

# A Tribute to Most Respected Ophthalmic Author - Mr. Jack J. Kanski (1939-2019)

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## Abstract

World renowned ophthalmologist, famous author, Mr. Jack J. Kanski (FRCS, FRCOphth) passed away on January 5, 2019 at the age of 79 years. With his demise, there is end of an era and a great loss to the world of ophthalmology. Mr. Kanski was one of the most respected authors and few authors have left behind such a vast legacy. Generations of ophthalmologists learned and are still learning from Mr. Kanski's works and his tremendous books. Ophthalmology professionals and optometrists around-the-world will remember Mr. Kanski forever. As one of the most popular contemporary author of ophthalmic texts, Mr. Kanski will be sadly missed, but his work will live on indefinitely.

Delhi J Ophthalmol 2019;29;11-12; Doi <http://dx.doi.org/10.7869/djo.409>

**Keywords:** Jack J. Kanski, Tribute

*"It matters not how a man dies, but how he lives.  
The act of dying is not of importance, it lasts so  
short a time."*

—Samuel Johnson

World-renowned ophthalmologist and most famous author, Mr. Jack J. Kanski, FRCS, FRCOphth, (Figure 1) passed away on January 5, 2019. Mr. Kanski was one of the most respected ophthalmic authors and generations of ophthalmologists learned and are still learning from Mr. Kanski's works and his tremendous books.

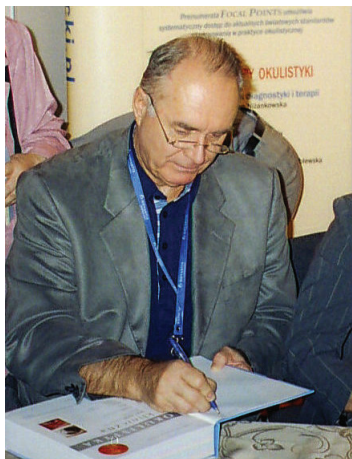


Figure 1: Mr. Jack J. Kanski (FRCS, FRCOphth)

We can say without a doubt that Mr. Kanski lived according to Mr. Johnson's prescription of living an important life. As quoted above, the way you die becomes insignificant with the passing of time. But the memories and your actions remain imprinted in the minds of those you leave behind.

## Early Life, Education and Professional Journey

On 5th August 1939, Adela Józefa née Wróblewska gave birth to a baby boy. To say that Kanski was born amidst chaos and violence is an understatement. His father Jerzy Kański was the head of defense of the Polish regiment. Yet, despite the

military upbringing, the little boy grew up to be a doctor. It's possible that the devastating scenes of the war might have influenced him to serve the country through positive means. By the year 1946, Kanski was on his way to settle in Great Britain. It is here that he received his higher education. His alma mater includes the Mayfield College and the prestigious Barts and London School of Medicine and Dentistry. Then, he received his doctorate from the University of London after which he did an internship at the London Moorfields Eye Hospital.

His last professional abode was at the Prince Charles Eye Unit in King Edward 7th Hospital in Windsor. He began his practice as an ophthalmologist here in 1974 and then later took the position of an honorary consultant. Apart from this, Dr. Kanski was a part of many ophthalmology societies both in England and Poland.

## Family Life and Hobbies

Mr. Kanski was married to Valerie Ann Shannan on September 3, 1976. The couple had no children. He was a very private person. His interests included reading, swimming, oriental food, and watching films.

## Contribution to Ophthalmology

Mr. Jack J. Kanski was an academic through and through and spent all his free hours over outstanding ophthalmic books and perfecting the art of eye surgery.<sup>1-10</sup> In doing so, he left no page unturned and presented us with the sacred bible for ophthalmologists. This is the very reason why he has etched a mark in the life of anyone that is related to the field of ophthalmology. Mr. Kanski's book '*Clinical Ophthalmology: A Systematic Approach*' is considered a bible of ophthalmology for ophthalmology residents worldwide. *Across the globe, ophthalmology training begins and ends with this book and this book has been translated into several languages and continues to be very popular globally.*

*The quality of illustrations and clinical photographs as well as the presentation of material are extremely appealing. There are few textbooks of any subject that have made the written material so lucid and illustrative. One of us (SKP) had the opportunity to meet him in the year 2000 and was surprised*

to learn that he had vast and deep knowledge about world history. Mr. Kanski had written several books related to world history and world war.<sup>11-19</sup>

*As one of the most popular contemporary authors of ophthalmic texts, Mr. Jack J. Kanski will be sadly missed, but his work will live on indefinitely. Ophthalmologists, optometrists, and vision professionals around-the-world will remember Mr. Kanski forever, for his priceless contribution to the field of ophthalmology.*

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**Cite This Article as:** Pandey SK, Sharma V. A Tribute to Most Respected Ophthalmic Author - Mr. Jack J. Kanski (1939-2019).

**Acknowledgments:**

**Conflict of interest:** None declared

**Source of Funding:** None

**Date of Submission:** 07 January 2019

**Date of Acceptance:** 16 January 2019

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