A Finding Aid to the Kootz Gallery Records, 1923-1966 in the Archives of American Art

Judy Ng

Funding for the processing of this collection was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art

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Collection Overview

| Repository: | Archives of American Art |
| Title: | Kootz Gallery records |
| Identifier: | AAA.kootgall |
| Date: | 1923-1966 |
| Extent: | 7.1 Linear feet |
| Creator: | Kootz Gallery |
| Language: | English |
| Summary: | The records of modernist New York City Kootz Gallery measure 7.1 linear feet and date from 1923-1966. They consist of scattered correspondence and exhibition files; photograph files of artists, including ones for Picasso, William Baziotes, and Hans Hofmann, among many others; 23 scrapbooks; photographs and slides of the gallery and exhibitions; and scattered personal papers of Samuel M. Kootz. |

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Samuel M. Kootz donated the gallery records in two increments in 1971. Nearly all of the same records had been loaned in 1965 for microfilming.

Separated Materials

Records loaned for microfilming in 1965 included eight articles from the publication *Modern Artists in America* (1951) which were not included in the later donation and are now available on microfilm reel NY65-1.

Related Archival Materials

Also found among the holdings of the Archives of American Art are oral history interviews with Samuel M. Kootz by John Morse on March 2, 1960 and by Dorothy Seckler on April 13, 1964. Records of Kootz Gallery are also interspersed among the records of Nathan Halper's galleries.

Available Formats

Scrapbooks 1-5 from 1939-1948 were digitized for preservation in 2011 and are available via the Archives of American Art's website. Blank pages and blank versos of photographs have not been scanned.

The bulk of the photographs and scrapbooks 6-23 are available on microfilm reels 1318-1320 and 1322-1323 at Archives of American Art offices and through interlibrary loan. Researchers
should note that the arrangement of the material described in the container inventory does not
reflect the arrangement of the collection on microfilm.

Processing Information
Portions of the records were initially microfilmed on reels 1318-1320, 1322-1323, and 3090; reel 3090 is no longer in circulation. Loaned materials were filmed on reel NY65-1 and returned. All later gift portions were integrated and fully processed by Judy Ng in 2011, and five scrapbooks were scanned for preservation in 2011 with funding provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

Preferred Citation

Restrictions
Use of original papers requires an appointment. All scrapbooks are CLOSED due to their fragile condition; #1-#5 have been digitized and are available on the Archives of American Art's website, and #6-#23 are only available for use on microfilm reels 1318-1320 and 1322-1323.

Conditions Governing Use
The Kootz Gallery records are owned by the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Literary rights as possessed by the donor have been dedicated to public use for research, study, and scholarship. The collection is subject to all copyright laws.

Biographical Note
Samuel M. Kootz officially opened the Kootz Gallery in 1945 in New York City. In 1953, he opened a satellite gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts that closed one year later.

Samuel M. Kootz (1898-1982) received his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1921 and practiced law briefly before moving to New York City to accept a job as an advertising account executive. While still in law school, he began visiting New York art galleries and was particularly drawn to works by modern artists that were showing at the Stieglitz Gallery and the Charles Daniel Gallery. In 1930, he independently published his first book, "Modern American Painters" and began to regularly contribute articles on painting and photography to various periodicals, including The Times. In 1942, he curated an abstract expressionist showcase for Macy's and published "New Frontiers in American Painting" one year later. Kootz's second book was one of the first to examine the emerging abstract expressionist movement and marked the beginning of his full transition into the art world.

In 1944, Kootz resigned from his advertising job to represent Robert Motherwell and William Baziotes as a professional art dealer. He officially opened the Kootz Gallery opened in 1945 and showcased the work of both American and European abstract expressionists, including Hans Hofmann and Adolph Gottlieb. In 1946, during the Kootz Gallery's preparation for Pablo Picasso's first one man exhibition in America, Picasso became quite friendly with Kootz and his wife Jane. Upon the artist's suggestion, Kootz agreed to close his gallery and represent Picasso and his other artists as a private dealer. Although this was a successful venture, Kootz missed the structure of an office and decided to reopen his gallery on Madison Avenue in 1949. The gallery's first show at the new location was "The Intrasubjectives," a term Kootz had coined for abstract expressionists. The exhibition included four artists from his stable, William Baziotes,

In 1953, Kootz opened a satellite gallery in Provincetown, Massachusetts that was managed and operated by gallerist Nathan Halper. In 1954, they mutually agreed to dissolve their partnership and Kootz focused his energies on his New York gallery, which grew to include Herbert Ferber, David Hare, Philippe Hosiasson, Ibram Lassaw, Conrad Marca-Relli, Georges Mathieu, Raymond Parker, William Ronald, Gerard Schneider, Emil Schumacher, and Pierre Soulages.

