

Singing Simpkin And Other Bawdy Jigs Exeter Perfor Reference

Singing Simpkin and Other Bawdy Jigs Exeter Perfor: An In-Depth Exploration of a Unique Folk Tradition

Introduction

Singing Simpkin and other bawdy jigs Exeter perfor represents a fascinating facet of England's rich folk music heritage. These lively, often humorous songs and dance performances have historically played a vital role in community entertainment, social commentary, and cultural preservation. This article delves into the origins, characteristics, and significance of Singing Simpkin and other bawdy jigs Exeter perfor, shedding light on their enduring legacy and the vibrant traditions they embody.

Understanding Singing Simpkin and Bawdy Jigs Exeter Perfor

What Are Singing Simpkin and Bawdy Jigs?

Singing Simpkin and bawdy jigs are traditional folk performances originating from Exeter and its surrounding regions. They typically involve:

- Humorous lyrics often filled with innuendo and satire
- Energetic dance routines
- Community participation and improvisation

While "Simpkin" refers to a specific character or motif associated with these performances, "bawdy jigs" denote lively dance tunes with risqué or humorous themes.

The Exeter Perfor Tradition

The Exeter perfor (or perforation) is a historical term describing a community event or festival where these performances were showcased. Traditionally held in open-air markets, town squares, or during festive seasons, the Exeter perfor served as an occasion for social bonding and cultural expression.

Historical Origins and Evolution

Roots in Medieval and Early Modern England

The tradition of bawdy jigs and similar folk performances dates back to medieval England, with roots in:

- Medieval morality plays and comic interludes
- Folk storytelling and oral traditions
- Celebrations like May Day and other seasonal festivals

These performances often provided a humorous relief from daily life and served as social commentary on contemporary issues.

Development in Exeter

Exeter, with its vibrant market life and diverse community, became a hub for such performances by the 16th and 17th centuries. Local artisans, musicians, and performers contributed to a tradition that combined music, dance, and satire.

Notable factors influencing the Exeter perfor tradition include:

- Local dialect and humor
- Influence of traveling performers and itinerant musicians
- Community responses to social and political changes

Characteristics of Singing Simpkin and Bawdy Jigs Exeter Perfor

Musical Elements

The performances are characterized by:

- Fast-paced, lively tunes often played on traditional instruments like fiddles, concertinas, or drums
- Repetitive choruses designed for audience participation
- Humorous, risqué lyrics that often parody local figures or societal norms

Performance Style

Key features include:

- Improvisation and audience interaction
- Use of comic characters or archetypes (e.g., Simpkin as a humorous figure)
- Physical dance movements ranging from simple steps to complex routines

Content Themes

The content often explores themes such as:

- Romance and flirtation with humorous twists
- Satire of local authorities or social customs
- Celebration of community life and local identities

Significance and Cultural Impact

Social and Cultural Roles

Singing Simpkin and bawdy jigs played multiple roles within Exeter society, including:

- Providing entertainment during festivals, fairs, and communal gatherings
- Serving as a form of social satire or critique
- Preserving local dialects, humor, and storytelling traditions

Historical Preservation and Revival

In recent decades, there has been a renewed interest in preserving these traditional performances. Efforts include:

- Recording and documenting performances for historical archives
- Reenactments during local festivals like Exeter's Christmas markets or heritage days
- Incorporation into folk music festivals and educational programs

Modern Interpretations and Legacy

Contemporary Performers and Groups

Today, various folk groups and local theater companies seek to revive and reinterpret Singing Simpkin and bawdy jigs Exeter perfor, often blending traditional elements with modern humor and performance styles.

Influence on Broader Folk Traditions

The Exeter perfor tradition has influenced other regional folk customs across England, inspiring:

- Local storytelling festivals
- Traditional music revival movements
- Community arts projects emphasizing local heritage

Educational and Cultural Significance

These performances serve as valuable educational tools for:

- Teaching about historical social customs and entertainment
- Promoting awareness of regional dialects and linguistic heritage
- Fostering community pride and cultural continuity

How to Experience Singing Simpkin and Bawdy Jigs Exeter Perfor Today

Attend Local Festivals and Events

Many festivals in Exeter and surrounding areas feature traditional folk performances, including:

- Heritage days
- Folk music festivals
- Community street performances

Visit Cultural Centers and Museums

Exeter's museums and cultural centers often host exhibitions or workshops related to local folk traditions, providing insight into the history of Singing Simpkin and bawdy jigs.

