



THE AMBASSADOR DER BOTSCHAFTER

A Publication of the GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF THE USA®
CHARTERED AS THE UNITED GERMAN-AMERICAN COMMITTEE OF THE USA, INC.

Volume 11, Issue 2

Fall 2008

Heritage Center is now becoming reality

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® (GAHF) is pleased to advise you that we are scheduled to close on Hockemeyer Hall on October 15, 2008.

After receiving the costs from the developer in July 2008 to complete the interior renovations we were shocked. The costs they presented to us were more than twice the allowance which had been established in the Agreement of Purchase and Sale which had been signed toward the end of 2007. The Board of Directors was in a quandary. What might be the options for us to proceed. We found the solution at our August quarterly Board of



Hockemeyer Hall

Director meeting, namely, remove the allowance for the interior renovations and proceed by making them ourselves.

Bern E. Deichmann approached the developer and finally submitted a discussion draft for a potential First Amendment to the Agreement of Purchase and Sale. We are delighted to report that the Seller fully executed the Amendment on September 22, 2008. That means Ladies and Gentleman that we will own the building as of October 15, 2008 albeit without the interior renovations.

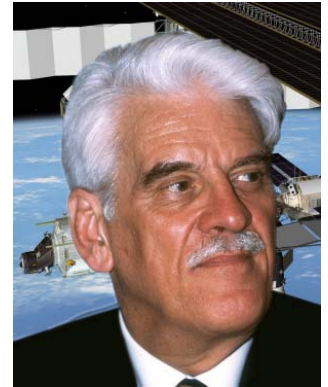
The original purchase price was \$2.0 million including both the exterior and interior renovations. The revised price is slightly below \$1.7 million. This includes the completed architectural, mechanical, electrical and structural drawings. A lot of work remains but your Board of Directors considers this a very positive development.

For your information to date we have collected \$1.9 million in contributions and pledges to complete the build out we need more than \$200 K and therefore we need to continue the solicitation for additional capital and operating funds.

Unfortunately, the opening originally planned for October 2008 has to be delayed to February-March 2009. Your continued support with that of your relative and friends would be greatly appreciated. ❖

Dr. Jesco von Puttkamer: Distinguished German-American of the Year™

Dr. Jesco von Puttkamer of NASA will be honored by the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® as the Distinguished German-American of the Year™ for 2008. The 22nd Annual Distinguished German-American of the Year™ Awards and Fundraising Gala will be held on Saturday evening, December 6, 2008 in Philadelphia, PA at the Cannstatter Volksfest Verein.



Dr. Jesco von Puttkamer

The "Distinguished German-American of the Year™ Award" provides recognition for outstanding leadership of Americans of German-speaking ancestry in business, the arts, education, science, politics and society.

Prof. Dr. Dipl.-Ing Jesco Freiherr von Puttkamer has had an outstanding career as a pioneer and strong advocate for Human Space Flight. He joined the US Space Agency 46 years ago, shortly after its inception, and is presently a Program Manager at NASA Headquarters in Washington, DC in the Space Operations Mission Directorate (SOMD).

Jesco von Puttkamer came to the US in mid-1962 at the

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Council of 1000 Gala Honored Margrit Krewson - April 2008



Margrit B. Krewson &
Bern E. Deichmann

With all the pomp and circumstance of a state function, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® honored Margrit B. Krewson as the Distinguished German-American of the Year for 2007 at the Austrian Embassy in Washington, DC. Guests honored Margrit Krewson for years of dedication at the Library of Congress and after retirement to

bring the Waldseemüller Map to the United States for permanent display. The Waldseemüller map of 1507 is in the first map to

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Mission

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® is dedicated to preserve, educate, and promote the cultural heritage of Americans of German-speaking ancestry and to be the voice of German-Americans in cultural and public policy debates in the USA.

We serve as a national membership organization through which Americans, proud of their German heritage and language, work together on vital issues of common concern.

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA, Inc. was established in 1977 and chartered the following year as the United German-American Committee of the USA as an independent, tax-exempt, educational, not-for-profit organization.

