

ANESTHESIA HISTORY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 4

September 1983

ORGANIZATIONAL NEWS

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT: The first official meeting of the Anesthesia History Association will be in Atlanta, Sunday, October 9, 6-10 PM in the Grand Ballroom D/E in the Atlanta Hilton (Note this is a change in the location). First will be a business meeting. We will vote on the By-Laws (see below), so we can become an official organization, and then elect officers and set dues. We will adjourn for cocktails and dinner. Elizabeth Frost and Jacob Mainzer planned the dinner program, which will begin with recognition of financial contributors to the organization's formative year. Dr. William Neff will present his shield design for the organization. Dr. Thomas Keys will then accept the first honorary membership in the AHA. Finally, Dr. James Harvey Young of Emory University will speak on Crawford Long. It promises to be a great evening, so plan now to attend this historic occasion. Dinner reservations must be in by Wednesday, October 5. (See the form on the last page for this.) Last minute phone reservations will be accepted. Spouses are invited, and, of course, you may come for only the business or the program. See you in Atlanta!

If you will not attend the first meeting, be sure to pay your dues when the dues notice comes, so you'll continue to get the Newsletter and keep up with historical news.

PROPOSED BY-LAWS: This issue has a most important enclosure, the proposed By-Laws for our new organization. These will be voted on at our meeting October 9 in Atlanta. **PLEASE READ THEM NOW.** If you have questions, comments, or suggestions, please get them to Rod Calverley, MD, (3213 Mt Carol Drive, San Diego, CA 92111) as soon as possible. We urge this so we will not have to spend a lot of time going over minutiae at the meeting. We have better things to do, so please help us speed through our business. Then we can have fun!

NEWS AND NOTES

New Book: The Gift of Surgery to Mankind: A History of Modern Anesthesiology by Richard B. Knapp (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, 1983). Price \$18.75. The book traces the history of anesthesiology from 1942 to the present. The evolution of resuscitation, specialized anesthesia, pain management, and monitoring and electronics are among the many topics covered.

"Taming the Flying Death" Ready Soon: A documentary on curare, "Taming the Flying Death," which is based on the Gill expedition films held at the Guedel Center, will be shown this month in the San Francisco Bay area. Dates are Sept. 19, 8:00 PM and Sept. 23, 10:30 PM on KQED, channel 9. The San Francisco Public Television Station and Stanford's Communication Department did the technical work. The Guedel Center provided the Gill films and arranged interviews with people who were associated with the Gills as curare was introduced into clinical medicine, people such as A.E. Bennett (first to use curare clinically, during shock therapy) and Sidney Newcomer, former Director of Professional Relations for E.R. Squibb (who convinced the company to produce curare for clinical use). Funding for the film was from KQED and the California Society of Anesthesiologists. A national showing may occur in the future.

For Travelers: Dr. Ole Secher of Copenhagen notes, for those traveling to Denmark, that the Medical Historical Museum in Copenhagen has a good collection of anesthesia equipment. He will prepare a catalog of anesthesia equipment some time in the future.

Be Sure to Attend: The 1983 Lewis Wright Memorial Historical Lecture at the ASA meeting will be October 11, at 1:00 PM in the Georgia World Congress Center. Lecturing will be Dr. Rod Calverley of San Diego, Co-Chair of the Anesthesia History Association. He will report on his research on Arthur Guedel. The title is "Arthur Guedel: The Life and Times of an Extraordinary Man." This year marks the centenary of the birth of this great anesthesiologist.

Military Anesthesia: Captain FW Courington is studying the history of military anesthesia, especially use of nerve blocks. He would like to hear from others with similar interests. Address: Frederick W Courington, Captain Medical Corps, Assistant Chief Anesthesia, Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, VA 23708.

Wanted: Three copies of a reproduction of the flyer announcing the exhibition of N₂O in Hartford April 15, 1845. Contact Robert Haralson, Jr, MD, 2009 Ponderosa, Maryville, TN 37801.

Correction: The title of the publication of papers presented at the Rotterdam meeting will be Anaesthesia: Essays on History.

HISTORICAL RESOURCES:IV. THE WOOD-LIBRARY MUSEUM

The most important American resource on the history of anesthesia is the Wood-Library Museum (WLM). The only major historical library sponsored by a medical specialty, the WLM is the result of the vision of Dr. Paul Wood, who began the collection, the commitment of the ASA (both its elected officers and the WLM Committee), and the support of ASA members who make donations to it, often in honor of a recently deceased colleague. For more on the origin of the WLM, see Davis DA, The bricks which built the Wood Library-Museum in Davis DA, ed, Clinical Anesthesia: Historical Vignettes on Anesthesia (FA Davis, Philadelphia, 1968) pp 98-107, and Betcher AR, The Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology; Historical development of the library-museum. *Anesth* 22:618, 1961.

