Lucien Morris: “Put the Kettle On!”

After clinically pioneering his iconic “Copper Kettle” in Wisconsin in the spring of 1948 as one of Professor Ralph Waters’ residents, Dr. Lucien Morris (left, 1914–2011) would eventually report on “A New Vaporizer for Anesthetic Agents” in the November 1952 issue of ANESTHESIOLOGY. Dr. Morris would teach anesthesiology and the virtues of “the world’s first precision vaporizer” from academic professorships in Iowa City, Seattle, Toronto, and Toledo. A towering intellectual, he insisted that I call him Lucien but also that I understand that his prototype machine’s copper table top (lower right) was critical for proper “transfer of heat ... to the liquid to be vaporized.” When I proudly escorted the irascible professor past one of the copper vaporizing cylinders that I had removed (for display purposes) from one of his machines, Lucien wryly observed, “Why, George, you have amputated my Copper Kettle!” (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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