We are committed to:

- Sharing a positive image of Americans of German-speaking heritage by focusing on their historical contributions to American society
- Strengthening the ethnic awareness and cooperation of German Americans
- Promoting the German language and culture
- Cultivating German American friendship and cooperation
- Supporting cooperative efforts among German-Americans and their organizations

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President's Message

It had been our intention to publish this newsletter more than two months ago. Due to the uncertainty concerning the completion of the interior renovations we decided to hold off. We felt it was better to delay than publish information which would need to be corrected shortly after its publication.

Our lead article fully explains the situation. The important point is that we will own Hockemeyer Hall after October 15, 2008.

I regret to report that our two largest benefactors have died recently. A tribute to both of them can be found on page 3. Hans J. Trustorff, a longtime board member and very able chair of the finance committee died of cancer after a valiant fight for over five years on July 21. Hans remained positive and supportive right to the end. I valued his counsel and support. He will be sorely missed.

Our major benefactor Wilma L. Schmidt died on September 15, 2008. She was a big supporter of establishing the Heritage Center. Without her help the dream of the organization would not have been realized. The Exhibit Hall will be dedicated as the **Wilma L. Schmidt Exhibit Hall**. We thank her for her unwavering support in life. Her memory will live on.

We have additional good news concerning our ambitious "Oral and Visual History Project" due to the assistance of Director Rüdiger Lentz. The European Recovery Program (ERP), a German governmental program to foster transatlantic relations in the spirit of the American Marshall Plan aid, has agreed to award the German-



Bern E. Deichmann

American Heritage Foundation a substantial grant to underwrite this Project.

As soon as the Heritage Center in Washington opens its doors, there will be three video-and-audio terminals which will allow us to collect data, images and information about German-Americans who are willing to participate in this challenging and historically ambitious endeavor.

Every visitor will be encouraged to providing personal data concerning their heritage, that of their family and their current political and cultural relations to their former homeland, Germany. We are partnering with the American Association for Teachers of German (AATG) who will work with us to include these testimonials and histories into the larger story about the impact made by German-speaking immigrants to the United States which hopefully will become later part of a broader curriculum project for use in high schools and colleges.

We believe that you must agree that we have taken some very positive steps in our move forward.

Bern E. Deichmann

*In Memorium***Hans J. Trustorff****July 15, 1932 - July 21, 2008**

The German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA (GAHF) and the German-American community lost a staunch supporter and a driving force on July 21, 2008. Hans was active in all facets of the organization. He was the Chair of the Finance Committee for many years until his death.

Hans was an ardent supporter of establishing a home for all Americans of German-speaking ancestry in our nation's capital, Washington, DC. In this regard he fostered the UGAC/VDAK wherever he could. He organized trips to Washington, DC and to Council 1000 Banquets held outside the Philadelphia area such as the ones held in Los Angeles, and Cape Coral, Florida. He was very philanthropic to many German-American activities and over the years ended up as one of our largest benefactors.

Hans Trustorff joined the organization in 1987 and was one of the first to become a Council 1000 member when it was established. Hans realized that it takes action to make dreams come true. He came to America in 1951 when he was only 19. Through lessons learned early in his life as a German trained tool-and-die maker, he focused his efforts on becoming the best he could be in his adopted country. He served his new country in the Army and was station in Korea for more than a year. Six years later he established ARC Manufacturing Co. with two partners, a business that produced parts for aircraft nuclear submarines and utility companies. He was president of ARC for 20 years before retiring in 2000. In 2004 the organization honored Hans with the **Founder's Award** established in memory of Dr. Hans Haug, founding President of the UGAC.

