

Courtauld Connects: Digitisation Project

Fran Allfrey, Volunteer Officer
digitisation.volunteering@courtauld.ac.uk

Volunteering from home:

using Wikipedia to share the collection,
help volunteers develop new digital skills,
and keep our community together.

The Courtauld

**COURTAULD
CONNECTS**



The project

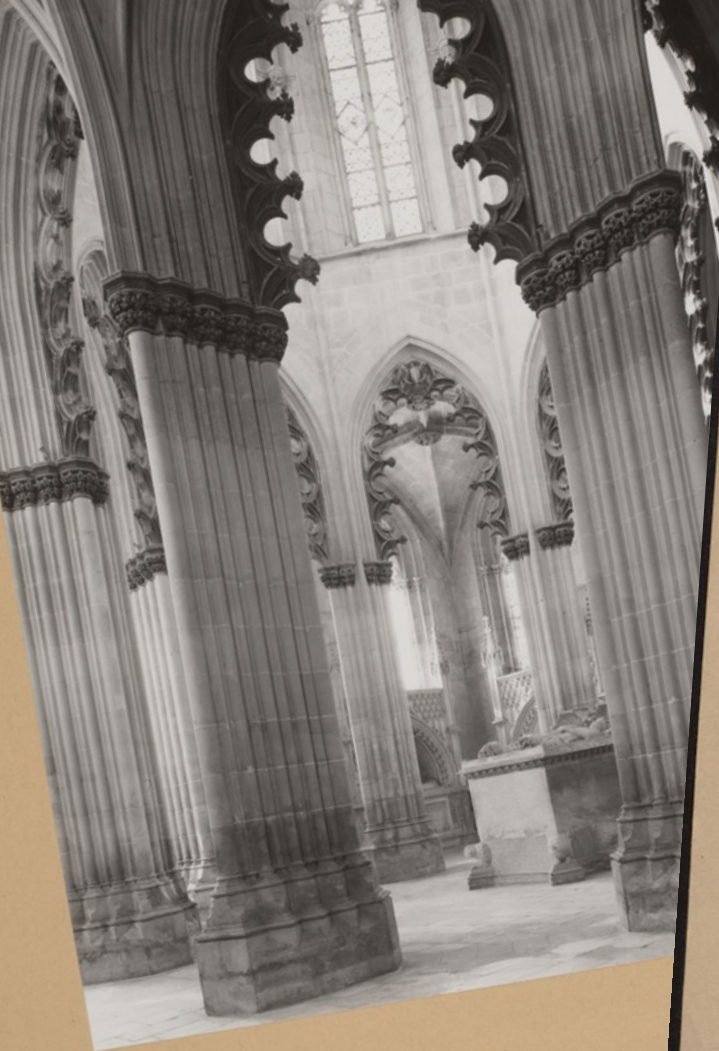
- We are part of a larger project called Courtauld Connects
- Started in 2017
- Due to complete in 2021
- Part funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund
- 1.5 million images
- Over 800 volunteers





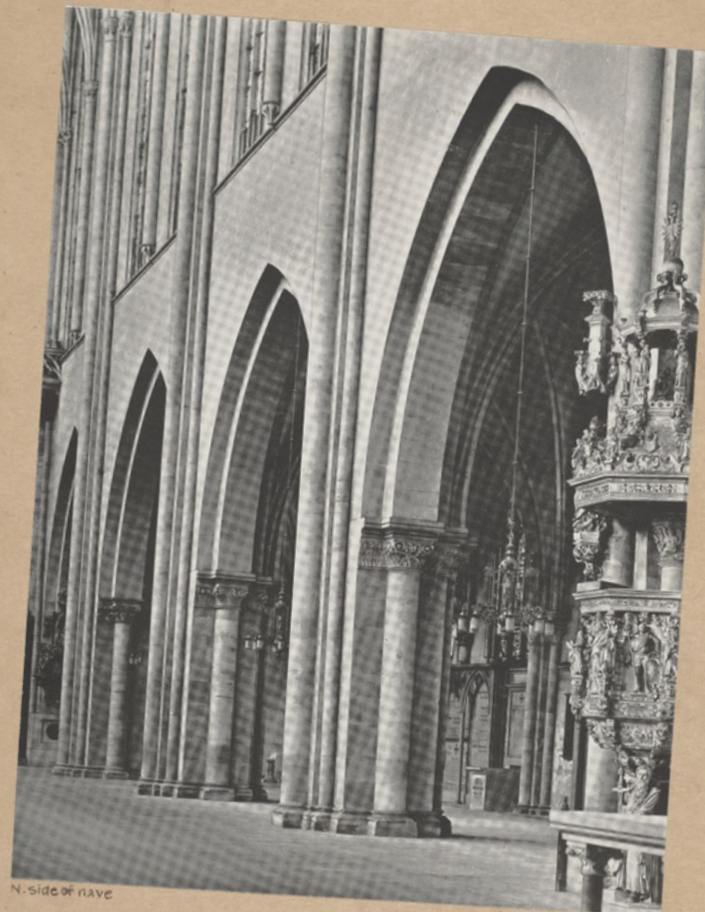
The
team!





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BATALHA (Portugal) Santa Maria da V.



