

the statement submitted by the ICRC to the Sixth Committee in which the institution expressed its understanding of the meaning of this rule.

Lambert's *Commentary on the Hostages Convention* is without doubt a very valuable reference book. It should be of particular interest to specialists in humanitarian law, since the international rules on the repression of hostage-taking are part not only of international criminal law but also of international humanitarian law.

Hans-Peter Gasser

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## HENRY DUNANT AND EASTERN SWITZERLAND

The Henry Dunant Society and the Geneva Red Cross have just published a book on the links between Henry Dunant and eastern Switzerland.<sup>4</sup> The closing years in Heiden of the life of the founder of the Red Cross and the relations he had with the authorities and the St. Gallen, Winterthur and Zurich Red Cross branches are described in turn and analysed by several experts. Their contributions also depict such interesting people as the journalist Georg Baumberger, the pacifist Georg Schmid, and Sara Bourcart, who worked closely with Dunant on his Green Cross project.

The first part deals with Henry Dunant's stay in Heiden. It opens with an article by the author, *Gabriel Mützenberg*, recounting Dunant's travels when, completely bankrupt, he had to leave Geneva in May 1867. By studying the letters written at the time by Dunant the author was able to retrace much of his restless wandering through France, Germany, Italy, Greece, England, Holland and Turkey.

During these wanderings, Dunant was continually fleeing persecutions — real or imaginary — until on 10 November 1881 he finally reached Heiden, where he found the peace of mind he was seeking and stayed more and more often before taking up permanent residence there in April 1892.

In the next article, *Heiden au temps d'Henry Dunant* (Heiden in Henry Dunant's time), Roger Durand investigates the reasons for which Dunant chose to spend the last eighteen years of his life in Heiden. In the mid-nineteenth century, Heiden was a very popular health resort where celebrities from all over Europe came to stay; Henry Dunant struck up a friendship with the founder of the local hospital, Dr. Hermann Altherr, and finally came to live in that hospital because he felt safest there. As Roger Durand writes:

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<sup>4</sup> Roger Durand *et al.*, *Henry Dunant et la Suisse orientale (Henry Dunant und die Ostschweiz)*, (Henry Dunant and Eastern Switzerland), Henry Dunant Society, Geneva Red Cross, Geneva, 1992, 208 pp. (in *French and German*).

“However full of setbacks Henry Dunant’s path to Heiden might have been, there it took on the air of a triumphal march. Despite all the suffering, despite the illness which even went so far as to affect his mind, after becoming a resident of this fashionable health resort he managed to recover his spirits and compel recognition from the entire world.

“Yes, he it was who founded the Red Cross! Yes, he it was who spectacularly influenced the history of mankind: men are indeed capable of imposing rules to govern their own barbarity! Yes, it was in Heiden, with the support of really genuine local people, where the maligned colossus at last fulfilled his prophetic vocation!”

In another article, *1908-1910 — Dunant à l’hôpital — une aide de ménage raconte*, (1908-1910, Dunant while staying at the hospital — a domestic servant recalls), *Félix Christ* relates a discussion he had in 1974 with Emma Albrecht-Gütlin, who was employed as a domestic servant in Heiden Hospital in 1908. She told him that during this period Dunant lived in almost total isolation; he never left the two hospital rooms which had been set aside for him and the only people with whom he had any contact were Dr. Altherr, the matron and her niece, the cook. However, on one occasion he did agree to a visit: an unexpected one by the Tsarina of Russia.

The next article in the book is reproduced from a text published by Dr. Altherr in the *Croix-Rouge, revue mensuelle de la Croix-Rouge suisse* (Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross Monthly Review) on 1 May 1928. There he describes how he made the acquaintance of Henry Dunant in July 1887, who was then living in a modest guest house in Heiden and called him for a medical consultation. Since Dunant spoke only French, Dr. Altherr invited him regularly to his home because his wife was of French origin. At the time, Dunant was full of bitterness but he was still engaged in lengthy correspondence with people in every country in Europe and regularly wrote articles for the press. He had a modest allowance from his family and, from 1897 onwards, he received a pension from the Dowager Empress of Russia, Maria Feodorovna. Towards the end of his life he would receive no visitors: he did however make an exception for the editor of *Ostschweiz*, in St. Gallen, Georg Baumberger, author of the appeal entitled *Dunant redivivus*.

In 1904, the Tsar invited him to the International Congress of the Red Cross in Moscow; Dunant was delighted by this invitation but ill-health prevented him from attending.

The first part concludes with four articles dealing with the Dunant Museum housed in the Heiden hospital — now an old people’s home — and with the monument in Heiden erected in his memory.

The second part is devoted to notable people from the canton of St. Gallen who were in contact with Henry Dunant. It includes an article by *Philippe M. Monnier, Sur le chemin de la réhabilitation — La rencontre Dunant-Baumberger*, (On the way to rehabilitation — the meeting between Dunant and Baumberger), which tells of the correspondence exchanged between Henry Dunant and Georg Baumberger in preparation for the latter’s article on Dunant, published in September 1895. Two other articles, written by *Cornel*

*Dora*, describe two eminent figures, Georg Baumberger and Monsignor Augustinus Egger, Bishop of St. Gallen, whom Henry Dunant admired and trusted.

