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## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

# Arthur Guedel's Nugget of Gold: Dislodged by One "Blade" and Snatched by Another?



Eight years at Johns Hopkins taught me many jokes contrasting “fleas” (internists, “the last to leave the carcass”) with “blades” (surgeons, self-explanatory). Later, I shared these morsels of merriment with Wood Library-Museum Trustee Rod Calverley (1938 to 1995, *lower left*). In turn, Rod regaled me with stories about Dr. Arthur Guedel (1883 to 1956, *upper left*) and the latter’s namesake laryngoscope (*right*), which brandished a broad blade—at a fixed acute angle—with which inexperienced laryngoscopists could easily damage patients’ dental work. Over decades, Guedel fashioned low-karat scraps of dislodged dental gold into a nugget that was exhibited posthumously at his namesake museum in California. When the nugget was stolen, Rod surmised that the thief might have been “one of the students of dental surgery” who often lucubrated near the exhibit case. We mused that the gold had been dislodged by one “blade” (Guedel’s) and then snatched by another...a soon-to-be surgeon. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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