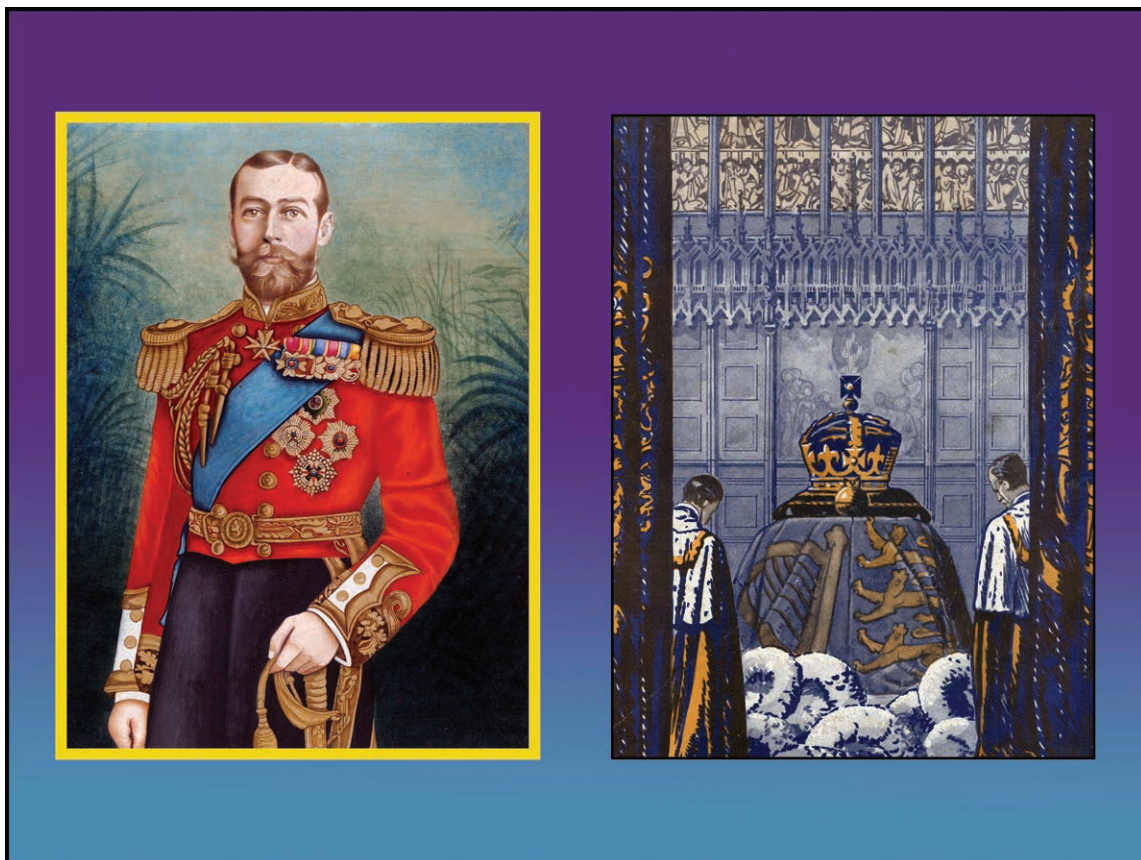


44. Steiner T, Juvela S, Unterberg A, Jung C, Forsting M, Rinkel G; European Stroke Organization: European Stroke Organization guidelines for the management of intracranial aneurysms and subarachnoid haemorrhage. *Cerebrovasc Dis* 2013; 35:93–112
45. Velly LJ, Bilotta F, Fàbregas N, Soehle M, Bruder NJ, Nathanson MH; European Neuroanaesthesia and Critical Care Interest Group (ENIG): Anaesthetic and ICU management of aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage: A survey of European practice. *Eur J Anaesthesiol* 2015; 32:168–76

## ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS FROM THE WOOD LIBRARY-MUSEUM

### Morphine, Cocaine, and the Euthanasia of King George V



In a 1924 contribution to *Lancet*, Dr. F. G. Chandler extolled the value of “Cocaine in Euthanasia,” particularly for patients who were terminal with pulmonary tuberculosis. A dozen years later, British King George V (1865 to 1936, *left*) was terminally bronchitic, bedridden, and passing repeatedly in and out of consciousness. Shortly after 11 PM on January 20, 1936, the Physician-in-Ordinary to the King administered a pair of lethal doses intravenously, to hasten the struggling monarch’s demise. This regicide was only revealed a half century later in the diary of the euthanizer, Lord Dawson of Penn (1864 to 1945), who penned: “I therefore decided to determine the end and injected (myself) morphia gr. 3/4 and shortly afterwards cocaine gr. 1 into the [King’s] distended jugular vein...” (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology.)

*George S. Bause, M.D., M.P.H., Honorary Curator and Laureate of the History of Anesthesia, Wood Library-Museum of Anesthesiology, Schaumburg, Illinois, and Clinical Associate Professor, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. UJYC@aol.com.*