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MAGDEBURG-cathedral

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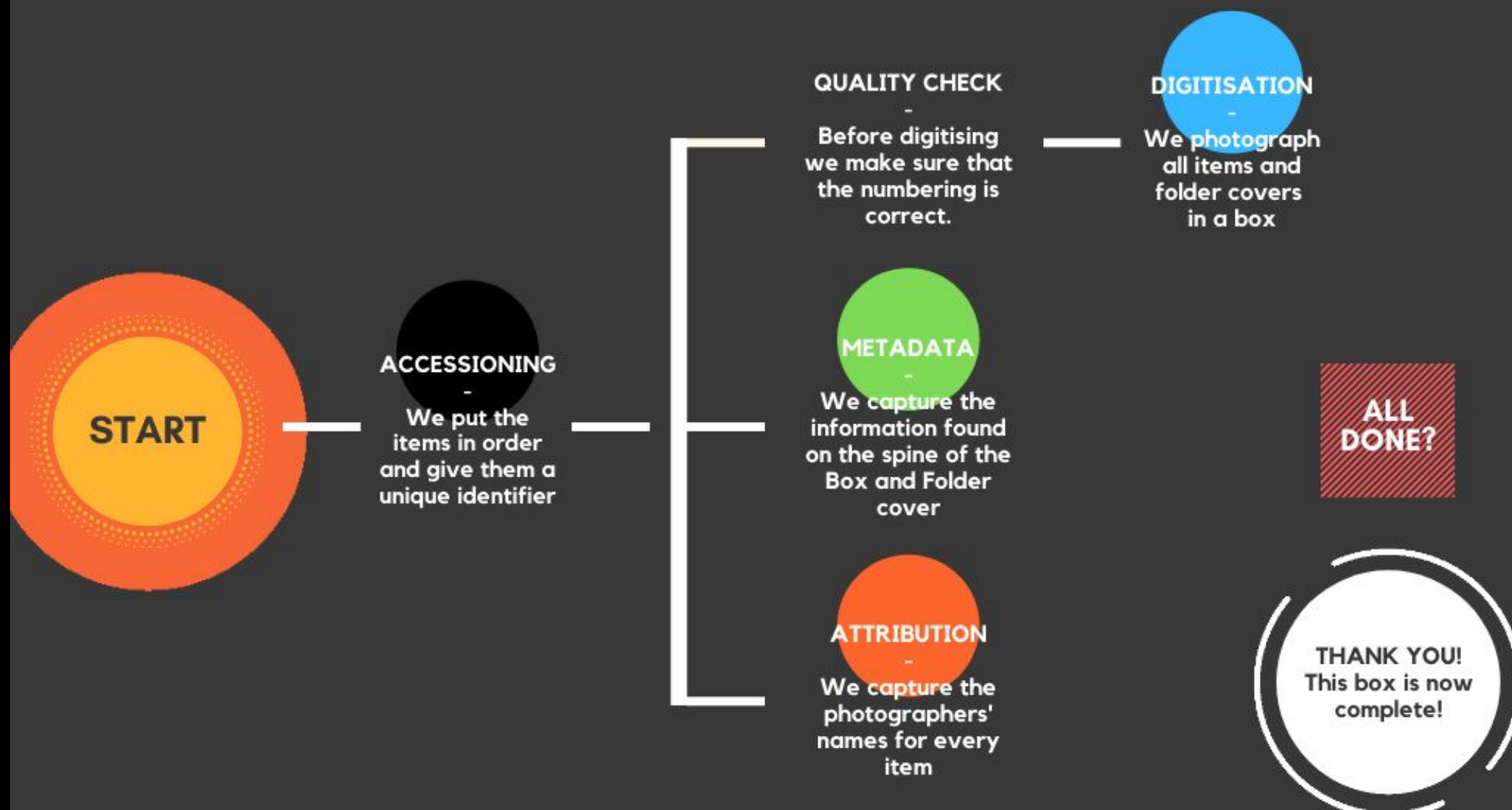


