“Anesthesia about 1850” at the 1939 World’s Fair

Planned by prominent American physician-anesthetists, “Modern Anesthesia” was advertised as “the hit show in the Medicine and Public Health Building” of the New York World’s Fair of 1939. Postcards depicted early practice of this “fully developed and important specialty of medicine,” including “life size models” demonstrating “Anesthesia about 1850” (see above). Sponsored by a local-anesthetic giant, New York’s Winthrop Chemical Company, the exhibit celebrated “the training, skill, and resourcefulness of the anesthetist of today [to] render modern anesthesia wonderfully efficient and remarkably safe.”

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