Our Chair, Greg Felker, plans to have an Editorial Board to assist Elliott. I would hope any of our members, if asked, would serve on the Editorial Board. All of this is in accordance with the Constitution of the Malaysia-Singapore-Brunei Studies Group of the AAS. I will be responsible as editor for volume 33.1, our next issue, and have already laid out its basic format and gathered some of the research articles and books. Also, I will continue to help as needed to keep Berita publishing. It will have a new, experienced and capable editor in Elliott Parker as of volume 33.2.

PERIODICALS

> Akademika: journal of the social sciences and humanities

N.70 Jan 2007  1) Shamsul Amri Baharuddin & Mohamad Fauzi Sukimi, "Bandar sebagai cermin identiti bangsa: perbandingan awal antara Jakarta dan Kuala Lumpur" [From the Abstract -- Formation of national identity as reflected in the physical attributes of Jakarta and KL -- Discusses general findings of a study of "city and national identities", employing the post-colonial theoretical framework because it is more robust and explorative, and better at explaining the realities of history-structure that form the Malaysian and Indonesian 'nation state' -- Begins with a theoretical discussion and follows with the two case studies] pp 3-19; 2) Ragayah Haji Mat Zin, "Understanding the formulation of the revised poverty line in Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- The method of calculating the poverty line (PL) used to estimate Malaysian poverty incidence up to the 8th Malaysia Plan 2001-2005 has a number of flaws -- To improve accuracy of identifying poor households, the government has revised the method of calculating the PL for the 9th Malaysia Plan 2006-2010 -- Explains the basic ingredients in determining acceptable PL as a key to formulation of poverty reduction policies] pp 21-39; 3) Kamaruddin M. Said, "Minda orientalis dan minda pasca-kolonial: politik membaca Hikayat Hang Tuah" [Contends that readings of Hikayat Hang Tuah are constructed by mindsets and intellectual paradigms of specific cultural and political leanings, namely the colonial politics and culture in Malaysia of the late 19th to mid 20th centuries] pp 41-56; 4) Yahaya Ibrahim, "Komuniti Pulau dalam Era Pembangunan: terpinggir atau Menempat" [Discusses participation of the communities of 3 islands (Pulau Redang, Pulau Perhentian and Pulau Tioman) which are in the midst of a tourist development process] pp 57-76; 5) Nayeem Sultana, "National identity, mode of networking and integration of Bangladesh community in a multi-cultural society: migrant Bangladeshis in Peninsular Malaysia" [An exploration of the mode of community networking, followed by how the community survives in Malaysia, and the applicability of some concepts such as 'nationalism', 'multiculturalism', 'homogeneity', 'heterogeneity' and 'hybridism'] pp 77-101; 6) Professor Dato' Dr. Abdul Rahman Embong, "Message of condolence on the passing of Professor Datuk Dr. Syed Hussein Alatas (1928-2007)" [Obituary in two texts: Malay, pp 165-167, and English, pp167-169].

> American anthropologist 

V.110 n.3 Sep 2008  1) James J Fox, "Obituaries: Rodney Needham (1923-2006)" [ A formidable intellectual among a distinguished generation of British social anthropologists, an ethnographer of Southeast Asia, assiduous author, translator, editor, and professor in social anthropology at Oxford University died in Oxford on 4 December 2006 --Educated at Haileybury, a school established in 1807, as the East India College -- In 1941, he volunteered for the infantry and the next year was commissioned into the 4th Battalion, 1st King George V's Own Gurkha Rifles, rising to rank of captain, and saw service in India and Southeast Asia, and twice wounded in Burma -- After the war in 1947, he began the study of Malay and Chinese at the School of Oriental and African Studies, U. of London and transferred to Oxford in 1948, receiving a Diploma in Anthropology with Distinction in 1949 and a B.Litt in 1950 with a thesis on Naga tribes -- His subsequent fieldwork
included: the Penan of central Borneo (D. Phil in 1953); and did fieldwork among the Chewong of Malaya and the Kodi & Mamboru in West Sumba in 1954-55 – And that was just the beginning! Throughout his career, he was very productive: books, articles, translations, 200+ reviews, notices, letters, communications; and a frequent reviewer for The Times Literary Supplement – Thanks customerservice@anthrosource.net ].

>Asian journal of social science

V.36.n.3-4 2008 -- 1) Simon Cottle & Mugdha Rai, "Television news in Singapore: mediating conflict and consent" [From the Abstract -- Singapore's television media, notwithstanding its economic successes, is widely considered to be tightly controlled and regulated by government -- But the role of its television news in enabling or curtailing democratic processes remains largely unnoticed and under-theorized -- Reports recent empirical research about Singapore's TV journalism by identifying and mapping production by identifying and mapping aspects of production within the repertoire of communicative frames that differentially characterize contemporary TV news in Singapore -- Documents that there is considerably more complexity in the ecology and communicative frames of TV news than has so far been acknowledged or explored and that these complexities have direct bearing on debates about the mediation of conflict and consent in Singapore's brand of 'democracy'] pp 638-658.

>Asian survey: a bimonthly review of contemporary Asian affairs

V.xlviii,n.4 Jul/Aug 2008 -- 1) Andrew Chau, "Security community and Southeast Asia: Australia, the US, and ASEAN's counter-terror strategy" [From the Abstract -- Evaluates the notion of an ASEAN security community -- Examines it in the context of regional, sub-regional, and national policy strategies to address a shared regional threat of transnational terrorism -- Some Malaysian and Singapore content] pp 626-649.

