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Ronald Hobbs Literary Agency records 9629889

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor
Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
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Summary Information

Repository:	Rare Book and Manuscript Library
Creator:	Ronald Hobbs Literary Agency
Title:	Ronald Hobbs Literary Agency records
ID:	9629889
ID:	MS#1665
Date [inclusive]:	1964- 1992
Physical Description:	22 linear feet 22 record storage cartons
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	This collection contains the administrative, financial, legal, and client records of the Ronald Hobbs Literary Agency, as well as material related to Ronald Hobbs' associated personal and professional activities.

Preferred Citation

Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Ronald Hobbs Literary Agency Records; Box and Folder; Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Columbia University Library.

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Historical Note

Hartford Ronald Hobbs was the preeminent African American literary agent of the 1960s and 1970s, negotiating over 300 fiction and non-fiction books (including several by Larry Neal, H. Rap Brown, Paul Carter Harrison, James Haskins, and Julius Lester). In 1967, Hobbs became the literary agent to poet, novelist, playwright and Black Arts Movement founder LeRoi Jones who, in 1968, would adopt the Muslim name Imamu Amiri Baraka after aligning himself with Robert Karenga and the politics of Black Cultural Nationalism. In this period, Hobbs became one of his closest associates, serving as both an agent and advisor on several of Baraka's landmark books in this period, many of which are now considered classics of contemporary African American literature: *Black Magic: Poetry 1961 - 67* (1967), *Raise, Race, Rays, Raze: Essays Since 1965* (1968), *Four Black Revolutionary Plays* (1969) and the defining work of

the Black Arts Movement, *Black Fire: An Anthology* (1968), edited by Baraka and Larry Neal. Hobbs would also help negotiate two film deals for Baraka (including the rarely seen "The New Ark" scripted and directed by Baraka in 1968 for Public Broadcasting Library), oversee the publication of numerous articles (Evergreen Review, Negro Digest and Esquire), field interview requests (Playboy, Time) and book speaking engagements. Hobbs also helped Baraka establish his own imprint, Jihad Publications, overseeing the independent publication and distribution of a variety of Black Nationalist-inspired books, records and films. In the early 1970s Hobbs moved away from literary representation and towards film production. He executed 10 major motion picture sales in the 1970s, represented Ernest Tidyman on *The French Connection* (1971), and helped create and market the motion picture *Shaft* (1971) starring Richard Roundtree, as well as *Lord Shango* (1975).

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Summary

The collection consists of material documenting the professional activities of Ronald Hobbs and the Ronald Hobbs Literary Agency, including desk calendars, professional contacts, royalty statements, permission requests, financial records, professional and personal correspondence, manuscripts, book proposals, handwritten notes, photographs, book jackets, newspaper clippings, subpoenas and depositions, printed matter, business plans, drawings, postcards, and publicity.

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Arrangement

This collection is arranged in 5 series.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Butler Library, 6th Floor

Columbia University, Mail Code 1127
535 W. 114th St.
New York, NY 10027
Business Number: (212) 854-5153
Fax Number: (212) 854-1365
rbml@libraries.cul.columbia.edu
URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/rbml/index.html>

Revision Description

xml document instance created by Carrie Hintz EAD was imported spring 2019 as part of the ArchivesSpace Phase II migration. 2013-07-30 2019-05-20

Restrictions on Access

This collection is located off-site. You will need to request this material at least three business days in advance to use the collection in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library reading room.

Restrictions on Access

This collection has no restrictions.

Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

2012-2013-M037: Source of acquisition--Glenn Horowitz. Method of acquisition--purchase; Date of acquisition--2012.

Processing Information

Papers Processed Alexander Rocca 07/--/2013.

Accruals

Materials may have been added to the collection since this finding aid was prepared. Contact rbml@columbia.edu for more information.

