



Royal Australian Historical Society

Knowing your history

23 February 2023

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Woman enjoying Lodden Falls, 1926 [RAHS Photograph Collection]



John Thomas Bigge, 1819 [SLNSW]

Bicentenary of the Supreme Court of NSW

In February 1823, a report by John Thomas Bigge into judicial affairs in NSW was tabled in the House of Commons. It led to the Third Charter of Justice and the establishment of the current Supreme Court, which first sat on 17 May 1824, as well as the first steps towards representative government in the Australian colonies. His enduring legacy is an independent, respected court system that upholds and promotes the rule of law.

In 2023-24 the Supreme Court of NSW, along with the Legislative Council, will host a program of events to mark 200 years since the New South Wales Act was passed by the Westminster Parliament in October 1823. There will be ceremonial sittings, public lectures, book launches and open days, some held in conjunction with the Francis Forbes Society for Australian Legal History.

The first of these will be on **Tuesday, 28 March 2023 at 5.00pm** when the Hon Andrew Bell, Chief Justice of New South Wales, will deliver a paper entitled 'On classic ground': Martin's monument and civilizational yearnings in colonial New South Wales', which was originally delivered as the Sir James Martin Oration to

the Lysicrates Foundation. The lecture will be held in the Banco Court, on Level 13 of the Law Courts Building in Queens Square at 5.30 pm. The lecture is named in honour of Sir James Martin, the towering historical figure who rose to become Premier, Attorney General and, later, the fourth Chief Justice of New South Wales. Also at the event will be Chief Justice Allsop of the Federal Court, who will present prizes to the winners and commended entries in the Forbes Society's 2022 Australian Legal History Essay Competition.

Members of the RAHS are very welcome to attend.

Stay informed of all upcoming events through the RAHS Newsletter, and the [Supreme Court website](#) and Twitter account (@NSWSupCt). Alternatively, contact Chris Winslow, Media Manager, Chris.Winslow@justice.nsw.gov.au



RAHS President talks Trove on ABC Radio

RAHS President Dr Iain Stuart joined James Valentine on the ABC Radio Sydney Breakfast Show to discuss all things Trove on Thursday, 16 February. They were also joined by Professional Historian Peter Symons, who started a Change.Org petition to [#FullyFundTrove](#).

As we reported in the last e-newsletter, Trove is facing funding uncertainty from

July 2023. The RAHS sent a letter to Tony Burke, the Federal Minister for the Arts, in which we expressed our profound concerns for Trove's ongoing funding.

On the show, Iain discussed the importance of Trove as a research tool for local and family history and the need for sustainable funding to maintain Trove's digital infrastructure.

As Iain said in the interview, 'I really think the system needs to change. We can't have this system where every five years Trove is in threat, and every five years the National Archives is in threat, and every five years a library roof leaks ... it is better government to have these things properly organised and funded in an appropriate way so people can plan ahead.'

Meanwhile, Peter took questions from the audience and conducted a 'live Trove' – which may well become a new national sport for historians! Peter searched stories about a shooting incident incorrectly reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1948 and reports that a religious group was waiting for Jesus to walk through the Sydney Heads, as reported in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1954. This was a reference to the Star Amphitheatre at Balmoral and Jiddu Krishnamurtih and is well worth further research.

Iain was invited back the next morning to clear up a few other questions including the explosion in Bridge Street, deaths in Pitt Street and ghosts on the Wakehurst Parkway. Later that afternoon Peter Symon and Iain spoke to ABC Hobart's drive program as well.



Hotham House, ca.1970s [Courtesy Local Studies Collection, Sutherland Shire Libraries]

Local campaign to save Hotham House a success

Sutherland Shire Historical Society is pleased the campaign to save historic Hotham House has been successful. In January this year, the Independent Planning Commission ruled against the proposed redevelopment of President Private Hospital at Gymea. This would have entailed the demolition of Hotham House, which is part of the hospital complex.

