

Errorscope

Online Supplement

Published by The Combined Organizations of Numismatic Error Collectors of America

■ 1962 Nickel Struck on a Very Brittle Planchet



Also Inside:

- Some Interesting Thoughts on Slabbed Errors
- CONECA at ANA Convention in Milwaukee
- Weak Strike on Off Center Dime



1999-D Cent with an In-collar Double Strike



Junk Box Finds

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Online Supplement

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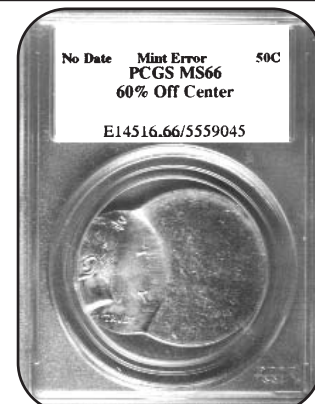


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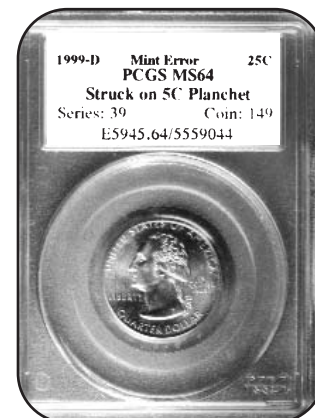


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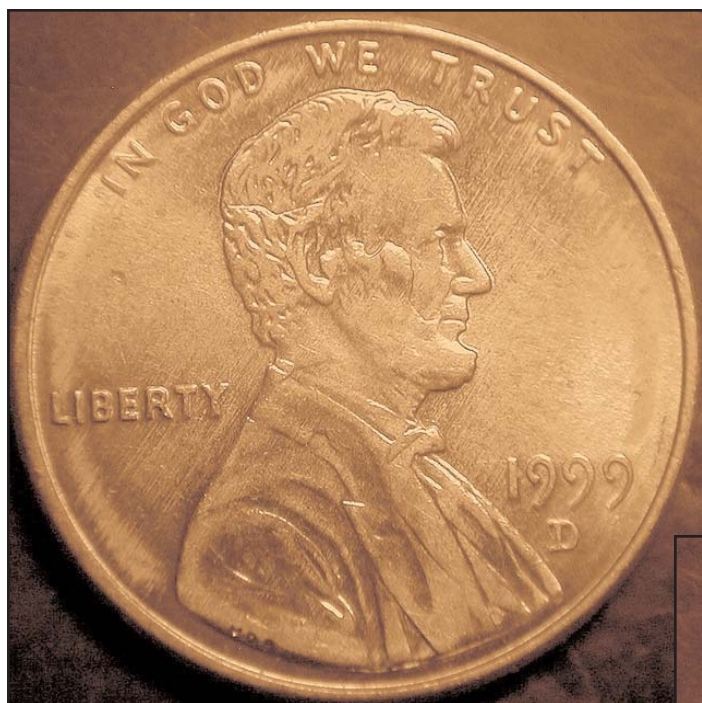
1999-D Cent with an In-collar Double Strike

by Mike Diamond

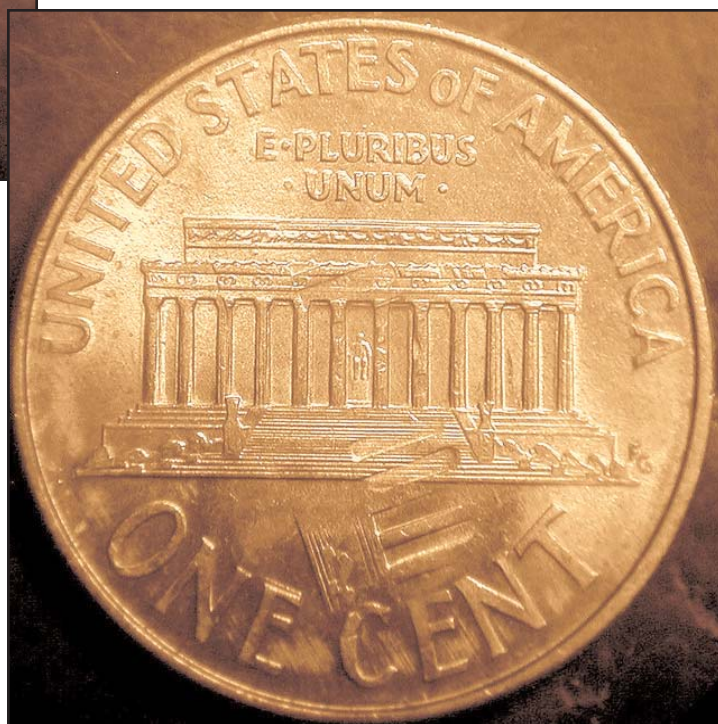
Here's a new discovery by BJ Neff, who found it searching circulated rolls. It's a 1999-D cent with an in-collar double strike and strong rotation on the second strike. The first strike was normal, apart from both dies being coated by a thin layer of grease or oil. That's represented by the lighter-colored, streaky areas on both faces. The sec-

