

Louis Appia, 1818 - 1898

The first humanitarian globalist

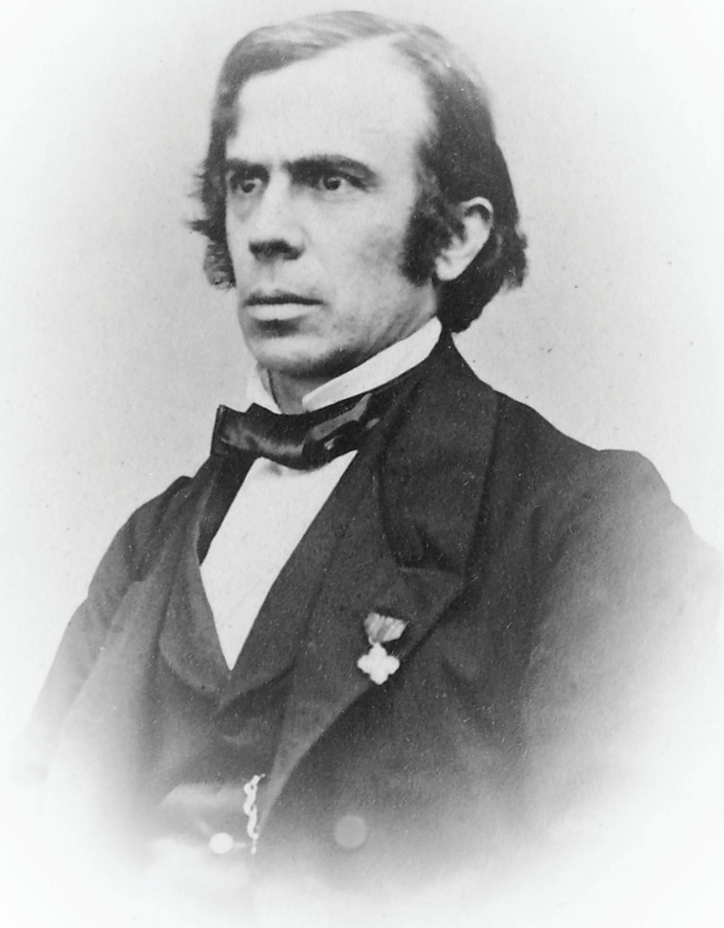


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Geneva, Octobre 12, 2018





Louis Appia Exhibit

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Louis Appia Exhibit

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Geneva
October 12, 2018



Autour des voitures d'ambulance, de la
bataille de Bezzecca. (vallée de Tiarno)

23 Juillet 1866

Forerunner, co-founder, pioneer

On the occasion of the bicentennial of the birth of Louis Appia, our research on this man - doctor, battlefield surgeon, co-founder of the Red Cross - has led us to reconsider his journey, his action and his role in the birth of humanitarianism.

When he moved to Geneva in 1849, Louis Appia quickly joined the medical and evangelical communities, got married and settled down into a steady career. But everything changed on May 13, 1859, when he organized a collection for the wounded of the Italian war, nine weeks before Henry Dunant made his famous call to action.

Appia was transformed into a humanitarian forerunner: in June 1859, he launched *The Ambulance Surgeon*; in March 1864, he was the first delegate to go on a mission for the future International Committee of the Red Cross, and in June of that year he published a decisive report on *The Wounded at Schleswig*.

Louis Appia's role as co-founder of the ICRC is better known. He is involved in the writing of medical scenes in *A Memory of Solferino*. He supported Dunant and Moynier as they convinced Geneva's reluctant Geneva Society for Public Welfare. He was an active participant in the foundation of the Geneva Red Cross.

Let's discover this pioneer. Very quickly, Appia decided that humanitarian action should not be limited to wartime. He developed a specialty in first aid, the "gesture that saves". His faith and his philanthropic spirit led him to promote better public hygiene to the people who had been left behind and forgotten in an age of prosperity.

What was the role of Louis Appia in the birth and development of a humanitarian conscience? How did he use his networks to ensure the International Red Cross would succeed? Why has Louis Appia sunk into oblivion? There are so many questions - but detailed studies into the life of Louis Appia can provide some answers.

Roger Durand

President of Société Louis Appia

Louis Appia

In July 1866, when war broke out between Italy and Austria, the Swiss surgeon Louis Appia wanted to leave Geneva to tend to the wounded. He travelled to join his brother Georges in Pinerolo, where they assembled a small team. He managed to receive a mandate from the Milan Relief Committee (the future Italian Red Cross), allowing him to introduce himself to Garibaldi - on behalf of the Red Cross - on July 20 in Storo.

He was in action the day after, in the wake of the Battle of Bezzecca. As Garibaldi's army retreated, the painful question of the fate of the wounded arose. Should they be abandoned to the enemy? The Austrians had not yet signed the *Geneva Convention*. Louis Appia and his crew decided to stay near the front as long as they could, in the hope that the sign of the Red Cross would protect them.

These events made a lasting impression on Louis Appia. Since 1848, when he had tended to the wounded of the Paris and Frankfurt revolutions, he had seen the importance of acting as quickly and as closely to the battlefield as possible. He became known as the pioneer of first aid, with his makeshift ambulance and basic equipment. In his book *The Ambulance Surgeon* he set out the basic precepts of care (especially for firearm wounds) in emergency situations. He developed military medicine and experimented with stretchers and bandaging techniques which were suited to the battlefield.

This pioneering spirit of Louis Appia can also be seen in the field of public and social hygiene. Through his experience as a country and city doctor to the poorest, he demonstrated the need to respect basic hygiene, especially with children and in vulnerable families. Very early on, he promoted hygiene, maternal and child care, and sensible alcohol consumption. He taught, published and lectured to share his vision and experience in saving lives.

A pioneer in public hygiene and First Aid

It is this practical and common-sense spirit that - today - is the hallmark of first aiders all over the world. It is at the core of the work of National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. In 2018, wouldn't he be proud to see First Aid taught from primary school onwards, with specialized First Aid at sea and in the mountains, and with fleets of thousands of ambulances which are able to respond so fast, wherever and whenever they are needed? Yes, he surely would.

Today, as Louis Appia imagined and surely envisaged, First Aid continues to provide vital support to families and vulnerable children in distress, whether in their everyday life or in time of disaster. First Aid is a core activity of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, who recognize its importance for the provision of immediate care in emergencies, as well as for the prevention of injuries or accidents through education and crisis management.

National Societies have also continued to update their programmes in response to changing local contexts and demands, to developments in science and technology, and to evidence on the best practice of First Aid. And how pleasantly surprised he would be now in 2018, to see the use of virtual reality in First Aid education!

It is this legacy that the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, with all its National Societies in more than 190 countries, now puts into practice each and every day in its work in First Aid. We are proud to see the spirit of Louis Appia live on!

