Fourth International Conference on Nordic and Baltic Studies in Romania

Empire-building and Region-building in the Baltic, North and Black sea areas

Constanta, Romania, May 24-26, 2013

The webpage of the conference: http://www.arsbn.ro/conference-2013.htm

ORGANIZERS:

THE ROMANIAN ASSOCIATION FOR BALTIC AND NORDIC STUDIES

OVIDIUS UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANTA

VALAHIA UNIVERSITY OF TÂRGOVISTE

FACULTY OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE AT OVIDIUS UNIVERSITY OF CONSTANTA

"GRIGORE GAFENCU" RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND CULTURAL STUDIES

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Conference background, past conferences

The conference continues and develops a project that the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies initiated in 2010, aiming at investigating, comparing and describing the relations, encounters, intersections, confluences, mutual influences and/or parallels between the Nordic and Baltic Sea areas, on the one hand, and the Black Sea region, on the other hand. The project was structured in annual international conferences usually taking place in late May. Thus, the first conference, entitled "Romania and Lithuania in the Interwar International Relations: Bonds, Intersections and Encounters" was held on 19-21 May 2010 and concentrated, as the title suggests, on the present and historical relations between two countries belonging to these two areas. The second and the third editions of the annual ARSBN conference enlarged their scope, being entitled "The Black Sea and The Baltic Sea Regions: Confluences, influences and crosscurrents in the modern and contemporary ages" (May 20-22, 2011) and respectively "European Networks: the Balkans, Scandinavia and the Baltic World in a Time of Economic and Ideological Crisis" (May 25-27, 2012).

During its three editions, the ARSBN conference addressed fundamental problems within the current agenda of the Nordic, Baltic and Black sea states and contributed with fresh ideas and innovative research results to the general knowledge in the scientific field. Moreover, the conference advanced draft proposals useful to the European decision-makers of different fields.

While the participants to the first two editions of the conference concentrated rather on the historical dimension of the relations, the third edition brought together specialists from various fields (political science, economics, IR, minority studies etc.) and addressed, besides the historical aspect of relations, aspects relevant to the present time, i.e. the current global economic crisis, the Balkan organized crime in Nordic Europe, the minorities in the Baltic Sea area and in the Balkans.

The 2013 conference invites applications from consecrated and young specialists, theorists and practitioners in the most various fields: education, cultural studies, history, IR, political science, economics etc. The 2013 edition of the conference aims at investigating, but also encouraging the intra- and inter- regional exchanges and cooperation.

The conference has developed very fast, each edition bringing together more participants, well known specialists in their fields, from over 20 countries and over 35 institutions. At its third edition, the conference reached a high level of quality, becoming already a very important event in the field of Nordic and Baltic studies.

Aims of the Conference:

Conference general topic description:

After centuries of nation-building, the world has entered a period of region-building searching for cultural encounters, social and economic development and political cohesion and stability. Today large part of Europe is involved in the European integration project. Nevertheless, the current global economic crisis has also generated debate regarding not only the future expansion of the EU, but the viability of the European project itself, and states involved in the European integration scheme or those pursuing their integration seem to deepen their ambitions.

The EU integration has become the primary conceptual and normative model in the global proliferation of regional integration, but in the course of the last two decades other regional initiatives, associations and structures – in the political, economic, cultural, environment, security etc. fields – have emerged in Europe, especially in the Baltic Sea, North Sea and Black Sea regions. In this context, sometimes regional agendas intersected with the European ones.

However, we encourage not only the inter-regional comparisons and analyses, but also the intra-regional analyses in the most diverse fields – education, art, culture, media, security, environment, international politics, economy etc. While the Baltic and North Sea areas are generally considered pioneer regions in the development of regional integration and identity, the Black Sea Region is often regarded as a laggard in terms of regionalization and region-building.

This conference aims to address problems such as the relation between the EU integration framework and the Baltic, North and Black Sea regional structures; the historic development of these regional initiatives and/or organizations and the relations among them; the interplay between empire-building, region-building, national/nationalist, cultural construction discourses present in these regions, comparisons between the three regions.