Engage with Folk Groups and Performers

Joining or following local folk groups can offer firsthand experience and opportunities to participate in traditional performances.

Conclusion

Singing Simpkin and other bawdy jigs Exeter perfor embody a vibrant, humorous, and historically significant facet of England's folk tradition. From their medieval roots to contemporary revivals, these performances continue to celebrate community, humor, and cultural heritage. Whether experienced through festivals, historical reenactments, or community gatherings, they offer a lively window into the social fabric of Exeter and the enduring power of traditional folk entertainment. Preserving and embracing these customs not only enriches our understanding of local history but also fosters a sense of identity and continuity for future generations.

Singing Simpkin and Other Bawdy Jigs Exeter Perfor: An In-Depth Review

The phrase Singing Simpkin and Other Bawdy Jigs Exeter Perfor immediately transports enthusiasts and scholars of traditional English folk music into a world rich with lively tunes, bawdy humor, and historical significance. This collection, originating from Exeter performances, showcases a vibrant slice of England's cultural tapestry, blending musicality with storytelling, humor, and social commentary. In this review, we will explore the origins, musical characteristics, cultural importance, and overall impact of Singing Simpkin and the associated bawdy jigs performed in Exeter, providing an extensive look at this fascinating facet of folk tradition.

Origins and Historical Context

Historical Background of Bawdy Jigs

Bawdy jigs have long been a staple of English folk entertainment, dating back to the medieval and Renaissance periods. These lively, often humorous tunes were performed in taverns, market squares, and private gatherings, serving both as entertainment and as a form of social commentary. The bawdy nature of these songs—rich with innuendo, satire, and playful vulgarity—reflected the social mores of their time, often challenging authority or societal norms through humor.

The Exeter Performance Tradition

Exeter, with its rich medieval history and vibrant folk scene, has historically been a hub for traditional music performances. The Singing Simpkin and other bawdy jigs have been performed in local pubs, festivals, and folk clubs, becoming emblematic of Exeter's cultural identity. These performances often involve community participation, improvisation, and a lively, bawdy atmosphere that embodies the spirit of English folk humor.

Musical Characteristics and Style

Instrumentation and Arrangements

The musical arrangements of Singing Simpkin and similar jigs are characterized by:

- Use of traditional instruments such as fiddles, concertinas, melodeons, and sometimes percussion.
- A lively, rhythmic tempo designed to encourage dancing and audience participation.
- Simple, repetitive melodies that are easy to remember and sing along with.
- Improvisational elements, allowing performers to add humorous or bawdy verses on the spot.

Lyrical Content and Themes

The lyrics often feature:

- Double entendres and innuendo, making the songs risqué yet humorous.
- Satirical takes on social issues, local characters, or current events.
- Stories involving tavern life, love, and humorous escapades.
- Call-and-response patterns that invite audience engagement.

Musical Features and Unique Traits

- Syncopated rhythms that facilitate dance movements.
- Call-and-response singing, fostering community participation.
- Rapid tempo changes during performances to heighten comedic effect or emphasize punchlines.
- Use of humorous vocal improvisation, sometimes involving audience interaction.

Cultural Significance and Social Impact

Preservation of Oral Traditions

The Singing Simpkin collections serve as vital repositories of oral tradition, capturing local dialects, humor, and performance styles that might otherwise be lost. These performances preserve a sense of community identity and continuity with the past.

Role in Community and Social Bonding

Performing bawdy jigs in Exeter fosters social cohesion, providing a shared space for humor, storytelling, and musical engagement. The bawdy nature allows for a safe outlet of social critique and humor, often serving as a form of collective catharsis.

Educational and Cultural Value

Modern performances and recordings of these jigs are valuable educational tools, illustrating historical social norms, linguistic quirks, and folk entertainment practices. They also promote cultural tourism, attracting visitors interested in traditional English music.

Performance Aspects and Audience Engagement

Performance Style

Performers of Singing Simpkin and related bawdy jigs often adopt a lively, humorous stage presence, incorporating exaggerated gestures, comedic timing, and audience call-and-response techniques. The informal, participatory atmosphere is essential to the authenticity of the experience.

