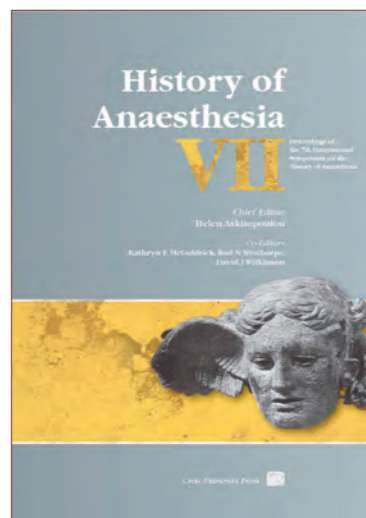


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The «History of Anaesthesia VII» is the seventh volume of its kind following a series of very successful publications of the International Symposia on the History of Anaesthesia organised for the first time in 1982 in Rotterdam, and since then every four to five years in different parts of the world. These Symposia discuss evidence about past initiatives and foster research about how earlier scientists thought and worked. The present volume contains the *Proceedings of the 7th Symposium held in Herakleion, Greece in 2009*. It is a collection of essays related to the history of anaesthesia, from individual contributors and not a narrative account of the evolution of anaesthesia as such.

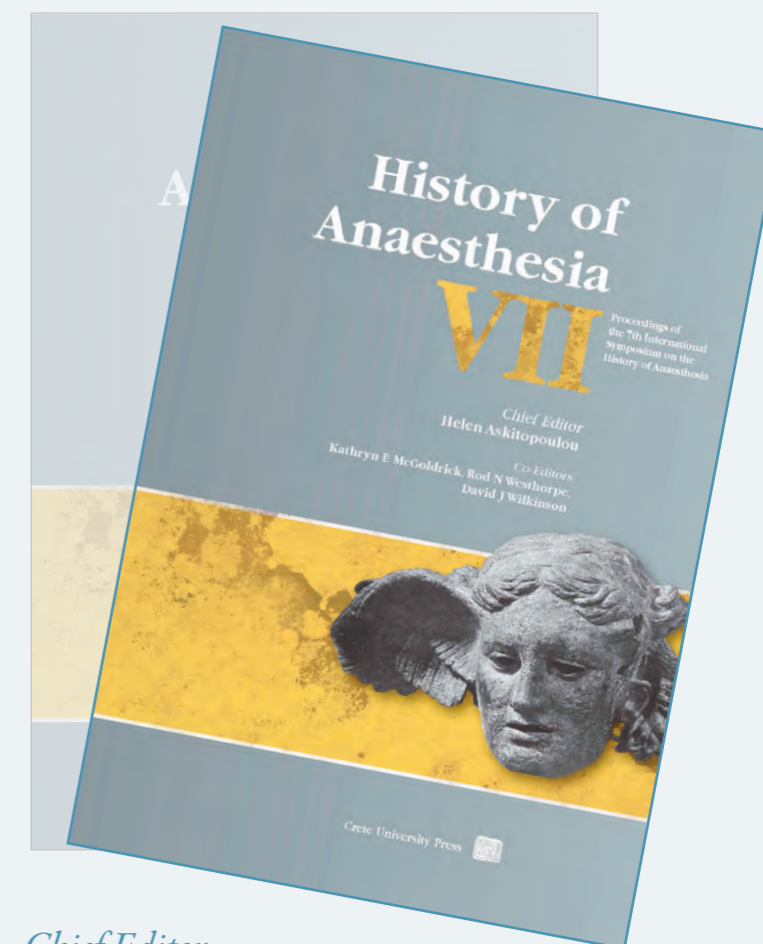
The historical evolution of analgesia and anaesthesia from empiricism and experimentation to its impressive present-day development, from the first desperate attempts of man to relieve the pain of trauma and disease, back to the roots of contemporary anaesthesia –one and half centuries ago– is fascinating. The long journey –from the beginnings of recorded history to the last decades– follows the transition and transformation of the history of medicine, which replaced theocratic dogmas and philosophical speculations with rational scientific thought. This diachronic dimension of history, which highlights the process of how the discipline of anaesthesiology reached its current scientific significance, is also expressed in the *Proceedings of the 7th International Symposium on the History of Anaesthesia*.

