## BIBIIOGRAPHY

## Report on Preseven

Whilst one is aware that the period between conception of an idea and the putting into practise thereof is frequently lengthy, it has certainly seemed quite a while to me since the proposal I made of an elaborate page-per-book biblic graphy has at last begun to have serious repercussions. As I write I have the ideas of two interested persons on the scheme and have already started to put it in operation myself.

Ron Lane of Manchester, FAPA waitlister, is to issue fantasy books with is zine GEMINI and suggests a "personal" division on the sheet so as to separate one's own viewpoint from a more impersonal review section.

Langley Searles has been

Number

kind encugh to send me a carbon of comments to appear in a forthcoming ish of FARTASY COMMENTATOR, to which I should reply thusly. Most, if not all. the detail work I agree with but I have different opinions on the major ha adings. Langley has apparently only thought of a select band of bibliophil -publishers doing the reviews, whereas I want a sheet-format understandable at first glance by everyfan, even if only a single sheet is seen, and of which blanks ready prepared for other people to fix fill in with the actual review etc can be run off. For this reason I favour the printing of headings. Author should preferably remain towards the right of the sheet as the side is more easily visible when a number of the sheets are fastened to get a in a file or binding; instead of coming right over to the left as Langiey Suggests. This leaves room atothe left hand top for a general division into type, possible decimal classification and a private code. The remaining difference between us is the question of a long or short "syncpsis" and a general or personal review i.e. a brief geral essay on the work possibly incorporating the reviewers opinion, or that the plot should be entirely dealt with in the syncpsis leaving the review to be entirely personal react ions. I must applogise that for my first specimen I picked the only decent length book review I had on hand which happened not to include any judgement or personal comment. But I think that lattitude in these matters is desiral!

<u>B:R:O:W:S:I:N:G</u>: Put cut primarily for the Fantasy Amateur Press Association but availble to non-members at the price of 2d postfree.

Copies also willingly sent to people co-operating in fantasy biblio graphical projests and contributors. Published approximately quarterly by John Michael Resemblum, 4 Grange Terrace. Leeds 7, England; Director British Fantasy Sty. Editor Futurian War Digest, Leeds 7, England; Director British Fantasy Sty. JPF. BEA. PEL. LVS. VFS (work 'em out) Association of Yorkshire Bookmen. etc PPU delegate; Leeds and District Advisory Condittee for C.O.s., hon auditor; Ahaboth Olam Social Union Society, Libentiate Member; Incorporated Society of Auctioneers and Landed Property Atents. This for the benefit of John B. Michel of NYC - modernist poet, cuastic wit, ultra communist, and man about pulp magazines - who asks "who is J. Lichael Rosenblum"

Bibliography business, continued ...

once the formalised heading has been dealt with.

I hope that more publishers will have adopted this idea by the time this issue appears in the Fapa mailint. The review of "Etidorpha" by Paul Spender, in BANSHEE would have made a suitable sheet for example, and if there is any chance of an extra copy of this page, Harry, I'd be grateful for it.

XE

Meanwhile here is where we stand. Already published or ready are:bacre Baladon, "Sell England?"; E.D.Fawnett, "Hartman the Anarchist; Fraser, "The Fiery Gate"; Jefferies, "After London"; Loore, "The Epicurean"; Mutro "A Trip to Venus"; Shelley, "The Last Man";Starn, "The Moonlight Traveller" Todd, "The Lost Traveller"; Walker, America Fallen; Kearney, "Erone"; Bell "One Came Back", Brahms, "No Ni thingales". Reviewers include JFBurke, Bob Gibson, Langley Searles, Ron Lane, AWBushy, Peter Clarke. And I'd for rotten my own of Stapledon's "Sirius". Well, its a good start, now lets start multiplying.

For my own file I've managed to paste additional reviews, mainly from bac' issues of Fido on to blank sheets viz: -Blayre, "Strange Papers of Lr Blayre"; Cox, "Out of the Silence"; de Camp, "Return of Frank R Stockton"; Dent "Emperor of the If; James "Turn of the screw" & "The Sense of the East"; Lindsay "A voyage to Arcturus"; Llewellyn "The Strange Invaders"; Macclure, "Ultimatun", Spitz, "Sever the Earth".