Francesco Rocca

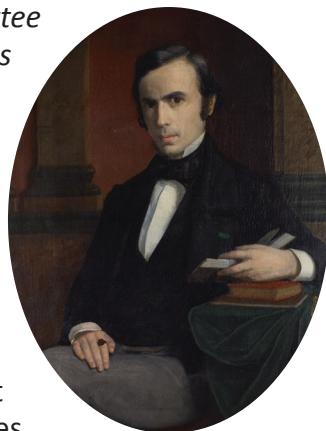
President of International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

1



A career without borders

A remarkable path indeed for this native of Hanau (Hesse, Germany) with family roots in Waldensian Protestant valleys (Piedmont, Italy), as a doctor of medicine (Heidelberg, Germany), the forerunner of the *Permanent International Committee for the Relief of Wounded Soldiers* (signed in Geneva in 1864), the first ICRC delegate (Schleswig, then part of Denmark), the director of the only Red Cross ambulance unit in Bezzeca (Trentino, Austria), a war surgeon in Alsace (Franco-German War of 1870-1871), a promoter of the *Geneva Convention in Cairo*, which he visited twice, and a correspondent of Clara Barton in the United States.



Louis Appia
by François Poggi, 1859

A Christian commitment

There were two deep motivations for Louis Appia's boundless energy:

- His evangelical faith, which led him to work to improve the condition of vulnerable human beings he viewed as his brothers and sisters. This quasi-missionary commitment sometimes caused him to forget neutrality, the cornerstone of the Red Cross;
- His wholehearted dedication to humanitarian work in an imperialist European context. He cared for the wounded on the battlefields.

The first humanitarian globalist



He invented medical devices for their evacuation. He authored many publications and gave several conferences. He opened up a new field of action at the ICRC: the civilian population.

An advocate of the “lifesaving gesture”, he practiced emergency medicine in Paris during the 1848 Revolution. His social conscience led him to teach hygiene to the impoverished of Geneva, his adopted home.



Solferino drawing by Louis Appia, 1859



Piedmont's Waldensian valleys in Italy

The surname Appia forms part of the history of Piedmont's Protestant valleys. For example, Raymodo, a landowner in Saint-Jean, is mentioned in a 1348 registry. His descendants settled in the valleys of Luserna, Torre Pellice and Rora.

After the valleys' inhabitants, known as the Waldenses, joined the Reformation at the Chanforan Synods (1532 and 1535), Barthelemy Appia was one of the first pastors in a long line including Louis Appia's father and brother.



Presbytery in Saint-Jean, drawing by Georges Appia



Family ancestry, siblings and descendants

Paul Appia (1782-1849), Louis' father, was born in Torre Pellice. His wife, Caroline Develay (1786-1867), was born into a bourgeois family from Yverdon in the canton of Vaud. Paul Appia served as pastor first for Hanau's French-speaking congregation, then for thirty years for Frankfurt's French-speaking congregation (1819-1849).



Paul Appia

Louis was born on October 13, 1818, in Hanau, the third of six children.

Pauline, the eldest, married a pastor, Louis Vallette. The second, Marie, also married a pastor, Jacques Claparède. Cécile married Geneva painter Gabriel Bouthillier de Beaumont. Louise became an educator and a deaconess. Georges, who married an English woman, Helen Sturge, was a pastor at Pinerolo, Palermo, Naples and Paris.



Caroline Appia

Louis Appia married Anna Lasserre in 1853 and had four children, but this branch is now extinct. Today, the descendants of Paul and Caroline Appia's other children live in Switzerland, France, the United Kingdom, North America and Australia.



A prosperous city

In 1818, when Louis Appia was born, Hanau was still a city composed of two very different parts: the old town and the impressive new city, encompassing some 1,500 buildings which included five churches and eleven seigneurial homes.

Under the reign of Crown Prince Wilhelm (1743-1821), priority was given to urban development: prestigious buildings were erected and public baths (the “Wilhelmsbad”) were built at the edge of the city.

Hanau’s population soon reached some 12,000 inhabitants, including many craftsmen. These artisans specialized in high value-added activities such as jewellery making, goldsmithing, carpet-weaving, as well as textiles and silk.

A still fragile economy

Appreciated for their excellence, which was probably rare at the time in Germany, such goods were primarily destined for export. Other inhabitants earned a living from trade and public positions, while many others farmed.

The city’s prosperity was primarily driven by luxury goods. As it often depended on fashion trends, its economy was thus vulnerable in times of crisis or war.

The marketplace in the modern town, circa 1820, by Friedrich Cornicelius (1787-1853), featuring well-dressed burghers, uniformed members of the local guard, craftsmen, market women and carters ►



Furthermore, the customs policy implemented by the Hessian Crown Prince sometimes led to high unemployment rates and the impoverishment of the population.



The battle of Hanau

4



1813

A bloodbath

After his defeat in Leipzig in the Battle of the nations, Napoleon fell back towards the Rhine in miserable weather with 80,000 men, while an army of some 50,000 Bavarians and Austrians maneuvered to cut him off.

On October 30 and 31, 1813, the French won the Battle of Hanau, which enabled them to press on with their retreat to the west.





However, the Coalition had more than 9,000 killed, wounded or missing as against 15,000 for the French Army.

Dead bodies and animals still littered the battlefield several days after the fighting.

A civilian population at the bedside of the wounded

The wounded were transported to the city and neighbouring villages and cared for in castles, inns, churches and private homes turned into field hospitals.

In view of the situation, the inhabitants of Hanau were urged to make donations and apply their skills with a view to caring for the wounded and preventing soldiers with contagious diseases from infecting the population.

A striking experience for two generations

Among civilians caring for wounded in hospitals was the pastor Paul Appia. His account of this experience had a profound influence on his son Louis.

This episode can be linked to the commitment that would lead, fifty years later, to the foundation of an organization with a global scope: the Red Cross.



The reception of Huguenot refugees and freedom of worship

From 1600 onwards, the new town of Hanau was laid out next to the medieval quarter, to which modern fortifications were added.

With the support of the Protestant prince, Count Philippe Louis II of Hanau-Münzenberg (1576-1612), two francophone Huguenot communities in exile settled there, and were granted free practice of their religion.

They could, in their own places of worship, celebrate God in their own language. They enjoyed broad freedom of trade, communal self-government and very low taxes. Their main common feature was Calvinism.

A large number of these Huguenot refugees came from the Spanish Netherlands (Flemish-speakers from what is now Belgium) and eastern France (French speakers).

