

ANESTHESIA HISTORY ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Number 1

December 1982

THE FIRST MEETING

Forty-seven people registered for the organizational meeting of the Anesthesia History Association on October 25, 1982 at the Las Vegas Hilton. The events leading to this meeting are as follows: The First International Symposium on the History of Modern Anesthesia was held in Rotterdam in May. Several American anesthesiologists attending discussed an organization for those interested in the history of anesthesia. Arrangements were then made for the first meeting. The first mailing went to those who attended the Rotterdam meeting, members of the Wood Library Board of Trustees, and members of the ASA committees relating to history. Requests for the names of others interested were made in that mailing and announcements were placed in the ASA and California Society of Anesthesiologists Bulletins.

Because the response to these was overwhelming, a questionnaire was sent to those who responded initially, asking about possible structure and functions of the organization. This was done to facilitate the first meeting. (Questionnaire results are in the newsletter.)

The organizational meeting led to the following decisions:

1. We will organize within North America and become international later.
2. Dues are deferred until next year. Those who want to make a small contribution can make donations to the Wood Library in the name of this organization. The Wood Library will help financially the first year.
3. An organization committee was formed to write By-Laws. This will be done within the next six months.
4. The temporary name of the organization is the Anesthesia History Association.
5. There will be a dinner meeting at next year's ASA meeting.
6. Rod Calverley and Selma Calmes will be Co-Chairmen until next year.

Minutes of the meeting are available from Selma Calmes.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

51/79 questionnaires returned
66% response

Shall we organize? Yes 50
No 1

Include all North America?
Yes 49
No 2

Be international? Yes 12
No 19
Later 5
Maybe 7

Dues? Range \$10-100, mean \$25
Activities? In order of interest:
List of individual collections, newsletter, list of museum collections, sponsor meetings at the ASA, and serve a social function.

FROM THE EDITOR....

No, we Californians have not fallen into the sea or otherwise disappeared from the earth. There have been many distractions since our meeting in Las Vegas. Although this first newsletter is small and is done on a manual typewriter on my kitchen table, at least it is a start. We have great plans and ideas for the newsletter and we welcome contributions from you. Please send them to me at 5112 Wilderness Lane, Culver City, CA 90230. Best wishes for the holiday season and the new year.

--Selma Calmes, M.D.--

HISTORICAL RESOURCES

Each newsletter will contain a guide to historical resources. There will be descriptions of museums, library collections and historic sites so that all readers may enjoy these facilities. There will be information on computerized historical data bases. We also hope to have experienced collectors pilot neophytes past the dangerous shoals of bibliomania on a safe passage towards rational bibliophilia. Contributions to the column will be welcome.

I. ARTHUR GUEDEL MEMORIAL ANESTHESIA CENTER

Address: 2395 Sacramento St.
(corner of Webster)
This is the Pacific Medical Center Library; go to second floor.

Mailing address: PO Box 7999
San Francisco, CA 94120

Phone: 415-563-4321 X 2751

Librarian: H.R. Gibson

Access: This is 1.5 miles west of downtown. Cab fare is less than \$5.00. Buses: #1, west, #55 west or #22 north.

Collections: There is a remarkably complete collection of early and modern anesthesia texts. All English-language journals are collected.

Special collections include:

1. Guedel's equipment, articles, scrapbooks, and correspondence with Waters from 1926 to 1947. This regular, intimate correspondence allows an intimate view of their work and the growth of anesthesiology.

2. Richard and Ruth Gill's films, artifacts and papers. This collection was the source for Roy Humble's recent article (Anesthesiology 57:519, 1982). The Gills' silent film is being edited for public TV.

3. A.E. Bennett's papers and a film of his pioneering work in applying curare in neurology and psychiatry.

4. Filmed interviews of Sir Robert Macintosh, Ralph Waters and others.

5. Old anesthetic apparatus. Currently this is stored in both the library and the the attic.

A catalog of the Guedel's holdings is being prepared.

--Rod Calverly, M.D.--

NEWS AND NOTES:

The American Association for the History of Medicine will meet in Minneapolis May 4-7, 1983. Information: Dr. Robert Hudson, U. of Kansas Medical Center, Kansas City, KN 66103

Interesting reading: History in the Medical Curriculum, JAMA 248:79, 1982.

Report from England: There are plans for a second international symposium on the history of anesthesia in 1987. Information: Dr. I. McLellan, Anaesthetic Department, The Groby Road Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester, LE3 9QE, England.

Leroy VanDam, M.D., spoke on "Early American Anesthetists" to the San Diego Society of Anesthesiologists Dec. 9, 1982, while a Visiting Professor at UCSD.

A special interest file is being prepared as an AHA project. If you have a particular area of interest in anesthesia history and have not sent in information before, please send this information to S.H. Calmes, M.D., 5112 Wilderness Lane, Culver City, CA 90230.

In the next issue... the Lena and Louis Hyman Collection at Columbia...more information on the register of anesthesia museums and historical libraries And...a report on Dr. Bill Neff's donation of a shield design to the organization.