His love of life, family, fun and accomplishments have been a shining example to all the members of the GAHF. He was always willing to lend a hand, was outspoken to let all of us know what he thought and remind us to focus on our goals. Lisel, his wife, and two children Hans and Karin will truly miss him. Besides his children, Opa will be missed by his granddaughter Kristen the love of his life and his siblings Lieselotte Perleberg (CA), Ingrid Luchini (NM), Ernst-Otto Trustorff (Braunschweig, Germany), and Marianne Clausen (Glueckstadt, Germany). Whenever he could he would spend his weekend at the Jersey Shore. He loved his boat and fishing. The GAHF will miss his firm hand. ❖



Hans J. Trustorff

Wilma L. Schmidt**May 25, 1918 - September 15, 2008**

Wilma L. Schmidt, our largest benefactor died at the Attleboro Rehab Center in Langhorne, PA at the age of 90. During one of the visits, she stated: "Mr. Deichmann I really want to see the German-American Heritage Center established in Washington." She was a philanthropist who offered generous financial support to other project as well.

Earlier this year Bern E. Deichmann told her that we were going to name the exhibit hall after her. She was very pleased with that thought. Subsequently we also spoke with her and later confirmed it in writing that we wanted her to be one of the persons we would honor at our Council of 1000 Fundraising and Awards Gala as one of the *Distinguished German-Americans of the Year for 2008*. Upon visiting her on August 9, 2008, she promised to send us her biography for the award. As if by premonition she stated upon parting: "Oh, Mr. Deichmann I hope I live that long."

Wilma Schmidt was born in Göttingen, Germany in a house just behind the University of Göttingen. From 1936 to 1950 she lived in Berlin where she was employed a lab technician. She came to the US after World War II in 1950. Wilma met her husband Joseph A. Schmidt at the Yardville, NJ Liederkrantz. She lived in Yardville for 46 years before retiring to Attleboro Village in Langhorne, PA. She was retired from Carter-Wallace as a lab technician and for many years after retirement served as a volunteer at the Robert Wood Johnson Hospital in Hamilton, NJ. She and her husband also owned a condo in Pompano Beach, Florida where she liked to spend a good portion of the year.

Wilma and Joseph Schmidt owned a pest control business with over 1000 customers in the Princeton - Trenton, NJ and Yardley, PA areas. This business is now owned by her cousin Ulrich and his wife Connie Blumenthal. To them and the other cousins and friends here and abroad the German-American Heritage Foundation offers its sincere condolences.

The Exhibit Hall of the German-American Heritage Center of the USA will be named the WILMA L. SCHMIDT EXHIBIT HALL as discussed and promised to her. It is a shame that she also will not be able to see the fruits of her labor. We will also honor Mrs. Schmidt posthumously as a *Distinguished German-American of the Year 2008* at the Council of 1000 Awards & Fundraising Gala in December 2008. ❖



Wilma L. Schmidt

Dedication of the Forty-eighter monument *in Davenport*

It took ninety years, but Davenporters set things right recently. A 24,000-pound monument honoring a select group of German immigrants known as the “Forty-eighters” was erected near the banks of the Mississippi. The story behind this massive monument begins almost 160 years ago in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany. On March 24, 1848, a group of German patriots from Schleswig-Holstein began fighting a war with Denmark to gain liberty, democracy, and national unity. Unsuccessful in their struggle, many of these Schleswig-Holsteiners emigrated to the United States where they hoped to find the freedom they had fought for in vain in their homeland. These Forty-eighters are considered by many to be America’s most remarkable and unique group of immigrants. They provided a cultural and intellectual transfusion which affected not only their fellow countrymen but which also had a pronounced effect on the political and social history of America during one of its most critical periods.

Remarkably, a great many of the Forty-eighters hailing from Schleswig-Holstein emigrated to a single area of the Midwest, choosing Scott County, Iowa, as their adopted home. In 1872, more than two decades after emigrating to Davenport and its surrounding communities, these vanquished freedom fighters organized a veterans’ society known as *Der*

Davenportener Verein der Kampfgenossen der Schleswig-Holsteinischen Freiheitskriege von 1848, 1849 und 1850 (The Davenport Society of Veterans of the Schleswig-Holstein Wars of Independence of 1848, 1849 and 1850).