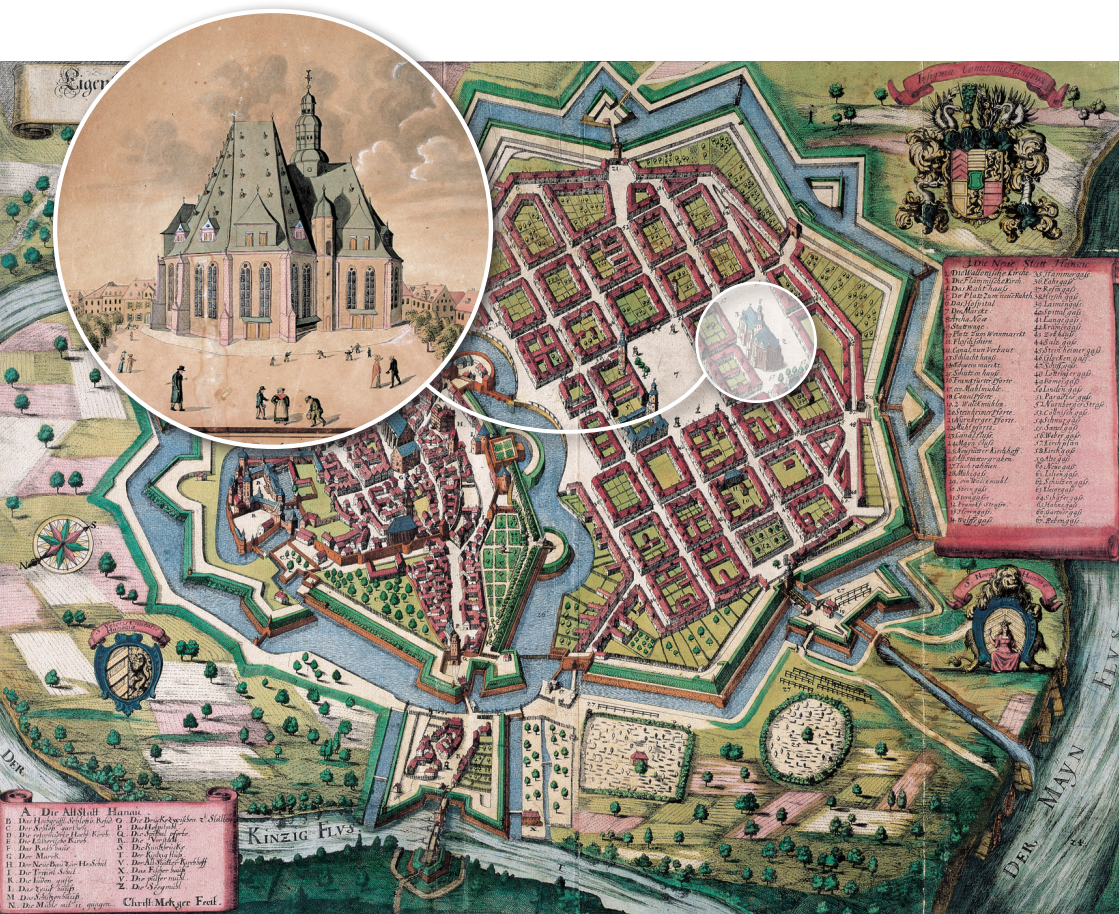
A decisive contribution to the economic growth of the town

Merchants, craftsmen, businessmen and skilled workers brought in capital and a sense of innovation. Their many undertakings, committed to freedom of economic activity, gave Hanau's economy a real boost.

The new town owed its success to its French-speaking and Flemish-speaking inhabitants, who founded two Protestant Reformed congregations.



Their temple provided a striking symbol of a dual yet united church: the two places of worship were linked by a common building, in which was housed the sacristy in particular. It was here that Louis' father, Pastor Paul Appia, originally from Piedmont's Waldensian valleys, exercised his ministry in French, from 1811 to 1819.



"The French-speaking temple of Hanau, seen from the south". Watercolour by Friedrich Cornicelius, circa 1830. For tens of generations, this is where Calvinist pastors preached in French and Flemish.

6



A free City, a political center

From 1819 to 1849, Paul Appia served as the pastor of the French-speaking congregation in Frankfurt, where Louis lived and was schooled with his five brother and sisters.





Its political role made Frankfurt a stronghold of liberal opposition to the centralizing tendency of the German Confederation.

During the 1848 uprising, St. Paul's Church in Frankfurt served as a meeting place for the National Assembly, the embryo of a democratically elected German Parliament.

A formative melting pot before the years of involvement

There is evidence of a Reformed congregation in Frankfurt as far back as 1554. It was comprised of the first wave of Belgian and French Huguenots who sought refuge in Germany on religious grounds. Church services were held in French up until 1916.

In this dynamic, fervent setting, Louis Appia became acquainted with key economic, cultural and political figures. This enabled him to create a dense network of personal ties that would subsequently serve his career well, especially when he participated in the creation and development of the Movement of the International Red Cross.

When Paul Appia died in 1849, after the failure of the Liberal Revolution from 1848, his family moved to Geneva.

◀ *View of the temple and the presbytery of the French Protestant church built between 1789 and 1792 in the classical end of the 18th century style at the Goetheplatz in Frankfurt. Destroyed during the Second World War, they were not rebuilt. The congregation has met on the Eschersheime Landstraße since 1951.*



1838 -
1842

An eclectic academic background

Louis Appia did his schooling in Frankfurt and Geneva. In 1838, he enrolled at the University of Bonn to study the History of Philosophy and Basic Medicine.

In 1839, he opted for the venerable Heidelberg University, the oldest German university, where many of the most famous doctors of their day taught.

Thus, Louis Appia had an opportunity to attend physiology lectures given by Leopold Gmelin, pathology lectures by Friedrich Puchelt, anatomy lectures by Friedrich Tiedemann, gynecology lectures by Franz Naegele and ophthalmology lectures by Maximilian Joseph von Chelius.

A first doctorate in medicine

In 1842, he had his doctoral viva voce examination. He answered questions on the circulatory system, the pathology of the urethra, puerperal fever and the treatment of possible complications during childbirth.

The Faculty of Medicine subsequently awarded him the degree of Doctor of Medicine, specialized in Surgery and Childbirth, *summa cum laude*.

That same year, his doctoral thesis was published: *De structuris oesophagi*, 26 pages long, illustrated by two anatomical figures.



Many years later, in 1877, he obtained his doctorate at the Faculty of Medicine in Paris.

NOS. DECANUS. SENIOR. CETERIQUE. PROFESSORES
~~ORDINIS. MEDICORUM~~
IN. LITERARUM. UNIVERSITATE. RUPERTO-CAROLA
IN. VIRUM. DOCTISSIMUM. ET. CLARISSIMUM
LUDOVICUM. PAULUM. APPIA
FRANCOFURTENSEM
EXAMINE. RIGOROSO. SUMMA. CUM. LAUDE. SUPERATO
JURA. ET. PRIVILEGIA
DOCTORIS. MEDICINÆ. CHIRURGICÆ. ET. ARTIS. OBSTETRICÆ

Diploma awarded by Karl Ruprecht University of Heidelberg

Ludovicus Appia natus sum Francovia
a. d. 11 Id. Octobr. anno millesimo octin-
gentesimo decimo octavo. Pater venerandus
Paulus Appia pastor ecclesiae Gallicae
& mater dilectissima Carolina e gente
de Velay in biennem ex urbe patria

Louis Appia must write his Curriculum Vitae in Latin

8



1842

At the service of the poorest

After his studies in Heidelberg, in 1842, Louis Appia went back to family life in the presbytery of the French-speaking Reformed congregation, at the Stadtallee, now Goetheplatz.

Appearing before a jury of local doctors, he passed a theoretical and practical exam, as a result of which the Senate of the Free City of Frankfurt granted him a license to practise medicine. He worked as a doctor for the poorest in what was then the “F district” in the city centre, where Goethe’s birth house is also located.