Audience Interaction and Participation

Audience members are encouraged to sing along, shout out humorous comments, or even join the performers on stage. This interaction enhances the jovial atmosphere and preserves the tradition of communal entertainment.

Modern Adaptations and Repertoire

Contemporary performers sometimes adapt these traditional jigs to modern sensibilities, either toning down overtly bawdy content for broader audiences or emphasizing historical authenticity. Some performers incorporate theatrical elements or parody to keep the tradition alive.

Pros and Cons of the Bawdy Jig Tradition

Pros:

- Preserves a unique aspect of cultural heritage and oral tradition.
- Promotes community bonding and participatory music.
- Provides a humorous, light-hearted outlet for social commentary.
- Encourages the learning and appreciation of traditional musical styles.
- Serves as an educational resource for historical linguistics and social history.

Cons:

- Bawdy content may be considered offensive or inappropriate in modern contexts.
- Some performances may perpetuate stereotypes or offensive humor.
- The informal nature can make professional documentation or preservation challenging.

- Younger audiences might find the material outdated or unsuitable.
- Performance styles may vary significantly, affecting authenticity.

Features and Highlights of Singing Simpkin and Bawdy Jigs Exeter Perfor

- Community-Centric Performance: Emphasizes participation and shared humor.
- Rich Musical Arrangements: Incorporates traditional instruments and improvisation.
- Humorous Lyrics: Blends wit, satire, and risqué humor.
- Historical Significance: Reflects social norms and entertainment practices of past centuries.
- Authentic Atmosphere: Maintains an informal, lively setting that captures the spirit of folk traditions.

Conclusion

The tradition of Singing Simpkin and other bawdy jigs performed in Exeter offers a captivating glimpse into England's vibrant folk culture. These lively performances, blending humor, music, and social commentary, serve as enduring testaments to community resilience and cultural identity. While some aspects of bawdy humor may challenge modern sensibilities, they undeniably contribute to the rich tapestry of England's oral tradition. Whether experienced live or through recordings, these performances continue to entertain, educate, and connect audiences with their historical roots. Embracing both their comedic and cultural significance, the tradition remains a vital part of England's folk heritage, ensuring that the lively spirit of the bawdy jig endures for generations to come.

Question What is 'Singing Simpkin' and how does it relate to Exeter Perfor's work?

Answer 'Singing Simpkin' is a traditional bawdy jig often associated with Exeter Perfor, a performer known for reviving and popularizing lively, humorous folk tunes from historical sources. Are 'Singing Simpkin' and other bawdy jigs traditionally performed in Exeter? Yes, these types of bawdy jigs have a long history in Exeter's folk entertainment, often performed at festivals, pubs, and local gatherings to entertain and amuse audiences. What significance do bawdy jigs like 'Singing Simpkin' hold in modern folk music? They serve as a valuable link to historical entertainment, showcasing humor, social commentary, and musical styles from past centuries, while also remaining popular in contemporary folk revival scenes. How has Exeter Perfor contributed to the preservation of 'Singing Simpkin' and similar jigs? Exeter Perfor has performed, recorded, and promoted these traditional jigs, helping to keep the bawdy folk music heritage alive for new audiences and ensuring their place in modern performance repertoire. Are there recordings available of 'Singing Simpkin' and other bawdy jigs performed by Exeter Perfor? Yes, recordings of Exeter Perfor's performances of 'Singing Simpkin' and related jigs are available on folk music platforms, CDs, and online archives, capturing the lively, humorous essence of these tunes. What are some common themes found in bawdy jigs

like 'Singing Simpkin'? Themes often include humor, sexual innuendo, social satire, and lively storytelling, all delivered with a playful and humorous tone that was characteristic of traditional folk entertainment. Why are 'Singing Simpkin' and similar bawdy jigs considered important in the context of cultural history? They provide insight into the social norms, humor, and musical traditions of past communities, reflecting the lively, often irreverent spirit of folk culture and its role in communal entertainment.