>Bijdragen tot de Taal, Land-en Volkenkunde

164/23 2008 – 1) Alice Nah, "Recognizing indigenous identity in postcolonial Malaysian law: rights and realities for the Orang Asli of Peninsular Malaysia" [Mostly from the Introduction -- Begins by providing an outline of political developments that have resulted in the legal recognition of 3 groups as having indigenous status -- Reviews the evolution of the Malaysian legal system to provide a context for discussion -- Looks at how Orang Asli are recognized in the Federal Constitution and in statutes, with reference to case law, as the meaning and weight of these written laws were elaborated in court judgments -- Then looks at 3 court cases, reviewing the right to engage in commercial activities in aboriginal places, which demonstrate how Orang Asli have drawn on international legal frameworks to claim special privileges in ways not possible for other Malaysians, on the basis of their identity -- Sections on: Indigenous identity in postcolonial Malaysia; Evolution of the Malaysian legal system; Orang Asli in the Federal Constitution; Absences in the Constitution; Statutory rights (the Aboriginal Peoples Act [1954, revised 1974]); Common law developments (native title, usufructuary rights and proprietary rights); Exclusive rights to commercial activities in aboriginal places (Koperasi Kijang Mas Bhd & Ors v Kerajaan Negri Perak & Ors, 1991); Introducing native title (the Adong Kuwau case); Proprietary rights in and to the land (the Sagong Tasi case); Going to court (everyday realities); Conclusion (The Malaysian legal system does allow some room for the practice of what Levy [2000] terms 'indigenous law')] pp 212-237; 2) Harold Brookfield, review of R A Cramb, 2007, Land and longhouse: agrarian transformation in the uplands of Sarawak, xxi+422 pp. Copenhagen: Nordic Institute of Asian Studies Press. Pb ISBN 9788776940102 [Cramb an agricultural economist, but has studied agriculture and social change in the western Iban of Sarawak and draws heavily on the anthropological literature and dissent from Freeman's criticisms of Iban agricultural practice -- Also utilizes archived court records from the 19th century onward, concerning a great number of land disputes -- The book a profound and revealing analysis of complex inter-related events] pp 299-301; 3) Nikolaos Van Dam, review of Russell Jones (general editor), C D Grijns & Jan W de Vries (eds), 2007, Loan-words in Indonesian and Malay, xxi+360 pp. Leiden: KITLV Press. Hb ISBN: 9789067183048 [An impressive result of decades of painstaking work by various scholars, all specialists -- The lists of loan words from the various source languages were compiled independently at different times, and material has not always been handled in the same way, and some of the list was substantially completed as much as a decade before publication -- Book focuses on loan-words from languages outside Nusantara, i.e. non-Austronesian languages (but exception of Sanskrit loan words into Old Javanese) -- A useful introduction to the influences of the ten main donor languages on Malay and Indonesian -- And much more] pp 305-306; 4) Norulhuda Othman, review essay Ethnicity, state and nation in Southeast Asia [a] Lian Kwen Fe (ed), Race, ethnicity and the state in Malaysia and Singapore. Leiden: Brill, 2006, viii+242 pp. ISBN 9789004150966; b) Kusuma Sniwongse & W Scott Thompson (eds), Ethnic conflicts in Southeast Asia. Singapore: ISEAS, 2005, xii+173 pp. ISBN 9789812303400; c) Wang Gungwu (ed), Nation-building: five Southeast Asian histories. Singapore: ISEAS, 2005, xi+288 pp. ISBN 9789812303202] pp 371-377.

>Borneo Research Council Annual Newsletter, 2007-2008


>Commonwealth & comparative politics


in the introduction, explain that the purpose of the book is to critique the universalizing essentialism of much contemporary state theory, and especially the projection of western conceptions of the modern state construed by territoriality, citizenship, secularity and sovereignty onto Asia and elsewhere. -- And while western state properties of structural permanence and institutionalized agency have been a target of imitation, and while western state properties of structural permanence and institutionalized agency have been a target of imitation, Asian states also possess their own long and separate traditions of self-reflection that must be recruited in theorizing about the nature of the modern state. There are chapters on Malaysia, Japan, China, Taiwan, and Tibet; but the reviewer complains that Pakistan was left out. -- The reviewer was fascinated with Shamsul A B & Sity Daud's idea of examining the competing nations-of-intent in Malaysia; but complains that there is no comprehensive sense of the 'contending discourse' between the indigenous bumiputra defined Bangsa Malaysia and the preference of the non-bumiputra for a pluralized nation, nor how such ethno-nationalism may strengthen, weaken, or disable a Malaysian Malaysia? but the reviewer ventures no remedy.] 503-505.

>Contemporary Southeast Asia

V.30,n.2 Aug 2008 -- (From the Abstracts) 1) Kulk Cheng-Chwhee, "The essence of hedging: Malaysia and Singapore's response to a rising China" [Recent international relations scholarships and policy publications have used the term 'hedging' as an alternative to 'balancing' and 'bandwagoning' in describing small states' strategies toward a rising power. -- In the case of smaller SE Asian countries' vis-a-vis an emerging China, they are not pursuing balancing or bandwagoning in the strict sense; they are in fact adopting a 'middle' position that is best described as 'hedging' -- Article assesses this assertion] pp 159-185; 2) Mark Askew, "Thailand's intractable southern war: policy, insurgency and discourse" [Offers a critical review of policy, key events and discourses surrounding the crisis in the south from the coup of September 2006 to the first months of policy, key events and discourses surrounding the crisis in Thailand. -- The reviewer was fascinated with Samsul A B & Sity Daud's idea of examining the competing nations-of-intent in Malaysia; but complains that there is no comprehensive sense of the 'contending discourse' between the indigenous bumiputra defined Bangsa Malaysia and the preference of the non-bumiputra for a pluralized nation, nor how such ethno-nationalism may strengthen, weaken, or disable a Malaysian Malaysia? but the reviewer ventures no remedy.] pp 503-505.

