THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM OF ANESTHESIOLOGY

Historical Development of the Library-Museum

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Because of the current discussions concerning the housing of the Wood Library-Museum, an historical account of this unique institution seemed appropriate for our readers. Dr. Betcher has prepared such an authoritative history. Following this article are divergent views by two well-informed members of the American Society of Anesthesiologists (Drs. William Neff and Daniel Moore) concerning the proper location of the Library-Museum. The three contributions are interesting and thought provoking.—Editor

The poet, Samuel Butler has been credited with the statement that in order to know your specialty you first must know something about its history.

The Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology had its beginnings in the mind of its founder, Paul M. Wood, long before he became Secretary-Treasurer of the New York Society of Anesthetists in 1929. At the time equipment and textbooks in anesthesia were sparse. Wood kept every scrap of paper which had to do with anesthesia and with the Society. He browsed in second hand book stores in New York City and bought out of his own pocket, books, pamphlets and periodicals on anesthesia. He kept a wary ear open for the pioneers in anesthesia who boasted of a library and button-holed them for the future disposition of their books. Since there was no headquarters office of the Society then, all these items found their way into a bedroom of Wood’s home which functioned as an office and library.

The original founders of the Society, then called the Long Island Society of Anesthetists, incorporated in their constitution, “the object of this Society shall be the advancement of the science and art of anesthesia.”1 And so in 1905 began the first formal recordings of scientific papers on anesthesia in America. These were made a part of the minutes of each meeting.2 At the annual meetings A. Frederick Erdmann regularly gave a brief history of the Society which thus recorded the organizational activity of this new specialty. At a meeting of the New York Society of Anesthetists on February 7, 1912, William E. Woolsey was elected Librarian, although at that time there was barely a dozen books available on anesthesia. Meetings of the society were composed of a business session followed by a scientific program. There were 103 physicians present at the November 14, 1912, meeting and the business session was postponed because of the numerous scientific papers. Most of the papers presented are included in the Collected Papers and Minutes of the Long Island, New York, and American Society of Anesthetists, Volumes I-VIII (1905–1941). The history of American organizations in anesthesia and the development of the specialty has already been published from information obtained from these Collected Papers3,4 and an exhibit at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. in 1955, was based on this material obtained from the Library-Museum (fig. 1).

There still was no journal devoted exclusively to anesthesia in 1912, nor would there be in this country until 1922 when McMeekan started Current Researches in Anesthesia and Analgesia. In 1914, the New York Society of Anesthetists empowered its Executive Committee to adopt some medical journal as the official organ of the Society. The following May, they did select the American Journal of Surgery provided this journal continued its anesthesia supplement. It was also hoped that special arrangements would be made for the members to obtain free reprints of any articles published in anesthesia.5

One can appreciate the zeal with which the early “anesthetists” tried to advance their specialty by the quotation from Theodore Roosevelt which appeared on the letterhead of the Society in 1921: “Every man owes some of his time to the uplifting of the profession to which he belongs.”6 The Collected Papers in the Wood Library-Museum attest to the activities of these anesthetists on behalf of a Section of Anesthesiology in the
American Medical Association, the American Board of Anesthesiology, the Fellowship Committee, now the American College of Anesthesiologists, and the Journal, Anesthesiology.

Paul M. Wood

The inspiration for the establishment of the Library-Museum of Anesthesiology came to Paul Wood from two sources: one, parental and the other through the gracious and patient guidance of Adolph Frederick Erdmann. Both of Wood’s parents were teachers and collectors and especially interested in aiding students. When he was 5 years old the library at home contained over 14,000 volumes. There were collections of coins, stamps, birds, animals, sand, rocks, and plants garnered on field trips. The answers to the probing questions of a growing child were augmented by these books and specimens. Any one living in a home with more than a few books was looked upon as either lucky or a highly educated person. Less fortunate classmates were constant visitors to Wood’s home to participate in these advantages. He encouraged this habit by setting up a “lending library” of his own. An orange crate served for a bookcase and a card was made for each classmate. Not only were old schoolbooks acquired and catalogued, card pockets pasted in the books, and the book covers numbered with white ink, but some story books up to the fourth grade were made available. Rare books were kept in special cases, were not to be touched by the children, and their value was explained carefully.

By the time Wood was 11 he had decided on a medical career. He began to add books and specimens of a medical nature to his library. This trait carried over through medical school to the present day. When a first year medical student, he administered anesthesia as a “relief intern.” The only two textbooks he could find in the medical school library were those by Gwathmey and Flagg. He searched the bookshops and was told that there were few books on this subject. Interest at this time was on the mechanics of anesthesia. During this same first year in medical school, Karl Connell, surgeon and inventor was developing his “anesthetometer” and through his courtesy, Wood was able to add three or four more books to the “library.” He also acquired a Ferguson mask, a Flagg and a Bennett inhaler, several modifications of the open cone, and the “butcher’s cuff” paper inhalers. Clippings of articles relating to anesthesia and a few cartoons were added.

