

Roger DURAND : *Henry Dunant 1828-1910*

Traduction par Glynis THOMPSON

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Is there a more exceptional and tragic destiny than that of Henry Dunant? Having witnessed the dreadful consequences of the battle of Solferino (24 June 1859), he wrote a book about what he had witnessed – *A Memory of Solferino* – and drew from that traumatic experience two ideas – the Red Cross and the Geneva Convention – that made him famous throughout Europe. He did not enjoy such fame for long: in 1867, destitution was the price that he paid for a major bankruptcy. Once the guest of kings and ministers, he suffered hunger and the humiliation of having to wear patched and mended clothes. Such destitution did not prevent him from fighting for other generous causes: the protection of prisoners of war, the project of an *International Universal Library*, the rights of women, international arbitration, etc. After years of exile and misery, he orchestrated a recovery strategy which culminated with the first Nobel Peace Prize, awarded to him in 1901. He died in Heiden on 30 October 1910.

This short biography presents the essential features of the great philanthropist – his far-reaching vision, his enthusiasm and his generosity – without hiding his weaknesses and his persecution mania. It aims first of all at recalling Dunant's ideas, of which humanity may be proud.

Roger Durand, a historian born in Geneva, founded, on 24 June 1975, the Henry Dunant Society, which he has chaired and directed for the past 35 years. He published innumerable studies about Dunant, as well as important books about other key figures of humanitarian action, General Dufour, Elie Ducommun and Gustave Ador.

English translation by Ms Glynis Thompson.

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Cette biographie est vendue avec celle de *Gustave Moynier, 1826-1910* par François BUGNION.

Le set de ces deux volumes coûte 19.– francs ou 15.– francs pour les membres de *Genève humanitaire* et de la *Société Henry Dunant*.