CON-B0126



Digitisation Process

COURTAULD DIGITISATION VOLUNTEERING



Remote activities

Fulfilling digitisation targets

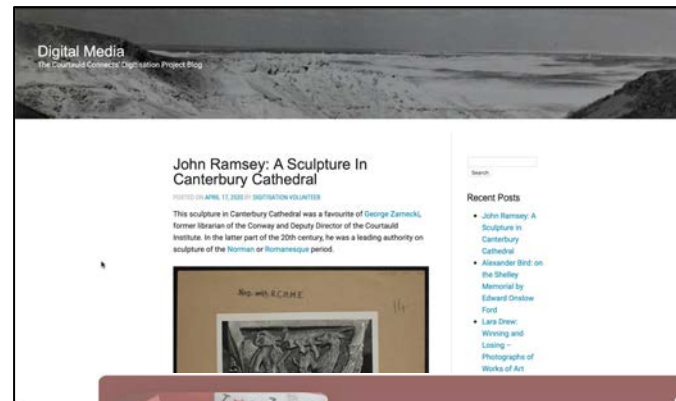
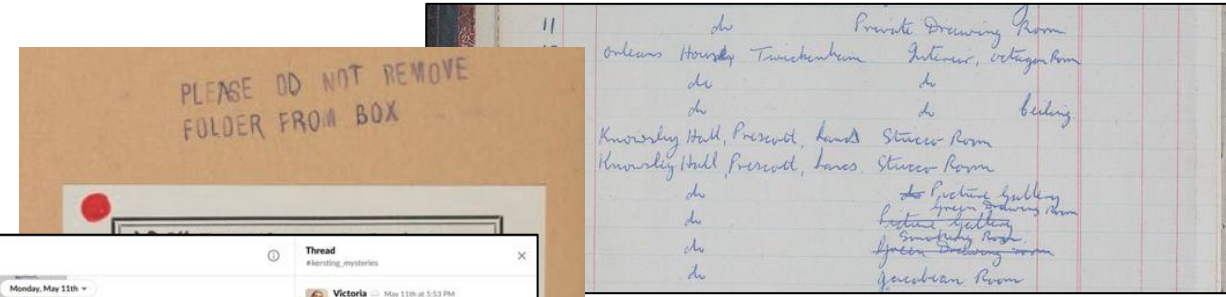
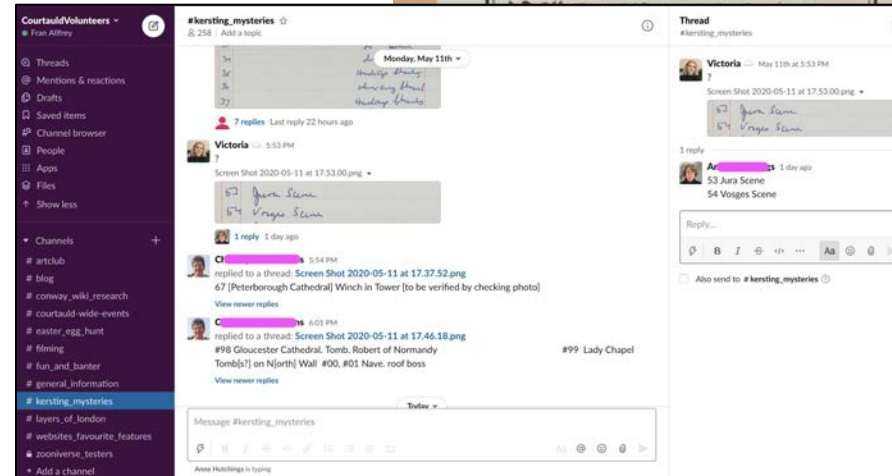
- Metadata from home – sharing photographs of text from ledgers, boxes, or folders for volunteers to transcribe into spreadsheets
- Zooniverse – huge crowdsource transcription project for individual item-level metadata.
- Researching photographers

Fulfilling aims to share the collection

- Blog posts and Audio blogs (podcast!)
- Wikipedia editing
- Layers of London
- Online talks: Being Human Festival

Volunteer community and comms

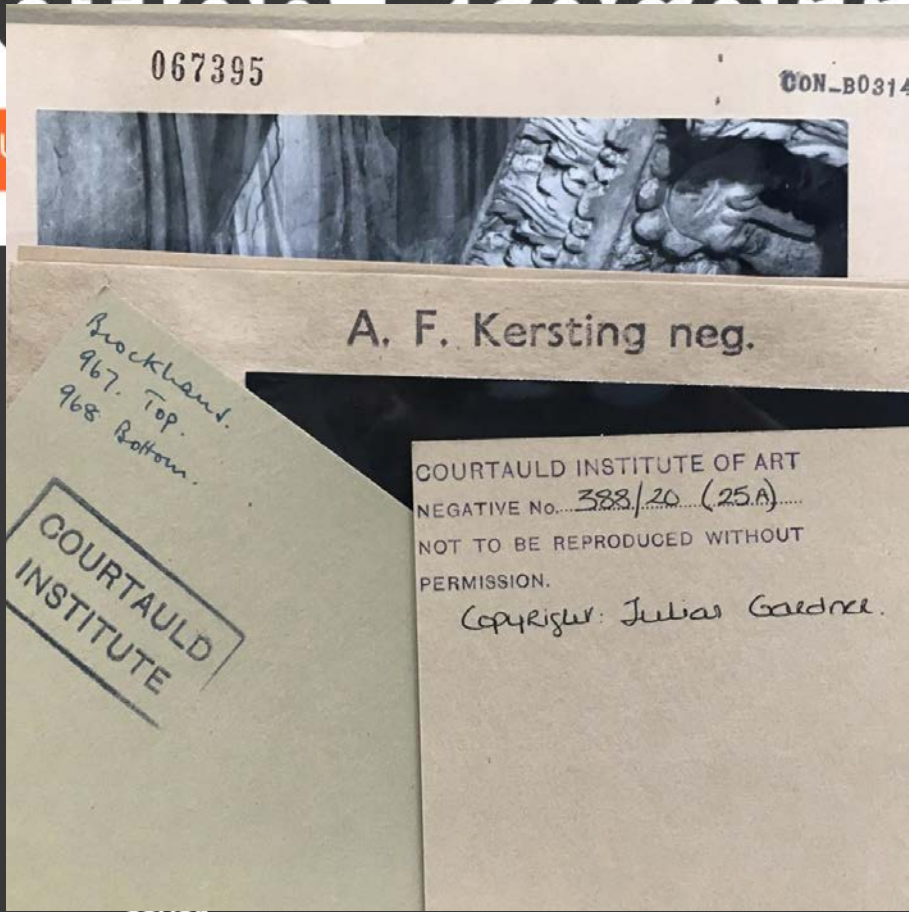
- Slack forum space – for fun and for tasks
- Weekly Mailchimp – for fun and for tasks
- Weekly Zoom chat – for fun and for tasks
- Art club – just for fun!