A number of factors, including competition from new galleries, commoditization of art by investment collectors, and the public's interest in emerging pop art, influenced Kootz's decision to close his gallery in 1966.

Scope and Contents

The records of modernist New York City Kootz Gallery measure 7.1 linear feet and date from 1923-1966. They consist of scattered correspondence and exhibition files; photograph files of artists, including ones for Picasso, William Baziotes, and Hans Hofmann, among many others; 23 scrapbooks, photographs and slides of the gallery and exhibitions; and scattered personal papers of Samuel M. Kootz.

There are two folders of scattered routine incoming letters. Three folders of exhibition files contain limited documentation of the 1952 Kootz Gallery exhibition "To South America," and printed material related to the 1951 exhibition "Art for a Synagogue" held at the Synagogue of Congregation B'nai Israel in Millburn, New Jersey.

Artists’ Photograph Files contain mostly photographs of 52 artists, their artwork, and their exhibitions. In addition to photographs, there is one folder of artists' autographs. Pablo Picasso and Hans Hofmann’s close friendship with Kootz is reflected in this series, as numerous informal personal photos are found in their respective files. A few folders also contain documents, such as transcript notes for a lecture and other writings by Hans Hofmann and a brief review of the work of Georges Braque and David Hare.

Printed Material consists of exhibition announcements and catalogs, advertisements, and newspaper and magazine clippings on the gallery and artists associated with the gallery. There are catalogs for Kootz Gallery exhibitions, including "The Intrasubjectives" show of 1949.


Photographic material includes photographs, transparencies, and slides of Kootz Gallery New York and Kootz Gallery Provincetown; interior design photographs showcasing Kootz Gallery artwork hanging in office and residential spaces; group and unidentified exhibitions; group and unidentified artists/artwork; and informal photographs of Samuel Kootz and of his wife, Jane.

Samuel Kootz Personal Papers consist of a cocktail party invitation and a copy of the 1923 Phi Epsilon Pi Quarterly, Vol. 6, No. 1.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged as 7 series:
• Series 1: Correspondence, 1950-1962 (Box 1; 2 folders)
• Series 2: Exhibition Files, circa 1944-1966 (Box 1; 3 folders)
• Series 3: Artists Photographs Files, 1936-1966 (Boxes 1-2, 5; 1.5 linear feet)
• Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1944-1966 (Boxes 2, 5; 0.5 linear feet)
• Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1931-1966 (Box 3, BV 6-23; 4 linear feet)
• Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1944-1966 (Boxes 4-5; 11 folders)
• Series 7: Samuel Kootz Personal Papers, circa 1923-1957 (Box 4; 2 folders)

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:
   Art dealers -- New York (State) -- New York
   Art galleries, Commercial -- New York (State) -- New York
   Artists -- United States -- Exhibitions

Types of Materials:
   Notes
   Photographs
   Scrapbooks
   Signatures (names)

Names:
   Baziotes, William, 1912-1963 -- Photographs
   Braque, Georges, 1882-1963
   Hare, David, 1917-1992
   Hofmann, Hans, 1880-1966 -- Photographs
   Kootz, Samuel M., 1898-1982
   Marca-Relli, Conrad, 1913-2000 -- Photographs
   Mathieu, Georges, 1921 -- Photographs
   Picasso, Pablo, 1881-1973 -- Photographs
   Pierre Soulages, 1919- -- Photographs
   Ronald, William, 1926 -- Photographs
   Sugai, Kumi, 1919 -- Photographs
Container Listing

Series 1: Correspondence, 1950-1962

2 Folders (Box 1)
Correspondence consists of one folder of incoming letters and one folder of institutional newsletters and bulletins.

