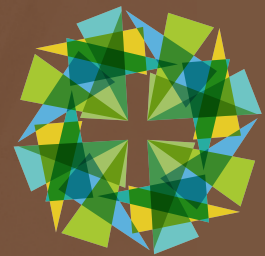


# Methodist Heritage News



Spring 2011

## A double first online!

The Methodist Heritage Committee is proud to announce the launch of the new Methodist Heritage website [www.methodistheritage.org.uk](http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk) and the online launch of the Methodist Church's popular *Methodist Heritage Handbook*.



Photo © iStock

With photo slideshows, interactive maps and the potential for adding events to the calendar, the web version of the *Handbook* offers lots of new and exciting features the printed booklet had no room for. Created by the Connexional Team's internet communications coordinator David Webster, the new website uses the Methodist Heritage brand to provide a vibrant new platform for promoting the heritage sites of the Methodist Church.

But that's not all. It is the Methodist Heritage Committee's aim that this

new site will be a portal to information for visitors, researchers and heritage professionals about the Methodist Church's whole heritage. Over time, content from the existing 'History' web pages of the Methodist Church's main website will be updated and moved over – as well as a wealth of new content about making group visits, artefact collections, accessing archived records and the historical research going on into Methodism. This new site has been designed to be intuitive to navigate and easily searchable. Is it? Let us know! Visit us at [www.methodistheritage.org.uk](http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk)

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## Editorial

Welcome to the second edition of *Heritage News*. I'm John Miles, and for the last five years, I've been editor of the Methodist Church's annual *Archives & History Newsletter*.

With the launch of *Heritage News*, I have agreed to help as commissioning editor, contacting possible contributors to the magazine. It is obvious that with a different format, *Heritage News* cannot feature articles from all our main Methodist heritage sites, archives or related societies in a single issue. But over time we shall feature past *Newsletter* contributors in *Heritage News*, and I shall also invite a wider range of contributors to tell you about their heritage sites, collections and work.

In this edition, you will find articles from two of Methodism's main heritage sites – Wesley's Chapel and Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum – together with contributions from Mount Zion Chapel, the oldest New Connexion society that has met continually, and a very interesting item from Blackpool North Shore Methodist Church.

In addition, from the archivists and historians, we have articles from John Rylands University Library and the Wesley Historical Society.

*Heritage News* is an exciting development! Enjoy this edition and spread the word.

John Miles,  
Commissioning Editor, *Heritage News*  
(Tel: 01366 385772 Email: john.miles@milesfamily.org.uk)

## Picture perfect at Wesley's Chapel

Christian Dettlaff, the new curator for Wesley's Chapel and the Leysian Mission, began work in October 2010. Originally from Germany, Christian has worked at the Victoria & Albert Museum and at Guildford House Gallery in Surrey.

One of his first projects at Wesley's Chapel has been to collate data and programme photography of its oil paintings for the Public Catalogue Foundation (PCF). There are an estimated 200,000 oil, acrylic and tempera paintings in the UK, but about 80% of these are hidden from public view. The aim of the PCF is to improve public access to these paintings by producing a series of colour catalogues. So far over 30 have been produced.

Christian led the photography and cataloguing of paintings whilst at Guildford House Gallery, and he is keen to photograph and catalogue the paintings at Wesley's Chapel. Christian explained, "Wesley's Chapel and the Leysian Mission have some excellent oil paintings, but these cannot be shown permanently in the museum, nor in John Wesley House. Photographing and cataloguing them will help improve our records, provide us with free digital images and be a great way to publicise what we own. Best of all, these benefits will come at no additional cost to us."

The project has involved documenting all the relevant paintings for the first time in digital format. Museum volunteers have put in many hours collecting relevant data and dusting those paintings which the museum, due to space restrictions, has been unable to display for many years! Everyone is pleased with what has been achieved and Christian and the team look forward to seeing the catalogue, printed later in the year, all being well.



