, differently colored cancels and interesting historical information.

If you have a collection of Delaware postal history covers, or are interested in this subject, you should consider joining the Delaware Postal History Society. One of the projects now in progress is a census of all known stampless covers from Delaware. For further information, write to Bob Swed at 1204 Elderon Drive, Wilmington, DE 19808, or call (302) 994-6086.

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Formed by the merger of the former DuPont and Wilmington Stamp Clubs, the Brandywine Valley Stamp Club offers interesting programs on all aspects of philately for the novice and long-time collector alike, as well as the opportunity to meet with others with similar interests.

Our meetings are at The Summit Retirement at 5850 Limestone Rd., Hockessin, DE 19707 at 7:00 PM on the second Wednesday of each month. The annual dues are \$15.00 or \$35.00 for 3 years. For a free copy of the club's award-winning monthly newsletter, *The First State Philatelist*, send your name and address to:

Secretary, BVSC,
602 Garden Gate Dr.,
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*For more information about the club and directions to
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