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Controlled Access Headings

- African American Literature and Culture
- American literature -- African American authors
- Authors and publishers
- Charitable uses, trusts, and foundations
- Contracts
- Literary agents
- Hobbs, Ronald
- Baraka, Amiri, 1934-2014
- Harrison, Paul Carter, 1936-
- Lester, Julius, 1939-2018
- Mailer, Norman

Collection Inventory

Series I: Administrative and Financial Files, 1965-1982

Scope and Contents

Series I consists of material related to the administration of the agency, including desk calendars, professional contacts, client contract records, client lists, permission requests, and agency publicity, as well as financial documents recording the agency's receipt and disbursement of author royalties, insurance and pension plans, and plans for the agency's incorporation.

Title/Description	Instances
Address Book 1, undated	box 1
Address Book 2, undated	box 1
Daily Messages, 1973	box 1
Daily Messages, 1975	box 1
Desk Calendar 1, 1972	box 1
Desk Calendar 2, 1972	box 1
Desk Calendar 1, 1973	box 1
Desk Calendar 2, 1973	box 1
Desk Calendar, 1975	box 1
Desk Calendar, 1976	box 1
Desk Calendar, 1984	box 1
Desk Calendar, 1987	box 1

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Desk Calendar, 1990	box 1
Contact Cards, undated	box 1
Rolodex Cards, undated	box 1
Accounts -- Kleinworth, Benson, 1969-1974	box 2
Agent Policy, 1979	box 2
Contractual	
Author Contracts, 1969-1973	box 2
Contract Forms, undated	box 2
Contract Records, 1967-1969	box 2
Contracts, 1968-1969	box 2
Distribution of Contracts, undated	box 2
Inactive Contracts, 1968-1973 (1 of 2), 1968-1973	box 2
Inactive Contracts, 1968-1973 (2 of 2), 1968-1973	box 2
Sample Reference Contracts, 1967-1972	box 2
Writers Contracts, 1974	box 2
Author Records, 1970	box 2
Book Promotion -- Authors, 1980-1982	box 2
Books and Publications, 1974	box 2
Client Sketches, 1971	box 2
Corporate Structure, 1972	box 2
Insurance Policies -- General Office, 1971-1972	box 2
Limited Partnership Agreement, 1982	box 2
Manufacturer's Hanover Trust Bank Loan Papers, 1969-1972	box 2
Pension Plan, 1974	box 2
Presentation, undated	box 2
Publicity Folder, undated	box 2
Reviews, 1974	box 2
Submission Records A-L, 1965-1968	box 2
Submission Records M-Z, 1965-1968	box 2
Accounts Receivable, 1974-1975	box 3
Accounts Receivable, 1985	box 3
Book Bills, 1975	box 3

Statement of Accounts, 1967-1968	box 3
Monies to Be Paid Out, 1974-1975	box 3
Royalty Statements, 1972	box 3
Royalty Statements, 1973 (1 of 2), 1973	box 3
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Royalty Statements, 1975	box 3
Royalty Statements, 1977	box 3
Royalty Statements, 1978	box 3
Royalty Statements, 1979	box 3
Royalty Statements, 1980	box 3
Royalty Statements, 1981	box 3
Permissions, 1970-1973 (1 of 2), 1970-1973	box 3
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Permissions, 1975	

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Series II: Amiri Baraka Files, 1965-1979

Scope and Contents

Series II consists of any material written by or related to Amiri Baraka (LeRoi Jones), including correspondence, book proposals, manuscripts, royalties, permission requests, book jackets, lecture schedules, legal documents, film plans, and publicity.

Title/Description	Instances
The Advanced Workers, 1976	box 4
African Free School, 1971-1972	box 4
All in the Street, 1968	box 4
All You Need is Love, 1975	box 4
American Program Bureau, 1968-1971	box 4
And We Own the Night, 1971	box 4
Autobiography of LeRoi Jones, 1982-1984	box 4
Ban on Black Music, 1971	box 4