Accredited  
Museum



For the latest news, events, resources visit: **Methodist Heritage** at [www.methodistheritage.org.uk](http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk)



## Where the past is a foreign country, just off the M6



*Hough Chapel today*

Thanks to grants from the Methodist Connexion, the Rank Foundation and several other generous supporters, the Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum (one of the Methodist Church's four key heritage properties) was able to acquire the cottage that stands immediately next to it. They have also been granted the use of a recently closed Methodist chapel at Hough for museum purposes, thanks to the museum team's partnership with the Cheshire South Circuit.

**H**ough Chapel was built in 1861. It follows a typical style of the early Primitive Methodist period in that it looks as much like a house as it does a church. Early pioneers of the movement were surprisingly unsentimental about their buildings; the idea being that if a meeting place outlived its usefulness, it could be turned into housing and sold. In the event, Hough Chapel survived as a regular place of worship for 150 years and, as part of the Englesea Brook project, will continue to serve the purposes of the Chester and Stoke-on-Trent District as a centre for storage and conservation.

Last summer, a service was held at Hough Chapel, celebrating the role of the building in furthering the mission of the Church in the past, present and future.

Kevin Watson, project director at the museum, explained: "During that service, we reflected on the tough times of early Primitive Methodism, when the movement

largely comprised working people who often lived short and difficult lives. We thought of the oppression often endured by early Methodist itinerants, and the hard working lives of so many who found in their local chapel a shelter from the storm and a sense of purpose and belonging."

L P Hartley famously wrote, "The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there." In truth, the past is simultaneously familiar and quite strange. Witness, for example, Primitive Methodist obituaries from the era when Hough Chapel was built. There is a notable absence of people of advanced age and many pages devoted to members who died very young. In the Hough Chapel service, the congregation remembered an 18-year-old local preacher who was able to give thanks that he could attend one final tea meeting and worship with his friends before he went on to his reward, and a 29-year-old housemaid who had been widowed twice and died in

joyful knowledge of the assurance of Jesus while accompanying her mistress on a tour of Europe.

These are stories of ordinary people largely forgotten by history. But Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum are delighted that the acquisition of Hough Chapel and the cottage next to the museum will allow them to discover and share the lives and experiences of people like this more effectively.

*\* Since submitting this article, Kevin Watson has left Englesea Brook Chapel and Museum. On behalf of the Methodist Heritage Committee, the Methodist heritage officer and everyone in the Methodist Heritage Sites' Network, we wish him success and all blessings in the next stage of his career.*



*The first ever Primitive Methodist chapel, Tunstall, 1811*



# Wesley Historical Society

## The origins of the Wesley Historical Society

In 1892, George Stampe (1836–1918), owner of a very successful timber merchant's in Grimsby and an avid collector of Wesleyan and Wesley portraits, letters and books, wrote to the *Methodist Recorder* inviting people who were interested in early Methodist history to contact him. Few did.

Not disheartened, Stampe spoke to the Methodist historian the Revd Richard Green (1870–1907) about his vision of founding a Methodist Historical Society. Green replied, "What's to be done must be begun." In 1893 Green wrote to 20 people inviting them to be members of a Methodist Historical Society with the objective "to promote the study of the History and Literature of Methodism; to accumulate exact knowledge of all subjects bearing on the same, and to provide a medium of intercourse on all questions relating to the above."

Today, the WHS is autonomous, but it sees itself as being in relationship with the Methodist Churches of Britain and Ireland. Throughout the WHS's history, its officers have been members and often officers of the Methodist Church and Conference, but that has been coincidental rather than a requirement.

The February 2011 issue of the *Proceedings* contains an extended article on the origins and evolution of the WHS.



REVD RICHARD GREEN

MR GEORGE STAMPE

Are you inspired by the lives and witness of Methodism's founders John and Charles Wesley? Do you enjoy celebrating and exploring Methodist history and the links between Methodist heritage and the continuing mission of the Church today? Are you interested in the history of the place where you worship, or the relationship between Methodism and other Christian denominations? Do you have Methodist ancestors and wish to find out more about the Methodist story? If you have answered yes to any of these questions, then you might be interested in joining the Wesley Historical Society (WHS).

Membership of the WHS is open to anyone interested in Methodist history. The annual subscription rate entitles members to receive three issues of the society's journal, the *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society*. Members can also enjoy the facilities of the society's library at Oxford Brookes University and attend the society's annual meeting and lecture and its triennial residential conferences.

