

A HENRY DUNANT MUSEUM AT HEIDEN

It was at Heiden, in October 1910, that the promoter of the Red Cross mission died. On May 8, 1969, the 141st anniversary of his birth, the Henry Dunant Museum was inaugurated in that city in East Switzerland.

Several events took place on that occasion. The first was the laying of a wreath on the Henry Dunant monument in the morning,¹ in the presence of an audience including members of the local, Baden-Württemberg and Bavarian Red Cross Societies, demonstrating by their presence their fidelity to the memory of the man who found a warm welcome in those places. Also present were Mr. Manfred Müller of Diessen (Federal Republic of Germany) and Mr. Anders Daae of Oslo (Norway), Dunant's godsons and sons of Dunant's ardent supporters Rudolf Müller and Hans Daae.² The ICRC was represented by Mr. Olgiati and the Henry Dunant Institute by Miss D. Mercanton.

In the local school assembly hall, Mr. Jakob Haug, who was the promoter of the monument and of the museum, explained the projects of the Action Committee to commemorate Dunant's memory at Heiden. The museum is intended to become a meeting place for those who seek inspiration in the ideal proclaimed by the author of a *Memory of Solferino*. For that purpose, there will be an information bureau and a library, items for which have already been contributed.

¹ The December 1962 issue of the *International Review* contained an illustrated article on this monument which was inaugurated at Heiden in 1962.

² Mr. Willy Heudtlass has written on this subject, in the *International Review of the Red Cross*, June 1964, an article entitled "Henry Dunant and the history of the Nobel Prize". He gave an account therein of the untiring and finally successful efforts of the Stuttgart high school teacher, Rudolf Müller, and of the Norwegian Army Medical Service Captain, Dr. Hans Daae, to obtain for Dunant, with Passy, the Nobel Peace Prize.

Mr. Willy Heudtlass, who was formerly the Head of the Press and Radio Service of the German Red Cross in the Federal Republic of Germany, addressed the audience. He is himself the author of a well documented book on Dunant, and has gathered much interesting information about him. He recalled the generosity of many people of the last century such as Dr. Altherr, Mr. Sonderegger, Mr. Baumberger, the Grand Duchess Maria Federowna, Dr. Basting, Dr. Daae and Mr. Müller, who rendered service to Dunant.

Mr. Olgiati, member of the ICRC, delivered an address in which he drew a parallel between the Red Cross of yesterday and of today. Problems had changed since the foundation of the Red Cross, which was, he said, having to contend with difficulties originating in events which were as important as they were new in the history of the world. Internationalism to-day was not merely European in scope; the conduct of war was affected by modern technicology and conflicts were ideological. Nevertheless, the Red Cross idea, which was so universal, readily found its place in contemporary concepts.

After one of the Bavarian Red Cross delegates presented a manuscript by Dunant, the audience went to the local hospital which houses the museum, and where may be seen a number of Dunant's personal belongings. These are displayed under glass with manuscripts and photocopies of letters. There is also the text relating to a project for the creation of a Swiss League for Human Rights, much of which can be found also in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Other documents interested the visitors for one reason or another, particularly Dunant's letters to Rudolf Müller testifying to Müller's untiring work to rehabilitate his friend.

One of the finest pieces in this little museum—impressive for its very simplicity, the spirit in which it was planned and the objective it has achieved—is no doubt the *de luxe* copy of Müller's *Entstehungsgeschichte des Roten Kreuzes und der Genfer Konvention*, a fine white, gilt-edged volume, which Dunant sent to notable people who helped him and showed him esteem and friendship.