Digitisation Process

COURTAUL



ACCESSIONING

We put the items in order and give them a unique identifier



ATTRIBUTION

We capture the photographers' names for every item



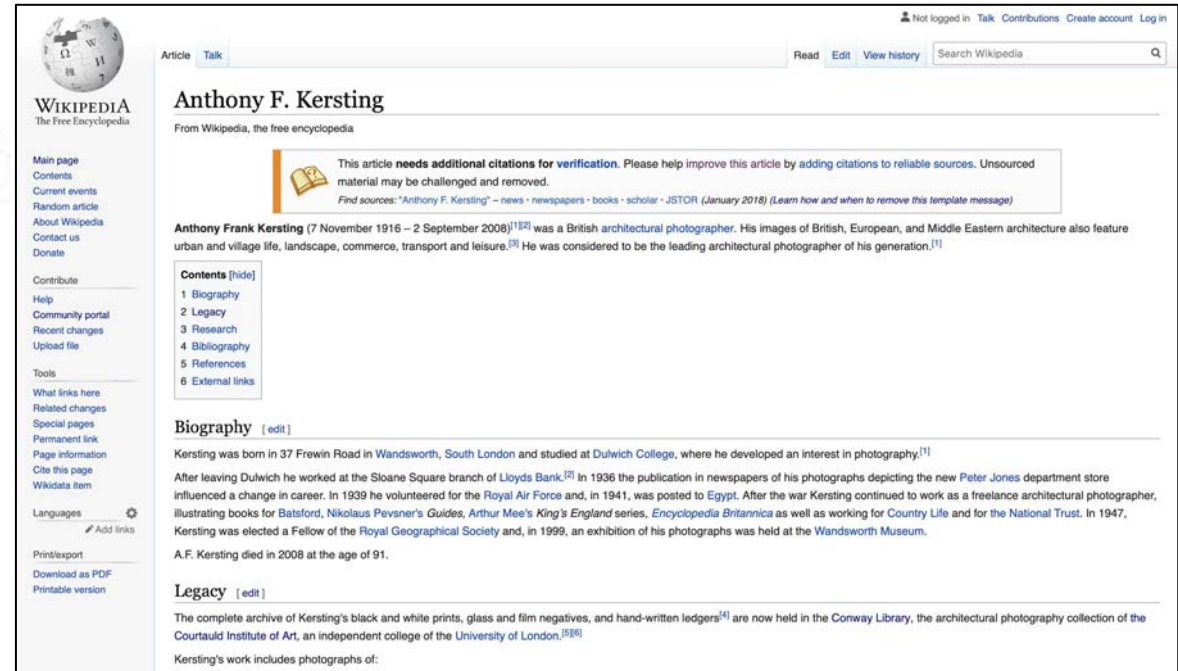
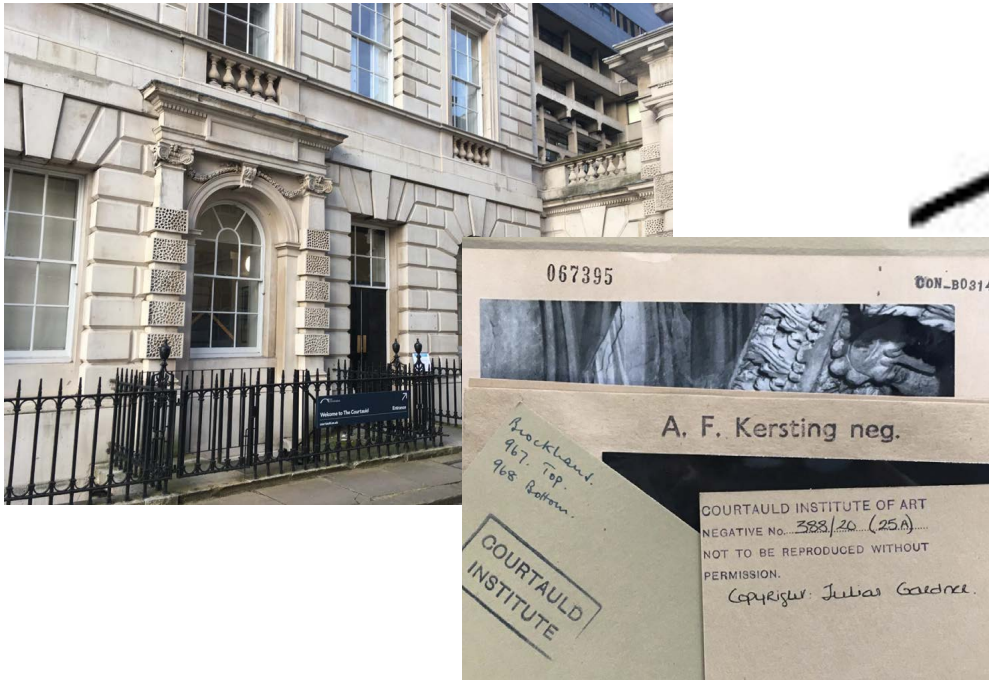
THANK YOU!
This box is now complete!

From library to (online) encyclopedia

In the library, volunteers collected the photographer names.

In April 2020 volunteers began researching biographical information.

In June 2020 volunteers began editing Wikipedia to bring our photographers to a much wider audience!



My Drive > ... > 5_PHOTOGRAPHER BIOS > O_VOLUNTEERS_WIKIPEDIA

Name ↑	Owner	Last modified
1. VOLUNTEERS_Attributions Background Information	me	2 Oct 20
2. VOLUNTEERS_Photographer Biography Research Instructions	me	2 Oct 20
3. TEMPLATE VOL NAME_PHOTOGRAPHER	me	2 Oct 20
4. VOLUNTEERS_List of Known Photographers.pdf	Faye F.	2 Oct 20

Step 1: Research

- All in Google Drive
- Written instructions
- An old, partial list of known names & last known address/workplace
- A template to help direct research
- We've now researched over 550 people!