Following his internship it was natural that he enter the specialty of anesthesia. His
hospital connections brought him contact with anesthetists such as Thomas Drysdale Buchanan, Malcolm Munkittrick, Thomas Bennett, Paluel J. Flagg, and his immediate “chief” at Roosevelt Hospital, Lewis S. Booth. The latter proposed him for membership in the New York Society of Anesthetists in 1925. Erdmann, the Society’s founder and then its secretary, took kindly to the neophyte and offered him books, mostly in German, and clinical instruction. Two years later, the Society acquired an Assistant Secretary in Paul Wood, and in 1929 he became Secretary-Treasurer.

Erdmann introduced the new Secretary to Robert H. Ferguson, (fig. 2) then retired and residing in Orange, New Jersey, who Buchanan informed him, was the possessor of the largest single collection of anesthesia books, reprints and apparatus in the country. In 1932 Wood was stricken with an illness which appeared to preclude further clinical anesthesia practice. Ella Hediger became Secretary-Treasurer in his place. During his prolonged convalescence he catalogued his library, one shelf of about thirty books, his reprint files, scrap books, and his accumulated apparatus. When he confided to Erdmann, now retired, that he proposed the eventual establishment of a Library and Museum of Anesthesia, the latter contributed his entire library, consisting of a full showcase of “ancient and modern” items, anesthesia apparatus, his collected reprints, pictures and about 40 books.

In 1933, Wood announced the gift of his library to the Society. There were about seventy volumes in his possession which were willed to the Society on his death. The Society approved the retention of the material in his home and he was appointed librarian for life. By the end of 1934, Wood had returned to active practice and resumed as Secretary-Treasurer. One of his first acts was to follow the lead Buchanan had given. He approached Ferguson regarding the eventual disposition of his collection, but since Ferguson’s health was good, he was not ready to remove the entire collection from his home.

As Secretary-Treasurer Wood made certain adequate records would be kept. In 1935 the Society, for the first time, employed a public stenographer to take down verbatim the business and scientific sessions. These were mimeographed by Wood and distributed to members. This not only provided valuable records but was also a means of reporting the latest advances in anesthesia. This system was followed until 1938 when Kenneth McCarthy, Chairman on Public Relations, edited a “News-Letter.”

**Library-Museum Grows**

In 1936 the Society was invited to present an exhibit at the World’s Fair beginning in 1939. In 1937, the American Medical Association through the instigation of Sise and others, also invited the Society to prepare a scientific exhibit. These invitations were accepted. An exhibit presenting the scientific field of analgesia and anesthesia including resuscitation and inhalation therapy was prepared from materials found in the Library and Museum, shown as a special exhibit at the American Medical Association meeting in San Francisco in June 1938 and at the World’s Fair in 1939.

A printed program of the American Society of Anesthetists for its December 1936 meet-

![Fig. 2. Robert H. Ferguson, M. D.](image-url)
WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Although Ferguson never took the bait, Squibb did, and on July 26, 1937, the contents of the Library and Museum were moved from the bedroom of Wood's apartment and into its new rent-free quarters. The contents included 350 volumes properly catalogued according to the Library of Congress accession number method. The Library and Museum finally received about 30 books from the Ferguson collection. Within the first six months of its opening, two hundred and eighty visitors used the reading room or visited the Museum portion (fig. 3).

There is a side issue to this story which, in view of the present status of the Library-Museum, is worth recording. Wood realized, in looking over the ample area Squibb set aside for the Library and Museum, that desk space was obviously available, too, and obtained permission to set up his "tools" as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Society of Anesthetists. Thus the Society had its first Headquarters' office there and in succession desk space developed for the American Board of Anesthesiology in 1938 and the business office of the JOURNAL in 1940, since Wood was its first business manager. Not often does the tail have the chance to wag the dog.

Books, apparatus and other memorabilia continued to be accumulated (fig. 4). In 1937, the Secretary-Treasurer-Librarian announced the receipt of 20 volumes of new and old books on anesthesia given by Vehrs, Ferguson, Waters, Ravenstine, Guedel and Wiggin. One of the items was a publication dated 1848, entitled, "The Discovery of Laughing Gas for Dentistry." It was to be included in the Society's exhibit for the World Fair. Gwathmey continued to present books to the Society every year.

Brian Sword reported that he had visited George Paschal in San Antonio. He related the story at a meeting. "When I was there, it was my pleasure to be the guest of Dr. Charles Venable. Of course, that name brings memories back to you, that first (ether) anesthesia administered by Crawford W. Long was in a family by the name of Venable. Also living in San Antonio is the granddaughter of Doctor Long and she presented a portrait of Doctor Long to Doctor Venable.
and while in his office he showed me that portrait and after looking at it I said, 'Would you be willing to will this to the American Society of Anesthetists' Library at your death?' He very kindly took the picture down and in my presence wrote that at his death this picture was to be made a gift to the Library of the American Society of Anesthetists and will be forwarded to our Library.'

