

The Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology

American Society of Anesthetists Archives

Finding Aid

Revised November 30, 2007 (JR)

Historical Sketch

In 1905, the Long Island Society of Anesthetists (LISA) was founded by Dr. Adolph Frederick Erdmann. This was the first professional anesthesia society organized in the United States, and the second in the world. (The first was the London Society of Anaesthetists, founded in 1893.) LISA soon grew beyond the bounds of Long Island, and in 1911 the name was changed to The New York Society of Anesthetists (NYSA). This too, outgrew its bounds, and came to have a nation-wide membership.

In 1936, the membership voted to recognize this growth by changing the name of NYSA to The American Society of Anesthetists, Inc. The honor of being Member No. 1 was given to Dr. Erdmann. His membership card was cast in silver, and is a part of the A. F. Erdmann Collection.

In December, 1944, the membership voted to change the name again, to The American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. The letterhead and all publications of the Society after that date bear the new name. In the May, 1945 issue of "Anesthesiology", it was announced that the name change had been registered with the New York Department of State.

Once the national society was formed, it became apparent that affiliated societies were also needed at the local level. In April, 1939, the former NYSA was reconstituted as the New York Section of the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Other state component societies of the ASA began to form in the 1940s. The New York State Section was reconstituted again as The New York State Society of Anesthesiologists (NYSSA), chartered on February 28, 1948.

Scope Note

This collection was selected and compiled, by persons unknown, from among the oldest records of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and its predecessor organizations. The collection was processed and described by freelance archivist, Valerie? in 1998? At that time, some of these materials were bound, and special buckram-covered binders and boxes were made to house the entire collection, by Minter?

In 2007, mold was discovered in some of these boxes. The buckram boxes were destroyed, and the collection was treated by Midwest Freeze-Dry, of Skokie, Illinois. In the intervening years, the records of the American Society of Anesthesiologists and other organizations have been processed by the staff.

Upon its return from treatment, this collection was reorganized and a new finding aid was produced. Some of the record series that were established in 1998?? have been retained. The most significant change in arrangement is that all materials relating to individual meetings, formerly arranged by record type, have now been combined.

The present collection consists only of the records of the American Society of Anesthetists (extant 1936—1944.) Related records can also be found in the American Society of Anesthesiologists Archives, where some of these materials are duplicated.

Box 1

FF	2007 Finding Aid	
FF	1998? Finding Aid	
FF	Board of Directors meeting minutes	1941
FF	Board of Directors meeting minutes	1943
FF	Constitution and Bylaws	1936
FF	Constitution and Bylaws	1936-1944
FF	Correspondence	1936
FF	Correspondence	1936-1941
FF	Correspondence	1942-1944
FF	Anesthesia Essay Contest rules	1945
FF	Fellowship application	1937
FF	Designation of Fellow in Anesthesiology	1936
	[Also see Fellowship Committee scrapbook]	
FF	Scrapbook of member signatures	1935-1945
FF	Directory of Members	1936-1938
FF	Membership mailings	1937-1945
FF	News Clippings	1922-1945
FF	Surgical Patient Physical Status Classifications	1935-1939

Box X

Meetings Series

FF	Attendance lists	1930-1942
FF	Index to Scientific Papers	1935-1938
FF	Meeting	Feb. 3, 1936
FF	Meeting	Mar. 8, 1936
FF	Meeting	Apr. 9, 1936
FF	Meeting	July 8, 1936
FF	Meeting	Oct. 8, 1936
FF	Meeting	Nov. 11, 1936
FF	Meeting	Dec. 10, 1936
FF	Meeting	Feb. 11, 1937
FF	Meeting	Apr. 8-9, 1937
FF	Meeting	May 20, 1937
FF	Meeting	Sept. 22, 1937
FF	Meeting	Oct. 13, 1937
FF	Meeting	Dec. 8, 1937
FF	Meeting	Feb. 9, 1938
FF	Meeting	Mar. 22, 1938
FF	Meeting	June 2 & 24, 1938
FF	Meeting	July 8, 1938
FF	Meeting	Oct. 20, 1938
FF	Meeting	Dec. 8, 1938

FF	Meeting	Feb. 10 & 23, 1939
FF	Meeting	Apr. 14, 1939
FF	Meeting	May 4, 1939
FF	Meeting	Oct. 12, 1939
FF	Meeting	Nov. 25, 1939
FF	Meeting	Dec. 14, 1939
FF	Meeting	Jan. 30, 1940
FF	Meeting	Feb. 14, 1940
FF	Meeting	Apr. 10, 1940
FF	Meeting	May 16, 1940
FF	Meeting	June 11, 1940
FF	Meeting	Sept. 17, 1940
FF	Meeting	Oct. 10, 1940
FF	Meeting	Nov. 2, 1940
FF	Meeting	Dec. 12, 1940
FF	Meeting	Jan. 23, 1941
FF	Meeting	Feb. 3, 1941
FF	Meeting	Apr. 10, 1941
FF	Meeting	Oct. 4 7 30, 1941
FF	Meeting	Dec. 11, 1941
FF	Meeting	Jan. 24, 1942
FF	Meeting	Feb. 12, 1942
FF	Meeting	Apr. 19, 1942

FF	Meeting	July 31, 1942
FF	Meeting	Dec. 10, 1942
FF	Meeting	Feb. 11, 1943
FF	Meeting	Apr. 8, 1943
FF	Meeting	June 17, 1943
FF	Meeting	Aug. 19, 1943
FF	Meeting	Oct. 14, 1943
FF	Meeting	Dec. 9, 1943
FF	Meeting	Feb. 10 & 18, 1944
FF	Meeting	Mar. 30, 1944
FF	Meeting	Apr. 13, 1944
FF	Meeting	May 25, 1944
FF	Meeting	Sept. 7, 1944
FF	Meeting	Oct. 12, 1944
FF	Meeting	Nov. 2 & 9, 1944
FF	Meeting	Dec. 14, 1944

FF	ASA	Newsletter	1936
FF	ASA	Newsletter	1942
FF	ASA	Newsletter	1938-1939
FF	ASA	Newsletter	1940-1941
FF	ASA	Transactions	1939

Post-bound book "ASA 1935-1937 Fellowship Committee"

[Also see items relating to Fellowships in Box 1]