Box 1, Folder 1  Kootz Gallery, Incoming Letters, 1950-1957
Box 1, Folder 2  Kootz Gallery, Incoming Newsletters and Bulletins, 1952-1962

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Series 2: Exhibition Files, circa 1944-1966

3 Folders (Box 1)

Exhibition Files include an artists' chart, a press release for the 1952 Kootz Gallery exhibition "To South America," and printed material related to the 1951 exhibition "Art for a Synagogue" held at the Synagogue of Congregation B'nai Israel in Millburn, New Jersey.

Box 1, Folder 3  Artists' Chart, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 4  Press Release, "To South America", 1952
Box 1, Folder 5  Symbols and Inscriptions in the Synagogue of Congregation B'nai Israel, 1952

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Series 3: Artists Photograph Files, 1936-1966

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 1-2, 5)

Artists Photograph Files consist primarily of photographs of 52 artists associated with the gallery, their works, and their exhibitions. Pablo Picasso and Hans Hofmann's close friendship with Kootz is reflected in this series, as numerous informal and personal photos are found in their respective files. Transcript notes for a lecture and other writings by Hans Hofmann and a brief review of the work of Georges Braque and David Hare and can also be found in their files.

The following artists have particularly large artist files that include both photos of the artist and of their exhibitions: William Baziotes, Hans Hofmann, Philippe Hosiasson, Georges Mathieu, Pablo Picasso, Gerard Schneider, Pierre Soulages, and Zao Wou-ki.


There is one file of artist's autographs, including those of William Baziotes, Romare Bearden, Georges Braque, Byron Browne, Adolph Gottlieb, Carl Holty, Hans Hofmann, and Robert Motherwell.

Box 1, Folder 6  Artist Autographs, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 7  Appel, Karel, 1953
Box 1, Folder 8  Arp, Hans, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 9  Baziotes, William, 1950-1959
Box 1, Folder 10  Braque, Georges, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 11  Brooks, James, 1960
Box 1, Folder 12  Cavallon, Giorgio, 1960-1961
Box 1, Folder 13  Cherry, Herman, 1950-1951
Box 1, Folder 14  Davis, Stuart, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 15  de Niro, Robert, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 16  de Vlaminck, Maurice, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 17  Dubuffet, Jean, 1946-1961
   Image(s)  
Box 1, Folder 18  Ferber, Herbert, 1954-1959
Box 1, Folder 19  Frankenthaler, Helen, 1956
Box 1, Folder 20  Gorky, Arshile, 1950