When Wood wrote to Doctor Venable thanking him on behalf of the Society, the latter was so pleased that he notified Wood by airmail that the picture was on the way. He was not going to wait until he died.

In December 1937, the Library-Museum Committee, formed earlier in the year, reported that they expected the Library-Museum to be entirely supported by voluntary contributions. How effective this was may be seen in the fact that in 1938 the American Society of Anesthetists proposed changes in its constitution to allot 10 per cent of its dues to the Library-Museum.

Thus we find in the Treasurer's Report of the October 20, 1938 meeting the following items:

Paid Up Members—512  Unpaid—37
Bank Balance—A. S. A. ................ $455.93
Library-Museum .......... 179.76*

* Included voluntary contributions.

Later in the year the Society recorded the Library-Museum as a recognized educational nonprofit organization.

In the meantime, Wood aided by S. Lesinger, Chairman of the Library-Museum
Committee, received and catalogued over 200 textbooks, bound journals and museum pieces. While originally conceived as a Collector’s Library, the Library-Museum also became a loan library when it was found to have accumulated five or six duplicates of various editions and printings. Plans were made to have all anesthesia films in duplicate and a film library established. The Library Committee began work on education and the improvement of anesthesia films for general distribution throughout the country. The Squibb Building provided facilities for the Library-Museum to be open at least two nights a week between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. with a regular librarian in attendance. Through the courtesy of Wood and members of the Library Committee access was also available at other hours.17

The first formal listing of the Library-Museum Committee in 1940 contains the names of Lewis H. Wright as Chairman, Sol Lesinger, John Adriani, Albert H. Miller, William H. Cassels, R. Charles Adams, R. R. MacIntosh, of Oxford, England, Geoffrey Kaye of Australia, and Robert Ferguson.18 This same year the Board of Directors of the Society decided that an allotment of twenty-five cents from Junior dues and one dollar from active dues would be deducted for the use of the Library-Museum. This money was to be included in the general society fund to be earmarked as a special account. The Directors also approved an expenditure of $10.00 to send a shipment of museum pieces to the Australian Society of Anesthetists.

At the Joint Meeting of the Society with the Ohio Society of Anesthetists held in Cincinnati May 1940, the Library-Museum Committee reported that one of their former members, “Dr. Cotton, who with Dr. Boothby invented the first gas (ether) machine in the United States, using the old beer valves (to control gas pressures), donated that first model to the American Society’s Museum”19 (fig. 5). In addition, the Society gained numerous other apparatus, books, and a donation of $50.00. It was found necessary to purchase twenty additional exhibit cases to display the new material. In December 1940, by courtesy of R. R. MacIntosh, they obtained the desk copy of John Snow’s original work on Ether, written in 1847, together with his diploma from Oxford University. Also in 1940, the Library-Museum Committee announced that bequests could be made to this organization and income tax deductions could be claimed.

The Board of Directors approved the continuance of the Library-Museum as a separate project, similar to that of the Journal, and recommended that the services of a part-time assistant for Library work only be secured, whose salary should be paid from Library-Museum funds. The first annual report of the Library-Museum Committee listed among its outstanding acquisitions of that year, a cup from Gwathmey which had been presented to him as founder and first president of the American Association of Anesthetists, a Teter model gas oxygen machine from Neff, a Cunningham apparatus from Bennett, several original models of Lumbard’s inventions including airways, nasal tubes and masks, and nearly complete files of the quarterly supplement on anesthesia of the American Journal of Surgery.19

They further reported that they had cooperated with the Special Committee for the
American Medical Association exhibit on the historical development of anesthesia and were pleased to receive the Certificate of Merit for this exhibit. And finally it stated, "we have been informed that the Library-Museum established by Charles King of London, following the establishment of our own Library-Museum, and with which we have exchanged Museum pieces, has been totally destroyed by enemy bombs. We express to them our sympathy in due time we shall be very happy to aid in the re-establishment of their Library-Museum." 19

By April 1942, the Library-Museum had accumulated 800 volumes. In August 1945, the Board of Directors approved the request of the Chairman of the Committee of the Library for authorization to purchase rare books totalling $203.50 20 (table 1). In December 1945, the Society approved its 1946 budget, and reported that, "percentage-wise the dues allotment for the Library would be $1,307.50 and for the Museum would be $455.00." 21

| TABLE 1 |
| WHAT THE $203.50 BOUGHT |

The 1940 annual report of the Library-Museum Committee had recommended that it be split into 5 committees, one for the Library and one for the Museum because its work was increasing in volume.