The society also publishes occasional publications such as *In the Shadow of a Mighty Rock*, a new history of Methodism in Gibraltar, and hosts the detailed *Online Dictionary of Methodism in Great Britain and Ireland* at [www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk).

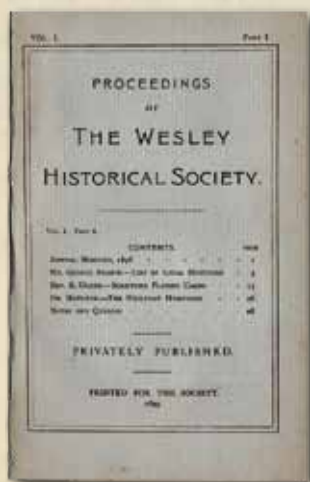
WHS membership application forms are obtainable from the Registrar, the Revd Donald H Ryan, 15 Foxlands Drive, Lloyds Hill, Penn, Wolverhampton WV4 5NB (tel: 01902 335556) or from the society's website: [www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk](http://www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk).

Details of the society's publications are available from the Marketing Officer, 22 Broadway Road, Evesham WR11 1BG (email: [himsworth@bbmax.co.uk](mailto:himsworth@bbmax.co.uk))

See *Dates for your Diary* (page 8) for details about the WHS Annual Lecture & AGM.

### Regional Methodist Historical Societies

There is also an extensive network of regional Methodist historical societies linked with the Wesley Historical Society offering their own local programmes of activities and publications at a small extra charge. For details of local branches contact Professor Michael Collins, 38 Trueway Drive, Shepshed, Loughborough LE12 9DU Tel: 01244 532350



*Proceedings Vol.1, Part 1, printed 1897*



## John Wesley letter acquired for the Methodist Archives

As readers of this newsletter will be aware, the collection of Wesley and early Methodist papers and books deposited by the Methodist Church in the Methodist Archives and Research Centre at the John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester, is the richest in the world. One of the jewels of the archive is the John Wesley correspondence collection comprising over 700 autographed letters. The prestige of the collection and the library is such that the archive continues to attract new acquisitions. On average, one or two letters are added each year.

One such manuscript was acquired by the Church in August 2010. The letter forms part of a larger collection and its provenance represents a good example of the varied circumstances that surround many acquisitions. The collection was in the possession of the late Cyril Coward of Tockington, near Bristol. Mr Coward belonged to an old Methodist family, although it is unclear how he acquired the papers. Shortly before his death, Mr Coward gave the collection to the Methodist minister Revd John D Clapham. On 11 June 2010, shortly before he died, Revd Clapham gave it to a friend, expressing a wish that the collection should go to Methodism and that this donation would also have been Cyril Coward's wish. The Cyril Coward Archive was accordingly donated to the Methodist Church, to be kept at the John Rylands Library (accession reference 2010/006).