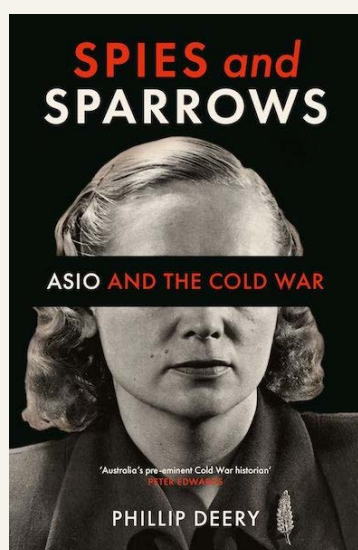
Hotham House has been an important part of Gymea's history for more than a century. Over the years it has had a number of uses and remains in sound condition. This intact example of a pre-World War I residence is a significant link to Sutherland Shire history as it was the centre of a large poultry farming enterprise when this was the main primary industry in the district. It was also an important social centre for local people in what was then an isolated area.

I especially acknowledge the work of Sutherland Shire Historical Society

member Kim Hatherly whose research on Gymea was of enormous value in highlighting the historic importance of Hotham House – a building that is rare in Sutherland Shire and unique in Gymea.

Pauline Curby, President Sutherland Shire Historical Society

RAHS Events



RAHS Day Lecture - Spies and Sparrows: ASIO and the Cold War

Presenter: Phillip Deery

When: Wednesday, 1 March 2023 at 1 pm

Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Free

In the wake of the Second World War and the realisation that the Soviet Union had set up extensive espionage networks around the world, Australia responded by establishing its own spy-hunting agency: ASIO. By the 1950s, its counterespionage activities were increasingly supplemented by attempts at counter-subversion – identifying individuals and organisations suspected of activities that threatened national security. In doing so, it crossed the boundary from being a professional agency that collected, evaluated and transmitted intelligence, to a sometimes politicised but always shadowy presence, monitoring not just communists but also peace activists, scientists, academics, journalists and writers.

RESERVE TICKETS



Woy Woy from Blackwall Hill, undated [RAHS Foster Press Collection]

***Central Coast Regional Seminar - Land Records, Convict Crimes and
Convicts Transported from Ireland: A Treasure Trove of Research
Possibilities***

When: Saturday, 4 March 2023 at 10 am - 4 pm

Where: Gosford City Lions Hall, Russell Drysdale St, East Gosford NSW 2250

Cost: \$20 (includes morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea)

The RAHS is staging one of its popular regional seminars in conjunction with the Central Coast Family History Society. This one-day, in-person seminar will appeal to anyone who wants to learn more about convicts and their crimes, Irish convicts transported to Australia, and how to use land records.

BUY TICKETS



Nos 133-139 Macquarie Street [State Library of NSW]

RAHS/WEA Workshop - How to Research Your House's History

Presenters: Carol Liston and Christine Yeats

When: Wednesday, 15 March 2023 at 11 am - 1 pm

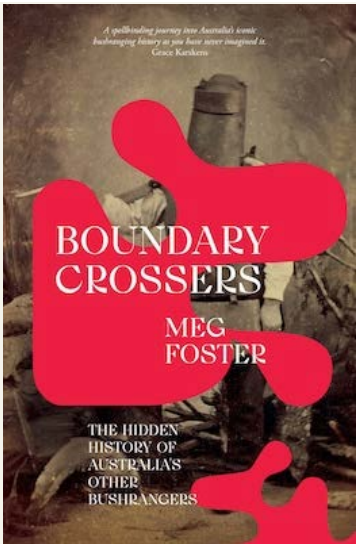
Where: Online via Zoom

Cost: Members \$32 | Non-members \$35

Have you ever wanted to go back in time and learn more about your house's history and the area where you live? This seminar will use two case studies – one in the city and one in regional NSW – to look at the records you can consult to find out more about the history of your house.

We will show you how to search for previous owners using the Historical Land Records Viewer and associated records. Then we will discuss the records that tell us how the house was previously furnished. These can provide a glimpse into the social life of the former occupants. Finally, there will be a discussion about strategies for discovering more about the history of your locality.

BUY TICKETS



RAHS Evening Lecture - Reimagining the Bushranging Legend

Presenter: Meg Foster
When: Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 6 pm
Where: Online via Zoom
Cost: Free

Bushrangers are Australian legends, but there is more to bushranging history than folklore and popular culture allows. Where did the bushranging myth begin? And why do we only celebrate white bushranging men? Bushrangers of Aboriginal, Chinese, and African American descent, as well as women, have been excluded from our pantheon of national heroes. In this talk, historian Meg Foster reveals the stories of bushrangers who didn't fit the mould and how they challenge us to rethink a national legend.

