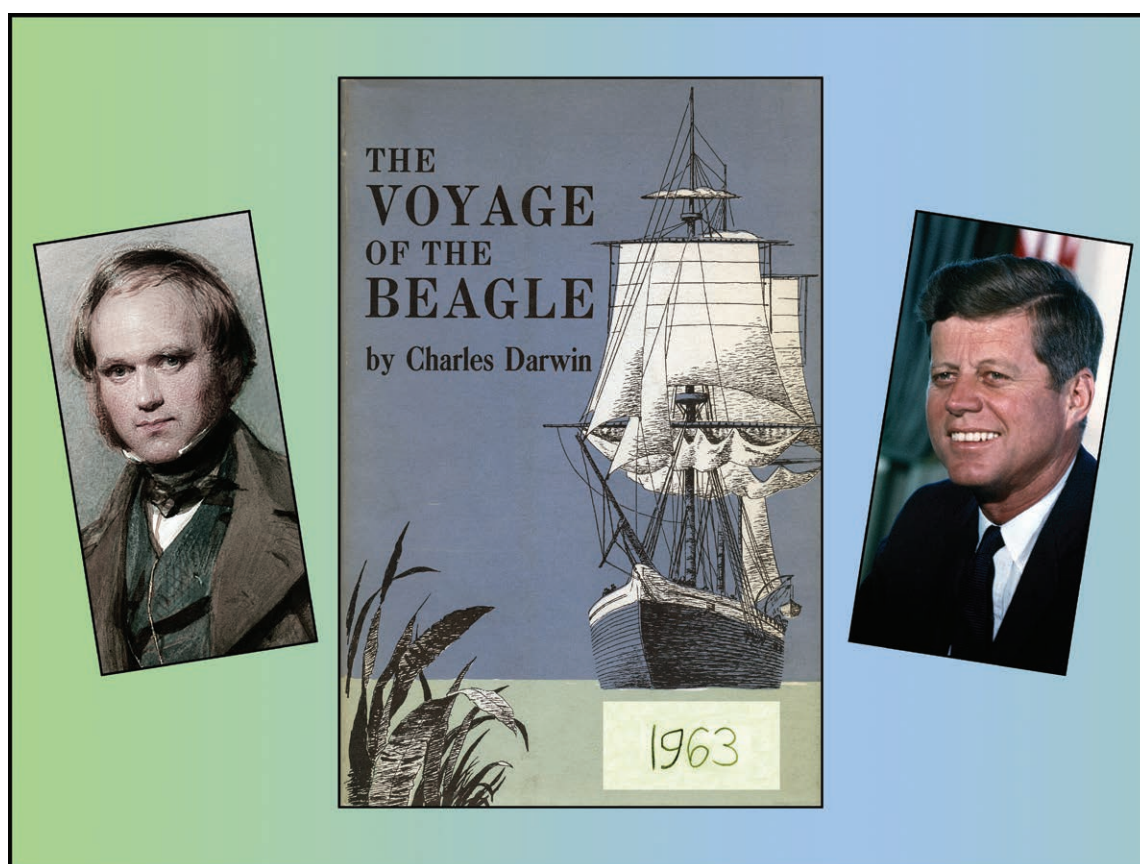


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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

Byline Backstory No. 3: An Assassination Transforms an Aspiring Naturalist into a Future Physician



With astronauts blasting off from my extended backyard next to Cape Canaveral, I remember scrawling “1963” on the dust jacket (*middle*) of the book that I read in second grade, my 328–page copy of *The Voyage of the Beagle* by Charles Darwin (*left*). A second inspiration encouraging me to become a naturalist was my third-grade teacher, Mrs. Ruby Gammage, who was ranked as one of the nation’s top 100 “Elementary Science and Mathematics” educators. However, on November 22, 1963, a tearful Mrs. Gammage asked the class to suspend calculating cylindrical volumes in order to hear the radio broadcasting news of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy (*right*). I resolved on that day, my eighth birthday, to become a physician. Twenty-four years later, at the Wood Library–Museum Board Meeting, the last anesthesiologist who had attended that mortally wounded president, Dr. Marion T. “Pepper” Jenkins, would welcome my start as acting curator for the Wood Library–Museum. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library–Museum of Anesthesiology.)

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