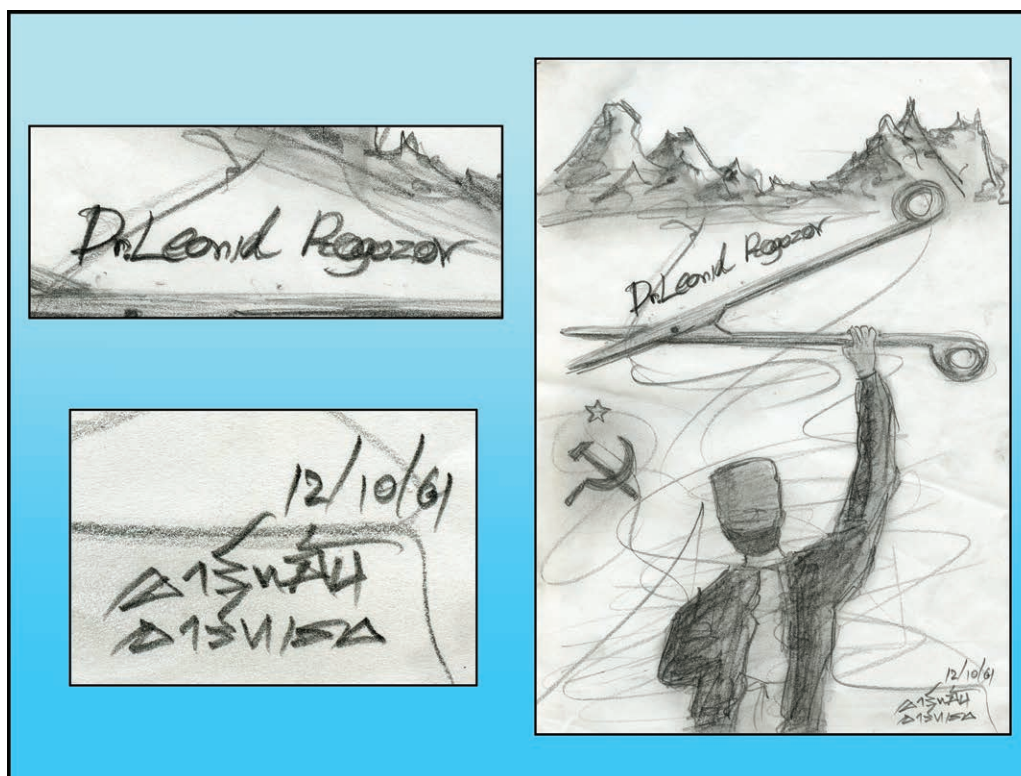


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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

May Day of 1961 and Self-appendectomy with Novocaine in Antarctica: Leonid Rogozov's 0.5% Solution?



The sole physician to a 13-man Soviet team of researchers at isolated Novolazarevskaya Station in Antarctica, Dr. Leonid Ivanovich Rogozov (1934 to 2000) diagnosed his own appendicitis in late April of 1961. Using a mirror and syringe of 0.5% Novocaine (procaine), Rogozov performed self-surgery under a supplemented field block on May Day, successfully removing his appendix. His surgical feat made headlines worldwide and was even memorialized “12/10/61” by Thai artist Artchan Artthex (*lower left*). Titled “Dr. Leonid Rogozov” (*upper left*), this graphite-on-paper features a rear view of the surgically gowned Rogozov with the peaks of Antarctica in the background (*right*). (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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