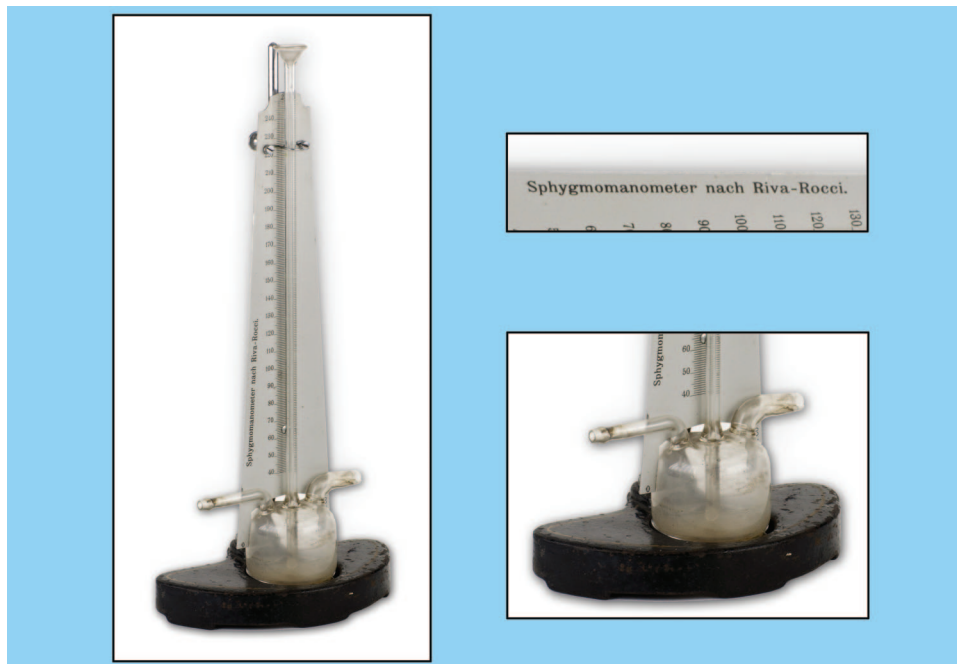


## Cushing, Riva-Rocci and Intraoperative Blood Pressure



In January of 1893, Harvard medical student Harvey Cushing witnessed the anesthetic demise of a patient he was etherizing. Cushing considered abandoning medicine but eventually resolved to improve patient monitoring. After years of Halsted surgical residency at Johns Hopkins, Cushing would tour surgical amphitheatres, clinics, and laboratories throughout Europe. In Italy on May 5, 1901, he sketched the mercury sphygmomanometer that Scipione Riva-Rocci was using to measure blood pressure in his Pavian clinics. On returning to Baltimore 4 months later, Cushing introduced blood pressure measurement of anesthetized patients to Johns Hopkins Hospital. Unlike the “home made” originals that Cushing had seen in Pavia, Italy, the Wood Library-Museum’s Riva-Rocci sphygmomanometer (*left*) was manufactured in Germany. The reservoir (*lower right*) of this example is displayed here without rubber tubing, cuff, or mercury. (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).)

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