Box 1, Folder 21  Gottlieb, Adolph, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 22  Graves, Morris, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 23  Hanck, Frank, 1950
Box 1, Folder 24  Hare, David, 1958
Box 1, Folder 25  Hoflehner, Rudolf, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 26  Hofmann, Hans, 1940-1965
Oversized material housed in Box 5, F1
Box 1, Folder 27  Hofmann, Hans, slides, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 28-33  Hofmann, Hans, transparencies, 1936-1965
6 Folders
Box 1, Folder 34  Hofmann, Hans, writings, 1950
Box 1, Folder 35  Hosiasson, Philippe, 1955-1959
Box 1, Folder 36  Jacobsen, Robert, 1961-1962
Box 1, Folder 37  Lassaw, Ibram, 1958-1963
Box 1, Folder 38  Leger, Fernand, circa 1950s
Box 1, Folder 39  Leiter, Saul, circa 1944-1966
Image(s)
Box 1, Folder 40  Machado, William, circa 1944-1966
Box 1, Folder 41  Marca-Relli, Conrad, 1959-1961
Box 1, Folder 42  Mathieu, Georges, 1956-1959
Box 1, Folder 43-44  Mathieu, Georges, artwork, 1951-1960
### 2 Folders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>Mathieu, Georges, slides and transparencies, circa 1944-1966</td>
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<td>46</td>
<td>Metzinger, Jean, circa 1950s</td>
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<td>47</td>
<td>Miro, Joan, circa 1950s</td>
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<td>48</td>
<td>Morris, Kyle, 1960, undated</td>
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<td>49</td>
<td>Motherwell, Robert, circa 1944-1966</td>
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<td>50</td>
<td>Palozzi, Eduardo, 1956-1957</td>
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<td>51</td>
<td>Parker, Raymond, 1959-1964</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>Picasso, Pablo, circa 1947-1965</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>Picasso, Pablo, 1965 June</td>
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<tr>
<td>54</td>
<td>Picasso, Pablo, 1965</td>
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<td>55</td>
<td>Picasso, Pablo, artwork, circa 1940-1949</td>
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<td>56</td>
<td>Picasso, Pablo, artwork, 1950-1965</td>
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<td>57</td>
<td>Picasso, Pablo, slides and transparencies, circa 1947-1965</td>
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<td>1, Folder 50</td>
<td>Rattner, Abraham, 1956</td>
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<td>52</td>
<td>Ronald, William, circa 1944-1966</td>
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<td>53</td>
<td>Ronald, William, artwork, 1956-1960</td>
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<td>54</td>
<td>Ronald, William, artwork, 1960-1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>55</td>
<td>Ronald, William, slides and transparencies, circa 1956-1963</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Box 2, Folder 6  Rosenthal, Bernard, 1961
Box 2, Folder 7  Schnabel, Day, 1956-1957
Box 2, Folder 8  Schneider, Gerard, circa 1944-1966
    Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 9  Schneider, Gerard, artwork, 1955-1960
    Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 10  Schumacher, Emil, circa 1944-1966
Box 2, Folder 11  Schumacher, Emil, artwork, 1959-1960
Box 2, Folder 12  Serpan, Jaroslav, 1956-1958
Box 2, Folder 13  Soto, Jesus, 1951-1965
    Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 14  Soulages, Pierre, 1955-1967
    Image(s)
Box 2, Folder 15  Soulages, Pierre, artwork, 1951-1967
Box 2, Folder 16  Soulages, Pierre, slides and transparencies, circa 1951-1967
Box 2, Folder 17  Steppat, Leo, circa 1944-1966
Box 2, Folder 18  Sugai, Kumi, 1956-1963
    Oversized material housed in Box 5, F2
Box 2, Folder 19  Sugai, Kumi, transparencies, circa 1956-1963
Box 2, Folder 20  Thomas, Jon, circa 1944-1966
Box 2, Folder 21  Twombly, Cy, circa 1944-1966
Box 2, Folder 22  Utrillo, Maurice, circa 1950s
Box 2, Folder 23  Vicente, Esteban, circa 1944-1966
Box 2, Folder 24  Wou-ki, Zao, circa 1944-1966
Box 2, Folder 25  Wou-ki, Zao, transparencies, circa 1944-1966

Box 5, Folder 1  Hofmann, Hans, 1955
Oversized material from Box 1, F26

Box 5, Folder 2  Sugai, Kumi, 1957
Oversized material from Box 2, F18

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Series 4: Printed Material, circa 1944-1966

1.5 Linear feet (Boxes 2, 5)

Printed Material consists of exhibition announcements and catalogs, advertisements and proofs, magazine and newspaper clippings, and miscellany.

There are catalogs for the individual artists Fritz Bultman, Jean Dubuffet, Conrad Marca-Relli, Pablo Picasso, Jaroslav Serpan, and Pierre Soulages, and for the Kootz Gallery group exhibitions, "The Intrasubjectives" (1949) and "Art for a Synagogue" (1951, 1953).

Box 2, Folder 26-31  Exhibitions Announcements and Catalogs, circa 1946-1961
                      Oversized material housed in Box 5, F3

Box 2, Folder 32     Kootz Gallery Publications, Advertising, 1947

Box 2, Folder 33     Kootz Gallery, Advertising, 1948-1958

Box 2, Folder 34     Kootz Gallery, Advertising Proofs, 1954-1958

Box 2, Folder 35-36  Periodicals, 1946-1962
                      2 Folders

Box 2, Folder 37-42  Articles, circa 1944-1963
                      6 Folders

Box 2, Folder 43     Clippings, circa 1944-1963

Box 2, Folder 44-48  Clippings, 1944-1953
                      5 Folders

Box 2, Folder 49-53  Clippings, 1954-1963
                      5 Folders

Box 2, Folder 54     Miscellaneous Furnishing Advertisements, circa 1944-1966

Box 5, Folder 3      Exhibitions Announcements and Catalogs, 1949
                      Oversized material from Box 2, F28
Series 5: Scrapbooks, 1931-1966

4 Linear feet (Box 3, BV 6-23)


The first five scrapbooks in this series (1931-1948) have been digitized for preservation. The remaining scrapbooks are fragile and are only available for use on microfilm.

