
■ ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

“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.” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at 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.