Two final comments. I see no reason whatsover why a two-sided sheet should not be used if a longer review is desired. Nor do I see any great objection to two or more books by the same author being dealt with together if they are of the same general type. E. 7. Burroughs "Hartian" series could be attended to in one fell swoop.

And if any would-be publisher would like to join in but is short of suitable reviews he had better get in touch with me, as I hope to squeeze more than I can use myself out of people over here. Any more comments?

#### ANSWER DEPT.

The book you enquire about, Chan Davis, is "Red Snow" by F. Wright Moxley, published in this country by Jarrolds. It was exteensively commented on by Georre medhurst in a supplement to Futurian War Digest some two-three years ago and is notable for its outspokeness concerning sexual conditions after the fall of red snow has made all mankind sterile. To W. H. Evans, Thank gou for your letter recently recieved.

Although I found it very interesting there is nothing upon which my comment is necessary, so please look on Fido and this zine as my return.

And to all those people who keep asking how I manage to keep reading books when my time is so fully taken up as I say, well the answer is simple. I read during my breakfast and lunch breaks at work and on the 35 minute tram journey between there and my home. In this way I dan get thru a normal novel of a magazine in a day but as conditions are not good all my bettem and more valued books remain unread for the time being. Jottings on books read recently ....

"The Rhubarb Tree" by Kenneth Allott and Stephen Tate (Cresset Press '37 Tale of slightly future England with a fascist movement -Sons of Empire - C. the go. But it isn't taken seriously at all, the whole book is rather a lardealing with Society people, bit business and a mistaken ideatity, which I thought was in schewhat poor taste. The writer is obviously not a fascist buseems to regard a fascist coup d'etat as nothing more than a mild nuisance Communists as figures of fun, and Dritain as the nescessary space to support Mayfair, where all the real people live. Ush.

"On - The secret of Ahbor Valley" by Talbet Mundy (A.L.Burt) Another adventure fantasy by a popular and reasonably competent author, and in fact above averagem even for this writer, "earet India and the secret service, and the hidden secret of an impenitrable valley, Goodifyculikethissortefs tut

"A Medern Daedalus" by Tom "reer (Griffith, Farren, Okeden & Welch 1955) Our Mero is the odd man out in a family of robust rebellious Irishmen, who studies modern science and engineering. The outset of his thought is the invention of a set of wonderful wings, unpowered by any mechanical source, and with the aid of which he can fly for hours on end at a speed of 100 mph. He takes his invention to England to exploit it, but the government of the day tries to seize or buy it, and imprisons him. Meanwhile rebellion breaks out in Ireland, the inventor escapes and with his aid, the English are driven out of the Emerald Isle. Amusingly Victorian, reasonably written.

"The Killer and the Slain; A Strange Story" by Hugh Walpole-(macmillan, 1942-. A psychological insight story in the tradition of Henry James, beep dark and detailed, it deals with the antipathy between two opposing egos curiously interconnected in life, the murder of the stronger mentality by the weaker, and the gradual transference and obliteration of this weaker spirit by the other. As literature it is good, as a mere story it is too involved and cabalistic for the vapid or escapist reader, so go for it only if you like strong meat.

"The Lady of the Fjords" by Barnard Balogh (Rider & Co) Present day Norwe gian accenturer slips back to a previous incarnation as a Norseman, lives in the world and beliefs of that day including trips to Valhalla of a surprisingly modernised and rationalised version of Nordic Legendry, and is the first to see America. Twould be a first-class Unknown Worlds yarn, good as adventure fantasy, historical and pseudo -occult.

"Castle Cottage" by Horace Horsnoll (Hamish Hamilton 1940) One of the neatest and nicest ghost stories I've ever read; a lovely little gen to recommend to the discerning outsider. Elderly lady caretaker - a retired ladies maid, "takes to" a country house she is vatching over, gradually realises that the shades of two young lovers haunt the place, discovers their story and is able to help them get together, the object of their earthboundedness. Characterisation, slowmoving action and concept all thoroughly suited me.

"The Phantom City; A Volcanic Romance" by William Westall (Cassel 1883) An Eldoradoyarn, Tollowing fairly classical lines, although the doctor-narrator gets to the city by the use of a ballon, after an unsuccessful attempt on foot. But a well-written, well-balanced story which I would class as far superior to many modern imitations, with vivid descriptions of personalities and scenery, and an intelligent appreciation of the possibilities of Toltec civilisation.