Asian procedures acquired through ASEAN determine their processes. -- The 'ASEAN Way' emphasizes consensus, non-interference in members' internal affairs and voluntary enforcement of regional decisions have characterized these bodies, insuring that they reinforce sovereignty protection. -- But in the 1990s, ASEAN expanded, taking in Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia, whose harsh domestic politics seemed to be undermining its international stature. -- Dialogues as venues for national leaders to discuss these pressing issues on the sidelines of various subgroups within (ASEAN) pp 264-92; 6) Malcolm Cook, "The United States and the East Asia Summit: finding the proper home" [The East Asia Summit is the summit of the leaders—led regional organization in the Asia Pacific. -- The biggest challenges are convincing the USA to sign the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation, and overcoming the concerns of the other regional bodies about an enhanced East Asia Summit] pp 293-312; 7) Alan Collins, "A people-oriented ASEAN: a door ajar or closed for civil society organizations?" [The prospect that ASEAN is moving away from being state-centric and elite-driven to one that is 'people-empowering' has brought ASEAN onto the radar screens of civil society organizations (CSOs). -- Despite this the ASEAN Charter has not been well received by CSOs (which may aim to adopt an alternative: an ASEAN Peoples' Charter] pp 313-318; 8) Johan Saravanamuttu, review of Chandran Jeshurun, 2007, Malaysia: fifty years of diplomacy, 458 pp. Kuala Lumpur: The Other Press [Six chapters: i) the Merdeka years, 1957-1962; ii) formations of Malaysia and immediate aftermath, 1963-71; iii) foreign policy under PMs Abdul Razak & Hussein Onn, 1971-1981; iv) 2 periods under Mahathir Mohamad, 1981-89 & 1990-99; vi) Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, 1999-2007 -- Author "...grapples with the broader problem of historiography, offering his own perspective on the subject" "...sharp commentaries and academic analysis, written in a highly readable style sans jargon" -- But also some critical critique] pp 335-337; 9) Dzirhan Mahadzir, review of Mark Beeson & Alex J. Bellamy, 2008, Securing Southeast Asia: the politics of security sector reform, 218 pp. Oxford: Routledge ["...a book that stands out not only as an excellent work of diplomatic history but one that will engage scholars, diplomats, politicians and the general public for many years to come. However, it is disappointing that a depiction of the evolution of Malaysian diplomacy and foreign policy came only in a postscript with few theoretical insights on the subject.] pp 338-339.

>Crossroads: an interdisciplinary journal of Southeast Asian studies

V.17,n.2 2006 -- 1) Loh Kah Seng, "New winds in economic history: a look at writings on the Great Depression in Southeast Asia" [From the Abstract -- Examines the relationship between history writing and historical context, showing how the issue of colonial rule underscored the work of D G E Hall and Wm F. Wetheim in the 1950s, and also argues, however, that the revisionist scholarship is itself a child of its times, an offshoot of post-Cold War Europe's initiative to engage Southeast Asia and draw lessons from its economic history -- Some Malaya and Singapore content] pp 66-92; 2) Seng Guan Yetoh, "House, kampong and taman: spatial hegemony and the politics of space in urban Malaysia" [From the Abstract -- "Everyday repression" and its correlate, "everyday resistance," offer many researchers a useful analytical lens for examining asymmetrical power relationships and the life worlds of...
subalterns – Notes James Scott’s ‘hidden transcripts’ and ‘public transcripts’ – Uses these concepts in exploring and comparing the ethnographic contexts of a squatter kampong and a neighboring modern housing estate] pp 128-158;  
>Far Eastern economic review Sep 2008 – 1) Venze Chern & Tan Boon Tee, “Letters: what ‘people’s victory’?” [Anwar Ibrahim’s victory was expected, a foregone conclusion, because Permatang Pauh has been the stronghold of Anwar's family since the 1960s... first his father, then Anwar, his wife and now back to him... Would you call that the victory of the people... And jumping parties or crossing over is nothing new in Sabah politics --> And more] p 5; 2) Colum Murphy, "Politics: Anwar liberates Malaysian politics" [Whether Anwar Ibrahim becomes Malaysia’s next PM or not, Malaysians are already seeing the benefits of political competition as entrenched parties are forced to rethink policies --> ‘Not so fast' ...another sodomy charge again and the proceeding begins this month and if found guilty he could lose his seat in parliament and be banned from politics --> Consolidate first' ... gathering political friends: members of his PKR, PAS and the Chinese Democratic Action Party --> ‘Next stop Borneo' ... the politically marginalized East Malaysians as partners? --> ‘BN fights back' ... reminding outlying states that the peninsula is the boss --> ‘Listen to the Rakyat'. Anwar quick to declare a ‘People's Victory’] pp 6-10; 3) Hugo Restall, "Pressure builds on Singapore’s system" [Singapore’s top-down economic model is running up against the limits of its capacity to drive growth --> The city state is running low on its main resource, people --> How the PAP’s authoritarian model is coming unraveled because of rising inequality and a more educated population] pp 19-22; 4) Paul Mozur, “Jaunt through Asia” [A free-lance writer visits a Malay family in conservative Kelantan and finds a Muslim community keen to open up to the outside world state --> Increasingly, PAS leaders admit to the limitedness of their appeal and vow to back more universal values, such as anticorrution] pp 77-79.  
>Indonesia and the Malay World V.36,issue104 Mar 2008 – 1) Vladimir Braginsky & Anna Suvorova, “A new wave of Indian inspiration: translations from Urdu in Malay traditional literature and theatre” [Abstract from www.informaworld.com --> In the late 19th century the Malay world experienced a new stimuli from Islamic India, bringing to life a half dozen literary works, translations/adaptations from Urdu, and also enriched historic culture of the region, especially thru creation of the Wayang Bangsawan theater – The Indo-Malay, Jawi Peranakan were cultural brokers in this process & Indian Parsi theater was its medium --> The article reveals the paradoxical nature of the new wave of Indian inspiration, which contributed a great number of innovations to Malay culture, stimulating its modernization; and which also, together with burgeoning number of lithographs, marked the beginning of a new (if final) era of flowering of traditional Malay literature --> And more] pp 115-153.  
>International journal of public administration V.31,n.7 Jun 2008 – 1) Noore Alam Siddiquee, “E-government and innovations in service delivery: the Malaysian experience” [From the www.informaworld.com abstract -- The Malaysian government has begun a massive e-government program to introduce in service delivery and enhance quality and performance of public services --> Starting with establishment of the Multimedia Super Corridor in 1996, initiatives have already resulted in significant progress ICT application in the public sector at every level --> e-government schemes currently underway try to make services accessible to the public at all times, without constraint by agency working hours and distance --> Article focuses on Malaysia’s experience with e-government and innovations in service delivery, examining and analyzing the e-government experiments, commenting on their impacts on governance and service provision --> Shows that although e-government initiatives have generally favorable impacts on delivery of public services; but their overall impact has remained limited due to a plethora of constraints and the slow pace of their implementation] pp 797-815.  
>Journal of the Asia Pacific economy V.12,n.4 Nov 2007 – 1) Souphala Chomsisengphet & Magda Kandil, “Towards understanding the Asian Crisis and its aftermath” [From abstract at the www.informaworld.com – During The 1997 Asian economic crisis severe exchange rate depreciation led to a widespread economic recession – The severe exchange rate depreciation may have harmed the supply side of these economies such that production was contracted – Many argue that the initial tightened domestic policies aimed at countering these shocks and restoring economic growth may have further exacerbated the initial crisis by contracting the domestic sector – This paper analyzes the impact of anticipated and unanticipated changes in the real exchange rate, fiscal spending, the money supply, and energy prices on output and price in Malaysia, Korea, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand -- So that anticipated real depreciations during the crisis may have adversely affected the supply side, shrinking output growth while accelerating price inflation --> And more] pp 452-484.  
>V.13,n.1 Feb 2008 – 1) Xiaoming Huang, “Institutional competitiveness and institutional aging: the dynamism of East Asian growth” [From abstract at the www.informaworld.com – Investigates the international dynamism of rapid economic growth in East Asia: Singapore, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and China -- Finds that underlying East Asian growth is the competitiveness of the institutional setting that makes up for the insufficiency in normal conditions for economic growth in these countries -- The institutional setting that generates such competitiveness has a logic of its own, which affects the formation and change of the setting, and determines under what conditions and to what extent such an institutional setting is effective in each of these countries -- Highlights the systematic and dynamic nature of East Asian growth] pp 3-25.  
>Kekal Abadi: University of Malaya Library Bulletin V.25,n.1/2 2006 – 1) Nor Shahrida Abdul Karim, “Reading habits and attitude in Malaysia: analysis of gender and academic programme differences” [From the Abstract – An attempt to understand the reading habits and attitudes of the Bachelor of IT students and the Bachelor of Art students from the International Islamic University Malaysia -- Based on the sample of 127 students, there were significant differences in terms of types of reading materials and resources used --> Difference in reading habits were also observed between male and female participants --> The results are expected to guide library and information services to be more effective for students and researchers] pp 16-24.
"For sure, Abdullah's political survival will hinge on how well his ministers are received and how well they perform" [pp 10-14]; 4) James S, "Riding out the political changes" [The recent shock election results have given rise to concerns on how the business landscape will change in the country, especially for sectors such as gaming and brewery -- However, amidst all the speculation, numbers forecast operator Berjaya Sports Toto is seen as most likely to emerge unscathed -- Examples of Sections/charts: 'It was a day to be reckoned'; 'Islamic fears in northern states'; 'Gaming to survive fallout'; and more] pp 15-17.