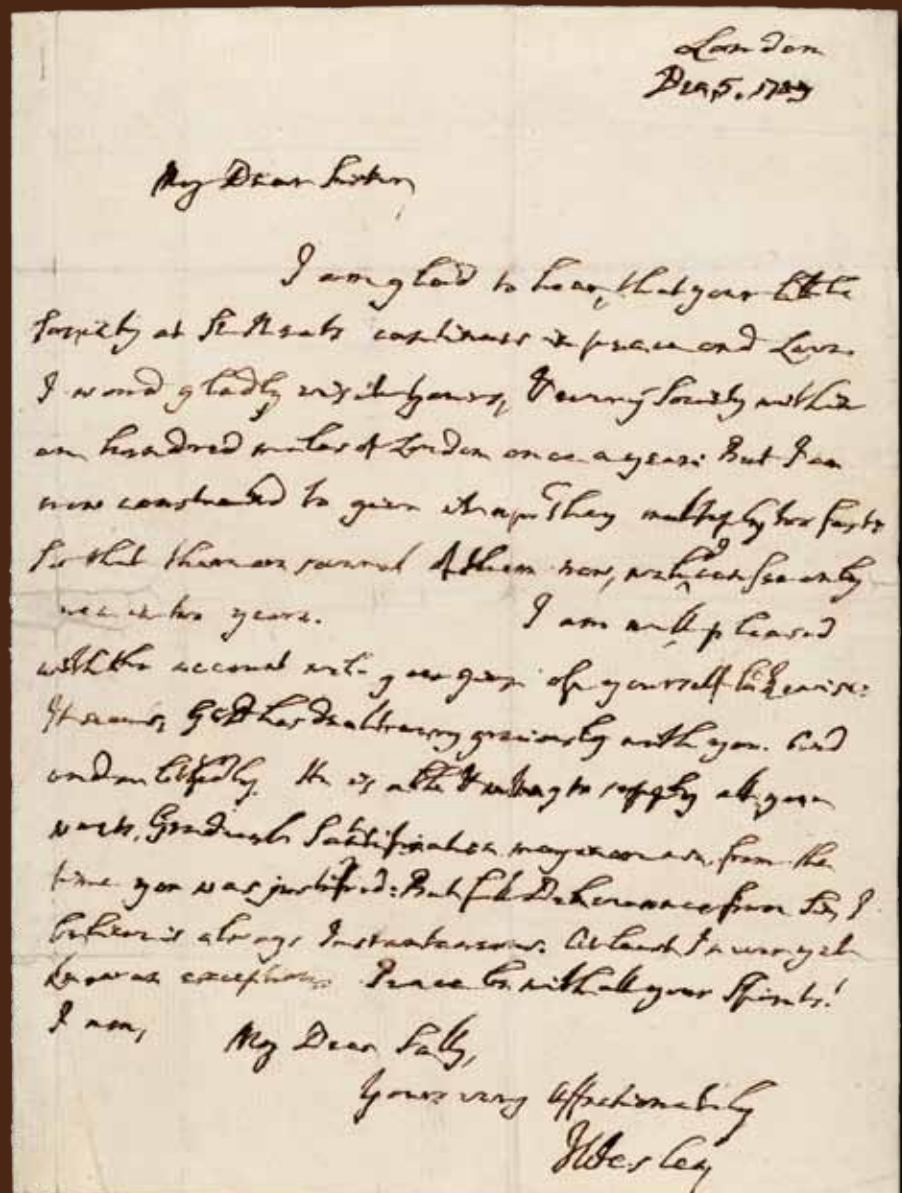
The most eye-catching document in the collection is the John Wesley autographed letter. This is dated 5 December 1789 and was sent from London to Miss Sarah Rutter in St Neots. The letter, which is in good condition, is published in volume 8 of the standard edition of Wesley's letters edited by John Telford.

Telford records that Rutter was converted by Wesley's preaching at St Neots on 28 October 1788. In addition to the letter in the Coward collection, the texts of four other letters from Wesley to Rutter are contained in the standard edition. Rutter also

submitted a memorial for her brother George to the 1792 issue of the *Arminian Magazine* (pages 238–240) and this contains some additional background information about the family.

For more information about the Methodist Archives at the John

Rylands Library, please contact Dr Gareth Lloyd (Email: [gareth.lloyd@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:gareth.lloyd@manchester.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 306 6521) or Dr Peter Nockles (Email: [peter.nockles@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:peter.nockles@manchester.ac.uk) Tel: 0161 275 3755).



# Hidden History

Child migration was a practice advocated by successive governments until the mid-1950s.

Between 1873 and 1931, more than 3,000 children taken into the care of the National Children's Home & Orphanage (later called NCH; now Action for Children) were sent in supervised parties to Canada, especially Ontario (which at the time was strongly Methodist), mostly to be engaged as farmhands.

The NCH&O was involved in child migrant schemes (as were all major childcare organisations at the time), believing that it offered a chance of a better life. Such practice was later found to be completely unacceptable.



The influence of the Christian principles that underpinned the National Children's Homes and the effect they had on the management of the children's migration and their future faith are the subject of a fascinating research thesis, *Stephenson's Children: Child migration, Canada and the National Children's Home, 1873-1931*, recently completed at the University of Lancaster by the Revd Kenneth Mankin.

