Descriptive Summary
Title: Peveril Meigs Baja California Research Materials
Identifier/Call Number: MSS 0530
Contributing Institution: Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego
9500 Gilman Drive
La Jolla, California, 92093-0175
Languages: English
Physical Description: 12.4 Linear feet (5 archives boxes and 8 oversized folders)
Date (inclusive): 1925 - 1979
Abstract: Photographs, journals, maps and related research materials on Baja California, Mexico, created by geographer Peveril Meigs III. Meigs conducted field research in northern Baja between 1925 and 1936 observing geology, climate, indigenous populations, mission sites, and local culture in preparation for his 1932 doctoral dissertation entitled "The Dominican Missions of Lower California" and his ethnographic monograph entitled The Kiliwa Indians of Lower California (1939).
Creator: Meigs, Peveril, 1903-1979
Related Materials
SEPARATION NOTE: Published books, journals, and maps from the Peveril Meigs collection have been separated from the papers and added Library's holdings. To identify and list these items, conduct an author search in the ROGER catalog on the term "Meigs, Peveril 1903 1979 Former Owner."
Scope and Content of Collection
Photographs, journals, maps and related research materials on Baja California, Mexico, created by geographer Peveril Meigs III. Meigs conducted field research in northern Baja between 1925 and 1936 observing geology, climate, indigenous populations, mission sites, and local culture in preparation for his 1932 doctoral dissertation entitled "The Dominican Missions of Lower California" and his ethnographic monograph entitled The Kiliwa Indians of Lower California (1939).
The collection contains journals with daily observations of people, the natural environment and historical sites; photographic prints, scans of negatives, and glass lantern slides, some of which have been mounted in albums; and hand drawn maps, particularly of the area around Arroyo Leon. The journals and all photographic images have been digitized and are available for viewing on the UC San Diego Library Digital Collections website. The collection also includes notes and typescripts on Meigs's fieldwork and published sources on Baja California and Dominican mission history; annotated publications; and correspondence with his dissertation advisor, Dr. Carl Sauer, and other notable scholars including ethnographer A.L. Kroeber, geographer Homer Aschmann, and historian Peter Gerhard. Of interest is Meigs's translation, from Spanish into English, of Dominican padre Luis de Sales's "Noticias de la Provincia de Californias en Tres Cartas," notes and data compiled in the 1950s on Baja California's climate history, and several papers by Meigs on peninsular Indian culture written in the 1970s. The collection does not contain material related to Meigs's research on other arid deserts or tide mills.
Arranged in eight series: 1) CORRESPONDENCE, 2) WRITINGS BY MEIGS, 3) WRITINGS BY OTHERS, 4) JOURNALS, 5) PHOTOGRAPHS, 6) MAPS, 7) MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS, and 8) ORIGINALS OF PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPIES.
Biography
Peveril Meigs, III was born in Flushing, New York, on May 5, 1903. His family moved to Santa Barbara, California, and Meigs later attended the University of California, Berkeley, where he received an A.B. (1925) and a Ph.D (1932) in geography. As an undergraduate studying with Dr. Carl O. Sauer, Meigs became interested in Baja California and planned his first trip to the peninsula in the summer of 1925, accompanied by fellow graduate student Charles Warren Thorndaiwa. On his first trip, Meigs and Thorndaiwa travelled as far south as San Fernando de Velicatá and visited David Goldbaum in Ensenada, the Johnson Ranch in San Antonio del Mar, the Hamilton Ranch, the flour mill and saltworks at San Quintín, the Meling Ranch, and the mining center of Real Del Castillo. They also made a long stay in the town of El Rosario, a brief tour of Mexicali and visited the Dominican mission sites of San Fernando, El Rosario, Santo Domingo, and San Pedro Mártir. Meigs returned to Berkeley as a graduate student in the fall of 1925, presented his photographs to a seminar in geography and stimulated interest in the peninsula among graduate students and faculty, including Dr. Oscar Schmieder, who went on to study the Russian colony in the Guadalupe Valley. In the summer of 1926, Dr. Sauer, Meigs, and graduate students Sam Dicken and Fred Kniffen embarked upon a second trip that retraced many of the destinations of the first and concentrated on Dominican mission sites. Sauer and Meigs returned and published "Site and Culture at San Fernando de Velicatá," the first installment in a Baja California series published by the University of California Press. Sauer served as Meigs's advisor.
as he continued his graduate studies and began work on his dissertation. Meigs returned to Baja California each summer for the next three years, focusing on the history and geography of the Dominican missions and the native populations surrounding them. In 1927, Meigs was accompanied by Horace Byers, a Berkeley undergraduate interested in making meteorological observations. In 1928, Meigs, under the direction of Dr. A.L. Kroeber and accompanied by his wife Yvonne, spent several weeks living with and studying the Kiliwa Indians in Valle Trinidad. He was joined by his brother Stewart on a similar trip in 1929.