The foundation of a dispensary

Two years later, he also earned his qualification as an obstetrician. With his colleagues Wilhelm Stricker and Gustav Passavant, he founded an ophthalmic clinic funded by donations.

Starting in 1845, patients received free medical care and medication. Owing to its precarious financial situation, this dispensary was not able to stay in operation or keep up with medical advances.

In 1910, the city opened a new ophthalmic clinic, then created a clinic within the University of Heidelberg.

Holy Spirit Hospital. Already mentioned in the 13th century, it was home to the ophthalmic clinic founded by Louis Appia and his colleagues. ►



A citizen whose memory is rekindled by his City

From 1920, the dispensary was managed by the Holy Spirit Hospital, where Louis Appia's legacy lives on to this day.

Even though he moved to Geneva in 1849, Louis Appia remained a citizen of Frankfurt, as reflected by the passage dedicated to him in the East station area.



9



1849

An emergency doctor vocation

In Paris and Frankfurt, during the revolutionary unrest of 1848, Louis Appia administered first aid to the wounded manning the barricades.

These experiences left their mark on him: he developed a passion for military medicine and assistance to the war-wounded.



Geneva countryside, drawing by Louis Appia



The move to Geneva

When his father died in 1849, Louis left Frankfurt and moved with his mother and brother Georges to Geneva, where two of his sisters already lived.

In 1853, he married Anna Lasserre, a descendant of a Protestant family which had taken refuge in Geneva. They had four children: Paul, Hélène, Marie and Adolphe, a renowned set designer and director. In 1860, he obtained the Genevan citizenship.



Anna Lasserre

The social doctor

Louis opened his first practice in the countryside, then practiced in town. He specialized in ophthalmology.

Louis very soon joined the *Société médicale de Genève* and the Geneva Society for Public Welfare.

He gave lectures promoting public hygiene and childcare, demonstrating lifesaving gestures and combatting alcoholism among the underprivileged.



*Paul and Hélène
two of the children of Louis and Anna*

His private practice did not make him lose interest in military medicine. This vocation never left him.

10

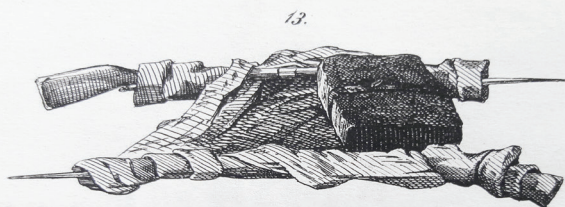


1848
1859
1866
1870

Strong family influences

Louis' father cared for the wounded at the Battle of Hanau in 1811. His maternal uncle, Jean-Charles Devalay, distinguished himself as a surgeon in Yverdon, after serving as a colonel in Napoleon's armies.

As a young graduate of Heidelberg University's Faculty of Medicine, Louis tended to the wounded during the 1848 revolutions, first in Paris then in Frankfurt.





By the time Louis toured hospitals from Turin to Brescia in July 1859, he had become an expert war surgeon.

His French and Italian colleagues, who included the famous Hippolyte Larrey, appreciated his help; he took advantage of the opportunity to promote a device making it easier to transport the wounded.

Recognition

In January 1860, Victor Emmanuel II presented him with the Order of Saints Mauritius and Lazarus, the first of a long series of prestigious awards.

The following year, he tied for first place in a writing contest for a handbook of military surgery (*Un manuale di chirurgia militare*) launched by the renowned Accademia Pontaniana of Naples.

In July 1866, in Bezzecca in Trentino, he directed an ambulance unit operating very close to the battlefield. This was also the case in 1870-1871, when he left to serve in the Prussian army.

For thirty-five years, he was a member of the ICRC, where he was the reference for military medicine, as reflected by his membership of some twenty-five learned societies.

11



1863

A forgotten precursor and an actor from the very start

On May 13, 1859, Louis Appia, writing in the daily *Journal de Genève*, appealed for donations on behalf of the wounded from the war in Italy. Two tonnes of lint and clothes arrived at his home, rue Guillaume Farel, at what was perhaps the first address of the future humanitarian movement to benefit the war-wounded.

Three years before *A Memory of Solferino*, written by Henry Dunant, Appia published *Le chirurgien à l'ambulance* (The Ambulance Surgeon), where he drew the public's attention to the suffering of hospitalized soldiers.

It is therefore not surprising that he played a decisive role in the creation of the future ICRC, on February 9, 1863.

One little-known detail: three men (Appia, Dunant, Moynier) formed the nucleus of the famous "Committee of Five". Dufour and Maunoir joined them eight days later.

Promoter of the white armband and first delegate

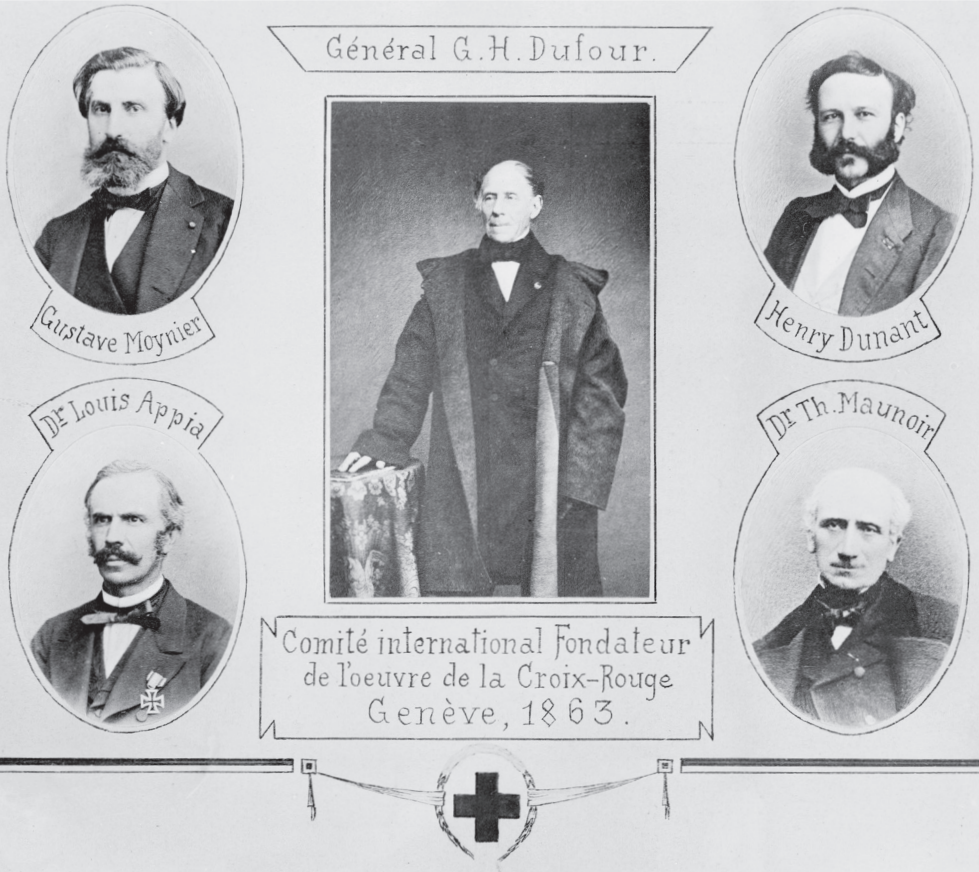
At the Constituent Conference, which took place on October 26 to 29, 1863, it was Louis Appia who proposed that volunteers should all wear a white armband. But who came up with the idea of adding a red cross? To this day, we still do not know.