The conference approaches the North in the wider perspective of regional cooperation intra- and extra-Nordic muros. The North is regarded as a springboard of regional cooperation which has a strong though faltering historical and cultural background and an obvious European dimension. The downfall of the Communist regimes in Eastern Europe and the process of European integration (whether some of the Nordic countries belong to the EU or not, they are all part and parcel of the process and deeply affected by it) have encouraged the development of regional cooperation in Northern Europe. Belonging to the Northern dimension of the EU meant not only maintaining a regional identity with deep roots in history and culture and making the others acknowledge it, but also strengthening the influence of Nordic countries within and outside the EU and fostering other regional cooperation initiatives in the Baltic Sea area and outside it. Patterned on the Nordic regional cooperation, the Baltic States of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia strengthened their regional cooperation and envisaged deepening their ties to surrounding areas, especially with the Nordic countries. Alongside the Nordic countries, they also gradually turned into a model for the Danubian and Black Sea countries.

Regional cooperation is the unwanted child of empires. The empire-building process is one of the most debated research topics, and reaching a consensus among researchers in this regard can hardly be foreseen. Historians, political scientists, IR theorists, geographers and geopoliticians have given different answers about the engines of the empire-building process and its consequences. What is an empire? How does it emerge? What is the role of empires in IR? Is there a distinctive empire ideology? What is imperialism? How do empires reach their decline and collapse? How have empires changed throughout the centuries? If sometimes empires resemble each other in a certain period of time when seen from outside, when looking at empires from within, at micro-level, one can see how much the patterns, structures,

articulated interests, perceptions of power and authority differ. There is no consensus even on fundamental issues such as how an empire can be defined, i.e. according to various criteria employed Sweden was described as a kingdom or an empire, and similar disputes arise regarding the Soviet Union or Nazi Germany. However, we believe that we can broaden our perspective of empire-building when looking at the issue from a larger geographical and cultural perspective of the Nordic, Baltic, and Black sea areas. We can also understand the networks created within empires which later sought to re-knot their cooperation among the emerging sovereign states, often leading to various forms of regional cooperation such as, for instance, the Little Entente and the Baltic League.

In some instances, the region-building and empire-building process is blurred and not infrequently empires or large political constructions emerge from region-building initiatives driven by domestic or external challenges as it happened with Poland and Lithuania in the 14th century, with Sweden in the 17th century or with Germany in the 19th century. In fact, this is one of the favored arguments of Eurosceptics who perceive the EU in the same light as these empires. The conference aims at taking a closer look at this topic and setting it within the Nordic, Baltic and Black sea framework.

However, the focus of our introspection is not merely political or diplomatic cooperation. Educational, cultural, commercial or social cooperation networks are also within the range of our interests. The conference is also future-oriented and seeks at contributing to understanding the stakes of regional cooperation for the development of societies in the geographical areas it covers.

In this respect, the conference will address issues such as:

- The empire-building, region-building, national/nationalist, cultural construction discourses present in these regions
- The historic development of these regional initiatives and/or organizations and the relations between them
- Political, cultural and diplomatic relations between Baltic and/or Nordic states, on the one hand, and the Black Sea countries, on the other hand
- The relations between the EU integration and different Baltic, North and Black Sea regional structures
- Educational projects: bridges between the Baltic Sea and Black Sea areas
    - Education and leadership in the context of regionalization in the Baltic Sea and Black Sea areas
    - Education and leadership: between tradition, challenges and perspectives
    - 2nd International Workshop on Creative Collaboration through Supportive Technologies in Education - CCSTED 2013 (http://ccsted13.ssai.valahia.ro)
- Linguistic unity and diversity in Scandinavia and the Baltic states
- Nordic and Baltic identity through cultural diversity
- Water protection in the Baltic Sea and the Black Sea Region and the role of agriculture
- Inter- and intra-regional comparisons

Friday, 24 May 2013

09.00-12.00: Registration of the participants;
Ovidius University of Constanta, Aleea Universtatii, no. 1, Campus, building B, Amphitheatre A2.

09.30-10.00: The opening of the Fourth Annual International Conference on Baltic and Nordic Studies in Romania
Ovidius University of Constanta, Aleea Universtatii, no. 1, Campus, building B, Amphitheatre A2.