April 16th-30th 2008 -- 1) Kadir Jasin, "A cautionary tale of two coalitions" [While members of the ruling coalition, especially Umno, are busy indulging in mudslinging, finger-pointing and the like, the Opposition has come up with a new grouping -- If proving to be viable, it will pose a far more serious threat to the Barisan Nasional, not only as far as the next general election, but even in the near term -- Meanwhile, we all watch and worry relentlessly -- If Anwar is successful in persuading BN parliamentarians to cross over to Pakatan Rakyat, a possibility that cannot be dismissed, no matter how remote, the unthinkable may happen ... Pakatan Rakyat may replace the BN sooner than expected] pp 6-8; 2) Charles Raj, "When promises are broken" [ Barely a month into his new role, Health Minister Datuk Liow Lai Hui has hands full trying to cope with a slew of issues, some longstanding as far back as 20 years... will he succeed where others have failed -- For more than 20 years, several health ministers, mostly from the MCA, failed to get it off the ground -- Too many issues not addressed by his many predecessors] p 9; 3) S C Chan, "Missed opportunities" [The common perception is that Sarawak missed a golden opportunity to raise many longstanding issues with the Federal Government when the PM visited the state recently, especially since it delivered one of the biggest mandates for the ruling coalition in the recent general election... the reasons remain a mystery] pp 12-13 & 17.


Table! Oct 10th 2008 -- 1) On Friday, October 3, Singapore Press Holdings announced that it will launch an English weekly paper titled Tabla! for the Indian population in Singapore, and will be distributed for free beginning October 10 -- It will focus on news in India but will also provide information on developments in Singapore that affect the Indian community -- The editor, Rajendran Jawharil, says the paper will "cater to the diverse interests of the Indian diaspora from current affairs to entertainment news, personal finance to sports" -- Although distributed free, it will be available for home delivery for S$28 -- Thanks to Elliott Parker elliott.s.parker@cmich.edu.

