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**Bro. JACK DIETER HANNES
1923-2005
(Founder of Hanimex)**

The Australian photographic industry pioneer and founder of Hanimex, Jack Hannes, died suddenly in early 2005 while on a holiday with his family in Zurich. He suffered a heart attack during dinner at a restaurant with his wife, Margaret, and his sons, Stephen and David. He was 81.

Hannes made an outstanding contribution to the business of photography in Australia and around the world. He was the recipient of the highest awards the world industry had to offer, including the Queen's Medal for services to Australian industry and a lifetime achievement award from the Japanese Photo Industry Association, being one of the few non-Japanese recipients. He was a man of extraordinary energy and vision and led a vigorous life.

Jack Dieter Hannes was born in Berlin in 1923. In 1934 he was sent to Buxton College in Derbyshire, England, where he played cricket and became a King's Scout. In 1939, however, the family fled Germany and came to Australia.

At 16, Hannes enrolled at the University of Sydney to study engineering. After graduating in mechanical and electrical engineering, he worked for Standard Telephones, then spent two years at Email before returning to Sydney University. He studied economics while lecturing in physics, and waged a long unsuccessful campaign to be enlisted for active service; he was rejected because of his place of birth.

While completing his economics degree, Hannes produced telephone note pads and began importing propelling pencils, pearl necklaces and trouser braces via airmail parcels from England. These he distributed from his parents' home in Bellevue Hill. Said Hannes, "In those early days after the war, the trick was not in selling, but having something to sell."

He had also developed an interest in photography and researched the background of many European manufacturers which were in the process of re-establishing themselves after the war. He began importing arrangements with an Italian company to sell Safilo sunglasses, Durst Duca cameras and Durst enlargers. This was the beginning of his involvement in the photographic industry.

The Duca was the first 35mm camera to be imported into Australia after the war. It used the Agfa Karat system and strong demand was created by using a popular radio personality, Bob Dyer, to promote it on the top rating *Pick-a-Box* radio show (both personality and show later achieving television fame).