"The Lord of the Leepards; A nomel" by F.A.M.Webster (Hutchinson). A Burroughsessue story which the publishers compare with Kiplings "Now did" tales. Twin brothers this time, one kidnapped by African leopardmen (secret society) carried off and adopted by a sheleopard; Tarzan of the leopards; and the other brought up as a gentleman becomes a missionary. Plotting Negroes a cept Former as an incarnated god to lead them against white men; plot fails when the brothers meet. Reasonably good "Ghost Stories" by H. Russell Wakefield (Cape, Florin Books 1932) . 21 short weird tales by a master of the art. Highly recommended to all. "The Flying Draper" by Ronald Fraser (Cape 1924). A first class yarn of a man who developes a new faculty: and how humanity outlaws him for being "different", Beautifully conceived, well written and neatly developed, this is a fine example of true fantasy literature. "Savaran and the Great Sand" by Douglas Newton, (Cassell 1939) Lost city

"Savaran and the Great Sand" by Douglas Newton, (Cassell 1939) Lost city in the Sahara desert discovered by apernon adventurer. Hood and thunder. "Sanity Island"by Adrian Alington (Chatto and Windus 1941) Quite a good tale about a small out of the way country with the usual modern political appurtenances fascists, Communists, etc. but a Yerkish British consul starts a crussde to laugh them out of existence and provide rational rule. "The Aerodrome: A Love Story" by Rex Warner (John Lane 1941) Mystifying tale of mythical country where a village is absorbed by the life of nearby aerodrome, expression of militarist philosophy, attempted putch all mixed in with a mist involved and unbelievable love story. I sispect an allegory. "The Cool of the Evening" by Horace Horsnell (Hamish Hemilton 1942). Story of the last part of the life of Adam, enlivened by his little (grandson Baphael, and the attack and defence of the latter by Satan and the heavenly Raphael respectively. Very good for likers of the quiet mild fantasy.

"Uncanny Tales"by F. Marion Crawford (T Fisher Unwin 1911) very good collection of seven tales in this genre including the famous "The Upper Berth" which I didn't think the best "The Sense of the Past" by Henry James (Collins 1917) Classic story, even

"The Sense of the Past" by Henry James (Collins 1917) Classic story, even though unfinished wherein an American visitor to a London House slips back into the life of his ancestor visiting the same house about a century before. The very minimum of incident and the maximum of involved psychological study

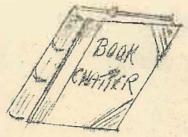
"A Book of Miracles" by Ben Hecht (Nicholson & Watson 1940) Five longish short stories of an extremely unusual type. Sardonic and suave, one isn't quite sure whetherbthe author is being appreciative or otherwise of the deeper spiritual impulses of mankind; and I don't think the author is eithr The five "miracles" include the translation of the ego of an entomologist to the body of an ant, the earthly incarnation of the archangel Midhael. who, under the conditions of this world eadly fails his creator; interferance ance by the Deity with a film about the Crucifixion and so on. Highly recommended to all except the over-sentimantal.

"Tomorrow: A romance of the future" by Alfred Oilivant (Alston Rivers 27) Quite a surprise to me; this work. I expected tripe but found instead a decently written and weel thought out noval of life in Britain of the far future. Primarily concerned with social organisation and private behaviour, we are given a picture of an almost Utopian agrarian civilisation, which has absorbed and mastered the machine. Interesting idea is that every individual gives ten years "service time" to the community, working at some menial occupation, and then is "free" for the rest of their life. Experiments in artificial evolution and devolutuon add to the zest of the usual love story. Weel worth while.

"Sweet Chariot": A romance" by Frank Baker (Byre & Spottiswoode 1942). Available also in USA: the tale of a schoolmaster who found his guardian angel in a holiday mood and persuaded him to swap places. Bright, mildly humourous, reasonably introspective, and moderately psychological, the formula is obviously one to please the better class general reading public.

"The Terror: A fantasy" by Arthur Machen (Buckworth 1917). Supposed to be a good book, I loathed it. There is something about the style and assumed background of Machen which irritates me enormously. And the basic idea of this work, revolt of the beasts against man because man insists on being "ational instead of spiritual, doesn't calm me down one icta. Bahi I don't think I can start this episode better than by highly r3commending two series of three books, by different writers which I think are amongst the finest of their respective types. Other people have mentioned T. H. White's; "The Sword in the Stone" (Collins 1938) as a very ine example of "wacky" fantasy which beats anything

and now for a page of ....