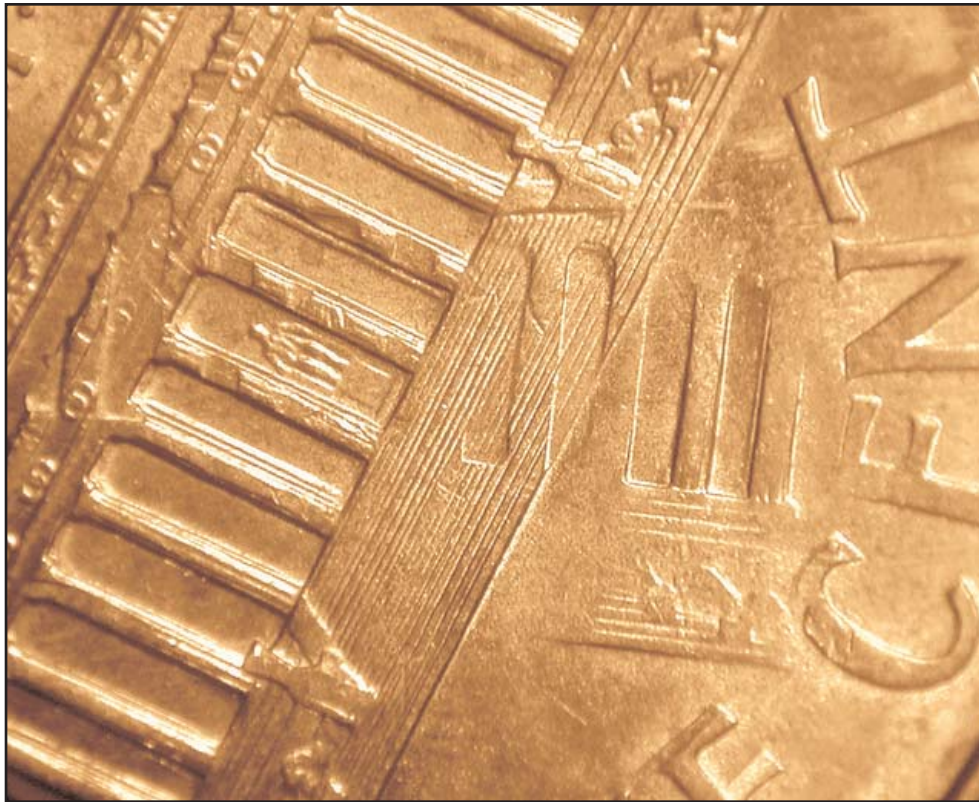
ond strike was exceedingly weak due to insufficient die approximation on the second strike. The only part of the obverse design to leave a trace was Lincoln's head, where it overlaps the head from the first strike. The only part of the reverse design to leave a trace is the Memorial, mainly the right side.

I cannot identify any die markers that would allow me to determine whether both strikes were delivered by the same die pair. I cannot speculate intelligently about what might have increased the minimum gap between the two dies. All I know is that increases in minimum die distance can occur suddenly and are sometimes self-correcting.



BJ Neff found this double struck Lincoln cent while searching through rolls of circulated coins. Images courtesy BJ Neff.