Along with Dutch captain Van de Velde, he was the first ICRC delegate to be sent to armed forces in the field, in March and April 1864.



Published in June, his substantial *Rapport sur les blessés du Schleswig* (Report on the Wounded at Schleswig) paved the way for the diplomatic congress which adopted the first *Geneva Convention*, on August 22, 1864.

The fickle goddess of fame first lauded Dunant, then Moynier, then Dunant once again...



12



1864

Setting an example

On October 26 to 29, 1863, the Constituent Conference of the International Red Cross adopted *Resolutions*. The first stage of their implementation would be the creation of relief committees for the war-wounded.

At the local level in Geneva, November 23 marked the establishment of a “Committee of ladies for the preparation of dressing following the instructions of our doctors”, in other words: Appia and Maunoir.

At a national level, Württemberg and Belgium got ahead of Switzerland, as Bern hesitated. The Genevans took the plunge: at the initiative of Henry Dunant, thirteen philanthropists met at his home on March 17, 1864.

They decided on the spot to found a “Geneva section” and to send two delegates to Germany and Denmark, during the war of Schleswig Holstein. Ten days later, Appia left for Schleswig.

Brilliant start, lethargic follow-up

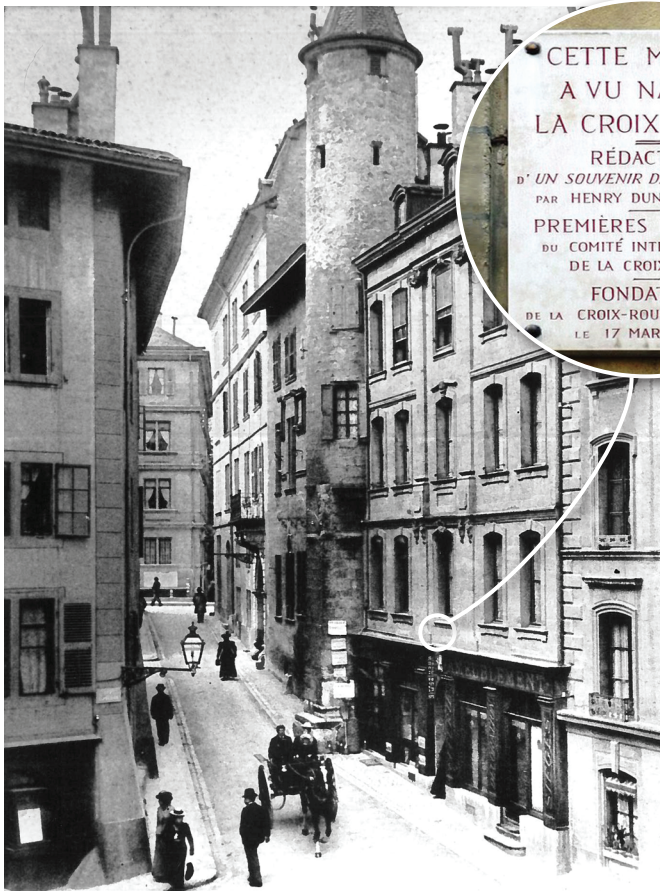
Sending international delegates brought the Geneva Red Cross centre stage within the budding humanitarian movement, but the momentum soon disappeared.

Maison Henry Dunant, rue du Puits-Saint-Pierre 4, Geneva ►



Whereas Mesdames Chaix, Eynard, Maunoir and Moynier held a few “Lint Bandage Evenings”, the gentlemen were conspicuous by their absence. It was not until November 4, 1889 that the Geneva section rose from the ashes, once again at the initiative of capable women like Alice Favre.

Today, the Geneva Red Cross has a staff of 362 employees. It benefits from 52,415 volunteer hours and it had a budget of 17 million francs in 2018.



CETTE MAISON
A VU NAITRE
LA CROIX-ROUGE
RÉDACTION
D' UN SOUVENIR DE SOLFÉRINO
PAR HENRY DUNANT (1862)
PREMIÈRES RÉUNIONS
DU COMITÉ INTERNATIONAL
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE
FONDATION
DE LA CROIX-ROUGE GENEVOISE
LE 17 MARS 1864

13



1864

A successful mission

In 1863, the King of Denmark annexed the Duchy of Schleswig. In January 1864, Bismarck declared war against him by sending the Prussian army and the Austrian army to invade the Duchy of Holstein.

On March 17, 1864, the brand new Geneva Red Cross dispatched two delegates to the front: Charles Van de Velde on the Danish side and Louis Appia on the German side, with two primary objectives:





- To increase awareness in military circles of the project to establish relief societies for the war-wounded;
- To gather the views of the main parties involved: generals waging war and military surgeons.

Field marshal Wrangel, the commander of the Prussian army, welcomed Appia, wearing a white armband, with these words: *“The sign you are wearing is recommendation enough; we know what it means. You are here for the general well-being”*.

Subsequently, the delegate organized lectures for medical officers. He designed the stretchers that the *Johanniter* used on the frontline. He also realized something very important: although military circles were hostile to the presence of civilians during a conflict, they were in favour of protecting medical staff.

A priority: neutrality

This first mission of delegates to the battlefield went down in history. In his *Rapport sur les blessés du Schleswig* (Report on the wounded at Schleswig), Appia concludes that the Red Cross should focus exclusively on protecting army medical services, not on relief societies.

This underscored the principle of neutrality, which was to become the cornerstone of the International Red Cross.



1863

A dynamic team

On February 9, 1863, when it appointed a committee to examine the project for the establishment of relief committees for the war-wounded, the Geneva Society for Public Welfare was not very motivated, because this seemed far from its traditional activities.

It therefore came as no surprise that five of its members formed an International Committee at their first sitting on February 17.

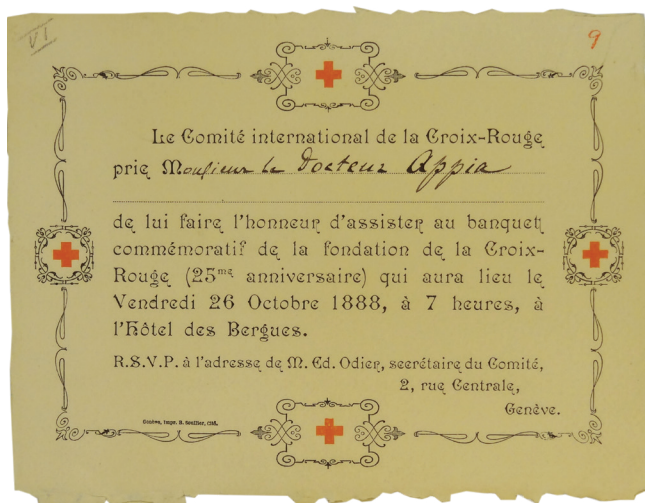
- A war surgeon: **Louis Appia**, 1818-1898, sought to improve care for the war-wounded, probably fifteen years before his colleagues.
- A general: **Guillaume Henri Dufour**, 1793-1875, provided the backing of the military.
- A creator: **Henry Dunant**, 1828-1910, invented the recipe for humanitarianism on a planet scale.
- A doctor: **Théodore Maunoir**, 1806-1869, provided the experience and knowledge of the English-speaking world.
- A jurist: **Gustave Moynier**, 1826-1910, found his philanthropic calling here.