RESERVE TICKETS

RAHS News

JRAHS Submission Guidelines

We recently updated our submission guidelines for the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (JRAHS)*. A completed [JRAHS Submission Checklist](#) should now accompany all manuscript submissions.

For more information on the submission guidelines, [visit our website](#).

Affiliated Societies News



HHA's 'English Arts and Crafts Houses, Gardens and Collections' International Tour

The Historic Houses Association is excited to offer their first international tour since the onset of the pandemic with 'English Arts and Crafts Houses, Gardens and Collections' from May 5 to 21, 2023.

This fully escorted study tour of England, led by Dr James Broadbent AM, focuses on the Arts and Crafts Movement. Assuming its name from the Arts and Crafts Exhibition of 1888, the Movement quickly transformed the architecture, garden design and decorative arts of late 19th Century and early 20th Century Britain.

Encompassing the work of the Movement's major designers –William Morris, Philip Webb, C.F.A. Voysey, Charles Robert Ashbee, Detmar Blow, Gertrude Jekyll, Edwin Lutyens, Ernest Gimson and the Barnsley brothers – visiting major examples of their work in the Home Counties, the West Country and the Cotswolds. Included are visits to many important but smaller and more unusual places and to houses, gardens and collections not normally open to the public.

You'll find the full itinerary [here, on the HHA website](#). To book, please email enquiries@hha.net.au or call the office on 02 9252 5554.



Nominations for FAHS Fellowships and Awards

In our societies we have people who make outstanding contributions. They will be known to you all. Each year the Federation of Australian Historical Societies (FAHS) invites nominations for both Fellowship Awards and Merit Awards to recognise the contributions made by our members and supporters. RAHS members and affiliates are invited to consider likely suitable nominees for these important awards. There is more information together with the nomination forms in Word and PDF formats on the [FAHS website](#).

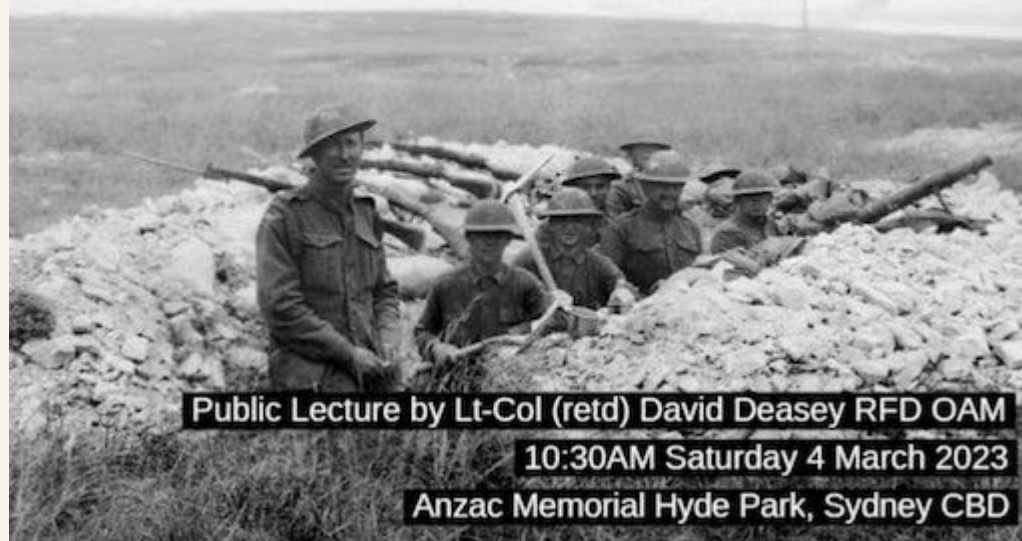
The deadline for nominations is 31 July 2023.