8. Ibid: Volumes 58 and 59. (Bound in 1). Boston, 1858. In Volume 59: Anesthesia by Ether and Chloroform, by Hildreth (pp. 49-59). Anesthetics in Midwifery, (pp. 399-373) and several other articles. ($7.50)

9. Carlson and Luckhardt: The increase in the osmotic Concentration of the Blood During Ether and Chloroform Anaesthesia, 8 pp. Wrappers 1908. ($2.25)


15. Ibid: The Pneumatic Injector: A Substitute for Local Anesthesia Syringes. Illustrated 7 pp. 1912. ($1.75)

TABLE 1—Continued.

| 18. | (Morton, Wm. T. G.): Thirty-Second Congress—First Session, House of Representatives. William T. G. Morton—Sulphuric Ether. Referred to a Select Committee. Dr. Wm. H. Bass, Chairman. The Select Committee to whom was referred the Memorial of Dr. Wm. T. G. Morton, asking Remuneration from Congress for the Discovery of the Anesthetic or Pain-Subduing Properties of Sulphuric Ether. 128 pp., Sewn, Washington, 1852. ($7.50) |

TABLE 1—Continued.


THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM OF ANESTHESIOLOGY IS INCORPORATED AND CHARTER GRANTED

As part of a general move by most national medical organizations to Chicago, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., transferred its executive and business offices to that city in 1947. The limited funds of the Society made it impossible to find adequate space in Chicago to include the Library and Museum. Therefore, in announcing its move, the Society stated, "The Library-Museum and official corporate headquarters of the Society will remain at the present location in New York City." It directed that the material of the Library-Museum should be kept together and that a Library-Museum be formed as a separate incorporated body. In 1949, the Board of Directors of the Society at the suggestion of Wright approved the following resolution:

"Whereas the man who contributed more to the establishment and maintenance of the Library and Museum than any others is Paul M. Wood.

Now, therefore be it resolved that a non-profit corporation be formed, to be known as the Paul M. Wood Memorial Library and Museum—and that the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., give and transfer the Library and Museum to that newly formed corporation, and

Be it further resolved that hereafter the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., donate to the newly formed corporation, from the dues from each active member, such funds to be used for the maintenance of the Paul M. Wood Memorial Library and Museum." 24

A valuable contribution was made to the Library-Museum by Geoffrey Kaye in 1948. Kaye, a bachelor, gave his own quarters to
the Australian Society of Anaesthetists for their headquarters. When differences of opinion arose in that Society, the establishment was disbanded and the Wood Library-Museum as well as medical groups in Australia profited. Included were items of researchers from the early 1900's, an entire case of teaching slides, and an early Australian gas machine, most unique, extremely simple but according to present standards, very primitive.

On July 21, 1950, the New York State Board of Regents granted a provisional charter, valid for a term of five years as an educational corporation under the corporate name of the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology. The purpose of the corporation was to collect, preserve and make available...
to the profession and the lay public, writings, publications, apparatus, and other materials pertaining to the special field of anesthesia. At the first meeting of the Board of Trustees, a set of By-Laws was adopted in conformity with the Educational Law of the State of New York and the following officers elected:

Chairman and President
of the Board—Lewis H. Wright
Curator—Paul M. Wood
Vice-President—Albert M. Betcher
Treasurer—Moses H. Krakow
Secretary—Vincent J. Collins

In December 1951, the Board of Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum addressed a petition to the Regents of the University of the State of New York containing the necessary information regarding a permanent charter. An absolute charter was granted on February 29, 1952 (fig. 6).

PROBLEMS OF SPACE FOR LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Meanwhile, the physical limitations of the Library-Museum were proving serious deterrents to its growth, as well as usefulness to anesthesiologists. Coincident with the move of the Society to Chicago, E. R. Squibb & Sons found itself in need of space for postwar commercial expansion. The Library-Museum was reluctantly informed that after 14 years they could no longer continue as free tenants. The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists offered assistance and taking office space in a brownstone building at 137 W. 11th St., owned by St. Vincent's Hospital, New York, invited the Library-Museum to share the space with them rent free. This offer was accepted by the Board of Trustees.

1 The Absolute Charter
The Wood-Library-Museum of Anesthesiology
An application having been made by and on behalf of the trustees of the Wood Library-Museum, New York, that the provisional charter of the corporation be made absolute, and it appearing that the conditions for an absolute charter have been sufficiently met it was Voted, That the provisional charter of the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, located in the City, County, and State of New York, which was incorporated by the Board of Regents on July 21, 1950 be and hereby is made absolute.