A professional contribution

From 1863 to 1898, the ICRC benefited from Louis Appia's skill as a doctor and his openness as a philanthropist. He succeeded Henry Dunant as secretary.

His knowledge of Germany, where he had spent thirty years, enabled him to serve as a bridge to the German-speaking world. He organized a first-aid contest. He attended all of the International Conferences. He worked to attract Egypt and the United States as members. He opened up new fields of action: social hygiene and emergency medicine.



A "badge" for the 1888 Conference

15



1866

Between personal initiative and a collective dimension

When the third war of independence broke out between Italy and Austria in 1866, Louis Appia could not resist the urge to leave. However, Moynier was against the ICRC intervening in the field on one side only, as he feared this would upset the National Societies.

Appia, however, was driven by the need to serve, provide care and perfect his medical skills, while being inhabited by his faith.

Baptism by blood

With his brother Georges, a pastor in Pinerolo, and two “disciples”, Louis Appia managed to get himself commissioned by the Milan Red Cross Committee to form an ambulance unit that worked alongside Garibaldi’s troops.

While the Italian army was crushed at Custoza on June 24, the Republican general managed to unsettle the Austrians at Bezzecca, north of Lake Garda, on July 21. Posted very close to the line of fire, Louis and his team immediately tended to many wounded soldiers; the war surgeon later wrote: “One is not always so fortunate.”

Drawing by Louis Appia, from a live scene ►



Recognition from Garibaldi

The Republican general thanked the two brothers and their team in a signed message addressed to the International Committee in Geneva.

Upon his return, the doctor self-published the story of this expedition, because the ICRC had failed to endorse his initiative.



16



1870-
1871

Surgery and Royalty

When war broke out between France and the German States in July 1870, Louis Appia did not hesitate to leave for the field to be of service to the wounded. To avoid compromising the neutrality of the ICRC, he travelled as a private citizen. He served on the German side and provided the wounded with both medical and spiritual care.

On the strength of the ties he had established during the Schleswig war with officers from Prussia and Baden, including Friedrich III, the brother of the Grand Duchess Louise of Baden and future German emperor, Louis Appia obtained a legitimation document from Karlsruhe (Baden). He immediately went to the bedside of the wounded of the Third German army.

“The sigh of the wounded”

On the front, Appia asked the ICRC on several occasions to send donations of lint, clothes and “good wine” to the war-wounded.

During the campaign, he met several times by chance with his cousin, the young Frédéric Ferrière, future member of the ICRC. Driven by their commitment, strengthened in Appia by a form of evangelical proselytism, both noticed and reported the general ignorance of the *Geneva Convention* among civilians and the military, especially on the French side.



Louis Appia posted the text on the doors of numerous buildings and always kept copies in both languages in his pocket. The development of railway lines led Appia to strongly recommend that the transportable wounded should as much as possible be shipped back to their own country. He later used the expression “the sigh of the wounded” to describe their desire to return home.

Madame

Aujourd'hui que la paix est venue mettre un terme à l'horrible

Le Comité international

tient à vous exprimer toute sa reconnaissance, pour votre précieux concours.

En souvenir de votre participation à son œuvre, il vous a chargé, Madame,

de vous offrir un exemplaire de la médaille de la croix rouge,

—guise de sa plus vive gratitude.

Agreez, Madame, l'assurance de votre considération distinguée

Par le Comité international.

Le Président honoraire

Le Président.

Général G.H. Dufour

L. Moynier

17

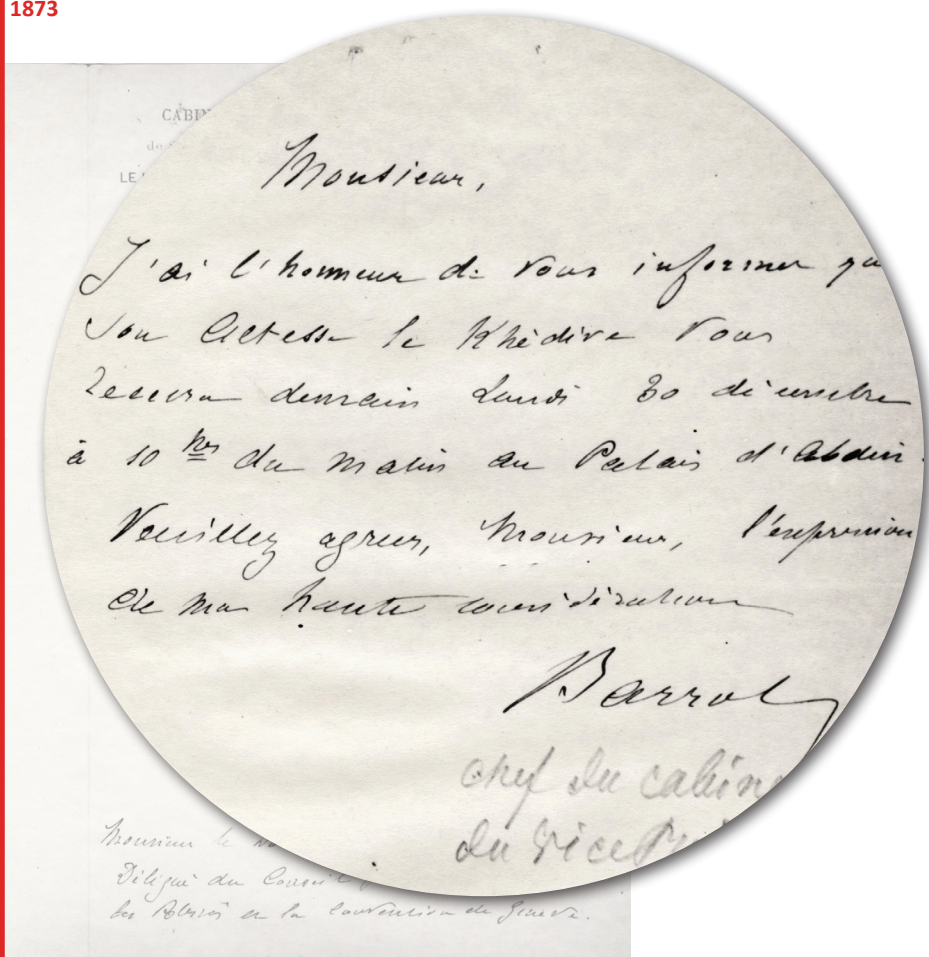


1869

1872-
1873

The triple Egyptian mirage

A believer in humanitarianism for the whole world, Louis Appia took up his pilgrim's staff. In 1872 and 1873, he travelled to Cairo with three objectives:



The Khedive grants an audience to Louis Appia



- Secure the first accession of an African and Muslim country to the *Geneva Convention*;
- Organize the medical services of the Egyptian Army;
- Open an ophthalmic hospital, as the population was devastated by glaucoma.

