



**Knud Jansen
in memoriam**

Knud Jansen died on August 1st, 1982 in his beautiful home, surrounded by his beloved family.

His death marks in more ways than one the end of an epoch in Danish and Scandinavian orthopaedic surgery.

Knud Jansen was born in Copenhagen on September 22nd, 1913. He studied medicine from 1931 to 1938, when he graduated as a medical doctor from the University of Copenhagen.

Following his basic surgical training he went into orthopaedics and became senior resident at the Orthopaedic Hospital of Copenhagen. His chief was Sven Kiær.

Knud Jansen became chief surgeon at the Orthopaedic Hospital of Copenhagen in 1951 and held that position until 1970 when he became head of the University Clinic of Orthopaedic Surgery at Gentofte Hospital.

Knud Jansen defended his thesis on "Dicumarol" and obtained his Ph.D. at the University of Copenhagen in 1944. Since then he has published a number of articles on various orthopaedic subjects.

It was at the beginning of the 'fifties that Knud Jansen brought his talent and enthusiasm for orthopaedic surgery to the international arena. Since then, he has been an esteemed lecturer all over the world, and has organized and presided at several international congresses, of which the most spectacular was the successful S.I.C.O.T. conference in Copenhagen in 1975.

Knud Jansen founded the International Society of Prosthetics and Orthotics. He was president of that society during the years 1970–1977. For his organizational and scientific contributions to the I.S.P.O. he received an Honorary Doctorate of Science from the University of Strathclyde in 1980. Since then the I.S.P.O. has opened its triennial meetings with the Knud Jansen Lecture.

It was natural that with his cosmopolitan outlook, Knud Jansen should have endeavoured to unify Scandinavian initiative and enterprise towards a more international emphasis in the field of orthopaedics. He devoted a large part of his exceptional energy to the Scandinavian Association of Orthopaedic Surgeons, being elected Secretary General from 1960 to 1968. He was subsequently appointed Editor-in-Chief of the Scandinavian Association's journal, *Acta Orthopaedica Scandinavica*.

Through his editorship *Acta* has developed into an internationally acknowledged orthopaedic journal with a readership next only in size to the two American "mavericks", *Journal of Bone and Joint Surgery*, and *Clinical Orthopaedics*.

As a personality, Knud Jansen had great empathy, and as a doctor he contained the qualities of a healer who brought comfort to the disabled. He was an elegant surgical technician and a keen clinical observer.

Those of us who worked with him in the daily routines experienced not only his high level of orthopaedic practise but also his friendship.

Visionary concepts of orthopaedic surgery combined with no small strategical and tactical ability made this charming and gentle man a personality of power. He was also an energetic idealist and although he had personal ambitions he was steadfast in his concern for wider issues.

Often it is the final brush stroke to the portrait that reveals the true character of a man and Knud Jansen was no exception: when misfortune befell him and his beloved wife, Else, two years ago, they accepted their personal tragedy with a quiet dignity that made a deep impression on all of us.

Else, his never failing companion, as well known as he, and appreciated for her own excellent qualities, died on February 16th this year.

This event, surely, was too hard a blow. His own illness took command but in spite of this he maintained an unfailing interest in the many facets of his life and work.

Knud Jansen's life was an inspiration and his death a tragic loss.

We extend our deep sympathy to his sons, Erik and Stig, who in so short a time lost both their parents.

*Poul Sigurd Rasmussen
Kjeld Skou Andersen*