The Economist Jul 19th-25th 2008 -- 1) "Singapore: raising the bar" [A rare slip-up in court by Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew -- The elder statesman, a British-trained lawyer, gave inaccurate testimony in the trial of 2 opposition leaders: Chee Soon Juan, leader of...
the Singapore Democratic Party (an opposition party) and his sister, Chee Siok Chin, who were charged with 'defaming former PM Lee Kuan Yew and his son, PM Lee Hsien Loong -- The senior Mr Lee claimed that after the International Bar Association (IBA) held its annual conference in Singapore last October, its president sent a letter to the Law Society of Singapore praising the country's system of justice (but there was no such laudatory letter) -- Mr Lee's lawyer wrote to the court admitting that his client was wrong about the letter -- At the same time, July 9th, the IBA's Human Rights Institute issued a report criticizing the use of defamation suits by the PAP to silence the opposition and the press, and expressed doubts about the independence and impartiality of Singapore's judges] pp 52 & 54; 2) "Malaysia: the trials of Anwar: the opposition leader and another critic arrested" [The new case against Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's main opposition leader, is much like that in 1998: He is a political threat to the sitting PM, and is accused of sodomy -- He spent 15 years in jail, but was freed in 2004 after the appeal court overturns his conviction; but this time, after taking brief refuge in the Turkey Embassy, no charges have yet been filed -- And he claims that he may receive enough votes to achieve a majority in Parliament -- The day after Anwar's arrest, Raja Petra Kamarudin, an anti-government blogger, was charged with criminal defamation of the Deputy PM Najib Razak, a member of one of the Malaysian royal families] p 54. **Jul26th-Aug1st 2008 -- 1) "Islam and apostasy: in death's shadow" [With some exceptions, an increasingly hard line across the Muslim world -- Egypt's Grand Mufti, Ali Gomaa ponders 'Can a person who is Muslim choose a religion other than Islam?' and should that person, an apostate, suffer death as a punishment? His answers are 'yes' and 'no'; But he says that the scriptures say that leaving Islam is a sin and the sinner will pay a price in the hereafter -- The article describes the different approaches in different Islamic populations... "In Malaysia, people who try to desert Islam can face compulsory 're-education'". In Afghanistan, apostates are put to death; Italy, many Muslims have converted to Christianity; And in Great Britain a young imam has made a case for the right to change religions, only to be denounced even by Western Muslims -- And more] p 30 & 32. 2) "ASEAN and the temple of doom" [Modest progress on Myanmar is overshadowed by the threat of war between Thailand and Cambodia, political crises in Malaysia and Thailand, and Singapore dropped the annual ASEAN 'cabaret'] pp 478-48. **Aug2nd-9th 2008 -- 1) "A special report on the sports business: local heroes" [Would-be globalizers a success story to ponder: F1 motor racing, which has been stretching from its old haunts in western Europe, the Americas and Japan toward the Middle East and Asia; A Malaysian Grand Prix added in 1999 and the first Singapore GP in September 2008] p 11 of a special section between regular p 50 & 51. **Aug9th-15th 2008 -- 1) "The Philippines: peace in our time, maybe" [On August 5th the Philippines' government was set to sign a peace agreement with the largest separatist group on Mindanao... a deal brokered by Malaysia since 2001; but the day before signing, as both sides' representatives and foreign observers gathered in KL, the Philippine Supreme Court halted it with a restraining order... Catholics from Mindanao had petitioned the court and staged street protests, because they had not been consulted] p 41; **Aug 30th-Sep5th 2008 -- 1) "Malaysia: sodomy and the backlash" [A sweeping by-election victory takes Anwar Ibrahim, the opposition leader, a step closer to power -- The government seems blind to the danger signals -- After a mudslinging campaign, a by-election on August 26th in the northern constituency of Permatang Pauh may have changed Malaysia's political landscape; or simply a seat in parliament and leadership of a minority party -- Bridget Welsh is prominently quoted in the Economist as saying that the government is 'in denial' about the message the voters are sending by his election, and that Mr Najib (the heir apparent as Umno leader) is not necessarily popular enough, outside of Umno, to become PM] pp 39-40. **Sep 6th-12th 2008 -- 1) "Briefing Islamic finance: saving and souls" [Muslims have a lot of money to invest -- But it is a constant struggle to reconcile faith and finance -- A short introduction to faith-based finance and the whys and wherefores of Islamic finance -- A chart, 'League of nations: sharia-compliant assets, 2007' (Iran, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Brunei, Bahrain, Pakistan, Lebanon, Britain -- ranked from Iran to Britain by most assets -- Only Iran and Saudi Arabia have more than Malaysia)] pp 81-83. **Sep20th-26th 2008 -- 1) "The world this week: politics" [Anwar Ibrahim, leader of Malaysia's opposition, claimed that enough ruling coalition parliamentarians were ready to switch sides to enable him to form a government, but didn't name them, and PM Abdullah Badawi ridiculed the claim] p 13; 2) "Malaysian politics: bluff and counter-bluff; Or, playing poker for the right to form a government" [Opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim, since his alliance's strong showing in the March election, said that by Malaysia Day (16 September) he would convince more that 30 parliamentarians from the governing coalition to switch sides, thereby allowing him to become head of a ruling majority -- The day arrived and PM Abdulah Badawi and his deputy, Najib Razak, ridiculed Anwar's threat as a 'mirage' and 'deception' -- Anwar demanded a meeting with Abdullah to discuss a smooth handover, but did not name the 'defectors' and Abdullah seems unlikely to meet with Anwar -- 6 days before Malaysia Day, UMNO sent dozens of its MPs on a 'study tour' of Taiwan... possibly a ploy to keep them away from Anwar -- Also, on 12 Sept three thorns in the government's side were arrested under Malaysia's Internal Security Act: including a) a pro-opposition blogger who had made sensational allegations against Najib; b) an ethnic-Chinese opposition MP whose offense had been to ask her local mosque to turn down its loudspeakers (which she denied); and c) a journalist, released after 18 hours, who accurately reported racist comments (calling the Chinese minority 'squatters') by a minor UMNO official, who was not arrested but was suspended from party membership -- Dr Mahathir, who has become a bitter critic of his successor a PM and had recently quit UMNO in a sulk -- And more] pp 60&62. **Oct4th-10th 2008 -- 1) "The world this week" [Malaysia's main ruling party, UMNO, postponed until March its internal leadership election, the winner of which becomes prime minister -- This is seen as enabling a smoother handover of power from the prime minister, Abdullah Badawi, to his deputy, Najib Razak] p 7. >>"The Pacific review V.21.n.3 Jul 2008 -- 1) Maria-Gabriela Manea, "Human rights and the interregional dialogue between
Asia and Europe: ASEAN-EU relations and ASEM* [From the Abstract -- Since the early 1990s, human rights has been a contentious issue for relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the European Union, especially in the Asia-Europe Meetings; But it has had a significant impact on regional dynamics through stimulating the process of regional identity formation -- Not much specific about particular nations such as Malaysia and Singapore]. pp 369-396.

*The Straits Times 18 Oct 2008 -- 1) (From Margaret John) “No right to lie” [Singapore government responds to call by USA advocacy group to desist from ‘using defamation suits to stifle political opposition’ -- The government yesterday gave its position in response to a statement by a New York-based advocacy group, Human Rights Watch (HRW), which called on Singapore’s leaders to ‘end the practice of using defamation suits to stifle political opposition’ -- In comments posted on its website yesterday, HWR highlighted a Singapore High Court ruling this week regarding a six-figure sum against secretary-general Chee Soon Juan and his sister, Chee Sook Chin, of the Singapore Democratic Party (SDP), for defamation – A spokesperson of the Ministry of Information, Communications and Arts, Ms K Bhavani, noted that in Singapore, opposition politicians have the right to criticize the Government and government leaders, but ‘that does not entitle them to tell lies or defame’… ‘if they do, the leaders must either sue to clear their names and be cross-examined in open court, or allow the lies to stand unchallenged and the public to believe that the defamation are true’ – Ms Bhavani noted that the Chees and their political party (SDP) had accused PM Lee and MM Lee of dishonesty, nepotism and corruption, among other things -- Other leading members of the SDP party accused had apologized to avoid bankruptcy; nor did they go to court to prove allegations; these other leaders of the party settled by apologizing and paying $170,000 to the Lees; Leaving the defendants to stand unchallenged and the public to believe that the defamation are true – Ms Bhavani noted that the Chees and their political party (SDP) had accused PM Lee and MM Lee of dishonesty, nepotism and corruption, among other things -- And drug traffickers are still hanged.]