Christine Yeats
FAHS President

The Military History Society of NSW presents

DOUGHBOYS UNDER DIGGERS

American Divisions Under Australian Command In World War I



Public Lecture by Lt-Col (retd) David Deasey RFD OAM

10:30AM Saturday 4 March 2023

Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney CBD

Doughboys Under Diggers:

American Divisions Under Australian Command in WWI

One of the contentious issues in Australian military history is the use of American troops in operations during World War I. Many Australian historians have taken their lead from a comment by Australia's Official War Historian, Charles Bean, that Monash expected too much from two very fine divisions, and they accused Monash at least of misusing the Americans, if not implying that he had no authority to have them at all. Author Les Carlyon, in his work *The Great War*, titles his chapter on the Hindenburg Line 'An American Tragedy' and writes of the handling of the American troops: *Here was proof that Pershing ... had been right to insist that, wherever possible should fight as an independent army and only when they were properly trained.* Through all this, the myth has grown that somehow the situation of the Americans with the Australians was abnormal and these divisions were completely untrained.

In fact, upwards of 20 American divisions served under foreign command, with three, the 27th, 30th and 93rd, never at any point serving under American command. Two of those, the 27th and 30th (and the US II Corps HQ), as well as the 33rd Division, all served under John Monash's command between July

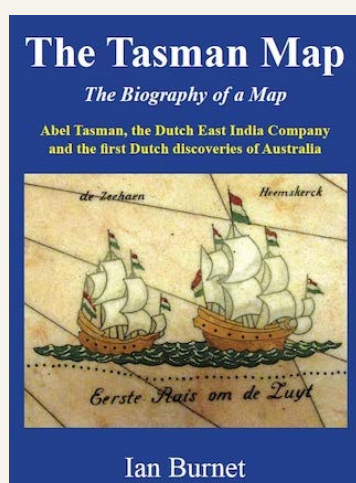
and October 1918. At Hamel (still commemorated by United States successor units), at Amiens and the Hindenburg Line, American units contributed to Australian success, although not without controversy.

This lecture will look at how three US divisions and a corps headquarters ended up under Australian command and some of the operational problems that presented.

Where: The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park.

When: Saturday 4 March at 10.30 am.

Cost: Admission is free, but a donation would be appreciated.



The Tasman Map

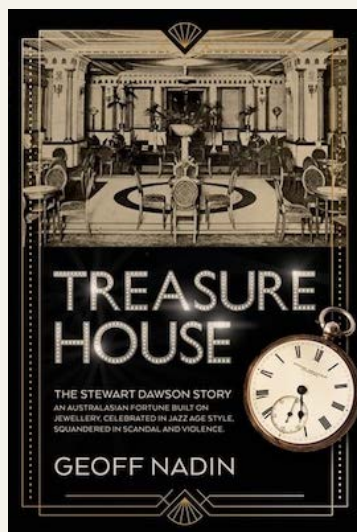
Ian Burnet, author of *The Tasman Map: The Biography of a Map* (2019), will explain how between 1606 and 1644, the first map of Australia took shape. The Dutch 'Tasman Map', a large marble mosaic of which is in the Mitchell Library's vestibule, provides a recognisable outline of the north, west and south coasts of Australia that was not to change for another 125 years. Ian will also show how the Mitchell Library acquired both the Tasman Huydecoper Journal and the Tasman Bonaparte Map and bring new recognition to these icons of both Dutch and Australian history.

Where: Mosman Library.

When: Wednesday 8 March at 7 pm.

Cost: MHS Members free / Visitors \$5 donation.

RSVP: Contact davidcarment@mac.com before Monday 6 March.



