DUODECIMAL

NEWSCAST



Year 5 No. 3 December 1177 (1963)

The Duodecimal Society of Great Britain, 106, Leigham Court Drive, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex.

Price:
1 shilling.

Note: *indicates a duodecimal number; /indicates a decimal number; z represents ten; ζ represents eleven.

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EDITORIAL

The main topic of this issue is the Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Decimal Currency. This is a very important report on which future decimalization policy in this country will be based. Whilst it is not getting much news space at the present it is up to us duodecimalists to fill this gap, presenting our case to the public in every way possible. Do not leave it to the others — they are leaving it to you.

If you are wanting to air any ideas or views, then let this journal be the forum. Articles in any way connected with the aims and activities of this Society are always welcome.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 1178

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

WILL YOU PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBSCRIPTIONS PLUS ANY DONATIONS POSSIBLE AS SOON AS YOU CAN.

YOUR SOCIETY CANNOT FUNCTION WITHOUT A REGULAR INCOME FROM YOU.

3.

Extracts from the minutes of the Fifth General Meeting held on 22nd October 1177 at the Raglan Hotel, E.C.1.

- 1. The meeting opened at half past six o'clock.
- 2. Matters arising from minutes
 - 2.1 International Affairs. There has been no change in the status of the International Duodecimal Association. M.Essig has been very busy. Very few enquiries have been received from oversea.

The Information Secretary has almost completed a translation of the general leaflet on duodecimals and our Society and of the "manifesto" (the leaflet "Logical Money, Weights and Measures") into German. It was agreed that we needed the active support of our overseas contacts, personal contact being more effective.

- 2.2 <u>Duodecimal Society of Great Britain as a Charitable Organisation</u>. It was agreed that legal advice was needed before proceeding with a claim to the Inland Revenue to be considered as a "charitable organisation" for income tax purposes, and that we should wait until the time is more apportune and the finance available.
- 2.3 "Encyclopaedia" The Information Secretary has revised his draft but more information is needed before it is ready. The General layout is complete.
- 2.4 The Ducdccimal Newscast. The Sample Newscast, promised at the last meeting, has been published. It met with the general approval of the meeting.

The Hon. Secretary and Hon. Information Secretary have still to approach some Libraries and Universities to accept copies regularly. Copies are already regularly supplied to the British Museum, the Comrie Library of the Scientific Computing Centre, the Reference Library Wimbledon Public Libraries and to the main daily newspapers.

The use of the symbol to distinguish decimal and duodecimal was discussed (the asterisk is affixed to duodecimal numbers, an obelus, reminiscent of a "t" for ten, to decimal). One proposal was to use only the asterisk to distinguish decimal numbers. It was agreed to make no changes in the existing arrangements. PROGRESS DURING 1177

3.1 Membership. The following statement of the numbers of membership up to the date of the meeting was given.

	Paid-up	Owing for 1177	Owing for 1176	Total
Ordinary Members	21	3	. 6	27
Younger Members	3	-	1	4
Life Members	4	-	-	4
Supporting Members	2		1	3
and the series of the company of the company of the series	27	3	8	36

It was agreed that enquirers and members who have not subscribed for the past two years should be written to with an invitation and questionnaire to explain why they had not continued their interest.

- 3.2 New Leaflet. Attention was drawn to the new leaflet written by and paid for by Mr. Halcro-Johnston. Being pleasantly produced in clear press print, it was acclaimed as a major step forward in publicity and a useful tool. It was agreed that copies should be sent to members.
- 3.3 Other activities during the year have been reported in the two editions of the "Duodecimal Newscast" produced so far in 1177.

4. FINANCE

- 4.1 Statement of Accounts until October 1 was read and accepted.
- 4.2 Investment Account. It was agreed to transfer £20 from the ordinary to the Investment account. (Secretary's Note. The bank's rules will not permit the current account to fall below £50 to put money into the Investment Account).
- 4.3. Financial Year. In view of the changed timing of the Annual General Meeting, the Society's Financial Year was discussed. It was agreed to leave it tied to the Calender Year, interim reports being presented by the Treasurer at the General Meetings.

