

## BOOKS AND REVIEWS

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### THE SPIRIT AND STRUCTURE OF THE RED CROSS

*A selection of works by Anton Schlögel, Doctor of Laws,  
published in tribute to the author  
on the occasion of his 75th birthday \**

The German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany has honoured its former Secretary General in not only a judicious but also a useful manner by publishing an interesting selection of his papers and essays. The work represents an important contribution to Red Cross literature as it encompasses the knowledge and experience of a lifetime dedicated to the institution and imbued "with tolerance and humanitarian spirit"—to quote the foreword by Prince Botho of Sayn Wittgenstein-Hohenstein, President of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The selection provides an excellent reference work for Red Cross members and staff since the author gives a detailed and in-depth account, in his many articles and papers, of nearly all the aspects of the Red Cross Movement and his activities within it, of which an impressive portrait emerges. It also testifies to the author's deep commitment to and faith in the Red Cross ideal, a faith which has been convincingly reflected in his life's work. Anton Schlögel is among the men who have most truly embodied the Red Cross ideal.

After completing his studies and military service, Anton Schlögel worked as a lawyer in Nuremberg. From 1945, he assumed various functions in the Bavarian Red Cross, such as legal advisor to its regional working group in the American zone. He played a determining role in reconstituting the German Red Cross before serving as its Secretary General in Bonn from 1958 to 1976. Since his retirement, he has been a member of its presiding board and, since 1979, Vice-President of the *Verband der Schwesternschaften vom Deutschen Roten Kreuz* (Federation of Nurses' Associations of the German Red Cross).

With Anton Schlögel as its Secretary General, the German Red Cross became a model National Society in terms of the volume as well as the quality of its work, both nationally and internationally. His contribution to its development was considerable not only in organizational and administrative terms, for

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\* *Geist und Gestalt des Roten Kreuzes — Eine Auswahl von Reden und Aufsätzen von Anton Schlögel* (The spirit and structure of the Red Cross — Selected papers and essays by Anton Schlögel), published by the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, Bonn, 1987, 296 p.

his mind ranged far beyond in profound consideration of the essential spirit and structure of the Red Cross, and he readily gave public expression to his thoughts.

The work is divided into four parts, "Geist des Roten Kreuzes" (The spirit of the Red Cross), "Das Internationale und das Deutsche Rote Kreuz" (The International Red Cross and the German Red Cross), "Humanitäres Völkerrecht" (International humanitarian law), and "Biographien" (Biographies). The first part consists of various studies on the fundamental principles of the Red Cross and the theme "Red Cross and peace". The second part presents the International Red Cross, clearly showing that it is not a single organization, but instead a coherent network of many organizations. The German Red Cross is described as a National Society and as a central, non-governmental, social welfare association. The third part deals with questions such as human rights in relation to the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols, humanitarian law in the Hague Regulations respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land, and the operational use of the hospital ship "Helgoland" in the light of international law.

The perceptively presented biographies include those of the former presidents of the German Red Cross, such as, among others, Otto Gessler, Heinrich Weitz, Hans Ritter von Lex and Walter Bargatzky, and the former Secretary Generals, such as Anton Schlögel's predecessor, Walter Georg Hartmann, to whom the German Red Cross owes the maintenance of its independence and international relations during the period of the Third Reich. Tribute is also paid to several outstanding women, such as the former Vice-President, Countess Etta von Waldersee, and senior staff members, such as Countess von Uexküll and Hermine Held.

In his conference papers and other writings, Anton Schlögel frequently refers to Max Huber and Jean Pictet. He dedicated his often republished book, *Die Genfer Rotkreuz-Abkommen* (The Red Cross Conventions of Geneva) to Max Huber, whom he calls "the truly wise father of the entire Red Cross" ("*den wahrhaft weisen Vater des ganzen Roten Kreuzes*"). This is because Max Huber consistently rethought and reformulated to perfection the fundamental principles, the position in relation to international law and the universal duties of the Red Cross. Anton Schlögel is, together with Jean Pictet, among the disciples of the great master who have not only perpetuated his thought, but also further developed it through original reflection and a wealth of experience.

Hans Haug