Chairs: Silviu Miloiu, The President of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies and Emanuel Plopeanu, The Dean of the Faculty of History and Political Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanta;

Speakers:
Professor Dr. Danut Tiberius Epure, The Rector of Ovidius University of Constanta;
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Florin Anghel, Vice-Rector of Ovidius University of Constanta;
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Laura Gorghiu, Vice-Rector of Valahia University of Targoviste;
Dr. Vladimir Jarmolenko, The Ambassador of Lithuania in Bucharest, Honorary President of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies;

10.00-11.15: Roundtable: Region-Building in the Baltic Sea Region;
Ovidius University of Constanta, Aleea Universtatii, no. 1, Campus, building B, Amphitheatre A2.

Chairs: Florin Anghel and Silviu Miloiu

Speakers:
The representatives of the Baltic and Nordic embassies and consulates in Romania

11.15-11.30: Coffee Break
Ovidius University of Constanta, Aleea Universtatii, no. 1, Campus, building B, Amphitheatre A2.

11.30-12.15: **Plenary session I**
Location to be decided

Chair: Bogdan-Alexandru Schipor, The Vice-President of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies;

Speaker: Marko Lehti, University of Tampere

Keynote address I: *Transnational History, Sustainable Peace and Regional Approach: Comparing the Baltic Sea Area and the Balkans*

12.15-13.00: Plenary session II
Location to be decided

Chair: Emanuel Plopeanu, The Dean of the Faculty of History and Political Sciences, Ovidius University of Constanta;

Speaker: Markku Kangaspuro, Aleksanteri Institute of University of Helsinki
Keynote address II: *Time and Change in Identity Building - Divided and Shared Identities of the Baltic Sea Area*

13.00-14.00: Break;

14.00-14.45: guided visit of Norwegian art exhibition
Art Museum of Constanta, Tomis Ave., no. 82-84

15.15-16.00: **Plenary session III**
Location to be decided

Chair: Laura Gorghiu, The Vice-Rector of Valahia University of Targoviste;

Speaker: Stefan Ewert, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald
Keynote address III: *The governance of water protection in the Baltic Sea Region as an engine of region building and the role of agriculture*

16.00-19.15: Conference sessions
Location to be decided

Session 1
16.00 – 17.30

Panel 1
Linguistics and region-building

Chair: Enikõ Molnár Bodrogi

Crina Leon, *Dialects in Norway - Between Tolerance and Standardization*

Panel 2
Minorities and language practices in the Baltic Sea Region

Chair: Saulius Kaubrys

Raluca-Daniela Radut, *An overview of the Scandinavian poetry translated in Romanian culture*
Costel Coroban, Some *Linguistic Remarks regarding Romanian Viking Studies*
Diana Latug, *A Norwegian author is welcomed in Romania (1919-1926)*

Martyn Housden, *Ewald Ammende and the European Congress of Nationalities—a Transnational Minorities Organisation that provides a Model for today and tomorrow?*
Martin Ehala, *Language practices in Estonia in and out of empires*
Kriss Kapenieks, *Curonian Ethnic Community as an Example of Multi-Ethnic Landscape of Former East Prussia*
Valters Scerbinskis, *Creating an educated elite. Ethnicity and Students at the University of Latvia, 1919-1940*

17.30-17.45: Coffee Break
Location to be decided

Session 2
17.45 – 19.15

Panel 3
Language teaching and cross-cultural encounters

Chair: Crina Leon

Raluca Petrus and Sanda Tomescu-Baciu, *Cultural Accommodation in Learning and Teaching the Norwegian Language in Cluj-Napoca*
Ildikó Varga, *Towards an international university. A professorship at the Franz Joseph University (Cluj-Napoca) in 1901*
Adél Furu, *Maintaining Linguistic Diversity Through Multilingual Education*
Anastassia Zabrodskaja, *Russian in the Baltic States: Former Dominant Language in a Minority Position*
Epp Annus, *Colonial education and the refuse of empire: dissidents, militaries and the Estonian experience under the Soviet rule*