1NEW TEMPLATE

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Add-ons Help Last edit was seconds ago

100% Heading 2 Arial 18

←

TEMPLATE

Do they already have a Wikipe...

Only add information here whi...

Introduction

Biography

Bibliography

References

External links

Please list every link you used ...

TEMPLATE

**** Please log your hours as you go here (at the end of the day or week)****

<https://forms.gle/FyxhwUnCFqNLcZVYA>

Do they already have a Wikipedia page? If yes, please paste link:

Only add information here which is not already on Wikipedia and make sure you have read the instructions and FAQ before you begin:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/160Wo_BWY-9S_8uspXY4nqRUj9ni_ays5QyWj3nQAY14/edit#heading=h.nid2n1ct9jpr

Introduction

Full name of photographer:

Other names photographer is known by:

Date of birth:

Date of death:

Place of birth:

Nationality:

If the photographer is alive we will need their contact details later on, please do not contact photographers as part of your research

Phone:

Email:

Address:

Work address:

Other affiliations:

Biography

Childhood:

Parents:

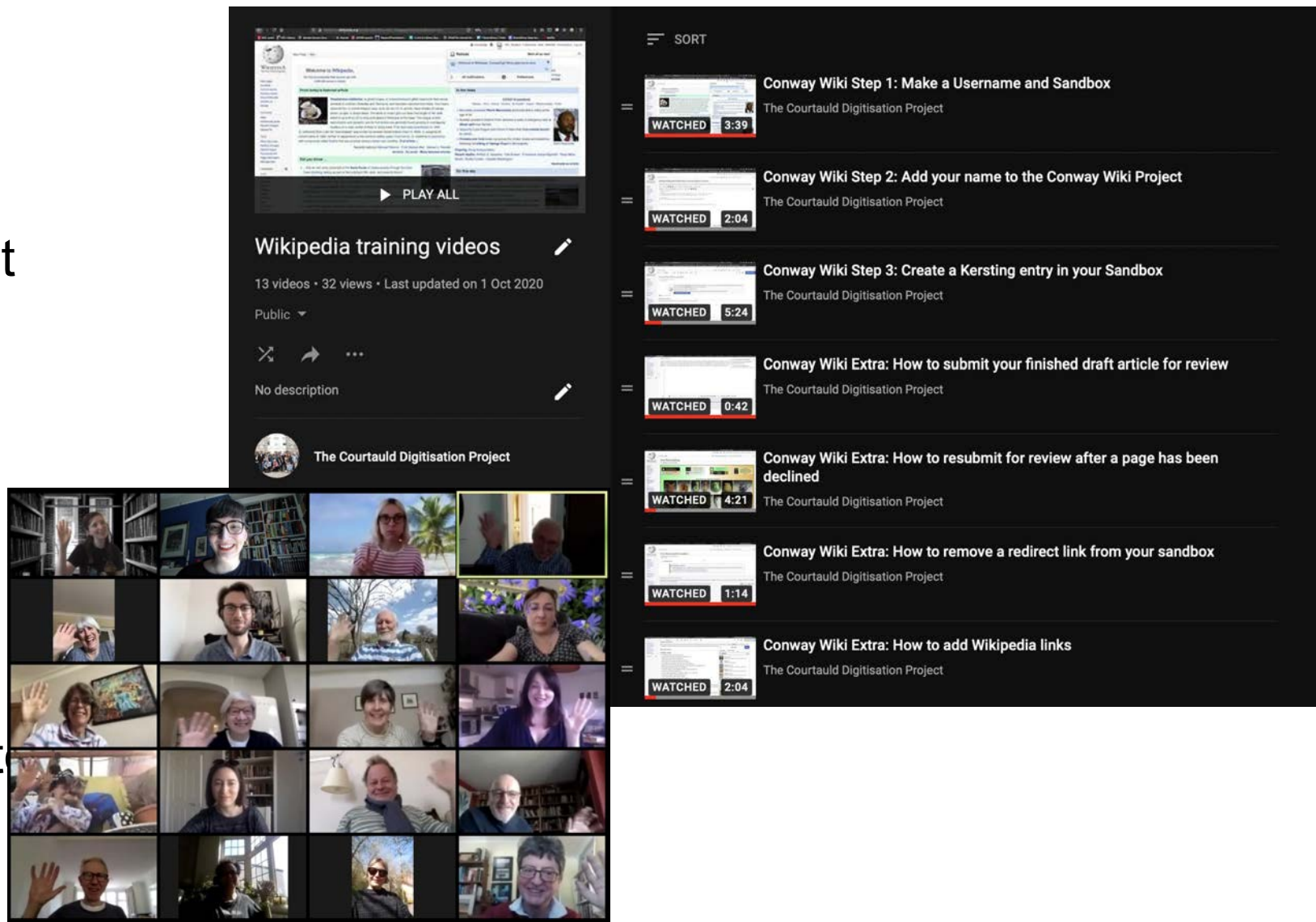
Parent's occupation:

Schools / universities attended:

Attendance years from-to:

Step 2: Wiki editing

- Zoom training sessions (ask Wikimedia if you don't have in house knowledge)
- Training videos (13)
- Google Drive template sharing
- As well as a spreadsheet to keep track, we have a public Wiki Project page



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_ConwayLibrary



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia

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Wikipedia:WikiProject ConwayLibrary

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

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This page is a work in progress to support volunteers on the [Courtauld Institute of Art](#) Courtauld Connects Digitisation Project. However, all Wikipedians are of course welcome (this goes without saying, but for the benefit of newcomers!)! Please feel free to make changes and additions in format and content, and use the Talk page to leave questions and comments.