The next article in the book, by *Hans Gross-Blaser*, is about Otto Rietmann who took the famous photographs of Henry Dunant in Heiden; it contains eight reproductions of these photo portraits. Another article, by *Artur Bärtsch*, takes a look at the exchange of correspondence between Henry Dunant and the St. Gallen pacifist, Georg Schmid. On the basis of thorough research in the St. Gallen archives, in particular those of the diocese, *Roger Durand* then shows how the St. Gallen Red Cross played an important role in medical work during the war of 1870 and began regular activities as early as 1891. The author comes to the curious conclusion that Dunant seemed to have had practically no contact with the St. Gallen Red Cross. However, this conclusion is not absolutely final since Roger Durand brings his article to a close with the following words. "Fortunately, there must be many other archives still in existence. From them we will learn more about these relationships. May the St. Gallen historians get down to the task and thus complete an important chapter in their past and in ours!"

The third part gives an account of the relations between Henry Dunant and the cities of Winterthur and Zurich. It begins by reproducing a speech made in October 1985 by *Rolf Weiss*, director of the Winterthur city library. In it he recalled the links which were to be established between the local Winterthur branch of the Red Cross and Henry Dunant towards the end of his life. Thus, on 1 July 1892, the Winterthur Red Cross made Dunant its first honorary member; it endeavoured to provide him with moral and financial support at a time when he had been totally forgotten. Dunant was subsequently reinstated in 1895 and, in 1901, he received the first Nobel Peace Prize; however, during those latter years of acclaim, he did not forget the Winterthur Red Cross and continued to exchange correspondence with it.

Another article is composed of an address by the mayor of Zurich, *Thomas Wagner*, on 30 October 1985 during the ceremony to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Henry Dunant's death. In it he examines why Dunant chose to be cremated in Zurich. He explains it by the fact that, towards the end of his life, Dunant received assistance from many important people in Zurich; furthermore, cremation was still rare at that time but a movement had been set up in Zurich in support of it. In a second text, Roger Durand describes an as yet little known aspect of Henry Dunant: his militant feminism. Durand discovered an exchange of correspondence between Dunant and Sara Bourcart in which Dunant, whose ideas on the subject had changed considerably, henceforth conferred on women "the rank of guardian of the home and the last bastion of civilization". He advocated setting up an international organization with headquarters in Zurich to foster women's rights throughout the world; for example, its purpose would be to give the wife a greater say over the revenue from her work, prevent the husband from squandering his wife's financial assets, give the father and the mother equal rights in the education of their children and establish the legal equality of both

sexes. Dunant believed that this new organization should be "run and directed solely by women". However, Dunant was not trying to obtain equality between the sexes for its own sake; all that mattered to him was to strive for peace, convinced as he was that a cataclysmic upheaval lay ahead for society because it was governed by male principles. "In the scheme of things, men express themselves through suffering and war" while for him women represented love and peace. Therefore the ultimate goal of the organization which he envisaged was for women throughout the world to launch a general offensive against militarism and war.

But since Sara Bourcart had apparently lost interest in the project, Dunant gave the matter further thought and recommended setting up another organization: the Green Cross whose "Ladies" would come to the help of needy young girls and widows.

In the end, Dunant gave up the idea. Once he regained fame he had other ambitions and participated in pacifist movements because, as Roger Durand says:

"Without abandoning the cause of women, Dunant therefore used feminism as a lever to benefit mankind as a whole. Could a philanthropist find a finer way of sublimating the unjustified inferiority of women *vis-à-vis* men?"

The last article, written by *André Durand*, describes Henry Dunant's funeral in Zurich, quoting a letter by Henry's nephew, Maurice Dunant, who says that "this ceremony gave no sign that the man's greatness had lapsed into oblivion". Quite the contrary, since Dunant's nephew describes it in these terms:

"The cremation ceremony was impressive in its simplicity. When the body arrived in Zurich the Consul General of Norway, Dr. Wettstein, and two delegates from the Samaritan Society of Zurich were waiting. Then representatives of the Auxiliary Transport Societies of Munich and Lindau arrived, splendidly attired, together with the *Männerhilfsverein* (Men's Association for Relief Work) from Constance. The Imperial Legation of Russia had sent Prince Galitzine with a superb wreath. There were at least twelve superb wreaths.

All the main Red Cross Societies in Switzerland had sent delegates; there were about forty of us. In compliance with my uncle's wishes, I begged these gentlemen not to make any speeches and I thanked them on behalf of the family. In the evening I gave a dinner for the official representatives. The ashes were deposited in the Columbarium".

The book is a valuable addition to what is known of the latter years of Dunant's life, in the German-speaking part of Switzerland. It is pleasingly illustrated with numerous photographs and lithographs by Michel Rouèche.

*Françoise Perret*