Panel 4
Identity building in the Baltic Sea Region

Chair: Kari Alenius

Inga Kapeniece, *Building Identity of The Baltic Region*
Renee Buhr and Marharyta Fabrykant, *The Vanished Empire? The Grand Duchy of Lithuania in Contemporary Nationalist Discourse*
Laura Supjeva, *Searching for Identity: Role of the Enlargement of the European Union in Building the Baltic Sea Region*
Giedrius Kviklys, *The influence of European Union Outer Policy Initiatives to the EU-Russia Relations: Cases of Northern Dimension and Black Sea Synergy*

19.30-20.30: Regular meeting of the members of the Romanian Association for Baltic and Nordic Studies;
Location to be decided

Saturday, 25 May 2012

09.00-11.00: The registration of the participants;
Location to be decided

09.00-09.45: Plenary session IV
Location to be decided

Chair: Kalervo Hovi, University of Turku;

Speaker: Michael North, Chair of Modern History, Ernst-Moritz-Arndt-Universität Greifswald;

Keynote presentation IV: *The Sea as site of memory: The Danish Sound and the Dardanelles in comparison*;

09.45-13.30: Conference sessions
Location to be decided

	Panel 5	**Panel 6**	**Panel 7**	**Project Presentations**
	Diplomacy, images and region-building	Region-building in Baltic Sea Region and contemporary challenges	Region-building following the outbreak of the Soviet block	
	Chair: Florin Anghel	Chair: Michael Wedekind	Chair: Valters Scerbinskis	Chair: Laura Gorghiu
Session 3 09.45 – 11.15	**Marta Grzechnik**, *Intermarium: The Polish mental maps of the Baltic and Mediterranean regions in the interwar period* **Kazimierz Musial**, *Nordic public diplomacy and the construction of the Nordic-Baltic region. The case of educational and research*	**Mehmet Efe Biresselioglu**, *The Influence of Russia on the Energy Development in the Baltic States: The Possible Significance of Shale gas as a Game Changer* **Cosmin Popa**, *Toward a new type of power using old methods? (Energy and state*	**Daniel Rodrigues**, *The collapse of Soviet rule in the Northern Baltic shores – The "Singing Revolution" or non-violent national self-determination through music* **Alexandra Tieanu**, *From the Baltic to the Black Sea:*	PROFILES - Professional Reflection-Oriented Focus on Inquiry-based Learning and Education through Science Development of the Universities Staff Skills in order to Be Able to Use an E-learning System

cooperation
Kari Alenius, *A typical example of mental region-building? The Balkan area in Finnish schoolbooks from the late 19th century to the beginning of the 21st century*
Ana-Maria Despa, *Norway Seen as a Model by Romanian Travelers in the First Half of the 20th Century*

building in contemporary Russia)
Artur Lakatos, *Contemporary geo-economic issues of the Black Sea Region. The Game of Energy geopolitics*
Maria Gavaneci, *The reflection of Russia's foreign policy in region building process. The case of Nordic Region and Black Sea Region*

Poland's Eastern Policy in the 1990s
Mihaela Ivanescu, *Do Eastern Europeans still Believe in the European Union? An Analysis of People's Trust in European Institutions in Romania*

CoCreat - Enabling Creative Collaboration through Supportive Technologies
NTSE - Nano-Tech Science Education
SUSTAIN - Sustaining Development in Early School Education

11.15-11.30: Coffee Break

Session 4
11.30 – 13.30

Panel 8
Ethnic minorities and regional Identities

Chair: Dalia Bukelevičiūtė

Raluca Bianca Roman, *Finnish identity through cultural diversity: contextualizing national and community attachment among a traditional minority in Finland*
Enikõ Molnár Bodrogi, *The Voice of the Tongueless Periphery*
Saulius Kaubrys, *Jewish faction at the third Seimas of Lithuania in 1926-1927: the analysis of the factors that determined its activity*
Ronit Fisher, *Between myths and oppression: Eugenics, Racial Policy and Ethnicity in the state formation of*

Panel 9
Communism, discourse, globalization

Chair: Lucian Leuştean

Cezar Stanciu, *World Communism and Party Autonomy Romanian and Scandinavian Communists in Search for Reform*
Andrada Fatu-Tutoveanu and Corneliu Pintilescu, *Colonising Media: Soviet Discursive Practices, Control Mechanisms and Propaganda in Romanian and Estonian Communist Press*
Sonoko Shima, *A Challenge to Power Politics from the Peripheral Regions in Europe*

