

ANESTHESIA HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Number 2

March 1983

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS:

ByLaws for our new organization are well underway. Preliminary ByLaws have been written and circulated to the Organizing Committee for comments. These are being revised to incorporate suggested changes. Members will receive a copy before our October meeting, and the ByLaws will be considered at that time. The program for that meeting is being prepared by Elizabeth Frost (NYC) and Jacob Mainzer (Albuquerque).

We also have an Employer ID number from the federal government and are in the process of getting tax-exempt status from the state of California. Channeling contributions to the organization through the ASA created book-keeping problems and is no longer possible. Future contributions need to be made directly to the organization, care of Rod Calverley or Selma Calmes. The AHA has not received any money from the ASA or the Wood Library and has been funded, so far, entirely from donations from members and a donation from Ohio Chemicals for the first meeting.

Announcements about the organization in the ASA Newsletter and the American Association for the History of Medicine Newsletter resulted in 25 responses. Our mailing list now totals 175.

INTERNATIONAL REGISTER OF ANESTHESIA MUSEUMS AND HISTORICAL LIBRARIES

By Rod Calverley, M.D.

Some travellers experience an unwelcome malady on returning from a journey. Disappointment prevails when an associate remarks, "Surely you realized that the most superb collection was just a few blocks from your hotel? You would have enjoyed it for hours." Peregrinating aficionados of anesthesia history are particularly susceptible to repetitive attacks, as I discovered during sabbatical leave in Britain. I am pleased to report that a remedy is being prepared.

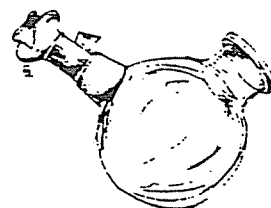
For several months I have been collecting a list which will become "The International Register of Anesthesia Museums and Historical Libraries." Entries have been volunteered from America, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Belgium, Norway, Denmark, West Germany, Spain and The Netherlands. After the curators have granted permission, the addresses will be presented in our newsletter. A description of the resources of one or more of these collections will appear in each edition.

A more ambitious project has been undertaken by two English colleagues. Drs. David Wilkinson of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and Ian McLellan of the Groby Road Hospital, Leicester, are preparing a catalog of British museums and historical libraries for the Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. When their work is completed, all researchers will have access to an exceptional resource.

"The International Register" will not equal this English work, but it will have value or travellers and scholars until catalogues are prepared. Curators may also benefit from the register. If an increased number of professionals visit the collections, the host institutions will be encouraged to maintain and expand their displays. Since some museums deteriorate after the retirement of the original enthusiast, a continuing interest reminds the department of the importance of their material.

I would welcome assistance from all members of AHA. If you are aware of any institution that maintains a museum with anesthesia equipment or a library featuring historical material of our specialty that has not received national attention, please send its name to me at this address:

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619/294-5720



HISTORICAL RESOURCES:

II. THE LENA & LOUIS HYMAN COLLECTION IN THE HISTORY OF ANESTHESIA

Location: Special Collection Section
Health Sciences Library
The College of Physicians &
Surgeons
Columbia University
701 West 168th Street
New York, NY 10032

Telephone: 212/694-3688

Librarian: Daniel T. Richards

Public Transportation: The IRT #1 or IND
"A" trains; get off at the 168th Street
Station, one block from the library.

Collection: This is an exceptional addition
to the Library's holdings in the history of
anesthesiology. Valerie and Allen Hyman
presented this gift in honor of Dr. Hyman's
parents. There are over two hundred items.
Many are landmark volumes in the
development of the specialty. A catalogue
is being prepared.

The Special Collection Section is not open
to the public. AHA members wishing to visit
this area should correspond with the librarian
and arrange their visit beforehand.

FROM THE EDITOR:

Nearly every day, the mail brings several
letters about this organization. They
come from all over the country. There
seems, then, to be a lot of interest in
the history of anesthesia. This probably
reflects increased interest in history in
general in the US. Why this increasing
interest in history?

In December, I gave a paper at the annual
meeting of the American Historical Assoc-
iation. The program for that meeting gave
a possible reason for this increased inter-
est. Nearly every session resulted in an
historical analysis of the present, how we
got in our present situation(s). More and
more people feel this is the only way to
understand the present.

I meet another physician at the historical
meeting. He was a "history junkie," he
said. From all the mail I get, there must
be a lot of "history junkies" trying to ex-
plain the present by understanding the past.

Selma H. Calmes, M.D.

NEWS AND NOTES:

Interesting Reading: Maltby JR. Charles
Waterton (1782-1865): Curare and a Canadian
National Park. Can Anaesth Soc J 1982; 29:195-
202, and Ellis FR. Waterton's Wourali. Can
Anaesth Soc J 1983;30:110.