**Third World quarterly** V.29.n.6 2008 -- 1) Robbert Maseland & Jan Peil, “Assessing the new Washington pluralism from the perspective of the Malaysian model” [From the Abstract -- Discusses the post-Washington consensus development paradigm, questioning whether the changes it embodies are sufficient to open up the development debate -- Shows that the new paradigm harbors 3 pluralist principles: i) development is contingent on culture; ii) contingent on history; and iii) multidisciplinary perspective -- Assesses these 3 principles on the basis of an analogy with the Malaysian Model, which embodies the same 3 principles -- Shows that in Malaysia the first 2 evolved into cultural determinism and historicism, while the 3rd created a discourse in which institutions, politics and culture were reduced to instruments for development -- Consequently, proliferation of the idea of a Malaysian Model has been associated with increasing authoritarianism in Malaysia rather than with increased openness -- Concludes that the three pluralist principles are not sufficient to create an open development debate] pp 1175-1188; 2) Alexius A Pereira, “Whither the development state? Explaining Singapore’s continued developmentalism” [From the Abstract -- Examines why the Singapore developmental state, unlike other East Asian developmental states, has shown no signs of devolving but instead appears to be strengthening its position within society by embracing upon several ‘post-industrial’ economic programs -- Using a class relations perspective, argues that the resilience of Singapore class relations perspective, and the resilience of the Singapore developmental state results from the continued weakness of the domestic capitalist class as well as from the state’s collaboration with transnational capital and government-linked corporations; and at the same time the working class has continuously been ‘incorporated’ by the state -- Provides examples] pp 1189-1203.

**Time** Sep 8th 2008 -- 1) “The world: Malaysia; Anwar resurgent” [Opposition leader, Anwar Ibrahim won a seat in Parliament on August 26, 2008 by a landslide, cementing his political comeback after spending 6 years in jail on a sodomy conviction that was later overturned -- The former Deputy PM aims to form a new ruling coalition, but faces further sodomy charges, which he says were concocted by the government]. p 14.

**BOOKS**


> Appleton, Ann L –2004—Acts of integration: expressions of faith... madness, death and ritual in Melanau ontology, Borneo Research Council, Monograph Series, Number 9 (www.borneoresearchcouncil.org). Pb ISBN: 1-929900-06-6 [Based on doctoral research in Mukah (fishing village, market town & administrative center), the heartland of the Melanau region of Sarawak – A significant ethnographic contribution to psychiatric anthropology and to the current debate within medical anthropology on the relationship between suffering, illness, healing and culture; and also a signal contribution to Melanau ethnography.]

> Baer, A –2005— Genes, people, and Borneo history: a review, Borneo Research Council, Occasional Paper 2. Pb ISBN 1-929900-07-4 [Human genes have been understudied in Borneo mostly because it has few research institutions, which is related to the fact that Borneo is thinly populated and until
recently had few urban places – Sections of the text:
a) (human) Genes in genes in Borneo; b) Gene frequencies in populations; c) A note on genealogies; d) Hemoglobin defects & ovalocytosis; e) A miscellany of proteins; f) Molecular genetics; g) An interlude on marriage patterns; h) Genes and culture group selection; i) Genes, culture and units of transmission; j) Genes, language... the large picture; k) Genes, languages, continuity and change; l) Genes and history; m) Culture, genes & language; n) Acknowledgements.


>Beeson, Mark & Alex Bellamy –2007. –Securing Southeast Asia: the politics of security sector reform (Security in Asia Pacific series), 224 pp. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group. Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-41619-1 [From the catalog – Applies the security reform agenda to Southeast Asia – Investigates recent developments in civil–military relations in the region, inspecting particularly the impact and utility of the agenda on the region, assessing its utility for making the region more stable and less prone to military interventions – Chapters: 1) Security sector reform in a SEA context; 2) Civil–military relations and institutional change; 3) The historical origins of SEA security; 4) Malaysia constitutional security sector corrupted; 5) Other chs on a) Thailand; b) Indonesia; c) and the Philippines.]

>Cheong, Tan Tuck & Wong Hock Tsen –2008. –Malaysia’s international trade issue: an impressionistic view, 126 pp. Pelanduk. Pb ISBN 9679789381 [From www.pelanduk.com – Recommended reading for university students and professional researchers to understand the issues of international trade in Malaysia – An in-depth review on possible issues with empirical findings presented in graphs and tables for comprehension of the unique Malaysian situation that provides a direction for research on such subjects as economic integration, trade flows, exports-led growth thesis, sustainability of Malaysia’s external imbalances, J-curve phenomenon, balancing items of balance of payments accounts and intra-trade.]


>Garb, Louis & John Wood (eds) –2009. –International succession, 800 pp. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 13-978-0-199-55027-1 [There are people connected with one country, but live & work in another, who frequently own property & investments in several countries, raising international aspects in increasing numbers of estates, such as ownership, taxes, and succession – This volume equips practitioners with information necessary to navigate problems involving the different systems of more than 50 countries, including separate reports for Malaysia and Singapore.]


>İbrahim, Zawawi (ed) – 2008 — *Representation, identity and multiculturalism in Sarawak*, 311 pp. Dayak Cultural Foundation & PSSM [From the website: rird@streamyx.com — Scholars have examined Brooke's colonial policies on ethnicity, political party formation, state-federal relations, nationalism and ethnicity in the post-independence period, inter-ethnic relations, encounters between minorities, the state in the context of development, and socio-economic change — But Prof. Zawawi’s book demonstrates that there is still much to do, such as more studies of Bidayuhs and Malays, more about ethnic relations in urban settings, the politics of identity in relation to tourism development, and much more.]

>Ingold, Tim & Jo Lee Vergunst (eds) — 2008 — *Ways of walking: ethnography and practice on foot*, 218 pp. Ashgate (Anthropological studies of creativity and perception series). Hb ISBN: 978-0-7546-7374-3 [An original collection of ethnographic work that is coherent in design and imaginative in scope — Presents studies of walking in a range of regional and cultural contexts, exploring the diversity of walking behaviors and the variety of meanings these can embody — See especially, Lye Tuck-Po, “Before a step too far: walking with Batek hunter-gatherers in the forests of Pahang, Malaysia”.]