Meigs returned to the peninsula to complete his studies of the Kiliwa Indians in 1936. The results of these studies were published in 1939 as The Kiliwa Indians of Lower California.

Following several teaching appointments in California and Louisiana, Meigs served as a geographer with the Office of Strategic Services (1942-1945) and the Arctic Institute of North America (1948-1949). While he spent most of his professional career studying the physical geography of arid and arctic zones, Meigs returned to his Baja California studies in the 1970s, publishing several articles in Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly that reexamined his earlier field work.

Peveril Meigs died September 16, 1979, in Wayland, Massachusetts.

Digital Content
Journals and photographic images from the collection have been digitized and can be viewed through links in the container list, or by clicking the link below.

Items available online

Preferred Citation
Peveril Meigs Baja California Research Materials, MSS 530. Special Collections & Archives, UC San Diego.

Acquisition Information

Subjects and Indexing Terms
Dawson, Glen, 1912-
Gerhard, Peter, 1920-
Kelly, William H. (William Henderson), 1902-
Kroeber, A. L. (Alfred Louis), 1876-1960
Sales, Luis de, 1745-1807
Sauer, Carl Ortwin, 1889-1975
West, Robert C. (Robert Cooper), 1913-2001
Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula) -- Climate
Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula) -- Description and travel
Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula) -- Geography
Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula) -- History
Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula) -- Maps
Baja California (Mexico : Peninsula) -- Pictorial works
Indians of Mexico -- Mexico -- Baja California (Peninsula)
Kiliwa Indians
Maps -- Mexico -- Baja California -- 20th century
Meling Ranch (Baja California, Mexico)
Missions -- Mexico -- Baja California (Peninsula) -- History
Missions -- Mexico -- Baja California (Peninsula) -- Pictorial works
Photographic prints -- 1920-1929
Photographic prints -- 1930-1939
Ranches -- Mexico -- Baja California (Peninsula)
CORRESPONDENCE

Scope and Content of Series
Series 1) CORRESPONDENCE: Letters from other Baja California historians, geographers, and anthropologists, as well as editors, booksellers, and family members. Notable correspondents include Carl Sauer, A.L. Kroeber, Homer Aschmann, and Peter Gerhard. Arranged alphabetically by correspondent.

Box 1, Folder 1  A-Z Miscellaneous
Box 1, Folder 2  Antigua Libreria Robredo 1949
Box 1, Folder 3  Aschmann, Homer 1954
  General note
  Includes Baja California climatic data charts.

Box 1, Folder 4  Brand, Donald D. 1939
Box 1, Folder 5  Dawson’s Book Shop 1979
  General note
  Glen Dawson.

Box 1, Folder 6  Gerhard, Peter 1943 - 1951
Box 1, Folder 7  Kelly, William 1940 - 1949
Box 1, Folder 8  Kroeber, A.L. 1932 - 1939
Box 1, Folder 9  Henry E. Huntington Library and Art Gallery 1935
Box 1, Folder 10  Meigs, Loren (brother) 1925 - 1932
Box 1, Folder 11  Sauer, Carl 1927 - 1931
Box 1, Folder 12  Smith, Helen 1970 - 1971
Box 1, Folder 13  West, Robert 1979

WRITINGS BY MEIGS

Scope and Content of Series
Series 2) WRITINGS BY MEIGS: Drafts summarizing field notes, typescripts, notes on bibliographic sources, and reprints of Meigs’s work related to Baja California, including research notes for his published works on the Kiliwa Indians and several reprints of articles published in Pacific Coast Archaeological Society Quarterly. Of interest is Meigs’s translation of Padre Luis de Sales’s “Noticias de la Provincia de Californias en Tres Cartas,” an important account on Dominican activity in Baja California. Materials are arranged alphabetically.