Panel 10
Black Sea Region Countries and the Great Powers

Chair: Eriks Jekabsons

Bogdan-Alexandru Schipor, *The Soviet Policy of „Mutual Assistance" in the Baltic Area in Autumn 1939. A British Perspective*
Mioara Anton, *The quest for a new alliance British strategies over the Balkans. 1939-1941*
Olaf Mertelsmann, *The Soviet newly acquired territories of 1939/40 - a short-lived historical region?*

interwar Romania as part of Central and East European countries
Michael Wedekind, *Political Advisors and Political Actors: Reshaping the Black Sea and Lower Danube Area (1930s-1945)*

Valerica Vlad and Adrian Lupu, *The World Economy in the Pre and Post Global Recession Era. Major Factors of Economic Growth and Their Externalities*

13.30-14.30: Break

14.30-16.30: Conference session

Session 5
14.30-16.30

Panel 11
Theatre, identity and region-building

Chair: Ildikó Varga

Pamela Monaco, *The Collective Identity of Baltic Theatre*
Yvette Jankó Szép, *Culture-Specific Theatre in Finland. The Phenomenon of Auteurism in Contemporary Finnish Theatre*
Roxana-Ema Dreve, *Linguistic diversity in Göran Tunström's novel The Thief*
Sandra Meskova, *Self-Probing and Scrutiny: Disarming the Hero as the Latvian Nationalist Project in the Literature of Recent Decades*

Panel 12
Regional cooperation in East-Central Europe during the interwar period

Chair: Olaf Merlesmann

Lucian Leustean, *The Establishment of the Little Entente and the Tribulations of Regional Cooperation within East-Central Europe in the First Inter-War Years*
Adrian Vitalaru, *Romanian Diplomacy and the German "Way" to Conciliation with the Soviet Union at the End of the First Decade of the Interwar Period*
Dalia Bukelevičiūtė, *European regional cooperation at the period of negotiations for creation Eastern pact*

Panel 13
Education and leadership: between tradition, challenges and perspectives

The Conference Section: "Education and leadership: between tradition, challenges and perspectives" is organized with the support of European Community's Seventh Framework Programme, through Project: "PROFILES - Professional Reflection-Oriented Focus on Inquiry-based Learning and Education through Science", developed under Grant Agreement no. 266589.

Chair: Gabriel Gorghiu

Karina Oborune, *The Impact of the ERASMUS programme on Promoting European Identity in the Baltic States*
Theresa Schulte, Gabriel Gorghiu and Claus Bolte, A *Comparison of Stakeholders' Views on Science Education in Germany and Romania: Results from the International PROFILES Curricular Delphi Study on Science Education*
Cristina Daniela Dinu, *The Political Myths and Their Educational Features*

in 1934-1935: the interests of Baltic and Little Entente
Florin Anghel, *Eastern Borderlands as Cordon Sanitaire: Romanian and Polish Frontiers in Interwar Geopolitics*
Eriks Jekabsons, The Romanian - Polish relations in 1930s: Latvian views

Ion Croitoru, *Education and Guidance. The Role of the Church and Christian Education in Shaping Characters*
Tarik Kisla, Bulent Cavas and Peter Twining, *An Investigation on the Changes in the Stakeholders Views about the Use of ICT in Education*
Bulent Cavas, Pinar Cavas, Yasemin Ozdem and Teoman Kesercioglu, *Continuous Professional Development of Science and Technology Teachers: An Experience from the Workshops in Turkey*
Cagla Bulut and Bulent Cavas, *A Research Proposal on the Investigation of the Effects of Engineering Focused Inquiry Based Science Education on Students' Science Process Skills, Attitudes toward Science and Technology Course and Career Choices*
Simge Akpullukcu and Bulent Cavas, *Lab Safety and Teachers*
Duygu Seyman and Teoman Kesercioglu, *The Effect of Outdoor Education on Students' Environmental Awareness and Attitudes toward Environment*

16.30-16.45: Coffee Break
The Reception Hall of the International Centre for Conferences

16.45-17.30: Plenary session V
Location to be decided

Chair: Marko Lehti, University of Tampere;

Speaker: Leonidas Donskis, *The European Parliament*;

