

# Apparatus for Anaesthesia and Intensive Care (1847-1970)

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Preface by professor Athanasios Diamandopoulos, President of the International Society for the History of Medicine

In October 1846, William T. G. Morton, a dentist, performed the first public anaesthesia at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. It was the end of abominable pains and swift excisions. From then on, the patient would sleep under the influence of sulphuric ether.

All over the world, numerous apparatus were invented. The techniques evolved and complications were encountered with the appearance of new anaesthetic agents. A real saga began. Then, closed circuit, artificial ventilation and other techniques became a real medical specialization, offering narcosis a new start and increasing safety. Automated and electrical devices would come later.

"Apparatus for Anaesthesia and Intensive Care – France, Germany, United-Kingdom (1847-1970)" gathers more than one hundred and fifty machines presented during the 2004 World Congress of Anaesthesiologists in Paris, with French-English texts. The apparatus come from numerous museums and from private collections.

Such a survey of the equipment used in anaesthesia and intensive care is timely. The collection of images, backed up by authoritative texts, will delight students, specialists and historians.

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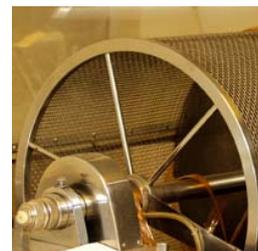
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