The first president was Jürgen Peter Ankerson, who for many years had operated a grocery and provisions store across the street from the present site of Davenport’s German American Heritage Center. Julius Langheim, a Justice of the Peace in Hickory Grove, served as vice president, while Emil Geisler, for many years a driving force behind Davenport’s Free German School (*Freie Deutsche Schule*), served as the *Schriftführer*, or recording secretary. Ernst Claussen, who would subsequently serve as Davenport’s mayor for a record seven consecutive terms, was the group’s first recording secretary, and Hans Heinrich Andresen, who would become president of the German Savings Bank, was the organization’s treasurer.

One of the first acts of the newly formed veterans group was to name as their first honorary member Hans Reimer Claussen, perhaps Davenport’s most well-known German immigrant and a Schleswig-Holstein patriot who had diligently worked for the cause of freedom. But what does

all this have to do with the recent erection of a 24,000-pound monument? On March 24, 1898, a massive stone monument commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Forty-eighters’ fight for freedom in their homeland, was dedicated in Washington Square Park in Davenport, now the YM/YWCA building. The dedication ceremony included the planting of three oak trees with 1200 people in attendance. Two of these were donated by Otto von Bismarck, the former chancellor of the German Empire. The third tree was a twin oak, for many years the symbol of the inseparability of the former duchies of Schleswig and Holstein. Bleik Peters, the long-time *Kampfgenossen* president, dedicated the stone, and Emil

Geisler made a moving speech commemorating the struggle of the Forty-eighters in their native homeland and their accomplishments in their adopted home of Iowa.

In less than two decades, however, World War I brought about a wave of anti-German hysteria that swept across the nation, and Scott County was not exempted from the vitriol and mean-spiritedness that was directed towards all things German. In an act symbolic of the times, the stone monument honoring Scott County’s Forty-eighters was painted yellow (a popular way of scornfully identifying and defacing something having

German ties) and tipped over. At some point, the stone disappeared from Washington Square never to be seen again.

On March 30, 2008, a new stone was dedicated on almost the same spot where the old stone had been located. A beautiful ceremony was held with speeches by Davenport Mayor Bill Gluba and ASHHS president Jack Schinckel. Fittingly, the keynote address was given by Dr. Joachim Reppmann, one of the world’s foremost authorities on the Forty-eighters. He has devoted much of his life to bringing the remarkable accomplishments of this immigrant group to light. The Forty-eighter monument is the spark that will ignite a number of projects honoring Scott County’s Forty-eighters. Dr. Reppmann is staging a conference in Denison, Iowa, in September of 2009, that will focus on a variety of German-American topics, including the Forty-eighters.

Further information, please go to Downloads: www.moin-moin.us. *Scott Christiansen, Iowa City, Iowa/ Yogi Reppmann, Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein [Note: Jürgen Peter Ankerson, Scott’s great-great grandfather, was the first president of the Schleswig-Holstein Kampfgenossen Verein von 1848-49-50.]* ❖



L to r: Cal Werner, President German-American Heritage Center, Davenport, IA and Yogi Reppmann, keynote speaker and 1848er historian

The First Germans at Jamestown 2008 FESTIVITIES IN HONOR 400 YEARS OF GERMAN IMMIGRATION TO AMERICA

To commemorate the 400 years of German Immigration to America, a grand celebration was held from April 18 to 20 in Jamestown, Virginia. A group of GAHF members fresh from the Council of 1000 banquet at the Austrian Embassy in Washington, DC took the trip down to Jamestown to take part in the festivities. German Ambassador Klaus Scharioth along with David Smith, Deputy Secretary of Commerce spoke of the great accomplishments of Germans to America. A wayside marker was dedicated at the original glass house by Ambassador Scharioth.



