

M I S C E L L A N E O U S

A MONUMENT IS ERECTED AT HEIDEN TO THE MEMORY OF HENRY DUNANT

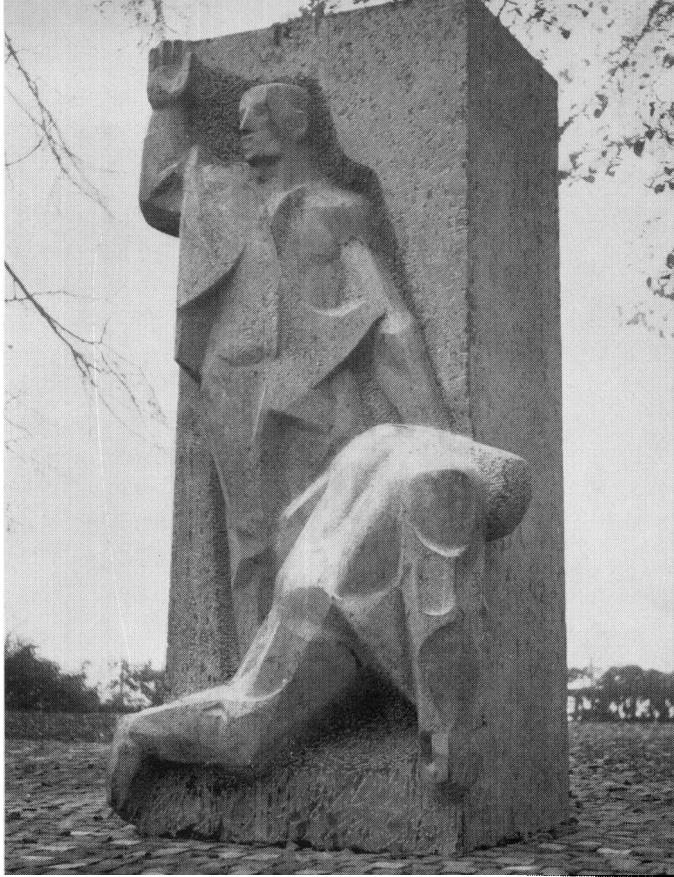
On October 28, 1962, the inauguration took place at Heiden in Appenzell (east Switzerland), where Henry Dunant spent his old age and died, of the monument erected to the memory of the famous Genevese philosopher¹. This was the work of Mrs. Charlotte Germann-Jahn, and it has been financed by national subscription, part of which will enable a second monument to be raised in Dunant's honour in Geneva.

The President of the Historical Society of Heiden, Mr. Jakob Haug, received and greeted the numerous guests which beside the federal, cantonal and communal authorities, included Mr. Alfred Borel, National Councillor and President of the "Comité national Henry Dunant", Mr. Hans Bachmann, member of the ICRC and who represented the institution, Dr. A. von Albertini, President of the Swiss Red Cross, Mr. N. Tchikalenko, Under Secretary-General of the League, Mr. Agenor Krafft, President of the "Souvenir Henry Dunant", as well as the delegates of various National Societies, notably of the French, Italian, German (Federal Republic), Austrian and Liechtenstein Red Cross.

A few members of the Dunant family were also present, and other personalities included Mr. M. Hochstaetter, Secretary-General of the "Comité national Henry Dunant", Mr. J. Pascalis, Assistant Secretary-General of the Swiss Red Cross, and Mr. E. J. Logoz, Secretary-General of the Centenary Commission of the Red Cross in Switzerland.

¹ Plate.

*The monument erected
at Heiden in memory
of Henry Dunant*



Speech by Mr. Thurer, at the inauguration ceremony



Several speeches were made during the inauguration ceremony of the monument behind which were flown the Swiss flag together with the banners of the Red Cross, the Red Crescent and the Red Lion and Sun. Amongst the speakers mention should be made, apart from Mr. Jakob Haug, of Mr. Eggenberg, President of the Commune, who handed over the monument to the commune of Heiden and stated that the square in which the monument was placed would in future bear the name of Henry Dunant. Professor G. Thürer of Teufen also spoke and in a most interesting survey observed that until now the memory of Henry Dunant, who is perhaps the best known Swiss in the world, had not been honoured in his own country by a public monument, except for two tablets, one affixed on the house where he was born and the other at the entrance of the Heiden hospital.

The speaker underlined that Dunant, true representative of a town which was very soon to be of universal importance, opened up new vistas for Switzerland by showing it the possibility of extending its spiritual influence throughout the world. From then on a humanitarian mission on the international level was offered to Switzerland.

The inauguration of the monument was followed by a representation in the church of Heiden, of scenes in the life of Henry Dunant. This spectacle, created by Mr. H. R. Ganz and entitled "The man whose name had been forgotten", was performed with great enthusiasm by Mr. E. Ertini and amateur actors of Heiden, where a vivid memory still remains of the great man who was welcomed there so warmly nearly three-quarters of a century ago. Dunant's life was thus represented, when he was living in the "Paradies" pension in Heiden, then when he installed himself in the hospital where Dr. Altherr, the head doctor, treated him with such care and devotion. Moreover, it was there that he heard the news that he had been awarded the Nobel Prize, and it was there also that he died on October 30, 1910.

The ceremony ended with a meeting which took place at the Freihof Hotel and during which Dr. von Albertini, in particular, expressed his satisfaction over the ending of the situation mentioned earlier on by Mr. Thürer: Dunant, to whom Switzerland owes so much, had no monument in the country in which he had

MISCELLANEOUS

lived in his memory or to show our gratitude to him. Mr. Alfred Borel then similarly warmly thanked Heiden for all that its inhabitants and the municipality of that small town had done for Dunant in the past and, pointed out that injustices had thus been repaired. He also expressed the hope of being able to greet his audience, who had been deeply moved by the meeting, at the ceremony which would shortly be taking place in Geneva on the inauguration of the monument which will be raised to the memory of one of the city's most glorious sons.