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BA-RA-KA, 1971	box 4
Black History, 1971	box 4
Black Magic, 1968-1972	box 4
A Black Mass, 1971	box 4
Black Political Leaders, undated	box 4
Black Writers Anthology, 1969-1970	box 4
Board of Education, undated	box 4
Book Covers, 1968	box 4
The Campaign, 1971-1973	box 4
Cellar Vigil -- Experimental Unit II, undated	box 4
Cities & Suburbs = Powerlessness and Power, 1972	box 4
A Collection of Plays, 1971-1973	box 4
John Coltrane, 1969-1971	box 4
Committee for Unified Newark, 1973	box 4
The Congress of African People, 1970-1976	box 4
Contracts, 1968-1974	box 4
Correspondence	
LeRoi Jones #2, 1970	box 4
Uncatalogued Correspondence, 1971	box 4
Uncatalogued Correspondence, 1977-1979	box 4
Dialog of Shadows, undated	box 4
Essays, 1969-1970	box 4
Essays on Black Leaders, 1969	box 4
Experimental Death Unit 1, undated	box 4
Films -- General, 1968-1969	box 4
The Fire Must Be Permitted to Burn Full Up, 1969	box 4
Foreign Rights, 1976	box 4
Four Black Artists, 1971	box 4
Four Black Revolutionary Plays and Jello, 1968-1971	box 4
God and Machine, 1970-1972	box 4
Great Goodness of Life, 1969-1972	box 4
Home on the Range, 1970-1971	box 4

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Human Love, 1974-1975	box 4
Insurrection & Misplaced Love, 1968	box 4
Interviews, 1969-1971	box 4
Introduction to Edward English's Book, 1971	box 4
It's Nation Time, 1969	box 4
Junkies Ain't Shit, 1970	box 4
Kwanza Festival Proposal, 1973	box 4
Lectures	
Lecture Dates, 1968	box 4
Lecture Dates, 1968-1970	box 4
February'69 Lectures, 1968-1969	box 4
Schedule, 1969-1970	box 4
Lectures, 1970-1971	box 4
Legal	
American Program Bureau vs. LeRoi Jones, 1969-1972	box 4
Cadoo v. Jones, 1970-1973	box 4
Long Night, 1973	box 4
Magazine Articles, 1969-1974	box 4
The Motion of History, 1976	box 4
Motown, 1968-1971	box 4
Mwalimu Texts, 1970	box 4
Neo-American, 1975	box 4
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Building of New Ark, 1973-1974	box 4
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Newark Before Black Man, 1968	box 4
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Reprints and Permissions, 1968-1975 (3 of 3), 1968-1975	box 5

Permissions, 1970-1973 (1 of 2), 1970-1973	box 5
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Permissions, 1974	box 5
Anthology Permissions, 1982-1984	box 5
Photo, 1971	box 5
Plays -- General, 1968-1970	box 5
Political Activities, 1969	box 5
Political Leaders / Poems / Black Leaders, 1970	box 5
Publicity, 1969-1970	box 5
Raise, 1971-1972	box 5
A Recent Killing	
Correspondence, 1968-1972	box 5
Manuscript Draft, 1964 1975, 1964, 1975	box 5
Manuscript Draft, undated	box 5
Records-General, 1968-1970	box 5
Resume, undated	box 5
RHLA Client Profiles, undated	box 5
Royalty Statement, 1967-1972	box 5
Selected Poetry and Prose, 1978-1982	box 5
The Sidnee Poet Heroical, 1969-1975	box 5
Six Persons, 1972-1975	box 5
Slave Ship, 1970-1976	box 5
Some American History, 1971	box 5
Special Services, 1968-1969	box 5
Spirit House Activities, 1969	box 5
Supercoon, 1970-1971	box 5
Technology & Ethos, undated	box 5
Untitled Novel, 1972-1973	box 5
Year of Reconstruction, 1969	box 5

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Scope and Contents

Series III consists of the agency's general files on individual clients and related business dealings.

Subseries III.1: Alphabetical, 1931-1992**Scope and Contents**

Subseries III.1 contains an alphabetical record of individual clients and organizations with which the Ronald Hobbs Literary Agency interacted, including correspondence with publishers and clients, signed contracts, manuscripts, book proposals, newspaper clippings, promotional material, and printed matter, as well as personal documents related to Ronald Hobbs, including correspondence with family and friends and other writings.