5. ELECTION OF COUNCIL

The present Officers were re-elected to the Council. Mr. Carnaghan was appointed to the vacant post of vice-Chairman. The Council is comprised as follows:-

Hon. Chairman Mr. F. Ruston
Hon. Vice Chairman Mr. R. Carnaghan
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer Mr. B. Bishop
Hon. Information Secretary Mr. S. Ferguson

6. REPORT OF THE DECIMAL CURRENCY COMMITTEE

6.1 It was felt that the Report of the Decimal Currency Committee was the most important object of our policy during the next year.

- 6.2 It was agreed that the Society should work to obtain more definite currency proposals. The Report of the Decimal Currency Committee provides a model and indicates the matters to be considered.
- 6.3 All interested are asked to contribute their views on (1) the most convenient and practical form of duodecimal currency, (2) the most efficient timing and phasing of the changeover and its connection with the introduction of duodecimal enumeration, and (3) the probable amount and incidence of the cost. The Duodecimal Newscast will serve as the forum.

7. POLICY FOR NEXT YEAR

- 7.1 Printing. Because of the likelihood that the Society may not be able to avail itself of the same arrangements for printing the Newscast, it was agreed that Members of the Council will investigate alternative arrangements and costs for the next Council Meeting.
- 7.2 Numbering bases. It was agreed that Membership and the public would be more convinced of the rationality of the Society if more consideration were given to investigations into numbering bases other than twelve and their merits as well as demerits assessed.
- 8. OTHER BUSINESS AND GENERAL DISCUSSION
- 8.1 Badges. Whilst opinion was divided on the advisability of having blazer and lapel badges it was generally agreed that we should not spend money on them unless the quantities required by Members or the cost of production made it an economic proposition.
- 8.2 <u>Centigrade and Fahrenheit</u>. Alternative proposals for temperature measurement exist.
- 8.3 Publicity. The Information Secretary will insert small advertisements in journals such as 'New Scientist' etc.
- 8.4 The teaching of duodecimals in schools was discussed. The ease with which children and young people learned to understand the principles was remarked upon. Good work had been done at Bristol Grammar School which had formed a Duodecimal Society.
- 9. The meeting closed at half past ten o'clock.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

ETHIEMENT OF MOSCONIS		
from 1 January 1177 to 29 Decemb	er 1177	
THE DUODECIMAL SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN	shillings	£ s. d.
Receipts		(decimals)
Balance Credit from 1176	1241.5	103 5 5
Subscriptions for 1177	, = 7 . 5 /	
Subscribing Supporter 10.0		
Ordinary Members .9		
Younger Members 10.0	72.9	629
Donations	52.2	3 11 10
Publications Sales	22.0	1 14 0
Annual Bank Interest	78.£	4 12 11
WILLIAM DOLK THIGHERA	1462.2	
Down out a	1400 .2	119 6 11
Payments	. 62 0	7 40 0
Postage	0.55	3 10 0 3 8 5
Printing: "A revise currency"	58.0	3 8 5
Newscasts and Sample Newscast	197.1	12 19 1 5 1 2 3 3 1 10 0
Publications	85.2	5 1 2
Stationery	3.3	3 3
Typewriter adjustment to Z and & for a Member	26.0	
IDA contribution	36.0	2 2 0
	359.5	£28 13 11
BALANCE CREDIT TO D.S.G.B.	1071.0	£90 13 0
INTERNATIONAL DUODECIMAL ASSOCIATION (held by D	.S.G.B.)	
Receipts		
Balance Credit from 1176	459.9	35 17 9
Subscription for 1177	٤.5	11 5
D.S.G.B. Contribution for 1177	36.0	2. 2 0
	543.2	2 2 0 38 11 2
Payments NIL		
BALANCE CREDIT TO I.D.A.	543.2	38.11 2
·		
COMBINED BALANCE CREDIT to D.S.G.B. and I.D.A.		10. 3. 6
Total Credit	1498.2	121 3 2
Cash Credit in hand	115.0	8 1 0
Total	1584.2	129 4 2

B.R. Bishop Hon. Treasurer Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Decimal Currency 19th July, 1963, under the Chairmanship of Lord Halsbury

This report has already been summarized and commented on throughout the Press. There is, therefore, no need to repeat here. One or two things are of special interest to supporters of duodecimal solution to the rationalization of our currency.