Closeup images of the double strike show the extent of rotation of the coin between strikes. Images courtesy BJ Neff.



There is no “re-entry” partial collar, (but not unknown) for recent cents which means the coin managed to fit with in-collar double-strikes with completely back into the collar for the second strike. That’s pretty unusual rotation between strikes. ■

Some Interesting Thoughts on Slabbed Errors

by Frank Leone

Recently, my e-mailbox found this well written correspondence from an experienced observer close to the scene. This information is too good to let it disappear with time. I consider myself an experienced error collector and buyer and I learned a LOT from this email.

July, 2007:

To me it seems that grading services grade on a curve for certain coins. We've been seeing a lot of this lately on the **John Adams dollars with the double edge inscription errors. The coins in high grades are impossible to find.** Yet the grading services are coming up with MS65 and MS66 coins that when looked at up close, on average, grade no higher than MS63 or MS64 by most standards. It seems they are taking into account that a Presidential dollar goes through an awfully destructive process (beyond that of a plain edge Sac dollar for example) when it goes through the edge lettering machine -- even more so when it goes through twice. Even the non-error Adams dollars are hard to find in high grade. Thus, spreading out 1,000 or even 10,000 Adams dollars with the thought that you could pick out a few MS67 coins is an impossible dream even on the normal coins as far as I'm concerned. (This may not be the case for ones taken from Mint supplied coins in their rolls.) **You'll find them on Sacs but not on Presidential dollars!** This matter gets even worse on the Adams dollars with double edge inscriptions. Over 3,000 of these double inscription errors have already passed

through my hands so I know how they grade. Out of 100 pieces that I ready for shipment to one of the big boys I may be able to find 5 to 10 coins for my customers that grade a solid MS63/+ with very few if any of those grading as solid MS64s. I do not think I've had more than five that I'd grade MS65 with some reservations. Yet, many have been slabbed MS65 by the grading services. You can call it "slop grading" or "grading on a curve." It all adds up to the same thing -- similar coins such as Sac dollars and Presidential dollars are not being graded equally. The question is, why?

We've seen a similar scenario with some types of error coins for many years. Error collectors have a natural tendency to accept a certain amount of damage on certain errors, especially the rarer more misshapen types since a certain amount of damage over normal is inherent to the process of them escaping the Mint and being processed further in rolling operations. If you want to collect some of these rarer types many collectors have learned to live with a bit of damage on some of them. Error collectors have always known this and accepted it as a part of our hobby BUT in decades past the more honest dealers often made a note of such problems in their descriptions (such as "counting machine scrape or rub" etc.), or made it obvious in their images. Thus, where a collector of normal coins would reject a Kennedy half with a scrape on it as being noncollectable, an error collector will accept some error types on Kennedy halves with

some scrapes as still being very collectable and often quite valuable depending on the type and its rarity.

For example, I own a ND Clad 50c struck on a dime planchet that is cupped up on one side where it was broadstruck as it was drawn along with the "larger half" of the Kennedy half dollar (which was a broadstrike). It has a few scrapes on the uniface obverse (the dime planchet was indented into the reverse of a half and is slabbed with the reverse showing on the front of the slab as its focal point). PCGS basically ignored the scrapes when they graded it. When I submitted it for grading I fully expected that the scrapes would be considered fairly typical for an error of this type to a much greater degree than a normal coin. When I purchased it I knew this too and without reservation spent a considerable sum of cash for it. I assumed they would grade it accordingly rather than body bagging it. However, I was quite surprised that it came back graded MS65. I would have net graded it MS63 or so and in my description of the coin noted that it had a few minor scrapes not untypical of such errors. In this case, I have no idea of why it was graded this way. Perhaps they saw it as an MS68 without the scrapes and net graded it MS65?

So what we have here is not so much a problem with what is being slabbed but why it is being slabbed at higher grades than we might otherwise expect.

