

# Anesthesia

*what may have been forgotten*

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# origins



sumer----babylon---

egypt--greece---china----

india-----america---today

# medicine

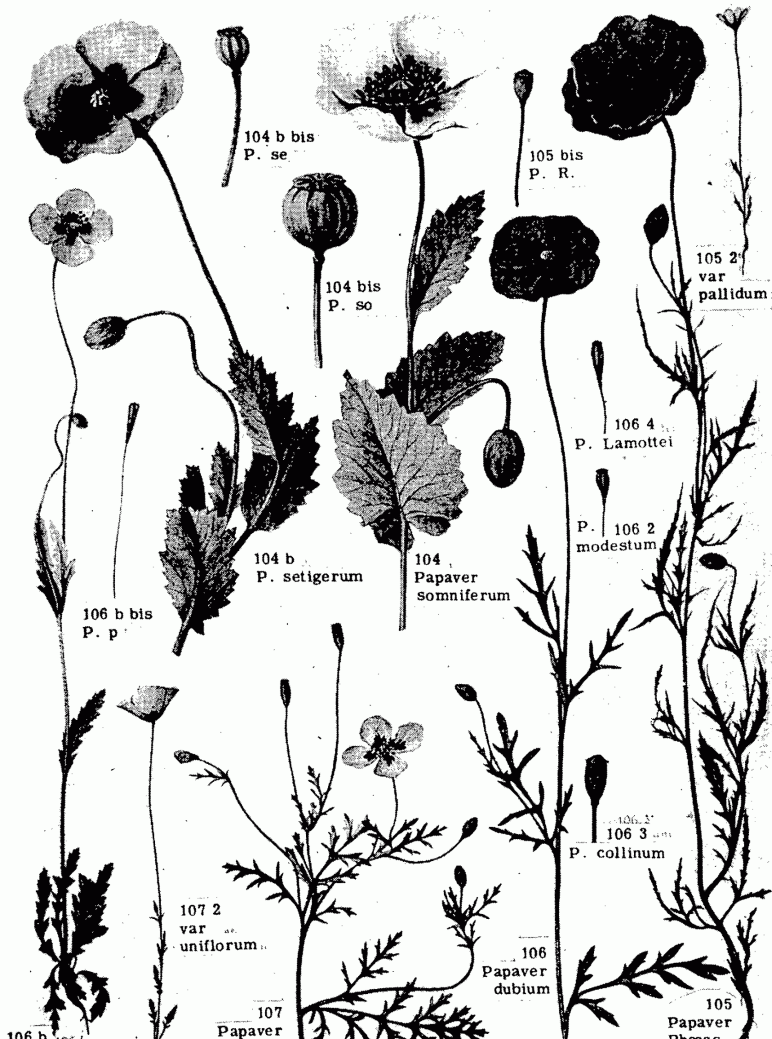
The poppy, mandrake fruit, and devils claw are only some of the natural apothecaries used before modern day anesthesia. along with the always effective wine to wash it down.



# sumer

Sumerians were the first to cultivate the poppy as written on ancient tablets from nippur and described as “hul gil” meaning plant of joy. even the sumerian goddess of writing nidaba has poppies growing from her shoulders.





# assyria



“arat pa pa” meaning juice of the poppy in assyrian is thought to be the derivative of the latin name ,papaver somniferum, for the plant.

# greece

the first time anesthesia was said allowed was in about 65 ce by a greek physician dioscorides. The actual translation of anesthesia is “without sensation” so in 65 ce his concoction from the mandrake fruit successfully eased swelling and liver pains. dioscorides lived during a major medical period in the roman empire and travel around the empire searching for medical substances, obviously prompted by the infamous emperor Nero who was made famous from dissecting his mother out of curiosity.





# egypt

egyptians were thought to be one of the first to use crude surgical techniques and one of the first to document sedatives but use of the actual poppy wasn't documented till the 18th dynasty on the ebers papyrus.

Other than removal of the brain after death(by hook) these are some ancient surgical devices used for dissection and other bodily preparations.





# china



opium and early medical expansions are almost always synonymous with Chinese culture. But the truth is that Chinese culture was somewhat late on the discovery of opium, which only arrived in China around the 1400's. Before this discovery, a concoction first used by Shen Nong Bencao, a Chinese physician, which was a mixture of boiled cannabis wine and mafeisan powder. He took this secret concoction selfishly to his grave around 2800 AD.

# india

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India's introduction to opium is almost exact with china's receiving the poppy by egyptian traders throughout asia and asia minor in the 1400's. despite being relatively late to the game opium is now a highly integrated part of indian life.



# morton/sertuner

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Friedrick Sertuner a german pharmacologist was the first to isolate alkaloid from the opium poppy. he famously called this concoction morphine after the greek god of dreams morpheus.

william thomas green morton a american dental surgeon was the first to sucesfully use anesthesia in a public setting. under the prying eyes of hundreds william morton pulled the tooth of a local boston merchant who felt no pain due to the newly used nitros oxide.

# medicine



from opium to cannabis to morphine to nitros the roots of anesthesia are so integrated in our society today that we barely remember but really if it hadn't been forgotten it would have hurt so much worse .

# bibliography

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