The terms of reference of this Committee were strictly limited. Firstly, they were to consider not "whether", but "how", decimalization was to be imposed. (See the extract from Hansard quoted in Duodecimal Newscast Year 4 no.1, March 1962, and again at Section 5 of the Report). South Africa was taken as a model: but the Government have broken the analogy by announcing its intention to decimalize before the Committee, not after, as in the case of South Africa (Sect. 485). Secondly they were limited to decimalization, without being able to consider alternative ideas. Their side reference is quoted in full on page 9 of this Newscast.

"We were anxious to give members of the public an opportunity of stating their views for the Committee's benefit because a change in our currency is something which affects every man, every woman and most children in the country. To this end we issued a press nctice on 22nd January, 1962, inviting letters or memoranda." (Sect. 17) Yet this anxiety received little publicity in fact. This should be read in conjunction with Sect. 96: "We could not, and did not, expect them /i.e. organizations to give a balanced assessment of all the factors needing to be taken into account before selecting the best system in the general interest". Whilst the public and organizations cannot be expected to give an unbiassed judgement on an issue about which they have negligible or no knowledge, it is useful to know their prejudices. If rationalization is deemed necessary, a Committee is needed to find the best way of rationalizing rather than allow a prejudiced vociferous mincrity or even an uninformed majority to have a disproportionate influence on the choice. People can then be educated in the principles and the advantages of that best way.

It was recognised "that those who wrote to us might not be representative of public opinion generally" (Sec.91) and also, "We did not canvass public opinion on a scientific basis, so it would be wrong to assume that the views expressed to us /in letters from members of the public reflect opinion in the country as a whole" How could 594 letters represent fifty-odd millions? None-theless percentages and proportions were quoted and even used to "give a rough indication of the relative importance which the

_decimal only/ systems assumed in our minds at a fairly early stage
in our work" (Sect. 61).

Although we can and do point out the false premisses on which the Committee had to work, the Report is very useful to anyone considering the rationalization of currency on any basis. It indicates where consideration is necessary and the break-down of costs. There is no need here to point out where a decimal system will have inherent difficulties and disadvantages, admitted and glossed over, which the ducdecimal would not have. For example there is the loss of the natural fractions 1/2, 1/3 and 1/4 (Section 50 and Chapter IX) and the better binary sequence (Sect. 394).

It is necessary now to draw up a balance sheet of the expenses and the savings of introducing a decimal system but with an estimate of the "non-measurable" figures, and compare it with an equivalent estimate for a duodecimal changeover. At the moment we in this Society have to admit that we cannot prove with figures our certainty that duodecimalization will amortize the costs involved within a reasonable period.

"The changeover costs will be a once-for-all expense; the savings will continue for ever" (Sect 613). Even more can this be said with reference to a duodecimal system. In the Memorandum of Dissent there is a phrase which also echoes our dissent: "A more difficult transition might have been justified, if it led to a system which is clearly the best" (Sect. 2). We claim duodecimalisation is clearly the best.

Reaction in the Press

Some said Yes. Some said No.

But it was generally accepted that the change would be costly in time and money. The Daily Express view was that Britain had far worthier objects on which to spend time and money. Among the varied views were some that the housewife had not been sufficiently thought about in deciding the new coinage, and the feared rise in prices of commodities. Suggestions were made in The Times and others that there should be a clean sweep and the entire range of coins redesigned. The Daily Mirror was emphatically in favour of the changes over and the Daily Sketch, also in favour, called for action after many years of talk. The Economist states that there were only ever two runners of any standing - the pound/cent and the ten shilling/cent. The committee experts were divided on the main unit on which to base the system - presumably because of the various interests involved.

