

ANESTHESIOLOGY REFLECTIONS

A “Cocaine Paperweight” from C.F. Boehringer & Soehne



In 1859 Christian Friedrich Boehringer (1791–1867) renamed his pharmaceutical firm in Mannheim, Germany, as “C.F. Boehringer & Soehne” (B&S). As advertised on this paperweight (*above*), B&S styled itself as the “largest makers in the world of Quinine and Cocaine.” The company also prided itself on distributing “beautiful, well-defined crystals.” From at least 1896 to 1906, B&S boasted that the “merits of our Cocaine, as a first-class, thoroughly reliable preparation, have been distinguished by the approbation of Dr. Carl Koller, of New York [and] formerly of Vienna, the first to apply Cocaine to Medicine.” Located less than 8 miles from the New York branch of B&S, ophthalmologist Koller’s office likely received its share of B&S paperweights like the one above. (Copyright © the American Society of Anesthesiologists, Inc. This image also appears in the *Anesthesiology Reflections* online collection available at www.anesthesiology.org.)

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