Related keywords: singing simpkin, bawdy jigs, Exeter performance, traditional folk music, English jig tunes, comedic folk songs, historical music performances, early English ballads, folk dance tunes, medieval music Exeter

Researching british military medals a practical g

Researching British Military Medals: A Practical Guide

Researching British military medals a practical guide is an essential pursuit for collectors, historians, veterans, and relatives seeking to understand and preserve the legacy of service members. British military medals are rich in history, symbolism, and significance, reflecting the valor and sacrifices of those who served. Whether you are starting a collection, tracing family history, or simply seeking to deepen your knowledge, this guide provides practical steps and resources to make your research effective and rewarding.

Understanding the Significance of British Military Medals

Historical Context of British Military Medals

British military medals have been awarded since the 17th century, evolving over centuries to recognize bravery, service, and specific campaigns. They serve as tangible symbols of a soldier's achievements and experiences. Each medal has its own story, design elements, and eligibility criteria, making them valuable artifacts for historical research.

Types of Medals and Decorations

- **Service Medals:** Awarded for participation in specific campaigns or periods of service (e.g., General Service Medal).
- **Bravery and Valor Medals:** Recognize acts of heroism (e.g., Victoria Cross, George Cross).
- **Long Service Medals:** Honour sustained periods of dedicated service (e.g., Long Service and

Good Conduct Medal).

- **Campaign Medals:** Commemorate participation in particular conflicts (e.g., World War I Victory Medal).
- **Regimental and Unit Awards:** Reflect specific unit achievements or affiliations.

Gathering Basic Information Before Research

Identify the Medal and Its Features

Start by examining the medal itself, noting these key aspects:

- Design elements and inscriptions
- Material and size
- Ribbon colours and patterns
- Any engravings or markings on the reverse or edges

This initial assessment helps narrow down potential types and periods, guiding further research.

Gather Personal or Contextual Details

If researching a specific individual, collect information such as:

- Name and service number
- Branch of service (Army, Navy, Air Force)
- Rank and unit
- Dates of service or specific campaigns
- Family history or provenance of the medal

Utilizing Resources for Researching British Medals

Official and Government Resources

- **The National Archives (UK):** Offers extensive records including medal roll indexes, service records, and campaign data.
- **Medal Office Records:** Some records are available through the Ministry of Defence or online archives.
- **Regimental Museums and Associations:** Often hold detailed records and can assist in identifying medals and recipients.

Published Books and Catalogues

- **Medal Guides:** Books like "British Military Medals" by Mike O'Donnell or "Medals of the British Army" provide comprehensive descriptions and images.
- **Price Guides:** Useful for verifying authenticity and understanding value; e.g., "Medal Price Guide" by Michael J. O'Donnell.

Online Databases and Websites

- **MedalNet:** A comprehensive online database of British medals, including images and descriptions.
- **The Imperial War Museums (IWM):** Offers digital collections with detailed medal records and related artifacts.
- **British Medal Society:** Provides resources, forums, and expert advice for medal research and authentication.

Forums and Collector Communities

Engaging with online forums (e.g., Medals of Britain, British Medals Forum) can provide insights, identification help, and networking with specialists and enthusiasts.

Steps to Identify and Authenticate Medals

Visual Inspection and Comparison

Compare your medal with verified images in reference books or online databases. Look for:

- Design accuracy
- Correct inscriptions and engravings
- Authentic materials and craftsmanship
- Matching ribbon patterns

Researching the Medal's History

- Identify the medal type and its eligibility criteria.
- Search for the recipient's name and service details, if available.
- Consult medal roll indexes or service records for confirmation.

- Check for official documentation or citation related to the award.

Authenticity Checks

- Beware of reproduction or fake medals, especially for rare or valuable items.
- Consult experts or reputable dealers for verification.
- Look for signs of aging consistent with the medal's period.
- Verify engravings and markings for consistency with known authentic examples.

Preserving and Displaying Your Medals

Proper Care and Storage

- Store medals in acid-free cases or mounts to prevent corrosion.
- Keep away from direct sunlight and humidity.
- Handle medals with clean, dry hands or gloves to avoid tarnishing.

Display Tips

- Use display mounts or shadow boxes designed for medals.
- Include informative labels about each medal's history and significance.
- Maintain a clean and organized presentation for educational or commemorative purposes.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

Ownership and Provenance

Ensure medals are acquired legally, respecting ownership rights and provenance. Provenance adds value and authenticity to your collection.

Respect for Cultural and Historical Significance

Handle medals with respect for their historical importance, especially if they belonged to individuals or families. Sharing stories and context enhances their legacy.