Box 1, Folder 14  Baja California bibliographies 1952 - 1961
Box 1, Folder 15  Baja California climatic data 1919 - 1967
  General note
  Notes and charts.

Box 1, Folder 16  Capes of Human Hair from Baja California and Outside 1970
  General note

Box 1, Folder 17  Creation Myth and Other Recollections of the Niji Mishkwish 1971
  General note

Box 1, Folder 18  Crespi diary notes
Box 1, Folder 19  Dominican Mission Frontier of Lower California 1935
  General note
  Notes.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 20</th>
<th>Kiliwa Indians - Dialects</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
<td>Kiliwa Indians - Notes 1917 - 1977</td>
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<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 22</td>
<td>Kiliwa Indians - Valle Trinidad notes 1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 23</td>
<td>Kiliwa Indians of Lower California 1932 - 1969</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Correspondence and manuscript draft.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box 1, Folder 24</th>
<th>Miscellaneous notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Box 1, Folder 25</td>
<td>Notes on the Paipai of San Isidoro, Baja California 1977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
</tr>
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</table>

| Box 1, Folder 26 | Noticias de la Provincia de Californias en Tres Cartas, by Luis Sales. Translated by Meigs |
|                 | General note        |
|                 | Manuscript.         |

| Box 1, Folder 27 | Noticias de la Provincia de Californias en Tres Cartas, by Luis Sales. Translated by Meigs |
|                 | General note        |
|                 | Typescript.         |

| Box 1, Folder 28 | Rains and hurricanes in southern Baja California 1966 |
|                 | General note        |
|                 | Draft and notes.    |

| Box 1, Folder 29 | Some Pictographs in Northern Baja California 1976 |
|                 | General note        |

**WRITINGS BY OTHERS**

**Scope and Content of Series**

Series 3) WRITINGS BY OTHERS: Baja California-related publications by other authors that have been heavily annotated by Meigs. Arranged in alphabetical order.

| Box 1, Folder 30 | Diary of Junipero Serra; Mch. 28 - June 30, 1769. Part III 1902 |
|                 | General note        |
|                 | Published in OUTWEST, vol. 16, no. 5. |

| Box 1, Folder 31 | Gifford, E.W. "The Kamia of Imperial Valley" 1931 |
|                 | General note        |

| Box 2, Folder 1 | Gifford, E.W. and R.H. Lowie. "Notes on the Akwa’ala Indians of Lower California" 1929 |
|                | General note        |
Box 2, Folder 2  Hastings, James Rodney, ed. *Climatological Data For Baja California* 1964
General note

Box 2, Folder 3  Hendry, George W. "Francisco Palou's Boundary Marker" 1926
General note
California Historical Society, San Francisco, 1926.

Box 2, Folder 4  Mexico. Secretaria de Agricultura y Ganaderia. *Servicio Meteorologico Mexicano* 1924 - 1954
General note
Manuscript meteorological data charts recording temperature, rainfall, dominant wind direction, number of days of fog, and number of cloudy days for reporting stations in Baja California and Sonora from the 1920s to the 1950s. Completeness of the data varies for each station

Box 2, Folder 5  Nelson, Edward W. *Lower California And Its Natural Resources* 1921
General note
Published in *Memoirs of the National Academy of Sciences*, Vol. XVI.

Box 2, Folder 6  North Mexican Center for Anthropology 1953
General note
Brochure.

Box 2, Folder 7  Rogers, Malcolm J. "The Stone Art of the San Dieguito Plateau" 1929
General note

Box 2, Folder 8  Shreve, Forest. "A Desert by the Sea" 1935
General note

Box 2, Folder 9  Shreve, Forest and R.D. Mallery. "Desert Investigations" 1934
General note

**JOURNALS**

Scope and Content of Series
Series 4) JOURNALS: Meigs's field notes from his annual summer expeditions to Baja California, 1925-1929. Notably absent from the series are his notes from 1936. While the journals mostly contain daily accounts of his field work, including land measurements, sketch maps, photograph captions, and interviews with subjects, the 1925 journal begins six months before he enters the field, offering a glimpse of Meigs's life as an undergraduate at UC Berkeley. The final entry in the series is a copy of Dr. Oscar Schmieder's study of the Russian colony at Guadalupe Valley, heavily annotated by Meigs while he studied the Kiliwa Indians in 1929. The journals were numbered by Meigs and are arranged chronologically.