John Adriani, MD, spoke to the Louisiana State
University History of Medicine Club December
12, 1982. His talk was titled "Pioneers Who
Organized the Specialty of Anesthesiology" and
was well received.

Dr. Adriani's papers, a 45-year accumulation of
great historic interest, are being donated to the
National Library of Medicine in Bethesda. His
reprint collection and "obsolete gadgets" from
Charity Hospital's Anesthesia Department are
going to the Wood Library.

There is a new edition of Bibliography of the
History of Medicine. This is volume 17 of the
National Library of Medicine's series of
bibliographies on the history of medicine and
related sciences. Included are citations on the
work of physicians and medical scientists,
subject listings, and an author guide. This is
available from the Superintendent of Documents,
Government Printing Office, Washington, DC
20402. Price: \$7.50; \$9.40 foreign.

New Videotapes on the history of
anesthesia: The Department of Anesthesiology
at the Medical College of Wisconsin has
produced 3 videotapes on the history of
anesthesia. These are "In The Beginning: Henry
Hill Hickman" (done by WDA Smith; a historical
survey of HHH, especially his research efforts
on medical gases), "In The Beginning: Joseph
Priestley" (done by WDA Smith; JP's life,
especially his research efforts on anesthetic
gases), and "Mr. Medicine Interview: Ernest O.
Henschel, M.D." (by JP Kampine and EOH; an
interview of EOH relating his perceptions of and
experiences in anesthesia over a 30 year period).
Prices are \$85 (beta/VHS) and \$95 (3/4" U-
Matic). More info: Dept of Anesthesiology,
Medical College of Wisconsin, 5000 West
Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI 53233.

Selma Calmes, MD will give the first annual
Elizabeth Bass Lecture on the History of Women
in Medicine on March 26 at Tulane Medical
School, New Orleans. The title is "Virginia
Apgar, MD: A Woman Physician's Career in a
Developing Specialty." Elizabeth Bass (1876-
1956) was the first woman physician in New
Orleans, beginning practice in 1904. Her library
forms the basis of the Elizabeth Bass Collection
on the History of Women in Medicine at the
Rudolph Matas Medical Library, Tulane. This
year marks the thirtieth anniversary of the
Apgar Score; it was first published in 1953.

BRAIN TEASER:

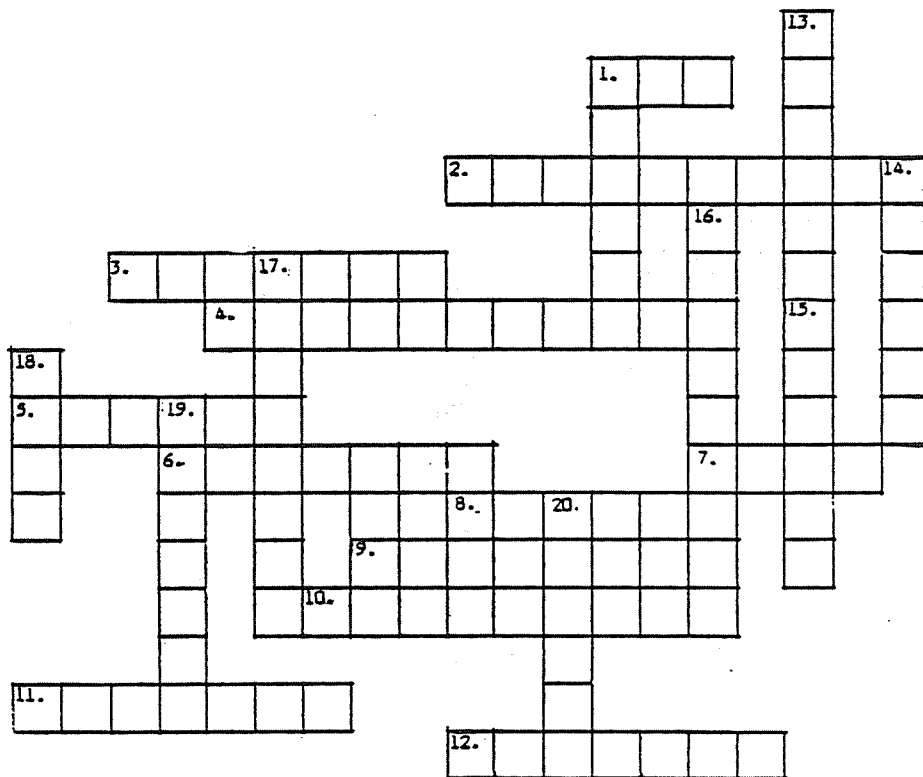
My new colleagues are crossword puzzle freaks. Seeing them huddled over the morning paper each day led to the thought of putting our trivia quiz into puzzle form. So, here it is. Test your knowledge of historical trivia! Answers in the next newsletter.