But Khedive Ismaïl Pacha refused to commit himself, as his country was a vassal of the Ottoman Empire. As a result of Louis Appia's impatience with the Egyptians' stoic attitude and his wife's health problems, he returned home empty-handed.

The United States: a transatlantic consultation

After the Civil War, the United States witnessed the birth and disappearance of two Red Cross societies. Moreover, the country refused to accede to the *Geneva Convention*, as the Monroe Doctrine excluded any multilateral treaty.

In 1869, Clara Barton, ambassador of the American war-wounded, came to Europe to restore her health. Louis Appia met with her and accompanied her on a tour of the German Army.

The closeness of their friendship is evidenced by correspondence in which Appia, backed by Gustave Moynier, succeeded in convincing the United States to found an American Red Cross.

One quirky detail: the war surgeon also healed souls. He prescribed real therapy for his "comrade in arms" to cure her burn out.



An effective but rigid strategy

In the 19th century, the *Geneva Convention* only applied to wounded or sick soldiers in the field.

Gustave Moynier, the guardian and saviour of the institution, was against any activity to benefit civilians. This legal rigour was far removed from the sensitivity of Louis Appia, a humanitarian in the field.

An emergency doctor before his time

As he treated wounded soldiers, Louis Appia soon realized that time was a decisive factor for healing, which in turn explained his interest in ways to transport the wounded. At the same time, he acquired a solid reputation as an expert in first aid, with makeshift methods within the reach of all. He also organized the famous contest on this topic launched by the ICRC.

A promoter of public hygiene

As Louis Appia's social conscience was aroused by serious hygiene shortcomings, especially among the underprivileged, he gave a great number of free public lectures on the subject.

He published many articles, both to recall basic principles and to publicize the latest discoveries, such as those made by Louis Pasteur.

"Household first-aid kit" by Louis Appia ►



Ironically, whereas the ICRC of Gustave Moynier and Gustave Ador set itself up as the guardian of international humanitarian law, reserved for wounded soldiers, it failed to diversify in order to help civilians.

In 1919, at the urging of an American, Henry Davison, the League of Red Cross Societies established itself as the world reference for the Red Cross in peacetime, in a climate of disheartening rivalry between the two international institutions.

« Les mouchoirs sont précieux pour fixer les attelles appliquées pour fractures des membres (fig. 9.)

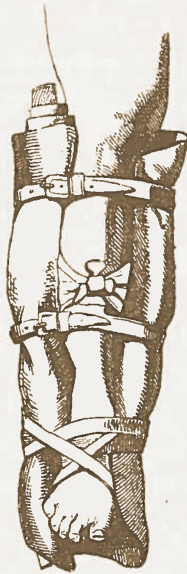


Fig. 9.

Ici les courroies seront avantageusement remplacées par des mouchoirs.

« Dans les lésions du crâne et de la face, un mouchoir plié suffira toujours pour fixer toutes les pièces de l'appareil. (fig. 6.)



Fig. 6.



An evangelical Protestant

As the son, brother, brother-in-law and uncle of pastors and the brother of a deaconess, Louis Appia lived and worked in a fervent environment where faith and proselytism were the foundations of philanthropic commitment and humanitarian action.

A faithful parishioner at Geneva's *Chapelle de l'Oratoire*, he was a member of the *Société évangélique*. Active within its Theology Department, which ran a school for preachers, he advised future pastors. He was also a member of the *Société biblique*.

Christian charity

His commitment to evangelical philanthropism was multi-faceted : Geneva Society for Public Welfare, *Société protectrice pour les animaux*, Deutscher Hilfsverein and *Salle du Dimanche*.

He gave many public lectures, for example on child hygiene, where medicine, philanthropy and Christian morals were closely intertwined. He was also committed to combating alcoholism.

In his writings as well, his faith permeates his research on hygiene and his humanitarian mission, as reflected by many passages from *La guerre et la charité* (War and Charity), published in 1867 with Gustave Moynier.

In this edifying Christian short story, the doctor Louis Appia, who is said to have represented himself, assists a young alcoholic repenting for his sins ►



LE PARDON A LA DERNIÈRE HEURE

Le récit qu'on va lire est écrit par moi, docteur soussigné, le principal témoin du fait que je raconte.

Un jeune officier anglais, fils de l'une des gran-



Orders of knighthood and learned societies

Like his colleagues, Louis Appia was not impervious to acknowledgement and fame. At the request of his daughter H  l  ne, he posed two years before his death wearing noble awards, the diplomas for which were stored carefully in a box.

He collected appointments to learned societies all over Europe, which he noted and was wont to mention on the title pages of his publications. In 1878, the year of the Universal Exhibition in Paris, Louis was Vice-President of the Universal Congress to Improve the Lot of the Blind and the Deaf.

An eagle with clipped wings

In the words of a cousin in which he confided, Louis fell prey to a feeling of bitterness in the evening of his wonderful, fruitful career.

The precursor and expert in caring for the war-wounded did not always receive the support he expected from the institution: when he left for the battlefield, the ICRC refused to accredit him as a representative in 1866, 1870-1871 and even in 1876 in Montenegro.

Henry Dunant, active at the ICRC during a four-year period, was adulated throughout Europe. From 1867 onwards, Gustave Moynier embodied the institution in the eyes of the humanitarian world.

At seventy-eight, Louis Appia poses with his medals ►



During his lifetime, the doctor Louis Appia did not enjoy this kind of recognition. Perhaps the bicentenary of his birth will provide an opportunity to rediscover the many facets of this first humanitarian globalist?





The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) promotes hygiene activities to ensure that population are not only aware of health risks but are able to take action to prevent them.



© Zakari Issa

A boy entering a school latrine block in Lahoua-Gagnoa, Ivory Coast.



During disasters and throughout our long-term developmental programming, IFRC includes hygiene promotion as part of all water, sanitation and hygiene interventions.



© Victor Lücken

Bangladesh Red Crescent volunteers engage with adults and children at Balukhali camp in Bangladesh. Hygiene promotion is key to fighting disease outbreaks in the camp where sanitation conditions are poor. Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh.





A Lebanese Red Cross volunteer installs a handwashing station in one of the many informal temporary settlements in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley. Lebanese Red Cross has been providing assistance to those in need since the onset of the Syria crisis in 2011.

Philippines Red Cross hygiene promoter working with children to encourage effective hand washing in Cebu, Philippines. Japanese Red Cross Society and Philippine Red Cross.



© Juan Carlo



Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers continue their efforts to make first aid available to all and thereby to strengthen resilience of communities.