Box 2, Folder 10  Outlined account of Baja California explorations 1926 - 1928
General note
Contains references to journal page numbers and photographs. Probably created in preparation for a publication for the *Baja California Travel Series*. 
Box 2, Folder 11

Journal 1 1925 January 1-August 3
Journal 1, 1925 January 1 - August 3
Journal 1A 1925 June 25-July 26
General note

Box 2, Folder 13

Journal 1A, 1925
Journal 2 1926 May-June
General note

Box 2, Folder 14

Journal 2, 1926
Journal 3 1926 June-July
General note

Box 2, Folder 15

Journal 3, 1926
Journal 4 1926 July-August
General note

Box 3, Folder 1

Journal 4, 1926
Journal 5 1927 May-June
General note
May - June. Baja California. Field notes 1.

Box 3, Folder 2

Journal 5, 1927
Journal 5A 1927 May
General note
Meteorological data. Includes newspaper articles about Meig's 1926 and 1927 explorations.

Box 3, Folder 3

Journal 5A, 1927
Lower California Day Book 1927 May 14
General note
One entry, dated May 14.

Box 3, Folder 4

Journal 6, 1927
Lower California Day Book, 1927
Journal 6 1927 June-July
General note
June - July. Field notes 2.

Box 3, Folder 5

Journal 6, 1927
Journal 7, 8, and 9 1927 July
General note
Volume contains "1927, July - August, Field notes 3"; "1927-1928, Winter"; and "1928, Summer, 2 weeks, includes Kiliwa study."

Box 3, Folder 6

Journal 7, 8, and 9, 1927
Journal 10 1928 May-July
General note
Kiliwa study, first summer, with Yvonne, 1.
Journal 10, 1928
Journal 10 1928 May-July
General note
Kiliwa study, first summer, with Yvonne, 2.

Journal 11, 1928
Journal 11 1928 May-July
General note
Ensenada.

Journal 12, 1928
Journal 12 1928 May-July
General note
Santa Catalina Mission. Geography of Kiliwas.

Journal 13, 1929
Journal 13 1929 May-June
General note

PHOTOGRAPHS AND LANTERN SLIDES
Scope and Content of Series
Series 5) PHOTOGRAPHS. Arranged in two subseries: A) Photograph Albums and B) Lantern Slides.

The collection originally contained several hundred nitrate negatives. Due to their deteriorating condition, the negatives were scanned and destroyed. All photographic images in this series can be found on the UC San Diego Library Digital Collections website, where they are individually scanned, described and, where possible, linked to the journal entry that describes the day the image was captured.

A) Photograph Albums: Meigs assembled an album of his first field trip to Baja California in 1925, containing original prints and his own captions. Negatives largely do not exist for this album, and some prints are missing. Following the example of the 1925 album, in 2007 the nitrate negatives were scanned and new prints were collated into modern albums along with original prints, using caption titles supplied by information in Meigs's journals. During this process, Meigs's own numbering system for matching prints, negatives, and captions was maintained. In some cases, descriptions in the albums have been supplemented with additional notations found on his negative envelopes. Several gaps remain in the photograph series where negative envelopes were empty or missing. In most cases, the numbers and captions of absent photographs have been noted and designated as "Missing" within each album.

B) Lantern Slides: 63 glass slides used in presentations by Meigs. The slides are largely copies of images originally captured on nitrate negatives; these images have been scanned from the negative and are available on the Library's Digital Collections website.

Photograph Albums

Oversize FB-350, Folder 1
Album 1925
General note
From Tijuana to El Rosario. Includes images of the Santo Tomas valley, Johnson's Ranch at San Antonio del Mar, the San Telmo valley, the Hamilton Ranch in Santo Domingo, the San Quintin flour mill and saltworks, and the town of El Rosario.
PHOTOGRAPHS AND LANTERN SLIDES
Photograph Albums

Album, 1925

Album 1926
General note
San Fernando Velicata to Santo Tomas. Includes images of the missions of San Fernando Velicata, Nuestra Senora del Rosario, San Vicente Ferrer, Santo Domingo de la Frontera, and Santo Tomas.

