
ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

Erdmann's Life Membership No. 1 in the ASA



In 1905 Adolph Frederick Erdmann, M.D. (1867–1953), gathered eight medical colleagues and founded the Long Island Society of Anesthetists, a group which evolved successively into the New York Society of Anesthetists (1911), the American Society of Anesthetists (1935), and finally the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) (1945). A teetotaling nonsmoker, Erdmann invented an ether dropper and promoted use of perioperative music for relaxing patients. After “Fred” Erdmann retired in 1937 from active practice, the Society’s secretary, Paul M. Wood, M.D., signed a wallet-sized “Silver Certificate” (above) that declared that Erdmann was “a member in good standing for the year life” and “Active Member No. 1.” In 1947 the ASA honored Erdmann with its third Distinguished Service Award. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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