ACROSS:

1. Historic term for N₂O
2. Material used for early endotracheal tubes
3. First war in which anesthetics were used (7 letters)
4. Gwathmey's co-author for the text Anesthesia (1914)
5. Name of the "dunked dog" (6 letters)
6. First head of Iowa's Anesthesia Dept.
7. Another material used for early endotracheal tubes
8. First anesthetist to be knighted
9. Early "curare" preparation
10. Originator of most commonly used laryngoscope blade
11. Originated first curved laryngoscope with a light
12. First to use anesthetic records

DOWN:

1. The "motorcycle anesthetist" of World War I
13. Anesthetist during the Civil War battle, Battle of the Wilderness
14. Richard Gill brought back _____
15. First physician-anesthetist at U. of PA. (6 letters)
16. Occupation of Gwathmey's co-author
17. First person to receive a certificate for completing anesthesia residency training in America
18. Waters' first resident
19. The Columbia surgeon who got Appgar interested in anesthesia
20. The "Aqualumni" went to visit this man



BOOK NEWS:

The Genesis of Contemporary American Anesthesiology (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, 1982), \$29.75. These biographies and historical sketches were completed by many experienced authors and edited by Drs Perry Volpitto and Leroy Vandam. The collection portrays in detail the evolution of the specialty of anesthesiology and is "must" reading for the young anesthesiologist. In some generation, almost every American anesthesiologist is a disciple of one of these pioneers. For the senior anesthesiologist, who lived this history, the reading is sheer nostalgic pleasure.

The 246 page publication is divided into three parts: 1. biographies of the "visionaries", McMechan, McKesson, Guedel, Lundy, and Waters; 2. biographies of the second generation "activators", Rovenstine, Tovell, Beecher, Cullen, Adriani, Dripps, Papper, and Volpitto; and 3. development of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, American Board of Anesthesiology and the journal Anesthesiology. In the biographies of the individuals, the history of the department each founded is revealed.

The authors and editors are to be congratulated on making the goals and efforts of these pioneers appreciated by all members of our specialty.

John W. Pender, M.D.

The Classics of Medicine Library, which reprints, in elegant style, great medical books, will release Origins of Anesthesia in March. Edited by Sherwin B. Nuland, MD, it contains all the landmark journal articles, papers, etc., which contributed to the development of inhalation anesthesia. Cost is \$49.00 + \$2.95 postage. Available from The Classics of Medicine Library, PO Box 7610, Birmingham, AL 35253.

Of related interest... the history of operating room attire is the subject of a 20 page pamphlet written by James M. Edmonson, PhD, Curator of the Howard Dittrick Museum of Historical Medicine, Cleveland. Price \$5 + \$1 postage. Order from The Historical Division, Cleveland Health Sciences Library, 11000 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, OH 44106.

Although the AHA is newly born, it has now achieved an important mark of legitimacy and maturity. A plaque bearing arms appropriate for the association has been offered by the ever-generous Dr. William Neff and has been gratefully accepted by the co-chairmen of the organizing committee on behalf of the Association. Everyone has appreciated Dr. Neff's contributions to the history of anesthesia. The society is very pleased that he has chosen to grant us the use of his design.

Visitors to the Art Display of the 1982 ASA Meetings will have noted Dr. Neff's shields of several anesthesia societies. The crest he offered for AHA hung on the right side of his collection.

It is an escutcheon quartered in fields of orange, sable, beige and brown charged with a candle, flambant; Hypnos, dormant; books and papers, couchant and a quill, scribant.

Dr. Neff found his inspiration in the eloquent foreword and accompanying photograph, "Hypnos and The Flame" prepared by Dr. John Severinghaus for J.F. Nunn's Applied Respiratory Physiology. His essay joins imagery to science so skillfully that it has become a favorite passage for many. The first lines capture his theme,

"The lighted candle respire and we call it flame. The body respire and we call it life. Neither flame nor life are substance, but process. The flame is as different from the wick and wax as life from the body, as gravitation from the falling apple, or love from a hormone."

Dr. Neff has restructured and expanded the objects of Dr. Severinghaus' photograph into a design that is imaginative and attractive. The Association is very pleased that he will share it with us.

Thank you, Bill.

Rod Calverley

REMEMBER, we need material for the newsletter! Send contributions to Selma Calmes, MD, 5112 Wilderness Ln. Culver City, CA 90230.

In the next issue...how to get started on a research project in the history of anesthesia...news of the program for the October meeting...and more historical news.