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HISTORY OF ANAESTHESIA VII

Proceedings of the 7th International Symposium on the History of Anaesthesia

Held in Heraklion, Crete, Greece, 1-3 October 2009



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ISBN 978-960-524-370-8, 608 pages, Price 60 €

pages 608, 17 × 24 cm, 60 € | ISBN 978-960-524-370-8

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITOR'S PROLOGUE.....	v
LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS.....	xiii

INTRODUCTION

Analgesia and Anaesthesia – From Greek Antiquity to the Twentieth Century.....	1
HELEN ASKITOPOULOU	

SECTION I: GREEK ANTIQUITY

Losing the Hippocratic Tradition – A Danger to Our Profession?	15
DAVID J WILKINSON	
The Hippocratic Approach to Pain Management.....	23
ELISABETH ASTYRAKAKI, MARIA KARATZI, ALEXANDRA PAPAIOANNOU, HELEN ASKITOPOULOU	
Anaesthesia and Analgesia in Ancient Greece and Rome	31
LOUISE CILLIERS	
A Hippocratic Physician's Office.....	45
GEORGIOS STEFANAKIS, ELENI KONSOLAKI, VASSILIA NYKTARI, HELEN ASKITOPOULOU	
Herbal Pain Medicines in Ancient Egypt and Minoan Crete	55
ADELAIS G TSIOTOU, EVANGELIA K. KALLIARDOU	
Different Concepts of 'Anaesthesia' in Late Greek and Roman Antiquity ...	67
ELISABETH ASTYRAKAKI, VASSILIA NYKTARI, HELEN ASKITOPOULOU	
References to 'Anaesthesia' in Galenic Texts	75
GEORGOS GIANNITOPOULOS, ELISABETH ASTYRAKAKI, ALEXANDRA PAPAIOANNOU, HELEN ASKITOPOULOU	
Acute Unexpected Deaths of Prominent Men in Ancient Greece	83
GEORGIOS STEFANAKIS, ELENI KONSOLAKI, ALEXANDRA PAPAIOANNOU, HELEN ASKITOPOULOU	

SECTION II: EARLY MODERN PERIOD

Hidden 'Fire Air', Hidden Letter: Oxygen's Historic Dilemmas.....	97
JOHN W SEVERINGHAUS	
Sedation with <i>Datura Stramonium</i> in Ancient Peru.....	113
CÉSAR CORTÉS ROMÁN	

SECTION III: NINETEENTH CENTURY

The Huxleys & the <i>Rattlesnake</i> : Romance and Australian Anaesthesia in the 1840s	125
MICHAEL G COOPER, ELIZABETH M TODD	
Joseph Clover's Casebook	139
CHRISTINE M BALL	
Henry Chambert's <i>Des Effets Physiologiques et Therapeutiques des Ethers</i> : The Very Rare, Unknown First French Book on Ethers	151
JACQUES HOTTON	

The History of Early Respirators (Mid 1800s - 1918): A Systematic	
---	--

Re-Assessment of the Main 'Technology-Transfer', which led to the Development of Modern Anaesthesia Technology	159
M WULF M STRÄTLING, CHRISTIAN NIGGEBRÜGGE, JAN SCHUMACHER	

Solving the Mystery of 'Truehead of Galveston': 'The Doctor who Never Was' - A Detective Story	181
RONALD V TRUBUHOVICH	

'Sweet' Methods of Analgesia: Alternatives to Anaesthesia at the End of the Nineteenth Century	195
JACQUES HOTTON	

SECTION IV: TWENTIETH CENTURY - First Half

The Draeger Archives: Unveiling one of the Worlds' Largest Collections on the History of Anaesthesiology	205
M WULF M STRÄTLING, JAN SCHUMACHER	
The Influence of World War One on the Development of American Anaesthesia	217
ANTHONY L KOVAC	
Anaesthesia Aspects of Base Hospital No 28: From Kansas City and the University of Kansas in World War One	235
ANTHONY L KOVAC	
The History of Regional Anaesthesia in Greece in the Twentieth Century ..	251
ANASTASIOS M PETROU, GEORGIOS ST PAPADOPOULOS, FREIDERIKI STELIOU	