This project was established to support especially Courtauld Digitisation Project volunteers to create and edit Wikipedia pages related to the Conway Library. The Conway Library is a collection of over 1.6 million photographs. These photographs are of architecture, design, manuscripts, and fine art objects. These photographs have historically only been accessible in person, at the Courtauld Institute of Art (first at Portland Square, now in the North East Wing of Somerset House).

Photographs in the collection are usually pasted to a cardboard mount. The mounts frequently include a written name, or a stamp, that indicates who took the photograph.

Since 2017, volunteers have been transcribing the names written on mounts. So we now have a list of names. However: quite often the name is all we have. Since the start of COVID19 shutdown, volunteers have been researching these names to build profiles for them, so that we can create brand new, or edit existing, Wikipedia pages for people who contributed to the photographic collection. We will be adding photographs taken by the photographers to Wikimedia as appropriate.

Volunteers and Wikipedians are encouraged to use and add to the [resources](#) on this project page to help bring the Conway Library to Wikipedia.

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- Getting Started
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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia:WikiProject_ConwayLibrary



Architect's House (designed by [Ernst May](#)). Photograph by [Tim Benton](#). CON_B04373_F002_028. The Courtauld Institute of Art. CC-BY-4.0. This is typical of a Conway Library item: a photographic print is pasted onto a manilla cardboard mount, with some additional information written or stamped on the mount.

Challenges

Overcoming + Opportunities

Lots of our volunteers are not digital natives.

Written and/ or video user guides, zoom training. A small tester group first. Completely new skills are being learned.

Collection items do not have much detail, eg. just initials or last names.

Volunteers develop research skills, and bring richness to the collection.

Ensuring that research is done consistently/ Wiki guidance adhered to.

Templates. Linking to familiar volunteer tasks. Help from wider Wikipedia community – you're never alone and you can't break it! Gaining confidence.

Volunteers have varying commitments/ decide they don't like it!

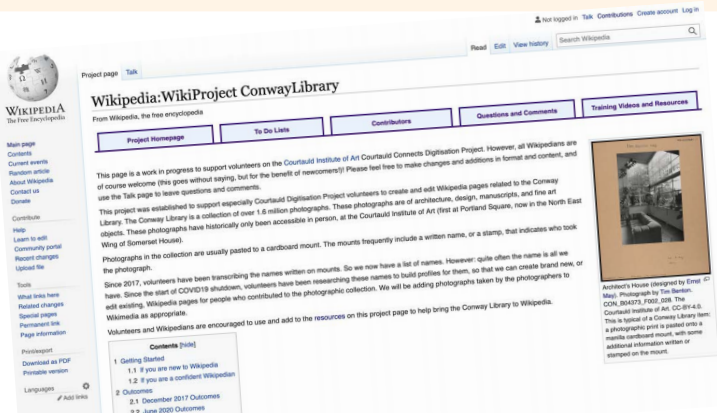
Working as a team we can flexibly reassign research or editing. Encourage resilience with reassurance. Train large numbers.

Technical hitches and ongoing general queries!

Support over email and Slack.

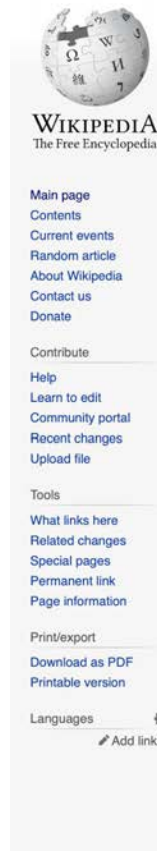
Some information behind paywalls.

Luckily, as attached to university we have elibrary access. If we can't access, we flag.



Some numbers!

- 84 individual volunteers involved in research
- Over 550 photographers researched
- 47 volunteers attended Zoom training how to edit Wikipedia
- 28/47 have gone on to do editing
- 74 brand new Wikipedia pages
- 40 existing pages improved
- Scope for the future: three items shared to **Wikimedia**, and added to four different articles (as a pilot, more to come when we have the images available and full copyright clearances)



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Wikipedia:WikiProject ConwayLibrary

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Architect's House (designed by Ernst May). Photograph by Tim Benton. CON_B04373_F002_028. The Courtauld Institute of Art. CC-BY-4.0. This is typical of a Conway Library item: a photographic print is pasted onto a manilla cardboard mount, with some additional information written or stamped on the mount.



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Palm house

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **Palm House** is a greenhouse located in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew that specialises in growing palms and other tropical and subtropical plants. Many of its plants are endangered or extinct in the wild.

Initially built as status symbols in Victorian Britain, several examples of these ornate glass and iron greenhouses can still be found in parks such as Liverpool's Sefton Park and Stanley Park.^[1]

Palm House was the first greenhouse to be built on this scale.^[2] It was also the first large-scale structural use of wrought iron.^{[3][4][5]}

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2 Maintenance
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History [edit]

One of the earliest examples of a palm house is located in the Belfast Botanic Gardens. Designed by Charles Lanyon, the building was completed in 1840. It was constructed by iron-maker Richard Turner, who would later build the Palm House at Kew.

