

## Dr PENN, Jack

★ 1909 † 1996

The South African Nursing profession has lost a great friend in the death of Dr Jack Penn on 26 November 1996. This great nationally and internationally renowned plastic and reconstructive surgeon and sculptor was a great friend of the nursing profession. He always acknowledged the role played by nurses in the success at his life's work. His fame was worldwide. During world War II as Major Penn he pioneered reconstructive and plastic surgery in South Africa. This work became so well-known that he subsequently contributed his skill to the development of reconstructive surgery for lepers at Lambarene, and for wounded in Israel after the six-day war. One of his outstanding achievements relates to the work he did in Japan for persons suffering from radiation burns sustained at Hiroshima.

Reconstructive surgery and his skill as a sculptor went hand-in-hand. His sculptures of world famous surgeons, politicians and generals are found in many parts of the world. As a contribution to the history of nursing in South Africa, he sculpted the statue of Sister Henrietta Stockdale which stands in the grounds of ST. Cyprians Cathedral, Kimberley. In addition he sculpted a bust of Professor Charlotte Searle which stands in the Charlotte Searle Museum at the University of South Africa.

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His support of the nursing profession was a shining example of doctor-nurse relationship. Rest in peace Jack. In life we loved and admired you as a great doctor, a great humanitarian and a friend of nurses. In death you have joined the cavalcade of South African Medical and Nursing history.

*(Dr Mary Kingsley)*

*The statue of Sister Henrietta Stockdale was sculpted by Dr Jack Penn*



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