Treasure House: The Stewart Dawson Story

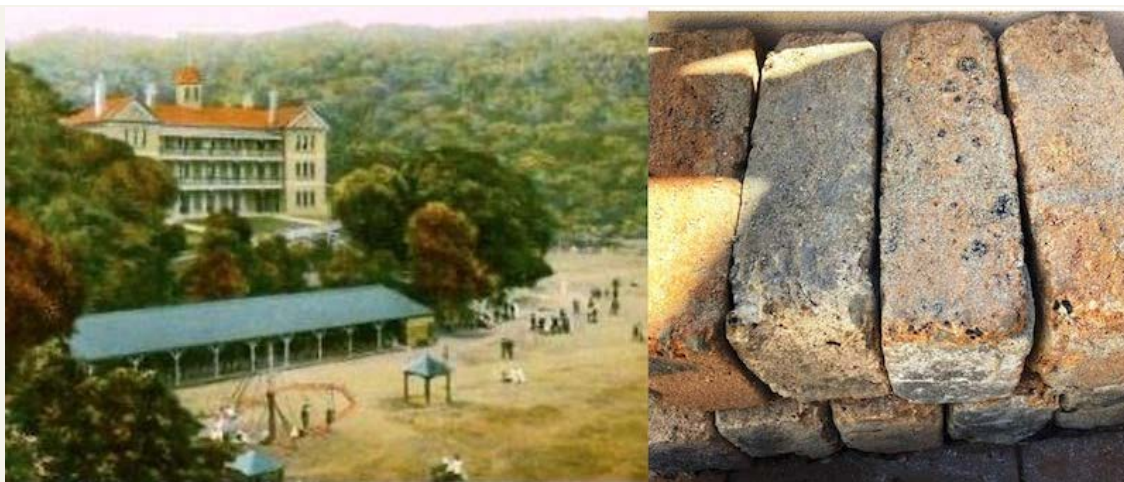
Author Geoff Nadin tells the story of a once famous Australian family. In February 1998, in South Kensington, London, the death of 75-year-old retired taxi driver David Stewart Dawson occurred unremarked.

This was the same David who, fifty years earlier in Australia, had inherited a life of privilege and luxury, lived at Sydney's best addresses, married two beautiful women, and then lost it all in scandal and shame. This is the story of the Stewart Dawsons: watchmakers and jewellers, Australian pioneers of Jazz Age popular culture. It's also a story of marital duplicity and deception, hubris and abuse of privilege, hedonism, fraud, and criminal violence, leaving a trail of victims and damaged lives with few happy endings.

Where: Henry Carmichael Theatre, 280 Pitt St.

When: Saturday 11 March at 2 pm.

Cost: COSHA Members \$5 / Visitors \$10. No bookings are required.



Left: Clifton Gardens Hotel after 1885 [Mosman Local Studies Collection]

Right: Bricks from the demolished Clifton Gardens Hotel, 2023

History and Snags at the Clifton Gardens Hotel Site

Mosman Historical Society has obtained some c.1885 bricks from the demolished Clifton Gardens Hotel. They are being used to build a small pillar on the hotel site. Following a short guided walk around the site and nearby pleasure grounds, the Mayor of Mosman, Carolyn Corrigan, will unveil a plaque on the pillar and launch an E-Booklet which draws together many historical aspects of Clifton Gardens. Society members and guests are then invited to enjoy our traditional sausage barbeque. There is no seating on the site so it is suggested that you bring your own chairs. Also, bring your own drinks.

Where: Participants meet at the Clifton Gardens Hotel site, Morella Road. There is sometimes limited parking near the site along Morella Road. More parking spaces are in the nearby Clifton Gardens Reserve.

When: Wednesday 15 March at 5 pm.

RSVP: Contact davidcarment@mac.com by Monday 13 March.





OPEN DAY - International Women's Day 2023

Friday 10 March 2023 - 9.30am to 3pm

The Parramatta Female Factory site (c1818)

5 Fleet Street, North Parramatta

at the Parramatta Female Factory Friends Rooms

Join us as we:

Honour the convict women & their children

Share their stories - Listen to their Voices

& Walk in their footsteps

The PFFF cordially invite you to the Friends Rooms, Research Centre & Library for our International Women's Day observance.

- *Explore the Friends Rooms in the original Greenway Matron's Quarters & Administration Building (c1818)
- *Visit the PFFF Research Centre, including the Babette Smith Collection
- *Meet other members and descendants
- *Meet our research team
- *Check out our 'Herstory' Displays
- *Visit our sales table - buy a Factory memento or one of our publications
- *Book a tour or grab a cuppa and snack - relax in our meeting room
- *Sit awhile and experience this unique convict women's site!

The Matron Gordon Tea Room will be open for a cuppa & bikkies
The Havenstone Café on site, is also open

Site Tours - 10.30am and 1.30pm
Bookings at Rooms on the day (\$10) - limited spaces

web: parramattafemalefactoryfriends.com.au
email: parramattafemalefactoryfriends@gmail.com
facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pffriends/>





SAVE THE DATE!