Additional difficulties arose in December 1952, when the Building Department of the City of New York became concerned with the weight of objects stored in the museum causing exceptional weight on the ceiling below. This situation was temporarily rectified by Wood removing many of the heaviest items to a garage in Highland Falls, New York. A committee was now formed to explore the possibility of raising funds either from anonymous endowment contributions, from various private interests or by direct appeal to the membership. A letter of appeal was mailed out on December 18, 1953, to the various companies in connection with its campaign to raise $200,000. There seemed to be genuine interest but for some reason these companies asked the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. if they were backing this drive. Without ascertaining the facts, the Society disclaimed any connection in a general letter issued February 1, 1954. The drive ended almost before it had begun although $2,200 was raised in this manner.

Further urgency developed as to the disposition of the Wood Library-Museum since the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists was forced to relinquish its site and move to smaller quarters. There was thus even less space available to the Wood Library-Museum for exhibition and storage. At this point Richard Foregger, Senior, offered space in a boathouse at Roslyn, Long Island for the temporary storage of most of the Wood Library-Museum material. This offer was gratefully accepted.

In 1955, Wright found himself unable to continue as President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Betcher was elected to these positions and the Office of President Emeritus was created for Wright for his long and meritorious service to the Wood Library-Museum. All avenues continued to be explored for a permanent home. The Board of Trustees turned down the offer of the New York Academy of Medicine for the permanent acquisition of the books, and the Smithsonian Institution for the Museum material, since it would not be kept intact. Similar offers were made by three medical schools in the New York City area through the chairman of Departments of Anesthesiology, but all were
dependent upon giving up jurisdiction over the Library-Museum. Wood created a quasi-attached group called “Friends of the Wood Library-Museum” who made personal donations which allowed the purchase of some twenty-five rare items.

**Library-Museum Becomes Outstanding Institution of Its Kind in World Today**

On December 19, 1956, a letter of condolence was sent by the Board of Trustees to the widow of George Paschal who had donated the etching of Crawford W. Long, expressing the sentiment, esteem and admiration held for him. Meanwhile additions to the Wood Library-Museum continued to arrive. The family of Henry Ruth, first Editor of *Anesthesiology*, contributed over 600 books and other items plus two cartons of framed pictures and certificates. In 1958, the Richard C. Gill collection, containing his entire curare library plus blowguns, curare gourds, bows and arrows, and manuscripts was given to the Library-Museum mainly through the efforts of William Neff. The Heshenson library was obtained by Leroy Vandam. The Wood Library-Museum, in turn, acted as benefactor. Having duplicates of the Connell Anesthetometer, and lung motor, they were sent as outright gifts to the Smithsonian Institution. Substantial contributions were loaned to the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Most of the work of obtaining collections has been divided between the curator, the members of the Library-Committee, and those A. S. A. members living in an area where known libraries have become available through the death of members (fig. 7). The Wood Library-Museum is the only such institution of any extent in Anesthesiology in the world today. From the time it was installed in the Squibb building for the first time its existence became publicly known, the increase in the number of books has grown tremendously (fig. 8). Today there are about 3,000 volumes of which over 50 per cent have
been catalogued. Books and Museum pieces (fig. 9) are constantly being loaned for exhibits throughout the world.

The Wood Library-Museum has managed to survive through: the untiring efforts of the curator (fig. 10); the respect and devotion of his friends who have given unstintingly of their time and who have sought out the many valuable collections in their areas; the generosity of a small group of benefactors who gave generous contributions in money and/or space; The American Society of Anesthesiologists in their yearly grant of $1,500 and The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists in the rent free space given in the ten years from 1950 to 1960. The time arrived when definitive action was mandatory to ensure the perpetuity of this organization with its priceless heritage in Anesthesiology.

THE FUTURE

In an address to the House of Delegates in November 1958, President-Elect Moore, asked that the Society consider future policy in relationship to the Wood Library-Museum. He stated that a decision should be made as to whether or not the Society wished to: "(1) continue to contribute $1,500 per year to this Museum, (2) acquire adequate space to house the Library-Museum, (3) pay for same, and (4) furnish it with librarians." 22

The House of Delegates approved the recommendation of the Reference Committee that the Society continue its contribution of $1,500 per year to the Wood Library-Museum as its sole action.

In 1959 the Wood Library-Museum again sought to solve its problem of permanent housing. Foundations were approached with negative results. Overtures for financial assistance from commercial firms brought similar results. A Building Committee was re-instituted this time in conjunction with the New York State Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., which was again looking for new quarters due to zoning restrictions. Another medical school gave promise of space in its new Library building when construction was completed. New means of raising funds were inaugurated by reprinting John Snow's "On the Inhalation of the Vapor of Ether." The cost of this project was underwritten by the
New York Component Society to be repaid when the books were sold. This last proposal was the only one to produce tangible appreciation and then only in meager quantity.

In February 1960, Leo Hand, then President of The American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., suggested the possibility of the Society offering space in the air-conditioned basement of the Park Ridge headquarters building for storing the books and equipment then at the Foregger boat-house. With the senior Foregger’s death, the disposal of that material was again a problem. Hand’s idea was that this material would be catalogued, stored and possibly exhibited in the headquarters building. It would be officially labelled as an annex of the Wood Library-Museum.