Maybe the answer for misshapen errors is to net grade them with a note

of any scrapes, etc., on the holder? I won't pretend to have the answer here but I will state that I feel a coin that is basically normal (like the double edge inscription Adams dollars) should be graded in the same manner as normal coins and those that are inherently misshapen and prone to a high degree of post mint damage be at the very least net graded. I'd hate to see errors like caps or fold overs that are prone to some scrapes to even get out of the Mint in the first place and we all know are still very highly collectable and valuable not being grad-

ed at all. I happen to like slabs but I do not understand the process of grading errors. It is one that needs to be looked into to see if there is an explanation as to what kind of latitude is normal for errors and discuss if their might be a better way. Keep in mind that eye appeal based on luster and flash is a very strong factor in grading so some strike through errors and weak strikes might naturally grade lower for good reason -- they lack eye appeal. ■

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Letter to the Editor

Dee Vee Lee writes with regard to Frank Leone's *Nine Bags of Wheaties* article in the May/June issue of *Errorscope*... One of the better known inventor, innovator and entertainer's origin is Waukesha County Wisconsin.....was your cent sticker a salute to "Rhubarb Red"? used as a beer chip? early advertisement for Club 400??? the date 1941 would have been available in 1947 or 1948. the ownership of the Polfuss bar...Club 400....welcomed son and brother Lester and a young Mary Ford.

PBS recently had a special on Les Paul. The neat challenge is you could

confirm or deny this question by going to the Iridium on 51st and Broadway on a Monday night....see Les in person. If it proves to be true it could be donated to the Waukesha County historical museum's Les Paul exhibit!

Wouldn't this be a better story than baseball's Boston or Cincinnati? Les Paul and Mary Ford were at the top of the charts in the late '40s and early '50s...how high the moon, etc. When I went to my grandparent's 50th wedding celebration in Waukesha I met Les' brother and sister-in-law. They informed me that Les and Mary had divorced. She died in 1977.

...Les was also responsible for multi-track recording. I think Iridium is about 1501 Broadway in NYC. Further research might include the Waukesha Freeman archives via Google. It is the local daily newspaper.

Before moving to Texas I went to a Monday night performance of Les when he was at Fat Tuesday's in the village. He was so down to earth to chat with. A most memorable experience. ■



Dee Vee Lee suggests this advertising sticker may be a reference to Rhubarb Red and Waukesha County Wisconsin.