Album 1926

Album 1927
General note
Tijuana to El Marmol. Includes images of Japanese abalone fisherman, the onyx mine at El Marmol, the rancho at Santa Catarina, the San Fernando mine, and the saltworks at San Quintin.

Album 1928
General note
Valle Trinidad to Tijuana. Includes images of Kiliwa Indians around Arroyo Leon, street scenes in Ensenada, and panoramic views of Tijuana from the hill above the port of entry on the US side.

Album 1929
General note
Arroyo Leon to Neji. Includes images from the Guadalupe valley, the town of Santa Catarina, and the village of Neji.

Album 1936
General note
Includes images of Mission San Miguel and Indians at Manteca.

Unidentified prints

Box 3, Folder 17

Lantern Slides

Lantern slides 1925 - 1936

MAPS

Scope and Content of Series
SeriesES 6) MAPS: Maps created by Meigs, either as copies of existing maps or as field sketches, as well as a "Baja California Sketch Map" containing C.W. Thorndwaite's signature on each leaf. The maps created by Meigs have been identified using the title he attributed to them. Untitled maps have been identified by geographic region or landmarks. The Thorndwaite map appears to be an enlarged and segmented copy of Carl H. Beal's "Reconnaissance geologic map and structure sections of Baja California, Mexico." The twelve leaves of the map are accompanied by reduced-sized photocopies exhibiting numerous annotations by Meigs. Arranged in alphabetical order.

Diagrammatic sketch from Cape Colnett to San Felipe Bay
General note
Traced from sketch by J. van der Gracht. Pencil and colored pencil on tracing paper.

Diagrammatic sketch from El Rosario to the Gulf of California at 30 degrees N. Latitude
General note
Traced from sketch by J. van der Gracht. Pencil and colored pencil on tracing paper.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item Code</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oversize MC-154-01</td>
<td>Diagrammatic sketch from Santo Tomás to south of San Quintín</td>
<td>General note: Pencil and colored pencil on tracing paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 5</td>
<td>Geological profile, Todos Santos Bay to Gulf 1926</td>
<td>General note: &quot;Geol. Profile, Todos S. Bay to Gulf. Direction N. 71 Degrees E., Lindgren.&quot; Pencil on paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 8</td>
<td>Northwest Mexico. Coastal Sectors</td>
<td>General note: Unidentified publication.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize MC-154-01</td>
<td>Sketch map of San Quintín Bay</td>
<td>General note: Tracing from a blueprint by &quot;C.J. Young (engineer), 1889, for the Compania Mexicana Internacional. Elevations from U.S. Steamship 'Ranger,' 1888. Blueprint loaned by David Goldbaum.&quot; Pencil on tracing paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oversize MC-154-01</td>
<td>Sketch map of the San Telmo River mouth</td>
<td>General note: Pencil on tracing paper.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 5, Folder 13</td>
<td>Sketch maps of El Rosario 1926</td>
<td>General note: Pencil on paper.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Item Description</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oversize MC-154-02</strong></td>
<td><strong>Thornthwaite, C.W. Baja California Sketch Map 1925</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Based on the work of Carl H. Beal for the Marland Oil Company. Segmented into 12 quadrangles; quadrangle 10 missing. Includes set of reduced-size photocopies with annotations by Meigs.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Box 5, Folder 15</strong></td>
<td><strong>Vila, Vicente. Puerto de San Diego situado por 32 grados 32 minutos de latitud septent 1769</strong></td>
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<td>General note</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Photocopy of a manuscript map in Archivo General de Indias, Seville.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MISCELLANEOUS</strong></td>
<td><strong>Scope and Content of Series</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Series 7) MISCELLANEOUS MATERIALS: Newspaper clippings, pressed plants, and a postcard from Ensenada.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Box 5, Folder 16</strong></td>
<td><strong>Newspaper clippings 1925 - 1962</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Box 5, Folder 17</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ensenada postcard 1928</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Box 5, Folder 18</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pressed plants 1926</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Box 5, Folder 19</strong></td>
<td><strong>Principal publications by Peveril Meigs 1974</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Box 5, Folder 20</strong></td>
<td><strong>Telegram from William A. Saathoff (foreman) to Eulogio Romero</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>General note</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April 5, 1908.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ORIGINALS OF PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPIES</strong></td>
<td><strong>Originals of preservation photocopies</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>