In 1992 the Wood Library-Museum published Dr. Raymond Fink’s French-to-English translation of Researches, Practical and Physiological on Etherization, the 1847 classic by Nikolai Ivanovich Pirogov (1810–1881). One of Europe’s first surgeons to use ether anesthesia, Pirogov was featured on the obverse (left) of a medal designed in 1979 by Soviet sculptor and medalist G. A. Fedorova. On the reverse face, a cross and crescent may reflect his later work for the Russian Red Cross during the 1870 Franco-Prussian War and as a surgeon in the 1877 Russo-Turkish War. The scroll translates to: “For your services in the fields of humanitarian activities.” Markings beneath the scroll include: “MMD 79” (Moscow Mint, 1979) and also “No 2319” of a reported 3,000 minted out of Tombac, a 9:1 alloy of copper to zinc. One year later, the MMD minted at least 223 more Tombac medallions—the Bronze Medals for the 1980 Summer Olympics in Moscow. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the Anesthesiology Reflections online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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