Box 3, Folder 1  
Scrapbook #1, 1947-1948  
Digital Content: Scrapbook #1: 1947-1948

Box 3, Folder 2  
Scrapbook #2, 1931-1945  
Digital Content: Scrapbook #2: 1931-1945

Box 3, Folder 3  
Scrapbook #3, 1945-1946  
Digital Content: Scrapbook #3: 1945-1946

Box 3, Folder 4  
Scrapbook #4, 1946-1947  
Digital Content: Scrapbook #4: 1946-1947

Box 3, Folder 5  
Scrapbook #5, 1947-1948  
Digital Content: Scrapbook #5: 1947-1948

Box BV 6  
Scrapbook #6, 1949-1950

Box BV 7  
Scrapbook #7, 1950-1951

Box BV 8  
Scrapbook #8, 1951-1952

Box BV 9  
Scrapbook #9, 1952-1953

Box BV 10  
Scrapbook #10, 1953-1954

Box BV 11  
Scrapbook #11, 1954-1955

Box BV 12  
Scrapbook #12, 1955-1956

Box BV 13  
Scrapbook #13, 1956-1957

Box BV 14  
Scrapbook #14, 1958-1959

Box BV 15  
Scrapbook #15, 1959-1960
<table>
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<th>Box BV 16</th>
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<td>Box BV 19</td>
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<td>Box BV 20</td>
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<td>Box BV 21</td>
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<td>Box BV 22</td>
<td>Scrapbook #22, 1950-1958</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box BV 23</td>
<td>Scrapbook #23, 1958-1963</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Series 6: Photographic Material, circa 1944-1966

11 Folders (Boxes 4-5)

Photographic Material includes photographs, transparencies, and slides of Kootz Gallery New York and Kootz Gallery Provincetown; interior design photographs showcasing Kootz Gallery artwork hanging in office and residential spaces; group and unidentified exhibitions; group and unidentified artists and artwork; and informal photographs of Samuel Kootz and of his wife, Jane.

The group exhibitions include an architectural model exhibition by William Baziotes, Adolph Gottlieb, and David Hare, and an exhibition of three unidentified sculptors.

Box 4, Folder 1  Photographs and Negatives of Kootz Gallery, New York, New York, circa 1944-1966

Box 4, Folder 2  Photographs and Negative of Kootz Gallery, Provincetown, Massachusetts, circa 1953-1954

Box 4, Folder 3  Photographs of Kootz Gallery, Interior Design and Artwork Samples, circa 1944-1966
Oversized material housed in Box 5, F4

Box 4, Folder 4  Photographs of Kootz Gallery, Group Exhibition "Muralist and the Modern Architect", 1950
Related photographs of this exhibition appear in the following artists' files in Series 3: Baziotes, Gottlieb, Hare, Hofmann, and Motherwell.

Box 4, Folder 5  Slides of Kootz Gallery, Three Sculptors Exhibition, circa 1944-1966

Box 4, Folder 6  Photographs, Negatives, and Slides of Kootz Gallery, Unidentified Exhibitions, circa 1944-1966

Box 4, Folder 7  Photographs and Negative of Kootz Gallery, Artists, circa 1944-1966

Box 4, Folder 8  Photographs and Transparency of Kootz Gallery, Unidentified Artists and Artwork, circa 1944-1966
Oversized material housed in Box 5, F5

Box 4, Folder 9  Photographs, Negative, and Transparencies of Samuel Kootz and Family, circa 1944-1966

Box 5, Folder 4  Photographs of Kootz Gallery, Interior Design and Artwork Samples, circa 1944-1966
Oversized material from Box 4, F3

Box 5, Folder 5  Photograph of Kootz Gallery, Unidentified Artist, circa 1944-1966
Oversized material from Box 4, F8

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Series 7: Samuel Kootz Personal Papers, circa 1923-1957

2 Folders (Box 4)

Two folders of Samuel Kootz's personal papers include a cocktail party invitation and a copy of the 1923 Phi Epsilon Pi Quarterly, Vol. 6, No. 1.

Box 4, Folder 10 Invitation, circa 1950-1957

Box 4, Folder 11 Phi Epsilon Pi Quarterly, Vol. 6, No. 1, 1923

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