THE DUO-DECIMAL CONTROVERSY

(Extract from the Report of the Committee of Inquiry on Decimal Currency, July, 1963, Chapter I, page 3)

- 9. A decimal currency is one in which the units of currency are grouped in tens and multiples of ten so that numbers representing amounts of money can be recorded and manipulated exactly as in ordinary arithmetic. The advantages of decimalisation spring solely from this harmonisation of money and non-money calculations, not from any inherent superiority of the number ten.
- 10. The use of ten as the basis of our counting is perhaps largely a matter of custom. But for the biological accident of our having ten fingers, we might count in eight or twelves, or for that matter scores. For some purposes, for example when we use the present £ s.d. currency, we in fact do partially count in dozens and scores. When we are measuring time, we sometimes count in sixties (60 seconds=1 minute; 60 minutes=1 hour), a legacy of the sexagesimal number system of ancient Babylon.
- 11. Because of its superior divisibility, the number twelve has always presented attractions as an alternative basis for counting. Those who advise this may be called duo-decimalists /sic/. The existence of the dozen as a factor in the £ s.d. system (12 pence=1 shilling) naturally disposes duo-decimalists towards retaining and even extending its use. At the time of our appointment, a scheme for duo-decimalising rather than decimalising the existing currency, by declaring twelve shillings to equal £1, just as twelve pence equal one shilling, received the distinguished advocacy of Professor A.C. Aitken of Edinburgh University. If, on the other hand, we have in mind electronic rather than human computers, a case can be made for counting in eights an octal system because this can be related more easily to the binary system used by such computers.
- 12. Consideration of any but a decimal system was strictly beyond our terms of reference. We thought it right, however, to record here our views that, whatever the theoretical advantages of duo-decimal currency systems, they suffer from the decisive drawback that, unless our basic system of arithmetical notation were also changed and the decimal system is so firmly entrenched throughout the world that it is difficult to imagine it ever being replaced we should continue, with such systems, to do money calculations differently from non-money calculations. We are concerned to decimalise Britain's currency, not to duo-decimalise the world's arithmetic.

DUODECIMALIZATION IN BRITAIN

It will be seen from the minutes of the General Meeting that it was felt that duodccimalization proposals should be formulated to confront the decimalization proposals. There are several ideas going round, and we should like them to be aired in the Newscast. Please write them in.

One proposal is that we should set up subcommittees: Committee on duodecimalization in Britain to discuss

- 1.1 Coinage and currency revision
- 1.2 Cost of changeover
- 1.3 Timing, phasing and general execution of changeover
- 1.4 Metric revision
- 1.5 Conclusions
- 2. Committee on merits of other-based systems to discuss
 - 2.1 Detailed comparison of each system
 - 2.2 Conclusions

Volunteers for such subcommittees are invited

Introduction of dozenal systems (one proposal)

The introduction of any system of numeration should be phased so that successive generations become more and more familiar with the new system until every member of the public has a working knowledge of it.

The minimum time before *D-day should be the time necessary for children taught dezenals on entering school at five to be old enough to enter into the active life of the nation (age \(\frac{1}{4} \)). Thus *10 years would be the minimum. Until these are about *30 or so (*27 years after entering school) there will be a majority knowing both decimal and dezenal. When they are *50 or so those knowing only dezenals will be in the majority.

During the 10 year preparation period the central executive committee (which we must have) should use every means of publicising the system and educating the public for it, so that when *D-day comes all will be aware of what is happening. The starting year (year 0); Year 1, remove *26d, add 30d, also banknotes for *10s., 30s., 100s.; Year 6, introduce 60s and reduce sizes of all coins. As the halfpenny will probably die off in *16 years or so, and we are not likely to get anything started for about that time, the effective coin-series will be: pence — 1-3-6, shillings — 1-3-6.

This is the sort of ideas that are going around. We should like all Members to add to them.

A CHANGE TO CENTIGRADE? by A. Bandon, Anti-Centigrade Society

It is often said that Fahrenheit is awkard, because freezing point is /32 degrees and beiling point /212 degrees. Yet this is an actual advantage, since it means that temperatures somewhat below freezing, often encountered in Britain, may be recorded without recourse to confusing minus signs. Secondly, the Fahrenheit degree is smaller than the Contigrade, so that the Contigrade system is clearly loss accurate in everyday use. Imagine a weather forecaster on the B.B.C. having to say that "the night temperature will drop to Minus 2.5 degrees"!