In the meantime, the Board of Trustees offered the New York State Component Society $1,000 per year if the Society in seeking new quarters would lease a larger suite to permit a room to be set aside for the Wood Library-Museum. This agreement would be for the duration of a three-year lease and was vitally necessary to preserve the status of this corporate organization as a physical entity, until its ultimate disposition could be achieved. This was approved and for the first time the Library-Museum was paying a rental for its material existence.

The Chairman of the Building Committee of The American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., in his report to the Board of Directors of the Society in May 1960, stated in the section entitled, “Future Expansion,” the possibility of developing the Wood Library-Museum into a functional part of the Society. In his report he recommended the conditions under which the Society might be willing to furnish the Wood Library-Museum with permanent housing and guarantee the availability of personnel to make it functional. At the request of the President of the Society, the president and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum also presented a report in which he reviewed the history of this organization and its present status. Timely, too, at this moment was a letter from Mr. Foregger’s widow that the boathouse was sold and the material in storage would have to be removed.

The Board of Directors of the Society approved the recommendations of both reports. In substance it agreed to obtain a cost estimate and preliminary drawings of an addition to the headquarters building to house the Wood Library-Museum, possible methods of financing such a building, obtain the cost of personnel for adequate functioning of the Library-Museum, permit and underwrite the transportation of the material in the boathouse to the basement of the headquarters building for storage, and a meeting of the Executive-Finance Committee of the Society with the Board of Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum, to work out a mutually satisfactory arrangement if possible. They also agreed to pay for the cost of a portrait of Paul M. Wood.

The combined meeting of the Executive-Finance Committee of The American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc., and the Board of Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum was held prior to the Annual Meeting, on September 29, 1960, in New York. From the discussion which ensued as to the relationship between the Society and the Wood Library-
Museum should the proposals approved by the A. S. A. Board of Directors be adopted, the following points of agreement were recommended:

(1) The separate corporate identity of the Wood Library-Museum should be preserved.

(2) Should the Society make long term commitments on behalf of the Library-Museum, such as a building program, feasible agreements to insure the continuance of this body as part of A. S. A. operations is to be made.

(3) The By-Laws of the Library-Museum would be changed to provide for the election of persons designated by the A. S. A.

The present trustees would be given staggered terms and their successors would be selected from persons to be nominated by the A. S. A. Board of Directors.

Recommendations were also made that an immediate budget of $6,000 be set aside for the first year and that the counsel for the two organizations work out the specific terms under which this relationship could be accomplished. The House of Delegates approved the above recommendations and those of the Building Committee that a building be constructed and furnished not to exceed $200,000, when funds are available, and this to be accomplished within five years. The Reference Committee which studied all reports on the Wood Library-Museum stated, “Your Reference Committee is convinced that it is the desire of this Society to sponsor the Wood Library-Museum in substantially the same way as if its activities were carried on by a committee of this society, but without destroying the corporate identity of the Wood Library-Museum. It is our belief that this... truly indicates such a desire on the part of each organization, and establishes a framework upon which such an association may be formed.”

The House of Delegates concurred.

As this article goes into publication, an agreement has been drawn up by the respective counsel and awaits ratification by the two bodies. And so, an organization which had its humble beginning in a bedroom of a dedicated anesthesiologist in 1930, is now a member of the American Association of Museums, the Museums of the City of New York, the American Medical Library Association, and the Library Exchange, and has reached the milestone which may preserve its perpetuity. The historical, educational and cultural advantages for the medical world will prove to be of inestimable value. Anesthesiology will be the recipient of a priceless heritage.

REFERENCES

5. Original Notebook: Constitution and Bylaws of Long Island Society of Anesthesists, Minutes of Meeting of May 17, 1915.
The Paul M. Wood Library-Museum, located in the City of New York, is "The Official Repository of the Archives of The American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc." Indeed today this remains the only "official" connection between the two institutions.

The Library-Museum, at first an official part of The American Society of Anesthesiologists, was considered so important that 10 per cent of the membership dues were allocated for its support. This was at a time when both the Library-Museum and Society Headquarters shared rent-free space at 745 Fifth Avenue, New York, through the generosity of E. R. Squibb & Sons.

When the Society Headquarters, but not the Library-Museum, moved to Chicago a new plan for financing the latter was established. An annual grant by the Society of fifteen hundred dollars was substituted for the dues check-off system. This sum has been recently increased to six thousand dollars and now represents realistic support.

Historically, interest in the establishment of a library and museum devoted to anesthesia dates back to the twenties under the stimulation of the New York anesthesiologists, Erdman, Buchanan and Ferguson. Ferguson had collected many books on anesthesia during his life time, but it was rather a personal hobby and not with the idea of founding a Society effort as was the case with both Erdman and Buchanan.