Location: The library is on the second floor of ASA Headquarters, 515 Busse (pronounced "bussy," rhymes with "fussy") Highway, Park Ridge, IL 60068. This is less than 20 minutes by cab from O'Hare International Airport. Driving directions: Kennedy Expressway (#190, becomes #90) and exit on Cumberland, north. Turn left (west) on Touhy to Greenwood. Turn right (north). This runs into Busse.

Telephone: 312/825-5586

Librarian: Patrick Sim

Hours: 9 AM - 4:45 PM weekdays. Call before coming if possible.

Holdings: The library has a complete collection of anesthesia periodicals, including foreign language and nurse anesthesia journals; every anesthesia text; all texts dealing with subspecialties and related subjects such as hypnotism. There is a fine rare book collection covering such subjects as gases, early science and resuscitation. Papers of the Long Island and New York Societies are on file and on microfilm. There is a biographic file of clippings and articles on and by notable anesthesiologists.

A film and videotape collection contains interviews with important leaders in anesthesia. The wonderful collection of equipment in the museum downstairs includes such historical goodies as Dennis Jackson's "cake pan" for his CO₂ absorption circuit. A lot of the museum items are still in storage.

Miscellaneous Info: Mail requests can be handled, but on a non-rush basis only because Mr. Sim is the only library staff member. But, then you would miss the comfortable charm of the library and the surroundings of interesting books, the replica of Morton's inhaler and the portrait of Dr. Paul Wood. The WLM is well worth a stop on your way through Chicago.

Editor's Note: Mr. Woods is owner of JOHN WOODS, BOOKS in Coventry, Connecticut. He is an appraiser of personal property; specifically, books, documents and manuscripts. He is a senior member of the American Society of Appraisers, and a member of the Appraisers Association of America and the Manuscript Society. He writes articles on books and appraising, and is a consultant to libraries and medical societies in the New England area.

There seems to be two definitions of the word "Appraisal" in the vocabulary of museum personnel I talk to these days:

1. The evaluation of property (books, manuscripts, equipment, etc) to determine whether it be acceptable to the museum or library collection.
2. The estimation, forecasting or valuation of the property in terms of its monetary worth, (books, manuscripts, equipment, etc.)

Others will talk and write about the suitability of the donation to the institution. This article speaks directly to techniques used to identify the monetary worth of the property.

Elements Used:

Value is expressed in monetary terms. It's an opinion by an experienced and trained observer. To do this:

1. The property has to be seen.
2. Similar types and kinds of property have to have been examined.
3. There must be a ready market of potential purchasers.

The appraiser then must view the property objectively. He must identify it as to completeness, genuineness, and condition. By using several methods, such as intrinsic value, historical value and comparable sales, the appraiser makes a determination of his opinion of the fair market value (what a willing buyer would pay a willing seller in an open market at arm's length) of an item as of a specific date. In the report the appraiser files with the employer the appraisal must contain the following:

- Purpose of appraisal
- Method of appraisal
- Description of property (pictures are nice)
- Valuation date of appraisal
- Opinion of fair market value
- Certification of appraiser
- Limiting conditions, if any
- Qualifications of appraiser

Whether for tax, insurance or estate purposes, the format is the same. Training and experience suffice. The good appraiser does it as conscientiously as possible.

© John A. Woods 1983

The next issue will contain the second part of this article: "Rules of the Road: Appraisals and the Internal Revenue Service."

THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE CONTINUES:

Dr. Leslie Rendall-Baker wrote with a better answer to Question 11, Across, "Originator of first curved laryngoscope with light." The answer given was Janeway. Rendall-Baker pointed out that Kirstein in 1895 developed a self-illuminated laryngoscope with the lamp in the handle and a prism to direct the light along the blade. One of his two designs had a curved blade to tilt the epiglottis out of the way. He attributed this technique to Reichert, who described a curved epiglottis elevator for use with indirect laryngoscopy in 1879. References: Mushin and Rendall-Baker, The Principles of Thoracic Anaesthesia (Blackwell, Oxford, 1963) pp 613, 661; Kirstein A, Autoskopie des larynx und der trachea. Berl Klin Wschr 1895:32:476; Kirstein A, Autoscopy, (Philadelphia 1897) and Reichert M, Neue Methode zur Aufrichtung des Kehldeckels, Arch Klin Chir 1879:24:517.

Dr. Ole Secher of Copenhagen wrote about the answer to Question 3, Across, "First war in which anesthetics were used." Chloroform was used by the Danish Army (and probably the German Army also) during Denmark's war with Germany, 1848-1850. It is possible that ether was also used, as ether was included in the list of ambulance supplies. Reference: Secher O, Introduction of Chloroform into Denmark. Acta Chir Scand 1973, Suppl 433:42-49.