Title/Description	Instances
Abrams, Gary	box 6
Right Cut, undated	box 6
Academy of Cinema Artists, undated	box 6
Action Agency, 1975	box 6
African Literature Script, undated	box 6
Afro American Pavilion, 1983-1984	box 6
Aldrich, A.H.	
The Bandit, undated	box 6
Allen, Robert	
Correspondence, 1970	box 6
The Reluctant Reformer, undated (1 of 3), undated	box 6
The Reluctant Reformer, undated (2 of 3), undated	box 6
The Reluctant Reformer, undated (3 of 3), undated	box 6
The Sixties, 1972-1973	box 6
Alston, William	
Black, White, Red for Green, undated	box 6
Anthony, Earl	box 6
Autobiography, 1970-1971	
Charlie Still Can't Win No Wars on the Ground, 1969-1970	box 6
Correspondence, 1970 1975, 1970, 1975	box 6
The Misjudgment, undated	box 6
The Trial, undated	box 6
Arnold, Arnold, 1980	

	box 6
Artaud, Antonin	
The Cenci, undated	box 6
Ba, Boubacar Tahir, 1972	box 6
Babbit, Debbie	
A Piece of Cake, 1983	box 6
Banks, Mrs.	
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Barking Fish, 1984	box 6
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Benedict, Max	
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Veils of Vengeance Falling, 1963-1971	box 6
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Cindy, 1976	box 6
Correspondence, 1968-1975	box 6
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Raped Before the Wedding, 1976	box 6
With It at Sixty, 1976	box 6
Bornet, Fred and Frederic Guirma	box 7

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Bourkind'Loum, 1972 (1 of 2), 1972	box 7
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Brailsford, Larry, 1980-1982	box 7
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Brooks, Eddy	
Tina Spade and Company, undated	box 7
Brooks, Patricia Galliland	
Eagle and Child, 1992 (1 of 2), 1992	box 7
Eagle and Child, 1992 (2 of 2), 1992	box 7
Brown, H. Rap, 1967-1970	box 7
Bruton, Alfred A. III	
Inside the Showroom, undated (1 of 2), undated	box 7
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Bullins, Ed	
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Butler, Bernard, 1980	box 7
Butts, Hugh, 1970-1971	box 7
Byard, Carole, 1970	box 7
Byer, Herbert, 1976	box 7
Caldwell, Ben	
One Long, Hot, Summer, Night, 1967	box 7
California, 1983	box 7
Canteen in Berlin, undated	box 7
Carty, Leo, 1969-1971	box 7
Césaire, Aimé	
Cahiers d'un retour au pays natal, undated	box 7
Child, Charles, 1980 1983, 1980, 1983	box 7
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The Motor Car, 1970-1971	box 7
Outline and Suggestions for a Film, undated	box 7
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The Teaching of Black Studies in White University, 1968	box 7
What Do You Want to Be When You Grow Up?, 1968	box 7
What Happened?, undated	box 7
When he was free and young and he used to wear silks, 1970-1971	box 7
When They Were Face to Face, undated	box 7
Why Didn't You Use a Plunger, 1970	box 7
Will a Black Woman Ever Be a Woman, 1969	box 7
Clarke, John H., 1964-1969	box 8
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Without Passport, 1974	box 8
Cohen, Saul and Jim McDonald	
Only After Sunset, 1979	box 8
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Portrait of Katherine, 1974	box 8
Comer, James	
Maggie, 1983	box 8
Crawford, Marc, 1967	box 8
Criticism Anthology, 1975	box 8
Crouch, Stanley, 1969	box 8
Cullen, Betty, 1988	box 8
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Booker Turner, 1975	box 8
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De Menil, Francois, 1974-1976	box 8
De Menil, John	
Correspondence, 1969	box 8
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Dolan, Darry, 1980-1981	box 8
Dowling, Adrian	
The Terrorist, 1985	box 8
Dowling, Frances	
Good 'Ol Boys, 1985	box 8
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Evans, Mari, 1969-1970	box 8
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The Fertile Egg Newspaper, undated	box 8
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Forest, D. Lance	
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Gant, Lisbeth, 1969	box 9
Garrett, Jimmy, 1970	box 9
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Golden, Seth, 1992	box 9
Goldhill, Paul, undated	box 9
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Grant, Will, undated	box 9
Graves, Curtis, 1969-1974	box 9
Gray, Francine	
The Cycle of the Year, 1971	box 9
Divine Disobedience, 1969-1971	box 9
Reviews, 1970-1971	box 9
The Sugar Coated Fortress, 1971	box 9
Greaves, William, 1972	box 9
Green, Joseph	
Emotional Conflict, 1964	box 9
Griffin, Judith, 1973	box 9
Gronowicz, Anton, 1975-1976 1984, 1975-1976, 1984	box 9
Gross, Ronald L, 1971-1972	box 9
Grosvenor, Verta, 1970-1972	box 9
Gunn, Billy	
The Angel Levine, 1968	box 9
Guy, Rosa, 1968-1975	box 9
Hagenuth, Astrid, 1985-1992	box 9
Hampton, David, Jr., 1984	box 9
Hampton, Lionel, undated	box 9
Hansen, Susanne, 1979-1980	box 9
Harding, Vincent, 1970-1976	box 9
Harrison, Deloris, 1968-1969	box 9