The Fahrenheit system is well-established, and all our instruments are calibrated according to it (and also on the basis of the British Thermal Unit, which is non-metric). To change over would involve scrapping all clinical thermometers, oven thermometers and heat measurement systems, with a colossal and useless expenditure of money which cannot be afforded even if the change were desirable. One can well imagine the chaos during and after the change-over period. The benefits accruing from all this would be precisely nil.

Another hazard is in education. Many schoolchildren find mathematics difficult under any conditions (I refer, of course, to those who are not mathematically minded), and why produce an extra complication for no reason whatsoever?

There is also the ethical aspect. Our attempts to invade the Common Market have shown us what Europe in general thinks about us, and it is surely deplorable for us to abandon our "differences" which have always done so much to make Britain great. Adoption of Centigrade is only the produce to the \$\frac{1}{2}\$-hour clock (already tried by the B.B.C. and abandoned in the face of public opposition), decimal coinage (not duodecimal!) with a waste of fifty million pounds, and other European innovations such as right-hand driving. The whole situation has been described, aptly, as the thin end of many wedges.

It is to fight this tendency that the Anti-Centigrade Society has been founded. The crisis is not yet upon us, but the B.B.C., which plays so major a role, has threatened to drop Fahreneit altogether in the foresecable future, which will usher in the period of chaos. All of us hope that this will not happen; but we must be on our guard.

PRESS RELEASE 28th October, 1963

PRESS RELEASE

Decimal system is defective: alternatives must be considered

At the General Meeting of the Duodecimal Society of Great Britain on 22nd October, 1963, the recent Report of the Committee on Decimal Coinage was discussed.

It was noted that, in the words of the Report, "Consideration of any but a decimal system was strictly beyond our terms of reference". Other committees looking into this matter have likwise given little or no consideration to the alternatives to decimalisation.

It should be remembered that our rejection of the decimal metric system in the last century was due in part to recognition of its inherent defects.

Despite various illogicalities, the British system of weights and measures has many practical advantages which would be lost if the decimal system were substituted, but which could be extended considerably by gradual introduction of the superior duodecimal system based on twelve with its twice as many divisors as ten.

Before the recommendations of the Report are adopted, with all the expenditure that they incur, the alternative presented by the duodecimal system should be given the fullest consideration. It is an alternative which has received the support of many eminent men.

It would be tragic if, by our adoption of the inferior decimal system, development in this field were brought to a premature end.

PUZZLES

1. Missing Figures

The figure represented by the asterisk is constant in the following addition sun; what is it?

21* 4*9 ** <u>*57</u> 140*

- 2. There was a pretty good meeting last week at the club, but the receipts were not good. Children were admitted for half the adult price, which was 6d., and unfortunately we had three times as many children as adults. Our receipts were only 49:6s. How many adults were there?
- 3. When Black and White met, Black had 30;2s and White 43;6s. When Black paid White the money he owed him, white had three times as much as Black. How much did Black owe white?
- 4. Each asterisk in the following division-sum represents a different figure. What is the sum?

- 5. If a man collects the unsmoked ends of his cigarettes and finds six butts make a new cigarette, and if 10 cigarettes cost 3s, how many can he smoke for 46s?
- 6. In the following multiplication—sum, each letter stands for a different number. What is the sum?

ABCD x
EF
EDDGH
FJBF
FHKLF



For Answers to Puzzles, please see page 12.

CORRIGENDA

'Duodecimal Newscast' Year 5, No. 2, October *1177 page \(\), line \(\) (code of letters to indicate availability of books)

for A - personal property read P - personal property

DUODECIMAL PUBLICITY

Federation of British Industries Review -

article by Dr. Robert C. Gilles - January and Sept 1177

'Data Processing' -- unsigned article

'Decimalization and after' -- May and June 1177

Journal of the British Amateur Scientific Research Association -- article 'Reciprocal Scries' by