8th – 10th September 2023



38th Annual Conference of the NSW & ACT
ASSOCIATION OF FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETIES



THE RUNNING WATERS OF HISTORY

At
Toukley 50 Plus Leisure Centre,
1 Hargraves Street TOUKLEY

Hosted by

WYONG FAMILY HISTORY GROUP INC.

Save the Date and Watch for further details
The website goes live 1st March.

Speakers include:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| • Jill Ball | • Mark Bundy | • Geoff Potter |
| • Michael Bell | • Dr Richard Reid | • Michelle Patient |
| • Prof Hamish Maxwell-Stewart | • Joy and Allan Murrin | • Jeff Madsen |

Register online

Registrations for physical attendance will close at 200.

Cost:	\$175.00
Early Bird rate:	\$155.00 if paid by 30 th June
Friday night Meet and Greet	\$25.00
Saturday night Conference Dinner	\$65.00
Virtual attendance	\$50.00 (no restrictions on registration numbers)

Email: wfhgconference@westnet.com.au

History News



Chief Secretary's Building Sydney [nd]. NRS-4481-2-4-[4/8663]-1588

Webinar: Colonial Secretary Letters Received, 1826-1896

The papers from the Colonial Secretary's office are some of the most valuable sources of information on all aspects of the history of NSW after 1788.

This webinar will explore how to search the index, what you may find and how to access the records.

Cost: Free. Registration essential.

When: Friday 24 February, 10:30am-11:15am.

[Register Online](#)

NSW PREMIER'S
HISTORY AWARDS 2023 

2023 NSW Premier's History Awards

The State Library of NSW has announced the opening of nominations for the NSW Premier's History Awards 2023.

A total of \$85,000 in prize money will be presented to the winners at an awards ceremony on 1 September 2023.

Administered by the State Library of NSW, in association with Create NSW, the NSW Premier's History Awards will offer prizes in six categories this year:

- Australian History Prize (\$15,000)
- General History Prize (\$15,000)
- New South Wales Community and Regional History Prize (\$15,000)
- Young People's History Prize (\$15,000)
- Digital History Prize (\$15,000)
- The Anzac Memorial Trustees' Military History Prize (\$10,000 – being awarded for the first time in 2023)

All works nominated for the NSW Premier's History Awards 2023 must be first published, screened, broadcast or made publicly available between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023.

Nominations may be made by authors or by their authorised representative: agent, publisher, professional theatre company, film distributor, production company, or broadcasting company or corporation.

[Read the guidelines and apply here.](#)



Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize

Entries are now open for the Anzac Memorial Trustees Military History Prize.

Valued at \$10,000, the Military History Prize is being awarded for the first time in 2023 as part of the NSW Premier's History Awards.

The Military History Prize is for a work of non-fiction published as a book or e-book, publicly released or made available as a broadcast film, television or radio program, DVD, podcast, website or application for mobile/handheld devices, on the involvement of Australians in wars, campaigns, battles and/or peacekeeping operations represented in the Anzac Memorial's Hall of Service.

In the Anzac spirit, the Prize is open to citizens and permanent residents of Australia and New Zealand.

Applications close 6 April 2023. [Apply now.](#)

Other News



International Women's Day 2023 at the Anzac Memorial

On International Women's Day 2023 (8 March), the Anzac Memorial is holding a series of free special events to commemorate and recognise women who

have contributed to the defence of Australia in conflicts and peacekeeping missions.

Women have long played a significant role in Australian military service, from serving in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) then Australian Defence Force (ADF) and carrying out nursing duties on frontlines, to undertaking war work on the home front and making invaluable sacrifices as military spouses.

Starting with a special performance of *Devoted Service*, a powerful and moving drama filled with insight and poignancy that is derived directly from the true stories of five remarkable women during the Great War, the morning's program explores the stories of servicewomen from across the decades.

All events are free and take place at the Anzac Memorial. You can attend the full program or specific events. [Book now](#).



Macquarie Place, c.1930 [RAHS Osbourne Collection]

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