Sir William J. Hooker was appointed Director of the Royal Botanic Garden at Kew in 1841. As part of his plan to improve its image, Sir William asked Decimus Burton to draw up preliminary sketches of a new Palm House for review in 1844.^[6] Decimus and Nicolas Burton completed the design, although Richard Turner was primarily involved. It was built between 1844 and 1848.^{[3][4][32]} After an interview with Sir William, Turner submitted his plans along with an estimate of the cost to the Board of Works. The Board of Works, in turn, asked Burton to review Turner's plans.^[6]

Burton initially disagreed with Turner's original plans, which adopted the Gothic style he had used in his prior works. Burton preferred the neoclassical style which informed the design of the Palm House. Burton did take notice of Turner's decisions over which plants should be planted where. Turner knew of greenhouse's "problems of heating, ventilation, and structural" issues.^[7]

According to some accounts, Turner sent his plan of the Palm House to the *Building News*. Thomas Drew also wrote to the *Building News* claiming "to have an authoritative statement from Turner..." He claimed "the Palm House was not only erected by him but was solely his design, although varied out under the supervision of Mr. Decimus Burton."^[7]

Maintenance [edit]

In 1881, according to the "Report on The Process and Condition of The Royal Gardens at Kew", the flowerbeds in front of the building were redone and gravel paths were removed. The flowers at the back of the Palm House and the low areas required modified drainage.^[8]

See also [edit]

- Palmerhaus Schönbrunn

External links [edit]

- A Tropical Getaway: Polish Palm Houses.

References [edit]

- ↑ "Palm House and Rose Garden". *Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*. Retrieved 19 October 2014.
- ↑ "Palm House's 'Kew' ". *www.kew.org*. Retrieved 2020-03-04.
- ↑ "*P*". *Das Grosse Palmenhaus in Schlosspark Schönbrunn* . Vienna: Federal Gardens, (in German). Archived 2016-11-05 from the original on November 5, 2016. Retrieved November 5, 2016.
- ↑ "*Zimmerpflanz*" . *Archivd* . from the original on November 5, 2016. Retrieved November 5, 2016.



The Palm House at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew



Palm House Kew Gardens. Photograph by Tim Benton. CON 80430 F001 010. The Courtauld Institute of Art. CC-BY-4.0



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Article Talk

Ernst May

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Ernst May (27 July 1886 – 11 September 1970) was a German architect and city planner.

May successfully applied urban design techniques to the city of Frankfurt am Main during the *Weimar Republic* period, and in 1930 less successfully exported those ideas to Soviet Union cities, newly created under Stalinist rule. It is said^{who?} May's "brigade" of German architects and planners established twenty cities in three years, including Magnitogorsk. May's travels left him stateless when the Nazis seized power in Germany, and he spent many years in African exile before returning to Germany near the end of his life.

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3 The 'May Brigade' in the USSR
4 Ernst May in Kenya and post-war Germany
5 Projects
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Life [edit]

May was born in Frankfurt am Main, the son of a leather goods manufacturer. His education from 1908 through 1912 included time in the United Kingdom, studying under Raymond Unwin, and absorbing the lessons and principles of the garden city movement. He finished a study at the Technical University of Munich, working with Friedrich von Thiersch and Theodor Fischer, a co-founder of the Deutscher Werkbund.

Working for himself and others through the 1910s, in 1921 he helped win a competition for rural housing estate developments in Breslau. His concepts of decentralized planning, some of which had been imported from the garden city movement, he won the job of city architect and planner for his home city from 1925 through 1930. Working under Mayor Ludwig Landmann, the position gave him broad powers of zoning, financing, and hiring. There was copious funding and an available labor pool. He used them.

The New Frankfurt [edit]

In the context of a housing shortage and a degree of political instability, May assembled a powerful staff of progressive architects and initiated the large-scale housing development program New Frankfurt. May's developments were remarkable for the time for being compact, semi-independent, well-equipped with community elements like playgrounds, schools, theatres, and common washing areas. For the sake of economy and construction speed May used simplified, prefabricated forms. These settlements are still marked by their functionality and the way they manifest egalitarian ideals such as equal access to sunlight, air, and common areas. Of these settlements the best known is probably Siedlung Römerstadt, and some of the structures are colloquially known as *Zickzackhausen* (zig-zag houses).

In 1926 May sent for Austrian architect Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky to join him in Frankfurt. Lihotzky was a kindred spirit and applied the same sort of functional clarity to household problems, and so in Frankfurt, after much analysis of work habits and footsteps, she developed the prototype of the modern installed kitchen, and pursued her idea that "housing is the organized implementation of living habits".

May's Frankfurt was a civic and critical success. This has been described (by John R. Mullin) as "one of the most remarkable city planning experiments in the twentieth century". In two years May produced more than 5,000 building units, up to 15,000 units in five years, published his own magazine (*Zeitschrift Das Neue Frankfurt*) and in 1929 won international attention at the Congrès International d'Architecture Moderne. This also brought him to the attention of the Soviet Union.

Catherine Bauer Wurster visited the buildings in 1930 and was inspired by the work of May^[9]

The 'May Brigade' in the USSR [edit]

In 1930 May took virtually his entire New Frankfurt-team to the USSR. May's Brigade amounted to a task force of 17 people, including Lihotzky, her husband Wilhelm Schuette, Arthur Korn, the Hungarian-born Fred Forbat, the Swiss Hans Schmidt, the Austrian-born Erich Mauthner and the Dutch Mart Stam. The promise of the "Socialist paradise" was still fresh, and May's Brigade and other groups of western planners had the hope of constructing entire cities. The first was to be Magnitogorsk. Although May's group is indeed credited with building 20 cities in three years,^[citation needed] the reality was that May found Magnitogorsk already under construction and the town site dominated by the mine and blast furnaces under construction. Officials were indecisive, then distrustful, corruption and delay frustrated their efforts, and May himself made misjudgements about the climate. May's contract expired in 1933, and he left for British East Africa (Kenya). Some of his architects found themselves unwanted by Russia, and stateless.