© Kenny Karpov

Kerstin Jantschgi, nurse from Swiss Red Cross.

The life-saving missions of the Phoenix and Responder were a partnership in the Mediterranean Sea between the Italian Red Cross, the IFRC, Migrant Offshore Aid Station (MOAS), an independent charity.



First aid is not only about life saving techniques, it is also an act of humanity showing willingness to save lives with full respect.



© Kenny Karpov

Dr. Brunella Pirozzi, Italian Red Cross.

On the Responder, IFRC aid workers from Italy, Switzerland and New Zealand provided post-rescue support, first aid, medical care, food, water, dry clothes and blankets. On the Phoenix, post-rescue care was carried out by Italian Red Cross volunteers and staff.



Today, Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are the major first aid providers in the world. This began at Solferino when first aid was given to the wounded soldiers, the sick and injured without discrimination. In the 21st century, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) reaffirms its commitment to first aid within the changing context of global health.



© Ibrahim Malla

Joint mission of first aid teams from Syrian Arab Red Crescent's Damascus branch and the Palestinian Red Crescent to evacuate people from under-siege Yarmouk Palestinian camp. The evacuees, women, children, older and disabled people, were escorted to hospitals or relatives in Damascus.

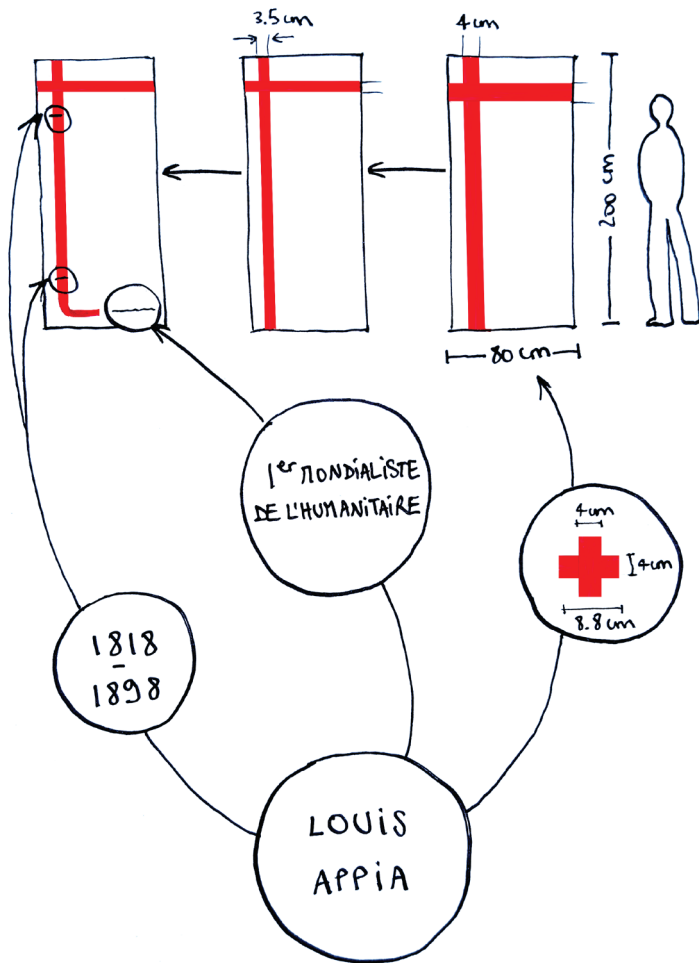


The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies aspires to ensure that vulnerable communities across the globe are prepared and equipped to save lives during disasters and everyday emergencies. This basic knowledge contributes to building safer and more resilient communities.



© Andrey Sidorin

Visitors to a Night at the Museum event at Sechenov University have brushed up on life-saving skills as well as medical history with the Russian Red Cross in the country's capital.



Design of an exhibit

Louis Appia played a role in the Red Cross, which is why the guiding thread of this exhibit includes the Red Cross symbol in the top left hand corner of each display panel, from which extends a vertical and horizontal red band.

This cross is reminiscent of Saint George's cross, but it is thinner and its slender arms travel the whole length and breadth of the kakemono panels.

Beyond the visual aspect of this concept, the intersecting red bands allow for the functional integration of introductory notes and information such as the panel's title and number, chronological and geographical reference points, as well as the main title.

The number, date and map are grouped together and move in unison like a cursor through the 1818 - 1898 time period, which creates a certain rhythm from one panel to next.

As a result of the work accomplished by historians ahead of the exhibit, a substantial amount of information and images was collected, with an eye to showcasing the latter, and particularly Louis Appia's drawings. This is why they are given more space than the texts, all the while keeping a connection to those.

As is the case in architecture, inventing these panels meant starting from a concept and molding the existing material, creating links and rhythms between the various elements, choosing proportions, making sure there was a visual consistency, and focusing on readability and aesthetic quality.

My thanks go to the Société Louis Appia for giving me the opportunity to work on this great project.

Sarah Appia *sta*

Louis Appia, by François Poggi, 1859 ►

Louis Appia's hand-written notes for his Conference in Geneva in 1893 ►►



Croix-Rouge suisse



genève
Croix-Rouge genevoise



REPUBLIQUE
ET CANTON
DE GENEVE

1800 - 2018



VILLE DE
GENEVE

© Archives du CICR; Archives d'Etat de la Hesse, Marburg ; Archives de la famille Appia ; Archives de la famille Pictet ; Archives de la ville de Hanau ; Association du souvenir de Ferdinand de Lesseps et du canal de Suez ; Bibliothèque de Genève ; Centre d'iconographie genevoise ; Journal de Genève ; Médiathèque de Hanau ; Musée international de la Croix-Rouge et du Croissant-Rouge ; Musée des sciences de Genève ; Musée du Service de santé des Armées, Paris ; Musée vaudois de Torre Pellice ; Société d'études vaudoises ; Société historique de Hanau ; Société médicale de Genève ; Université de Heidelberg.



P. POGG

l'oeuvre. Il ne par conséquent
sans dire qu'il ne serait fait
aucune mention de ma
coopération à son ouvrage.

2. Je vous prierais aussi de ne lui
en rien mentionner à lui-même.

3. Ayant eu ma part d'activité
sans les secours, à porter aux
blessés d'Italie, je crois seulement
peu, sans injustice pour Mr
Dunant, mon nom pourrait
dans l'article des débats,
figurer à côté du sien,
comme: 1. Ayant envoyé de
nombreux secours aux armées,

déjà plusieurs mois avant les
batailles.

2. ayant employé ma personne
dans le hôpital de l'Italie, dès
le début de la campagne.

3. ayant publié un ouvrage
de chirurgie militaire intitulé
"le Chirurgien à l'ambulance"

4. ayant ^{inventé et} appliqué en Italie
un nouvel appareil pour le
transport des blessés, qui a été
accueilli très favorablement
par les chirurgiens de la
conférence internationale.

Je vous laisse ces données
pour en faire ce que vous jugerez



"The sign you are wearing is recommendation enough; we know what it means. You are here for the general well-being"

Field marshal Wrangel, the commander of the Prussian army, to Louis Appia in 1864