

## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

### Reversal of Fortune: Axis of Evil?



Invited as a curatorial consultant 25 years ago to the headquarters of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, I soon found myself wading through a basement room haplessly jammed full of old anesthesia machines. After resolving to inventory the larger machines by May of 1987 for the Wood Library-Museum, I shifted my focus to the adjoining small room. It was filled with map drawers and pharmaceutical cabinets. In a near corner of the room, a heavy 27-cubic-foot wooden crate was perched on top of something on wheels. Lifting the crate carefully, I was amazed to discover the prototype Cotton-Boothby Apparatus flipped upside down around the axis of its carrying handle (*right*). After dragging the crate down the hallway, I returned to the classic apparatus and flipped it respectfully upright around the axis of its carrying handle. Decades later, for display purposes, I would add compressed gas cylinders in colors contemporaneous with the apparatus (*left*), black cylinders for nitrous oxide and red ones for oxygen. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc.)

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