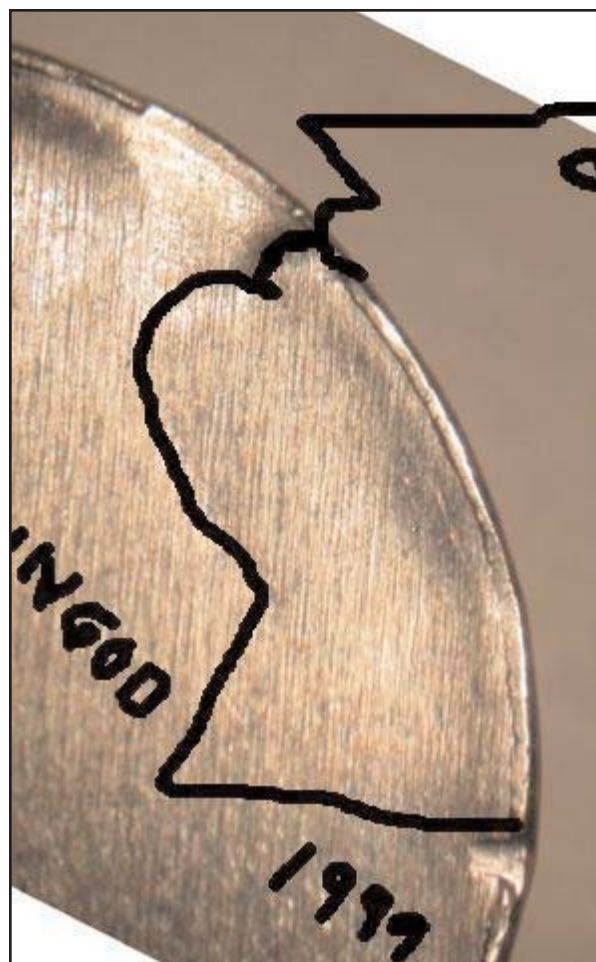
Weak Strike on Off Center Dime

by Mike Diamond

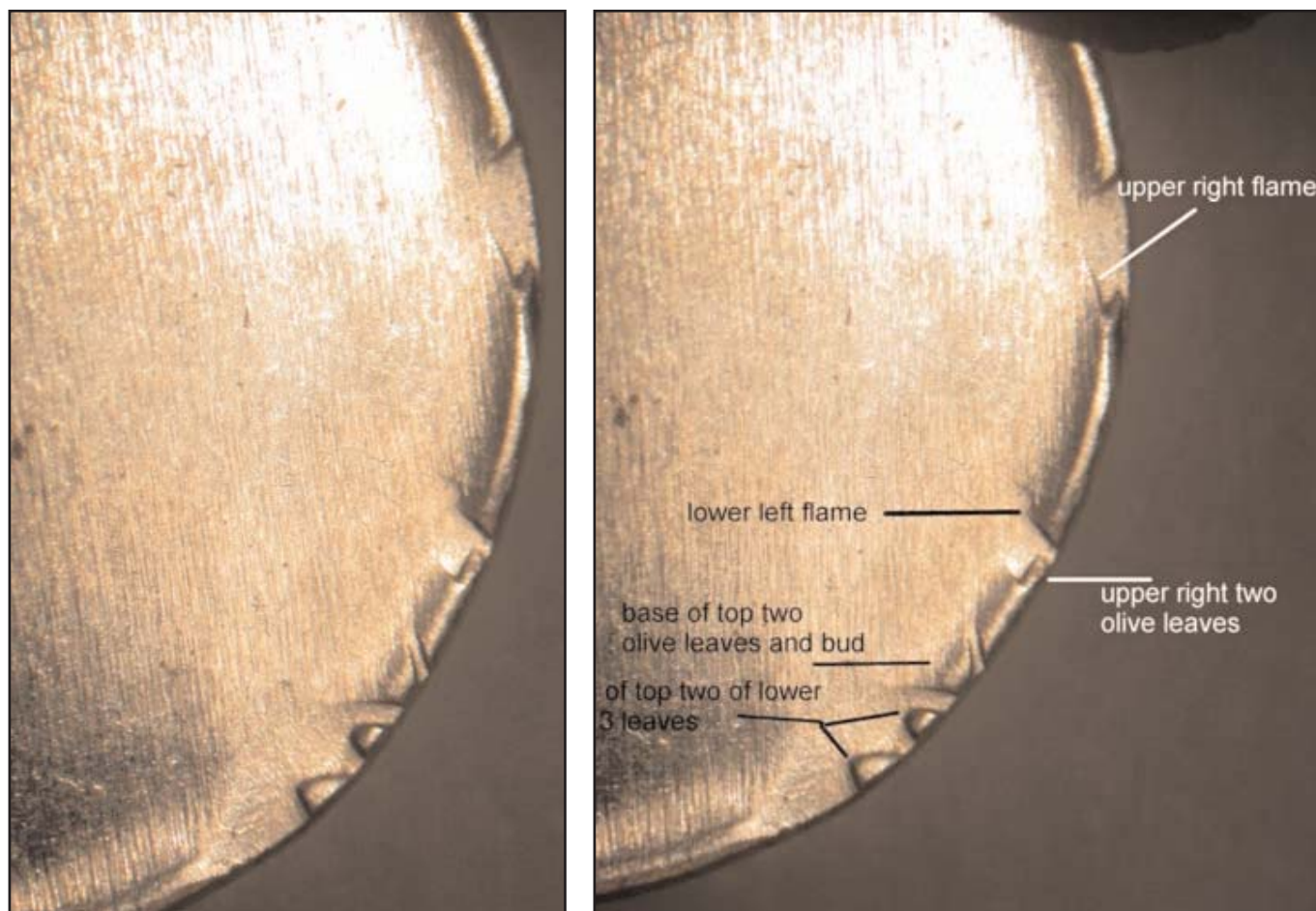
Here's a very weakly struck, 70% off-center dime. Weakness was due to insufficient die approximation. The dies only came close enough to leave an impression on the proto-rim of the planchet. The reverse shows part of

the flame and some of the olive leaves. The obverse shows Roosevelt's lower lip, chin, underside of throat and, perhaps, base of neck.