Sprague de Camp has put forth but I actually prefer the nextmin the series "The Witch in the Wood". The third book is much more profound and less humcurous, consisting of a fine sympathetif study of the misfit knight who tried his very best to live up to his ideals, Sir Iancelot DuLac, and goes under the "itle of "The Ill-made Knight". All the books deal with King Arthur and his round table, but set in the Britain of late mediaeval times. We even get Robin Hood turning up. The works abound with fantastic anachrchisms, are peopled by all the figures of contemporary legendry, yet withal contain a really astonishing amount of genuine erudition and historical knowled ge.

Entirely different yet no less entertaining are the three romances of ancient Egypt by Jean Grant (Menuen 1937, 1942 & 1943). The first "Winged Pharach" stands on its own and is set in the more primitive Egypt of 3500 years BC. "Eyes of Horus" and "Lord of the Herizoff" are continues and should be read in that order. These are some 2000 years after the previous work & the scene has changed considerably though is still recognisably the same. Here again genuine erudition and historical knowledge is shown beside a familiarity with practical cocultism. It is the everyday use of this which alone would place these books in the realm of occult fantasy. There is a truly anazing wealth of incident packed into these volumes, and a wonderful overall picture of an ancient civilisation plus sentimant and romance to satisfy a general reader yet not overbalance.

I should like to know the reactions and evaluation set by other people on the "Smokeover" books by L.P.Jacks, in their relationship to fantasy. There are three books, "Legends of Smokeover" "Heroes of Smokeover" & "The Last Legend of Smokeover", of which I have read the first and last. The central hero is a bookmaker, no less, but an organising genius of the first water. Set in the murky scene of an industrial city (Manchester?) we see his would wide betting firm set up, attract the noblest figures of the surrounding civilisation and affect all humanity. To quote the blurb .tunder the influence of his mystical life, he conceives the idea of regenerating mankind by "The Sublimation of Betting" and puts an entire philosophy of life into his business alogan of "ideal aims, business methods and apprtslike principles". The author is a philosopher and educationalist of renown and amongst his many other works is a first rate book of fantastic short short stories under the title of "All Men Are Chosts".

Someone enquired in the last Fapa mailing about Utopian publications and the position regarding paper supplies. Of course I can't give details about this particular company, but here is a general picture. Publishers are allowed a quota of their pre-war supplies to do with as they will but the position is considerably more complicated than that. New publishers and others can apply for licenses for special supplies of paper, and printers too are allowed a quota of prewar supplies. This is meant for the "general public" but there is nothing to stop a publisher using or buying any that a pathter will let him have. And again, I believe that any person can apply for a extra supply into the hands of a confederate. Meanwhile fans will be howled over to learn that the first Utopian publication "Utopian Scenes" consists of nude photographs. Apparently the Ackerman influence is spreading. Type; UTOPIA Class Code: Author; <u>KEARNEY</u> : Chalmers (Pseud) bil

Title;

"ERONE"

Guilford; Biddles Itd; 1943; price 8/6; 253pp; distributed by Simpkin Marshall.

Further information; Foreword by Dr Maude Reyden,

Synopsis of plot; Engineer John Earthly brought from Earth to Uranue (Erone where an Utopian society exists. Falls in love with an Uranian girl. Most of book used to compare Erone with Earth.

Review;

The story is a manuscript left by John Earthly whose home was destroyed in a London airrraid. It tells how he was taken from Earth to Erone (Uranus in the course of an experiment by an Eronian scientist. There are numerous simple scientific explanations; besides the saga of how the Eronians have introduced every invention that man has created to the people of the Earth, so that terrestrials have actually never invented anything. A lot of reading is taken up in describibg John's adventures with Doreece, his Eronian girl-friend, merely as a device used to give the reader large doses of the Utopian culture there prevalent. A main element of this is the use of a type of social credit system, our present monetary system being proxed time and time again to be impracticable and paradoxical.