>Jimenez, Alberto Corsin (ed) — 2007 — *The anthropology of organizations*, 600 pp. Ashgate Series: The international library of essays in anthropology [From the website, www.ashgate.com — Offers a critical overview of the work of anthropologists, over 60 years, in or out of organizations: work that has contributed to social theory at large — Brings together a large selection of classic and contemporary articles that cast new light on the relevance of ethnography for organizational and social theory — See especially, (a) Alhwa Ong, “The culture of production of possession spirits and the multinational corporation in Malaysia” … and there are many more example cases.]

>Lee, Terence — 2008 — *The media, cultural control and government in Singapore*, 224 pp. Routledge Taylor & Francis Group (Media, culture & social change in Asia series). Hb ISBN: 978-0-415-41330-5 [Explores the inherent contradiction present in most facets of Singaporean media, cultural & political discourses, identifying the key regulatory strategies and technologies that the ruling PAP employs to regulate Singaporean media and culture.]

>Lindquist, Johan A — 2008 — *The anxieties of mobility: migration and tourism in the Indonesian borderslands*, 216 pp. Honolulu: U. of Hawai’i Press. Pb ISBN: 978-0-8248-3315-2 [From the website — Since the late 1960s the Indonesian island of Batam has changed from fishing village to booming frontier with foreign (mostly Singapore) investment, with inexpensive land and labor (female migrants as factory workers and prostitutes) … the customers are working class workers or tourists from Singapore — Indonesians also cross the border in search of work in Singapore & Malaysia — Very positive but different reviews by Alhwa Ong, Tom Boellstorff, and both differ with Johan A Lindquist.]

>Lockard, Craig — 2009 — *Southeast Asia in world history* (New Oxford World History series), 208 pp. Oxford University Press. Pb ISBN: 13-978-0-195-33811-9 [From the website — Survey of the history of Southeast Asia from ancient to present, centered on its distinctive societies and the region’s role in world history at the crossroads of Asia — Explores how Southeast Asians combined local and imported ideas to form unique cultures such as Malay sailing craft, Javanese gamelan music, batik cloth, Burmese and Cambodian architecture, and social structures in which women often play unusually influential roles — Colonial regimes and afterwards into modern economies.]

>Manika, Rani — 2004 — *The rice mother*, 448 pp. Penguin Group USA. Pb ISBN: 9780142004548 [From the catalog & the website — Lakshm, age 14, leaves behind her childhood in Ceylon for marriage in Malaysia, and soon struggles to raise a family in a country that is unyielding, amazing, brutal and beautiful; giving birth to a child every year until she is 19; becomes a formidable matriarch, trying to secure a better life for her daughters and sons, during the Japanese occupation — Her story told by the men and women of her family.]

>McCargo, Duncan — 2008 — *Tearing apart the land: Islam and legitimacy in Southern Thailand*, 254 pp. Ithica: Cornell University Press. Pb ISBN: 978-0-8014-7499-6 [From the website — Locates the roots of the conflict in the context of troubled power relations between Bangkok and Muslim-majority ‘deep South’ — Describes how Bangkok tried to ‘establish legitimacy by co-opting local religious and political elites, and says that it was successful until Taksin became PM in 2001 and tried to reorganize in the region and was overthrown in a military coup in 2006 — And the southern militant movement surged again — A very positive review by Michael G. Peletz, Emory University.]


>Oii, Vincent B Y — 2009 — *Evolving identities: the English language in Singapore & Malaysia*, 2nd Edition, 250 pp. Marshall Cavendish Academic. ISBN: 9812103155 [From the website — Unlike some other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, Singapore and Malaysia use English extensively and it has the status of ‘second’ or even ‘first’ language — Most citizens of these 2 countries are bilingual or multilingual, (many dialects/languages of Indians and Chinese) — Analyses English as a blend of Asian and Western realities; formal and informal (colloquial) setting; and International (local) and international (external) standards of English — This 2nd edition includes updates to the research data and general information.]

>Peletz, Michael G — 2007 — *Gender, sexuality, and body politics in modern Asia*, 120 pp. Association for Asian Studies. Pb ISBN: 978-0-924304-50-7 [One of AAS’s ‘Key issues in Asian studies’ booklet series, designed for use in undergraduate humanities and social science courses, as well as for advanced high-school students and teachers — Addresses ideologies of female inferiority, practices of gender transgression, and patterns of sexual violence — An unflinching look at the politics of bodies and intimacy over a very large area of the contemporary world — An overview of the multiplicity and flexibility of body notions and practices that characterize different regions of Asia — Includes public health, violence, industrialization,
CONFERENCES, PAPERS, MANUSCRIPTS, POSITIONS, etc

1) The 2009 Association for Asian Studies annual meeting will be held on March 26–29, 2009 in Chicago. 2) Joint Spring Meeting of the Society for Psychological Anthropology and the Society for the Anthropology of Religion, March 27–29, 2009, at Asilomar, CA – Deadline for submitting panel and paper proposals is December 1, 2008 – Details for submissions at APA and SAR websites and/or program chairs Aisha Khan (ak105@nyu.edu) & Rebecca Lester (rilester@wustl.edu).

3) The annual meeting for Economic Anthropology will be held April 2–4, 2009 at the Cotsen Institute of Archaeology, University of California, Los Angeles -- Co-Chairs: Walter E Little *SUNY-Albany* and Patricia A McNany (UNC, Chapel Hill); Host, Charles Stanish (UCLA-Cotsen Institute) -- Call for papers: “Weaving across time and space: the political economy of textiles – Insights into the fabric of social relations, local and global politics, and diverse ideologies through the politics of human societies across cultural divides and over millennia -- Possible topics might include, but not limited to: a) textile production; b) textiles as trade good; c) textiles as symbols; d) textiles in touristic process; and e) textiles within transnational process – Posters welcome: archaeologists, cultural anthropologists, economists, historians, geographers and other social scientists concerned with economy-textile linkages – Send an abstract for a paper or poster of 400-600 words to Walter Little at wiltte@albany.edu or to Department of Anthropology, AS 245, University at Albany SUNY, 1400 Washington Ave, Albany, NY 12222 by December 1, 2008.