Harrison, Paul Carter	
Anthology, 1975	box 9
Anthology of Black Theatre, 1970	box 9
Beau Sam in Mokum, undated	box 9
The Black Revolution and the White Back-Lash, 1964	box 9
Black Theatre and the African Continuum, 1972	box 9
Bon Bon Voyage, 1972	box 9
A Change is Gonna Come, undated	box 9
Cold Duck and Bon Bons, 1972	box 9
Deep Like the River, 1971	box 9
Doctor Jazz, undated	box 10
Dr. Jazz, 1974-1975	box 10
Dr. Jazz Statements, 1975	box 10
Drama of Nommo, 1969-1973	box 10
Earnings, 1974	box 10
The Experimental Leader, undated	box 10
Fredrick Douglass, 1974-1975	box 10
Glory, Glory Lord Shango, 1972-1973	box 10
Glory, Glory, Lord Shango!, undated	box 10
The Great MacDaddy, 1972-1977	box 10
Kuntu Drama, 1973	box 10
Lady Day, 1972	box 10
The Laughmaker, 1974-1975	box 10
The Love Odyssey of a Noble Savage, 1970	box 10
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Hinton, James	
Hinton/Garrett, 1975	box 11
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Project Newsreel, 1977 (2 of 2), 1977	box 11
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Summer Snow, 1979	box 11
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Hobbs, Ronald	
Alice Barry, 1978	box 11
Big Shot, 1976-1977	box 11
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De Lawd, undated	box 11
Dirty Dicks, 1977	box 11
Doo-Wah-Ditty, 1975	box 11
Dream Diary, 1985	box 11
Edited Manuscript, undated	box 11
English Leather, 1966-1967	box 11
The Eye Cannot See the I, 1993	box 11
France, 1980	box 11
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Halloway House, 1978 1983-1984, 1978, 1983-1984	box 11
Handwritten manuscript, undated	box 11
High Marks, 1978	box 11
History of Nationalism Proposal, undated	box 11
How the Deprived Negro Identifies with Drugs, undated	box 11
Impressions, 1980	box 11
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Love After Summer, undated	box 12
Ministry of Power, undated	box 12
Miscellaneous Writings, undated	box 12
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Subseries III.2: Chronological, 1966-1984

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Series V: Professional Activities, 1964-1997

Scope and Contents

Series V consists of material related to Ronald Hobbs' other professional activities, including the financial documents, minutes, and correspondence of the Foundation for Black American Literature, proposals and correspondence related to various business ventures, research associated with Hobbs' educational degrees, and material related to Hobbs' involvement in film production projects.

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