In any event, the present Library and Museum was given its real start in 1933 when Paul M. Wood gave two full shelves of books and two show cases of equipment to the Library and Museum of the New York Society of Anesthesiologists, which later became the American Society of Anesthesiologists. The
WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

fundamental aims of the library and museum were stated to be: first, to educate medical students; second, to enlighten the public regarding anesthesiaology, a medical specialty.

The cultural as well as the scientific aspects of our Society have never been better demonstrated than when its founders undertook the establishment of a library and museum. Furthermore, those of us who are located far away from the Paul Wood Library-Museum, in all fairness, must admit that it offers better service to the majority of our members and overseas visitors in its present location in the center of New York than if it were moved elsewhere. On the other hand, the argument that more adequate storage facilities are available in the new American Society Headquarters Building in Park Ridge, Illinois, at first might appear to be a strong reason for its relocation.

New York City, the birthplace of the Library and Museum, remains today the logical location for service to the greatest number of A. S. A. members. Anesthetists from California and the far western states are far more likely to have reasons for going to New York than to Chicago. Some years ago, when people were almost entirely dependent on train transportation to the East, there was always a four to six hour layover in Chicago.

A Library-Museum located in the center of Chicago conceivably might have been visited by our Western members during such captive hours. Even in those days it is very doubtful if many would have found their way to Park Ridge for this purpose.

New York, like London, attracts more of our foreign colleagues than other cities. This is supported by an inspection of the visitor’s book at the Paul Wood Library-Museum. Here you will find registered the names of many well-known anesthetists from South America and overseas, as well as those of our own members whose homes are hundreds or even thousands of miles from New York.

The Wood Library-Museum is included in the official list of important libraries and museums published by the City of New York. The Library-Museum houses more priceless exhibit material than the average member realizes there exists. Besides the exhibits in evidence far more remain in storage. The great need is for more adequate display area and not for a geographical change.

Unity of purpose in achieving some of the purely cultural objectives of the American Society of Anesthesiologists does not require unification of all such functions in a headquarters building.

Loyal and devoted Society members from New York have given unsparingly of their time and money, for more than twenty-five years to preserve and expand the Paul Wood Library-Museum. Provision of adequate funds to save this heritage is once again an accepted responsibility of our national organization. Born and raised in New York City, the Wood Library-Museum should be continued in its present location where it can be expanded to provide an even more dynamic force in the advancement of anesthesiaology.

The headquarters building of the Society indeed might be advantageously used as a storage annex and to provide other ancillary needs. In any event, we should not let the Wood Library-Museum run the risk of entombment in “suburbia.”

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"... the need is immediate ..."

ANESTHESIA is one of the few specialties, if not the only specialty, of medicine that truly had its origin in the United States. Many members of the American Society of Anesthesiologists are cognizant of this heritage and realize the importance of preserving the Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, the only active depository of its type in the world.

The Library-Museum was originally an integral part of the Society. When the American Society of Anesthesiologists moved to Chicago in 1947 it was announced that the Library-Museum would remain in New York City. At a subsequent meeting of the Society held in April, 1947, the Society directed that the material of the Library-Museum should be kept in New York City, and that a Library-Museum be formed as a separate body. Paul M. Wood, its founder and curator, lived in that city. The Library-Museum qualified under the laws of the State of New York as a foundation. As a foundation separate from
the Society, the Library-Museum enjoys certain advantages which the Society, a corporation, does not enjoy. In 1949, the Society directed that the Library-Museum be known as the Paul M. Wood Library and Museum in Anesthesiology and in 1956 directed that the Library-Museum was to be the official repository for the archives of the Society. This brief history shows that the Library-Museum and the Society have been and remain inextricably bound.

From its inception, the Library-Museum has needed space to house its ever-increasing book stacks, to provide adequate display areas for its collections, and to allow sufficient facilities for personnel engaged in its work. Floor space estimated at 6,000 square feet is required, and the services of at least one full-time librarian are needed immediately. Only if these are available will the Library-Museum fulfill its function of serving the public, the physicians of the world, and, in particular, the physician-anesthetists of the United States. Unfortunately, finances for accomplishing this have been lacking. Through the untiring efforts of Paul Wood the Library-Museum has continued to function, but under conditions far from ideal. Valuable museum collections have been stored in a boat house. Only a part-time librarian, aided by physician-anesthetist “volunteers” has been available to catalogue books and museum gifts. Space for display of museum collections and for book stacks is limited. Without an increase in dues or the levying of an annual assessment, the cost of meeting the needs of the Library-Museum until now could not have been realistically considered by the Society.