Shaun Ferguson September 1177

'Vallingford Herald' -- letter by A. F. Whillock

Z October 1177

'The Daily Tolegraph' - Third leader

and subsequent correspondence 12 October 1177

NEW HEMBERS

J. A. Hardman 36, Townsend Road, Tiddington, Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire.

NEWS FROM AMERICA

Jamison Handy, Jr., 659, Via de la Paz, Pacific Palisades, 90272, California, U.S.A., is the new editor of the journal of the Duodecimal Society of America, 'The Duodecimal Bulletin', and also of 'Dozenal Doings'

ANSWERS TO PUZZLES (page) Puzzle 1: * = 8 Puzzle 6: 1267 x

2: 32 3: 12;3^s 37790

4° 1071, 197 <u>4324</u>

5: 197 40522

CALENDAR FOR 1178

JANUARY		FEBRUARY	MARCH	
Sunday Nonday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	5 10 17 22 6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24 1 8 13 1 25 2 9 14 1 26 3 2 15 20 27 4 2 16 21	2 9 14 19 3 2 15 20 4 9 16 21 5 10 17 22 6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24 1 8 13 12 25	1 8 13 12 25 2 9 14 16 26 3 2 15 20 27 4 6 16 21 5 10 17 22 6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24	
	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	
Sunday Monday Tuesday Gednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	5 10 17 22 6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24 1 8 13 13 25 2 9 14 15 26 3 3 15 20 4 5 16 21	3	7 12 19 24 1 8 13 13 25 2 9 14 19 26 3 3 15 20 4 9 16 21 5 10 17 22 6 11 18 23	
	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	
Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	5 10 17 22 6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24 1 8 13 13 25 2 9 14 15 26 3 3 15 20 27 4 5 16 21	2 9 14 15 26 3 3 15 20 27 4 5 16 21 5 10 17 22 6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24 1 8 13 13 25	6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24 1 8 13 13 25 2 9 14 1¢ 26 3 3 15 20 4 ¢ 16 21 5 10 17 22	
	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	
Sunday Honday Tuesday Gednesday Thursday Friday Saturday	4	1 8 13 12 25 2 9 14 15 26 3 2 15 20 4 5 16 21 5 10 17 22 6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24	6 11 18 23 7 12 19 24 1 8 13 13 25 2 9 14 15 26 3 3 15 20 27 4 5 16 21 5 10 17 22	

DUODECIMAL PUBLICATIONS, etc.

All are available through the Society, packing and inland postage a penny in the shilling extra. Please obtain those marked & through shops.

Logical Money, Weights and Measures		free
Duodecimal Leaflet		free
Sample Duodecimal Newscast		free
Duodecimal Newscasts for *1174 (1960) to *1177 (1963)	*1.0s	(1s.Od)
C.J. McMullen A Duodecimal Calendar (Offprint No.1)	*0.2s	
Summary of New Duodecimal Notations (Offprint No.2)	*0.2s	} /
S. Ferguson A revised Currency (Offprint No.3)	0 1 12	(24)
	*0.3s	(3a)
Duodecimal Metric Proposals (Offprint No.4)		(2d)
Report of Duodecimal Summit Conference (Offprint No.5)		(2d)
S. Ferguson Measuring Our Way (Offprint No.6)	*0.2s	(2d) *
	*0.2s	(2d)
R.J. Hinton A Set of Symbols to facilitate the Mathema		()
	*0.2s	(2d)
D.A. Sparrow A suggested Series of Notations and Names		(/
(Offprint No.9)	-	
The One-Two-Three of Dozenals (Offprints Nos, Z, £, 10) toge	ther
		(6d)
Prof. A. C. Aitken The case against decimalisation		(5 3 1)
	*2.0s	(2s.6d)
F. Emerson Andrews An Excursion in Numbers		ew free
" " Ekskurso en nombroj (in Esperanto)		
Ralph H. Beard Antipatio al aritmetiko " "		ew free
øJ. Haloro Johnson The Reverse Notation (Blackie & Son)		
Jean Essig Douze notre dix futur (in French) (Duned)		
Duodecimal Society of America Manual of the Dozen Syst		
" " " The Duodecimal Bulletin		
" " " Circular Slide Rule 3 or		
F. Emerson Andrews Numbers, Please (Little, Brown-Boston,		
		ATTACA ATTACA

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