Keynote presentation V: *Sometimes Less Means More, or Why Do Baltic Studies Matter?*

17.30-18.00: Books and Periodicals presentation session;
Location to be decided

Chair: Crina Leon, „Al.I. Cuza" University of Jassy;
Speakers: Leonidas Donskis, Veniamin Ciobanu, Silviu Miloiu, Cezar Stanciu

Leonidas Donskis, *Putere si imaginatie. Studii de politica si literatura* (Targoviste: Cetatea de Scaun, 2012)
Veniamin Ciobanu, *Europe and the Porte: new documents on Eastern Question, vol. IX: Swedish diplomatic reports 1821-1829* (Targoviste: Cetatea de Scaun, 2012)
Titus Garbea, *Memorial si insemnari zilnice*, vol. 1-3, ed. Silviu-Marian Miloiu (Targoviste: Cetatea de Scaun, 2012)
Revista Romana de Studii Baltice si Nordice / The Romanian Journal for Baltic and Nordic Studies
Valahian Journal of Historical Studies

18.00-19.45: Conference session

	Panel 14	**Panel 15**	**2nd International Workshop on Creative Collaboration through Supportive Technologies in Education - CCSTED 2013**
Session 6 18.00-19.45	Communism, media, globalization	Diplomacy, clashes and region-building	*The Workshop is organized with the support of European Commission, Education and Training, under LLP Transversal Programme KA3-ICT, through Project 511733-LLP-1-2010-1-FI-KA3-KA3MP: "CoCreat - Enabling Creative Collaboration through Supportive Technologies"*
	Chair: Adrian Vitalaru	Chair: Costel Coroban	Chair: David Lamas

Silviu Miloiu, *Romania, the Border States and the Soviet proposals of Non-Aggression Pacts at the start of 1930s*

Kalervo Hovi, *Finland's Rapprochement to National-Socialist Germany as Reaction against Winter War*

Emanuel Plopeanu, *Failure of cooperation: about Romanian-Turkish economic and cultural relations during World War Two*

Ileana Căzan, *The Eastern Elbe collonization and the urban development in the Baltic Sea rim area. The case of Wismar city (1272-1297)*

Mihaela Mehedinti, *Diplomacy as a lifestyle. Nordic and Russian diplomats as links between their own countries and the Romanian area (17th – 19th centuries)*

Mihaela Mehedinti, *"War is the continuation of Politik by other means". Political-military conflicts and contacts between the Romanians, the Nordic countries and Russia (17th – 19th centuries)*

Amelia-Liana Vaidean, *Political, cultural and diplomatic relations between Prussia and the Principality of Moldavia: 1774-1812*

Veniamin Ciobanu, *International reactions at the Russian repression of Polish insurrection of November 1830*

David Lamas, Hanna-Liisa Pender, Maarja Keskpaik, *Exploring the Use of Mobile Technologies in Creative and Collaborative Storytelling*

Margarida Romero, Elena Barberà, *Time Pressure in Computer-Based Creative Collaboration*

Gabriela Moise, Monica Vlădoiu, Zoran Constantinescu, *Toward Increasing Learning Group Creativity within Computer Supported Collaborative Learning*

Emil Pop, Camelia Barbu, Roxana Bubatu, Petre Vamvu, *Some Aspects of Human Memory Simulation and E-Learning Technology Used for Brain-Based-Learning Education*

Nicolae-Dorel Constantinescu, *Piazza - A Tool for Class Discussion. Advantages and Disadvantages of Its Using*

Andrei Chilian, Gabriel Gorghiu, Laura Monica Gorghiu, *Virtual Collaborative Courses in Romanian Higher Education - A Challenge for Students*

Eda Ozdogru, Teoman Kesercioglu and Bulent Cavas, *Robotics and the Students: Classroom Observations*

Simge Akpullukcu and Yasemin Gunay, *Inquiry Based Science Education Environment*

19.45-20.00: Closing Session
Location to be decided

Chairs: Silviu Miloiu and Florin Anghel;

20.00-21.00: visit of the city center of Constanta;

Sunday, 26 May 2012

09.00-17.00: Guided excursion to Dobrudja;

Presenters' index (others still to confirm):

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