The 1995 documentary film *Sotsgorod: Cities for Utopia* ("Socialist Cities") interviewed some of the last survivors of these groups: Lihotzky, Jan Rutgers, and Philipp Tolzner of the *Bauhaus Brigade*, and visited four of the planned cities: Magnitogorsk, Orsk, Novokuznetsk and Kemerovo.

After May's departure, the Soviet government began promoting the criticism of his ideas, methods and achievements. Criticism was severe, widespread, and had ideological underpinnings. He was characterized as an undesirable capitalist and Western influence that should be contrasted to the socialist and Soviet architectural trends. In the mid-1930s, the Soviet government adopted the policy of not inviting any foreign architects.^[2]

Ernst May in Kenya and post-war Germany [edit]

May worked as a farmer in Kenya, but soon sold his farm and opened an architectural office, designing commercial buildings, hotels and schools. In some projects he collaborated with architect and urban planner Erica Mann: for instance his Oceanic Hotel in Mombasa was a landmark within the master plan drawn up for Coast Province by Mann.^[2] In 1953 the Mau-Mau uprisings made it difficult to work. At the same time May was invited to return to Germany and work on housing projects. In December 1953 he sailed to Germany and started again as an architect. From 1954 through 1956 he led the planning department in Hamburg, and was involved in several large housing projects in other cities. Several of the most famous German postwar settlements and reconstruction plans, such as New-Altona in Hamburg and Neue Vahr in Bremen, are associated with his name.

He was the first person ever awarded an honorary Dr.-Ing. of the Hannover Technical University. From 1957 he taught as an honorary professor of the Technische Universität Darmstadt. During this time May also wrote several books on urbanism. He died in Hamburg in 1970, aged 84.

His eldest son, Klaus May, also became an architect and worked in the office of his father. His most famous work is the new synagogue in Hamburg, which became a protected landmark. His youngest son, Thomas May, moved from the family home in Kenya in 1947 to obtain an engineering degree at Syracuse University, USA. Thomas May produced many craft works of distinction, including cabinetry, chairs, tables and lighting after debuting his designs in the seminal Museum of Contemporary Crafts show in New York City in 1957.

Projects [edit]

- Villa May, Frankfurt am Main, 1925
- Villa Elsaesser, Frankfurt am Main, 1925–1926
- Estate Höhenblick, Frankfurt am Main, 1926–1927
- Estate Bruchfeldstraße (Zickzackhausen), Frankfurt am Main, 1926–1927
- Estate Riederwald, Frankfurt am Main, 1926–1927
- Estate Praunheim, Frankfurt am Main, 1926–1928
- Estate Römerstadt, Frankfurt am Main, 1926–1928
- Estate Bornheimer Hang, Frankfurt am Main, 1926–1930
- Estate Heimsiedlung, Frankfurt am Main, 1927–1934
- Estate Hellerhof, Frankfurt am Main, 1929–1932
- Röderberg school, Frankfurt am Main, 1929–1930
- Estate Westhausen, Frankfurt am Main, 1929–1931
- House in Dornbusch, Frankfurt am Main, 1927–1931
- Commercial buildings and factories in Nairobi and Kampala
- House for an African family, 1945
- Estate St. Lorenz-Süd, Lübeck, 1954–1957
- Estate Grünhöfe, Bremerhaven, 1954–1960
- Neu Altona, Hamburg, 1955–1960

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Ernst May



Ernst May in 1926

Born Ernst Georg May

July 27, 1886

Frankfurt am Main

Germany

Died

September 11, 1970 (aged 84)

Hamburg

Nationality German

Occupation Architect



'Zig-Zag Houses' in Frankfurt



the "Rundling" in the Römerstadt in Frankfurt

Spot the Conway images!
(Mounted on brown card).

Volunteer feedback

On Research

I enjoyed the search for information on figures who were lesser well known, and for whom information was fairly scarce as it required **determination and good research skills**. Finding information about their early life and family was often the most difficult aspect. – Alistair

Being introduced to people I had not known about before and finding out about their contribution to art/history/architecture. Most of the subjects have books published and **it would be good to have access to the library** in order to get a better understanding of their work in their own words. – Hugh

I'm happy to feel I'm doing something **worthwhile** and **contributing to something special**. Also the chance to investigate all these **fascinating lives has been so rewarding**, especially some of the more obscure ones! – Jeanie

On editing Wikipedia

As a female editor, it is good to know I am part of a growing band of what, has in the past, been a predominantly male domain and, to have the ability to **redress balances/inequalities**, for example, if I am writing a page on a male subject and his partner is notable in her own right I always try and make reference to that. – Lynn

Sometimes knowing what and when something should have a **reference** is difficult. – Alistair

I've enjoyed being able to **use my foreign language/translation skills** between the different language versions on Wikipedia. I've also started to edit other pages of my own interest. – Gill

It felt quite **technically challenging** at first... Some 'editors' can also be tricky to deal with (subjectivity, sarcastic comments about 'notability', obstruction, etc). – Gill

The most challenging is the **Wikipedia website which has a mind of its own** at times. – Michael



Thank you!
Please be in touch if you have any
questions!

digitisation.volunteering@courtauld.ac.uk

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The Courtauld

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