The celebrations were planned by the 400th Anniversary Committee of Germans in America. The Chairman of the Committee was Robert A. Carle from the Richmond area. The Master of Ceremonies for the festivities was Hans Stienen, President of the Deutscher Sport Club - Richmond. Other committee members were Gerhard Meinzer, President of the Association of German-American Societies of DC; Russell L. Boraas, President Gesangverein - Virginia; Steven Hudak, President, Tidewater German-American Society; Daniel Wolfe, President - German European American Society of Norfolk; Albert W. Spengler, University of Virginia and organizer for the annual meeting of the Society of German-American Studies (S-GAS) held in Williamsburg at the same time of the festivities; Bern E. Deichmann, President of the GAHF-USA; Gary C. Grassl, President of the German-American-Heritage Society of DC. They were very ably supported by Thomas Meindl and Kai Schachtebeck of the



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Philadelphia's 325th: German-American Day 2008 September 27 through October 6, 2008

This year Philadelphia commemorates the 325th anniversary of the arrival in America **of the first group of German-speaking settlers – thirteen families from Krefeld, Germany.**

They arrived in Philadelphia aboard the Concord, considered the “Mayflower of German immigration” on October 6, 1683 and founded Germantown, the first permanent German settlement in America. Through this first gateway, as well as others, approximately 8,000,000 inhabitants followed.

On Saturday, October 4, 2008 the GAHF will join in the festivities by hosting a 5K and 10K Walk to raise money for the German-American Heritage Center.

Many other events are planned:

- Beer Tastings and Restaurant Events
- Colonial German Cooking Demonstrations
- Commemorative Events
- Concerts
- German-American Steuben Parade
- Guided Tours of Museum of Art Exhibits
- Lectures and Author Talks
- Mayor's Reception
- Oktoberfest Celebrations
- Germantown Walk for benefit of the GAHF
- Performances for Children and Students of German
- Wine Tasting

The activities and celebrations will be at various locations in Center City Philadelphia, Germantown and the Suburbs. Find more information at www.GermanAmericanDay.org. ❖



“Little Amadeus: The Adventures of the Young Mozart” New TV Series



The animated series, “little Amadeus - The Adventure of the Young Mozart,” tells exciting and humorous stories from the childhood and life of the world-renowned musical genius Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.

Although this entertaining TV series is designed to reach viewers at home, it also can be used for teaching students in class according to federal and state curriculum standards “Little Amadeus” will enhance student’s knowledge of making music as well as it will foster their historical and geographical understanding.

Please ask your local TV station to put this series in their programming. Visit www.little-amadeus.com for more information. ❖

Jamestown *Continued from page 5*

Cultural Affairs Department of the Germany Embassy. Ambassador Scharioth presented the German-American Friendship Award to all committee members except Gary Grassl and Gerhard Meinzer who had previously received an award from the Embassy.

Gary Grassl prepared a book entitled: *The First Germans in America, Jamestown, Virginia*. The committee had this work published and every family in attendance for the Commemorative Banquet received a copy. The keynote address was given by John Humphrey, President of the Mid-Atlantic Germanic Society and a certified genealogist - specializing in German research. A commemorative marker was placed in the Jamestown Visitor's Center which included the name of the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® through the generosity of Erich and Grete Ast and Hans and Lisel Trustorff. ❖

Dr. von Puttkamer *Continued from page 1*

personal invitation of Dr. Wernher von Braun after graduating with a Master's Degree (Diploma) in Mechanical & Aeronautical Engineering from the Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule (RWTH) in Aachen, Germany, and joined Wernher von Braun's NASA Rocket Team in Huntsville, Alabama.

Wilma L. Schmidt, our major benefactor to the German-American Heritage Center of the USA™, will be honored posthumously at the Gala for her dedication to the Center's completion. She is remembered in this newsletter on page 3.

Tickets for the Gala will be \$150 per person and include a cocktail reception, dinner, and dancing. For more information, please contact our national headquarters 866-868-8422 or visit our Website at www.gahfusa.org. ❖

Please spread the word about the Heritage Foundation.
Contact friends and acquaintances who may be prepared to support us.



German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®
Support through Membership:



- YES**, I want to become a member or renew my membership with the German-American Heritage Foundation at the level indicated below:
 - Council of 1000: \$1,000
 - Benefactor: \$500
 - Sponsor: \$100
 - Patron: \$50

- YES**, I am currently a member of the German-American Heritage Foundation and I wish to make an additional gift of \$ _____ to support our operations in Washington, DC.