Revd Mankin is the Newcastle-upon-Tyne District archivist, chair of the North East Methodist Historical Society and a trustee of the Weardale

Museum. He has a long and personal connection with the charity and its history, and was a former chaplain to one of its homes. Kenneth told *Heritage News* about his experience of researching Methodist history: "Historical research is not easy; it takes persistence. Previously, discovering where Methodist archive material was stored and getting access to it was difficult. Hopefully, the new Methodist Heritage Committee and its website and publications will change that. Without historical research we are in danger of making assumptions and mistakes in understanding the past. For example, without all the time-consuming historical research I did in the NCH archives into their practice of child emigration, I was in danger of judging the past by the standards of the present and making gross misunderstandings and erroneous interpretations of child migration. The past informs the present and sometimes it clarifies our priorities."



Photos, Top: A group of boys being escorted to Canada, standing on the ship's bridge  
Left: A group of girls in front of the NCH&O Canadian reception branch in Hamilton  
© Action for Children, used with permission



## Methodist Philatelic Society

Over the years, many postage stamps have been issued worldwide with a Methodist theme.

In 1997, on the 250th anniversary of his first visit to Ireland, Eire honoured John Wesley on a 52c stamp. The design features a well-known portrait of John Wesley by Nathaniel Hone. In the Royal Mail's 1999 Millennium Series, *The Christians' Tale*, a stamp designed by Brody Neuenchander was said to have been "inspired by the founder of the Methodist Movement."

In 2007 – on the 300th anniversary of his birth – Charles Wesley was also commemorated on a stamp issued in Eire. The stamp is based on the "Lily Portrait" painting and was reproduced courtesy of the Oxford Centre for Methodism and Church History at Oxford Brookes University.

The Methodist Philatelic Society was formed in 1970 for the study and encouragement of philately associated with Methodism and the Methodist contribution to United Churches and ecumenical activities.

To discover more about Methodist heritage on stamps, contact Terry Smart, 11 Northwood Park, Leeds LS26 8PE.



Photos, Left: A stamp from Royal Mail's Millennium series, said to have been inspired by John Wesley (© Royal Mail, used with permission) Right: Irish stamp commemorating John Wesley's first Irish visit (Reproduced by kind permission of An Post ©)

## Mount Zion Chapel

Standing on a hillside just north of Halifax, Mount Zion was built in 1773 as a Wesleyan chapel, but was caught up in the turmoil following John Wesley's death. Alexander Kilham was expelled by the Wesleyan Conference and founded the New Connexion in 1797. In most places the Kilhamites had to leave; at Mount Zion it was the Wesleyans who moved into a barn across the road. Mount Zion was rebuilt in 1815. It is the oldest New Connexion society still meeting. The New Connexion joined the Bible Christians and the United Methodist Free Church in 1907 to become the United Methodist Church, joining the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodist Churches in 1932.

The chapel is home to the Horace Hird collection of



Methodist ceramics, including important pieces from Wesley's lifetime.

With the foundation in 2010 of the Calderdale Circuit, Mount Zion is now in the same circuit as Heptonstall (in continuous use since 1764) and Todmorden Edge Farm (site of the first Methodist Quarterly Meeting in 1748). Together they tell much of the Methodist story.

For further information, see the Calderdale Circuit website at [www.calderdalemethodists.org.uk](http://www.calderdalemethodists.org.uk) and Mount Zion's website at [www.mountzionhalifax.org.uk](http://www.mountzionhalifax.org.uk).

## British Methodist historic archives catalogued online

A detailed catalogue of the historic manuscript and archive collections of the Methodist Church in Britain has been made available online by the John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester.

The catalogue contains details of over 1,000 individual collections documenting the growth and development of Methodism from the seventeenth century to the present day. It covers the majority of archives and manuscripts in the collection and will be regularly updated.

The Methodist collection is regarded as one of the world's finest resources for the study of evangelical religion and the opportunity to access the collection online has excited considerable interest among scholars and theologians.

The catalogue can be found at [www.manchester.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/collections/methodist/](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/library/specialcollections/collections/methodist/)

Enquiries relating to the catalogue should be sent to Dr Gareth Lloyd (see page 5 for details).

