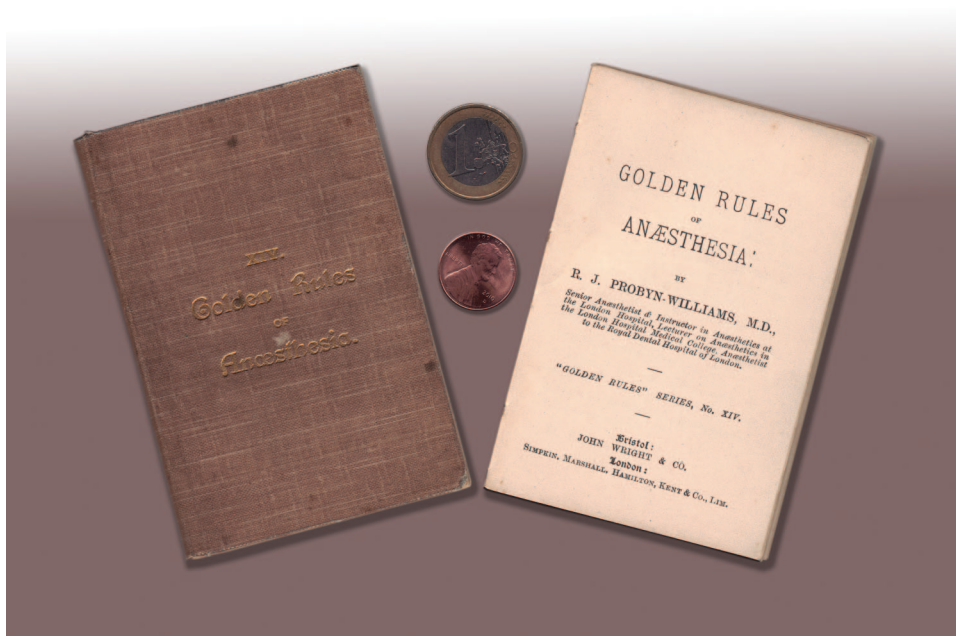


## Tiny But *Golden Rules of Anaesthesia*



Published in 1904 from Bristol and London, this first of three editions of No. XIV in the “Golden Rule” clinical series was sized to fit the “waistcoat pocket” of medical students or “occasional anaesthetists.” At  $104 \times 70 \times 7.4$  mm, *Golden Rules of Anaesthesia* followed 67 numbered pages with 5 advertising ones, all sized  $1/32$  (“thirty-twomo” or “trigesimo-secundo”) of a printer’s uncut free sheet. Compare the book’s size (above) with that of a U.S. penny or a 1 Euro coin. Two-time P. M. Wood Fellow Rajesh Haridas considers *Golden Rules* “the smallest English-language book on anaesthesia.” The tiny book’s author, Robert James Probyn-Williams (1866–1952), advised readers to “Never give an anaesthetic without a third person being present [or] being prepared with another [anaesthetic, or] having at hand [emergency] apparatus.” Curiously, he also noted that “when your patient is cyanosed, dark blood will make the surgeon’s work more difficult.” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at [www.anesthesiology.org](http://www.anesthesiology.org).)

George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator, ASA’s Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Park Ridge, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. [UJYC@aol.com](mailto:UJYC@aol.com).