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ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

The 20-cent Virginia Apgar Stamp



Anesthesiologist Virginia Apgar (1909–1974) presented in 1952 what the “Butterfield epigram” popularized later as the “APGAR Score” for assessing newborns’ well-being (Appearance, Pulse, Grimace, Activity, and Respiration). The American Society of Anesthesiologists’ first female officer (Treasurer, 1941–1945) and Distinguished Service Award recipient (1961), Dr. Apgar also directed a division of the March of Dimes. The insatiably curious Apgar hand-fashioned and played her own violin, mezzo violin, and cello; she even “liberated” a payphone booth’s curly maple shelf to carve a viola. Dr. Apgar also loved to fish, golf, and watch baseball. Lecturing as rapidly as she drove cars and piloted airplanes, Dr. Apgar raced through life seeking low golf, high baseball, higher musical, and, of course, the highest neonatal scores. A stamp collector herself, Virginia Apgar, M.D., M.P.H., was honored posthumously on a U.S. postage stamp in 1994 (see above). (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image appears in color in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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