VEREIN'S CIRCLE FOR CLUBS/ORGANIZATIONS

- More than 25 members: \$1 per member
- Less than 25 members: \$25

HELP US ESTABLISH THE GERMAN-AMERICAN HERITAGE CENTER AT HOCKEMEYER HALL

I/we, the undersigned, support this historic opportunity to establish the German-American Heritage Center of the USA to collect, document, preserve, and promote the heritage of Americans of German-speaking Ancestry. To help with the Hockemeyer Hall acquisition, the furnishings, and to start an endowment fund, I/we enclose our donation in the amount of:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ my/our most generous gift |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Day phone _____ Email _____

- YES, I would like to receive a sample Newsletter
- Check payable to the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA is enclosed

Contributions for the Heritage Center mark to "Hockemeyer Hall Fund"

Please charge my credit card: Visa Mastercard

Card Number _____

Expiration date (month/year) _____ Signature of cardholder _____

German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA®

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Council 1000 Banquet: April 17, 2008 Embassy of Austria, Washington, DC

Continued from page 1

name America. It is the Birth Certificate of America. Through Mrs. Krewson's tireless efforts the map now on display permanently at the Library of Congress.

Greetings were offered before dinner by the Patron of the event, Austrian Ambassador Dr. Eva Nowotny. Distinguished guests which included Prince Johannes Waldburg-Wolfegg whose family owned the map for over 350 years and Nobel Laureate Günter Blobel. Both spoke of their admiration for Mrs. Krewson and her fine work. President Bern E. Deichmann then presented Mrs. Krewson with the 2007 Distinguished German-American of the Year Award to a standing ovation. Margrit Krewson's address was as follows:

"Your Excellency, Your Serene Highness, President Deichmann, Distinguished Guests, Friends, and Family. Thank you Prince Waldburg for your kind words and for undertaking such a long journey to be here tonight. I am truly humbled to receive the Distinguished German-American of the year Award for 2007 and for this marvelous evening.

Thank you, President Deichmann and members of the Board of Directors for nominating me, and thank you Dr. Blobel for all of your support.

Whatever has been accomplished in acquiring the map has been a team effort and I am grateful to the many participants who have contributed to this effort. I would especially like to thank Dr. Billington, the Librarian of Congress, for giving me the assignment of a lifetime and for the opportunity to complete this 15 year project against all odds.

During the final years of the project I could not have succeeded without the encouragement and support of Dr. Deanna Marcum, Associate Librarian of Congress, and Dr. Prosser Gifford, the distinguished Director for scholarly Programs, and Nancy Pierce, the founding director of the German-American Heritage Society of Greater Washington.

As a naturalized citizen of Germanic heritage, I have always wanted my adopted country to be proud of my accomplishments. Therefore, it is particularly rewarding to know that the "Birth Certificate of America" now resides in the Library of Congress where I can be seen and appreciated by all Americans. Thank you."

The Waldseemüller map is the now the only national treasure of Germany housed outside of the nation.

The official end of the program came with the recognition of the New Council of 1000 Members. The grand affair punctuated the fact that German-American accomplishments will now be recognized nationally with the opening of Hockemeyer Hall as a cultural center in Washington DC. ❖



All Gala photos taken by Peter Cutts Photography

Capital Fund Raising

GOAL \$3 MILLION

\$1.1 Million Needed

\$1.9 Million Received

Help Us Establish
the first National
German-American
Heritage Center
of the USA™

Our New Brochure:
Promoting our cultural
ancestry German-American
Heritage Center of the USA™
Among other things the Center will:

present
permanent
exhibits featuring
German
immigration and
migration

promote
partnerships
with German
museums

collect, document
& preserve the
heritage of
persons of
German-speaking
descent in a
unique oral and
visual history
project



SAVE THE DATE!

December 6, 2008
in Philadelphia

Dr. Jesco von Puttkamer
of NASA
to honored as
2008 Distinguished
German American of
the Year.
(See page 1.)

Address Correction Requested



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