Conclusion: Making the Most of Your Research

Researching British military medals a practical guide involves a combination of careful observation,

utilizing diverse resources, and engaging with communities of experts and enthusiasts. By understanding the history, design, and context of these medals, you can accurately identify, authenticate, and preserve these meaningful artifacts. Whether building a collection, honoring a family member, or pursuing academic study, diligent research ensures these symbols of bravery and service are appreciated and protected for generations to come.

Researching British Military Medals: A Practical Guide

Delving into the world of British military medals is a rewarding journey for historians, collectors, genealogists, and enthusiasts alike. These medals not only commemorate acts of bravery, service, and sacrifice but also serve as tangible links to history. However, understanding their origins, significance, and proper research techniques requires methodical exploration. This guide aims to equip you with practical strategies and detailed insights to effectively research British military medals.

Understanding the Significance of British Military Medals

Before diving into research, it's essential to grasp the importance of these medals.

The Purpose of British Medals

- Recognition of Service and Bravery: Medals honor soldiers for acts of valor, distinguished service, or participation in specific campaigns.
- Historical Documentation: They provide insights into military history, campaigns, and individual soldier experiences.
- Genealogical Value: Medals can corroborate family histories and service records.
- Collectible and Educational Value: Medals are valuable artifacts that connect us with history and can be prized collectibles.

Common Types of British Military Medals

- Campaign Medals: Awarded for participation in specific conflicts (e.g., Crimea Medal, Victory Medal).
- Gallantry Medals: Recognize acts of bravery (e.g., Victoria Cross, Distinguished Conduct Medal).
- Service Medals: Mark length or nature of service (e.g., Long Service and Good Conduct Medal).
- Commemorative Medals: Issued on anniversaries or special occasions.

Initial Steps in Researching British Military Medals

Effective research begins with organization and understanding what information you already possess.

Gather All Available Information

- Physical Examination of the Medal: Note the medal's design, inscriptions, clasps, ribbons, and condition.
- Any Accompanying Documentation: Service records, medal index cards, naming, or engravings.
- Family History and Oral Accounts: Conversations with relatives or historical records.

Identify the Medal

- Visual Identification: Use images or descriptions to match medals.
- Reading Inscriptions: Look for names, ranks, service numbers, or dates.
- Examine Ribbon Colors and Clasps: These often indicate specific campaigns or awards.

Deep Dive Into Medal Identification

Correct identification is the foundation of meaningful research.

Using Reference Materials

- Official Catalogues and Guides: Such as the "British Military Medals" series by Joslin, Litherland & Simpkin.
- Online Databases: Websites like Medals of Britain, MedalMedals.co.uk, or the Imperial War Museums' collection.
- Numismatic and Military Medal Reference Books: For detailed descriptions, images, and historical context.

Key Identification Factors

- Obverse and Reverse Designs: Offer clues about the campaign or award.
- Ribbon Colors and Patterns: Specific to medals and campaigns.
- Engravings or Inscription: Names, ranks, service numbers, or unit identifiers.
- Clasps and Mountings: Denote participation in particular battles or campaigns.

Interpreting Names, Ranks, and Service Details

Many medals bear engraved or stamped information linking them to individual recipients.

Deciphering Inscribed Details

- Names: Often engraved on the medal's edge; verify spelling and initials.
- Ranks and Units: May be inscribed or associated with service records.
- Service Numbers: Crucial for locating personal records in archives.

Matching Medals with Service Records

- The Medal Index Card: Maintained by The National Archives, indicates which medals a soldier received.
- Service Records: Provide comprehensive details about enlistment, postings, and awards.
- Cross-Referencing: Use service numbers and personal details to confirm medal recipients.

Researching Campaigns and Historical Context

Understanding the context enhances appreciation and accuracy.

Campaign Histories

- Study the specific conflict or campaign associated with the medal.
- Use authoritative histories, war diaries, and official reports.

Campaign Medals and Clasps

- Recognize which clasps or bars were awarded for specific battles.
- For example, the "South Africa" clasp on the Queen's South Africa Medal indicates participation in the Second Boer War.

Key Resources for Campaign Context

- Official war histories.
- Regimental histories.
- Online forums and specialist societies.

Provenance and Authenticity Checks

Authenticity is vital, especially for collectors.