Regional versus General Anaesthesia? What Did Greek Doctors choose in the early Twentieth Century?	263
AIKATERINI BOUZIA, ELENI CHRISTOPOULOU-ALETRA	

Polarography: A Major Contribution of Jaroslav Heyrovský to Intensive Therapy.....	271
JIŘÍ POKORNÝ	

The First Successful Intracardiac Pacing of a Human Heart: Mark Cowley Lidwill – Cardiologist and Anaesthetist	277
BARRY BAKER	

Endotracheal Intubation in Paediatric Anaesthesia. History and Evolution .	301
PANAGIOTIS ALEXANDROPOULOS, ADELAIS G TSIOTOU, EVANGELIA K KALLIARDOU	

The Australian Society's Diamond Jubilee	311
ROSS B HOLLAND	

SECTION V: TWENTIETH CENTURY - Second Half

Malignant Hyperthermia – An Australian Story	321
CHRISTINE M BALL	

Air-Cooling to Induce Hypothermia for Cardiac Surgery – Historical Notes	333
JAN HOFLAND, KARIN LEENDERTSE-VERLOOP, JOSEPH RUPREHT	

The World of Veterinary Anaesthesiology.....	345
DIMITRIS RAPTOPOULOS	

The Origins of the Modern Pain Clinic at the Mayo Clinic.....	353
TOBY N WEINGARTEN, DAVID P MARTIN, DOUGLAS R BACON	

History of Paediatric Anaesthesiology and Resuscitation in Prague	361
JIŘÍ POKORNÝ	

Sleep Apnoea – A Historical Approach	373
ELEANA E VLACHAKI, IRENE E PANAGIOTAKI, STYLIANOS G VELEGRAKIS, GEORGE A VELEGRAKIS	

Original Development of Anaesthesia Machines Following World War Two in Czechoslovakia	381
JIŘÍ MÁLEK, JIŘÍ POKORNÝ	

Interdisciplinary 'Pain Conferences' – An Instrument for the Development of Pain Management in the Twentieth Century in Germany ...	389
WILFRIED WITTE	

The History of Nsaids – From Aspirin to Contemporary COX Inhibitors	397
GEORGIA G KOSTOPANAGIOTOU, TATIANA F SIDIROPOULOU	

Geoffrey Kaye Museum of Anaesthetic History – Dealing with Hazardous Substances in Museum Collections	411
MARIA DROSSOS	

SECTION VI: PIONEERS OF ANAESTHESIA

Greek Influence On James Young Simpson	425
ALISTAIR G MCKENZIE	

British Pioneers of Regional Anaesthesia	433
J ANTHONY W WILDSMITH	

James Moffat's Tribulations In Paris	439
MARGUERITE ZIMMER	

Friedrich Von Esmarch – A Pioneer of Emergency Medicine in Germany	449
HEIKE I PETERMANN	

Benjamin Ward Richardson – His Contribution to Anaesthesia	461
HENRY CONNOR	

Samuel J Hayes, Editor of the 'Dental and Surgical Microcosm' – The World's First Anaesthesia Journal	481
GEORGE S BAUSE	

Sir Frederic William Hewitt – His Multifaceted Contributions to Anaesthesiology	491
KATHRYN E MCGOLDRICK	

Carl Koller, Cocaine And Local Anaesthesia – Some Less Known and Forgotten Facts	501
MICHAEL GOERIG, ANDRÉ VAN ZUNDERT	

Rupert Walter Hornabrook – Australia's First Full-Time Anaesthetist .	527
ROD N WESTHORPE	

René Leriche – The Forgotten Pain Surgeon.....	539
MARIE-THÉRÈSE J COUSIN	

Pioneers of Greek Anaesthesiology in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries	551
GEORGIOS ST PAPADOPOULOS, ANASTASIOS M PETROU	

INDEX OF NAMES	563
----------------------	-----

INDEX OF TERMS	575
----------------------	-----