The planchet is odd in that it shows no tumbling marks. It's not a proof planchet, though. ■



This Roosevelt dime displays a very weak off center strike. The crude drawing of Roosevelt's face is courtesy of Travis Bolton. The coin was acquired from one of Len Roosmalen's auctions.



Reverse of off center dime with corresponding descriptions of design features.

CONECA at ANA Convention in Milwaukee Thursday August 9 through Sunday August 12, 2007

All CONECA Members:

Our club will have a table at the ANA Convention in Milwaukee, WI from Thursday August 9 through Sunday August 12, 2007, and we need members to serve as official club assistants at the table.

If you're planning to attend the convention, and want to volunteer to be club assistant at our table, please: 1. Look at the attached table schedule, 2. Pick one or more time slots that you can be at the table, and 3. Send an e-mail to Al Raddi at alraddi@aol.com. He will make a master schedule and distribute it to all members who have volunteered to serve as club assistants at our table.

The table will have copies of *Errorscope* and some low-value error coins to give away and membership applications. A microscope, a hand lens, a head magnifier, a micrometer, a spreading caliper, a magnet, and portable scale will also be available for club assistants to use.

PS Don't forget the **Errorama Banquet on Friday night at Mader's German Restaurant**. If you plan to attend please let Al Raddi know at alraddi@aol.com.

1962 Nickel Struck on a Very Brittle Planchet

by Mike Diamond

This 1962 nickel comes by way of **Alfonso Chio**. It was struck on a very brittle planchet. The left side broke off, either at the moment of the strike or shortly thereafter. The best evidence of this is the absence of metal flow in design elements bordering the relatively straight left edge. This shows we're dealing with a broken coin, and not a ragged clip. The rest of the perimeter is crumbling and cracking. The broken

edges show a fine, grainy texture, which is typical of a natural fracture.

The coin weighs 2.58 grams, indicating that almost half the original mass has broken off (presuming the original weight was a normal 5 grams). Specific gravity is 8.6, which is reasonably close to the official 8.92. I have no reason to suspect the composition was significantly different from that of a normal nickel planchet.

As to why it was so brittle, it's hard to say. Maybe it skipped the annealing process. Or maybe it had an abnormally high load of impurities. The broken edges show a dark gray to black color, which is unexpected and stands in sharp contrast to the bright obverse and reverse face. ■





Alfonso Chio's 1962 nickel was struck on an extremely brittle planchet that fractured during and/or after the strike.



Junk Box Finds

by Frank Leone

Recently, I searched a dealer's junk box for anything that I felt was worth a premium over his "5 for a dollar" asking price. As we all know, you can get pretty lucky sometimes. It always helps to be early to one of the boxes at a shop or a show. The box was rather full so I think I was an early bird.

Below are images of just two of the coins I picked out. My recollection is

that I bought 70 pieces in total. All were foreign coins, all had a premium. The first coin shown below hails from a country I've written about in the past for its lack of errors. You can see a nice little clipped planchet error just below letters NT on the obverse and above the letters LI on the reverse. The fourth Cuban error that I've purchased. The first three cost me in the hundreds of dollars for each, this one comes in at 20c.

The Russian 10 Kopeks below has a huge lamination on the planchet. The coin is a dog, but at 20c it was a good deal. ■



Junk box searching will always be fun and many finds can still be worthwhile. Both of these errors were pulled from a junk box at 20c each.

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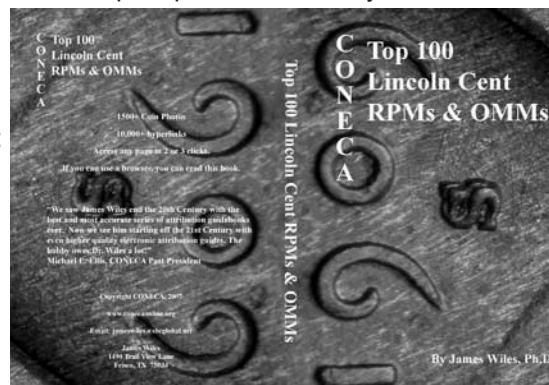
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