Today the Society is in position to consider financing the construction of a building to house the Library-Museum, maintaining such a building, and supplying the personnel necessary to insure its functioning. Why has this become a possibility? In 1959 the Society purchased land in Park Ridge, Illinois, and constructed a new headquarters building. The size of the present building, which occupies 6,000 square feet of property, will allow for future expansion in the adjacent area: it is estimated that at least three floor areas of 6,000 square feet each may be added. Thus, at no cost to the Society or to the Library-Museum, the Society is now able to offer sufficient property to fulfill the housing requirements of the Library-Museum. Furthermore, if the Library-Museum is adjacent to Headquarters, operational expenses of the Library-Museum will be reduced. Personnel and equipment may serve both organizations. Maintenance costs—janitorial service, heating, lighting, phone service, and insurance protection—will be less than if the Library-Museum were elsewhere.

Some members may assume that Park Ridge is in “suburbia” and is not suitable for housing the Library-Museum. A review of the facts, however, should make it apparent that such an assumption is fallacious. The following are pertinent reasons why Park Ridge, Illinois, was selected as the site for headquarters of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. It is adjacent to the northwest boundary of the city limits of Chicago. It is 20–30 minutes from downtown Chicago (The Loop) by train or car. Access to the headquarters building from any part of the United States takes less time by car than driving to downtown Chicago because traffic delays are obviated by a “freeway” system. The headquarters building is 15 minutes by taxi or car from O'Hare Field where all jet flights to Chicago depart or terminate. The Palmer House, the downtown Chicago terminal for ground transportation, is 30 minutes from O'Hare Field.

Park Ridge itself, one of the fine residential areas near Chicago, is restricted by stringent zoning laws to residential construction and light industry, which assures continued property values. A modern 200-room motel-hotel with meeting facilities, restaurant, and swimming pool was completed this year in Park Ridge. Police and fire protection are superb. Living for personnel is pleasant and convenient. The cost of land in Park Ridge at the time it was purchased was only a fraction of an equal-sized piece of property in downtown Chicago, and the value of the property has approximately doubled since its purchase by the Society. The Midwest offices of many well-known insurance companies and business firms are located in Park Ridge, and these are housed in modern attractive buildings. And finally, Park Ridge offers the conveniences of downtown Chicago yet eliminates
many of its headaches. Park Ridge seems an ideal location for the Library-Museum.

On the other hand, the cost of purchasing downtown metropolitan property suitable for the construction of a building for either the Society or the Library-Museum would be prohibitive. An acre of land adjacent to The Loop in Chicago would cost approximately $800,000. It is doubtful that land in metropolitan New York or San Francisco would be less expensive. Moreover, no other alternative proposal seems feasible. The possibility of buying an older home or building in downtown New York, Chicago or San Francisco and remodeling it would not have proved satisfactory for housing the Society and it is doubtful if this were done for the Library-Museum that the needs of this foundation would be properly fulfilled. The sort of building which could be afforded would be, in all probability, more than 60 years old and located in an undesirable section of the city. The amount of remodeling required would be expensive. Future expansion would be limited. Daily maintenance would be more costly. Airfields of the future would be one or more hours away. Ground transportation might be tedious and parking facilities would be limited. It would not be a structure that could function as well as one designed to perform a definite purpose.

The American Society of Anesthesiologists has learned that centralization of operations is imperative if overhead is to be kept within reasonable limits. Neither today nor in the future can the Society afford to buy property, construct a building or modernize an existing building, and pay personnel to house and operate the Library-Museum in New York, San Francisco, or Chicago proper. To do so would involve a loss in operational efficiency—owing to a duplication of personnel and equipment—and an increase in operational expenses.

The Trustees of the Wood Library-Museum and the representatives of the American Society of Anesthesiologists are cognizant of the above problems and are making an effort devoid of personal sentiment to assure: (1) perpetuity of the Library-Museum; (2) preservation of the foundation status of the Library-Museum; (3) a mutually satisfactory working agreement between the two organizations; (4) a central, easily accessible location which is financially feasible; (5) a modern building which is suitable and designed to house an active Library-Museum; and (6) efficient management and personnel so that it may serve both the public and medicine.

The question before us is not the vaguely speculative one of whether it may be better for the Library-Museum to be in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, or somewhere else: it is, rather, the more pressing question of whether the Library-Museum is to receive perpetuity by the establishment of a location for it now. Why cavil about a location like Park Ridge, especially when it offers as much as, and perhaps more than, metropolitan New York, Chicago, or San Francisco? To hedge and vacillate now could well delay for another twenty years the creation of a Library-Museum with adequate space, facilities and personnel. The crux of the situation lies in the fact that if during the lifetime of Paul Wood the Library-Museum is not properly housed and made functional in close association with a well-established, active, and expanding organization dedicated to the perpetuation of the practice of anesthesia for the welfare of mankind—the American Society of Anesthesiologists—then the eventual entombment of the Library-Museum may well prove inevitable.

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