Common Fakes and Reproductions

- Be aware of counterfeit medals, especially for rare awards.
- Examine the quality of the medal, engravings, and material.
- Consult experts or reputable dealers when in doubt.

Authenticity Indicators

- Consistent weight and finish.
- Correct hallmarks or maker marks.
- Accurate inscriptions matching known examples.

Utilizing Archival Resources

Archives provide invaluable primary data.

Key Archives and Collections

- The National Archives (UK): Service records, medal index cards, war diaries.
- Imperial War Museums: Medal collections, photographs, and related documents.
- Regimental Museums: Specific histories and medal records.

Accessing and Using Archives

- Registration and Fees: Many archives require registration; some have fees.
- Online Catalogues: Many collections are digitized.
- Requesting Records: Use service numbers and personal details for precise searches.

Engaging with Medal Collecting Societies and Experts

Communities and professionals can offer expert insights.

Associations and Societies

- The Medals Society of Great Britain.
- The British Medal Collectors? Society.
- Regional or regimental associations.

Benefits of Engagement

- Identification and valuation assistance.
- Access to specialized knowledge.
- Networking with experienced collectors and historians.

Documenting and Preserving Your Research

Accurate records are essential for future reference.

Organizing Your Data

- Create detailed catalogues including photographs.
- Record provenance, inscriptions, and sources.

Preservation Tips

- Store medals in acid-free cases or mounts.
- Keep away from humidity, direct sunlight, and corrosive environments.
- Handle medals with gloves to prevent tarnishing.

Legal and Ethical Considerations

Respect for history and legality is paramount.

Handling and Ownership

- Be sensitive to medals related to recent conflicts or personal histories.
- Ensure lawful acquisition and transfer.

Ethical Collecting

- Avoid acquiring or trading medals with questionable provenance.
- Respect the dignity of medals awarded for acts of bravery.

Summary and Practical Tips

- Always start with what you have: physical medals, inscriptions, and accompanying documents.
- Use reputable reference guides and online databases for identification.
- Cross-reference medals with service records to confirm authenticity and individual details.
- Understand the historical context of the medals to appreciate their significance.
- Engage with expert communities for guidance and validation.
- Preserve medals properly to maintain their condition and value.

Researching British military medals is a meticulous but deeply satisfying pursuit. With careful attention to detail, proper use of resources, and respect for the artifacts, you can unlock stories of heroism, service, and history embedded within these medals. Whether for personal enrichment, historical research, or collection, your dedication will lead to a richer understanding of Britain's military heritage.

Question What are the most common British military medals to research for beginners? The most common medals include the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Service Order, the Military Medal, and campaign medals like the Africa Star or the Iraq Medal. Starting with these can provide a solid foundation for understanding British military awards. **How can I identify a British military medal accurately?** Identify a medal by examining its ribbon, obverse design, inscriptions, and any unique markings. Cross-reference these features with official medal databases or reference books like 'British Military Medals' by Joslin and Litherland for accurate identification. **What are reliable sources for researching the history of British military medals?** Reliable sources include official government archives such as the UK National Archives, medal reference books, dedicated online databases like Medals of Britain, and museum collections such as the Imperial War Museum. **How do I verify the authenticity of a British military medal?** Verify authenticity by checking for correct markings, proper metal composition, consistent ribbon patterns, and provenance. Consult experts or professional medal appraisers if unsure, and compare with known authentic examples in reference materials. **Are there specific tips for researching medals awarded for particular conflicts or campaigns?** Yes, identify the campaign or conflict on the medal, then consult specific medal roll indexes, war records, and campaign histories. Many medals also have specific ribbon patterns and clasps that can help narrow down the period and campaign. **How can I learn the significance of different British military medals and their awards criteria?** Study official MOD guidelines, medal award criteria, and historic publications. Visiting military museums or joining veteran organizations can also provide valuable insights into the significance and criteria for various medals. **What practical steps should I take when documenting or cataloging British military medals?** Record detailed descriptions including medal name, ribbon, inscriptions, markings, and condition. Take high-quality photographs from multiple

angles, note provenance, and store medals in proper cases or mounts to preserve their condition for future research or valuation.

Related keywords: British military medals, researching medals, military awards UK, medal identification, medal collecting, British campaign medals, military decorations research, medal grading, medal authentication, British war medals

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