And, Dr. Tony Aldrete wrote the following, which returns the claim to this side of the Atlantic: During the American invasion of Mexico, the American Army had a well-organized Medical Corps which used anesthesia quite early. The 13,000 troops that landed in

Vera Cruz, led by General Winfield Scott, were accompanied by American military surgeon Dr. John Porter. The actual date of the first anesthetic was not noted; however, it must have been after the city was entered, in a field hospital established after March 25, 1847. Porter's book, Surgical Notes on the Mexican War (published 1852), described a case of a soldier who, in September 1847, underwent amputation of the left leg due to an injury from a cannonball hit. Sulfuric ether was the anesthetic. His description is quite vivid, with the patient developing emesis, pallor, and a slow, weak pulse. These subsided after the ether was discontinued and fresh air and cold water applied over the patient's face. In passing, Dr. Porter also mentioned that many other operations were performed in Vera Cruz under ether anesthesia, although he does not clarify if they were done before or after the described case.

There has always been a debate if that was the first anesthetic given in Mexico. There is some evidence that, on June 15 of the same year, ether was given to another patient for an arm amputation by Dr. Jose Matilde SansPres in Merida, Yucatan. (References: del Castillo FF, "Cuando y por quien se aplico por primera vez en Mexico la anestesia por inhalacion?" Gaceta Medica de Mexico, Tomo 58, No.s 5-6, Octubre y Diciembre, 1948, and Bandera B, "Historia de la Anestesiologia en Mexico, evolucion, desarrollo y futuro." Revista Mexicana de Anestesiologia. No. 47, 1960. pp 83-94.)

Dr. Aldrete plans to have a manuscript ready in the fall on this subject, after doing more research in Mexico City.

===== Clip Here =====

DINNER RESERVATIONS: October 9, 1983, Grand Ballroom D/E, Atlanta Hilton
6-10 PM

NAME: _____

NUMBER OF RESERVATIONS: _____

PRICE = \$27.50; AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Return to SH Calmes, MD, 5112 Wilderness Lane, Culver City, CA 90230, by Wednesday, October 5, 1983. Although last-minute phone reservations are not encouraged, procrastinators may call 213/838-4375 before 9 PM PDT Wednesday, October 5. Tickets will be held for you at the door.

NOTE: Those who have already requested a reservation in response to the announcement in the ASA Newsletter do not need to send another. It would be most helpful if you would send your check for dinner ahead of time.

You may also just attend the business meeting and/or the lecture without having dinner.

ANESTHESIA HISTORY IN THE MOVIES

Anesthetic misadventures have been re-created by screenwriters. The most recent presentations, "The Verdict" and "Coma", have been decidedly gloomy, but more cheerful antics provoked by laughing gas were a specialty of the stars of silent film.

Two experts maintain silent film catalogs. Mr. Sam Gill, Archivist of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in Beverly Hills and Murray Glass of EmGee Film Library in Reseda, California, have provided a list of choice comedies involving dental anesthesia. These include:

1. "Laughing Gas" - Charlie Chaplin (1914).
2. "The Dentist" - Billy West (1918), Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew (1917); Mack Sennett (1917); W.C. Fields (1931).
3. "Leave Them Laughing" - Laurel and Hardy (1928).
4. "The Halfback of Notre Dame" - Mack Sennett (1924).
5. "Ha Ha Ha" - Betty Boop Cartoon (1934).

Somber students may attempt to study these reels for glimpses of antique anesthesia machines, but even Buster Keaton would chortle on viewing them.

Prints of some of these classics are played almost daily at the pizza parlor near my home. Members not so fortunately situated may purchase or rent most titles from the EmGee Film Library, 6924 Canby Avenue, Suite 103, Reseda, California 91335, (213) 981-5506. A second company is Blackhawk Films, Davenport,, Iowa. Perhaps other sources can be found in the hinterland east of the Mississippi River.

Insomniacs may enjoy two British offerings on the late, late film circuit. "Green for Danger" (J. Arthur Rank, 1948) featured the

incomparable Alastair Sim in some nasty work with color-coded cylinders.

An English anaesthetist, Gordon Osterle, wrote the "Doctor in the House" series under the nom-du-film, Richard Gordon. The first presentation featured a surgical vignette in which James Robertson Justiced chided an anonymous anaesthetist by growling, "Surely if the patient can stay awake, Doctor, you can too!!!" Dr. Osterle offered the cameo role of anesthetist to his professor, Sir Robert Macintosh, who declined. Sir Robert has since remarked that this decision was one of the few that he has ever regretted in his long career.

I'd welcome additional listings as I'd like to complete an inventory of anesthesia history in the movies.

Rod Calverley

NEWS AND NOTES Continued

International News: Dr. J Wawersik of West Germany, who prepared an exhibit on the history of anesthesia machines at the last World Congress, is writing a book on this subject. He desires contact with anyone who could help him trace the development of machines by Teter, Gwathmey, Heidbrink, and McKesson. Address: Prof.Dr.med. J Wawersik, Direktor, Abteilung: Anaesthesiologie im Klinikum der Universitat Kiel, 23 Kiel, Schwanenweg 21, West Germany.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

Report of our first official meeting ... the new officers ... information on the Hartford Medical Society Museum's collection of anesthesia memorabilia ... and more from Mr. Wood on appraisals.