## Dates for your diary...

### Conflicted Faith

A study day at Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum

**Saturday 9 April, 10.30am – 4.00pm**

To book a place, call 01270 820836

Email: engleseabrook-methodist-museum@supanet.com

### Wesley Historical Society Residential Conference

*Theme: Memorializing and Remembering: Life stories in Methodism*

**3–5 May**

Launde Abbey Retreat Centre, East Norton, Leicestershire LE7 9XB

For further details and registration, contact the Conference Secretary, the Revd David J Hart, The Methodist Church, 4 Park View, Westbury Park, Bristol BS6 7QB

Email: conferencesecretary@wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Web: www.wesleyhistoricalsociety.org.uk

### Museums at Night: Bee Alert!

*An enlightening and informative evening all about bees, hosted by Nicola Dakin. This participatory workshop is suitable for all the family. Light refreshments will be served.*

**Saturday 14 May, 7.00pm**

Englesea Brook Chapel & Museum

To book a place, call 01270 820836

Email: engleseabrook-methodist-museum@supanet.com

### Wesley Historical Society Annual Lecture & AGM

*Dr Eryn White, Senior Lecturer in History, University of Aberystwyth, on 'Wesley, Whitefield and Wales'*

**Saturday 25 June, 10.30/11.00am–4.00pm**

Gladstone Memorial Library at St Deiniol's, Hawarden, Flintshire CH5 3DF

Overnight accommodation available at the Library

Further details from: Dr John A Hargreaves, 7 Haugh Shaw Road, Halifax HX1 3AH

Tel: 01422 250780

Email: johnahargreaves@blueyonder.co.uk



Originally a Civic Trust initiative, Heritage Open Days have been organised by English Heritage since 2001. The aim is to celebrate England's rich architecture, history and culture by opening historic buildings that are usually private to the public for free or to make entrance free for buildings where there is usually a charge.

Increasingly, historic churches are getting involved with local programmes, benefiting from the English Heritage Open Days team's advice and promotional opportunities and welcoming many new visitors and telling them the story of the Church in that community. It's a great outreach opportunity.

Last September, North Shore Methodist Church in Blackpool welcomed 80 visitors to its 9th Heritage Open Days event. In addition, 60 Year 2 children from Claremont Primary School visited the church with their teachers at the start of the new school year.

Diana Holden, Heritage Open Days coordinator at North Shore, told *Heritage News* that the staff accompanying the children said they felt that the children had got a great deal out of their visit. One little girl remembered visiting the church for a friend's christening and asked the

## Outreach opportunities for your church?

minister if she would marry her mum and dad. Another child commented that the church was "where wishes are made" (prayers are said) and another asked what the church did with dead people!

During the open days, there were a number of displays around the church depicting the church's family tree, from John and Charles Wesley's time to the present day. The teachers used the church's heritage trail to guide the children's experience.

Encouraging comments were made in the visitor's book: "Warm and friendly", "excellent outreach", "inspiring", and "nice to see the church being used for the community all week".

If opening your church for visitors regularly seems too big a commitment, why not plan to join in this year's Heritage Open Days? You can download a registration pack from [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)



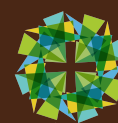
*Heritage Open Day at North Shore Methodist Church, Blackpool*

The deadline for submission of articles for the Autumn 2011 newsletter is 1 July. Please send your ideas to: **Jo Hibbard, Methodist Heritage Officer, Methodist Church House, 25 Marylebone Road, London NW1 5JR** Tel: 020 7486 5502 Email: [hibbardj@methodistchurch.org.uk](mailto:hibbardj@methodistchurch.org.uk)

You can visit the Methodist Heritage website at: [www.methodistheritage.org.uk](http://www.methodistheritage.org.uk)

*Heritage News* is the bi-annual newsletter of **Methodist Heritage**, part of the Methodist Church in Great Britain, a Registered Charity no. 1132208

For more information about what the Christian people called Methodists believe and what the Methodist Church does in Britain and around the world today, visit [www.methodist.org.uk](http://www.methodist.org.uk).



**Methodist  
Heritage**

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