The Eronians find that a war is about to take place on Earth, and sent John Earthly back again to his home with the plans of a super underground monrail transport system cum airraid shelter. He spends the usual amount of time trying to convince officials that this idea is easily practicable, and having eventually succeeded, returns to Erone.

The story is very simply laid out and easy to follow. Inventions and gadgets are painstakingly explained; and my opinion of the John Earth characteris that for of our time, he shows far too great bewilderment at even the slightest advavncement made in this Utopia, besides being vary simple and of little character. The story is splashed now and again with a liberal dose of religion. I should say that the story as a whole is nothing more than the personal Utopia of the author whom I should gather from the tale to be an engineer and a sweetness and light roligionist.

The book is suitable for such people who may be interested in Utopias, those who are being first introduces to this type of fiction, and to collectors who want it just because they collect, but I don't think it would appeal to the hardened Americanised Science Fiction fan

Allan H. Miles (F/O R.A.F.)

Appearing in BROWSING number. 9, September 1944 , (J. Michael Rosenblum)

And this page is meant only for FAPA members, as it backs on to a reprint of C. S. Youd's "Rubaiyat of a Science Fiction Fan" originally published with Novae Terrae about 1938, and riprinted recently by Ron Lane, who has kindly let me have enculh copies to cover Fapa distribution.

There are quite a number of points I'd like to make about the last mailing, but lets start off with a couple of quotations on the subject of war. From a published report of the Leaque of Nations ... Armament canufacturers "have been active in formenting war scares, disseminated fulse reports thrut arranent protraines of other tovernments, and by attempted bribery of reversent officials and by their control of newspapers, have played one country off aminst another". Which is pretty definite. More succintly, G. B. Shaw in his latest book "Everybody's Polit. ical What's What" states "War be this when the interest on capital falls to 35 per cent, and ceases when the destruction has lifted it back to 5 per cent". A Shavian quip which cannot be dismissed as absolutely untrue. Two Fapans manage in the spate of their ar unent to refute themselves very neatly. Speer on Metroes admits the variation btween individuals of different races and then - conderns the Megness on bloc. I could fill a pare or two on this subject but will only note the extreme similarity between anti-he tro bilge and anti-Senitic propaganda. And that it is usually the same anti-pro messive, anti-democratic forces which use coll. and their function is to divert attention from exploitation and real evils. Ashley on unions is interesting especially when he elaborates his preference for an environment of individual struggle, and then conde na the unions for conforming to such an environment within themselves. No. Prother it won't wash. Then in I am by no means a champion of trade un one as at present constituted even here in England, and I gather that the US variety is well tarred with the racketeering impulse so loninent in American life.

Oh; and I must thank the Futurian Society of New York for their wonderful magnanimity in allowing other people to use the word they so nextly appropriated unto themselves. And seeing we were never asked what we meant by the term "Futurian" it might be considered presumptucafor the New Yorkers to define it as they wish. However I an grateful for the acknowledgement of the purloining of the term, an acknowled year out some seven years overdue. It is interesting to note that I possed a letter written when the term was adopted, by DAW stating that "Futuri for just when it was needed, and so was appropriated; and one from Fohl which says that the New York people thou ht of the term before vedid and had adopted it before they knew we were using it. Amusing ou te

What other subjects to mention? Alter hobbies, well if I didn't collect fantasy I'm afraid I'd be collecting Humour - Leacock, Jerome, Tw an and so forth, thou is of course not to the some extent. Outside, the literary field no one has centioned another interest I have, that of models in general and miniature railways in particular. Though for quite a while this interest has been purely theoretical, yet I still have hopes that one day something may be done. I used to be tremendously interested in the science of warfare and military strately; an interest which made me into a war-resister by the age of seventeen, convinced that war is the worst way of supporting any good cause. And I've an interest in polities and international affairs thouch from the viewpoint of an outsider, not having yet found a political party worthy of support.

Would also like to point out that there are quite a few fantasies availble in Esperanto translations; Wells, Durroughs, Haggard and Collodi's "Pinckjo" being well to the fore. I wish I could show the Sep so issue of the British Esperantist to all fapans as it unconsciously makes hay of all the anti-Espe points put forward in previous mailings.