4) UC Berkeley invites applications for the 2009-2010 S V Ceriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowships in Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy -- 2 types: a) 1 year postdoctoral award w/ salary of $54,192, renewable for a 2nd year; or b) 1 year award w/ salary of $54,192 to support a professional or sabbatical leave from an academic or professional position, without option to renew – Both types of fellowships include $2,000 toward research-related expenses and one-way economy airfare to Berkeley for each fellow and his/her immediate family – Applications must be received by Monday, December 8th, 2008. 5) Call for papers: globalization and human rights in the Developing World – What globalization means for average people is hotly debated: some suggest that it is ushering in cosmopolitan forms of consciousness that will help humanity transcend its tendency toward parochialism and myopicism; or it will foster economic growth, create employment; worsen inequality, degrade environment, create conflicts, or benefit corporations at the expense of the global poor – In celebration of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 Dec 1948) – The major theme: To what extent has globalization hindered or made possible the realization of the objectives stated in 1948? – Focused on Asia, Africa & Latin America – More information at 3 addresses: a) templates bio & proposal http://asia-globalstudies.org/templates; b) it is important that both biography and proposal be submitted as e-mail attachments to conferenceproposals@asia-globalstudies.org -- Updates are at aags@asia-globalstudies.org -- Deadline for proposals: 14 Dec 2008.

6) The 2009 CSAS conference will be held 2-5 April, 2009 at the Illini Union on the campus of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – The Department of Anthropology will be the host – Papers from all areas of anthropology, including biological, archaeology, socio-cultural, linguistic, and applied – Deadline for submitting papers, sessions, workshops, and roundtables is 15 December, 2008 – To submit a paper and to register, go to the “Annual Meetings” page of the Central States Anthropological Society website (http://groups.creighton.edu/csas.htm), which will provide all necessary information regarding the conference.

7) The Political Ecology Society (PESO) announces the Eric Wolf Prize for the best article-length paper based on dissertation research – Submissions to be based on substantive field research that make an innovative contribution to political ecology – To be eligible for competition, scholars must be ABD or have received their PhD within the 2 years prior to publication of this announcement – Cash prize of $500 and publication in the Journal of Political Ecology – Preferred format is electronic; but CDs and paper also accepted – Use style provided on the JPE webpage http://ipe.library.arizona.edu and electronic copies to be sent to walsh@anth.ucsb.edu and paper & CD copies to Casey Walsh, Dept of Anthropology, Univ. of California, Santa Barbara, HSSB Room 2001, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3210 – Submission deadline: 15 Dec 2008.

8) UC Berkeley invites applications for 2009-2010 S V Ceriacy-Wantrup Postdoctoral Fellowships in Natural Resource Economics and Political Economy -- 2 types: a) 1 year postdoctoral award w/ salary of $54,192, renewable for a 2nd year; b) 1 year award w/ salary of $54,192 to support a professional or sabbatical leave from an academic or professional position, without option to renew – Both types of fellowships include $2,000 toward research-related expenses and one-way economy airfare to Berkeley for each fellow and his/her immediate family – Applications must be received by Monday, December 8th, 2008. 5) Call for papers: globalization and human rights in the Developing World – What globalization means for average people is hotly debated: some suggest that it is ushering in cosmopolitan forms of consciousness that will help humanity transcend its tendency toward parochialism and myopicism; or it will foster economic growth, create employment; worsen inequality, degrade environment, create conflicts, or benefit corporations at the expense of the global poor – In celebration of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 Dec 1948) – The major theme: To what extent has globalization hindered or made possible the realization of the objectives stated in 1948? – Focused on Asia, Africa & Latin America – More information at 3 addresses: a) templates bio & proposal http://asia-globalstudies.org/templates; b) it is important that both biography and proposal be submitted as e-mail attachments to conferenceproposals@asia-globalstudies.org -- Updates are at aags@asia-globalstudies.org -- Deadline for proposals: 14 Dec 2008.
International Canada, Coordinator for Malaysia & Singapore, malaysiaisingaporecoordinator@amnesty.ca) 1) Anwar Ibrahim, de facto leader of Parti Keadilan Rakyat, has been charged with sodomy, by a former aide – He spent 6 years as a prisoner of conscience after being convicted 10 years ago for sodomy and corruption, charges he denied then and was later exonerated, and he says that the new charges were an attempt to ruin his chances of winning the 28 August 2008 election for a seat in Penang vacated by his wife and which he held previously, and which he has now regained – He says that leadership in the Parliamentary opposition will result in members of the ruling coalition crossing over to him as leader, resulting in defeat of the current PM – And He has led the new coalition to strong gains in a general election this year; 2) 30 Sep 2008 -- Singapore longtime human rights defender, J B Jeyaretnam, has died in Singapore at the age of 82 – Trained as a lawyer, he was appointed a judge, but chose the difficult life of an opposition politician and was the first to break the ruling People’s Action Party’s long monopoly on power when he was elected in 1981 – Amnesty International was active during the years that followed his election and acknowledged that the support of AI members and other human rights activists across the globe enabled him to go on and that, without it, he would find it difficult to continue – Margaret John notes that J B Jeyaretnam was known as “the Lion of Singapore”, and he was a “giant of conscience” – See http://www.thinkcentre.org/article.cfm?ArticleID=2947. 3) Call for nominations: The 2009 Martin Ennals Award for Human Rights Defenders (MEA) -- Deadline is 9th December 2008 -- For the MEA application form and more information on the award: 1) go to www.martinennalsaward.org, ready for electronic submission; or 2) by filling out the form attached and sending it to the MEA Secretariat c/o OMCT, PO Box 21, CH-1211 Geneva 8, Switzerland / fax +41 22 8094925 / e-mail info@martinennalsaward.org -- Award granted annually to two individuals, or exceptionally organizations, in recognition of their commitment and ongoing endeavor in the defense and promotion of human rights – Nominees must be currently involved in work for the promotion and protection of human rights – Special account is taken of those who are at risk and have demonstrated an active record of combating human rights violations by courageous and innovative means.

PROSPECTUS

Berita is a quarterly (beginning with volume 27) bulletin board, forum and publication for all of the scholarly disciplines concerned with Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Studies. It is published and distributed mid-month in February, May, August and November. The editor welcomes news of forthcoming and recent research, publications and professional positions.

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