# - RUBAIYAT

Awake! For Campbell from the Bowl of Night Has flung the "tone that puts our Fears to Flight: And Lo! Astounding's editor has caught A brilliant halo and a Grown of Li ht. Dreaming when Dawn's Left Hand was in the sky I heard a voice with n Ast unding cry, "Awake, my Little nes, and read your fill Before with Top-Notch from your ken I fly." And as the Da n broke, the e who lounged about Requested with a rather vulge shout illianson and McClary once again, And Lo! The Nabbits from the ! t came out! Now M.S.f. reviving old Desires The high-br fan to bol tude retires There the deft Hand of Stanhope from his desk Put out, and Gilling on the ground expires. Gernsback, indeed; is gone with all his files, And loane no longer on his Children smiles, Eut still Act oncing keeps its rosy Vay Ind M.G. Molls at 11 takes a 9 in tiles. And ginblum' lips are locked; but in untrue And furious Criticism the faithless Crew fould sell again their Easter for ... Fee -Ten lines well prominent to the Fublic View. Come take a Fen, and with the Fire of pring Caustic remarks at aymond - almer fling. The new Amaring has flown but a little space And yet already 'tis a bateful 'hing. And look - a thousand Authors with the Pay Came, but of that thousand few did stay And that first Summer Month that heralded one, Snatched Lovecraft and the Well-lov'd Howard away.

But come with Uncle Sam, and leave the Lot of Gernsback and M. Jornig quite forgot Let follheim lay about him a he will or wriff the howl for Vengeance - heed them not. With me reclined in some quiet country Spot-

here hame of Tgo (hake is yet unknown, And pity Wollheim and his sourvy Lot!

Mare with Scince Bock bencath the Bough A Fountain-pen, a Bock for Motes, and Thou, Giving Advice and Criticism in full, And Lo! My Story is an Upic now:

""Tow sweet the Days depinted," whisper some: Others - blast this is to coma!" Ah, take the Cash in Mand and waive the Pest; Nor head the restance of a Masi drum.

O Thou who dids: In and with Lowndes Beset our not-so-happy Junting Gr unds, Wilt not with transition lunacy Create more deep, if not more lasting Wounds?

O Thou who fans from Beser Things didst lead, Thine own inspired 1 to beles to read,

For all the NOSH wherewith this Fantasy is blackened - much forgiveness shalt thou need.

11

Listen again, Due ovening at the close Of Gernsback, are the letter Moon arose, In editorial Offices I stood, With the Clay Loculation round in rows.

And strange to say, among t e Tarthon Lot, Some were duite literate, though no t were not: And suddenly one more intalligent cried -"They must be fools to buy this blinking rot!"

The Editor no justion at kes of Noss But with Advertisationts and Profits goes, The Sublisher who tried our edges neat, He knows about it all - He knows -- JP knows!

The Tale that can with Logic a solute The basic 4aws of Being quite confute The subtle Alchemist that in Effice Life's lead n Motal into Gold transmite

And that introverted fool we call the Fin

Thou canst not help him back to Sanity For de is something less -- or more -- than wan.

But leave the Fools to wrangle, and with me The Communistie Squabblers let be

And in some Corner of the "ubbub couch't Make Game of that which would C me of Thee.

a la se a ar e añorstata e c

Llas, that pring sho ld venish with the Rose! That Youth's sweet-secuted Manuscript should close!

The Mightingale that in the granches s ng, Ah, whence, and whicher flown again, ho knows?

Lolsome we loved, the lovliest and the best, Mho still in Cummer's joyous green were dressed Have left this barbarous and garish World And taken their T. lents to the Land of Rest.

They say the Schader and the Euther stoy Upon the page where Veinbaum once held sway And Lovecraft, dark omancer, too is gone the works remain, the Master leaves the Play.

Ah Friend, could thou and I with late conspire To grasp this sorry Scheme of Things entire, Would we not shatter it to bits -- and then Create the Magazint of our desire?

Ah, Shunce of my felcht, that cannot wane, Financial Funds are falling once again, And soon thegreedy edit rs shell look, Through this same Fandom after me, in vain.

Ah, fou ce of my Delight, that soon must wane My Tempe ature is vising once ag in:

Some day my bitter Trath must find Reltase And falling Fragments shall bedeck the Flain!

And when another Mouth, too daft to learn, To Fancy's perfumed Not ingness shall turn Let him for me perform one solemn Rite,

A reverent word of praise for J. .... Pearn!

### finis

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